

Columbia City Newsletter



February 2012



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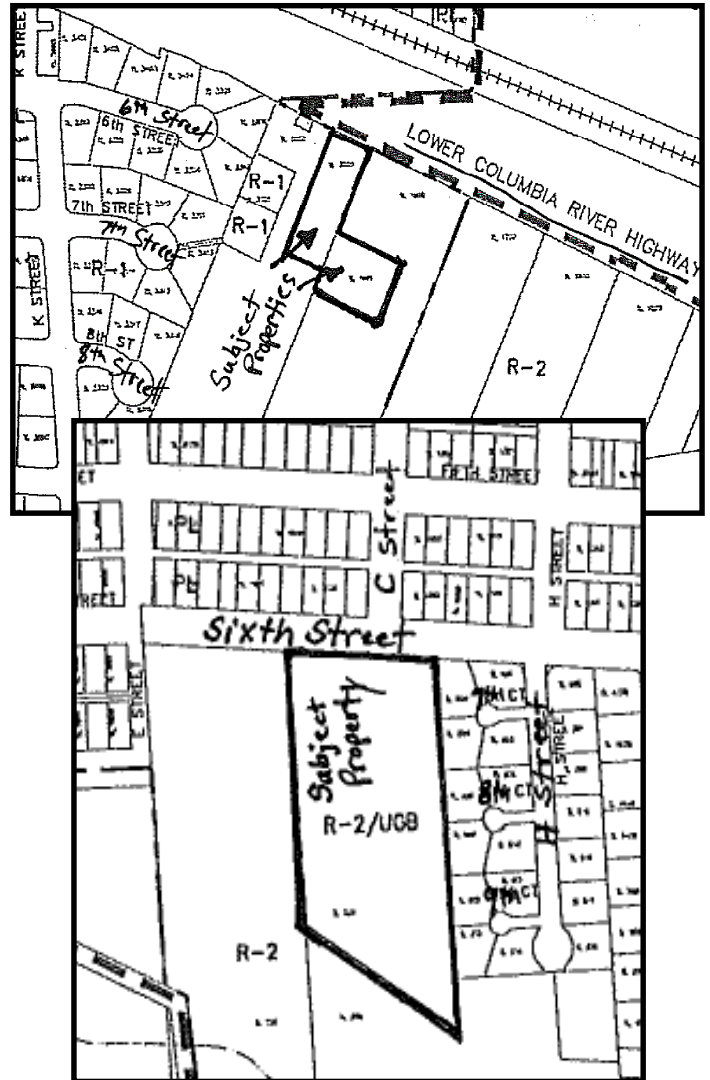
PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The Columbia City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the hearing is to receive written and oral testimony on a City-initiated application for annexing and rezoning three parcels. The parcels are described as:

- Tax Lot 5128-D0-01601, located at 61265 Chimes Crest Road;
- Tax Lot 5128-DB-03000, located at 61269 Columbia River Highway; and,
- Tax Lot 5128-BD-00300, located at 2105 Eighth Street.

The Columbia City Council is scheduled to also conduct a public hearing regarding this application on Thursday, March 1, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

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 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 on February 7, 2012.



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 at the City Hall.

Attend the COLUMBIA CITY COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 - 7 PM
Community Hall, 1850 Second Street

**Complete and return the enclosed
citizen survey!**

DEQ RECOMMENDS SECURING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DURING FLOODING & WINTER STORM EVENTS

This winter has brought us and continues to bring us several severe storm fronts to our area. These fronts create flooding and/or freezing conditions, some with accompanying high winds. Prior to the onset of these storm events, the State of Oregon urges businesses and citizens to secure containers of chemical products and hazardous materials, other loose items and any waste materials that could become storm-driven debris.

The release of toxic materials and hazardous wastes into the environment makes recovery from floods and storms more difficult in addition to adversely impacting the environment and public health. Workers and crews responding to the storms, residents, and wildlife can come into contact with these materials. Even a small amount released into the environment can cause widespread damage and harm.

Containers of chemicals and other products should be securely sealed and where possible should be stored in areas that are unlikely to be affected by high winds or flood waters. Move items to higher ground if possible and utilize shelving that will likely remain above the flood line. Loose items (firewood, lawn chairs, garbage cans, etc.) should also be secured to prevent property loss and minimize contribution to flood cleanup debris.



Household hazardous materials include products used in the home that contain toxic chemicals. Products labeled "Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Flammable or Corrosive" are considered hazardous. Some examples of materials or wastes that should be secured are:

- ☛ Aerosols
- ☛ Antifreeze
- ☛ Auto Batteries
- ☛ Auto Fluids
- ☛ Disinfectants
- ☛ Household cleaners and drain openers
- ☛ Fertilizer
- ☛ Fuel containers containing gasoline, lighter fluid, propane, etc.
- ☛ Latex / Oil-Based Paint
- ☛ Pesticides
- ☛ Pool Chemicals
- ☛ Propane Tanks – less than 30 gallons

- ☛ Solvents
- ☛ Tires
- ☛ Used Oil and Oil Filters

For more information visit DEQ's website at www.oregon.gov/DEQ and click on the links under "Dealing with Disaster Debris?"

ST. HELENS EQUESTRIAN TEAM CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE

The St. Helens High School Equestrian Team is very thankful for all your pop cans and bottles. They will be in Columbia City on the 4th Thursday of each month between 6-7 p.m.

If you wish to participate in this recycling project, just place your recyclable beverage containers in a bag by your garage door, by a light if you can (now that it is dark earlier it is hard to see them). The St. Helens High School Equestrian Team will drive by and pick them up. If you have any questions you may call 503-367-4817.



The team thanks you for your continued support!



STREETLIGHT ISSUES

Is there a streetlight in your neighborhood that is out, or blinks on and off throughout the night? If so, contact City Hall with the address closest to the light or cross streets and we'll have it repaired.

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.

CHIEF'S CORNER

CRIME UPDATE: Over the past few months we have seen an increase in theft within our community. Please take the extra time to make sure that your homes and vehicles are locked for the evening! As well, do not leave valuables visible and please report any suspicious activity that you may see, or strange noises that you may hear, in



the evening or early morning hours. As well, please see below for additional crime prevention tips.

HOME SECURITY & BURGLARY PREVENTION: Don't make it easy on a burglar by leaving your keys in the door or your door unlocked.

IDENTIFY ENTRY POINTS: Before you make security improvements, identify those entry points most likely to be used by a burglar. You can do this by answering the following questions:

- Which entrances are hidden/out of view from my neighbors?
- If I am locked out of my house, where could I get in without too much difficulty?

Every door/window you list in response to these questions should be a number one priority.

BASIC SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS: Other security improvements you should follow, keeping in mind that your goal is to make it difficult for a burglar by forcing them to take more time and to make more noise!

- Exterior doors should be strong enough to withstand excessive force.
- All exterior doors should be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a minimum one-inch throw.
- All strike plates and frames for exterior doors should be anchored to the home's main construction.
- All exterior doors should fit snugly against the frame and all frames should be free of warping, cracks, and other signs of wear and tear.

- Use solid core wood, metal or other reinforced doors, reinforced door jams or jam braces.
- Use three-inch screws, heavy-duty strike plates and tamper proof hinges.
- The main entrance door should have a door wide-angle (180 degree) peephole.
- Sliding glass doors and windows should be secure against forcing the locks or from being lifted completely out of the frame.
- High-risk windows (basement, garage, ground-level, partially or totally secluded, latched, etc.) should be secured sufficiently enough to discourage or impede possible intrusion.
- Double-hung windows should be secured with pins or extra locks to discourage prying.
- Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to allow visibility along the perimeter (particularly entries) of the house.
- Timers (both interior and exterior) should be installed to activate lights in your absence
- All entrances (doors and windows) to your home should be well lit at night.
- Your address should be posted on your house and be clearly visible from the street both night and day.
- Use safety glass or security film on vulnerable windows.
- Use motion sensor lighting, specifically directed and focused on entry points and vulnerable areas, or flood lighting, and beware of light trespass.

Security improvements should not be made at the expense of fire safety! Remember to allow at least one door or window per room as a fire escape - meaning that exit via the door or window can be made quickly and easily. There should also be fire escape routes established for your household. Family members should know where these are and they should be practiced periodically, especially if there are young children at home.

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

FLASH FROM THE PAST

APOLOGY

by Shannon Fitzgibbons, City Councilor

I wish to express my apologies to those I may have offended in my last "Flash from the Past" article. I would never intentionally hurt or denigrate another culture. My only intent in the article was for all cultures from the Native Americans, who were here first, to the present residents of Columbia City, to be proud of their forefathers.

I should have also pointed out that my information for the story came from the book, "Columbia City Days", and the Internet.

I wish to thank Susan Ziglinski for offering the following clarifying information:

- Dr. John McLoughlin worked for the Hudson's Bay Company and tried to keep settlers out of the territory because he did not want to lose the fur trade.
- American Indians believe that the drumming is healing and the drum is the heartbeat of their people.
- Warring tribes did not exist in the northwest. The government wanted the Indians to be contained, but the sentiment in the west was to try to eradicate them. Several tribes were eradicated, such as the Multnomah tribe who were killed by white man's diseases.
- The Chinook and Klickitat Indians and the Yamhill tribes were known for their peaceful ways. American Indians believed the land belonged to Grandfather Spirit and could not be owned. Therefore, they were more than willing to share.
- Pow Wow's are a gathering of medicine and spiritual leaders in healing ceremonies, organized inter tribal gatherings where American Indians share cultural traditions, and are used for wedding celebrations, give-aways for deceased members, during a solstice, and during the harvest season to thank the Grandfather Spirit. Pow Wows are a peaceful celebration, and at no time in American Indian history would a war council be convened at a Pow Wow.

FOUND ITEMS

A key was found on Smith Road, and a battery pack left behind in the Community Hall. Do they belong to you? If you think so, please contact City Hall (503) 397-4010.

VALENTINE TEA

The Caples House Museum will host a High Tea on Saturday, February 12, 2012, from 2 to 4 PM. \$25 – admit one. Hats are the theme, so have fun with it. For reservations and tickets call 503-397-5390 or email:

museumdirector@capleshouse.com. More information is available on the Caples House website: www.capleshouse.com. Note: Caples House hosts tea every Friday all year long from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

Columbia County, in conjunction with the National Association of Counties (NACO), has provided the City with a supply of prescription drug discount cards to distribute to interested citizens.

Residents can stop by to request free prescription discount cards from City Hall during regular business hours.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Parking and Storage of Vehicles: No parking and storage of vehicles, RV's, trailers, campers, boats, or other similar items shall occur in the front 20-foot setback except in a paved driveway, and the parking and storage may not occupy more than 720 square feet.

Tree Permits: If you plan to trim or remove a tree on your property that may fall into the public right-of-way, you must first obtain a Tree Falling Permit from City Hall prior to removal or work being done. These permits are free of charge.

Please report violators to City Hall.

Friends of the Library

BOOK SALE & ANTIQUÉ QUILT SHOW

Saturday, February 18 - 10 AM - 4 PM

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
December 2011 – January 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 465 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: Death Investigation, Narcotics Complaint, Missing/Runaway Juvenile, and multiple Thefts.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY

Residential Security Checks: 66
Area Patrols: 52
Foot Patrols: 4
Assist the Public: 21
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 1
Radio Calls: 221
Civil Situations: 2
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 3
Juvenile Situations: 1
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 2
911 Hang Up: 2
Animal Complaints: 2
Parking Complaints: 2
Traffic Complaints: 3

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 11
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles
and Prowler Calls: 14
Traffic Stops: 26
Theft Investigations: 3
Death Investigation: 1
Narcotics Complaints: 1
Missing/Runaway Juvenile: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Theft investigation in the 1900 block of The Strand on 12/20/2011 – Investigation completed with leads exhausted.
2. Theft investigation in the 2100 block of Fifth Street on 12/27/2011 – Investigation complete with leads exhausted.
3. Use of force report and investigation in the area of Nicolai Cutoff Road (Assistance to Outside

Agency - Oregon State Police) on 12/31/2011 – Investigation cleared by arrest of suspect and officer use of force (Taser) justified.

4. Theft investigation in the 1900 block of Third Street on 01/05/2012 – Investigation completed and suspect identified. Case referred to DA's Office for review and prosecution.
5. Death investigation in the 1600 block of Seventh Street on 01/06/2012 – Investigation complete with determination resulting is suicide. Case referred to DA's Office with determination concurred.
6. Follow up investigations currently being conducted regarding thefts from motor vehicles as reported in previous monthly activity reports. Eleven total investigative follow ups conducted at numerous areas within the City – Investigations remain open.

HOW TO DETECT A WATER LEAK

Undetected leaks can be costly. If you think you may have a water leak, your water meter is your best detective to help you find it:

- Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, such as the dish and clothes washers.
- Locate your water meter and lift the cover to see the meter dial.
- Note the position of the sweep hand, or use a marker on the lens cover.
- Wait 20-30 minutes and check the sweep hand location again. If the sweep hand has moved, you possibly could have a leak somewhere in your system.
- Most meters have a red or blue "telltale" indicator. If you see it moving when all water is off, you possibly could have a leak.

Looking For Leaks

- Your toilet may have a silent leak. Drop a little food coloring into the tank. Wait about 10 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Check for moist spots around and under the house plumbing and around outdoor plumbing.
- Replace worn washers in faucets and showerheads. Even a small drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day, or 5,000 gallons per month.

It is unlawful to turn water on or off at the meter. Instead, contact City personnel for assistance by calling (503) 397-4010 during regular business hours, or call C-COM at (503) 397-1521 after hours.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are approaching one year since we found out we would have to fund the library without the city's help. Since April 2011 we have raised \$14,140 of the \$16,000 we need to raise each year. There was urgency in raising the money last year, with the fear that our library would close. Will there be that same commitment next year and the year after?

We held our library planning meeting, and made a visit to the basement of the Knapp Center, which is being considered as an alternative location for the library. We will probably have to look further, since there are issues with accessibility in a basement. We are down to five months funding for the library. We will probably raise enough money in February to keep us even, but no events are planned for March or April. We need your continued support. Bring in pop cans, leave a dollar or two in the donation can, or make a larger donation. If you have ideas for fundraisers, we would be thrilled to hear them.

There are several exciting events planned for this month. On Saturday, February 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. we will hold our next Book Sale. We need help setting up Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and then dismantling at 4 p.m. We will have a great selection again thanks to your donations. At least 1/3 will be new since the last book sale! Clean off your bookshelves and bring your books in for us to put in the library or sell, and then pick up a new collection!



We are holding an Antique Quilt Show on Saturday as well. Quilt intake will be Friday, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Knapp Center, 1925 1st Street. If you have a lovely old quilt that you would like to display, we'd love to see it too! We get to display our recently made quilts at the county fair, but it is rare to get a chance to see older quilts. So make sure you come Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to see the Antique Quilt Show. A donation for the library is requested.

David O'Donnell will be presenting "Custer's Last Stand". David is a dynamic speaker. He has taught community college and has a keen interest in history. He will be speaking at the library on Saturday, February 18 at 1 p.m. Come listen, you'll enjoy learning!

Staffed Hours:

Monday & Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM
 Wednesday, 4 PM to 8 PM
 Thursday, 2 PM to 6 PM
 205 "I" Street, PO Box 189 / (503) 366-8020
 ccclibrary@live.com

Story Time:

11 AM every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 2/13/12 - 7 PM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Thursday, 2/2/12 - 6:30 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 2/29/12 - 7 PM

Custer's Last Stand - Library:

Saturday, 2/18/12 - 1 PM

Book Sale - Community Hall:

Saturday, 2/18/12 - 10 AM to 4 PM

Antique Quilt Show - Knapp Center:

Saturday, 2/18/12 - 10 AM to 4 PM

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2012

February 2nd	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 8th	7:00 p.m.	Community Visioning Workshop at Community Hall
February 9th	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 13th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
February 14th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
February 16th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 18th	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale at Community Hall
February 18th	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Antique Quilt Shop at Knapp Center
February 20th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President's Day
February 21st	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall