

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013

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CITY RECEIVES AWARD FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER GRANT AND LOAN



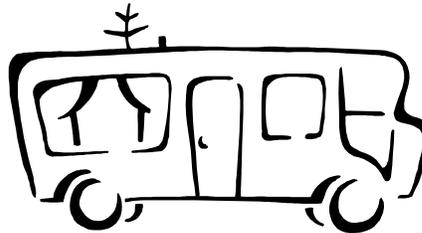
We are pleased to announce that the City has received a grant of \$308,800 and a loan of \$463,200 under the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to complete water system improvements. The improvements include the purchase and installation of 546 automated meters and automated meter reading equipment, 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.

CITY RECEIVES VETERANS AND WAR MEMORIAL GRANT

We are pleased to announce that the City has received a grant award in the amount of \$14,168 under the 2013 Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The City's Parks Commission plans to utilize the grant funds to develop a Veteran's Memorial at the north end of the bike path along Highway 30. Plans for the project include a sculpted stone and engraved monument honoring all American veterans, a commercial grade flag pole, US flag, electricity and lighting, a Veterans of Foreign Wars cornerstone, a Blue Star Memorial, landscaping, and memorial paving bricks. A picnic area and hiking trails will be developed nearby along McBride Creek. The Parks Committee will be working on the final design of the project during the next several months. Representatives from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1440, St. Helens Garden Club, St. Helens Elks Lodge, and St. Helens Senior Center have pledged their support and will assist with the project in a variety of ways, and the Columbia River PUD has agreed to sponsor the project.

RV STORAGE AND PARKING REGULATIONS

We would like to thank everyone that took the time to respond to the recent Citizen Survey about RV storage and parking regulations. Final survey results may be viewed on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org.



During the month of March, the City Council plans to spend some time reviewing the survey results and finalizing the proposed changes to the City's existing regulations. Those changes will be summarized in the April issue of the Newsletter, and public hearings will be scheduled. Watch for the public hearing dates in the next issue of the Newsletter!

ENTRANCE SIGN PARK PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The final touches to the entrance sign park are underway! We plan to install the flag pole and light fixtures during the month of March. We hired the Columbia County Corrections Crew to clean up along the hillside and spread several loads of bark dust under the roses. One of our very dedicated volunteers planted another 33 roses along the hillside.

We want to extend a very special thank you to the citizens that donated the cash we needed to finish the park! One citizen donated \$1,000 towards the purchase and installation of the light fixtures, and another donated \$100 towards the flag pole installation and \$450 and many bags of potting soil towards the rose garden. Their contributions to the site are greatly appreciated and will be enjoyed by our citizens and visitors as they pass through the City for many years to come.

**SPRING CLEANUP DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013
8 AM TO NOON**

Spring cleaning is just around the corner! Now is the time to get rid of that unwanted junk - old appliances, scrap metal, yard debris, old furniture, solidified latex paint cans, unwanted items, etc. The annual Spring Cleanup Day will be held on **Saturday, April 27th, 2013, from 8 a.m. to noon**

at the Columbia City School. You can drop off your yard debris, trees and limbs for **FREE!** Extra bulky waste or hard-to-dispose-of

items, such as old furniture, lawn mowers, mattresses, etc. will be accepted for a fee. More information will be in next month's newsletter.



WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Consult with your local nursery for information on plant selection and placement for optimum outdoor water savings.



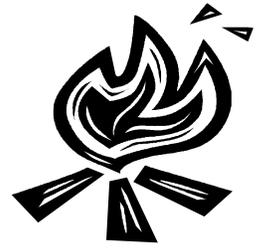
CAPLES HOUSE – ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Caples House, 1925 First Street, on Saturday, March 16, 2013 with corned beef, cabbage and drinks. Adults \$20 and children (under 12) \$5. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., with an Irish sing-along and entertainment for the children. RSVP by March 9th at (503) 397-5390.



**OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS
BURNING PERMITS REQUIRED**

The next **biannual burn period will begin on Saturday, April 6th and end on Sunday, April 21st**. The burn period is for 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 or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District. Permits are valid for one year and are free of charge. Please remember you must 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.

Have questions? Please call Fire Marshall, at (503) 397-2990.



HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

The Columbia County Transfer Station will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Event on Saturday, March 30, 2013 from 8 a.m. to noon. The following hazardous waste materials are accepted during the event:

- ✓ Pool and spa chemicals
- ✓ Pesticides herbicides, fertilizers, and poisons
- ✓ Thinners and solvents
- ✓ Household cleaners and disinfectants
- ✓ Art and hobby chemicals
- ✓ Aerosol spray chemicals
- ✓ Propane tanks and bottles
- ✓ Fluorescent lamps and ballasts
- ✓ PCB's
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Medical sharps
- ✓ Used oil
- ✓ Gasoline/diesel
- ✓ Antifreeze
- ✓ Fireworks
- ✓ Paint
- ✓ Small arms ammunition



Items not accepted during the event:

- No radioactive materials
- No household trash/empty containers
- No explosives
- No bio medical waste
- No asbestos
- No prescription/over the counter medications
- No business hazardous waste from small (SQG) or large quantity (LQG) generators

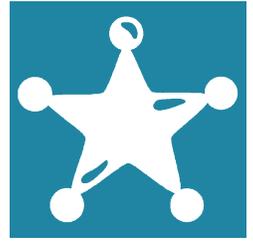
POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2013

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 393 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, Fraud, Harassment, Missing Juvenile, Motor Vehicle Crash, and Warrant Services.



COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 246
Area Patrols: 17
Foot Patrols: 8
Assist the Public: 13
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 4
Radio Calls: 9
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 3
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 7
Parking Violations: 1
Civil Situations: 3
Traffic Complaints: 1
Welfare Checks: 2
911 Hang Up Calls: 1
Animal Complaints: 5
Reserve Police Officer Hours worked: 41.5

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 12
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 9
Traffic Stops: 44
Missing Juvenile: 1
Theft Investigations: 2
Service of Arrest Warrant(s): 2
Traffic Crash Investigations: 1
Fraud Investigations: 1
Harassment Investigations: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Warrant service arrest in the 200 block of "G" Street on 02/02/13 – Suspect arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
2. Theft investigation in the 2300 block of Sixth Street on 02/08/13 – Investigation closed with case determined as unfounded.
3. Theft investigation in the 1700 block of Second Street on 02/11/13 – Investigation remains active.
4. Warrant service arrest in the 3300 block of Tahoma Street on 02/17/13 – Suspect arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.

STORM WATER PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

What is storm water pollution? Rainwater or even runoff from sprinklers or hoses carries contaminants - such as litter, animal waste, automobile fluids, fertilizers and pesticides - into the storm drains and pollutes the City's neighborhoods, creating health risks for children and polluting our waterways.



What can I do to prevent storm water pollution? Here are a few tips that can help improve our storm water quality and protect our environment:

- **Don't put anything in the storm drains but rainwater.** Storm drains can carry surface runoff directly to streams and rivers without treatment. Make sure runoff carries only rainwater.
- **Remove litter from the street.** Trash-laden gutters increase neighborhood pollution and clog drains, which may lead to street flooding.
- **Pick up after your pet.** Animal waste, when left on the ground, washes down storm drains and contaminates waterways and beaches.
- **Recycle your motor oil.** The Columbia County Transfer Station, along with many gas stations, auto parts stores and repair shops will collect and recycle used motor oil.
- **Bag, compost or recycle grass, tree limbs, leaves and other yard waste.** Soggy yard waste is a major contributor to clogged storm drains.
- **Be smart when you apply pesticides or fertilizers.** Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers before it rains. Not only will you lose most of the chemicals through runoff, but you will also be harming the environment. Do not over-water after application. Read the label and do not apply more than recommended.
- **Don't wash dirty paintbrushes under an outdoor faucet.** This dirty rinse water flows into the street and down the storm drain.

CAR SEAT EVENT

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat checkup event on Saturday, March 16, 2012, at the St. Helens Fire Station, 105 S. 12th Street, St. Helens, from 1 to 3 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.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Junk: The outdoor storage of junk, rubbish, trash, and debris upon private property, alleys and streets is prohibited.

Keep yard debris off streets and sidewalks and out of storm drains: Streets and sidewalks need to be kept clear of yard debris and other waste. Don't wash grass clippings into the gutter or storm drain - it will clog the storm system. Please pick up yard debris and dispose of it properly.

CPS CERTIFICATION TRAINING

The National Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Program will offer certification training starting beginning March 13 thru March 16, 2013. The training will take place at the Columbia River Fire & Rescue, 105 S 12th Street, St. Helens.

CPS Technicians assist residents with child car seat safety checks, educate residents on how to properly install child car seats and the use of safety restraint systems in vehicles. The course combines classroom instruction, hands-on work with car seats and vehicles, and participation in a community car seat check-up event, where students will demonstrate the skills they have learned in the certification training. More information is available and those interested in participating can sign up at www.ACTSOregon.org/CPStraining.html.

LIBRARY NEWS

We did great at our book sale! We figured out how to move 8,000 books from the Library to the Community Hall without getting them soaked in the rain. We made \$1,080 on the sale, and had everything put away by 6:45 pm. A long day, but worth it! We still have lots of books on our sale shelves, and we'll be adding to them as book donations come in. We'll plan the next sale for May or June.

If you haven't stopped by our new location, you are missing a great community asset! You can use the library for studying, for computer access, or to hold a small meeting. Our circulation is up since we moved, but we would happily check out twice as many books as we do now - our shelves are always full! We welcome people stopping by, and all of us enjoy visiting!

Our Community Reads is in full swing in March. We are reading **Night** by Elie Wiesel and **The Devil's Arithmetic** by Jane Yolen. Libraries in Columbia County will be hosting a variety of events and activities related to this year's theme, The Holocaust.

- Saturday, March 9th at 4:00 pm •
Vernonia Public Library
Evelyn Banko, speaker
- Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 pm •
St. Helens Public Library
Jeannie Smith, speaker
- March 9th through 11th •
Vernonia Public Library
Dave Anderson, art
- March 13th through 15th •
St. Helens Public Library
Dave Anderson, art
- Thursday, March 14th at 7:00 pm •
St. Helens Public Library
D. Anderson, speech
- Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 pm •
Rainier Public Library
Anneke Bloomfield, speaker
- Thursday, April 4th at 7:00 pm •
St. Helens Public Library
Defiant Requiem film Screening

Visit the library for more information on these events.

New Books: We added 120 books to the library during the past month. We also had to start discarding some again since our shelves are getting so full! Some recent additions to our library include:

Voyage of the Beagle by Charles Darwin
The Forgotten by David Baldacci
World War Z by Max Brooks
Threat Vector by Tom Clancy
The Black Box by Michael Connelly
Love in a Nutshell by Janet Evanovich
The Last Man by Vince Flynn
Starbound by Joe Haldeman
Iron River by T. Jefferson Parker
Bad Blood by John Sandford
The Darkest Seduction by Gena Showalter
The Pirates of Penzance Video of 1980's Broadway production starring Linda Ronstadt and Kevin Kline

Staffed Library Hours:

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

Story Time:

11 am every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 3/18/13 - 7 pm

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 3/20/13 – 6:30 pm

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 3/27/13 - 7 pm

2000 Second Street, PO Box 189
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cclibrary@opusnet.com

LOST & FOUND ITEM

The following item was recently turned in:

- A single Ford key on a ring found on Belle Street near the locking mailbox.

Does this item belong to you? If you think so, please contact City Hall (503) 397-4010.

DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS



Daylight-saving time begins on the second Sunday in March. Mark your calendars to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 10th.

