

FREE CHILD SAFETY SEAT CHECK UP EVENT

Columbia County Safe Kids, in partnership with Alliance for Community Traffic Safety (ACTS Oregon) and several community partners will hold a child safety seat check up event on Thursday, February 10, 2011, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The free clinic will be held in St. Helens at the St. Helens Fire Station, 105 S. 12th Street, St. Helens.



The clinic provides an opportunity to have a child safety seat checked by a certified technician, who can correct misuse, help with installation and teach you how to correctly install the seat. Technicians can also check for seat recalls. There is no cost to have a technician check your child safety seats. Please plan to spend 30-60 minutes at the event.

Additionally, through a grant funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation, child safety seats are available to low-income families at a reduced cost to families in need. For more information about the clinic or the Columbia County child safety seat program, please contact the Commission on Children and Families at 503-397-7211.

CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2010-11 Budget.

The award reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device



Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. Columbia City has received the award for ten years.

CHIEF'S CORNER THANKS AND GRATITUDE

We would like to express our extreme gratitude for all of the support and kind words that we have received during the recent line of duty death of Chief Ralph Painter of the Rainier Police Department. The out pouring of emotion and support has been extremely helpful in these trying times. Without you folks we could not do our jobs, in both good times and bad. We would like to extend a special word of thanks to all of our citizens, especially the staff and students of the Columbia City School, who showed up to pay their respects during Chief Painter's funeral procession. We have received many words of thanks from local law enforcement and the surrounding community regarding the show of support. It is appreciated...!!!

Stay safe...

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 any information that you feel would help us in keeping our community safe. We can be reached via 911 (emergency), 503-397-4010 (office), or Columbia 911 (non-emergency) at 503-397-1521.

Thanks, Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

VALENTINE TEA

The Caples House Museum will host a High Tea with short program on Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$25 – admit one. For reservations and tickets call 503-397-5390. More information is available on the Caples House website: www.capleshouse.com.



BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCY

Interested in serving on the Columbia City Budget Committee? The City currently has a position available. Applicants must reside within the City. The term is for a period of three years. The Committee meets to review the proposed budget, hear public testimony and approve a budget for submission to the City Council. Meetings are usually held in the spring. Applications are available at the City Hall.

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
December 2010 – January 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

Your police officers answered 368 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: 64
Area Patrols: 32
Foot Patrols: 4
Assist the Public: 8
Hazards: 2
Radio Calls: 216
Animal Complaints: 8
Traffic Complaints: 1
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 1
Abandoned 911 Calls: 1
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 3
Disabled Vehicles: 4

Criminal Activity:

Narcotics Arrests: 1
Opened Narcotics Investigations: 4
Warrant Arrests: 1
Criminal Mischief Investigations: 1
Investigative Follow Up's: 4
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 8
Traffic Stops: 39
DUII Investigations: 1
Missing Juvenile Investigations: 1

Calls of Interest:

1. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near "E" Street on 12/05/2010 – Persons involved checked out OK.
2. Suspicious vehicle on Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 12/09/2010 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
3. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Highway 30 near "E" Street on 12/12/2010 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.

4. Suspicious circumstance in the 1800 block of Second Street on 12/16/2010 – Nature of call changed to possible prowler – Complaint unfounded and circumstance checked out OK.
5. Suspicious circumstance in the area of Fourth Street near "L" Street on 12/18/2010 – Nature of call changed to disturbance – Peace restored with no criminal charges.
6. Suspicious person in the area of Pacific Street near Highway 30 on 12/19/2010 – Person checked out OK.
7. Suspicious person in the 100 block of "K" Street on 12/21/2010 – Person checked out OK.
8. Suspicious person in the area of "G" Street near Highway 30 on 12/26/2010 – Person checked out OK.

LOST ITEM

A cordless DeWalt drill lost in the area of Second and "K" Streets. If found please contact (503) 397-4010.

THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a big "thank you" to:

- ❖ Karen Bates, Marian Calnon, Gloria Chinell, Dolores Heinz, Barbara Jones, Gladys Riahi, Phyllis Rowley and Vonnie Walker for helping with the utility billing and newsletter in December.
- ❖ Lloyd Helgerson and Shannon Fitzgibbons for the treats.
- ❖ Vonnie Walker and Marian Calnon for sprucing up the City Hall flower beds.
- ❖ All of our Library and Reserve Officer volunteers, as well as our volunteers that wish to remain anonymous!

RCE SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The City is gearing up to replace and relocate the high pressure sewer main extending from the River Club Estates (RCE) lift station to Fourth Street. The 680-foot section of sewer main has failed on five occasions during the past two years. Each failure has led to costly emergency repairs, property damages, spilled sewer and clean up.

This section of sewer main is less 20 years old, and had a life expectancy of 50-100 years. The replacement project is expected to cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000. To keep project costs down, the main will be relocated to undeveloped property outside of the RCE subdivision. Construction should begin within a week or two.

AFTER HOUR WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCIES

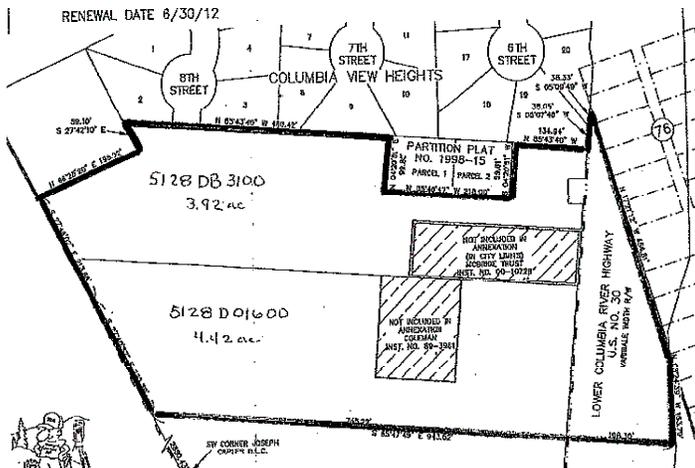
When City Hall and Public Works offices are closed and an urgent water or sewer situation arises, call the following after hours emergency number:

(503) 397-1521

The dispatcher will contact the appropriate person to respond to the situation.

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The Columbia City Planning Commission **rescheduled** a public hearing for Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., to receive written and oral testimony on an application for annexation and re-zoning. The property owner is Mark Melchert. The property consists of 8.34 acres of vacant land described as tax lots 5128 DB 3100 and 5128 D0 1600, generally located to the south of Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Streets and to the west of Chimes Crest Road.



The Columbia City Council conduct a public hearing regarding this application on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Following this hearing, the City Council may take action on the proposed annexation and re-zoning. That action may include approval as presented, approval with revisions based on testimony in the public hearings, remand to the Planning Commission or denial.

Interested persons are invited to attend the public hearings and present oral and written testimony. Copies of all documents related to the application

are available for review at City Hall. If you would like to comment but cannot attend the hearings, submit comments in writing to City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing. The staff report is available for review at City Hall.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Lisa Bush and Nell Harrison, our newest Planning Commission Members. Lisa and Nell were both appointed to the Planning Commission in December and we appreciate their interest in serving!

WELCOME

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Fences: The City regulates fences. Generally fences constructed in required front yards can be up to 42" in height, and visual clearance areas shall not exceed 36". Rear and side yard fences behind the required front yard setback may be up to six feet in height without a permit. Be aware that electric and barbed wire fencing is prohibited.

Noise: No person shall allow, cause, create or permit the continuance of unreasonable noise. The following enumerated noises are not exclusive but illustrative of unreasonable noise:

- Use of engine, machine or device which is so loaded, out of repair or operated in such a manner as to create loud or unreasonable grating, grinding, rattling or other noise.
- Use of mechanical device operated by compressed air, steam or otherwise, unless noise created is muffled.
- Construction, including excavation, demolition, alteration or repair of a building, vehicle or equipment between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. A resident is allowed to work until 8:00 p.m.
- Use or operation of an automatic or electric piano, phonograph, loudspeaker, stereo or sound-amplifying device so loudly as to disturb persons at least five feet beyond the property on which the sound originates.

Tree Permits: If you plan to trim or remove a tree on your property that may fall into or affect the public right-of-way, you must first obtain a Tree Falling Permit from City Hall prior to removal or work being done. These permits are free of charge.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our next book sale will be Saturday, February 19, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Community Hall. Setup will be Friday, February 18 from 6:00 p.m. until around 8:00 p.m. We can use lots of help setting up. Let us know if you can help! Bring in a box or two of books you've already read, and then come by the sale and stock up on more!

