

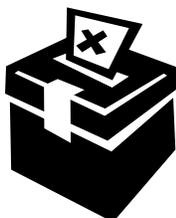
COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012



COLUMBIA CITY
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CANDIDATE FILING DATES

Two City Council positions will be filled by the voters during the November 6, 2012 General Election. Qualified electors who have resided within the City since November 6, 2011, may run for office. Nominating petitions are available at City Hall. The nominating petitions must be signed by 20 qualified electors, and must be filed with the City Administrator by 5:00 pm on August 23, 2012. The positions are for a term of four years.



CHIEF'S CORNER HEROIC CITIZEN RECOGNIZED

On Tuesday, July 24, 2012, a call came to the Columbia City Police Department requesting assistance with a rescue on the Columbia River involving two juvenile females. Apparently the two young ladies had been inner-tubing on the river when they were caught up in the current and became unable to reach shore. As authorities were notified, Mr. Sonny Wolfe launched his personal kayak into the river to assist with their rescue. He was able to quickly respond to the area where the girls were located, secured them to his watercraft, and paddle to shore. Such quick thinking and willingness to help in diverting a potentially life threatening situation are highly commendable and worthy of recognition. On behalf of the Police Department we would like to recognize and thank Mr. Wolfe for his actions.

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

Stay safe, Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

What is a city charter? A city charter is a unique document that, in many ways, acts like a constitution for the city. The charter can only be amended or repealed by a majority vote of a city's voters.

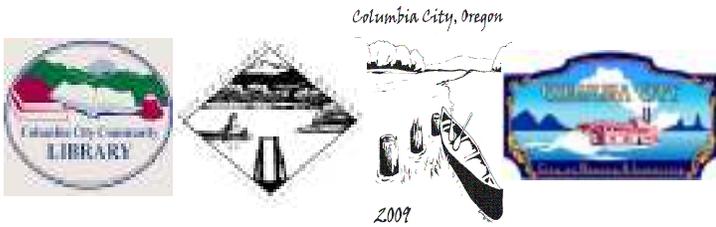
When was the City's charter adopted? The City's current charter dates from 1973. There was one amendment made in 1986, but no comprehensive review.

What is the purpose of the Charter Review Committee? The Committee is an advisory body to the City Council and will be reviewing the City's current charter and make recommendations to the City Council for amendments.

What issues will the Charter Review Committee examine? The Committee will review the Charter in its entirety. The Committee will consider City governance structure (Mayor-Council vs. Council-Manager, and the issues related thereto), the delegation and/or reservation of City powers, the appointment and removal of City officers and employees, the candidate election process, and more.

How can I participate in the process? The City Council is soliciting applications from interested citizens to serve on a City Charter Review Committee. The Committee will meet monthly to review the current City Charter and make recommendations to the City Council for amendments. Applications to serve are available on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org or may be picked up at City Hall. Interested citizens should submit a completed application by August 31, 2012. The City Council will select Committee Members following applicant interviews.

T-SHIRT SALE - \$10 EA!! See details on Page 2



COLUMBIA CITY T-SHIRTS – SUMMER SALE!!
Any Size & Design:
\$10

Call or come by City Hall to see what designs, colors and sizes are still available.

LIBRARY NEWS

We're moving! The St. Helens School District has agreed to let us use the portable classroom on the Columbia City School grounds if we pay for utilities and maintenance. This is a great solution for us, since it gives us more space and costs us less overall. We will be closed for a little over two weeks as we move.



The bookcases and books will be moved Saturday, August 4. Saturday, August 11 we will get the library ready to reopen. We expect to be open again on Monday, August 13. Come see our wonderful new space, and return all those books you checked out!

Because we will have lots more space at the new portable, we will be buying some additional bookcases. We'll need a crew to put them together Saturday, August 4. We will need lots of help packing, moving, and setting up again. Pickup trucks, tools, and hand trucks will be needed. So come either or both Saturdays, we will start at 8:00 am but if you can't be there at 8, show up when you can! We will have pop and pizza on August 4 as added incentive for our volunteers!

This year's raffle quilt is a star pattern in browns and blues. It won a blue ribbon at the county fair, and is a generous queen size. Stop by the library to purchase raffle tickets. Last year a local woman won the quilt, let's do that again!

We are working on the Columbia City Library Celebration for this year. We've moved the celebration to Saturday, September 22. Planned events include our great book sale, a silent auction, the Strawberry Pancake Breakfast, a quilt raffle, bake sale and plant sale. There are lots of reasons to celebrate this year! We welcome volunteers to help with any part of the events.

Our Friends of the Library Treasurer will resign at the end of this year (August) so we are looking for someone who is willing to serve as our treasurer. Please contact the library if you are willing to serve.

Library Hours:

- Monday 10 am - 2 pm
- Wednesday 4 pm - 8 pm
- Thursday 2 pm - 6 pm
- Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Storytime:

Every Monday at 11 am (except August 6)

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, August 20 at 6:30 pm

Planning Meeting:

Monday, August 20 at 7 pm

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, August 29 at 7 pm

Moving Day:

Saturday, August 4 from 8 am - ??

Refilling Shelves:

Saturday, August 11 from 10 am - ??

Library reopens:

Monday, August 13 at 10 am

Columbia City Community Library

2000 Second Street

PO Box 189

Columbia City, OR 97018

503-366-8020

ccclibrary@live.com

💧 **WATER CONSERVATION TIP** 💧

Use a compost heap or garbage can instead of the sink disposal unit

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"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer."
-- Author Unknown

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE MANY HOURS

"Working together to build a stronger Community"

Columbia City is fortunate to have a large number of dedicated volunteers to assist the City in providing a number of services to our community. During the 2011-12 fiscal year, volunteers contributed more than 4,000 hours of service. We'd like to extend our gratitude and appreciate to all of the volunteers that have donated their time to serve the citizens of Columbia City.

Police Reserve Officers: Volunteer Police Reserve Officers provided 1,595 hours of service this past year. Volunteer Reserve Officers play an extremely valuable role in assisting our Police Department in reaching and maintaining its objectives to maintain peace, safety and quality of life for the citizens of Columbia City.

Library: Volunteers donated 1,226 hours of service to operate the Community Library and conduct book sales during the last year. The Friends of the Library continue to work hard to provide Library services to the community. They are actively soliciting donations, holding books sales and other fund raising activities, and contributing many, many hours to staff the Library.

Parks: Volunteers spent 672 hours assisting with the maintenance of various City parks and facilities this past year, and the parks are looking better than ever! Many volunteers have stepped forward to take on various maintenance assignments, and their contributions play a key role in the City's ability to provide enjoyable parks and open spaces for the public to enjoy.

Utility Bills and Newsletters: These volunteers donated 145 hours this past year serving on the City's "Fold and Stuff Team" (FAST). In two hours or less, they process our utility bills and newsletters for mailing.

Elected and Appointed Officials: Volunteers serving on the City Council, Planning Commission,

Budget Committee, Hazard Mitigation Planning Group, Streets Committee, Parks Committee, Water Committee, and Audit Committee contributed 200 hours attending City meetings throughout the year.

City Celebration: Volunteers provided 160 hours of donated service during the City Celebration last fall. The Friends of the Library will be coordinating the Celebration again this year, and they are currently soliciting volunteer help for the event.

Spring Cleanup Event: Volunteers donated 22 hours this past year assisting us with the Spring Clean Up Event in Columbia City. Residents have utilized this popular event for more than ten years now.

We'd like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to the two young children that worked so hard to remove the graffiti from the slide in Harvard Park!

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Interested in serving on the Columbia City Planning Commission? The City currently has a position available. Applicants must reside within the City or the City's Urban Growth Boundary. The term is for a period of four years. The Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month when there are topics to discuss. Applications are available on line and at City Hall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lawn Mowing: Volunteers are needed to mow Harvard Park, the entrance sign area, Jim Bundy Memorial Park, Datis Park, Ruth Rose Richardson Park, Pixie Park, and along the bike path. Inquire at City Hall if you are interested.

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.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's free and it's the law! One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground pipelines and utility lines marked for FREE. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your state One-Call Center. Once your underground lines have been marked for your project, you will know the approximate location of your pipelines and utility lines, and can continue your project by digging with care and respecting the marks. More information regarding 811 can be found at www.call811.com.

KEEPING CATS INDOORS

According to the National Audubon Society and the Seattle Audubon Society, predation by cats is a leading threat to birds and wildlife in urban and suburban areas. By keeping your cats indoors, you help protect local wildlife, and you help your cat lead a longer, healthier life.

Cat facts:

- ✔ Outdoor cats (both companion animals and strays) kill millions of songbirds and small mammals per year.
- ✔ Cats are not a natural part of ecosystems: they compete with native predators.
- ✔ Cats transmit diseases to wildlife.
- ✔ Even well fed cats hunt and kill wildlife.
- ✔ Bells do not prevent cats from killing wildlife.
- ✔ Interrupting an attack by a cat usually does not allow the prey to escape and live.
- ✔ Indoor cats live three times longer, on average, than outdoor cats.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT JUNE – JULY 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

ACTIVITY REPORT: Your police officers answered 208 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: Burglary, DHS Investigation(s), DUII, Fraud, Harassment, Hindering Prosecution, and Theft.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 39
Area Patrols: 12
Foot Patrols: 14
Assist the Public: 10
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 2
Radio Calls: 64
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 5
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 7
Welfare Check: 1
Noise Complaints: 5
Animal Complaints: 2
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 86.5

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 22
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 5
Traffic Stops: 10
DHS Investigations: 4
Burglary: 2
Hindering Prosecution: 1
Theft Investigations: 2
Fraud Investigations: 1
Harassment: 1
DUII Investigations/Arrests: 1
Narcotics Complaints/Investigations: 1
Domestic/Disturbance Investigations: 1
Warrant Services: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Theft investigation in the 1800 block of Second Street on 06/14/12 – Investigation remains active.
2. Theft/Fraud investigation in the 700 block of James Street on 06/18/12 – Investigation remains active.
3. Hindering Prosecution investigation in the 700 block of James Street on 06/19/12 – Investigation completed with suspect identified. Arrest pending at time of this report.
4. DUII arrest in the Highway 30 area near Pacific Street on 07/14/12 – Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
5. Narcotics complaint and investigation in the 300 block of Metlako Way on 07/24/12 – Active investigation initiated.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

Frequently you will see people selling door-to-door. Some of the sales are reputable companies, but some may be scams.

Here are some tips to avoid being scammed from

Nick A. Congemi, Chief of Police of Kenner, Louisiana:



- ❑ Always ask to see identification, even if the person at your door is dressed in a uniform.
- ❑ Never give money to a charity unless it is a known representative from your church or a local charity.
- ❑ Be wary of someone offering to do an expensive home repair for an unusually low price, especially when the worker just *"happens to be in the neighborhood."*
- ❑ Never buy anything sight unseen.
- ❑ Stay alert. Don't give strangers the opportunity to distract you and enter your home.
- ❑ Never give cash to a salesperson. Always use a check and write it out to a company, not an individual.
- ❑ When unsure of a business, call the Better Business Bureau at (503) 226-3981 to determine the company's customer experience record.
- ❑ When deciding to purchase from a door-to-door salesperson, make sure everything promised to you is in a written contract.

The federal government requires solicitors to provide the seller's name and place of business, a description of the goods or services, the amount of money paid and an explanation of the cooling off period. Anyone who makes a purchase from this type of salesperson has a three-day cooling off period. During those three days, you are free to change your mind about the purchase and are not required to give a reason. The company may not charge a cancellation fee during this time.

If you purchase anything from a door-to-door salesperson, you should receive an invoice that includes the date of the transaction, the date by which the buyer may give notice of cancellation and notification of the three-day cooling off period, the name and address of the seller and duplicate copies for the customer.

The City requires a City business license and a solicitation permit for this type of activity. **Before** doing business with anyone selling door-to-door, please ask them to provide you with a copy of their Columbia City business license and solicitation permit, and report violators to the City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010 or the non-emergency dispatch at (503) 397-1521.

FOUND ITEMS

- A pocket knife was found at Harvard Park.
- An iPod was found in Pixie Park.

Do any of these items belong to you? Please contact City Hall for more information.

HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

The Columbia County Transfer Station will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Event on Saturday, August 25, 2012 from 8 a.m. to noon. The following hazardous waste materials are accepted during the event:

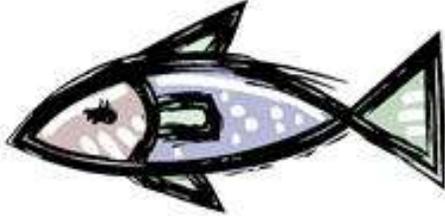
- ✓ Pool and spa chemicals
- ✓ Pesticides herbicides, fertilizers, and poisons
- ✓ Thinners and solvents
- ✓ Household cleaners and disinfectants
- ✓ Art and hobby chemicals
- ✓ Aerosol spray chemicals
- ✓ Propane tanks and bottles
- ✓ Fluorescent lamps and ballasts
- ✓ PCB's
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Medical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

Items not accepted during the event:

- No radioactive materials
- No household trash/empty containers
- No explosives
- No bio medical waste
- No asbestos
- No prescription/over the counter medications
- No business hazardous waste from small (SQG) or large quantity (LQG) generators

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.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Home Occupations. The City permits residents an opportunity to use their home to engage in small-scale business ventures, which could not be sustained if it were necessary to lease commercial space. Inquire at City Hall for guidelines and cost.

Keep grass and weeds cut! Between April 15 and September 30 of any year, weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height and blackberry bushes cannot extend across property lines or into the City's right-of-way, including streets, alleys and sidewalks. Property owners or other persons in charge of the property must keep weeds, grass and other noxious growth, such as poison oak, cut and maintained to prevent them from becoming unsightly and a fire hazard, and to prevent them from maturing and going to seed. Violators can be cited into Municipal Court. Additionally, the City may abate the nuisance and lien the property for the costs.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - AUGUST 2012

August 1	6:00 p.m.	RV/Vehicle Parking/Storage Regulation Study Group at City Hall
August 2	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
August 4	8:00 a.m.	Library Moving Day
August 11	10:00 a.m.	Restock Library Shelves at NEW Library location
August 13	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
August 13	10:00 a.m.	Library Reopens
August 14	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall CANCELED
August 16	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall CANCELED
August 20	6:30 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
August 20	7:00 p.m.	Library Planning Meeting at the Library
August 22	6:00 p.m.	RV/Vehicle Parking/Storage Regulation Study Group at City Hall
August 28	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall