



COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

January 2012

COLUMBIA CITY
1840 SECOND STREET
PO BOX 189
COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018
PHONE: (503) 397-4010
FAX: (503) 366-2870
colcity@columbia-city.org
www.columbia-city.org



Thank you, Reserve Officer Bubar,
for the many years of loyal service
you gave to Columbia City!!
You will be missed!

COMMUNITY-WIDE VISIONING PROCESS

The City will begin the New Year with a community wide visioning process.

- The project will convene community members and organizations to a vision statement that expresses Columbia City's aspirations for the future. It will focus on *if* and *how* Columbia City wishes to balance local economic growth with other community priorities.
- The goal is to build consensus and momentum towards setting a path for community change that upholds community values while responding to Columbia City's unique circumstances.
- The product will be a succinct statement articulating how Columbia City ought to be in the future given its past, present, and the forces likely to shape it.

A Steering Committee will meet mid-January to kick-off the process.

Your participation is important! Watch for the citizen survey contained in the February 2012 edition of the Newsletter, and plan on attending the Community Workshops on February 8th and April 11th at 7:00 p.m.

**Special thanks to this year's
Shop with a Cop sponsors!!!**

**Wal-Mart
General Mills
Private Citizens**

HOLIDAY TIME RECYCLING

Christmas trees, greeting cards and wrapped presents brighten homes and warm our hearts. After the holidays, however, sometimes these holiday items end up in our garbage cart. That means they will go to the landfill, even though they could have been recycled. When you consider the trees, cards, wrapping paper, envelopes and the stamps, that's a lot of trees cut down for our holiday enjoyment.

Why should I recycle my tree?

Recycling your tree "gives back" to the environment as trees are composted for garden mulch. Mulch provides a protective barrier for the roots of other plants while suppressing weeds and holding in moisture. As the mulch decomposes, it provides nutrients that plants need.

Tree Recycling Tips

- Recycle your tree and support Boy Scout Troop 106 in Columbia County. The Scouts offer two recycling options:
 - ✓ Drop your tree off in the drop box at Lawrence Oil in St. Helens for \$5.
 - ✓ Schedule curbside pickup for \$7. Curbside pickup will be offered on January 2, 7, 8, 14, and 15. To schedule a curbside pickup, call Bill Reese at (503) 366-0726.
- If you have yard debris service, you may recycle your tree by cutting it up and placing it inside your yard debris cart. It must fit entirely in your cart.
- Recycle your whole tree for \$19.57 at the Waste Management Transfer Station, or for free when you take in a load of self-haul trash.
- Beaver Bark in Scappoose will process your old tree into compost for a minimum charge of \$8.



Before recycling or composting discarded trees, be sure to remove the tinsel, plastic and other non-recyclable ornaments.

(Continued on Page 2)

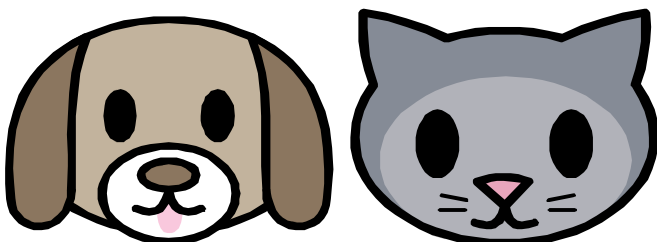
Wrapping Paper, Gift Boxes and Greeting Card Recycling Tips

- Save used wrapping paper, gift boxes, bows and ribbons this Christmas and reuse it all next year.
- Recycle your non-shiny or non-glittering wrapping paper, the cardboard roll the paper is wound around, tissue paper, gift boxes and tags by placing these items in your co-mingle bin or roll cart.
- You can recycle your greeting cards by donating them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The program accepts all types of greeting cards. Only the card front can be used, (please check to be sure the back side is clear of any writing etc.) they are not able to accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards. 5" x 7" size or smaller is preferred. Mail donations to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Recycled Card Program, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005. Currently, they have found the least expensive way to mail large quantities of card donations is through the USPS in a Flat Rate Box which holds up to 70 pounds (available at the Post Office). The ranch provides counseling and opportunities for troubled youth. The kids operate a business taking used greeting cards, creating new ones and selling the results. The kids earn money, experience and a sense of purpose through this program. For more information visit their website: www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/.

Electronics can also be recycled for FREE at the Columbia County Transfer Station on Railroad Ave. in St. Helens. Hours are Monday - Saturday, 8 AM - 5 PM.

COLUMBIA HUMANE SOCIETY BINGO

The Columbia Humane Society (CHS) will be hosting Bingo at the Columbia City Community Hall, 7 to 9 pm on Saturday, January 28th. Please join us for free cookies and coffee while having fun supporting our shelter. 100% of the proceeds benefit the homeless animals of Columbia County.



SHOP WITH A COP 2011 A SUCCESS! This year's "Shop with a Cop" event was conducted on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Thanks to fund raising conducted throughout the year, we were able to sponsor 20 Columbia City School children and a Columbia City family this year. The program is geared towards providing wintertime necessities and Christmas "wish list" items. City Staff were assisted by Police Officers from the St. Helens Police Department and the local Railroad Police Department due to the large number of children involved. A special thanks to all that helped this year, especially citizens who donated to the program! Without you we could not have made this happen!



THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SAYS FAREWELL

The Columbia City Police Department is unfortunately bidding farewell to one of our Reserve Police Officers. Reserve Officer Alex Bubar, a six-year reserve veteran with our department, is leaving to take a reserve position with the Scappoose Police Department. While we hate to see Reserve Officer Bubar leave our ranks, this move is a very good one for his career as he is seeking a full time position in law enforcement. Reserve Officer Bubar has contributed greatly to this community and will be missed!

CRIME UPDATE. Over the past month we have seen an increase in theft from motor vehicles within our community. With the exception of one of these crimes, all of the vehicles were left unlocked and/or had valuables visible to the thieves. 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.

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

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
November - December 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 397 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, Harassment, Threats, Criminal Mischief, a Residential House Fire, Fraud, Narcotics, Hit and Run and Theft.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY

- Residential Security Checks: 8
- Area Patrols: 8
- Foot Patrols: 13
- Assist the Public: 9
- Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 9
- Radio Calls: 231
- Noise Complaints: 1
- Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 5
- Suicide Threats : 1
- Assistance to Outside Agencies: 6
- Welfare Checks: 1
- Animal Complaints: 1

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS

- Criminal Mischief: 3
- Investigative Follow Up's: 7
- Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 10
- Traffic Stops: 42
- Fraud Investigations: 1
- Theft Investigations: 6
- Harassment Investigations: 1
- Threats Investigations: 1
- Death Investigation: 1
- Narcotics arrests: 1
- Hit & Run Investigation: 1
- Stolen Vehicle Investigation: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle and Theft investigation in the 300 block of Lincoln Street on

- 11/18/2011 – Investigation completed with leads exhausted.
2. Death investigation in the 2200 block of Third Street on 11/21/2011 – Investigation complete and death ruled by natural causes.
3. Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle and Theft investigation in the 300 block of Lincoln Street on 11/22/2011 – Investigation remains open.
4. Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle and Theft investigation in the 2500 block of Sixth Street on 11/23/2011 – Investigation remains open.
5. Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle, Burglary and Theft investigation in the 400 block of "C" Street on 11/23/2011 – Investigation remains open.
6. Theft investigation in the 300 block of Metlako Way on 11/24/2011 – Investigation completed with leads exhausted.
7. Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle and Theft investigation in the 2000 block of Second Street on 11/28/2011 – Investigation remains open.
8. Hit and Run investigation in the area of Hwy 30 near Chimes Crest Road on 11/29/2011 – Investigation complete with the responsible party charged.
9. Possession of Controlled Substances investigation and arrest in the 2400 block of Sixth Street on 12/10/2011 – Suspect arrested and charged.
10. Stolen vehicle investigation in the 300 block of Pacific Street on 12/19/2011 – Investigation completed with juvenile suspect identified, vehicle returned to owner, and referred to Oregon Youth Authority.
11. Runaway juvenile investigation in the 300 block of Pacific Street on 12/19/2011 – Investigation complete with juvenile entered into national database.



RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL
1850 Second Street - \$17.50/hour
www.columbia-city.org

GET READY FOR WINTER STORMS

1. Minimize the impact of rainwater and melting snow by clearing walkways and keeping leaf piles and debris out of the street and storm drains.
2. Report flooding, downed trees, storm system problems, backed up sewer, and other similar problems to the Public Works Department by calling 503-366-0454 during regular work hours, or by calling 503-397-1521 (dispatch) after hours and on weekends.
3. Free sand bags can be picked up at the City Shop, 1755 Second Place, anytime during a declared flood-related emergency.
4. Keep snow from piling up on flat rooftops. In the event of accumulation, heavy snow load can cause structural failures.
5. Listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of falling mud or debris may precede larger landslides. If you think there is danger of a landslide, leave immediately.
6. Assume highways are not safe. Be alert when driving, especially at night. Don't overdrive your headlights. It should take your car four seconds to catch up to the spot where your low beams were originally at. Embankments along road sides may fail, sending rock and debris onto the road.
7. Remember to check on your elderly or disabled neighbors, friends and family.

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year.

LIBRARY NEWS

We will be holding an important library meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 23 to discuss the future of the library. We have been offered the basement of the Knapp Center (part of the Caples House complex) for half the rent we are paying now. From a money point of view, the move makes sense. It's not a good thing for the library for a lot of non-cash reasons, such as stairs (elderly people visiting, moving boxes of books for sales), change in location, and simply moving the contents of the library. We'd like a chance to discuss the potential move with the community at large. We will also work on fundraising for the coming year. Please come, we really need your opinions, advice, and ideas.

The libraries in Columbia County are holding "Our Community Reads" events in February and March. We are reading western-themed books. The adult selection is *Hearts of Horses* by Molly Gloss. The Young Adult selection is *Devil's Paintbox* by Victoria McKernan, and the Juvenile selection is *Captain's Dog* by Roland Smith. There will be some interactive blogs to discuss the books, and each library will do something special to draw people to our wonderful libraries. The Columbia City Community Library will have a book sale on February 18, with an antique quilt show in the Knapp Center at the same time. I am excited about the quilt show. The DAR will have some quilts to display, the local quilt guild members will be bringing quilts, and if you have antique quilts at home, you can display yours as well! This should be a fun special event that will draw a different set of people than those who normally attend our book sale, and we'd love a lot of community participation!

We would like to thank Monroe Singleton who donated over 150 of his hand-painted Christmas ornaments for the library to sell as a fundraiser in December. We had some in the library, and many more were displayed at Creative Karma in St. Helens. We would like to do a similar thing next year, so if you would like to make ornaments to place in a local store next year, let us know! There are even a few books on making ornaments at the library!

Staffed Hours:

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

Story Time:

11 AM every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 1/9/12 - 7 PM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 1/18/12 - 6:30 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 1/25/12 - 7 PM

Columbia City Community Library

205 "I" Street, PO Box 189

Columbia City OR 97018

(503) 366-8020

cclibrary@opusnet.com

<http://www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm>

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY TIPS HOW TO SURVIVE AN EARTHQUAKE

A little knowledge and a few precautionary measures can enormously increase your chances of surviving an earthquake - or any other type of hazard. The keys are education and preparing in advance. The earthquake safety tips below will not make you an expert. However, they could make a life-saving difference if you find yourself in an earthquake situation. Invest in your personal safety by studying below.

Before the Earthquake:

- Learn how to survive during the ground motion. This is described in the "During the Earthquake" section below. The earthquake safety tips there will prepare you for the fast action needed - most earthquakes are over in seconds so knowing what to do instinctively is very important.
- Teach all members of your family about earthquake safety. This includes: 1) the actions you should take when an earthquake occurs, 2) the safe places in a room such as under a strong desk, along interior walls, and 3) places to avoid such as near windows, large mirrors, hanging objects, heavy furniture and fireplaces.
- Stock up on emergency supplies. These include: battery operated radio (and extra batteries), flashlights (and extra batteries), first aid kit, bottled water, two weeks food and medical supplies, blankets, cooking fuel, tools needed to turn off your gas, water and electric utilities.
- Arrange your home for safety: Store heavy objects on lower shelves and store breakable objects in cabinets with latched doors. Don't hang heavy mirrors or pictures above where people frequently sit or sleep.
- Anchor heavy appliances and furniture such as water heaters, refrigerators and bookcases.
- Store flammable liquids away from potential ignition sources such as water heaters, stoves and furnaces.
- Get educated. Learn what to do during an earthquake (see below). Then you will be ready for the fast action needed. Make sure that all members of your family have this important education.
- Learn where the main turn-offs are for your water, gas and electricity. Know how to turn them off and the location of any needed tools.

During the Earthquake:

- If you are indoors, stay there. Quickly move to a safe location in the room such as under a strong desk, a strong table, or along an interior wall. The goal is to protect yourself from falling objects and be located near the structural strong points of the room. Avoid taking cover near windows, large mirrors, hanging objects, heavy furniture, heavy appliances or fireplaces.
- If you are cooking, turn off the stove and take cover.
- If you are outdoors, move to an open area where falling objects are unlikely to strike you. Move away from buildings, powerlines and trees.
- If you are driving, slow down smoothly and stop on the side of the road. Avoid stopping on or under bridges and overpasses, or under power lines, trees and large signs. Stay in your car.

After the Earthquake:

- Check for injuries, attend to injuries if needed, help ensure the safety of people around you.
- Check for damage. If your building is badly damaged you should leave it until it has been inspected by a safety professional.
- If you smell or hear a gas leak, get everyone outside and open windows and doors. If you can do it safely, turn off the gas at the meter. Report the leak to the gas company and fire department. Do not use any electrical appliances because a tiny spark could ignite the gas.
- If the power is out, unplug major appliances to prevent possible damage when the power is turned back on. If you see sparks, frayed wires, or smell hot insulation turn off electricity at the main fuse box or breaker. If you will have to step in water to turn off the electricity you should call a professional to turn it off for you.

TEA ON FRIDAYS AT THE CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM

Each Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. join 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.



FLASH FROM THE PAST
by Shannon Fitzgibbons, City Councilor

We, who live in Columbia City, appear to be of a tough and independent character from the Chinook, Klickitat (among many other tribes) and the Yamhill (who summered here) to our present day citizens. After filing a 320 acre land claim on the present day site of Columbia City, Joseph Caples found square posts. In questioning Dr John McLoughlin, the Hudson's Bay factor, he found out that Sir George Simpson tried to build a fort here first, but the Indians were too hostile so they built Fort Vancouver in 1824 at it's present day site. (I can just hear the drums beating and see the canoes racing up and down the river arranging for a big powwow to discuss whether or not they were going to let these foreigners build a fort here...apparently the vote was no!!!)

For 80 years, according to historical documents, from the time Joseph Caples filed his donation land claim in 1846 until the city's incorporation in 1926, there is no recorded governmental structure to oversee the city. How the residents of this small burg governed themselves during the early years and into the 1920's is unknown. In 1926 the residents decided to incorporate. It has been speculated that the residents chose incorporation rather than assimilation into St. Helens, which is what became the fate of areas once known as Milton and Houlton. Now these little towns are just distant memories, and people wonder about the names.

So, the area could have been called Kumahi (the Indian name); or if the Indian tribes hadn't chased Sir Simpson out, the name would have been Fort Vancouver. Then, of course, the City might have become part of St. Helens in 1926, with Columbia City just a distant memory or perhaps forgotten altogether.

Remember the name is Columbia City and be proud!!!

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRESENTS
STORM READY CERTIFICATION TO
COLUMBIA COUNTY**

Columbia County was presented with a Storm Ready Certification from the National Weather Service at a Board of County Commissioners meeting in December.

Columbia County is the fourth county in Oregon to receive this designation and the first in the Portland metropolitan area.

Storm Ready communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives. <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JANUARY 2012

January 2 nd	CLOSED	City Hall is closed for the New Years Holiday
January 5 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 9 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
January 10 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
January 11 th	7:00 p.m.	Steering Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 12 th	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
January 13 th	12:00 noon	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 16 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 17 th	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 19 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 23 rd	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall

HAPPY NEW YEAR