

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

June 2013



CITY OF 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

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Fireworks - many types are prohibited!



Cone fountains, cylindrical fountains, flitter sparklers, ground spinners, illuminating torches and wheels are permitted. All other exploding

fireworks are prohibited by City Ordinance and Oregon State Law. Refer to ORS 480.110 through 480.165 for additional information.

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.



Keep grass and weeds cut! Between April 15 and September 30 of any year, weeds and grass cannot exceed 10-inches in height and blackberry bushes cannot extend across property lines or into the City's right-of-way, including streets, alleys and sidewalks. Property owners or other persons in charge of the property must keep weeds, grass and other noxious growth, such as poison oak, cut and maintained to prevent them from becoming



unsightly and a fire hazard, and to prevent them from maturing and going to seed.

Violators can be cited into Municipal Court. Additionally, the City may abate the nuisance and lien the property for the costs.

Please report violations to the City Hall.

 **WATER CONSERVATION TIP** 

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

TOWN HALL MEETING - JUNE 13, 2013 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

A Town Hall meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6 PM in the Community Hall for the purpose of discussing the proposed draft City Charter with interested citizens.

A City Charter is a unique document that, in many ways, serves as the constitution for the City. The City Charter may only be adopted by a majority vote of the City's voters. The proposed draft Charter may be viewed on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org or at City Hall.

NEW STORAGE AND PARKING REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE JUNE 17, 2013

On June 17th the City will begin enforcing new rules associated with parking and storing RVs, travel trailers, utility trailers, motor homes, boats and boat trailers within the City right-of-ways.



All current parking and storage that is not in compliance with the new regulations should be removed from the right-of-way prior to June 17th. Failure to comply prior to the effective date could result in the issuance of a citation.

Specific information about the new regulations may be found on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org or at City Hall.

WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS - JUNE 6 AND 20, 2013

The Columbia City Council will hold public hearings on June 6 and June 20, 2013, to accept testimony about proposed adjustments to the current water and sewer rates as recommended in the 2013 Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Summary Report prepared by Shaun Pigott and Associates, LLC. It is anticipated that the new rates will generate additional revenue *(continued on page 2)*

WATER AND SEWER RATES (Cont.)

equal to 3%. If approved, the new rates may take effect on June 26 and show up on the July 26 bills.

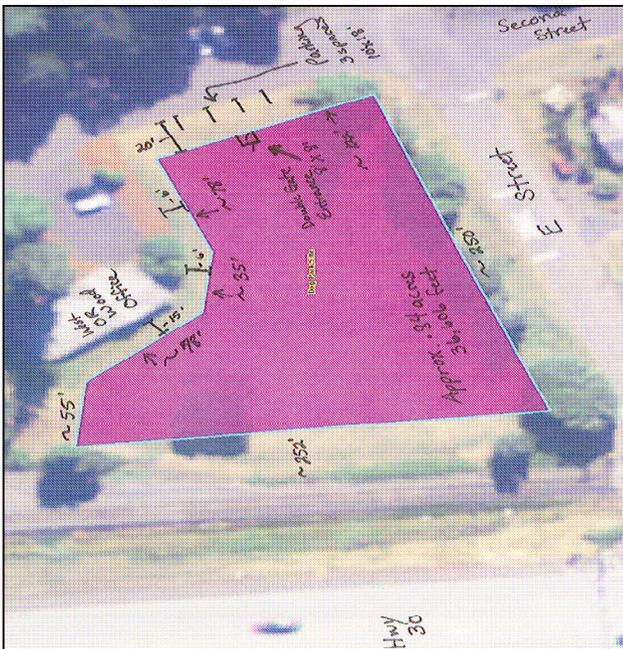
Water Rates (inside City limits)		
Residential Meter 3/4" or 5/8"	Current	Proposed
Base Rate - includes 100 cf	\$35.7500	\$35.0000
Per cf over 101 up to 500	\$0.0050	\$0.0150
Per cf over 501 up to 1000	\$0.0425	\$0.0375
Per cf over 1001	\$0.0475	\$0.0475

Sewer Rates		
Residential Connection	Current	Proposed
Minimum Base Rate	\$34.5000	\$35.5400
Usage Fee (per cf - Oct-May)	\$0.0065	\$0.0067
Usage Fee (per cf - Jun-Sep)	\$0.0000	\$0.0000

Information about the proposed rates for other customer classes may be obtained by contacting City Hall.

The additional revenue is needed to pay for operation and maintenance costs associated with the utility systems, make annual debt payments, meet loan debt coverage requirements, and complete necessary capital improvements as outlined in the water and wastewater system master plans.

This is the first of five annual 3% rate increases recommended in the 2013 Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Summary Report.



Proposed site plan for off-leash dog park

PERSONALIZED MEMORIAL BRICKS AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS

As part of the ground breaking for Columbia City's new Veterans Park, the city is selling personalized memorial bricks. The bricks are 4" X 8" quarry paver tiles, and can be engraved with a message remembering the service of a member of the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marine. The bricks will then be mounted on a wall to be built at the site, which is located in upper Columbia City, in a shaded forest grove overlooking McBride Creek, and easily accessible from the north end of the bicycle path that runs along Highway 30.

The bricks, available from Columbia City Hall, cost \$75.00 each, and can display up to three lines of seventeen characters each. Proceeds from the sale of bricks will go to support the park's upkeep. For more information, or to order a personalized memorial brick for a veteran you know, contact City Hall. A brick order form is included on page 5 or may be obtained on the City's website.



PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING - JUNE 11, 2013

The Columbia City Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 7 PM to receive testimony on an application for a conditional use permit for the development of a fenced dog park for off leash use on vacant property zoned Industrial. The application was submitted by the City of Columbia City for a portion of the property owned by the Port of St. Helens, identified as Tax Lot 5121-00-00400. The site is located to the north of "E" Street and to the east of Highway 30 and the railroad tracks, as shown in the proposed site plan to the left.

Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. That action may include approval of the application as presented, adoption of a revised proposal based on testimony during the public hearing, or denial.

Interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and present oral and written testimony. Copies of all documents related to the application are available for review at the City Hall.

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
APRIL - MAY 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 292 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: Disturbance of the Peace, Driving While Suspended/Reckless Driving, Fraud, Harassment, Theft, Traffic Crashes, and Warrant Service.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY

Residential Security Checks: 121
Area Patrols: 16
Foot Patrols: 20
Assist the Public: 18
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 4
Radio Calls: 11
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 6
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 2
Parking Violations: 2
Traffic Complaints: 1
Welfare Checks: 1
Animal Complaints: 5
Reserve Police Officer Hours worked: 120.5

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 6
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 14
Traffic Stops: 38
Theft Investigations: 1
Service of Arrest Warrant(s): 2
Probation Violation Investigations: 1
Harassment: 1
Narcotics Arrests: 1
Domestic Violence/Disturbance Investigations: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Narcotics investigation and arrest in the area south of Fourth Street Bike Path near Spinnaker Way on 04/27/13 – Suspect

- arrested and charged.
2. Found property in the area of Highway 30 near Trestle Beach on 04/28/13 – Property owner located and items returned.
3. Arrest for Driving While Suspended – Misdemeanor and Reckless Driving in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 05/12/13 – Suspect arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
4. Probation violation investigation in the area of Sixth Street near "I" Street on 05/17/13 – Investigation completed and forwarded to Columbia County Probation and Parole for further review and action.
5. Arrest for Contempt of Court in the 1800 block of Second Street on 05/22/13 – Suspect arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.



**CHIEF'S CORNER
PERSONNEL UPDATE**

Due to the recent resignation of department staff the Columbia City Police Department opened up the hiring process for a new police officer. This position will be funded through the continued support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Enforcement Grant. After a very competitive hiring process we are pleased to announce the selection of one of our Reserve Officers, Christopher Cowen, to fill this position. Officer Cowen consistently placed first place in each phase of the hiring process which included written testing, an oral examination board, and interview with the Chief of Police. Officer Cowen has served our community extremely well during his three year tenure as a Reserve Officer and we believe that he will continue to do so as the newest sworn officer with our agency.

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.

Best regards ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

CAR SEAT EVENT

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat checkup event on Thursday, June 13, 2013, 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 or no cost while supplies last. For additional information or questions: Call (503) 397-7211 or ACTS Oregon Child Safety Resource Center 1 (877) 793-2608.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are planning a book sale at the covered playground area just north of the school on Saturday, June 1. The sale will be from 10 AM to 3 PM, with book setup from 7 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! Don't miss the last hour, when you can fill a grocery sack with books for \$5.00!

Our summer reading program, **Dig Into Reading**, begins on Monday, June 24. Two of our teen readers are designing our reading logs. On Monday, July 1 we will be hosting the Bug Ladies, who will bring a collection of bugs for us to admire and will help us identify common creatures. Please join us each Monday at 11 AM this summer!

We are working on Columbia City Celebration planning. Our next meeting is between writing and publishing the newsletter, so I can't say when the following meeting will be. I'll send out an email when we know. We have moved the date to Saturday, September 14 so we don't conflict with the Scappoose Sauerkraut Festival. We are leaning toward a rummage sale instead of a silent auction, so think about hanging onto your great rummage sale items for a few months to help out the library. We have a wonderful batik quilt as our raffle quilt - look for it in the library this month.

We added 101 books to our library collection in the last month. Some recent books we've added to the library include:

Quiet: The Power of Introverts by Susan Cain
No Easy Day: The Autobiography of a Navy SEAL by Mark Owen
The Winter Garden by Val Bourne (no it isn't winter but you can plant things now!)
Recipes from the Garden by Rosalind Creasy (beautiful with great recipes!)
American Sniper by Chris Kyle
Killing Kennedy by Bill O'Reilly
The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom
The Innocent by David Baldacci
A Death in Summer by Benjamin Black
A Sister's Hope by Wanda Brunstetter
Winter of the World by Ken Follett
The Brutal Telling by Louise Penny
Dark Sons by Nikki Grimes

Staffed Library Hours:

Monday & Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM
Wednesday 4 - 8 PM
Thursday 2 p.m. - 6 PM

Story Time:

Every Monday at 11 AM

Book Sale:

Saturday, June 1 from 10 AM to 3 PM

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, June 17 at 7 PM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, June 19 at 6:30 PM

Summer Reading Program Kickoff

Monday, June 24 at 11 AM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, June 26 at 7 PM

Bug Ladies at Summer Reading Program

Monday, July 1 at 11 AM

Phone: (503) 366-8020

Address: 2000 Second Street

E-mail: ccclibrary@live.com

TEA ON FRIDAYS

AT THE CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM

Each Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. join the Caples House for a pot of tea and sweets. Come alone or bring a friend for a relaxing visit and a lovely setting. Cost is \$5 per person with proceeds going to the museum. Caples House Museum is located at 1925 First Street.

New date for the

Columbia City Celebration
Saturday, September 14, 2013



MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JUNE 2013

June 6 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
June 10 th	10:00 a.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
June 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall
June 11 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
June 13 th	6:00 p.m.	City Charter Town Hall Meeting at the Community Hall
June 13 th	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
June 17 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
June 20 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
June 25 th	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall

The Columbia City Veterans Park

BRICK ORDER FORM

(4" x 8" Quarry Paver Tiles)



Purchaser Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Please spell out in the above space exactly how you would like your brick to appear.

Maximum 17 character spaces per line (including commas and spaces)

Maximum of 3 lines of lettering

I have double-checked the spelling on the form above and would like the brick engraved as I have it.

Signature

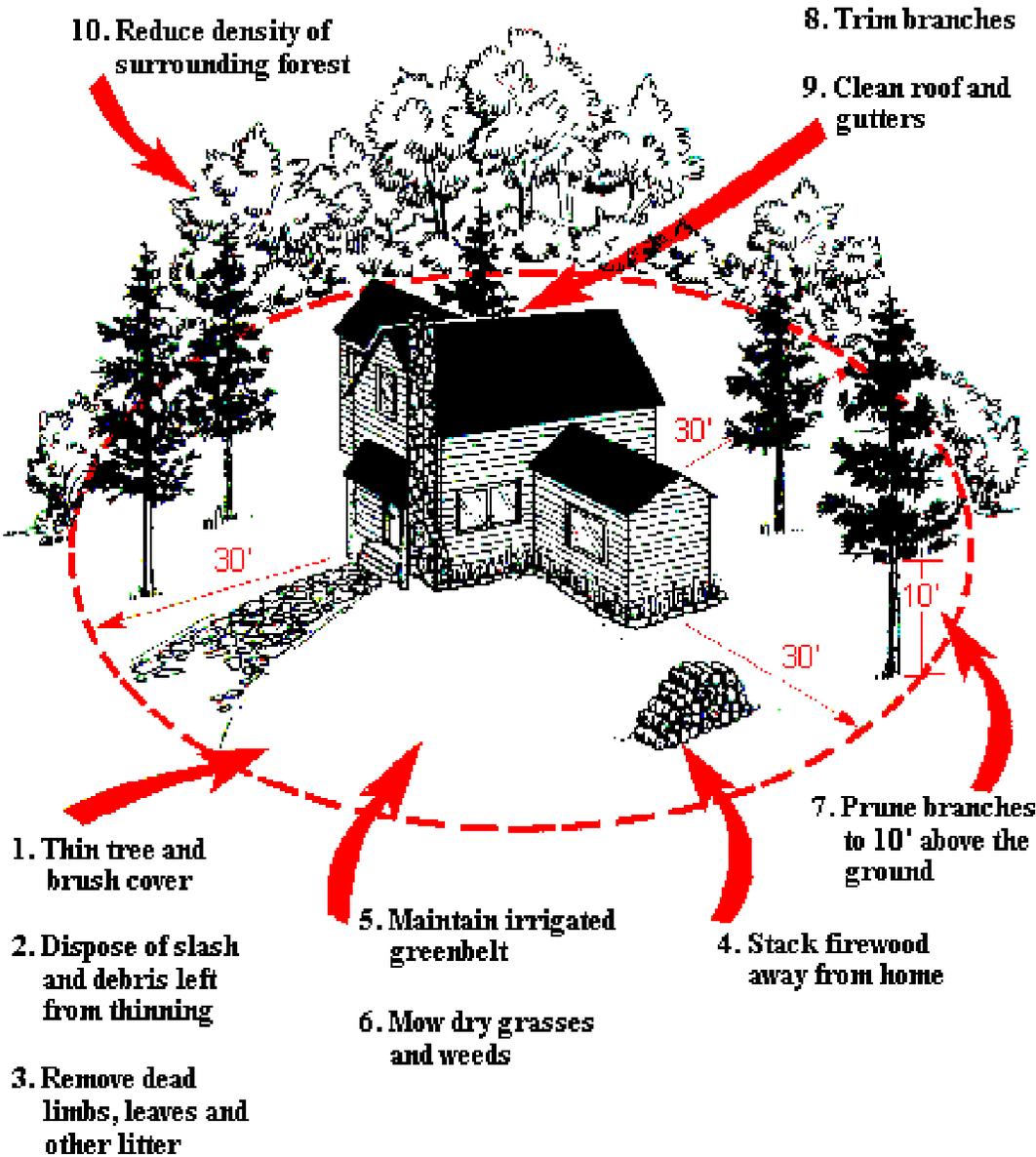
PRICE: \$75.00 per brick (4" x 8" Quarry Paver Tiles)

Make checks payable to: Columbia City

Return form to City of Columbia City, 1840 Second Street, PO Box 189, Columbia City, OR 97018

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DEFENSIBLE SPACE

What is defensible space? Defensible space is the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and to provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend the house. Sometimes, a defensible space is simply a homeowner's properly maintained backyard.



What is the relationship between vegetation and wildfire threat? Many people do not view the plants growing on their property as a threat. But in terms of wildfire, the vegetation adjacent to their homes can have considerable influence upon the survivability of their houses. All vegetation, including plants native to the area as well as ornamental plants, is potential wildfire fuel. If vegetation is properly modified and maintained, a wildfire can be slowed, the length of flames shortened, and the amount of heat reduced, all of which assist firefighters to defend the home against an oncoming wildfire.

The Fire Department is supposed to protect my house, so why bother with defensible space? Some individuals

incorrectly assume that a fire engine will be parked in their driveway and firefighters will be actively defending their homes if a wildfire approaches. During a major wildfire, it is unlikely there will be enough firefighting resources available to defend every home. In these instances, firefighters will likely select homes they can most safely and effectively protect. Even with adequate resources, some wildfires may be so intense that there may be little firefighters can do to prevent a house from burning. The key is to reduce fire intensity as wildfire nears the house. This can be accomplished by reducing the amount of flammable vegetation surrounding a home. Consequently, the most important person in protecting a house from wildfire is not a firefighter, but the property owner. And it's the action taken by the owner **before** the wildfire occurs (such as proper landscaping) that is most critical.