

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2014



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY  
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## CHIEF'S CORNER - BE ON THE LOOKOUT!!!

Recent burglaries have made their way to our City. With recent developments we are looking for leads and help in identifying operators of the following vehicles:

1. Black newer model SUV, possibly a Dodge, last seen in the area of Smith Road near Columbia City on July 22, 2014. This vehicle is possibly connected to the recent burglary on Seventh Street. No known license plate or operator description.
2. White older model pick up, possibly a Chevrolet, towing a utility trailer. No known license plate or operator physical description. Last seen in the Sixth Street area on July 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>. Operator was observed taking pictures of residences in the area.
3. An older model solid sided (no windows) Burgundy van, unknown make or model. This vehicle was also last seen in the Sixth Street area and the operator was taking pictures of residences in the area in the same time frame as the above-described white pickup truck.

Please contact the Police Department if these vehicles are observed in the Columbia City area, as it is believed that these subject(s) are involved in canvassing for homes in our community to burglarize.

Please see the following tips and suggestions to help fight crime in our community...

**SUMMERTIME SECURITY TIPS:** 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.

Most of these thefts can be prevented just by giving things a second thought, rather than just "leaving them for a second."

**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 are you 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.

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).

Best regards ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

## CANDIDATE FILING DATES



The position of Mayor and two City Council positions will be filled by the voters during the November 4, 2014, General Election. Qualified electors who have resided within the City since

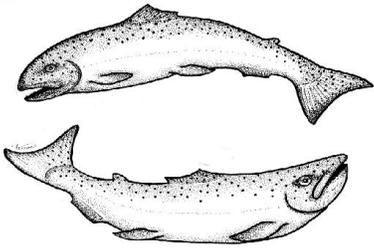
November 4, 2013, may run for office. Nominating petitions are available at the City Hall. The nominating petitions must be signed by 20 qualified electors, and candidates must submit perfected nominating petitions that contain at least 20 signatures verified by the Columbia County Elections Department to the City Recorder no later than 5 PM on August 26, 2014. The positions are for a term of four years.



## T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

We have two new T-shirt designs available for purchase at City Hall.

COLUMBIA CITY



OREGON

This design is available on navy blue T-shirts with cream print.

*Short sleeve shirts are available in the following sizes:*  
**Small-XL: \$10**  
**2X: \$11**  
**3X: \$12**  
**4X: \$13**



This design features colorful nautical flags printed on white T-shirts.

*Short sleeve shirts are available in the following sizes:*  
**Small-XL: \$15**  
**2X: \$16**  
**3X: \$17**  
**4X: \$18**

T-shirts may be purchased at City Hall during regular business hours.

## FREE WATER CONSERVATION KITS



The City still has free water conservation kits available to water customers while supplies last. Kits include a 1.5 GPM dual thread faucet aerator, a dish squeegee, leak detection dye tablets, a toilet tank fill cycle diverter, and a shower timer. Limit one kit per water customer. To obtain your free water

conservation kit, complete the form on page 7 and bring it to City Hall.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

### RV, boat and trailer parking and storage regulations:

- **Within the right-of-way:** Recreational vehicles, boats, and trailers may be parked temporarily on an improved public street for no more than five (5) consecutive days if currently licensed and registered and not blocking traffic or obscuring the visibility of an intersection, crosswalk, or a traffic control sign or device. The same rules apply to the undeveloped right-of-way, unless authorized by an approved Exception Permit. Exception permits and guidelines are available at City Hall or online. Storage on an approved driveway within the right-of-way may occur, provided storage is parked no less than six feet from the edge of the paved street, does not obstruct views of traffic or create a dangerous or hazardous condition, and it is maintained in accordance with the maintenance standards outlined in Ordinance 504.
- **Upon private property:** The legal owner of the storage must reside upon the property. Parking and storage within the front yard setback is limited to paved or graveled areas. Only one unit that is designed for human occupancy (e.g. one boat with a head and galley, one fifth-wheel, one travel trailer, or one motor home) may be parked upon a single property. For more specific information, contact City Hall.

**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.

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT  
MAY – JULY 2014**

Burglary: 1  
Theft: 4

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 822 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: Agency Assist – Rainier Police Department Officer Involved Shooting, Burglary, Criminal Mischief, Death Investigation, Domestic Assault, False Information to Police, Possession of Methamphetamine, Marijuana, and Other Narcotics, Theft, Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle, and Warrant arrests.

**COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:**

Residential Security Checks: 123  
Area Patrols: 12  
Missing Adult/Child: 1  
Assist the Public: 36  
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 10  
Radio Calls: 55  
Juvenile Situations: 4  
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 43  
Animal Complaints: 8  
Parking/Traffic Complaints: 16  
Lost Property: 1  
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 95.75

**CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:**

Investigative Follow Up's: 48  
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 37  
Traffic Stops: 237  
Trespassing: 3  
Criminal Mischief: 6  
Domestic/Disturbances: 5  
Restraining Order Violations: 1  
Juvenile Investigations: 5  
Narcotics Investigations/Arrests: 4  
Warrant Service Arrests: 5  
Hit and Run/Traffic Crash Investigations: 1  
Harassment: 2

**CALLS OF INTEREST:**

1. Theft Investigation in the 1600 block of Second Street on May 25, 2014. Case closed with leads exhausted.
2. Theft and PCS-Marijuana Investigation and Arrest in the 2400 block of Fifth Street on May 31, 2014. Suspect; Christopher L. Bartlett, 43, transient of Columbia County, arrested and transported to jail.
3. Domestic Assault Investigation and Arrest in the 1600 block of Third Street on June 1, 2014. Suspect; Maya Caliz-Shepard, 28, of Columbia City arrested and transported to jail.
4. Warrant Arrest in the area of Highway 30 near Trestle Beach on June 5, 2014. Suspect; Tanner J. McPherson, 26, of Longview, WA arrested and transported to jail.
5. Criminal Mischief Investigation in the 1900 block of First Street on June 6, 2014. Case closed with leads exhausted.
6. PCS-Methamphetamine Investigation and Arrest in the 300 block of "A" Street on June 6, 2014. Suspects; Andrew L. Jones, 24, of Deer Island and Shannon Kirkman, 38, of Deer Island were arrested and transported to jail.
7. Criminal Mischief Investigation in the 3000 block of Sixth Street on June 12, 2014. Juvenile suspect(s) identified and civil compromise reached with property owner.
8. Theft Investigation in the 2000 block of Fifth Street on June 15, 2014. Case closed with leads exhausted.
9. Criminal Mischief Investigation in the 3000 block of Seventh Street on June 17, 2014. Case closed with leads exhausted.
10. Unlawful Entry and Theft from a Motor Vehicle Investigation in the 300 block of "A" Street on June 19, 2014. Case closed with leads exhausted.
11. Warrant Arrest in the 1900 block of Third Street on June 19, 2014. Suspect; Jason T. Regennitter, 21, of Columbia City was arrested and transported to jail.
12. Agency Assist – Rainier Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Investigation on June 24, 2014. Casework completed and forwarded to investigating agency.
13. Unlawful and Theft from a Motor Vehicle Investigation in the 300 block of "A" Street on June 25, 2014. Investigation remains open.  
*(Continued on page 4)*

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14. PCS-Marijuana Investigation and Arrest in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on June 25, 2014. Suspect; Nicole R. Bishop, 42, of St. Helens cited and released.
15. Warrant Arrest in the area of Highway 30 near Chimes Crest Road on July 7, 2014. Suspect; Bobby R. Lewis, 44, of St. Helens arrested and transported to jail.
16. Death Investigation in the 2700 block of Sixth Street on July 7, 2014. Investigation closed.
17. False Information to Police and Warrant Arrest in the 2400 block of Fifth Street on July 9, 2014. Suspect; Timothy B. Walsh, 36, of Prineville arrested and transported to jail.
18. Theft Investigation in the 1800 block of Second Street on July 12, 2014. Case closed as unfounded.
19. Restraining Order Violation Investigation in the 1700 block of Fifth Street on July 18, 2014. Suspect identified; Edward J. Conner, 55, of Columbia City with case forwarded to the DA's Office for review and prosecution.
20. PCS-Methamphetamine Investigation and Warrant Arrest in the 300 block of "A" Street on July 21, 2014. Suspects; Dennis D. Fink, 45, homeless and Gary D. Lund, 49, of Portland arrested and transported to jail.
21. Burglary Investigation in the 61000 block of Seventh Street on July 22, 2014. Case remains open.

## PLANNING NEWS

**Public Hearing:** The Columbia City Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, August 12, 2014. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 7 pm. The purpose of the hearing is to receive written and oral testimony on an application for a variance to site a sign in the vision clearance area on property zoned Public Land. The application was submitted by the Daughters of the American Revolution Multnomah Chapter (DAR) for property owned by the DAR and identified on Columbia County Tax Assessor Map 5128 AD as Lot 1200. The site is located on the northeast corner of "I" Street and Second Street.

Approval of the application is subject to the applicant demonstrating compliance with the requirements of Columbia City Development Code 7.70, 7.102, 7.140 and 7.162. 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 in the public hearings, or denial.

Interested persons are invited to attend the public hearings and present oral and written testimony. Copies of all documents related to the application are available for review at the City Hall. Copies can also be purchased at cost. If you would like to comment but cannot attend the hearing, submit comments in writing to City Hall by 4 pm on the date of the hearing. The staff report will be available for review at City Hall on August 5, 2014.

**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 pm on the second Tuesday of each month as needed. Applications may be picked up at the City Hall, or may be found on the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org).



### 💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Automatic dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings. With clothes washers, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 5 gallons for the extra rinse. For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load. Replace old clothes washers. New Energy Star rated washers use 35 - 50% less water and 50% less energy per load.



### LOST & FOUND ITEMS

- Bluetooth earpiece found at Harvard Park.
- Pocket knife found in the street at the corner of Sixth and "J" Streets.

More information is available at City Hall.

## LIBRARY NEWS

**Summer Reading Program Continues!** Join us at 11:00 each Monday to have some fun! Our summer reading program focuses on science. On August 8, the Bug Ladies will visit us again. Who knows what they'll have flying around! Our last Monday, August 25, we will learn about using compasses and maps, using geocaching. Be there for our big finale! Keep up those reading skills over the summer, and have fun learning!

**Columbia City Celebration, September 20:** The Lions will sponsor an eye clinic at the Columbia City Celebration. Bring your 3 to 7 year-old in for screening. It takes longer to fill out your name than it does to do the test!

Keep in mind that we are looking for great silent auction items. You can also donate plants, bulbs or seeds to our plant sale, or cakes and cookies to our bake sale. We will be doing an antique quilt show, featuring a quilt done in the 1970s by school children in the Columbia City School. If you have an antique quilt you'd like to show off, contact Dianne Ebert at 503-397-5048. Help us support the library and make this lots of fun!

We will need many volunteers for the day of the City Celebration. Start thinking about how you would like to help. A sign-up sheet is available at the library, so come pick your job!

**New Computer at the Library:** Thanks to Mike Chartier at La Luna Computers in Columbia City, we now have a new public access computer. It includes Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint, with a Windows 7 operating system. Much faster than the one we had, which was at least 10 years old!

**Friends of the Library:** We are looking for a secretary and a treasurer for our Friends of the Library group. We are the people who make the decisions for our library, handle the money, and run the Columbia City Celebration with the help of countless volunteers. Without the FOL, we would have no library. Please contact the library if you are interested in any officer position, or in getting more involved in Friends of the Library.

We are also looking for people who would like to volunteer at the library. We are always in need of help on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, as

our volunteers' lives change and they are no longer able to help.

**Second Hand Prose:** In August, all summer cooking books will be half price. Our sale books are wonderfully organized, so be sure you shop in the library at the county's largest used bookstore.

Many books are being donated as the Columbia City Celebration and its big book sale approaches, so make sure to get in here and look at what is already on our shelves. Help us make room for more!

**New Books:** We added 68 books to the library during the past month. Some recent additions to our library include:

- *Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World*, by Michael Lewis
- *No Longer a Slumdog: Bringing Hope to Children in Crisis*, by K.P. Yohannan
- *Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife*, by David Mizejewski
- *Red Wolf*, by Liza Marklund
- *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, by Ayana Mathis
- *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, by Countess Emmuska Orczy
- *The Free*, by Willy Vlautin
- *Unintended Consequences*, by Stuart Woods
- *Cross Roads*, by Wm. Paul Young
- *Inferno*, by Sherrilyn Kenyon
- *Toning for Teens*, by Joyce L. Vedral

### Library Hours:

Monday 10 am - 2 pm  
Wednesday 4 pm - 8 pm  
Thursday 2 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

### Storytime:

Every Monday at 11 am

### City Celebration Planning Meeting:

Tuesday, August 12 at 7 pm

### Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, August 18 at 7 pm

### Novel Quilters:

Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 pm

### Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, August 27 at 7 pm

Columbia City Community Library  
2000 Second Street/PO Box 189  
503-366-8020  
[ccclibrary@live.com](mailto:ccclibrary@live.com)

## PLANNING TO GET AWAY?

This time of year many residents plan vacations and head out of town while kids are out of school and the weather is so nice. The Columbia City Police Department would like to remind you that, at your request, they will periodically check your home while you are away. To request this service, please register with the Columbia City Police Department before you leave. Forms are available at City Hall and on line at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org).



## CUSTOMERS MAY NOTICE A CHANGE IN WATER PRESSURE

Due to some construction delays, the new pressure zones have not been activated. We anticipate wrapping up the project during the month of August. Water customers may notice a change in water pressure as the water project nears completion. The project will stabilize water pressures throughout the system. Currently, more than 50% of the connections to the system have pressures in excess of 80 pounds per square inch (psi), and one smaller area in town has low pressure.

The project will add two new pressure zones to the system, which already has three pressure zones. A pressure zone is designed to keep water pressure within a range of 40 to 80 pounds per square inch. If the pressure is too low, so is the flow. If the pressure is too high, plumbing fixtures can leak and water bills will rise.

As with many new systems, the City will need to make adjustments to achieve the desired level of performance between the five pressure zones. The water will not look, smell or taste any different because of the change in pressure. After completing the water system modifications, residents may need to make adjustments to plumbing, such as individual residence pressure reducing valves (if installed), irrigation systems, and low-flow fixtures.

Proper water line pressure ensures enough supply for customers and for firefighting, reduces water loss due to leaks, extends the life of the water system, and extends the life of residential plumbing and fixtures. Your patience during the startup and adjustment is appreciated.

## STREETLIGHT ISSUES

Is there a streetlight in your neighborhood that is out, blinks on and off throughout the night, or stays on all day? If so, contact City Hall with the address closest to the light or cross streets and we'll have it repaired.



## Columbia City Celebration Craft Fair

*Items must be handcrafted  
in Columbia County*

The Friends of the Library have expanded the Columbia City Celebration by adding a Craft Fair. Vendors may purchase a booth space to display and sell items handcrafted within Columbia County. The Craft Fair will be open from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, September 20, 2014.

Vendors may purchase a booth space for \$20. Registration forms are available at the City Hall and on the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org). Registration must be completed no later than 5 PM on August 8, 2014. For additional information, contact City Hall by calling 503-397-4010.

### Other events planned for the day include:

**Strawberry Pancake Breakfast**  
**Show and Shine Car Show**  
**Book Sale**  
**Quilt Show & Quilt Raffle**  
**Bake Sale**  
**Silent Auction**  
**Hot Dogs & Hamburgers**  
**Stay at the Beach Raffle**

Celebration proceeds benefit the  
Columbia City Community Library

**NOW ACCEPTING DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS!**

The City now accepts debit and credit card payments. To pay online, visit the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org). Select the "Make a Payment" link on the home page. All transactions are subject to a minimum fee of \$2.50 or 3.25% of the amount paid, whichever is greater, except in person debit card payments, which are subject to a flat fee of \$2.50.



**ONE VERY GOOD REASON TO KNOW HOW AND WHEN TO SHELTER IN PLACE**

**Anhydrous Ammonia.** Anhydrous ammonia is produced by a chemical plant located less than one mile to the north of Columbia City and is transported through Columbia City by train. It is trucked through Columbia City on Highway 30, and shipped through Columbia City along the Columbia River.

If an accidental release or an incident involving anhydrous ammonia occurs in or near Columbia City, you and your family members may need to shelter in place.

Ammonia is an irritant and corrosive to the skin, eyes, respiratory tract and mucous membranes. Exposure to liquid or rapidly expanding gases may cause severe chemical burns and frostbite to the eyes, lungs and skin. Skin and respiratory related diseases could be aggravated by exposure.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, Columbia County had the highest number of qualifying ammonia releases between January 2005 and November 2012 of any county in Oregon. If you notice a strong smell of ammonia, seek shelter and report the problem by calling 9-1-1.

**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.

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**YES! I would like a FREE Water Conservation Kit!**

*The information requested below must be provided to receive your kit. You must be a Columbia City water customer. Limit one kit per customer.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Water Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return this completed form to City Hall to pick up your kit.*

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**MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - AUGUST 2014**

August 5	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
August 7	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
August 12	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
August 14	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
August 18	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
August 21	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
August 25	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall

## 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.

