

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2011

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### PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall to receive testimony on an application for authorization of an unlisted use and the related site development review. The applicant, Clearwater Paper Corporation, has filed an application to add additional facilities to reload fiber from truck to barge on property owned by the Port of St. Helens. The property is identified on Columbia County Assessor Map 5121 as Tax Lot 400, and it involves a section of the property leased by Pro-Build, generally located at 62420 Highway 30, Columbia City.

Approval is subject to the applicant demonstrating compliance with the requirements of Columbia City Development Code 7.35, 7.66, 7.120 and 7.162.

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 the City Hall. If you would like to comment but cannot attend the hearing, submit comments in writing to City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing. The staff report will be available for review at City Hall after March 1, 2011.

### RCE SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

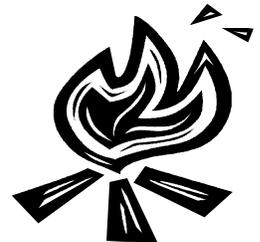
The emergency replacement of the high pressure sewer main extending from the River Club Estates (RCE) lift station to Fourth Street is currently underway, with completion expected during the first week of March. The 800-foot section of sewer main failed on five occasions during the past two years. Each failure led to costly emergency response, repairs, property damages, clean up and disinfection, and spilled sewer. The project costs are estimated at \$90,000.

### OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS BURNING PERMITS REQUIRED

The next **biannual burn period will begin on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and end on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**. The burn period is for yard debris only, and burn barrels are prohibited. Yard debris is lawn clippings, leaves, brush, trimmings, prunings, sawdust and wood scraps. It is **not** dirt, gravel, paper, plastic, metal, rocks, bricks, sod, or food waste.

#### **Burn permits are required prior to burning!**

Permits may be obtained at City Hall or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District. Permits are valid for one year and are free of charge. Please remember you must call the "Burn Line" at (503) 397-4800 each day to see if it is a burn day.



You must follow these basic rules for proper open burning:

- ❑ You must have a garden hose, or a shovel and a 5-gallon bucket of water at all times, and the fire must **NOT** be left unattended at any time until out.
- ❑ Yard and garden trimmings must be cut and piled no larger than 6 feet wide by 4 feet high.
- ❑ The ground must be cleared not less than 10 feet around the burning area. There must be a separation of 50 feet between the burn pile and any structure, trees, vehicle or property line if the burn pile is greater than 3 feet in diameter; and a 25 foot separation if the burn pile is less than 3 feet in diameter.
- ❑ The fire must not adversely affect neighbors (smoke).
- ❑ It must be daylight hours during a designated burn day.

Have questions? Please call Bill Goodwin, Fire Marshall, at (503) 397-2990 ext. 105.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL

The United Way of Columbia County and the Community Assistance Program have provided the City with a supply of prescription drug discount cards to distribute to interested citizens. Both programs provide the bearer of the card with the lowest price available for medications. Anyone can use the cards and there is no income or age requirement.

Residents can stop by to request free prescription discount cards and a list of participating pharmacies. Since the cards can be used nationwide, residents are encouraged to share them with family and friends in other states to help ease their financial burden. Free prescription drug discount cards may be picked up at City Hall during regular business hours.

## CLEANING FOR A REASON

If you know any women currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign-up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. "Cleaning for a Reason" will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. The website is: [www.cleaningforareason.org](http://www.cleaningforareason.org).



## DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS



Daylight-saving time begins on the second Sunday in March. Mark your calendars to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

## WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENTS

Columbia City's water and sewer rates for residential customers residing within the City increased, effective February 26, 2011. The increases consist of a \$5.00 per month increase in the base water fee, and a \$10.00 per month increase in the base sewer fee. Rate increases apply to other account types in similar proportions. Water and sewer usage rates did not change.

The rate increases were driven by unanticipated capital projects, debt service requirements, increases in operation and maintenance costs, and losses in revenue.

## FOUND ITEMS

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

- Winter glove in the area of Second and "I" Street.
- Reading glasses left in the City Council Chambers.

## 💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.



## THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a special thank you to:

- Karin Bates, Jean Carulli, Gloria Chinell, Kathie Fellows, Jean Lord Gladys Riahi and Debbie Virts for helping with the utility billing and newsletters in January.
- Marian Calnon for weeding the flower beds around City Hall.



## HOW TO SHELTER IN PLACE DURING A RADIATION OR CHEMICAL EMERGENCY

**What Shelter-in-Place Means:** One of the instructions you may be given in an emergency where hazardous materials may have been released into the atmosphere is to shelter-in-place. This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe and at times when an evacuation would be more risky. (This is not the same thing as going to a shelter in case of a storm.) Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building.

**Why You Might Need to Shelter-in-Place:** Chemical, biological or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally, by a truck or facility, or intentionally by a terrorist. Should this occur, information will be provided by local authorities by television and radio stations or by telephone call through the Columbia Alert Network (CAN) on how to protect you and your family. The important thing is for you to follow the instructions of local authorities and know what to do if they advise you to shelter-in-place and keep a television and radio on to receive further information and instructions.

### How to Shelter-in-Place

#### **At Home:**

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds or curtains.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your family disaster supplies kit and make sure the radio is working.
- Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.



- Bring your pets with you, and be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition.
- If possible, you may want to use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal any large cracks around the door and any vents into the room. This is only an extra precaution.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

#### **In Your Vehicle:**

If you are driving a vehicle and hear advice to “shelter-in-place” on the radio, take these steps:



- If you are very close to home, your office or a public building, go there immediately and go inside. Follow the shelter-in-place recommendations for the place you pick described above.
- If you are unable to get to a home or building quickly and safely, then pull over to the side of the road. Stop your vehicle in the safest place possible. If it is sunny outside, it is preferable to stop under a bridge or in a shady spot, to avoid being overheated.
- Turn off the engine.
- Close windows and vents.
- Listen to the radio regularly for updated advice and instructions.
- Stay where you are until you are told it is safe to get back on the road. Be aware that some roads may be closed or traffic detoured. Follow the directions of law enforcement officials.

Local officials on the scene are the best source of information for your particular situation. Following their instructions during and after emergencies regarding sheltering, food, water and clean up methods is your safest choice.

For more information on this or other emergency preparedness needs, go to [www.fema.gov/plan](http://www.fema.gov/plan).

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT  
January – February 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 469 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: 80  
Area Patrols: 23  
Foot Patrols: 9  
Assist the Public: 16  
Hazards: 4  
Radio Calls: 268  
Animal Complaints: 4  
Traffic Complaints: 1  
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 1  
Alarm Calls: 1  
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 8  
Disabled Vehicles: 5  
Noise Complaints: 3  
Welfare Checks: 2

**Criminal Activity:**

Criminal Mischief Investigations: 1  
Current/Open Narcotics Investigations: 4  
Domestic Disturbance Investigations: 2  
Fraud Investigations: 1  
Investigative Follow Up's: 10  
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles  
and Prowler Calls: 15  
Traffic Stops: 73  
Traffic Crashes: 5  
Juvenile Investigations: 2  
Threats Investigations: 1  
Warrant Arrest: 1



**Calls of Interest:**

1. Suspicious person in the area of Bike Path at end of Fourth Street on 01/01/2011 – Persons involved checked out OK.
2. Suspicious person in the Highway 30 near “A” Street on 01/07/2011 – Field interview conducted, research revealed person wanted on active warrant, arrest conducted and report filed.
3. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near “E” Street on 01/07/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
4. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 on 01/07/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
5. Suspicious circumstance in the 200 block of “G” Street on 01/11/2011 – Circumstance and persons involved checked out OK with no further police action required.
6. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near “L” Street on 01/15/2011 – Person checked out OK
7. Another suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near “L” Street on 01/15/2011 – Person checked out OK.
8. Suspicious person in the area of “I” Street near Highway 30 on 01/16/2011 – Person checked out OK.
9. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near “I” Street on 01/16/2011 – Person checked out OK.
10. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Lincoln Street near Sixth Street on 01/20/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
11. Criminal mischief reported in the 3600 Block of Tahoma Street on 01/23/2011 – Report filed and remains an open investigation.
12. Suspicious person in the area of “A” Street near Highway 30 on 01/23/2011 – Person checked out OK.
13. Suspicious person at Eighth Street near “I” Street on 01/28/2011 – Person checked out OK.
14. Suspicious person in the 100 block of “E” Street on 01/29/2011 – Person checked out OK.
15. Suspicious person in the 1500 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Place on 01/29/2011 – Person checked out OK.
16. Suspicious circumstance in the 300 block of “A” Street on 01/30/2011 – Circumstance and persons involved checked out OK.

## CHIEF'S CORNER

**NEW DEPARTMENT PARTNERSHIP** - Your Police Department has formalized an agreement with the "A Child Is Missing" Alert Program that has led to a high tech method now in place to search locally for missing children, missing elderly (often with Alzheimer's), college students, and missing persons who may be mentally or physically challenged or disabled.

Effective February 8, 2011, upon receipt of missing persons calls, the Columbia City Police Department will make its first phone call to a toll-free number that rings in Fort Lauderdale, Florida—the national headquarters of the "A Child Is Missing" Alert Program. The call, answered 24/7/365 by an Information and Mapping Technician, initiates a rapid process of information gathering and use of sophisticated mapping systems. "A Child Is Missing" then launches potentially thousands of calls within minutes with an alert message detailing the missing person's description, last known whereabouts, and pertinent information. This alert message will also include a Columbia City Police Department phone number for use by anyone with information relating to the missing person.

This program is a free service to law enforcement. Columbia City officials will evaluate each potential activation of the "A Child Is Missing" Alert Program to ensure the application is appropriate to the case and to ensure the system is optimally used. Policies, procedures, and employee training will also guide the most efficient and effective use of this alert program.

Phone numbers that are called by this program include listed numbers and mobile numbers available to ACIM in the selected area. Mobile numbers, unlisted numbers, broadband/voice-over IP numbers, or TDD/TTY devices can be added to ensure they, too, are called in the event of an alert. To enter your cell phone, unlisted, broadband/voice-over IP or TDD/TTY device number visit: [www.achildissing.org](http://www.achildissing.org) and click on "add your name" to enter your name, number, and address. This information will only be used for emergency message alerts.

"A Child Is Missing" is a nationwide non-profit organization and to-date the efforts of "A Child Is Missing" have been credited with more than 800 safe assisted recoveries.

**MEMORIAL DECALS AVAILABLE** - Memorial decals honoring the service of Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter are now available at our City Hall front desk. Proceeds from these decals are funding a scholarship, which has been setup in Chief Painter's name for Columbia County track and field or cross-country high school students. Donations are being accepted for these decals, the average donation has ranged from \$5.00 - \$20.00.

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, 503-397-4010 (Office), or (Non-emergency) Columbia 911 at 503-397-1521.

Thanks, Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

## FOOD SAFETY DURING A POWER OUTAGE

If your freezer is full, food will stay frozen for about two days. If it is less than half full, food will stay frozen for about one day. Cover the freezer with blankets, quilts or sleeping bags to further insulate the freezer and help food stay frozen longer. After power is restored, check all frozen foods to determine the extent of thawing.

To avoid losing the cold air in your refrigerator, don't unnecessarily open its doors. Meat and fish spoil quickly at temperatures above 40°F. Other quick-spoiling foods include milk, custard, creamed foods and any foods containing mayonnaise or eggs. Cooked or cured meat will keep for several days in a closed refrigerator. Hard cheeses keep well, even at room temperature. Consider placing food in a cooler or ice chest with ice. If in doubt, throw food out.

Never use barbecues or liquid fuel stoves to cook/heat food indoors. Cooking with these types of appliances will produce carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and deadly.

## LET'S CLEAN IT UP!

Did you know that the City's nuisance ordinance prohibits the outdoor storage of junk, rubbish, trash, and debris upon private property, alleys and streets?

Voluntary compliance is our most cost effective method of enforcement. Please be aware of and comply with the above regulations, and share this information with others. Please feel free to report violations to the Police Department by calling (503) 397-4010.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to those who came to our book sale. We'll plan another in a few months if our closet builds up as quickly as it did this winter! Winter is hanging on this year – stock up on books now before you need to start spending all your daylight hours outside! We have a good selection of gardening books to get you started dreaming – hopefully this year will be better than last year for gardening!

We currently have two book groups that meet on Wednesday nights at the library. If you have an idea for a group that would like to use the library, let us know and we'll try to help you get started. We have a wonderful space and would like it to be used as much as possible.

## Book Reviews

*Ill Wind, Heat Stroke, Chill Factor* by Rachel Caine The main character, Joanne Baldwin, is a Weather Warden -- she's part of a group of magically gifted people who control the basic elements of Earth, Fire and Weather (which combines air and water). Unfortunately, the Wardens have their own problems -- corruption,

greed, ambition and a very uneasy relationship with a magical race of Djinn that they've enslaved for their own purposes. When Joanne gets on the wrong side of a corrupt senior Warden and is blamed for his murder, she starts out on a cross-country race for her life. Along the way, she finds true love with a mysterious drifter, but unluckily for her becomes a lightning rod for trouble as the planet begins to fight back against those who want to control it, and innocent people are caught in the middle.

I read the three books in four days – definitely escapist reading! The series features continuous action, a fun, strong character, and a world that makes sense according to Rachel Caine's rules. I've ordered the next book. If more people start reading the series and like it, I'll get more. Look for them in the Science Fiction/Fantasy shelves.

### Staffed Library Hours:

Monday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Wednesday, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Thursday, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Story Time:

11 a.m. every Monday

### Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 3/14/11 - 7 p.m.

### Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 3/16/11 – 6:30 p.m.

### Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 3/30/11 - 7 p.m.

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(503) 366-8020  
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<http://www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm>

## MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - MARCH 2011

March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Group Meeting at City Hall
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall

