

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

September 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

COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

Strawberry Pancake Breakfast: 8 AM to 10 AM

At the Knapp Social Center, 1925 First Street
Adults \$6.00, children (10 and under) \$4.50
Sponsored by the Columbia River PUD

Silent Auction: 9 AM to 2 PM

Columbia Art Guild Sale: 9 AM to 3 PM

Bake Sale: 9 AM to 3 PM

Plant Sale: 9 AM to 3 PM

Quilt Raffle Drawing: 2 PM

In the Community Hall, 1850 Second Street

Community Library Book Sale: 9 AM to 3 PM

School playground, 2000 Second Street

Caples House Museum will be open 9 AM to 4 PM

1915 First Street

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR REVISIONS TO SIGN REGULATIONS

The Columbia City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the sign regulations contained in the Columbia City Development Code. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 7 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1840 Second Street, Columbia City. Following the hearing, the Planning Commission may make a recommendation to the City Council.

If the Planning Commission makes a recommendation following the September 11, 2012, hearing, the City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed amendments on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 6 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

HEROIC CITIZEN RECOGNIZED MR. SONNY GRAHAM ARTICLE CORRECTION:

Last month's newsletter article recognizing the heroic citizen that rescued the two juveniles from the Columbia River erroneously referred to the hero, Mr. Sonny Graham, as Mr. Sonny Wolfe. Our sincere apologies for the error, Mr. Graham!

US POSTAL SERVICE HOLDS PUBLIC FORUM

In May of 2012, the US Postal Service's Post Office Structure Plan (POST Plan) established a review process for certain Post Offices. The Columbia City Post Office was among the offices listed in the POST Plan. The Postal Service will hold a meeting in the Community Hall, 1850 Second St., Columbia City, on October 9, 2012 at 2 PM to answer questions and provide additional information about POST Plan. Residents of Columbia City are invited to attend.

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.

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.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT JULY - AUGUST 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 289 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, Fraud, Harassment, Missing Juvenile, Motor Vehicle Crashes, Theft, and Warrant Arrest.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 15
Area Patrols: 11
Foot Patrols: 5
Assist the Public: 13
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 3
Radio Calls: 136
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 7
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 2
Traffic Complaints: 2
Noise Complaints: 2
Animal Complaints: 2
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 100

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 12
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 9
Traffic Stops: 23
Trespass: 4
Burglary: 3
Theft Investigations: 4
Fraud Investigations: 2
Harassment: 2
Domestic/Disturbance Investigations: 1
Warrant Services: 1
Traffic Crashes: 2
Missing Juvenile: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

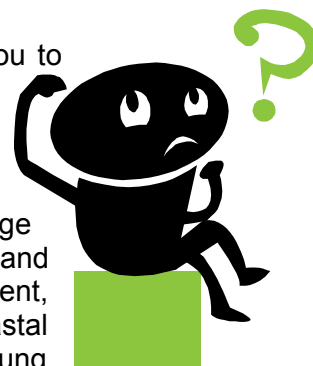
1. Burglary/Theft investigation in the 1400 block of Second Street on 07/27/12 – Investigation

remains active.

2. Runaway Juvenile/Probation Violation investigation in the 300 block of Pacific Street on 07/31/12 – Investigation remains active.
3. Theft investigation in the 1700 block of Third Street on 08/03/12 – Investigation completed with leads exhausted.
4. Attempted Burglary investigation in the 1700 block of Second Place on 08/07/12 – Investigation complete with leads exhausted.
5. Warrant service in the 3300 block of Sixth Street on 08/13/12 – Suspect located, arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
6. Failure to Register as a Sex Offender investigation in the area of Highway 30 near "L" Street on 08/24/12 – Suspect arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
7. Burglary and Theft investigation in the 1700 block of First Street on 08/25/12 – Investigation remains open.
8. Theft investigation in the 2000 block of The Strand on 08/26/12 – Investigation complete with leads exhausted.
9. Multiple investigative follow ups regarding the Bahl Missing Person investigation conducted throughout the reporting period. After grand jury indictment suspect was arrested in the 700 block of James Street on 08/02/12 for Criminally Negligent Homicide, Hindering Prosecution, 3 counts of Criminal Mistreatment I, and 20 counts of Theft I.

ASK AN EXPERT

Ask an Expert is a way for you to get answers from the Oregon State University Extension Service. They have over 160 people who are knowledgeable in a wide range of subjects, including family and health, community development, food and agriculture, coastal issues, programs for young people, gardening, etc. They strive to provide answers within two business days. Users submit questions online, and those questions can include pictures to provide context when seeking help with identifying plants and animals. Ask an Expert is a public service available to Oregonians across the state. Ask an Expert is available at this link: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/extension-ask-an-expert>



CHIEF'S CORNER A WORD OF THANKS

We would like to thank our citizens who have assisted us in the Frieda Bahl missing person investigation. Information provided to this office has assisted us greatly, and we wanted to take the opportunity to express our gratitude for your help. We expect to file additional charges in this case and will provide further updates as soon as they are available. Please see the crime stats section of this newsletter report for an update to this case.

CRIME ALERT: During the past reporting period we have initiated several investigations for burglary and theft. While these cases remain open investigations, we would also like to take the time to not only make you aware of what is happening in our community, but also suggest measures that you can take to avoid being victimized. Please make sure that you secure any valuables inside your homes during night time. As well, remember to close and lock vehicle, residential, and garage doors during this same time frame. Continue to keep an eye out for your neighbor and do not hesitate to contact the police regarding suspicious persons or circumstances.

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

OUR THANKS TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CREW

We'd like to extend a very special thank you to the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew for cleaning up along the north end of the Bike Path and bucking and splitting the trees that were recently removed on Fifth Street.

The City has also hired the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew to complete several other projects and maintenance tasks around the City. They'll be working in Columbia City on Fridays. They've proven to be very cost effective, and we greatly appreciate their service!

COLUMBIA COUNTY SAFE KIDS CAR SEAT EVENT

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat checkup event on Saturday, September 22, 2012, at the St. Helens Fire Station, 105 S. 12th Street, St., Helens, from 11 AM to 1 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.

PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS TO WIN THIS QUILT!

To win this beautiful quilt, purchase your **raffle tickets** at the Library and at City Hall. The quilt is a queen-sized star quilt done in browns, tans, and blues, and is a classic design. Pieced by the Novel Quilters and the Columbia River Piecemakers Quilt Guild, it was quilted by Dianne Ebert. It won a blue ribbon at the county fair!

Tickets are just \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for six. A total of 1,000 tickets are available for sale. The drawing will be held during the 2012 City Celebration on Saturday, September 22, at 2 PM in the Community Hall. All raffle proceeds go to the Library.



LIBRARY NEWS

A message from Catherine Lundberg, Librarian

Our Library move two blocks north went great. We had 26 people helping move on August 11. We were ready to reopen a week before we expected to. Thanks to everyone that helped move, pack, or check out books. We couldn't have done it without you!

We are holding an Open House at the Library on Saturday, September 15. We will have cookies, coffee and juice, bookmarks for everyone, and amnesty for overdue books. We think there are a lot of them out there! Visit our new location and enjoy spending time at the Library! David O'Donnell will be presenting a lecture at 1 PM on "The Civil War: Three Individuals from Each Side, Three Incidents." He promises it will be very interesting.

We have a lot of events planned for the City Celebration on Saturday, September 22. The biggie, the book sale, will move to the covered playground north of the school. We have more books than ever before, so be sure to visit us! The Strawberry Breakfast will be from 8 AM to 10 AM in the Knapp Center at the Caples House Museum. All the other events will be at the Community Hall. We are just starting on a great selection of silent auction items, and many more will be here by auction time. The Columbia Art Guild will hold a sale, and we'll also have a plant sale/farmer's market, a bake sale, the raffle quilt drawing, and T-shirts designed by local teenage artists will be available for pre-order.

With all these events comes lots of work. We will be setting up for the City Celebration Friday afternoon and could use lots of help. Please sign up at the Library to help us throw a great celebration for our great Library!

The raffle quilt is hanging at the Library. It is a queen-sized star quilt in browns, tans, and blues, and is a classic design. Pieced by the Novel Quilters and the Columbia River Piecemakers Quilt Guild, it was quilted by Dianne Ebert. It won a blue ribbon at the county fair! Tickets are available at the Library or at City Hall.

New Books at the Library: With our decreased expenses, we went wild on book buying (or at least it felt that way - I could find more to order yet!)

Current or recent best sellers available at the Library include:

- *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed
- *Killing Lincoln* by Bill O'Reilly
- *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn
- *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson
- *1493* by Charles C. Mann
- *Bossypants* by Tina Fey
- *A Stolen Life* by Jaycee Dugard
- *11/22/63* by Stephen King
- *Unlikely Friendships* by Jennifer Holland
- *Drift* by Rachel Maddow
- *Born to Run* by Christopher McDougall
- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo
- *Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey* by the Countess of Carnarvon

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

Planning Meeting:

Monday, September 10 at 7 PM

Open House:

Saturday, September 15 from 10 AM – 2 PM

The Civil War Lecture:

Saturday, September 15 at 1 PM

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, September 17 at 7 PM (Officer Election)

Novel Quilters:

Wednesday, September 19 at 7 PM

City Celebration:

Saturday, September 22

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, September 26 at 7 PM

Columbia City Community Library
2000 2nd Street (**new location!**)

PO Box 189

Columbia City, OR 97018

503-366-8020

ccclibrary@live.com

COLUMBIA CITY T-SHIRT SALE EXTENDED!!
Any Size & Design - just \$10

All remaining Columbia City T-shirts are still on sale for the reduced price of \$10. Call or come by City Hall to see what designs, colors and sizes are still available.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS
Saturday, September 22, 9 AM - 2 PM

- Two nights at vacation home in Ocean Park from Paulson Printing
- McMenamins Grand Lodge gift card
- Portland Spirit Cruises boarding passes
- Painted wooden garden trellis donated by Kris Wood
- Barbecue from Ace Hardware
- Oaks Park Family skate pass
- Pittock Mansion admission
- Fultanos Pizza gift cards
- Dari Delish gift certificates
- Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum passes
- St. Helens Baton Twirling Academy gift certificate
- Columbia River Maritime Museum boarding passes

Partial list - expect more wonderful donations!

RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL

Need a place to play basketball or volleyball? How about host a birthday party, wedding reception, baby shower, reunion, rummage sale, or wine and cheese tasting? The Community Hall has a gym floor, basketball hoops, and a net for volleyball. There's also a supply of tables and chairs, as well as a stage. The kitchen is equipped with a stove, oven, microwave, sink and refrigerator. Come check it out and book your next event!



💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.



**HOW TO RECOGNIZE A
NATURAL GAS PIPELINE LEAK**

A message from NW Natural

In its natural state, natural gas is odorless and colorless. For ready detection, NW Natural injects an odorant into the gas before it is inserted into the distribution system. The odorant is so highly concentrated that even the smallest amount of natural gas can be detected. The odorant gives off a foul smell, reminiscent of rotten eggs or sulfur. Any odor of natural gas may indicate a leak. Here are some steps to take if a natural gas leak is detected:

SMELL - How to identify a possible gas leak:

- You smell rotten egg odor (or a sulfur-like smell).
- You hear a blowing or hissing sound.
- You see blowing dirt.

GO - What to do:

- Leave the structure or area.

DON'T use any electrical or battery-operated device, such as a light switch, phone, appliance or garage door opener.

DON'T smoke or use a match or lighter.

DON'T start a vehicle in a garage or near any natural gas odor.

DON'T try to find the leak.

LET US KNOW - Who to call:

- Call NW Natural and report the odor immediately!
- Call 1(800) 882-3377, 24-hour emergency line.
- Always call on a phone away from the area, a neighbor's phone or public phone.
- If the leaking gas ignites, do not attempt to put out the flames. Call 9-1-1, and then call NW Natural.

Friends of the Library

BOOK SALE

*at the School Playground
2000 Second Street
Saturday, September 22
9 AM - 3 PM*



DELUXE WATER SAVING HOSE NOZZLES \$6.00 EACH

Purchase your deluxe 10-spray water saving hose nozzles before the watering season ends! Nozzles are available for purchase at City Hall for \$6.00 each.



CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Sidewalks: Owners of property adjacent to sidewalks are responsible for sidewalk maintenance. Don't block sidewalks with vehicles, garbage cans, basketball hoops, or toys. Keep sidewalks free of gravel, yard clippings, weeds, mud, and other debris.

Grass and weeds: Between April 15th and September 30th each year, weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height within the City limits.

Junk: The open storage of junk, rubbish, trash, or debris is prohibited.

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 the City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010 or e-mailing colcity@columbia-city.org. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

September 3 rd	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Labor Day
September 6 th	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting at City Hall
September 11 th	7 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
September 13 th	7 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
September 17 th	7 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
September 20 th	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting at City Hall
September 22nd	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 2 p.m.	Columbia City Celebration: Strawberry Pancake Breakfast at the Knapp Social Center Silent Auction in the Community Hall Book Sale outside of the Library at school playground Columbia Art Guild Sale in the Community Hall Bake Sale in the Community Hall Plant Sale in the Community Hall Quilt Raffle Drawing in the Community Hall
September 25 th	6 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall