

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2012



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CITY ACQUIRES GENERATOR WITH STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

The City recently took possession of a brand new 120 KW trailer-mounted diesel generator. The mobile generator will add power supply to the City's emergency operations center, police department and emergency shelter in the event of an emergency, and/or be used to power the City's sewer lift stations, groundwater wells, or pumping facilities. When it is not needed in Columbia City, it will be available to the region via mutual aid if needed elsewhere. The generator is being purchased with a \$40,370 grant award under the 2010 State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Attend the COLUMBIA CITY COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 - 7 PM
Community Hall, 1850 Second Street

SPRING CLEANUP



Spring cleaning is just around the corner! Now is the time to get rid of that unwanted junk - old appliances, scrap metal, yard debris, old furniture, solidified latex paint cans, unwanted items, etc. The annual Spring Cleanup Day will be held on **Saturday, April 21st, 2012, from 8 a.m. to noon**

at the Columbia City School. You can drop off your yard debris, trees and limbs for FREE! Extra bulky waste or hard-to-dispose-of items, such as old

furniture, lawn mowers, mattresses, etc. will be accepted for a fee. The following minimum charges apply to other items:

- Yard debris, trees and limbs - FREE**
- Car load of junk - \$5.00**
- Pick-up load of junk - \$10.00**
- Trailer load of junk - \$15.00**
- Refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners - \$10.00**
- Other appliances - \$5.00**
- Car batteries - \$2.00**
- Car or Pick-up Tires - \$2.00**
- Commercial Truck Tires - \$4.00**
- NO tires on rims*
- NO commercial truck loads*
- NO wet garbage*
- NO burn piles*
- NO painted wood*
- NO lumber*
- NO construction debris*
- NO sod*

Need help transporting your items to the event site? Junk It Store It can help. They will pick your items up - load and haul your yard debris and junk. For more information call (503) 397-5865.

This is a community event sponsored by:

- Beaver Bark
- City of Columbia City
- City of Scappoose
- City of St. Helens
- Columbia County Community Corrections
- Columbia County Land Development
- Columbia County Rotary Club
- Columbia County Transfer Station
- Junk It Store It
- Hudson Garbage Service
- Hudson Portable Toilet Service
- Les Schwab Tire Center-St. Helens
- Les Schwab Tire Center-Scappoose
- R & E Recycling
- St. Helens School District
- Scappoose Community Club
- Scappoose School District
- South Columbia County Chamber
- Stan's Refrigeration
- Waste Management

Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls.
David Thomas

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We have many exceptional volunteers in our community that make very valuable contributions towards the quality of life our residents enjoy within our City.

Parks and Facilities: Volunteers have been working hard to maintain Jim Bundy Memorial Park, Harvard Park, Datis Park, Pixie Park, Ruth Rose Richardson Park, the bike path, the entrance sign area, and the planting boxes on the wall at the Public Works Shop. With the valuable assistance of our many volunteers, our City parks and facilities are looking better than ever!

Library: The Friends of the Library are working hard to provide Library services to the community. They are currently soliciting donations, organizing fund raising activities, and contributing many, many hours to staff the Library for our citizens to enjoy.

Police Reserves: Volunteer Police Reserves provide extremely valuable assistance to our Police Department in reaching and maintaining its objectives relating to maintaining the peace, safety and quality of life for our citizens. Interest in participation in our Volunteer Reserve Program continues to grow. We currently have two Volunteer Reserve Officers and four candidates that are interested in joining.

Utility Bills and Newsletters: Each month a group of dedicated volunteers assists the City with stuffing and sealing the utility bills and newsletters in preparation for mailing.

We'd like to extend a very special thank you to all of our committed volunteers - they really make a difference! Are you interested in volunteering? For information about current volunteer opportunities, please contact City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010.

**Those who can, do.
Those who can do more, volunteer.**
Author Unknown

REMINDER BIANNUAL BURN PERIOD

The biannual burn period will begin on **Saturday, April 7th, and end on Sunday, April 22nd.** The burn period is for yard debris only, burn barrels are prohibited and it must be a burn day. **Call (503) 397-4800 for burn day information before you burn. Burn permits are required prior to burning!** If you obtained a permit in the fall of 2011 you may not need to get a new one - check the expiration date. Permits may be obtained at City Hall or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District.



CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM COMPLEX OPEN

Come visit and support your local museum. The Caples House Museum is now open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., through the end of October. They would love to give you a tour and share the history of the Caples Family in Columbia City.

After the tour or each Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. visit the Caples House for a pot of tea and sweets. Come alone or bring a friend for a relaxing visit and a lovely setting. Cost is \$5 per person with proceeds going to the museum. Caples House Museum is located at 1925 First Street.

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.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Keep grass and weeds cut: Between April 15th and September 30th weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height within the City limits.



BREAK THE POLLUTANT CYCLE

Help reduce the pharmaceuticals entering the sewer systems and waterways. Flushing excess medication down the toilet is simply not a practice we can continue. Steroids, birth control, pain killers, and other pharmaceuticals have been detected in our nation's waterways. One United State Geological Study detected emerging contaminants, such as pharmaceuticals, in 80 percent of the streams and rivers sampled across 30 states.

You can take steps to prevent and reduce these pollutants in the environment by disposing of your excess pharmaceuticals at one of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day collection sites in the following article.

DEA SCHEDULES NATIONAL TAKE BACK DAY FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Office of Diversion Control's National Take Back Initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.



In an effort to address this problem, DEA, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, conducted the first ever National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, September 25, 2010. The purpose of this National Take Back Day was to provide a venue for persons who wanted to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. This effort was a huge success in removing potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation's medicine cabinets. There were approximately 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation that participated in the event. All told, the American Public turned in more than 121 tons of pills on this first National Take Back Day.

The next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will take place on **Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of them.

The following **collection sites** will be available to you within Columbia County:

- **Columbia County Sheriff's Office** - 901 Port Avenue, St. Helens
- **Scappoose Police Department** - 33568 E Columbia Avenue, Scappoose

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

The next Hazardous Waste Disposal event will occur on Saturday, April 28, 2012. The Transfer Station is located at 1601 Railroad Avenue in St. Helens.

The County's HHW facility **accepts** the following:

- Pool and spa chemicals
- Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and poisons
- Thinners and solvents
- Household cleaners and disinfectants
- Art and hobby chemicals
- Aerosol spray chemicals
- Propane tanks and bottles
- Fluorescent lamps and ballasts
- PCB's
- Medical sharps
- Gasoline/diesel
- Paint
- Small arms ammunition
- Batteries
- Used oil
- Antifreeze
- Fireworks

Not accepted:

- Ø Radioactive materials
- Ø Household trash/empty containers
- Ø Explosives
- Ø Bio medical waste
- Ø Asbestos
- Ø Prescription/over-the-counter medications
- Ø Business hazardous waste from small (SQG) or large quantity (LQG) generators

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SET

The Columbia City Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to receive comment from the public on the proposed 2012-13 budget. A copy of the proposed budget document may be inspected on or after May 4, 2012, at the City Hall.

A LOCAL SHOWCASE FOR TRILLIUM

From March through June, large-flowered trilliums bloom gracefully on the forest floor throughout Jim Bundy Memorial Park. The trillium has a large, often white, three-petaled flower above three broad leaves.



Along with its three sepals, it's easy to see where trillium got its name. The plants are 8 - 18 inches high with a stem bearing a 2 - 4 inch flower. The white flowers turn pink with age. They grow in rich wooded areas, and trillium is often the first wildflower noticed by casual walkers as other spring wildflowers are much less apparent.

Trillium flowers should never be picked. In fact, it is illegal to pick trilliums in Oregon, Washington, New York, Michigan and British Columbia. The three leaves below the flower are the plant's only food source and a picked trillium may die or take many years to recover. Trillium plants take 6 years to grow from seeds to flowers.

Trillium is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants and mice. Trillium seeds have a fleshy organ called an elaiosome that attracts ants. The ants take the seeds to their nest, where they eat the elaiosomes and put the seeds in their garbage, where they are protected until they germinate. They also get the added bonus of growing in a medium made richer by the ant garbage.

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.

ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN FAIR

Don't miss the **Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association's** 17th annual fair on April 28th at St. Helens High School, 2375 Gable Road, inside the Commons and outside in the courtyard. The sale starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Please carpool. No pets.

Certified Master Gardeners will offer over 5,000 tomatoes in over 40 varieties for only \$1.50 per plant. Come early for the best selection. Certified members will be on hand to provide general gardening information at the education table and tomato-specific information at the tomato sale.

Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each and hourly prizes will be awarded. Raffle tickets are on sale now and can be purchased from many Columbia County Master Gardeners and at the OSU Extension Service in St. Helens. You don't need to be present to win.



Dozens of local vendors will offer annuals, trees, perennials, shrubs, trellises, garden art, vegetables, ceramics, herbs, containers, hanging baskets and more.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
February - March 2012

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 321 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, Burglary, Harassment, Theft, Criminal Mischief, Threats, and Possession of Marijuana.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 29
Area Patrols: 24
Foot Patrols: 6
Assist the Public: 11
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 7
Radio Calls: 125
Noise Complaints: 1
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 10
Juvenile Situations: 1
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 1
911 Hang Up: 1
Missing Juveniles/Juvenile Investigations: 2
Parking Complaints/Violations: 3
Traffic Complaints: 3
Welfare Checks: 1
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 67



CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 13
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles
and Prowler Calls: 10
Traffic Stops: 43
Theft Investigations: 3
Harassment: 2
Criminal Mischief: 1
Traffic Crash/Hit & Run Investigations: 2
Fraud: 1
Possession of Marijuana: 1
Burglary: 1
Domestic/Disturbance Investigations: 5
Warrant Services: 2

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Runaway Juvenile search and investigation in the 2400 block of Fifth Street on 02/28/12 – Investigation completed with juvenile suspect identified, located, and returned home.
2. Felonious Assault investigation in the 3000 block of Sixth Street on 03/04/12 – Investigation complete with suspect identified and arrested.
3. Burglary, Criminal Trespass, and Possession of Marijuana investigation in the 1400 block of Second Street on 03/11/12 – Investigation complete with suspect identified and arrested.
4. Traffic Crash investigation in the area of Highway 30 near "E" Street on 03/20/12 – Investigation completed responsible party cited.

POLICE TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT

The Columbia City Police Department receives financial assistance from the Oregon Department of Transportation through a program facilitated by the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police. As part of this program Officers participate in a number of "High Visibility Enforcement" projects whereby Officers on grant funded overtime focus on a number of traffic safety concerns including but not limited to speed, DUII and seat belt enforcement.

In February, our Officers joined with other agencies around the state to conduct two traffic safety projects. Our Officers concentrated their efforts within Columbia City while other Officers did the same within their respective jurisdictions.

One project was High Visibility Enforcement over the Super Bowl weekend. Officers were out during times when operating motor vehicles while under the influence of an intoxicant has been a concern in the past. Officers made a number of contacts during this time.

Officers also participated in a traffic safety "Blitz" whereby Officers from around the state participate in the High Visibility Enforcement efforts at the same or about the same time. There are three such "Blitz" projects scheduled throughout the year. This last one occurred February 6th through 19th. Officers contacted several motorists during this period in an effort to educate and inform drivers as to safety concerns and issues.

These grants provide funding for agencies, such as the Columbia City Police Department, so that Officers can be out and about during times when the community has expressed safety concerns.

THANK YOU, DYNO NOBEL!



We'd like to extend a very special "Thank You" to Dyno Nobel for their recent donation of 800 lbs. of Urea fertilizer for use in our City parks. We strive to maintain our park system with fewer resources, and this very generous contribution from Dyno Nobel is especially appreciated and very-well timed!

