

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

November 2012



COLUMBIA CITY
1840 SECOND STREET
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COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018
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OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS NOVEMBER 3RD TO NOVEMBER 18TH BURN PERMIT REQUIRED

Yard debris may be burned outdoors beginning **Saturday, November 3rd, and ending Sunday, November 18th**. Burning is restricted to yard debris only, and burn barrels are prohibited. Yard debris is lawn clippings, leaves, brush, trimmings/prunings, sawdust and wood scraps. It is **not** dirt/gravel, paper/plastic, metal, rocks/bricks, sod, or food waste.

Burn permits are required prior to burning!



Permits may be obtained at City Hall, at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District or on their website: www.CRFR.com. 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.

You must follow these basic rules for proper open burning:

- ❖ You must have a garden hose, or a shovel and a 5-gallon bucket of water at all times, and the fire must NOT be left unattended at any time until out.
- ❖ Yard and garden trimmings must be cut and piled no larger than 6 feet wide by 4 feet high.
- ❖ The ground must be cleared not less than 10 feet around the burning area. There must be a separation of 50 feet between the burn pile and any structure, trees, vehicle or property line if the burn pile is greater than 3 feet in diameter; and a 25 foot separation if the burn pile is less than 3 feet in diameter.
- ❖ The fire must not adversely affect neighbors (smoke).
- ❖ It must be daylight hours during a designated burn day.

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.

NOLLETTE PROMOTED TO UTILITY WORKER II

We are pleased to announce the recent promotion of Andrew Nollette to the position of Utility Worker II. In order to fill the position, an employee must possess several certifications, including Water Distribution I and II, Wastewater Collection I and II, and Backflow Assembly Tester, in addition to skills and experience. Public Works Superintendent Micah Rogers said, "Andrew is an invaluable member of our team. He is my right hand, and a great worker. The City is lucky to have him." Congratulations, Andrew!

SOUTH COUNTY CHAMBER PRESENTS ENERGIZE YOUR SMALL BUSINESS FALL 2012 WORKSHOP SERIES

11/6/12 – Financial Management for Small Business Owners: Take control of your business finances; understand your balance sheet, profit and loss statement, cash flow and debt v equity financing. *Sponsored by St. Helens Federal Credit Union*

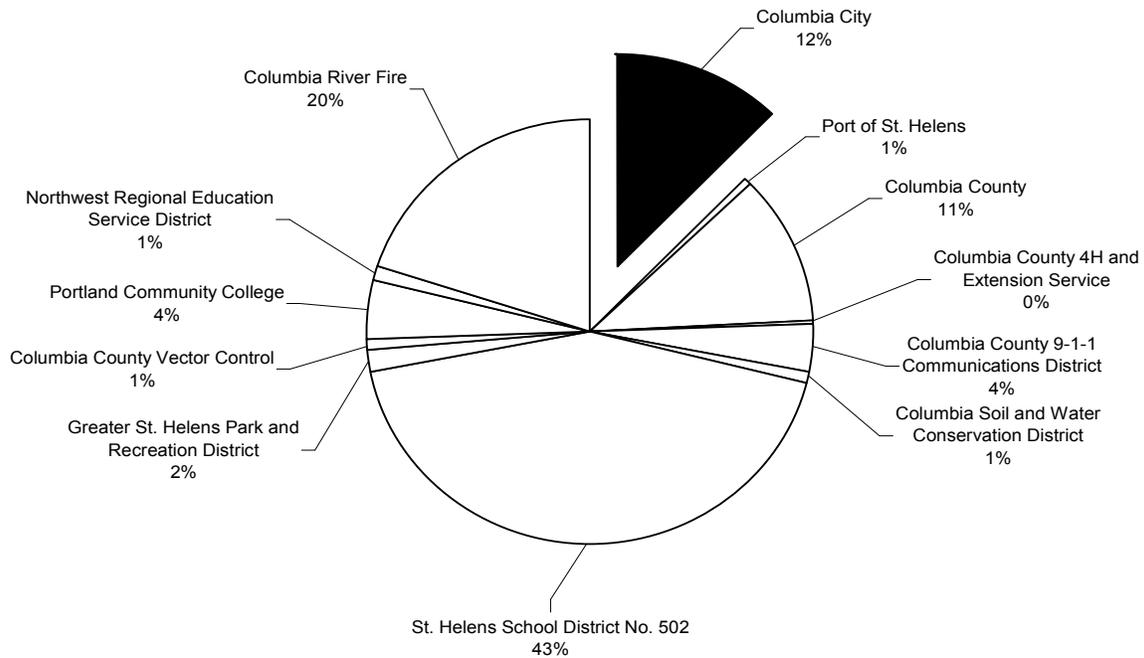
11/13/12 – Internet Marketing: Learn how to reach customers on the Internet including best practices in website design, Internet marketing, search engine optimization and social media. *Sponsored by Zingti Massage/Blackbird Catering*

11/20/12 – Business Plan Mastery: Learn the nuts and bolts of creating an effective business plan that takes you to the next level. *Sponsored by M.E. Moore Construction*

Venue: St. Helens Public Library
18th Street, St. Helens
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Cost: \$40/workshop, Chamber Member
Special: **BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**
\$60/workshop, General Public

Register today at www.sccchamber.org! Contact the South County Chamber at 503.397.0685 for more information.

Columbia City's share of your 2012-13 Property Tax Bill



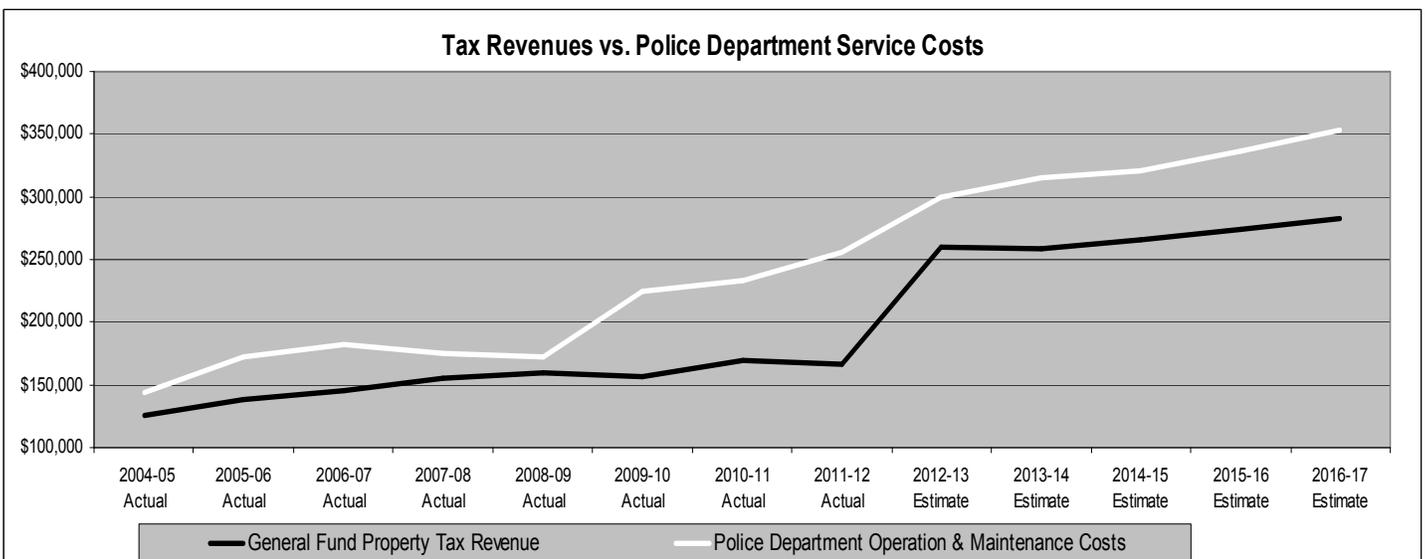
COLUMBIA CITY PROPERTY TAXES SUPPORT POLICE SERVICES

Property taxes are one of Columbia City's largest revenue sources, equal to 45% of the anticipated General Fund revenues this year. Columbia City uses the property tax revenue it collects to provide police protection services to the community.

This year 12% of the amount you pay to the Columbia County Assessor for property taxes is representative of the taxes Columbia City levies. Columbia City

levies two separate taxes - a permanent tax levy of \$1.1346 per \$1000 assessed value, and a local option levy in the amount of \$0.67 per \$1000. The City of Columbia City tax listed on your 2012-13 tax statement from the County Assessor equates to the combination of these two tax levies with a total combined rate of \$1.8046 per thousand.

88% of the amount you pay to the Columbia County Assessor supports other governmental agencies, such as the School District, Fire District, and Columbia County.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

The United Way of Columbia County and the Community Assistance Program have provided the City with a supply of prescription drug discount cards to distribute to interested citizens. Both programs provide the bearer of the card with the lowest price available for medications. Anyone can use the cards and there is no income or age requirement.

Residents can stop by to request free prescription discount cards and a list of participating pharmacies. Since the cards can be used nationwide, residents are encouraged to share them with family and friends in other states to help ease their financial burden. Free prescription drug discount cards may be picked up at City Hall during regular business hours.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6TH!

Every vote counts! Return your ballot to the Columbia County Courthouse no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6th!



BETTER BURNING TIPS FOR CLEANER AIR



During colder months in Oregon, smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves is one of the largest threats to healthy air. Wood smoke is basically fuel from your firewood that does not burn and becomes air pollution.

If you heat your home with wood you can take steps to burn cleaner (good for your health)

and more efficiently (good for your pocketbook):

- Use only dry, seasoned wood. Dry wood for at least 6 months.
- Burn only wood. Do not burn garbage, plastics, rubber, paint or oil, briquettes, paper, etc. – burning these items releases harmful chemicals into the air.
- Build small, hot fires instead of large, smoldering ones.
- Don't "bed the fire down" for the night. Holding a fire overnight is a fire hazard and can create serious indoor and outdoor air pollution problems.

CITY SOLICITS APPLICANTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

The City Council is soliciting applications from interested citizens to serve on a Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. The Committee will meet monthly beginning in January to review the current City Comprehensive Plan and make recommendations to the Planning Commission and 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 December 31, 2012.

COLUMBIA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES OACP GRANT AWARDS

The Columbia City Police Department has once again received overtime traffic safety grants from the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police. The Department will receive \$3000 for enhanced DUII patrols and high visibility enforcement and \$1000 for safety belt usage enforcement. These patrols are currently being scheduled and will be conducted in four-hour blocks over the next year.

HOUSING REHABILITATION FUNDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!



Is your house in need of repairs? Low-income homeowners may now be eligible for **no-interest, deferred payment loans!** The funds may be used to complete the following housing rehabilitation projects:

- ⇒ Update electrical, plumbing or sewer
- ⇒ Replace or update heat source
- ⇒ Replace roof, doors, windows
- ⇒ Structural repairs
- ⇒ Foundation repairs
- ⇒ Energy saving measures

In order to qualify, you must be a homeowner, meet income and property guidelines, and live in the dwelling to be repaired. Loan funds are limited! Please contact the Community Action Team, Inc., at (503) 397-1675 for additional information and/or loan applications.

RECENT BLACK BEAR SIGHTINGS COLUMBIA CITY AREA

Recent sightings of a black bear have been reported just outside of Columbia City along Smith Road. If you see the bear, please contact the following agencies **immediately**:

- Oregon State Police - (503) 397-3131
- C-COM (Dispatch) - (503) 397-1521
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- (503) 621-3488.

After the sighting, please leave paw prints and other signs undisturbed if possible.

Identifying characteristics. Despite the common name “black bear” they aren’t always black.



They may be honey-colored, blond, brown or black. They have a tan muzzle or a white spot on their chest. A black bear’s body appears heavy and is supported by short, powerful legs. The highest point of a black bear is the middle of its back. Males are generally larger than females. Adult males

average 275 pounds while adult females may average 175 pounds.

If you encounter a bear. In almost all cases, the bear will detect you first and leave the area. However, if you do meet a bear, here are some suggestions. Remember - every situation is different with respect to the bear, the terrain, the people and their activity.

- **Stay calm.** If you see a bear and it hasn’t seen you, calmly leave the area and speak softly to let the bear discover your presence.
- **Stop.** Back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, as bears may perceive this as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape. Wild bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. If on a trail, step off the trail on the downhill side and slowly leave the area. Don’t run or make any sudden movements. Running is likely to prompt the bear to give chase and you can’t outrun a bear.
- **Speak softly.** This may reassure the bear that no harm is meant to it. Try not to show fear.
- Coming between a female and her cubs is dangerous. If a cub is nearby try to move away from it. Be alert - other cubs may be in the area.

- In the unlikely event you are attacked by a black bear, **FIGHT BACK.** Black bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.
- Bears use all of their senses to try and identify what you are. Remember - their eyesight is good and their sense of smell is acute. If a bear stands upright or moves closer, it may be trying to detect smells in the air. This isn’t a sign of aggression. Once it identifies you, it may leave the area or try to intimidate you by charging to within a few feet before it withdraws.
- If you have a backpack, place it slowly on the ground and then slowly back away. The bear is likely to go for the backpack instead of you.

Human safety precautions.

Black bears eat almost anything, including human food, garbage, hummingbird food, pet food, and livestock feed. Once a bear has found the easily accessible, consistent food source that humans offer, it may overcome it’s wariness of people and visit regularly increasing the chance of a human/bear encounter. By handling food and garbage responsibly, you and your neighbors can prevent encounters with a bear.



- Remove all food attractions.
- Keep all garbage inside your house or garage, and only place it outside just before the garbage pick-up. If bears have previously ransacked garbage cans, pour bleach into cans. Also, clean garbage containers regularly with bleach or moth balls to reduce odors.
- Keep all pet food inside the house or garage.
- Keep barbeques clean. Store them in a shed or garage.
- Hang bird feeders from a wire at least 10 feet off the ground and 6 to 10 feet from the trunk of a tree. Keep the area under bird feeders clean.
- Remove fruit that has fallen from trees.
- Add lime to compost piles to reduce odors. Do not compost meat, bones, fruit, dairy products or grease.
- Don’t leave scented candles, soap or suntan lotions outdoors or near open windows.
- Talk to neighbors to encourage everyone in the neighborhood to remove attractants.
- Never, ever feed a bear.
- Stay indoors and allow a visiting bear to move on.

Most bears sighted in residential areas do not cause any damage. If a bear doesn’t find abundant food, it will move on.

Information from “Living with Wildlife Black Bear” and “Oregon is Black Bear Country” - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

PLANNING TO GET AWAY?

This time of year many residents escape to warmer locations or make plans to visit family and friends out of town. The Columbia City Police Department would like to remind you that, at your request, they will periodically check your home while you are away. To request this service, please register with the Columbia City Police Department before you leave. Forms are available at City Hall and on line at www.columbia-city.org.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS



Don't forget - on November 4th (the 1st Sunday in November) clocks are set back one hour at 2:00 a.m. local daylight time, which becomes 1:00 a.m. local standard time.

HARVEST TEA

Don't miss the Harvest Tea on Saturday, November 3rd from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Caples House Museum (1925 First Street). Admission is \$20/person. Contact Terry Maloney, Caples House Event Coordinator, for tickets. (503) 366-4256.

COLUMBIA COUNTY SAFE KIDS CAR SEAT EVENT

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat checkup event on Thursday, November 8, 2012, at the St. Helens Fire Station, 105 S. 12th Street, St., Helens, from 4 PM to 6 PM.

The clinic provides an opportunity to have a child safety seat checked by a certified technician who is trained to correct misuse, help with installation, teach you how to correctly install the seat, and check for seat recalls. The clinic services are free to the public.

Child safety seats are also available to low-income families at a reduced cost while supplies last. Questions: Call (503) 397-7211 or ACTS Oregon Child Safety Resource Center 1 (877) 793-2608.

CHRISTMAS SHIPS

The Christmas Ships will visit Columbia City on Saturday, December 8. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

CHIEF'S CORNER

SHOP WITH A COP 2012: The Holiday Season is fast approaching, bringing with it the Fourth Annual Columbia City Shop with a Cop event. This programs teams a needy family and children with a police officer in order to provide them with wintertime necessities as well as Christmas wish list items. As in previous years we would like to involve our citizens in this project. If you know of a family in need, please fill out the attached nomination form and submit it at the front desk at City Hall no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday November 21, 2012.

RADAR TRAILER: As many may have noticed we have a radar speed-warning trailer being posted at various locations within the city. This piece of equipment is a shared asset that rotates to different agencies throughout the county on a scheduled basis. In utilizing this equipment we hope to continue educating our citizens and visitors about the safe operation of their vehicles on our roadways. Please operate your vehicles within the posted speed limits and always remain aware of the presence of pedestrians, bicyclists, and children at play.

THEFT UPDATE: Thefts of unsecured property continue to occur within our city. Please take the time to lock vehicles which are parked during the evening hours, close and lock any garages or unattached storage buildings, and secure bicycles and other similar property for the night. Thieves watch out for you so please do the same for them and report any suspicious circumstances to the police department.

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 C-COM (non-emergency dispatch) at 503-397-1521.

Stay safe, ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

FOUND ITEMS

The following items were found recently and turned into City Hall.

- Set of keys in the area of 2nd Place.
- Black glasses on a vehicle on Seventh Street.

Do they belong to you? Please contact City Hall.



CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Sidewalks: The owner of property abutting a sidewalk is responsible for keeping the sidewalk free of yard debris, snow, ice, and other obstructions.

Water meters: It is unlawful to turn water on or off at the meter. Contact City personnel for assistance by calling 503-397-4010 during regular business hours, or call C-COM at 503-397-1521 for after hour emergency service.

Curfew: Curfew is in effect between 10:30 PM and 4:00 AM Sunday through Thursday, and between midnight and 4:00 AM Friday and Saturday.

Animals: Animals must be kept on a leash when away from the owner's property, and droppings must be picked up.

Please report violators to City Hall.

**STREET LIGHTS
OUT OR BLINKING?**
Please report street lights in need of
repair to City Hall.
Call (503) 397-4010
or send an e-mail to
colcity@columbia-city.org

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 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 232 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: Drug Activity, Missing Juvenile, Motor Vehicle Crashes, and Theft.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 17
Area Patrols: 4
Foot Patrols: 1
Assist the Public: 16
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 2
Radio Calls: 109
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 3
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 3
Lost/Found Property: 1
Parking Violations: 1
Animal Complaints: 3
Reserve Police Officer Hours worked: 78

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 4
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles
and Prowler Calls: 7
Traffic Stops: 23
Endangering a Minor: 1
Theft Investigations: 4
Fraud Investigations: 1
Missing Juvenile: 2
Traffic Crashes: 1
Drug Activity: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Theft investigation in the 1900 block of The Strand on 10/03/12 – Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
2. Attempted Theft investigation in the 1900 block of "I" Street on 10/10/12 – Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
3. Attempted Theft investigation in the 400 block of "D" Street on 10/17/12– Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
4. Theft investigation in the 2200 block of Second Street on 10/22/12 – Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
5. Multiple investigative follow-ups regarding the Bahl Missing Person investigation were conducted throughout the reporting period. Follow up investigation continues with the Bahl Missing Person investigation. The department is awaiting positive identification of remains, as well as confirming both manner and cause of death.





LIBRARY NEWS

We raised \$7,583 with our "Two Avid Readers" challenge. Thank you so much to everyone who donated! The Friends of the Library is in a very stable position now with our reduced expenses and the generosity of our community. We will be purchasing a few more new books than we have in the recent past, so feel free to stop in and suggest books we should have. We continue to get lots of book donations. Our next book sale will be in February, so expect a nice sale!

We will be holding a Holiday Bazaar at the library on Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We have a number of local quilters and artisans who will be displaying their goods for your pleasure. If you are interested in participating, contact the library at 503-366-8020.



David O'Donnell will be speaking at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 14 about "Five Women Who Changed America." We are experimenting with a different time to see whether we can draw more people to his excellent lectures. David says he is having a hard time narrowing it down to five women!

If you are concerned about your electricity bill, remember the library has a "Kill A Watt" power meter available for checkout. You can test your appliances to see how much power they draw, and make better decisions about your power use.

Storytime:
Every Monday at 11 am
Five Women Who Changed America:
Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30 pm
Holiday Bazaar:
Friday & Saturday, November 16 & 17
10 am to 4 pm

Friends of the Library:
Monday, November 19 at 7 pm
Library Closed for Thanksgiving:
Thursday, November 22
Mystery Book Group:
Wednesday, November 28 at 7 pm

Some recent additions to our library include:

- Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo
- Heaven is For Real* by Todd Burpo
- Bossypants* by Tina Fey
- In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson
- Born to Run* by Christopher McDougall
- The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown
- Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Foer
- The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern
- Nightwoods* by Charles Frazier

Library Hours:

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

Columbia City Community Library
2000 Second Street / PO Box 189
Columbia City, OR 97018
503-366-8020
ccclibrary@live.com



RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL
1850 Second Street
\$17.50 / hour
Contact City Hall for availability,
rates and policies.

**CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
BEGINS WORK**

The Charter Review Committee recently held its first meeting to begin discussing and reviewing the City Charter. The 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.

Columbia City's current charter dates from 1973. There was one amendment made in 1986, but there have been no comprehensive reviews.

The Charter Review 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. 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.

The Charter Review Committee will meet again on November 29, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2012

November 1 st	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
November 2 nd	10:00 a.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
November 3 rd	dawn	First day of open burn period
November 4 th	2:00 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time ends
November 6th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall cancelled
November 6 th	8:00 p.m.	Deadline to return completed ballots on Election Day
November 12 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed in observance of Veteran's Day
November 15 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
November 18 th	dusk	Last day of burn period
November 19 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting at City Hall
November 19 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
November 22 nd	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Thanksgiving Day
November 23 rd	CLOSED	City Hall is closed the day after Thanksgiving
November 26 th	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
November 27 th	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
November 28 th	6:00 p.m.	Water Committee Meeting at City Hall
November 29 th	6:00 p.m.	Charter Review Committee Meeting at City Hall



2012 "Shop with a Cop" Nomination Form

It is time once again for the Columbia City Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" Program. This is our fourth year hosting this worthwhile endeavor within our city and we need your help! For those that are interested, we need assistance in selecting a needy family within our community. Our goal is to provide warm clothing, winter necessities, and Christmas wish list items for the nominated family. Please take the time by filling out the information below if you wish to nominate someone who you know could use some assistance during the holiday season. Thank you ~ Michael S. McGlothlin, Chief of Police

Name of Family: _____ Family Address: _____

Family Bio (Please answer all that apply): ___ Father ___ Mother ___ Number of children

Reason for your nomination: _____

Return completed nomination forms to Columbia City Hall, PO Box 189, 1840 Second Street, Columbia City