

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

# May 2011

## CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY

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### BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SET

The Columbia City Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6 PM in the Council Chambers of the City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to receive comment from the public on the budget.

A copy of the proposed budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 2, 2011 at the City Hall. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.



The Budget Committee will also hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed use of revenue sharing funds during the 2011-12 fiscal year

### PARK MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many people have come forward to volunteer with park maintenance activities. Thank you!! We are still looking for volunteers to help with the following park maintenance activities:

- ❑ **Columbia City Bike Path:** Routine mowing.
- ❑ **Pixie Park:** Periodic weeding and pruning.
- ❑ **Ruth Rose Richardson Park:** Routine mowing.

Contact City Hall if you'd like to volunteer!

### ROSE FESTIVAL FLEET WEEK



The official dates for the Rose Festival Fleet Week are Wednesday, June 8 through Sunday, June 12, 2011. For additional information check Rose Festival website at <http://www.rosefestival.org/events/fleet/>.

### COEXISTING WITH COYOTES



Coyotes are frequently spotted in Columbia City. Seeing a coyote cross a field, backyard, or road does not necessarily constitute a problem or dangerous situation, either for humans or domestic animals. Coyotes will be more active and more visible in late winter/early spring during their breeding season. Most coyotes are harmless; their goal is to eat more natural foods such as mice and rabbits.



However, coyotes are opportunistic. If coyotes see easy food – such as open garbage – and aren't afraid, they may take advantage. That puts them in direct line for a confrontation with pets.

#### Some tips on living near coyotes:

- Don't feed any wild animals such as raccoons or deer, which encourages coyotes as well. Garbage should be stored in secure containers. Do not put meat scraps in compost piles.
- Remove bird feeders and outside pet food containers. Coyotes will prey upon small mammals that are attracted to birdseed and pet food.
- Don't allow pets to run free and keep a watchful eye on them. Walk dogs on a leash, especially at night. Keep cats indoors at all times. Do not let pets out at night unless accompanied by a person. Don't leave cat or dog food outside.
- Provide secure shelters for poultry, rabbits, or other outside pets.
- Clear woodpiles, brush piles and other potential cover for coyotes. Secure garbage in areas where coyotes can't access it; keep yards clean of refuse and brush.
- Don't leave small children outside unattended.
- Reinforce the coyotes' natural fear of humans by turning on outside lights, making loud noises, throwing rocks and so forth. Be aggressive in your actions. Although the response may not be immediate, eventually the coyotes will flee.

## CHIEF'S CORNER

### Crime Prevention Tips *Teaching Your Child to Stay Safe*

**FAMILY RULES:** Establishing a system of "family rules" about personal safety can be a good way to teach children to distinguish between safe and non-safe situations. By adopting rules about personal safety, parents can teach good habits through reinforcement and repetition without generating excessive fear. The following are suggestions for personal safety rules that can be incorporated into a family routine.

**INSIDE RULES:** Kids should know their complete home address, telephone number including area code and parents' first and last names. If kids are old enough to answer the phone, they should know how to call 9-1-1. Practice with the receiver button taped down. Kids should be taught never to reveal any personal (their name, school, age, etc.) or family information over the phone unless a parent has given permission.

If kids are home alone and answer a phone call for an absent parent, they should say "she can't come to the phone right now", and take a message or tell the caller to try later - don't make excuses, they sound phony.

It is okay not to answer the phone, or to work out a code (ring twice, hang up call again) so a parent can check on a child that is home alone. Kids are old enough to answer the door when they are old enough to check the identity of the person at the door WITHOUT opening it. Kids should help their parents make sure doors that should be locked are locked.

**OUTSIDE RULES:** Establish a system of accountability. Learn the full names of your kids' friends, their parents' names, addresses and phone numbers. Check to verify the accuracy if you get the information from your kids. When your child is at a friend's home, who else is present? Parents? Older kids? Other neighbors? No one?

Know your child's routes to and from school, play and errands. Insist they stick to the same route - no shortcuts! If you have to look for them, you will know where to begin. Kids should be taught never to go anywhere with anyone without parental permission. This includes getting permission a second time if

plans change and calling to check before going from one friend's home to another location.

Kids should never play in isolated areas of parks or playgrounds, and should avoid public restrooms, building sites and dark streets. Teach kids alternatives; if they are bothered or followed on the playground, walking to a friends' home, school or store, where do they go? Walk these common routes with your child and look for choices. Can they go back into the school, in a store or business (kids are reluctant to enter a strange store or business unless given permission) into a fire or police station or approach someone doing yard work?

Knocking on the door of a stranger is a last resort. If they have no other choice they should look for a house with a light on (at night) or toys in the yard if possible and ask the homeowner to "please call the police, someone is bothering me", but not to go inside the house. Kids' best defenses are their voices and their legs. Teach them to run away from someone who is bothering them while yelling to attract as much attention as is possible.

Teach kids not to approach cars that stop to ask for help. Most legitimate adults would not ask a young child for directions anyway. If the car follows them or the driver gets out they should run away and yell.

**"BAD GUY" RULES:** Teach kids that "bad guys" can be anyone; society teaches kids bad guys are always ugly, mean and scary, and look like monsters. Bad guys are almost always portrayed as strangers and as men.

Remember, a stranger is someone who is not known by the child. A friend of parents, a friend of the child's friend or a neighbor can be a stranger. And a stranger can be a good guy or a bad guy.

Some bad guys act nice, friendly and are attractive. Some bad guys play tricks on kids. Typical bad guy tricks include bribes (money, toys, games, or promises of those things), lies (your mom told me to pick you up at school), requests for help (my puppy ran away, can you help me find him?), or threats (if you don't come with me I'll hurt your mom). Teach kids that a bad guy is someone who asks them to violate family rules, e.g. someone who says they don't need permission to accompany them.

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## **CHIEF'S CORNER** (cont.)

Develop a family "code word". If someone other than a parent is going to pick up a child at school unexpectedly, that person should repeat the "code word" first before the child agrees to leave the safety of the school grounds. The code word should remain a secret and be changed should others learn of it.

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

### **POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT March – April 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 496 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: 158  
Area Patrols: 38  
Foot Patrols: 14  
Assist the Public: 9  
Hazards: 3  
Radio Calls: 215  
Animal Complaints: 7  
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 1  
Abandoned 911 calls: 2  
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 24  
Disabled Vehicles: 2  
Parking Violations: 3  
Traffic Complaints: 4

#### **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:**

Harassment Investigations: 1  
Disturbance Calls: 1

Investigative Follow Up's: 5  
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles  
and Prowler Calls: 16  
Traffic Stops: 53  
Suicide Threats/Attempts calls: 1  
Civil Situations: 1  
Warrant Arrest: 2  
Found Open Door: 1

#### **CALLS OF INTEREST:**

1. Suspicious circumstance in the 300 block of Metlako Way on 03/02/2011 – Circumstance resolved and persons involved checked out OK.
2. Suspicious person at Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 03/03/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
3. Suspicious person at "H" Street near 9<sup>th</sup> Court on 03/05/2011 – Verbal warning given regarding trespassing.
4. Suspicious vehicle in the 2000 block of Second Street on 03/05/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
5. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near "G" Street on 03/05/2011 – Vehicle and persons involved checked out OK with no further police action required.
6. Suspicious person in the area of Hwy 30 at "L" Street on 03/05/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
7. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Second Street near "I" Street on 03/05/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
8. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 03/05/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
9. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near "L" Street on 03/05/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
10. Disturbance call in the area of Second Street near "I" Street on 03/08/2011 – Peace restored with no further law enforcement action required.
11. Open residential door found in the 300 block of Spinnaker Way on 03/12/2011 – Property secured with no indication of crime having taken place.
12. Suspicious vehicle at Hwy 30 near Pacific Street on 03/12/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
13. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near "A" Street on 03/12/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
14. Suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of "A" Street on 03/12/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.

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## POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT (cont.)

15. Suspicious person at "A" Street near Highway 30 on 03/12/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
16. Suspicious circumstance at Highway 30 near "L" Street on 03/12/2011 – Circumstance checked out OK with no further law enforcement action required.
17. Suspicious vehicle at Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 03/13/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
18. Warrant service in Tahoma Court area on 03/16/2011 – Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
19. Suspicious person at Sixth Street near "E" Street on 03/20/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
20. Warrant service in the 2200 block of Second Street on 03/20/2011 – Person arrested and transported to jail.
21. Suspicious vehicle at Highway 30 North of Pacific Street on 03/21/2011 – Vehicle and persons involved checked out OK.
22. Suspicious person in the 300 block of Pacific Street on 03/21/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
23. Suspicious vehicle at Highway 30 near "A" Street on 03/31/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
24. Harassment investigation in the 300 block of "A" Street on 03/31/2011 – Investigation completed and suspect identified – prosecution declined by the Victim.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Citizens should be aware of the following regulations and report violators to the City Hall.

**Political signs:** Political signs must be removed within 15 days of election. For the May 17 Primary Election, signs must be removed by Wednesday, June 1.

**Streets:** Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard debris should not be deposited on the City streets.

**Sidewalks:** The owner of property abutting a sidewalk is responsible for keeping the sidewalk free of yard debris, snow, ice, and other obstructions.

**Grass and weeds:** Between April 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> each year, weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height within the City limits.

## THANK YOU

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

- Karin Bates, Jean Carulli, Nell Harrison, Dolores Heinz, Jean Lord, Phyllis Rowley, Lynn Vellenga and Vonnie Walker for helping with the utility billing and newsletters in March.
- Libby Calnon and crew for donating and planting flowers in the City Hall flowerbed.
- Bob and Peggy Sharpe for donating the purple locust tree for the City entrance sign area.
- John Thibeau for mowing the section of bike path to the north of Pacific Street.
- Thomas Nash weeding, cleaning up and mowing Bundy Park.
- All of our Library and Reserve Officer volunteers, as well as our many volunteers that have asked to remain anonymous!

### 💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.



### DELUXE WATER SAVING HOSE NOZZLES \$6.00 EACH

Purchase your deluxe 10-spray water saving hose nozzles just in time for the season! Available for purchase at City Hall for \$6.00 each.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you for your support over the last month! Over \$900 has been donated in the past three weeks. It is intimidating to move from raising \$3,000 in a year to \$16,000 in a year, but this first year will be the hardest as we learn what works best. Just because we haven't done it before doesn't mean we can't do it. We will **not** be closing the library in July when the City is no longer paying our rent.

A group is meeting to work on fundraising. Our next meeting will be May 23 at 7:00 p.m. We will be asking past donors to continue contributing to Friends of the Library as they did to the City Celebration. There is a flyer asking for donations in this newsletter. The Novel *(continued on page 5)*

## LIBRARY NEWS *(cont.)*

Quilters are working on a raffle quilt. We will be collecting cans to return. We will hold a book sale on the second Saturday of September, and are deciding what other events we can do to raise money in conjunction with that. Remember that the City will no longer be doing a City Celebration, but the Friends of the Library and the fundraising group will have to plan events for the day. We will also be investigating whether we can decrease our rental cost, since that is our largest budget item.

We need the entire community's support to keep our library. We have a valuable community resource that has taken us ten years to bring to its present state. It would be much more difficult to reopen the library than to keep it going. So sign up on our email list, or email us at [ccclibrary@live.com](mailto:ccclibrary@live.com). Ask what you can do to help, and bring us your ideas.

**Book Sale:** Our next book sale will be Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keep those book donations rolling in. We will be advertising on Craig's List and BookSaleFinder so expect a lot of buyers. If you want an early look at the books, help us setup Saturday morning from 8 to 10 a.m. We can always use more help!

**New Books:** We received a great donation of knitting books, and have added at least six to the library this month. Knit socks, a vest, or make a felted purse. Check out Knitting on the Edge, covering ruffles, lace and fringes, or Knitter's Stash, with patterns from yarn shops. Lots of wonderful ideas!

**Novel Quilters:** The Novel Quilters had some beautiful quilts based on The Map of True Places by Brunonia Barry. Next we will be reading The Help by Kathryn Stockett. The next meeting will be in June, and quilts will be displayed in October.

**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, May 9 - 8 p.m.  
**Fundraising Meeting:**

Monday, May 23 – 7 p.m.  
**Mystery Book Group:**  
Wednesday, May 25 - 7 p.m.

205 "I" Street, PO Box 189  
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(503) 366-8020  
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[www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm)

## PROPOSED LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES

**Why is the new levy needed?** Police protection service costs have exceeded the permanent tax rate revenues for the last six years, and the funding gap continues to grow. The City's permanent tax rate is among the lowest of all of the cities in the state, as shown in the chart on page 6. Passage of this levy will secure police protection services at current levels for the next five years.

**How long will this levy last?** Five years.

**How will the taxes from the levy be used?** For police protection services. These taxes will sustain current-level police protection services that include:

- ❑ Seven day a week coverage with "on-call" protocol;
- ❑ Extended premise check services, foot patrols, area patrols, and other proactive community programs;
- ❑ Proactive criminal patrol and follow-up investigations;
- ❑ Back-up and assistance to adjoining local law enforcement agencies;

**What will happen if the levy fails?** Department service levels will be reduced. Service level reductions could involve a combination of cuts such as:

- ❑ Reducing current staffing levels of Department personnel by as much as 40 hours per month or more;
- ❑ Reducing Department service levels by moving to a reactive approach and dispatched calls for service;
- ❑ Programs such as premise checks, foot patrols, area patrols and community policing may be eliminated or incur a service fee;
- ❑ Physical criminal patrols and follow-up investigative activities could be reduced.

**What will the levy cost?** The levy will cost \$0.67 per \$1,000 assessed value. A *(continued on page 6)*

**LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR POLICE** (cont.)

home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$134.00 per year.

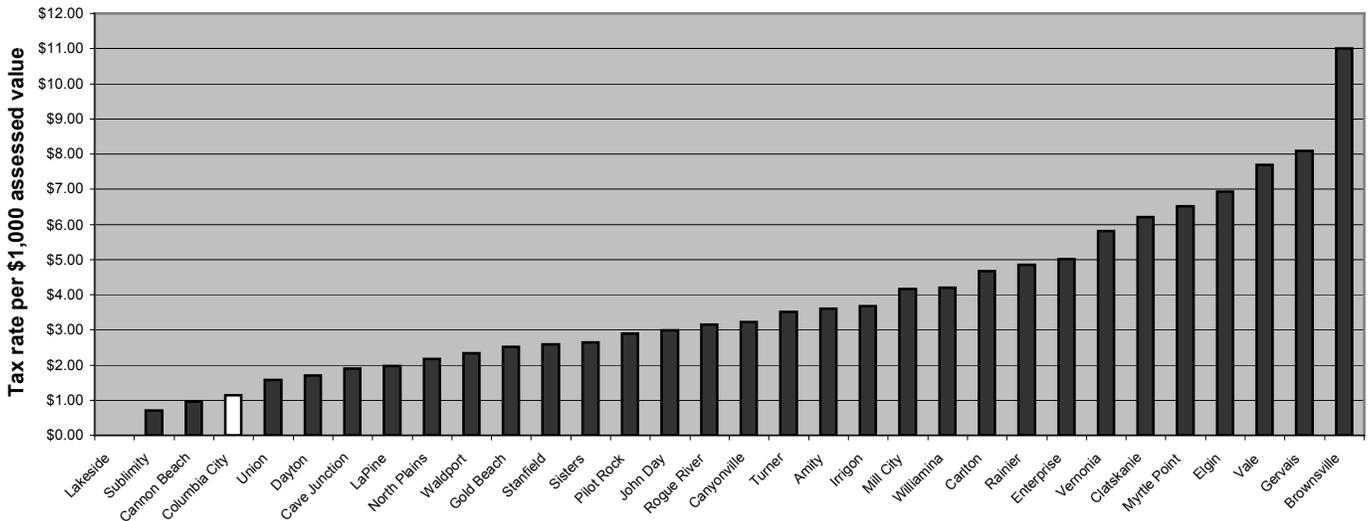
**How much do I pay now?** The City levies a permanent tax rate of \$1.13 per \$1,000 of assessed value, plus a sewer bond levy. The

sewer bond levy rate varies each year, but will drop to about \$0.26 in its final year.

**How long will the sewer bond levy continue?** One more year.

**When will I vote on the levy?** The levy will appear on the ballots for the May 17, 2011 Primary Election.

**Comparison of Permanent Tax Rates**  
Oregon Cities with Populations of 1,500 to 2,500



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

May 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Budget Committee Meeting at the Community Hall
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Memorial Day



**FREE! - WATER CONSERVATION KITS!**

The City is still offering free water conservation kits to each water customer. Kits include one-touch on/off tap saver, a moisture meter, leak detection dye tablets, and water conservation tips. Stop by City Hall to pick up your kit today! Kits will be offered on a first come first serve basis while supplies last. Please complete the form below and bring it to City Hall.

**YES! I would like a FREE Water Conservation Kit!**

*The information requested below must be provided to receive your kit. You must be a Columbia City water customer.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_