

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2011



**COLUMBIA CITY**  
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### MEASURE 5-221 5-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY

**What is Measure 5-221?** Measure 5-221 submits to the voters the question of authorizing a five-year local option levy to sustain current 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 the backside of this page. Passage of this levy will secure police protection services at current levels for the next five years.

**What will the levy cost?** The levy will cost \$0.67 per \$1,000 assessed value. A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$134.00 per year.

**When will I vote on Measure 5-221?** The levy will appear on the ballots for the November 8, 2011 General Election.

**When would I start to pay?** November 2012.

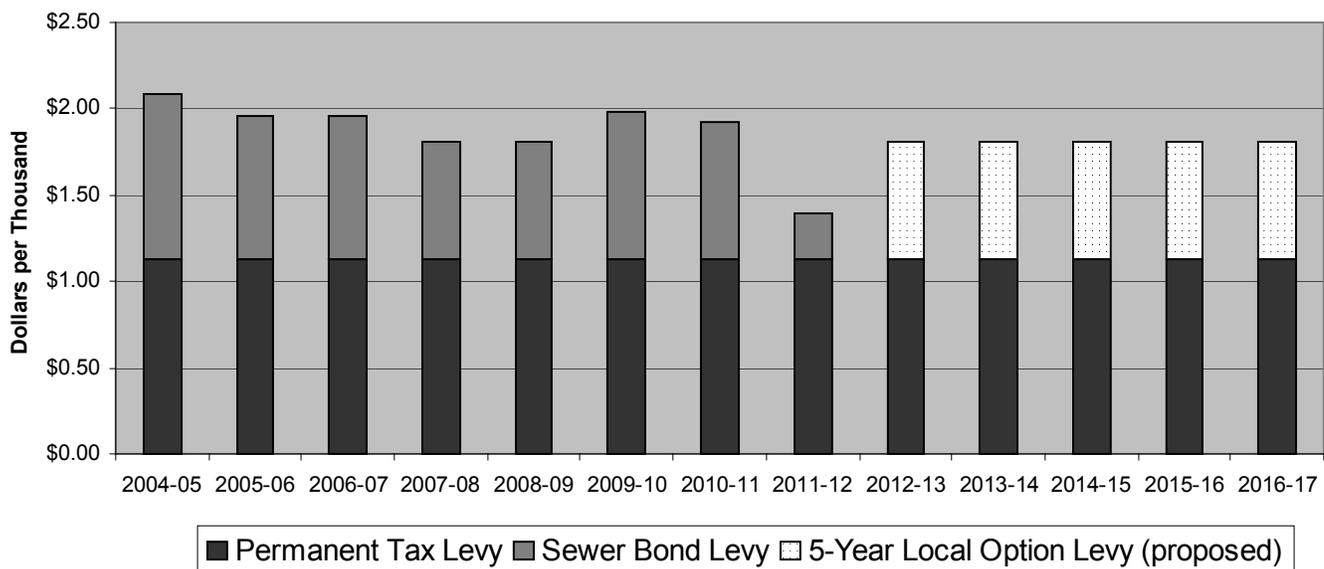
**How much do I pay now?** The City levies a permanent tax rate of \$1.13 per \$1,000 of assessed value, plus a sewer bond levy. The sewer bond levy is currently in its final year with a rate of about \$0.26.

**How long will the sewer bond levy continue?** It will appear on tax bills for the last time in November 2011.

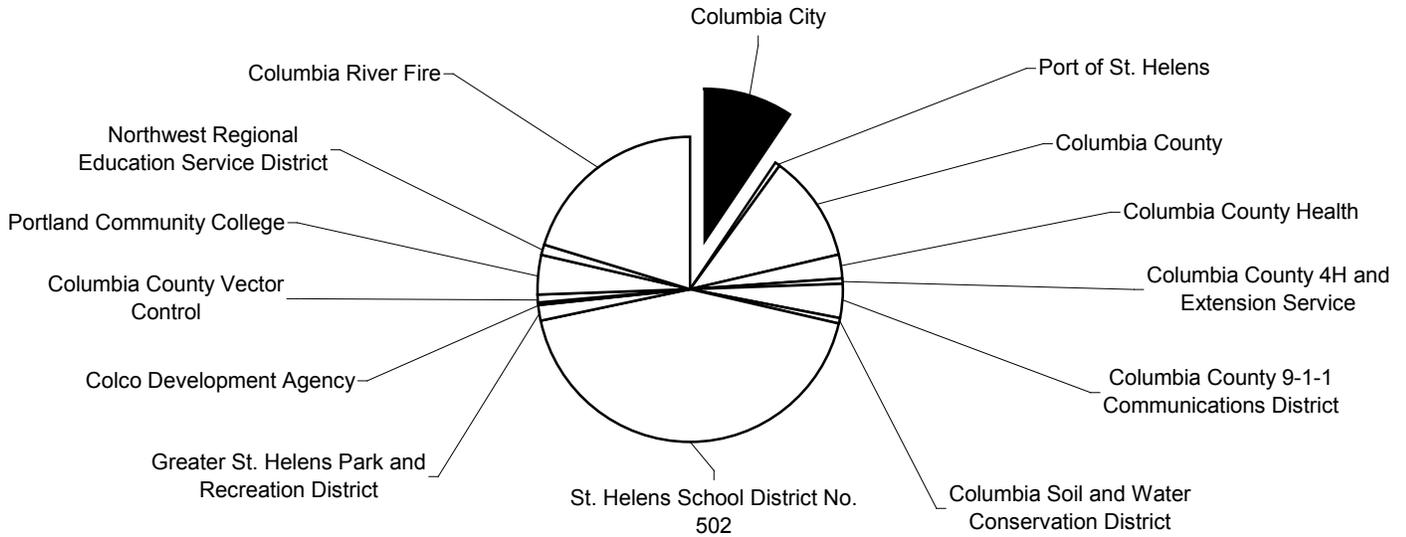
**How will the taxes from the levy be used?** For police protection services. These taxes will sustain current-level police protection services that include:

- 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. *(continued on Page 2)*

**If approved, the proposed 5-Year Local Option Levy will start after the current Sewer Bond Levy ends**



### Columbia City's share of your Property Tax Bill



**How long will the levy last?** Five years. At the end of five years, the levy will expire.

**I already pay property taxes. Where do they go?** Most of the property taxes you pay go to other agencies. Columbia City receives a small piece of the pie. In fact, Columbia City's tax rate is one of the very lowest of all cities within the State of Oregon. Even if Measure 5-221 is approved, Columbia City's new combined tax rate of \$1.80 will still be among the lowest of all of the cities in Oregon.

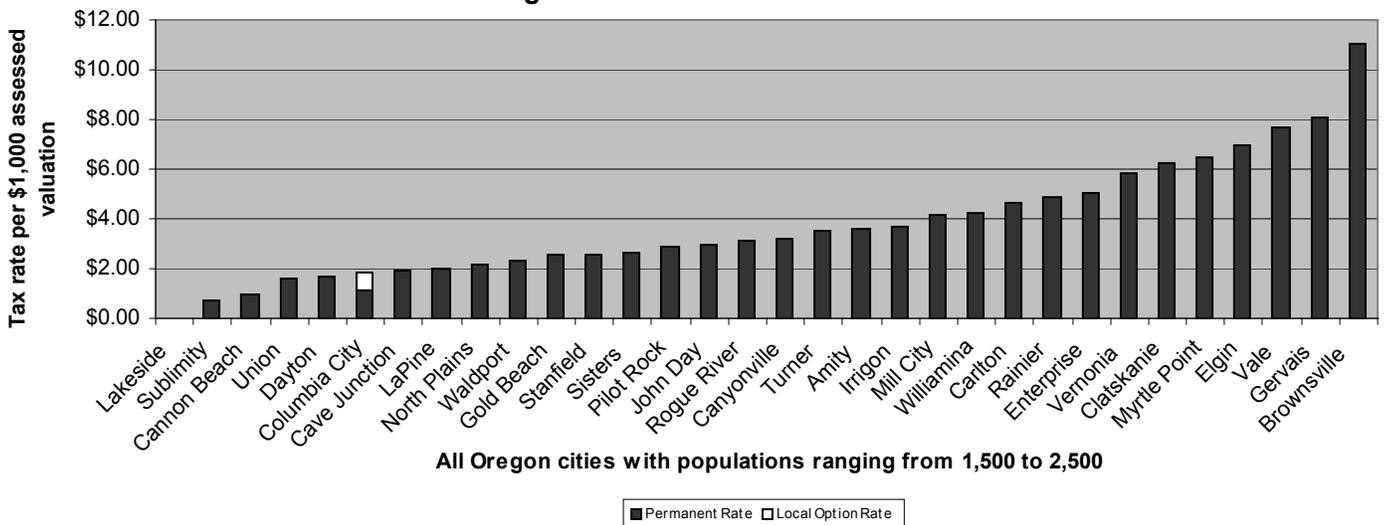
**What will happen if the levy fails?** Police Department service levels will be reduced. Service

level reductions could involve a combination of cuts such as:

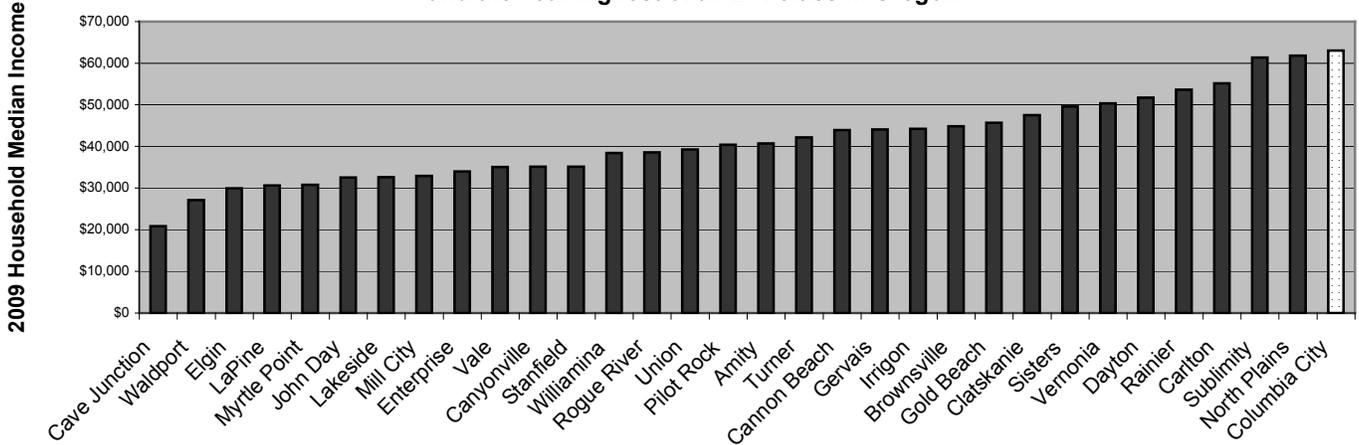
- ❑ Reducing current police staffing levels by as much as 40 hours per month or more;
- ❑ Reducing Department service levels by moving to a reactive approach and dispatched calls for service;
- ❑ Programs such as premise checks, foot patrols, area patrols and community policing may be eliminated or incur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

(continued on Page 3)

**Even with an approved local option levy, Columbia City's combined tax rate of \$1.80 will remain among the lowest of all cities within the state.**