LIBRARY NEWS

The library may be facing the need to move very soon. Our fallback position is that we will move to the basement of the Knapp Center, part of the Caples House complex. It is not ideal because of the stairs, and we don't know for sure that the governing group of the Caples House will approve our use. We have been looking for a suitable house to rent in the central part of Columbia City, but have not found the right place yet. An ideal place would be within lower Columbia City so that it is within walking distance of City Hall and the Post Office. It would have 1000-1200 square feet of space on the ground level. It would have parking adequate for at least four cars. It would be less expensive than \$1,000 per month, which is our current rental rate. If someone knows of a suitable house, or wants to buy the building we are currently in, please let us know.

We will hold another planning meeting on Monday, April 23 to discuss where we are at, and to start dealing with a move if it comes to that.



I want to thank the family of Joel Williams, who passed away October 13. His family donated to

Friends of the Library in his memory. We will miss Joel. He was a great supporter of libraries and was always willing to help.

We had a great response to our request for donations to match our Libri Foundation grant. Thanks to Vernon Martin, Jean and George LeMont, Paulette Lichatowich, Jennifer Anderson, Robert Dillinger, Buddy and Leahnette Rivers, Barbara Gordon, Lee Phillips, Jan and John Burdett, and Catherine Garman. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Novel Quilters

The Novel Quilters have been reading *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks for the last several months. A book specialist is conserving the Jewish Sarajevo Haggadah, an illuminated religious volume. *People of the Book* traces its journey back in time through five centuries of history. In April, we reveal the quilts we have created based on the book. We would really like to invite members of the community to come and see these works of art on Wednesday, April 18, at 6:30 in the library.



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, April 9 - 7 p.m.

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, April 18 – 6:30 p.m.

History of Baseball:

Saturday, April 21 - 1 p.m.

Planning Meeting:

Monday, April 23 - 7 p.m.

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, April 25 – 7 p.m.

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CHIEF'S CORNER

We look forward to hearing from you! In the May 2012 City Newsletter we will be sending out a citizen survey regarding service from the police department. This survey will be asking you for your input on how we are doing our job, as well as seeking your input in how we can improve. Please take the time to complete this survey and share your thoughts with us. No suggestion, critique, or feedback is unimportant and we appreciate any information that you would share!



Warmer weather on the way! As summer time approaches, we'd like to offer the following security and safety precautions:

Summertime security tips:

When you are enjoying your backyard, make sure you haven't left your front door unlocked. Burglaries can happen when you are home.

Often there is an increase in residential burglary and theft in the warm weather months. At times, we leave our windows open for ventilation when we are not home. In a vast number of summertime burglaries, the burglar gains entry through an opened or unlocked door or window. We also see an increase in the theft of personal property because there is a tendency to leave items, such as bicycles, unattended at parks and in front yards.

Most of these thefts can be prevented just by giving things a second thought, rather than just "leaving them for a second."

Home security:

When you are away from home, close and lock your doors and windows. If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use a dowel for sliding glass windows cut to allow the window to open no more than 4". For double hung windows, consider sash pins. Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which will also prevent the window from being opened too far.

Yardwork:

Don't make it easy for the burglar! Make sure even if you are just running for a quick trip or working outside that you don't leave your doors unlocked or visibly opened. When working in the yard in the back of the home, do not leave the front door open and/or unlocked. If you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight while you are working in the yard, be mindful of what are you showing in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by.

Gardening tools, lawnmowers, other yard tools, ladders... all tend to be stolen more in warm weather months. Make sure you lock them up in the garage, shed, etc.

Heat in cars:

Because Columbia City is a temperate climate; sometimes it is hard to remember that temperatures in the summer can heat up very quickly. Remember to **NEVER** leave pets unattended in a hot vehicle with the windows rolled up. If you leave a pet in a car, roll the windows down enough for ventilation and provide a dish of water. Better to leave the pet at home rather than in a sweltering car.



Children **SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED** in cars, even for a short time.

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 9-1-1 (emergency), (503) 397-4010 (office), or C-COM (non-emergency dispatch) at (503) 397-1521.

Thanks ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

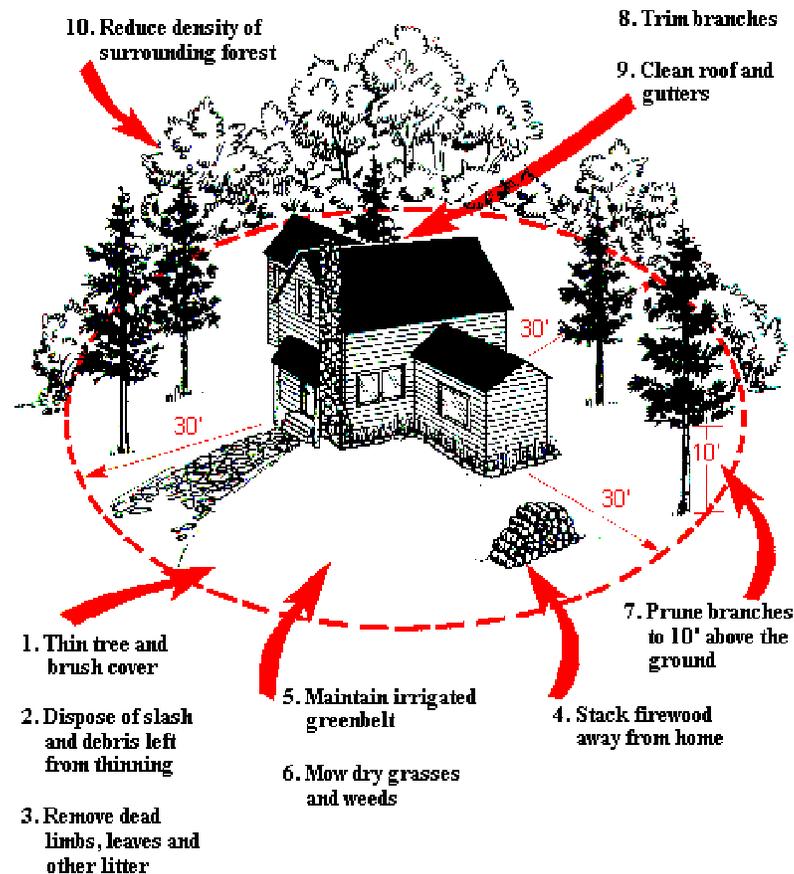
MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - APRIL 2012

April 5 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 7 th	dawn	First day of open burning
April 9 th	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
April 10 th	6:00 PM	Planning Commission Workshop at City Hall
April 11 th	7:00 PM	Community Visioning Workshop in the Community Hall
April 12 th	7:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
April 17 th	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 19 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 21 st	8:00 AM to noon	Spring Clean Up Event at the Columbia City School
April 22 nd	dusk	Last day of open burning
April 23 rd	7:00 PM	Library Planning Meeting at the Library

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DEFENSIBLE SPACE

What is defensible space? Defensible space is the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and to provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend the house. Sometimes, a defensible space is simply a homeowner's properly maintained backyard.

What is the relationship between vegetation and wildfire threat? Many people do not view the plants growing on their property as a threat. But in terms of wildfire, the vegetation adjacent to their homes can have considerable influence upon the survivability of their houses. All vegetation, including plants native to the area as well as ornamental plants, is potential wildfire fuel. If vegetation is properly modified and maintained, a wildfire can be slowed, the length of flames shortened, and the amount of heat reduced, all of which assist firefighters to defend the home against an oncoming wildfire.



The Fire Department is supposed to protect my house, so why bother with defensible space? Some individuals incorrectly assume that a fire engine will be parked in their driveway and firefighters will be actively defending their homes if a wildfire approaches. During a major wildfire, it is unlikely there will be enough firefighting resources available to defend every home. In these instances, firefighters will likely select homes they can most safely and effectively protect. Even with adequate resources, some wildfires may be so intense that there may be little firefighters can do to prevent a house from burning. The key is to reduce fire intensity as wildfire nears the house. This can be accomplished by reducing the amount of flammable vegetation surrounding a home. Consequently, the most important person in protecting a house from wildfire is not a firefighter, but the property owner. And it's the action taken by the owner **before** the wildfire occurs (such as proper landscaping) that is most critical.