

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011



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## CHIEF'S CORNER *Meet and Greet*

With the upcoming local option levy for sustained law enforcement operations coming to our citizens in November, we would like to invite each of you to attend an informal "Meet and Greet" with your police department. At these gatherings we are open to any dialogue, feedback, or questions that you may have. As there are many rumors, and some misinformed conjecture, out there, we feel that we



are best suited to provide all of our citizens with factual information. We look forward to seeing you there! Please see the below information for these events:

1. Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Bundy Park.
2. Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Pixie Park.
3. Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Harvard Park.
4. Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Community Library.
5. Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Bundy Park.
6. Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Pixie Park.

(In case of inclement weather for any of the above dates the meeting location will change to the Columbia City Community Hall.)

The Police Department would like to request your continued support in being our eyes and ears in the community. Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts, questions, or any information that you feel would help us in keeping our community safe. We can be reached via 9-1-1 (emergency), 503-397-4010 (office), or 503-397-1521 (C-COM non-emergency).

Stay safe ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

## STORM WATER PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

**What is storm water pollution?** Rainwater or even runoff from sprinklers or hoses carries contaminants - such as litter, animal waste, automobile fluids, fertilizers and pesticides - into the storm drains and pollutes the City's neighborhoods, creating health risks for children and polluting our waterways.

**What can I do to prevent storm water pollution?** Here are a few tips that can help improve our storm water quality and protect our environment:

- **Don't put anything in the storm drains but rainwater.** Storm drains can carry surface runoff directly to streams and rivers without treatment. Make sure runoff carries only rainwater.
- **Remove litter from the street.** Trash-laden gutters increase neighborhood pollution and clog drains, which may lead to street flooding.
- **Pick up after your pet.** Animal waste, when left on the ground, washes down storm drains and contaminates waterways and beaches.
- **Recycle your motor oil.** The Columbia County Transfer Station, along with many gas stations, auto parts stores and repair shops will collect and recycle used motor oil.
- **Bag, compost or recycle grass, tree limbs, leaves and other yard waste.** Soggy yard waste is a major contributor to clogged storm drains.
- **Be smart when you apply pesticides or fertilizers.** Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers before it rains. Not only will you lose most of the chemicals through runoff, but you will also be harming the environment. Do not over-water after application. Read the label and do not apply more than recommended.
- **Don't wash dirty paintbrushes under an outdoor faucet.** This dirty rinse water flows into the street and down the storm drain.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The rummage sale will be history by the time you get this newsletter – lots of people are promising items so I hope it's a good fundraiser! If so, we'll plan another for next year. Right now we have funds to operate through December. The rummage sale and the City Celebration should keep us going for another three or four months. Fundraising will become the new normal for us, but it is clear that the community supports the library and wants it to remain open.

**Raffle Quilt:** We are still selling raffle tickets for the log cabin quilt top with hand-appliquéd hearts. It won a blue ribbon at the county fair, and is hanging in the library. Stop in and buy some tickets, and pick up a packet of tickets to sell. We will raffle it at the City Celebration.

**City Celebration:** We have sent letters soliciting silent auction donations to local businesses. Please stop by and look at the list of businesses, and let us know which you will speak to. We don't want to ask the same businesses over and over. If you have



something that would make a nice silent auction item, let us know. The Columbia City Community Hall is reserved for the City Celebration on Saturday, September 10. We will hold the book sale, the Strawberry Pancake breakfast and will draw the winning ticket for the raffle quilt. The Art Guild will have displays and art for sale, with

a percentage going to the library. We will continue working on what exciting events we can add to the City Celebration.

**Summer Reading Program:** We have some kids who have finished our track (5000 pages!) and are now riding a second time! The summer reading program is up and riding, with a (paper) bike for everyone! Some of our volunteer staff is out on the track with riding mowers and motorcycles. Stop by and get a reading log. If you are a teenager, join us for Pizza and a Paperback at noon on selected Mondays.

Story Time: Every Monday, 11 AM  
Friends of the Library: Monday, August 8, 8 PM

Fundraising Meeting: Monday, August 15, 7 PM  
Novel Quilters: Wednesday, August 17  
(we may go to "The Help" movie)  
Mystery Book Group: Wednesday, August 31, 7 PM

Staffed Library Hours:  
Monday and Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM  
Wednesday, 4 PM – 8 PM  
Thursday, 2 PM – 6 PM  
205 "I" Street, PO Box 189  
(503) 366-8020  
ccclibrary@live.com



### RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL

1950 Second Street  
\$17.50 / hour

Contact City Hall for availability, rates and policies.

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's free and it's the law! One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground pipelines and utility lines marked for FREE. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your state One-Call Center. Once your underground lines have marked for your project, you will know the approximate location of your pipelines and utility lines, and can continue your project by digging with care and respecting the marks. More information regarding 811 can be found at [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).



## **POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **June – July 2011**

See below for the department's activity during the most recent reporting period. Please feel free to contact me, or any of your police officers, with feedback or further questions that you may have.

Stay safe ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

#### **Activity Report**

Your police officers answered 534 calls for service during the past reporting period. Although many of these calls were self-initiated by officers of this department, we have summarized below both significant community policing and criminal investigations that we have conducted.

#### **Community Policing Activity**

Residential security checks: 16

Area Patrols: 20

Foot Patrols: 3

Assist the Public: 11

Hazards: 1

Radio Calls: 319

Missing Persons: 1

Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 5

Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles: 5

Assistance to Outside Agencies: 24

Alarm Calls: 1

Prisoner Transport: 1

Traffic Complaints: 3

#### **Criminal Activity/Investigations**

Open Narcotics Investigation: 1

Investigative Follow Up's: 7

Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 12

Traffic Stops: 64

Juvenile Investigations/Missing Juvenile calls: 2

Harassment Investigations: 1

Theft Investigations: 1

Fraud Investigations: 2

Criminal Mischief Investigations: 1

DUII Investigations/Arrests: 2

#### **Calls of Interest**

1. Theft investigation in the 300 block of "A" Street on 06/02/2011 – Investigation remains open.
2. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Hwy. 30 near "G" Street on 06/04/2011 – Operator and vehicle checked out OK.

3. Criminal mischief investigation in the 3000 block of Sixth Street on 06/04/2011 – Complaint ruled unfounded with no further law enforcement action required.
4. DUII investigation/complaint observed in Portland Metro area by off-duty CCPD Officer on 06/05/2011 – Investigation completed with Portland Police Bureau arrest of suspect.
5. Suspicious person in the area of Second Street near "E" Street on 06/10/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
6. Suspicious circumstance in the 1500 block of Third Street on 06/11/2011 – Persons involved checked out OK.
7. Suspicious circumstance in the 3000 block of Fifth Street on 06/11/2011 – Persons involved checked out OK.
8. Suspicious circumstance in the area of Third Street near "L" Street on 06/12/2011 – Persons involved checked out OK.
9. Fraud investigation in the 1900 block of Third Street on 06/12/2011 – Investigation completed and criminal case referred.
10. Fraud investigation in the 1800 block of Second Street on 06/13/2011 – Investigation completed and criminal case referred.
11. Suspicious circumstance in the 3200 block of Fifth Street on 06/13/2011 – Persons involved checked out OK.
12. Suspicious vehicle in the 1800 block of Second Street on 06/19/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
13. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Pixie Park on 06/20/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
14. Harassment investigation in the 1900 block of Third Street on 06/21/2011 – Investigation completed with criminal case referred.
15. Narcotics investigative complaint received 06/23/2011 – Investigation remains open and active.
16. Suspicious circumstance in the area of Hwy 30 near Pacific Street on 06/26/2011 – Persons involved checked out OK.
17. Suspicious person in the area of "E" Street and The Strand on 06/29/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.

#### **💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧**

Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.



## RECENT BLACK BEAR SIGHTINGS COLUMBIA CITY AREA

Recent sightings of a black bear with cubs has been reported just outside the city up Smith Road. If you see the bears, please contact the following agencies **immediately**:

- Oregon State Police - (503) 397-3131
- C-COM (Dispatch) - (503) 397-1521
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
- (503) 621-3488.

After the sighting, please leave paw prints and other signs undisturbed if possible.

**Identifying characteristics.** Despite the common name "black bear" they aren't always black. They may be honey-colored, blond, brown or black. They have a tan muzzle or a white spot on their chest. A black bear's body appears heavy and is supported by short, powerful legs. The highest point of a black bear is the middle of its back. Males are generally larger than females. Adult males average 275 pounds while adult females may average 175 pounds.



**If you encounter a bear.** In almost all cases, the bear will detect you first and leave the area. However, if you do meet a bear, here are some suggestions. Remember - every situation is different with respect to the bear, the terrain, the people and their activity.

- **Stay calm.** If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, calmly leave the area and speak softly to let the bear discover your presence.
- **Stop.** Back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, as bears may perceive this as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape. Wild bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. If on a trail, step off the trail on the downhill side and slowly leave the area. Don't run or make any sudden movements. Running is likely to prompt the bear to give chase and you can't outrun a bear.
- **Speak softly.** This may reassure the bear that no harm is meant to it. Try not to show fear.
- Coming between a female and her cubs is dangerous. If a cub is nearby try to move away from it. Be alert - other cubs may be in the area.

- In the unlikely event you are attacked by a black bear, **FIGHT BACK**. Black bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.
- Bears use all of their senses to try and identify what you are. Remember - their eyesight is good and their sense of smell is acute. If a bear stands upright or moves closer, it may be trying to detect smells in the air. This isn't a sign of aggression. Once it identifies you, it may leave the area or try to intimidate you by charging to within a few feet before it withdraws.
- If you have a backpack, place it slowly on the ground and then slowly back away. The bear is likely to go for the backpack instead of you.

**Human safety precautions.** Black bears eat almost anything, including human food, garbage, hummingbird food, pet food, and livestock feed. Once a bear has found the easily accessible, consistent food source that humans offer, it may overcome its wariness of people and visit regularly, increasing the chance of a human/bear encounter. By handling food and garbage responsibly, you and your neighbors can prevent encounters with a bear.

- Remove all food attractions.
- Keep all garbage inside your house or garage, and only place it outside just before the garbage pick-up. If bears have previously ransacked garbage cans, pour bleach into cans. Also, clean garbage containers regularly with bleach or mothballs to reduce odors.
- Keep all pet food inside the house or garage.
- Keep barbecues clean. Store them in a shed or garage.
- Hang bird feeders from a wire at least 10 feet off the ground and 6 to 10 feet from the trunk of a tree. Keep the area under bird feeders clean.
- Remove fruit that has fallen from trees.
- Add lime to compost piles to reduce odors. Do not compost meat, bones, fruit, dairy products or grease.
- Don't leave scented candles, soap or suntan lotions outdoors or near open windows.
- Talk to neighbors to encourage everyone in the neighborhood to remove attractants.
- Never, ever feed a bear.
- Stay indoors and allow a visiting bear to move on.

Most bears sighted in residential areas do not cause any damage. If a bear doesn't find abundant food, it will move on. *Information from "Living with Wildlife Black Bear" and "Oregon is Black Bear Country" - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

## PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We frequently find that the phone numbers we have listed on our utility accounts are no longer valid. It is very important that we have current contact information on file for you. We may need to call you to:



- Let you know about a water leak we discovered while reading your meter, or
- Notify you of a temporary street closure that will impact your access, or
- Let you know your water will be shut off due to a waterline break or other repair work, or
- Let you know your dog was spotted near Highway 30, or
- Contact you in the event of an emergency.

For whatever the reason, we hope we have your current contact information in our records when we attempt to call you. If your work phone number has changed, or you have a new cell phone or home telephone number, please keep us informed so we can update our records. Call City Hall 503-397-4010 or you may email the information to [colcity@columbia-city.org](mailto:colcity@columbia-city.org).

## CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

**Home Occupations.** The City permits residents an opportunity to use their home to engage in small-scale business ventures, which could not be sustained if it were necessary to lease commercial space. Inquire at City Hall for guidelines and cost.

**Keep grass and weeds cut!** Between April 15 and September 30 of any year, weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height and blackberry bushes cannot extend across property lines or into the City's right-of-way, including streets, alleys and sidewalks. Property owners or other persons in charge of the property must keep weeds, grass and other noxious growth, such as poison oak, cut and maintained to prevent them from becoming unsightly and a fire hazard, and to prevent them from maturing and going to seed. Violators can be cited into Municipal Court. Additionally, the City may abate the nuisance and lien the property for the costs.

## TIPS TO MAXIMIZE THE LIFE OF YOUR RECHARGEABLE BATTERY

Many of us use on average six portable electronic devices each day. With so many of our products being powered by rechargeable batteries, here are a few tips to help you maximize the life of your rechargeable battery:



Following the charging guidelines provided by the manufacturer. Each product has specific battery charging times prior to their initial use. This will enable you to obtain maximum battery capacity.

Never return a fully-charged battery to the charger for an extra boost – it actually shortens the life of the battery!

Do not leave your rechargeable battery in the charger when not charging. Continuous charging will shorten battery life.

When they no longer hold a charge and it's time to replace your battery, be sure to recycle your old one. The Columbia County Transfer Station recycles all types of batteries.

## FOUND ITEMS

The following items were found recently and turned into City Hall. Do they belong to you?

- Custom formed ear plugs in the area of Sixth & "I" Street
- Child size sweatshirt found at playground of grade school
- Nike sandals found in Pixie Park
- Pink purse found near Fifth & J Street

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Ruth Rose Richardson and Pixie Parks:** Volunteers needed to routinely pull weeds.

**Bike Path:** Volunteers needed to remove weeds and blackberries.

If interested, inquire at City Hall.





**VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE MANY HOURS**

Columbia City is fortunate to have a large number of dedicated volunteers to assist the City in providing a number of services to our community. During the 2010-11 fiscal year, volunteers contributed more than 3,500 hours of service. We'd like to extend our gratitude and appreciate to all of the volunteers that have donated their time to serve the citizens of Columbia City.

**Police Reserve Officers:** Volunteer Police Reserve Officers provided 1,676 hours of service this past year. Volunteer Reserve Officers play an extremely valuable role in assisting our Police Department in reaching and maintaining its objectives to maintain peace, safety and quality of life for the citizens of Columbia City.

**Library:** Volunteers donated 1,103 hours of service to operate the Community Library during the last year. The Friends of the Library continue to work hard to provide Library services to the community. They are actively soliciting donations, organizing fund raising activities, and contributing many, many hours to staff the Library.

**Parks:** Volunteers spent 345 hours assisting with the maintenance of various City parks and facilities this past year, and the parks are looking better than ever! Many volunteers have stepped forward to take on various maintenance assignments, and their contributions play a key role in the City's ability to provide enjoyable parks and open spaces for the public to enjoy.

**Utility Bills and Newsletters:** These volunteers donated 150 hours this past year serving on the City's "Fold and Stuff Team" (FAST). In two hours or less, they process our utility bills and newsletters for mailing.

**Elected and Appointed Officials:** Volunteers serving on the City Council, Planning Commission, Budget Committee, Hazard Mitigation Planning Group, Streets Committee, Parks Committee, Water Committee, and Audit Committee contributed 264 hours attending meetings throughout the year.

**City Celebration:** Volunteers provided 47 hours of donated service during the City Celebration last fall. The Friends of the Library will be coordinating the Celebration this year, and they are currently soliciting volunteer help for the event.

**Spring Cleanup Event:** Volunteers donated 23 hours this past year assisting us with the Spring Clean Up Event in Columbia City. Residents have utilized this popular event for more than ten years now.

**"Destiny is not necessarily what we get out of life, but rather, what we give." -- Cary Grant**

**MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - AUGUST 2011**

August 4	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
August 8	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
<del>August 9</del>	<del>7:00 p.m.</del>	<del>Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - CANCELED</del>
August 11	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
August 16	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at north end of Bike Path
August 17	10:00 a.m.	Meet & Greet your Police Officers at Bundy Park
August 18	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
August 27	1:00 p.m.	Meet & Greet your Police Officers at Pixie Park