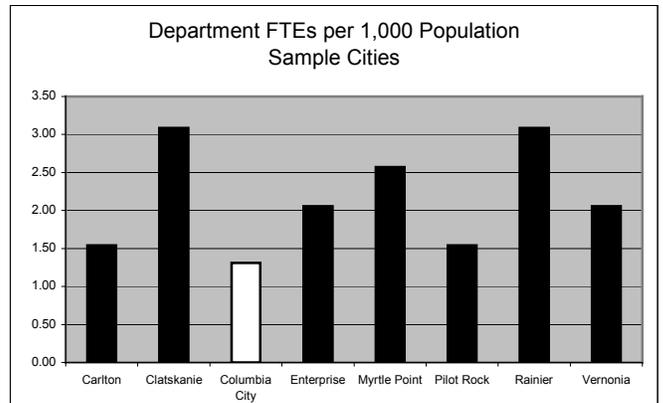
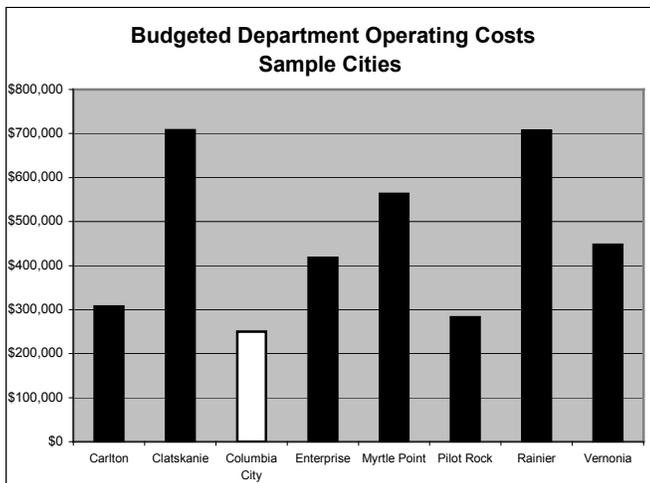
**Of the same group of comparison cities,  
Columbia City had the highest 2009 Median Income Level,  
and the 15th highest of all 244 cities in Oregon**



All Oregon cities with populations ranging from 1,500 to 2,000

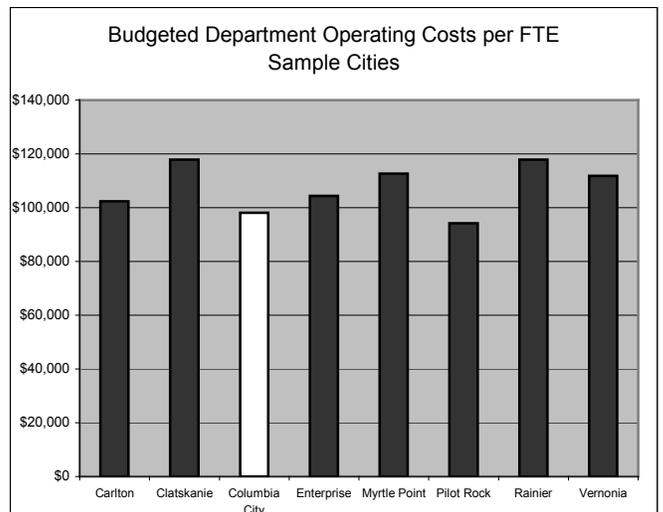
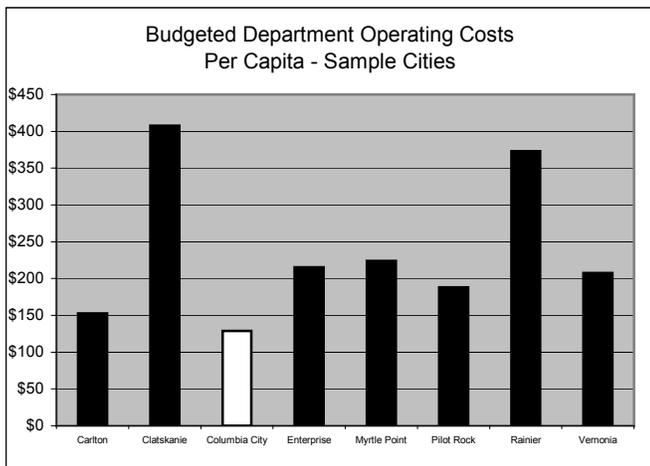
**Does Columbia City spend more on police services than other cities?** Columbia City Police Department's budgeted operating costs are actually quite low in comparison to other cities.

The Police Department maintains a high quality level of service with less than 1-1/2 paid officers per 1,000 citizens – a ratio that is considerably lower than many small cities.



The Police Department's operating costs per capita are noticeably lower than most small cities.

The Police Department's operating costs per full-time employee equivalent is also much lower than most cities.



## CHIEF'S CORNER

**LEVY MEET & GREETs:** 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 & 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:

- Wednesday October 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Jim Bundy Memorial Park.
- 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.)

**SHOP WITH A COP 2011:** It is that time once again! This year's "Shop with a Cop" event is just around the corner. As the holiday season is fast approaching, we are in need of your help. Please remember that this program is geared towards providing wintertime necessities and Christmas "wish list" items to a Columbia City family, with children, in need. The past two years experiences have been fantastic and we appreciate all of



your support. If you know of a local family that could benefit from this program please fill out the nomination form (see page 8) and submit it to the Police Department. We are looking to conduct this year's shopping trip in mid-December so please nominate a family as soon as is possible!

**TRICK OR TREAT BAGS:** On behalf of the Columbia City Police Department, free Trick or Treat bags are now available at City 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 911, 503-397-4010 (Office), or (Non-emergency) Columbia 911 at 503-397-1521.

Stay safe, ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

## CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

**Political signs:** Political signs may be displayed no sooner than 45 days prior to an election, and must be removed within 15 days of election. For the November 8th General Election, signs may be displayed until November 23rd.

**Yard ad signs:** Temporary signs advertising ongoing painting or construction work must be removed within 15 days after the work is completed.

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

Beginning **Saturday, November 5, through Sunday, November 20**, yard debris may be burned outdoors within Columbia City. However, **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. Please remember you will also need to call the "Burn Line" at (503) 397-4800 each day to see if it is a burn day.



Have questions? Please call Bill Goodwin, Fire Marshall, at (503) 397-2990 Ext. 105. Watch for additional information in next month's newsletter.

### POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 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 510 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. Additionally, within the reporting period we have conducted investigations and/or arrests in the following types of cases: Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Child Abuse, DUII, Felony Theft, Felony Criminal Mischief, Misdemeanor Theft, Burglary, Criminal Trespass, and Runaway Juvenile. *(continued on Page 5)*



**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT**

*(continued)*

**COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY**

- Residential Security Checks: 6
- Area Patrols: 40
- Foot Patrols: 3
- Assist the Public: 20
- Hazards: 1
- Radio Calls: 244
- Missing Persons Adult/Juvenile: 2
- Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 3
- Alarm Calls: 3
- Assistance to Outside Agencies: 33
- Welfare Checks: 3
- Traffic Complaints: 4
- Traffic Crashes: 1
- Animal Complaints: 6
- Suicide Threats: 1

**CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS**

- Criminal Mischief: 2
- Disturbance/Domestic Calls: 4
- Investigative Follow Up's: 9
- Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 15
- Traffic Stops: 47
- Juvenile Investigations: 5
- Disorderly Conduct Arrests: 1
- Theft Investigations: 2
- Stolen Vehicle Investigations: 1
- Burglary Investigations: 1
- Assault Arrests: 1
- Juvenile Abuse Investigations: 1
- DUII Investigations/Arrests: 3
- Death Investigation: 1

**CALLS OF INTEREST**

1. Probation violation arrest in the 1800 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on 08/17/2011 – Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
2. Criminal mischief investigation in the 1200 block of 2nd Street on 08/19/2011 – Juvenile suspect identified and referred.
3. Disorderly Conduct arrest in the area of Hwy 30 near Pacific Street on 08/20/2011 – Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
4. Theft investigation in the 1600 block of 1st Street

- on 08/22/2011 – Criminal investigation concluded with leads exhausted.
- 5. Runaway Juvenile in the 500 block of Pacific Street on 08/24/2011 – Juvenile located in California and returned home.
- 6. Assault investigation (juvenile victim) in the 1900 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street on 08/25/2011 – Investigation remains ongoing with future referral to District Attorney's Office.
- 7. Felony Theft and Felony Criminal Mischief investigation in the 2300 block of A Street on 08/25/2011 – Suspect(s) identified, arrested, and transported to jail.
- 8. Assault investigation in the area of Hwy 30 near L Street on 08/25/2011 – Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
- 9. Death investigation in the 2800 block of 6<sup>th</sup> Street on 08/28/2011 – Investigation completed, ruled natural causes.
- 10. Criminal Mischief investigation in the 2300 block of 5th Street on 09/01/2011 – Investigation concluded with leads exhausted.
- 11. Criminal Trespass investigation in the area of Pro Build Lumber Co. on 09/06/2011 – 3 suspects charged into Justice Court.
- 12. Investigative and arrest assistance for Escape case given to St Helens PD in area of Sykes Road on 09/07/2011 – Suspect located, arrested, and transported to jail.
- 13. Theft investigation in the 3200 block of Park Drive on 09/07/2011 – Investigation concluded with leads exhausted.
- 14. Theft investigation in the 2000 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on 09/12/2011 – Suspect located, arrested, and transported to jail.

**CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM  
HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The Caples House will hold a Harvest Festival on October 15, 2011 from noon to 5 p.m. Fun for the whole family!



- Pioneer games
- Story time
- Crafts
- Homemade ice cream
- Cider dressing
- Old Time Craftsmen demonstrations

Tours of Children's Attic & Museum \$3 for children, \$4 for adults. 1925 First Street, Columbia City.

## MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES GROW

The Columbia County Economic Team, in partnership with Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO), is pleased to announce the availability of Individual Development Savings Accounts (IDAs) which provide a 3 to 1 match savings for qualified Columbia County businesses.

A business owner's net assets cannot exceed \$20,000 excluding their home and vehicle to qualify for this program. There are also household income restrictions. MESO can also provide Columbia County businesses very small business loans that are not based on net assets or income. The program is made possible thanks to a grant from the US Department of Agriculture.

Those interested should contact David Stocker, Columbia County Economic Team, at david.stocker@columbiacountyoregon.com or (503) 397-7218.

### WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Cut down watering on cool and overcast days and don't water in the rain. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers.

## LIBRARY NEWS

We are working hard at doing what is best for the Columbia City Community Library. The City Celebration raised over \$2,000 the day of the event, \$2,500 in corporate donations, and remaining bids on silent auction items are still being collected. Currently, our bank balance will allow us to stay open for another 6 months, through the end of March. Our fiscal year (September 2010 – August 2011) brought in \$10,686 (not including the city's contributions). As long as this level of donations continues, we can stay here. We have a contingency plan to move to a less expensive location if we can't keep a sufficient balance in our checkbook. This month's newsletter has a slip to join Friends of the Library. ***Please join the Friends of the Library and donate generously!***

**Help Needed!** We have a great group of volunteers staffing our Library, but we are finding that we still need more people trained to staff Saturdays and weekday conflicts. If you love the Library and could volunteer once or twice a month, we would love to

train you and put you to work! Leave your name and phone number at the Library, and we will arrange paperwork and training.

### Staffed Library Hours:

Monday & Saturday, 10 AM – 2 PM  
Wednesday, 4 PM – 8 PM  
Thursday, 2 PM – 6 PM

### Story Time:

Every Monday, 11 AM

### Friends of the Library:

Monday, October 10, 7 PM

### Novel Quilters

Wednesday, October 19, 7 PM

### Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, October 26, 7 PM

205 "I" Street, PO Box 189  
(503) 366-8020

**CONGRATS** to Sharon Morris, raffle quilt winner!

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE 2011 COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION!!!

West Oregon Wood Products  
Samuel S. Johnson Foundation  
Columbia City Mini-Mart (Khan and Associates)  
Columbia River PUD (Strawberry Breakfast)  
SHFCU  
Tennessee Cable Service  
Pet Palace  
Maryhill Museum  
Ace Hardware  
All About Pets  
Alterations by Heather Clark  
Bella Maison  
Belleza Day Spa  
Bemis Printing  
Betsy Johnson  
Cathy Lambert  
Cathy Lundberg  
Columbia Electric Feed & Seed  
Columbia Sportwear  
Creative Friends Boutique  
Cuts+  
Dari Delish  
Dee Loyd  
Edna Morse  
Emmert Motors  
Experience Twilight  
Fibers & Stitches  
Flowers 4U

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE 2011 COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION!!!**

Grace's Rivertown Antiques	Seattle Art Museum	Klondike
Jilly's	Sheila Bauer	St. Helens Twirling Academy
Judy DeMeire	St. Helens Olde Towne Barber	All in the Family yard service
Marcia & Don Parrett	St. Helens-Scappoose Septic	St. Helens Book Shop
Mary Ann Emerson	Tank Service	Shear Perfection
Maya's Palace	Sunset Equipment	Children's Closet
Laconian Ironworks	Sunshine Pizza	Columbia City Sports and
Miyako Restaurant	The Bike Shop	Recreation
Paulson's Printing	The Vault	Kris Wood
Percy Smith	Word for Word	Norma's
Sally Weston	Museum of Flight	Joann Kunders
Scappoose Fitness Center	Papa Murphy	Lucky Eagle Casino

**ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS**

Here's your chance to get a great deal! The Library will accept sealed bids for each of the items below. All of the items may be examined at the Library during regular staffed hours. All proceeds will benefit the Columbia City Community Library. To bid on these items, complete this form and return it in a sealed envelope to the Library or to City Hall. Envelopes containing bids must be clearly marked "SEALED BID" and delivered to the Library at 205 I Street, at City Hall at 1840 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, or mailed to PO Box 189, Columbia City, OR 97018.

**Sealed bids must be received no later than Monday, October 31, 2011, 5:00 pm.**

Value	Item Description	Minimum Bid	Bid
\$15.00	Word for Word Gift Certificate	\$5.00	
\$16.00	Alterations by Heather Clark - 2 Pant Hems	\$5.00	
\$66.00	St. Helens Twirling Academy - 6 Week Twirling Session	\$30.00	
\$60.00	Bemis Printing - 500 Business Cards	\$20.00	
\$125.00	Columbia City Sports & Recreation Club - 10 Visits Cardio	\$50.00	
\$125.00	Columbia City Sports & Recreation Club - 10 Visits Cardio	\$50.00	
\$28.00	Maryhill Museum - Four 2 for 1 Admission Vouchers	\$10.00	
\$40.00	Scappoose Fitness Center - 5 Free Tans	\$12.00	
\$45.00	Scappoose Fitness Center - 30-Day Single Membership	\$20.00	
\$90.00	Scappoose Fitness Center - 30-Day Couple Membership	\$30.00	
\$30.00	Seattle Art Museum - 2 Passes	\$8.00	
\$325.00	St. Helens-Scappoose Septic - Tank Pump 1000 Gallons	\$125.00	
\$6.00	Wonder Wallet	\$2.00	
\$20.00	Pop Can Lid Jewelery	\$5.00	
\$150.00	Phyllis Thompson Poster	\$50.00	
\$38.00	Green and White Pitcher	\$10.00	
\$15.00	Golf T-Shirt Ladies Dark Green S	\$4.00	
\$15.00	Golf T-Shirt Gray XL	\$4.00	
\$15.00	Golf T-Shirt Blue M	\$4.00	
\$15.00	Golf T-Shirt White M	\$4.00	
\$15.00	Golf T-Shirt Red M	\$4.00	
\$15.00	Golf T-Shirt Ladies Light Green XXL	\$4.00	
\$20.00	Gold Plated Cocktail Ring Solitaire Crystal	\$5.00	
\$20.00	Gold Plated Cocktail Ring Set with 19 Crystals	\$5.00	
\$40.00	Glass Bowl	\$15.00	
\$20.00	Glam Cocktail Ring Heart Shape with Crystals	\$5.00	
\$165.00	Dog Adoption Certificate	\$70.00	
\$30.00	Black and Brown Bag	\$10.00	
\$50.00	Lucky Eagle Casino Grand Buffet	\$20.00	