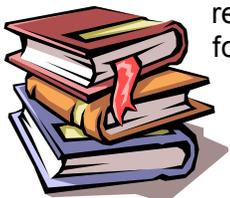
The Mystery Book Club will be reading books by Ariana Franklin. I read *Mistress of the Art of Death* several years ago and have been recommending it to those who like forensic police mysteries. *Mistress* is set in the Middle Ages, and the doctor is a woman which of course is unacceptable in those times. *Mistress of the Art of Death* was the winner of the 2007 Crime Writers' Association Ellis Peters Historical Award.

We have a Kill A Watt meter provided by the Columbia River PUD available for checkout. Let's keep it busy saving electricity in our houses! Stop by and put a hold on it if it is checked out.

We currently have 8500 books in our library. I won't give you an exact number, because every week we add fifteen or twenty, and weed a few out. Last year, 7423 books were checked out. Let's see if we can check out 8500 books this year! Do your part, come by and check out some books!

Book Reviews

Bone Song by John Meany was nominated for a Locus award (Fantasy) in 2008. *Bone Song* was a cross between a police procedural and a science fiction book, often described in reviews as an urban fantasy. The alternate world that Donal exists in is creepy – bones of dead people provide the power source for the city, there are as many dead people as live people living (existing?) there, and wraiths become elevators and motorcycles. Donal is assigned to guard an opera diva from a highly placed group of people who are murdering artists for their bones, which if touched, generate images or music that the artist created. This is not like anything you've read before, not the best book I've read in the last year, but I won't forget it – and I will recommend it to people who are interested in horror or science fiction – not for those who like cozy mysteries! - Cathy Lundberg



Staffed Hours:

Monday & Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM
Wednesday, 4 PM to 8 PM
Thursday, 2 PM to 6 PM
205 "I" Street, PO Box 189 / (503) 366-8020

Story Time:

11 AM every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 2/14/11 - 7 PM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 2/16/11 - 6:30 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 2/23/11 - 7 PM

◆ WATER CONSERVATION TIP ◆

Monitor your water bill for unusually high use.
Your bill and water meter are tools
that can help you discover leaks.

HOW TO DETECT A WATER LEAK

Undetected leaks can be costly. If you think you may have a water leak, your water meter is your best detective to help you find it:

- Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, such as the dish and clothes washers.
- Locate your water meter and lift the cover to see the meter dial.
- Note the position of the sweep hand, or use a marker on the lens cover.
- Wait 20-30 minutes and check the sweep hand location again. If the sweep hand has moved, you possibly could have a leak somewhere in your system.
- Most meters have a red "telltale" indicator. If you see it moving when all water is off, you possibly could have a leak.

Looking For Leaks

- Your toilet may have a silent leak. Drop a little food coloring into the tank. Wait about 10 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Check for moist spots around and under the house plumbing and around outdoor plumbing.
- Replace worn washers in faucets and showerheads. Even a small drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day, or 5,000 gallons per month.

It is unlawful to turn water on or off at the meter. Contact City personnel for assistance by calling (503) 397-4010 during regular business hours, or call C-COM at (503) 397-1521 after hours.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2011

February 2 nd	7:00 p.m.	Street Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 3 rd	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 8 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
February 10 th	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 14 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
February 15 th	4:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Group Meeting at City Hall
February 15 th	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 17 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 19 th	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale at Community Hall
February 21 st	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President's Day

AUTOMATIC BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE

Automatic bill payment pays your water and sewer utility bill through an **automatic deduction from your designated bank account**. You'll still receive your monthly utility bill showing your water usage and other charges, and then the amount due will be automatically deducted from either your specified checking or savings account. The automatic deduction will occur on or after the 10th of the month. Automatic bill payment is easy to set up, and even if you're on vacation or ill, you'll never have to worry about paying your bill again.

To sign up for automatic bill payment, please return a completed and signed authorization form to City Hall (please print legibly). Thanks!



AUTOMATIC BILL PAY CUSTOMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Please fill out and return to the City of Columbia City

I authorize you and the financial institution listed below to initiate electronic debit entries, and if necessary, credit entries and adjustments for any debit entries in error to my:

(Please "check" one)

Checking Account

or

Savings Account

on the 10th of each month. This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled it in writing. This request has been made for the following account and service address:

COLUMBIA CITY WATER ACCT #:

SERVICE ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

DATE

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

BRANCH

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

CITY

STATE

SIGNATURE

TRANSIT ROUTING NUMBER (must be 9 digits)

ACCOUNT NUMBER INFORMATION

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