

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014



COLUMBIA CITY
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WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTERRUPTIONS IN WATER SERVICE

Please accept our sincere apologies for interruptions in water service resulting from water system construction activities. We make every effort to provide our customers with 24-hours notice prior to planned service interruptions.



However, unanticipated problems sometimes occur during construction activities that affect our customers unexpectedly. We encountered several unanticipated problems in recent weeks, and many of our customers lost service without receiving prior notice. When these service interruptions occur, our crews work diligently to restore service as quickly as possible.

We are very sorry for any inconvenience to you during water service interruptions, and we greatly appreciate your continued understanding and patience as we work to complete water system construction activities during the next few months.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMMENDMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT CODE CHANGES

The Columbia City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to accept testimony regarding proposed amendments to the Development Code and Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A new Village Center Overlay is proposed to encourage a mixture of small scale, village style uses and promote pedestrian oriented services and housing in a portion of the original Columbia City plat in lower Columbia City, as shown on the map in the adjacent column.

The amendments also include some changes to the industrial zone, public land zone, environmental performance standards, landscaping and screening requirements, home occupations, and accessory dwelling unit sections of the Development Code.

In addition, the amendments include the adoption of an Economic Opportunity Analysis and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Commission may make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed amendments. If they do, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. After the hearing, the City Council may adopt the amendments, adopt revisions to the proposed amendments based on testimony received during the public hearings, return the proposed amendments to the Planning Commission for further consideration, or deny the proposed amendments.

The proposed amendments may be viewed on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org and at the City Hall during regular business hours. Interested parties may attend any of the public hearings or choose to submit comments in writing prior to the hearings.



WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

The City's Water System Improvements Project is well underway. During the month of March, NW Kodiak Construction installed 5 new fire hydrants, completed 5 mainline interties, completed 20 new service line connections, and abandoned an old 4-inch water main on Sixth Street between Penn and "E" Streets. During the next few weeks they will continue work in the project area to complete 2 additional mainline interties and abandon old 4-inch main on "E" Street between Highway 30 and Sixth Street and on Sixth Street between Penn and Lincoln Streets. They plan to complete pavement patching in the construction area in the near future, weather permitting.

Next, NW Kodiak Construction will begin completing several pressure reducing valve (PRV) improvements. Excessive high water pressure may be found within 3 of the 4 existing water system pressure zones within the City's water system. More than 50% of the connections to the system have pressures in excess of 80 pounds per square inch (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 City's water system has seven pressure reducing stations - each with a smaller diameter low flow bypass line with a smaller PRV. One of the pressure reducing 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 pressure reducing station 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 will be

accomplished through the addition of two new pressure zones, revisions to the upper and lower zones, the relocation of one pressure reducing station, the refurbishment of one pressure reducing station, the installation of four additional pressure reducing stations, and the addition of backup pressure relief valves.

What? No water?

During this project, periodic water service interruptions may occur. We will make every effort to notify customers at least 24-hours in advance of a planned service interruption. These



notifications are typically made with a door hanger. Unfortunately, unanticipated problems sometimes occur during construction activities, resulting in unplanned service interruptions. When these events occur, our crews will work diligently to restore service as quickly as possible! Please contact us immediately if you experience an unplanned interruption in your water service by calling 503-397-4010 (during regular business hours) or by calling our dispatch center, 503-397-1521 (after hours, weekends and holidays). We apologize for the inconvenience during water service interruptions, and we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding during this construction activity.

BIANNUAL BURN PERIOD

The biannual burn period will begin on **Saturday, April 5th, and end on Sunday, April 20th.** The burn period is for yard debris only, burn barrels are prohibited and it must be a burn day.



Call (503) 397-4800

for burn day information before you burn. Burn permits are required prior to burning! If you obtained a permit in the fall of 2013 you may not need to get a new one - check the expiration date. Permits may be obtained at City Hall or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District.

SPRING CLEAN UP / EARTH DAY

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, newspaper, solidified latex paint cans, unwanted items, etc. The annual Spring Cleanup Day will be held on **Saturday, April 26th, 2014, from 8 a.m. to noon** at the Columbia City School. You can drop off your yard debris, trees and limbs for FREE for the first 2 loads. Extra bulky waste or hard-to-dispose-of items, such as old furniture, more than 2 loads of yard debris, lawn mowers, mattresses, etc. will be accepted for a fee. The following minimum charges apply to other items:

- Yard debris, trees and limbs**
- First 2 loads FREE - \$5.00 a load after that**
- Car load of junk - \$5.00**
- Pick-up load of junk - \$10.00**
- Trailer load of junk - \$15.00**
- Refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners - \$10.00**
- Other appliances - \$5.00**
- Car batteries - \$2.00**
- Car or Pick-up Tires - \$2.00**
- Commercial Truck Tires - \$4.00**
- NO tires on rims*
- NO commercial truck loads*
- NO wet garbage*
- NO burn piles*
- NO painted wood*
- NO lumber*
- NO construction debris*
- NO sod*

Need help transporting your items to the event site? Junk It Store It can help. They will pick your items up - load and haul your yard debris and junk. Please call to schedule an appointment prior to the event (503) 397-5865.

This is a community event is sponsored by:

- Beaver Bark
- City of Columbia City
- City of Scappoose
- City of St. Helens
- Columbia County Community Corrections
- Columbia County Land Development
- Columbia County Rotary Club
- Columbia County Transfer Station
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hudson Garbage Service
- Hudson Portable Toilet Service
- Junk It Store It

- Les Schwab Tire Center-St. Helens
- Les Schwab Tire Center-Scappoose
- R & E Recycling
- St. Helens School District
- St. Helens Lions Club
- Scappoose Community Club
- Scappoose School District
- SHEDCO
- SOLVE IT
- South Columbia County Chamber
- Stan's Refrigeration
- Waste Management

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash - dump it on a plant.

BREAK THE POLLUTANT CYCLE

Help reduce the pharmaceuticals entering the sewer systems and waterways. Flushing excess medication down the toilet is simply not a practice we can continue. Steroids, birth control, pain killers, and other pharmaceuticals have been detected in our nation's waterways.



You can take steps to prevent and reduce these pollutants in the environment by disposing of your excess pharmaceuticals at one of the following locations.

The following Police Stations have collection boxes available to you within Columbia County:

- **Scappoose Police Department:**
33568 E. Columbia Avenue, Scappoose
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **St. Helens Police Department:**
150 S. 13th Street, St. Helens
Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ORDER A VETERAN BRICK FOR PHASE I OF THE VETERANS PARK

Time is running out to include your engraved brick in Phase I - place your order now! Stop by City Hall or visit our website: www.columbia-city.org to complete your form.
\$75.00 per brick

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
February - March 2014

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 604 calls for service; both self-initiated as well as dispatched calls, during the 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: Warrant Service Arrest, Theft, Possession of Controlled Substances, and Criminal Mischief.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

- Residential Security Checks: 232
- Area Patrols: 185
- Missing Adult: 1
- Assist the Public: 7
- Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 6
- Radio Calls: 8
- Juvenile Situations: 1
- Assistance to Outside Agencies: 2
- Animal Complaints: 1
- Parking/Traffic Complaints: 2
- Lost Property: 2
- Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 38.5

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

- Investigative Follow Up's: 7
- Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 10
- Traffic Stops: 18
- Trespassing: 1
- Criminal Mischief: 1
- Domestic/Disturbances: 3
- Restraining Order Violations: 1
- Juvenile Investigations: 1
- Narcotics Investigations/Arrests: 1
- Warrant Service Arrests: 1
- Hit and Run/Traffic Crash Investigations: 3



CALLS OF INTEREST:

- 1. Warrant service arrest in the 2400 block of Fifth Street on 02/27/14. Investigation closed with

- suspect arrested and transported to the County Jail.
- 2. Theft investigation in the 400 block of "A" Street on 03/02/14. Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
- 3. Possession of Methamphetamine investigation and arrest in the area of Highway 30 and "L" Street on 03/14/14. Investigation closed with suspect arrested and transported to the County Jail.
- 4. Theft investigation in the 1600 block of Ninth Street on 03/18/14. Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
- 5. Criminal Mischief investigation and arrest in the area of Second Street and "L" Street on 03/21/14. Investigation closed with the suspect arrested and transported to the County Jail.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Keep grass and weeds cut:

Between April 15th and September 30th weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height within the City limits.



Solicitation permit:

The City requires a City business license and a solicitation permit for businesses that go door-to-door selling products or soliciting business. **Before** doing business with anyone selling door-to-door, please ask them to provide you with a copy of their Columbia City business license and solicitation permit, and report violators to the City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010 or the non-emergency dispatch at (503) 397-1521.

LOST & FOUND ITEMS

- Old Navy jacket found in Harvard Park
- Keys found at Seventh and "K"
- Men's boots found on the bike path between Columbia City and St. Helens (east side of Highway 30).

Do any of these items belong to you? If you think so, please contact City Hall.

AVOID LATE FEES AND ORDER BANK CHECKS EARLY!

Ordering a bank check to pay your utility bill? Be sure to allow enough time to avoid late fees!! Unpaid accounts are subject to late fees on the 26th of the month.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! City of Columbia City, OR



CHIEF'S CORNER

(CAN) System Registration: The Columbia Alert Network (CAN) provides emergency information to Columbia City residents, who voluntarily sign up for the program, in the event of incidents, which could negatively impact life or property. This program is just one “tool” which the City will use to communicate as we continue to explore additional social media technologies for future use. Those wishing to participate may complete a registration form at the City Hall front desk or by contacting Cindi Turula, C-COM Information Systems Technician, directly at 503-397-7255.

Summertime Security Tips: With warmer weather, hopefully, making its appearance soon please see the following tips and suggestions to help fight crime in our community...

- When you are enjoying your backyard, make sure you haven't left your front door unlocked. Burglaries can happen when you are home.
- Often there is an increase in residential burglary and theft in the warm weather months. At times, we leave our windows open for ventilation when we are not home. In a vast number of summertime burglaries, the burglar gains entry through an opened or unlocked door or window. We also see an increase in theft of personal property, because there is a tendency to leave items, such as bicycles, unattended at parks.
- Just giving things a second thought, rather than just “leaving them for a second” can prevent most of these thefts.

Home Security: When you are away from home, close and lock your doors and windows. If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use a dowel for sliding glass windows cut to allow the window to open no more than 4”. For double hung windows, consider sash pins. Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which will also prevent the window from being opened too far.

Yard Work: Don't make it easy for the burglar! Make sure even if you are just running for a quick trip or working outside that you don't leave your doors unlocked or visibly opened. When working in the yard in the back of the home, do not leave the front door open and/or unlocked. If you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight while you are working in the yard, be mindful of what you are showing in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by.



Gardening tools, lawnmowers, other yard tools, ladders... all tend to be stolen more in warm weather months. Make sure you lock them up in the garage, shed, etc.

Heat in Cars: Because Columbia City is a temperate climate, sometimes it is hard to remember that temperatures in the summer can heat up very quickly. Remember to **NEVER** leave pets unattended in a hot vehicle with the windows rolled up. If you leave a pet in a car, roll the windows down enough for ventilation and provide a dish of water. Better to leave the pet at home rather than in a sweltering car.

Children **SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED** in cars, even for a short time.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

The Novel Quilters reveal their quilts this month, based on *River's Edge* by Marie Bostwick. A Jewish German girl is sent to live with her cousins in Connecticut to protect her during World War II. She moves from a household with servants to one where everyone works to survive on the farm. Join us on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m., where we will discuss how the book inspired our quilts. Please – we'd love company!

Second Hand Prose

In April, all biographies will be half price. The books on the shelves are constantly changing, as we go through our boxes of donated books, and send duplicates and malingerers away. Help support the Library, and take home a lovely book.

Mystery Book Club

On the shelf near the desk is a selection of mysteries by Scandinavian authors. Popularized by Stieg Larsson's *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, and dating back to Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo's Martin Beck series from the 1960's, more authors have been translated into English. Those long cold days must contribute to great writing!

New Books

We added 125 books to the Library during the past month. Some recent additions to our Library include:

- *The Annotated Brothers Grimm*, by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- *The Birds of North America*, by Jacob Studer (wonderful paintings)
- *Plant This! Best Bets for Year-Round Gorgeous Gardens*, by Ketzell Levine
- *Five-Minute Tales for Three Year Olds*
- *King and Maxwell*, by David Baldacci
- *In a Gilded Cage*, by Rhys Bowen
- *Light of the World*, by James Lee Burke
- *The Plague of Doves*, by Louise Erdrich
- *Takedown Twenty*, by Janet Evanovich
- *The Castle*, by Franz Kafka
- *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd
- *Cockroaches*, by Jo Nesbo
- *Private L.A.*, by James Patterson
- *Collateral Damage*, by Stuart Woods
- *The Curse of Ravenscourt*, by Sarah Buckey
- *Athena the Brain*, by Joan Holub (A Goddess Girls book)
- *The Fourth Stall*, by Christ Rylander

Library Hours:

Monday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Story Time:

11:00 a.m. every Monday

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 4/16/14 - 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 4/21/14 - 7:00 p.m.

City Celebration Planning Meeting:

Tuesday, 4/22/14 - 7:00 p.m.

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 4/30/14 - 7:00 p.m.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Are you 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 at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month when there are topics to discuss. Applications may be picked up at the City Hall, or may be found on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org.



AFTER HOUR WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCIES

When City Hall and Public Works offices are closed and an urgent water or sewer situation arises, call the following after-hours emergency number:

(503) 397-1521

The dispatcher will contact the appropriate person to respond to the situation.

ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN FAIR

Don't miss the **Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association's 19th Spring Garden Fair** on April 26th at St. Helens High School Commons, 2375 Gable Road. The sale starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Please carpool.



Certified Master Gardeners offer 5,000 tomatoes in more than 30 varieties for only \$1.50 per plant, tomato and general gardening information, raffle tickets, hourly prizes and displays.

Raffle tickets are on sale now for \$1.00 each from many Master Gardeners and at the OSU Extension Service in St. Helens.

Dozens of local vendors will offer annuals, trees, shrubs, perennials, vegetables, ceramics, trellises, garden art, herbs, containers, hanging baskets and more.

Visit the Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association's website for more information and photos: www.ColumbiaCountyMasterGardeners.org

CALLING ALL COOKS

The 2nd Edition of the Columbia City Community Cookbook is in the works. After enjoying the delicious recipes of Edition 1 for the past five years, submitted by you, your friends and family members, we are asking for your newest favorites to include in the next publication.



The cookbook will again benefit our library and the limited edition will be ready for sale at the City Celebration in September.

So please, write up your favorites and drop them off at the Library, City Hall, or send them via email to kitgardes@yahoo.com.

1st Edition
Columbia City Community Cookbooks
are still available for sale at City Hall.
\$8.00/each purchase your copy now!

A LOCAL SHOWCASE FOR TRILLIUM

From March through June, large-flowered trilliums bloom gracefully on the forest floor throughout Jim Bundy Memorial Park. The trillium has a large, often white, three-petaled flower above three broad leaves. Along with its three sepals, it's easy to see



where trillium got its name. The plants are 8 - 18 inches high with a stem bearing a 2 - 4 inch flower. The white flowers turn pink with age. They grow in rich wooded areas, and trillium is

often the first wildflower noticed by casual walkers as other spring wildflowers are much less apparent.

Trillium flowers should never be picked. The three leaves below the flower are the plant's only food source and a picked trillium may die or take many years to recover. Trillium plants take 6 years to grow from seeds to flowers.

Trillium is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants and mice. Trillium seeds have a fleshy organ called an elaiosome that attracts ants. The ants take the seeds to their nest, where they eat the elaiosomes and put the seeds in their garbage, where they are protected until they germinate. They also get the added bonus of growing in a medium made richer by the ant garbage.

RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL
For all types of events!



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

**APRIL IS NATIONAL
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Our Nation's children are our hope for the future, and caring for them is one of our greatest responsibilities. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect by promoting healthy families, protecting children, and supporting communities throughout our Nation.

Although a strong family unit is the best deterrent to child abuse, effectively intervening in the lives of children threatened by abuse is a shared responsibility. Strengthening the bonds within families requires community members and leaders to partner with parents. From schools to local social service agencies, we can work together to protect the well-being of our children by recognizing the signs of violence and creating safe, stable, and nurturing environments that safeguard the promise of their futures.

As a community, we must continue our work to ensure all children have the ability to live free from abuse and neglect by advocating for the safety of all young people. For more information about what families can do to overcome this devastating problem, concerned community members can visit: amanicenter.org, casaforkidsinc.org, safeofcolumbiacounty.org, sacagawehealthcenter.org and oregon.gov/DHS/children/abuse/.

**CITY PROCLAIMS APRIL AS
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every community member of Columbia City and Columbia County. Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community, and statistics show one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives (Black et al., 2011). Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18 (Dube et al., 2005). Young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 were 2.5 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006). We must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions.

With leadership and dedication, we can be successful in preventing sexual violence in Columbia City by increasing education, awareness, and community involvement. SAFE of Columbia County and the City of Columbia City strongly support the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen, to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence. It's time for all of us to take appropriate action and support one another to create a safer environment for all.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - APRIL 2014

April 1 st	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 3 rd	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 5 th	dawn	First day of open burning
April 8 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
April 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
April 14 th	10:00 a.m.	Basketball Hoop Study Group Meeting at City Hall
April 15 th	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 17 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 20 th	dusk	Last day of open burning
April 21 st	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
April 26 th	8:00 a.m. to noon	Spring Clean Up Event at the Columbia City School
April 28 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall

