

Columbia City Newsletter



February 2013



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



RV STORAGE AND PARKING REGULATIONS SLATED TO CHANGE

In response to citizen complaints about storage and parking activities associated with recreational vehicles (RVs), as well as issues associated with the enforcement of current regulations, the City Council recently appointed an RV/Vehicle Parking and Storage Study Group consisting of individuals from the community and City staff. The group was asked to study the City's parking and storage regulations and provide feedback to the City Council with regard to any recommended changes.

The Study Group met on three occasions to discuss current parking and storage activities, identify concerns associated with those activities, and develop a list of remedies. Staff drafted proposed changes to the existing regulations to implement the remedies desired by the Study Group, and the Study Group voted to recommend Council approval of the changes.



If approved, the revised regulations will:

- Prohibit the parking or storage of utility trailers within the public right-of-way except for loading and unloading activities.
- Prohibit the parking or storage of RVs, boats, travel trailers, campers, and motor homes within the public right-of-way for a period exceeding 72 hours unless specifically authorized by a written permit from the City. Such written permit shall require that the RV be parked:
 - No less than six feet from the edge of the paved portion of the street.
 - Directly adjacent to residentially zoned property legally occupied by the vehicle owner.
- The total square footage of occupied parking in the front setback of the residence and within the

public right-of-way adjacent to the property shall not exceed 720 square feet (equivalent to four 10-foot by 18-foot parking spaces).

- Permits shall be renewed annually and permit fees shall be set by the City Council.

The Council held a public hearing on January 24th, 2013, to hear comments about the proposed changes, but would like to hear from more of you.

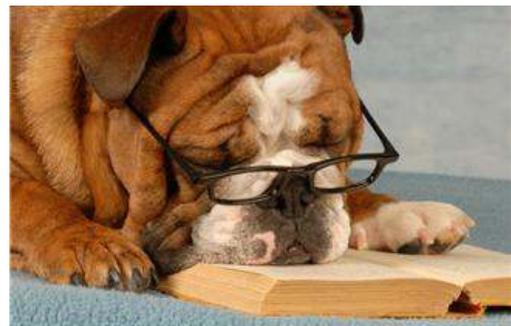
A citizen survey has been developed to gather additional information from the public about this topic. The survey form is enclosed for your review and use. Please take a moment to complete the survey and return it to City Hall by February 28th.

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.

Friends of the Library

BOOK SALE



Saturday, February 23 - 10 AM - 4 PM
Community Hall, 1850 Second Street

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
December 2012 – January 2013**

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 327 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: Theft of Services, Runaway Juvenile, Animal Abandonment and Motor Vehicle Crash.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 154
Area Patrols: 9
Foot Patrols: 3
Assist the Public: 13
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 2
Radio Calls: 52
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 2
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 6
Parking Violations: 3
Civil Situations: 2
Traffic Complaints: 1
Domestic/Disturbance Calls: 2
9-1-1 Hang Up Calls: 2
Animal Complaints: 1
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 60

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 16
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles
and Prowler Calls: 8
Traffic Stops: 36
Runaway Juvenile: 1
Theft of Services Investigations: 1
Animal Abandonment Investigations: 1
Traffic Crash Investigations: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Theft of Services investigation in the 700 block of James Street on 12/21/12 – Investigation remains open.
2. Runaway Juvenile investigation in the 3000 block of Fifth Street on 01/10/13 – Investigation

- closed with juvenile located and in parental custody.
3. Animal Abandonment investigation in the 2400 block of Fifth Street on 01/14/12 – Investigation closed with suspect(s) identified and referred to Columbia County Animal Control.
4. Traffic Crash investigation on Hwy. 30 at "E" Street on 01/16/13 – Investigation closed with "at fault" driver cited and released at the scene.

CHIEF'S CORNER

CITIZENS ALERT!!! We have been notified by a citizen of an attempted fraud, conducted through the internet, which may affect others within our community. The attempted fraud dealt with an unknown suspect trying to pass themselves off as a representative from Comcast Cable Company. Within the e-mail that was sent the suspect attempted to get the citizen to "update" credit card information in regards to their account. Fortunately, our citizens did the necessary review and homework to find that there were discrepancies within the e-mail relating to the account information. We have not been contacted by any other citizens in regards to similar activity. Please be aware that this activity is taking place and remember to always verify account information in an appropriate manner. In the future, if you have any questions regarding internet or text communications with a service provider, please contact that service provider directly.

ARE YOU INTERESTED? Our department is researching interest in starting a police volunteer corps, separate from our department's police reserve program, for our community. This program will be geared toward support within the community for such programs as neighborhood watch, administrative support, and help with special events or projects. We would like to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering, as well as efforts that you feel are needed within our community. Please feel free to contact Chief Mike McGlothlin at (503) 397-4010 or mmcglathlin@columbia-city.org if you would like to participate.

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

FLU ON THE RISE IN OREGON

The rate of Oregonians reporting flu-like symptoms has reached a high activity level. As of week 3 in 2013, 39 hospitalizations were reported in the Portland area (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington counties).

Statewide, week 3 saw 3.2 percent of outpatient visits around the state with flu symptoms, which include fever of more than 100 degrees, plus cough or sore throat, infectious disease experts in the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division are reporting. Most of the flu has been seasonal type A, which matches this year's vaccine.

Oregon's 2012-2013 rate of influenza-like illness hasn't approached that of 2009's H1N1 pandemic, which reached about 10 percent of outpatient visits in Oregon, but much of the 2012-2013 season is still ahead.

"People can still get their flu vaccination if they haven't done so already, and we encourage everyone to do so to protect themselves, their friends, family members, and co-workers. It's not too late," said Richard Leman, M.D., public health physician in the Division's Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention Section. It is estimated that less than half of Oregon's population has been vaccinated.

The vaccine also is reported to be a good match for the flu viruses that are circulating so far this year: More than 90 percent of viruses tested so far match the vaccine strains.

"This tells us that this year's vaccine is pretty effective against the majority of virus strains out there," Leman said. While there's no guarantee those who get vaccinated won't get the flu, they dramatically reduce their risk of the flu and spreading it to others if they've been immunized.

There are other prevention steps Oregonians can take to reduce the spread of the virus:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your arm when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you become sick.
- Clean work and household surfaces often.
- Wear a mask if you have a weakened immune system.
- Ask your family, friends and health providers to get a flu vaccination.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Exercise and eat well.
- Manage any chronic conditions.
- Call your doctor to see if you should be seen in the clinic, or if a prescription for anti-viral medication is needed.

Severe flu symptoms needing an emergency room visit:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen.
- Sudden dizziness.
- Confusion.
- Severe or persistent vomiting.
- Flu-like symptoms that improve, but then return with fever and worse.

For more information about flu prevention, visit <http://flu.oregon.gov>; to find a flu vaccination site near you, call SafeNet at 211.

NOROVIRUS: NOTORIOUS — AND A NEW STRAIN

Do you feel like you're seeing more vomiting and diarrhea this season? You probably are, because the infamous "winter vomiting disease," a.k.a. "cruise ship disease," a.k.a. "stomach flu," has a new strain.

Noroviruses may be the Rodney Dangerfields of communicable diseases, but they are the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis (both sporadic cases and outbreaks) in the United States. Each year, noroviruses cause a guesstimated 21 million illnesses and contribute to perhaps 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths, mostly among young children and the elderly. In Oregon, that equates to about 260,000 illnesses, 900 hospitalizations and 10 deaths annually. The bottom

NOROVIRUS (Continued)

line is that noroviruses cause significant morbidity and mortality. Case in point: a Secretary of State recently suffered from a “stomach virus,” followed by dehydration-induced syncope and fall that caused a concussion, with recuperation complicated by transverse sinus thrombosis. And a month of missed work.

THE VIRUS: Noroviruses are named after the first-identified strain, after it caused an outbreak of gastroenteritis in a school in Norwalk, Ohio in 1968. Norovirus is a genus within the *Caliciviridae* family, and it includes three human genogroups with 26 genotypes. Since 2002, variants of norovirus genogroup II, genotype 4 (GII.4) have been the most common worldwide.

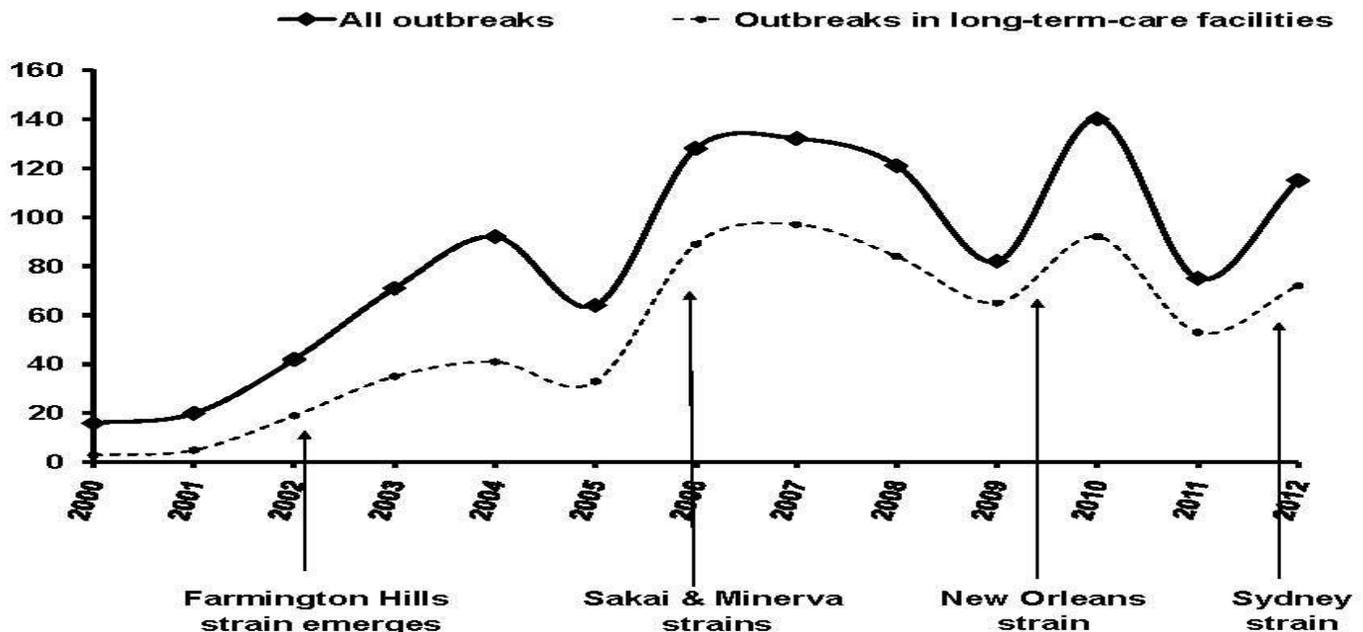
Since virologists have been able to track it, norovirus “strain replacement” — the arrival of a new strain to which no one is immune — has occurred roughly every four years. On November 26, 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that a new strain, dubbed “GII.4 Sydney,” was identified in Australia and had reached U.S. shores. Sydney was confirmed in Oregon by the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) on December 10. Outbreaks of norovirus infection in Oregon (Figure) reflect the cyclical epidemics that accompany the emergence of new strains of GI.4; the introduction of GI.4 Sydney may account for our recent uptick in outbreaks.

TRANSMISSION: You can get norovirus illness at

any time of year, but for unknown reasons it is most common in winter. Transmission is primarily fecal-oral, and it occurs directly from person to person or via contaminated food, water or fomites, and apparently even aerosolized vomitus. Noroviruses are remarkably contagious: an infected person sheds *billions* of norovirus particles in stool or vomitus, and it takes as few as 18 of them to infect another person. It is possible for an infected person to shed norovirus *before* they have symptoms, though shedding is thought to be maximal when the patient has diarrhea. Although noroviral sequences are detectable in patients’ feces for at least two weeks after symptom onset, it is not known whether they are still contagious, as the virus has defied attempts at culture. Not everyone who is exposed to norovirus will get infected; as many as 30% of infections may be asymptomatic. It is possible to develop immunity to specific norovirus types, but because there are so many, one can get infected many times over a lifetime. It is not known how long immunity lasts.

OUTBREAKS: The outbreaks identified most commonly in Oregon are those spread from person to person in long-term-care facilities, schools, daycare centers, and even outpatient clinics (you know who you are). Nearly two-thirds of Oregon’s norovirus outbreaks have been in long-term-care facilities. Foodborne outbreaks have also occurred in schools, restaurants, banquet halls, and dining rooms in the home — in short, any place where people eat food handled or prepared by others.

This article was reprinted with permission from the Oregon Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority.



LOST & FOUND ITEMS

The following lost and found items were recently turned in:

- A gold earring found on the walking trail behind Mattie Drive.
- A padlock found in the area of "L" Street between Third and Fourth Streets.

Do either of these items 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 Sunday, February 10, 2013, from 2 to 4 PM. The cost is \$25 per person. For reservations and tickets call (503) 397-5390 or send an email



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

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 pick up free prescription discount cards from City Hall during regular business hours.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

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.

Kennels are prohibited! Kennels are defined as any location where four or more dogs, cats or other small animals are kept for the business of boarding, training, propagation or sale.

Please report violators to City Hall.

COLUMBIA HUMANE SOCIETY VACCINATION CLINIC

On Sunday, February 3, 2013 at the Scappoose Fire Station, the Columbia Humane Society will be holding a vaccination clinic from noon to 3 PM. This event will be held on the basis of first come, first served – please expect to wait.



Numbers will be handed out starting at 11:45 AM. No early birds please! Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a carrier. Pre-registration is required for persons with more than two animals. To pre-register call (503) 396-3239. (*Pre-registration does not constitute a scheduled exam time.*)

Vaccination prices are:

- Dog or Cat Rabies Vaccine: \$10
- Dog DHLPP or Puppy DA2PP: \$15
- Cat FVRCP / Leukemia: \$25
- Cat FVRCP only: \$10
- Cat Leukemia only: \$15
- Dog or Cat Microchip: \$25

If you have any questions, please contact the Columbia Humane Society at (503) 397-4353 or go to their website at www.columbiahumane.org.

72-HOURS IS NOT LONG ENOUGH

In the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County's January Newsletter, Anne Parrott, the County's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, says that experts in the Northwest have moved away from telling people to stockpile enough supplies for 72 hours. New recommendations are to have supplies for two to four weeks. The shift comes after observing how long it takes government to get support out to affected areas after the large natural disasters of the past couple of years such as earthquakes in Haiti, Chili, New Zealand, Japan, and Super Storm Sandy. People who live in more remote areas will need to stockpile supplies for an even longer period of time.

Even with these changes the 72-hour kits still have their place and are good to carry in your car, have at your desk at work, and could be helpful if you had to evacuate to a shelter for a few days. Here is a link to a really good article that Anne says everyone should take the time to read: <http://www.opb.org/news/article/n3-five-ways-to-recover-faster-from-the-big-one/>.

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are planning a book sale at the Community Hall on Saturday, February 23. The sale will be from 10 AM to 4 PM, with book transport/setup from 8 to 10 AM. Let us know if you can help with setup, as always we will need a crew to be done on time! There are a LOT of books!

The IRS granted the Friends of the Columbia City Community Library our 501 (c)(3) status, dating back to 2004. Friends of the Library is the managing and funding group for the library. The status will simplify accepting donations and allow us to request more corporate funds. Plus it was required since we raise more money now that FOL does the City Celebration instead of the city!

We have been working with the other libraries in Columbia County on this year's Our Community Reads. This year's theme is the Holocaust. *Night* by Elie Wiesel is the adult selection, and the young



adult selection is *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen. Events are being planned by several libraries in March, with speakers including survivors and a rabbi. Copies of both books are available at the library.

We added 150 books to our library collection in the last month. Some recent books we've added to the library include:

- Committed: A Love Story* by Elizabeth Gilbert
- Fannie's Last Supper* by Chris Kimball
(about cooking from Fannie Farmer's 1896 cookbook)
- Wolf: The Lives of Jack London* by Randall Auxier
- The 351 Books of Irma Arcuri* by David Bajo
- The Jungle* by Clive Cussler
- Devil Said Bang* by Richard Kadrey
- Field Gray* by Philip Kerr
(2012 Edgar award winner)
- The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht
- In the Shadow of Gotham* by Stefanie Pintoff
(2010 Edgar award winner)

Staffed Hours:

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

Story Time:

11 AM every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 2/18/13 - 7 PM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 2/20/13 - 6:30 PM

Book Sale:

Saturday, 2/23/13 – 10 AM to 4 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 2/27/13 - 7 PM

Columbia City Community Library

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

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2013

February 6th	3:30 p.m.		Charter Review Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 7th	6:00 p.m.		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 12th	7:00 p.m.		Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall – Canceled
February 14th	7:00 p.m.		Municipal Court at City Hall
February 18th	CLOSED		City Hall is closed on President's Day
February 18th	7:00 p.m.		Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
February 21st	6:00 p.m.		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 26th	6:00 p.m.		Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall

