



COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

January 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. The Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 24th, 2013, at 6:00 PM to hear comments about the proposed 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.

Comments about the proposed changes may be made during the public hearing or may be submitted to the City Hall in writing prior to the public hearing. For further information about the changes, please contact City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010, go to the City's website at www.columbia-city.org, or send an e-mail to colcity@columbia-city.org.

DO YOU HAVE A PO BOX? TO INSURE PACKAGE DELIVERIES, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS!!

Due to an agreement between the US Postal Service (USPS), United Parcel Service (UPS), FedEx and DHL, all packages should be addressed to the street address and the PO Box to insure proper delivery.

City Hall was recently contacted by a concerned citizen who said her UPS and FedEx shipments had been "returned to sender" by the St. Helens Post Office because her PO Box had not been included in the shipping address. The citizen was surprised to learn that all shipments should include the street address and the PO Box (if there is one), even if they are shipped via UPS, FedEx or DHL, to insure they reach their final destination. This is because USPS has contracts with the other companies and at times will get involved in the final delivery of UPS, FedEx and DHL packages. If you have a PO Box, and it is not included in the shipping address on the package, the Post Office may return it to the sender.

For example, according to the Post Office, City Hall's shipping address would be "1840 Second Street Box 189." If you have questions, please contact the St. Helens Post Office by calling (503) 397-2613.

AUDIT COMMITTEE VACANCY

Are you interested in serving on the City's Audit Committee? The City is currently looking to fill a vacancy. Applicants must reside within the City, and the Committee meets quarterly. The term is for a period of two years. Public Service Applications are available on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org or may be picked up at City Hall.

CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2012-13 Budget.

The award reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document,
- a financial plan,
- an operations guide, and
- a communications device.



Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. Columbia City has received the award for twelve years.

FOR SALE: 1991 DODGE D-250 4X4 PICKUP

The City is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a 1991 Dodge D-250 4x4 pickup truck. 5.9L gas engine, automatic transmission, 126,649 miles, white in color, rough body and interior, plastic bed liner, air conditioning. To get additional information about the vehicle or to schedule an appointment to view it, call (503) 366-0454.

Minimum bid: \$500. Sealed bids must be received no later than 5 PM on Thursday, January 31, 2013. Send or deliver sealed bids to City of Columbia City, SEALED BID, 1840 Second Street, PO Box 189, Columbia City, OR 97018.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DETERMINE THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CITY

A committee of citizens recently approved a new vision statement for Columbia City after several meetings were held to gather community input. The vision statement was approved by the City Council. The vision statement is:

"Columbia City is the lower Columbia River's ideal small town - a city of beauty and livability.

- *Residents connect in safe, attractive, and quiet neighborhoods.*
- *The city welcomes diverse community-sustaining businesses.*
- *Engaged citizens and responsive local governments collaborate to preserve the city's distinctive identity and independence."*

We now need to take the next step of reviewing the city's comprehensive plan to incorporate the new vision. Among the issues to be discussed are:

- What types of business development will best fit with the vision for the future of Columbia City?
- What types of residential development will best fit with the vision for the future of Columbia City?

Here is your opportunity to help guide the future direction of development in Columbia City by reviewing the plan, comparing it to the vision, and making 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 January 31, 2013.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Recreational vehicles: Only one vehicle that is designed for human occupancy (RV, boat, travel trailer, camper, or motor home) may be parked or stored at any single property at any time.

Home occupations. Under certain conditions, residents may use their home to engage in small-scale business ventures which might not be sustainable if it were necessary to lease commercial space. All home occupations require a permit.

Report violations to City Hall by emailing colcity@columbia-city.org or calling (503) 397-4010.

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED
TO DISCUSS
SAFE DRINKING WATER LOAN APPLICATION**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on January 24th at 6 PM to discuss a proposed loan under the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program for water system improvements as recommended by the Water Source and Development Committee. The water system improvements include purchasing and installing 546 automated meters and automated meter reading equipment, completing several pressure reducing valve (PRV) improvements, performing a system-wide leak detection survey, and abandoning 7,650 feet of old 4-inch water main. The total estimated cost for the project is \$770,653.

The proposed water system improvements are efficiency-related and will qualify for 40% debt forgiveness, resulting in a cost savings of more than \$308,000. The Safe Drinking Water Loan would be used to finance the remaining out-of-pocket costs for the project, which are estimated to be no higher than \$462,392. The terms of the loan would be 20-years, and the interest rate is estimated to be 2.7%. The loan would be repaid with user fees.

The need for each portion of the project is described in the following paragraphs, and additional information may be found in the City's draft Water Master Plan:

1. The City has experienced an average water loss of 13% in recent years, which is typical; though 10% or less is a recommended goal. A system-wide leak detection survey is recommended in the draft Water Master Plan.

2. There are a total of 842 water meters in the water system. Of the total system meters, 546 are manual read meters that are more than 20 years old and have exceeded their useful life. The draft Water Master Plan recommends replacing the 546 manual meters with smart meters and purchasing updated automated meter reading equipment to improve meter accuracy, increase system efficiency and effectiveness, reduce system operation costs, and promote water conservation efforts.

3. The draft Water Master Plan also identified excessive high water pressures within three of the four existing pressure zones. More than 50% of the connections to the system have pressures in excess of 80 psi, with some pressures as high as 108 psi. One area of town

has insufficient low pressure (less than 45 psi). High pressure areas are undesirable because they increase the amount of water loss in the event of a leak, increase unintentional water use and water waste, cause leaks which result in additional pipe and service lateral maintenance, increase customer complaints, and can be a safety concern due to high pressure. Areas of low pressure are also undesirable because household appliances don't work well, customers complain, and there's added potential of system pressures dropping below 0 psi in fire flow conditions which would result in water quality issues.

The water system has seven pressure reducing stations - each with a smaller diameter low flow by-pass line with a smaller PRV valve. One of the PRV stations is not operating, and a second is suspected to be inoperable but it is difficult to access and work in, and its isolation valves are not operable. None of the pressure reducing stations are equipped with pressure relief valves that protect downstream pressures in case one of the PRVs fail.

Completing the PRV improvements will eliminate the excessive high water pressures within the system, correct the area of low pressure, and protect the system in the event of a PRV failure. The corrections would be accomplished through the addition of two new pressure zones, revisions to the upper and lower zones, the relocation of one PRV station, the refurbishment of one PRV station, the installation of four additional PRV stations, and the addition of backup pressure relief valves.

4. The draft Water Master Plan recommends the abandonment of approximately 7,650 feet of old 4-inch water line that runs parallel with newer 10-inch pipe. When the newer pipe was installed, the 4-inch line was not disconnected and only some of the services and hydrants were connected to the new pipe. The old 4-inch line is still connected to other water mains at various intersections. The number of remaining connections to the 4-inch pipe is unclear and confusing and cannot be verified on as-builts. The redundant pipe increases system maintenance costs, adds to unaccounted for water loss, and is detrimental to system efficiency.

For additional information about this project, please contact City Hall or attend the January 24th hearing.

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 \$5.50.
 - ✓ Schedule curbside pickup for \$7. Curbside pickup will be offered on January 2, 5, 6, 12, and 13. To schedule a curbside pickup, call Bill Reese at (503) 366-0726, or e-mail him at billr@columbia-center.org.
- 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 at the Columbia County Transfer Station. Trees will be charged as garbage with a \$20.00 minimum fee.
- 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.

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/.

Electronic Recycling Tips

Electronics can be recycled for FREE at any time during regular business hours at the Columbia County Transfer Station on Railroad Ave. in St. Helens.

FOUND ITEM

A case for eyeglasses was found on The Strand after the Christmas Ships passed by on Saturday, December 8, 2012. Does it belong to you? If so, please contact City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010.

COLUMBIA COUNTY WARMING CENTER (CCWC) NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

There is a group of volunteers who are starting up a cold weather shelter in St. Helens and are looking for more volunteers. They will be doing a two week pilot project the end of January/beginning of February. There will be a free training class for anyone interested in helping our local homeless community have a warm and safe place to sleep.

This meeting will be on January 7, 2013, from 7 to 9 PM at Plymouth Presbyterian Church, 2615 Sykes Road, St. Helens, OR 97051.

Please RSVP by calling (971) 225-0227 or email: ccwarmingcenter@gmail.com.

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Would you like to serve on the Columbia City Planning Commission? Applicants must reside within the City or the City's Urban Growth Boundary. Planning Commissioners serve 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 at www.columbia-city.org or may be picked up at City Hall.

CHIEF'S CORNER

A WORD OF THANKS – SHOP WITH A COP 2012:

The Shop with a Cop event took place on December 8, 2012 at the St. Helens Walmart. This year we were able to help four families, including 20 children, who were in need. To date, this program has assisted over 100 families in the Columbia City and surrounding areas. The success of this program is due to the fantastic support of our citizens and it is greatly appreciated! We would like to thank the many citizens that have donated to this program, as well as this year's corporate partners: Walmart, General Mills Corporation, Fultano's Pizza, and the Les Schwab Tire Center in St. Helens.



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

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 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 319 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, Theft, and Warrant Service.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 152
Area Patrols: 21
Foot Patrols: 7
Assist the Public: 7
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 2
Radio Calls: 48
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 5
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 4
Parking Violations: 1
Civil Situations: 1
Traffic Complaints: 2
Noise Complaints: 2
Reserve Police Officer Hours worked: 65

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 8
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles
and Prowler Calls: 12
Traffic Stops: 20
Burglary: 1
Theft Investigations: 1
Fraud Investigations: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Burglary and Theft investigation in the 2200 block of Third Street on 12/06/12 – Investigation remains open.
2. Warrant Service Arrest and Theft (multiple counts) investigation in the 1900 block of Third Street on 12/16/12 – Investigation closed with suspect identified and arrested. Case forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

LIBRARY NEWS

We were sorry to see the St. Helens Book Shop close. As they closed, they donated some bookshelves, and we now have 21 more shelves of sale books. We are hoping to sell more books in between our big book sales, thus having less to move between spaces. So stop by and see what you might need (or at least want!) from our sale shelves. Our next book sale will be in February, but the date has not been set yet.

We have two new volunteers who have begun helping. Thank you Beverlee Darling and Kim Garner! We always welcome more volunteers. If we could get enough more steady volunteers, we would like to add open hours, but so far we don't have extra volunteer bandwidth to be able to do that.

We have two public access computers at the library, one running Windows and one Apple computer. Patrons are welcome to use them, with a half hour limit if someone is waiting to use them. We also have wireless when the library is open, you can bring your own laptop and work here on your great American novel! We welcome people using the library, that's what we're here for!

Some recent additions to our library include:

The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin
The Secrets of Mary Bowser by Lois Leveen
The Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers
Bring Up the Bodies by Hilary Mantel
Voices by Ursula K. LeGuin
Johannes Cabal the Detective
by Jonathan L. Howard
Pirate Cinema by Cory Doctorow (Young Adult)
The Fires Beneath the Sea by Lydia Millet
(Young Adult)
*Harry Houdini :The Legend of the World's Greatest
Escape Artist* by Janice Weaver
(Juvenile Nonfiction)
African Critters by Robert B. Haas
(Juvenile Nonfiction)

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

Novel Quilters Meeting:
Wednesday, 1/16/13 - 6:30 PM

Friends of the Library Meeting:
Monday, 1/21/13 - 7 PM

Mystery Book Group:
Wednesday, 1/30/13 - 7 PM

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

ALL DAY CROP AT THE LIBRARY

On Saturday, January 5th from 10 AM to 10 PM the library will be hosting an all day crop. Contact Cathy Lambert at (503) 369-2559. \$15 fee.

GET READY FOR WINTER STORMS

1. Minimize the impact of rainwater and melting snow by clearing walkways and keeping 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.

COLUMBIA HUMANE SOCIETY VACCINATION CLINIC

On Sunday, January 20, 2013 at the Rainier Fire Station, the Columbia Humane Society will be holding a vaccination clinic from 12 to 3 PM. This event is a 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 is not 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: www.columbiahumane.org.

💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Watch for WaterSense. When you shop for plumbing fixtures, look for the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label, which means they meet strict criteria for efficiency and performance.

CHIMNEY FIRES

As temperatures begin to drop, Oregonians will start using their fireplaces and woodstoves, and fire agencies will find themselves responding to chimney fires. Fourteen percent of all residential fires are chimney-related fires. The largest percentage (63%) of chimney-related fires occur between November and February 1. Looking at houses and apartments in Oregon from 2007 through 2011, there were 3,372 fires that either were confined to a chimney/flue or started in a fireplace, chimney, or flue and extended to the structure. During this period, these fires

resulted in 10 deaths, 41 injuries, and more than \$24 million in estimated damage.

Most fires involving a chimney are confined to the chimney or flue. These confined fires rarely result in serious injury and account for just 3% of estimated losses in chimney related fires. The average estimated loss per fire that was confined to the chimney or flue was \$257.

Conversely, 18% of chimney fires spread to become building fires, accounting for 97% of estimated losses in chimney related fires. The average estimated loss per fire that was not confined to the chimney or flue was more than \$38,000.

Additional chimney related fire statistics:

- The largest percentage (46%) were caused by failure to clean.
- The largest percentage (34%) occurred between 5 PM and 9 PM.
- Incidents have increased by an average of 4.4% annually over the last five years.
- 63% of injuries occurred between 10 PM and 8 AM.
- The majority of deaths (8) occurred between 1 AM and 10 AM.
- The average dollar loss from a chimney fire that spreads to the structure is about 150 times greater than the average dollar loss from a chimney fire contained to the chimney.



By understanding the prevalence and causes of chimney fires in their local jurisdictions, fire agencies can lead public education campaigns to help prevent those types of fires.

Reminding homeowners to have chimney and woodstove flues inspected and cleaned each year by a qualified chimney sweep can help prevent fires. In addition, educating homeowners about safe practices, such as using a fireplace screen, keeping combustibles away, and properly disposing of ashes, will translate to fewer fires.

The OSFM has educational materials covering home heating and many other topics. You can review and order materials on the OSFM website.

All statistics in this article are based on 2007-2011 incidents reported by Oregon fire agencies, submitted to the Office of State Fire Marshal.

FLU SEASON INFORMATION

Flu season looms! To prepare for flu season, vaccine is in and the community can schedule flu shots by calling the main Public Health Foundation number, (503) 397-4651, extension 2023. The Centers for Disease Control recommends flu vaccine for all people six months of age and older. Flu season is traditionally October through May and the vaccine takes two weeks for protection to develop after the shot. By getting flu vaccine you can protect yourself from influenza and may also avoid spreading influenza to others. Shots are offered at \$20.

**TEA ON FRIDAYS
AT THE CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM**

Each Friday from 2 to 4 PM 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.



RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL

1850 Second Street

\$17.50/hour or \$175/full day

\$30 food/beverage fee

\$200 liquor fee

www.columbia-city.org

Call (503) 397-4010 for availability

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JANUARY 2013

January 1 st	CLOSED	City Hall is closed for the New Years Holiday
January 3 rd	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 8th	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - cancelled
January 10 th	7:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
January 14 th	3:30 PM	Charter Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 17th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall - rescheduled to January 24th
January 21 st	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 21 st	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
January 22 nd	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 24 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall

HAPPY NEW YEAR