

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

May 2013

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY

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RV STORAGE AND PARKING REGULATIONS

After months of study the City Council will consider the adoption of new regulations related to parking and storing recreational vehicles, campers, motor homes, utility trailers, travel trailers, boats and boat trailers within the City's right-of-way during their May 2nd and May 16th meetings. The regulations are recapped as follows:



1. Parking or storage upon the public street shall be limited to no more than five consecutive days.
2. Parking or storage upon the undeveloped right-of-way shall be limited to no more than five consecutive days unless authorized by an approved Exception Permit.
3. Parking or storage within an approved driveway that extends from the edge of the paved street on public right-of-way and onto private property does not require an Exception Permit, even upon the portion of the driveway located within the public right-of-way. However, the storage must be kept at least six (6) feet from the edge of the paved street.
4. Exception Permits require the completion of an application, payment of a \$150 fee, and must be approved by the City Council.
5. Only one Exception Permit may be approved per property.
6. Storage authorized under an Exception Permit must be kept at least six (6) feet from the edge of the paved portion of the street.
7. Storage authorized under an Exception Permit must be parked directly adjacent to residentially zoned property legally occupied by the owner of the storage.
8. Storage authorized within the right-of-way upon an approved driveway or under an Exception Permit shall be maintained in proper condition. Proper condition means:
 - ✓ No peeling, blistering, rusting, mossy or otherwise deteriorating exterior surfaces or flat tires;

- ✓ Licensed, operable and insured with no visible damaged parts;
 - ✓ No deteriorating or torn tarps or covers or trash storage;
 - ✓ All awnings, slide-outs and pops-ups closed; and
 - ✓ Any grass, weeds, or similar vegetation in or around storage mowed to lawn height.
- ✓ Storage may not obstruct the views of traffic or create a dangerous or hazardous condition.
 9. Exception Permits shall be issued for the specific vehicle identified on the application and are non-transferable.
 10. Exception Permits shall be subordinate to the rights of the City and the public to make any use of the right-of-way that is permitted by law. The City Council may revoke Exception Permits without cause.

For additional information about the proposed ordinance, please visit the City's website at www.columbia-city.org or contact City Hall.



RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL

1950 Second Street
Contact City Hall for more information.

WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY

Most of the recent utility locate work throughout the City is related to the City's Water Meter, Pressure Reduction and Line Improvement Project. The utility locates are needed for the design engineering work associated with the project. This project is funded by a Safe Drinking Water grant and loan.

CITY CHARTER COMMITTEE PRESENTS NEW PROPOSED CHARTER



The Columbia City Council appointed a Charter Review Committee last fall to serve as an advisory body to the City Council. The Committee was tasked with reviewing the City's Charter, which was approved by voters in 1972. A City Charter is a unique document that, in many ways, acts like the constitution for the City. The City Charter can only be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the City's voters.

Using a model City Charter prepared by the League of Oregon Cities, the Charter Review Committee set to work and developed a new draft City Charter which they believe better reflects the needs of Columbia City today. The Committee gave consideration to a wide variety of issues, such as:

- The City's governance structure (Mayor-Council vs. Council-Manager form of government);
- The delegation and/or reservation of City powers;
- The appointment and removal of City officers and employees;
- Whether or not the Municipal Judge should be a member in good standing of the Oregon State Bar;
- Whether or not elected officials should be compensated;
- Whether or not term limits should be established for elected officials.

After several public meetings and lengthy discussions, the Charter Review Committee developed a draft Charter and ran it by the City's legal counsel for review. Last month the Charter Review Committee presented the proposed draft City Charter to the City Council for consideration.

The City Council plans to hold a Town Hall Meeting during the month of June to discuss the proposed draft Charter with interested citizens. The proposed draft Charter may be viewed on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org or at City Hall.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SET

The Columbia City Budget Committee will meet on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 6 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to receive comment from the public on the budget.

A copy of the proposed budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 17, 2013, at City Hall or viewed on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org. Any

person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"Working together to build a stronger Community"

We have many exceptional volunteers in our community making huge contributions towards the quality of life our City residents enjoy! We want to express our sincere appreciation for their efforts.

Parks and Facilities: A number of hard working volunteers help maintain all of our parks within the City. Thanks to our volunteers, our City parks look better than ever! Are you interested in volunteering to help maintain or develop our parks? The following volunteer opportunities are available:

- Routine mowing along the bike path.
- Assistance with the development of our Veteran's Memorial Park - opportunities include concrete work, brick work, general labor, landscaping, etc.
- Hiking trail development.

Library: The Friends of the Library are working diligently to provide Library services to the community. They are currently soliciting donations, organizing fund raising activities, and contributing many, many hours to staff the Library for our citizens to enjoy.

Police Reserves: Volunteer Police Reserves provide extremely valuable assistance to our Police Department in reaching and maintaining its objectives relating to maintaining the peace, safety and quality of life for our citizens. Interest in participation in our Volunteer Police Reserve Program continues to grow. We currently have three Volunteer Reserve Officers and two candidates that are interested in joining.

Utility Bills and Newsletters: Each month a group of dedicated volunteers assists the City with stuffing and sealing the utility bills and newsletters in preparation for mailing.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
March - April 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 341 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: Domestic Violence, Found Property, Narcotics, Probation Violation, and Warrant Service.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 159
Area Patrols: 10
Foot Patrols: 7
Assist the Public: 27
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 8
Radio Calls: 12
Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 4
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 3
Parking Violations: 4
Civil Situations: 2
Traffic Complaints: 1
Welfare Checks: 2
Animal Complaints: 3
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 91

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow-Ups: 18
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles
and Prowler Calls: 8
Traffic Stops: 42
Theft Investigations: 2
Service of Arrest Warrant(s): 1
Probation Violation Arrests: 1
Harassment: 1
Narcotics Arrests: 1
Domestic Violence/Disturbance Investigations: 2

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Warrant arrest in the 700 block of James Street on 04/05/13 – Suspect arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.

2. Probation violation arrest in the 700 block of James Street on 04/05/13 – Suspect arrested on detainer from Probation and Parole Office and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
3. Narcotics arrest in the 700 block of James Street on 04/08/13 – Suspect arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail. Case forwarded to the Columbia County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.
4. Found property call in the area of Harvard Park on Sixth Street on 04/19/13 – Property, an Apple I-Pod, secured in department evidence storage locker. Will release to owner with identification made.

COLUMBIA COUNTY RESOURCE & JOB FAIR

WorkSource Oregon Employment Department and MTC Works will hold a Resource and Job Fair for job seekers and employers on Wednesday, May 15th. The event will be held in the Columbia River Foursquare Church, 555 Commons Drive, St. Helens, and will be open for Veteran's only from noon to 1 PM, and for the General Public from 1 to 4 PM. For more information contact: MTC Works at (503) 397-6495 or WorkSource Oregon Employment Department at (503) 397-4995.

**ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP EVENT
A GREAT SUCCESS!**

We would like to thank the many volunteers, sponsors, and City staff members that made the Columbia City Spring Clean Up Event a great success!!! Special thanks to our site volunteers, Sheila Bauer, Sally Ann Marson, Ted Burns, Jessy Johnson and the St. Helens Lions Club! Kudos to our City staff, Helen Johnson and Micah Rogers, for their participation at the site. A big thank you to our site sponsors! This event would not be possible without their continued support and participation:

Beaver Bark
Columbia County Community Corrections Dept.
Columbia County Transfer Station
Columbia County Land Development
Junk It Store It
Hudson Garbage Service
Hudson Portable Toilet Service
Les Schwab Tire Center - St. Helens
St. Helens School District
St. Helens Lions Club
South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
Stan's Refrigeration
Waste Management

LIBRARY NEWS

We will be holding a book sale under the covered playground on Saturday, June 1. We need help setting up, taking down, and buying books! Stop by the library to sign up to help. We will also be holding a Library Open House on June 1. If you have books to donate, bring them before June 1.

We are trying to figure out what to do for the Columbia City Celebration, planned for September 21. We are considering doing a rummage sale instead of the silent auction, but having several items as raffle prizes (yes, we're working on a quilt in conjunction with the Columbia River Piecemakers Quilt Guild!) We will be holding a planning meeting on



Tuesday, May 14, at 7 PM to plan our events, and to get volunteers to help with the Celebration. Please attend - we need community support to make the library and the City Celebration successful!

Novel Quilters will be reading *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Lewis Stevenson. These quilts should be different! This is a quick read so stop by and pick up the book to read yourself! The quilts from *Sacred Clown* by Tony Hillerman will be shown at the library during most of May.

New Books: We added 124 books to the library during the past month. Some recent additions to our library include:

- *I Have a Dream* by Martin Luther King
- *Hanging by a Thread: The Missions of a Helicopter Rescue Doctor* by Emmanuel Cauchy
- *Paradise Lost* by John Milton (A lovely book with illustrations by Gustave Dore')
- *Feast Day of Fools* by James Lee Burke
- *The Man from Beijing* by Henning Mankell
- *A Trader of Secrets* by Steve Martini
- *11th Hour* by James Patterson
- *A River in the Sky* by Elizabeth Peters
- *Ninth Ward* by Jewell Rhodes (Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans featuring a 12-year-old girl)

- *Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman
- *Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod* by Gary Paulsen
- *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (with all sorts of wacky additions on the second CD!)



Story Time:

11 AM every Monday

City Celebration Planning Meeting:

Tuesday, May 14 – 7 PM

Novel Quilters:

Wednesday, May 15 - 6:30 PM

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, May 20 - 7 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, May 29 - 7 PM

Upcoming Event Dates:

Book Sale – Saturday, June 1

10 AM to 3 PM

Library Open House – Saturday, June 1

10 AM to 2 PM

City Celebration – Saturday, September 21

Staffed Library Hours:

Monday, 10 AM – 2 PM

Wednesday, 4 PM – 8 PM

Thursday, 2 PM – 6 PM

Saturday, 10 AM – 2 PM

2000 Second Street, PO Box 189

Columbia City OR 97018

(503) 366-8020

ccclibrary@live.com

LOST AND FOUND

An iPod was found in Harvard Park recently. If you think it may belong to you, please contact City Hall.

ATTENTION! CELL PHONE USERS! COMMUNITY ALERT NETWORK (CAN)

When emergency response agencies need to notify citizens and businesses of important information, the dispatchers at the Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District activate the Columbia Alert Network (CAN), a high-speed telephone dialing service, to send out whatever message might be requested to a specific geographical area. For example, emergency messages might be sent to deliver:



- A shelter in place notification in the event of an accidental chemical release that might affect your neighborhood;
- Special instructions associated with a severe weather advisory that is expected to impact your neighborhood;
- A notice to secure your home and remain inside due to an incident that police are handling within your neighborhood; or
- A boil water notice due to a loss of water system pressure resulting from a large water break.

To receive the CAN notifications via cellular phone, Voice Over Internet Protocol, e-mail, text message, or at an alternate phone number, you must provide the CAN registry with your contact information.

Contact information provided to the registry will be included when a CAN message is sent to an area that encompasses the address registrants specify.

To provide the CAN registry with your contact information, go to the Columbia 9-1-1 Communication District website www.columbia911.com.

NOTE: There is no need to use the registry for landline phones based in Columbia County. Notifications will be sent to landline phone numbers in the target area without registry. This registry is only for cell phone numbers, alternate phone numbers, e-mail and text messages.

Registry contact information may take up to 60 days to be incorporated into the notification database. You will need to reregister each time you make a change to your contact information.

CITY PARKS COMMITTEE BUSY WITH PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Columbia City Parks Committee is working on the following park development projects:

Dog Park: The Committee is pursuing a partnership with the Port of St. Helens and the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew to develop an off-leash dog park for the community to enjoy. The park will be located on Port-owned property that is currently not in use along "E" Street. The Corrections Crew will assist with the development and maintenance of the park. The next step of the project involves the submission of a Conditional Use Permit Application to the Columbia City Planning Commission.

Veterans Memorial Park: The Committee is working on the development of a Veterans Memorial Park at the north end of the bike path along Highway 30. The project will be funded in part by a grant under the 2013 Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program. The Columbia River PUD is sponsoring the project, and the project will receive support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1440, the St. Helens Garden Club, the St. Helens Elks Lodge, and the St. Helens Senior Center. The Committee will review proposals for the design and development of a monument honoring all American veterans. A flag pole, electricity and lighting fixtures will be added to the site, along with landscaping and memorial paving bricks. Watch for details associated with the sale of memorial paving bricks in the next issue of the Newsletter!

McBride Creek Trail System: The Committee is utilizing the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew and other volunteers to develop the first phase of the McBride Creek Trail System. The project will include a picnic area near the trailhead. The Committee is also working on acquiring additional property for future phases of the trail system.

Entrance Sign Site: The Committee is pleased to finally wrap up the development of the entrance sign site with the installation of lighting fixtures and the flag and flag pole. This project was made possible with assistance from the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew, the Columbia River PUD, the St. Helens Senior Center, several private donors, and dedicated volunteers.

THE RACE AGAINST CHILD ABUSE



Join the 5th Annual Amani Center Race Against Child Abuse, on Saturday, May 25, 2013. With a half marathon run, 10k run, 5k run/walk, and 1 mile family walk, there's something for everyone.

By participating you can make a difference in the life of an abused child. For more details, visit the Amani Center's website at www.amanicenter.org.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Home Occupations. The City permits residents an opportunity to use their home to engage in small-scale business ventures, which could not be sustained if it were necessary to lease commercial space. Inquire at City Hall for guidelines and cost.

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

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

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.

CAR SEAT EVENT

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat checkup event on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at Emmert Motors, 2175 Columbia Blvd., 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 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.

CAPLES HOUSE BRUNCH

The Caples House will host a brunch honoring Mothers on Sunday, May 5 from 1 to 3 PM. The menu is Bar-B-Que Brisket with raspberry Bar-B-Que sauce, mashed potatoes, veggie salad, rolls and cheesecake. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Call for reservations at (503) 397-5390. Please RSVP by May 1.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - MAY 2013

May 2	6 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
May 6	6 PM	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall
May 9	7 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
May 14	7 PM	Planning Commission Meeting - Cancelled
May 16	6 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
May 20	7 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
May 23	6 PM	Budget Committee Meeting at City Hall
May 27	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Memorial Day
May 28	6 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall



The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

Columbia City provides a range of services to the community. We'd like to ask you to please take a moment to let us know how we are doing. Your input is important to us, and we look forward to hearing how we might better serve you. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and you need not answer all of the questions.

Your feedback is appreciated!

Please return completed surveys to City Hall during the month of May

PO Box 189 ♦ 1840 Second Street ♦ Columbia City, Oregon 97018

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Question 1:

A. In the past year or so have you, or has anyone in your household, had a direct contact with a representative of the City Hall Office?

Yes _____ No _____ (skip to Question 2)

B. If you answered yes to Question 1A, please indicate the nature of the contact and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied

5=very satisfied

_____ Water or Sewer Utility Payment or Inquiry	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Municipal Court Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Building, Plumbing or Mechanical Permit	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Nuisance/Code Violation Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Land Use Related Question or Problem	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Street Light Problem	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: _____

Question 2:

A. In the past year or so have you, or has anyone in your household, had a direct contact with a representative of the Police Department?
Yes _____ No _____ (skip to Question 3)

B. If you answered yes to Question 2A, please indicate the nature of the contact and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied 5=very satisfied

_____ Criminal Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Traffic Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Traffic Stop	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Nuisance/Code Violation Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: _____

Question 3:

A. In the past year or so have you, or has anyone in your household, had a direct contact with a representative of the Public Works Department?
Yes _____ No _____ (skip to Question 4)

B. If you answered yes to Question 3A, please indicate the nature of the contact and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied 5=very satisfied

_____ Water Service Need or Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Sewer Service Need or Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Park Facility Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Storm Drain Problem	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Street Maintenance Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: _____

Question 4:

What is your perception of the overall quality of services provided by the City of Columbia City? (circle one)

(Poor) 1 2 3 4 5 (Excellent)

Additional comments you would like to make: _____

