

# Columbia City Newsletter

## December

### 2014

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY  
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### FIVE EASY WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

1. **Register your cell phone number with Columbia Alert Network (C.A.N.)** This automated emergency phoning system alerts you by sending you voice, text or e-mail messages containing important information in rare instances, such as a search for a small child that is lost in your community, or a chemical spill near your neighborhood. To receive C.A.N. notifications on your cell phone, you must first register your number with your address with the C.A.N. Registry at [www.columbia911.com](http://www.columbia911.com).

2. **Like our Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter.** The City periodically posts timely information and reminders about upcoming events or current issues that may be important to you, such as information about a cougar that has been frequenting the City, or an invitation to a community work party or a Town Hall meeting. In the event of a local emergency, we will post and tweet important event updates. Stay updated - be our friend and follow us.



3. **Provide the City with your current contact information.** We frequently find that the phone numbers we have listed on our utility accounts are no longer valid. It is very important that we have current contact information on file for you. We may need to call you to:

- Let you know about a water leak we discovered while reading your meter, or
- Notify you of a temporary street closure that will impact your access, or
- Let you know your water will be shut off due to a waterline break or other repair work.

For whatever the reason, we hope we have your current contact information in our records when we attempt to call you. If your work phone number has changed, or you have a new cell phone or home telephone number, please keep us informed so we can update our records.

4. **Receive City meeting agendas and minutes via e-mail.** We have two e-mail distribution lists available - one for meeting minutes, and the other for meeting agendas. To sign up, e-mail a request to [colcity@columbia-city.org](mailto:colcity@columbia-city.org).

5. **Visit the Columbia City Website.** Need more information about a City Council agenda item? Visit our website to view a copy of the entire City Council packet. Heading out of town for the holidays and need to complete a Police Premise Check form? Download a copy of the form from our website. Want to pay your water and sewer bill with a debit or credit card? Visit our website and pay on-line.

### CHRISTMAS SHIPS

The Christmas Ships will visit Columbia City on Saturday, December 13, 2014. At 6 pm they will assemble at the St. Helens City Docks and head downriver to Columbia City. If weather conditions permit, they will cross to the Washington side of the river and pass by the Columbia Riverfront RV Park, and then pass by Columbia City again on their return trip to St. Helens. The fleet will be out for approximately two hours.



### CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

- The outdoor storage of junk, rubbish, trash, and debris upon private property, alleys and streets is prohibited.
- Burning household garbage or trash is prohibited. Garbage or trash includes food packaging, cardboard, plastic food containers, food products, paper (except as needed to start a fire), etc.
- Sewer systems are designed to handle used water, human body waste, and toilet paper. Disposing of diapers, shop rags, grease, feminine products, plastic gloves, and other items into the sewer system is strictly prohibited.

**TO REPORT  
WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCIES  
OUTSIDE OF NORMAL WORK HOURS,  
CALL (503) 397-1521.**

The dispatcher will contact the appropriate on-call person to respond to the situation.

## BE PREPARED WITH AN EMERGENCY KIT

Have an emergency kit available and ready to go. Consider these items for your emergency kit:

- ✓ "Special needs" items for the family, such as formula and supplies for infants, items for older people or those with disabilities.
- ✓ First aid supplies.
- ✓ Prescription meds for members of the household.
- ✓ Flashlight and battery powered radio.
- ✓ Sleeping bag and extra shoes.
- ✓ Water and food. A gallon of water per person per day. Canned and dried foods are easy to store.
- ✓ Tools (duct tape, garbage bags, manual can opener, hammer, screwdrivers, scissors, etc.)
- ✓ Cash.
- ✓ Cell phone if available.
- ✓ Snacks.
- ✓ Reading materials and games.
- ✓ Pet supplies.
- ✓ Towels.



## BOY SCOUTS TROOP 106 OFFERS HOT MEALS ON CHRISTMAS EVE 2014



The Boy Scouts of Troop 106, in cooperation with the American Legion, First Lutheran Church, St. Helens Lion's, St. Helens Fire & Rescue, Columbia Food Bank, and local merchants

and volunteers, will provide Christmas hot meals to approximately 125 families living in the Columbia County area on December 24, 2014. In addition to the dinner, a clothing coupon will be provided, along with toys and a Christmas stocking for each child in the household (age toddler to 12 years,)

The Troop currently needs help from the community in the form of donations of cash, vegetables, hams, and turkeys. If you would like to help and schedule a pick up time, or you would like to report a family that is in need of a Christmas Eve dinner, clothing, and toys, please contact Bill Reese by calling (503) 366-0726. Donation checks should be made payable to Boy Scout Troup 106 and mailed to PO Box 216, Columbia City.

Volunteers don't get paid -  
not because they are worthless,  
but because they are priceless.  
~Sherry Anderson

## RESOURCES FOR WINTER TRAVEL

ODOT offers travel information via the Internet, by phone, and on cable TV. Visit ODOT'S travel information website at [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com). In addition to text-based reports, the site offers camera images from urban areas, mountain passes, and other key locations throughout the state. Maps detail road conditions and trouble spots and include information about weather, road construction, and maintenance work and traffic incidents.

In the Portland area, a speed map provides average travel times for local commuters and other highway users. You can also develop a custom camera page to check specific routes at a glance. The QuickCheck page brings camera and incident information together in a text-based format for easy access.

TripCheck.com has links to bus, airport, train, bicycle and trucking information. A mileage calculator allows you to estimate distance and choose the most direct route. Other features include detailed information on scenic byways, safety rest areas, and SnoParks.



Motorists can access winter driving information at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml). Topics include preparation for stormy conditions, driving in the rain, low-visibility driving, chains and traction tires, road conditions and travel information.

Travelers in Oregon can dial 511 to access TripCheck road and weather information by phone. You can select updated reports about driving conditions by highway, mountain pass, or major city from easy-to-use menus. The 511 system responds to voice as well as touch-tone commands. Calls to 511 are local calls when dialed from a pay or wire line phone. Wireless phone users are responsible for airtime and roaming charges according to their service contracts. If you cannot use 511, call toll-free 1 (800) 977-6368 for road and weather information. Outside Oregon, call (503) 588-2941.

## CAR SHOW VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU!



We would like to thank *Larry Anderson, Donny Brooks, Kit Gardes, Joe Kovich, Bill Mansheim, Sally Ann Marson, Gail Thistle, and Ken Waite* for their help with the 2014 Show and Shine car show. Their names were inadvertently left out of a previous newsletter article.

## FIRE SAFETY

Each year, fires take lives and burn numerous structures resulting in mounting costs that have enormous impacts on families, communities and businesses. Fires also have devastating impacts on the environment and wildlife. Below is a list of zero and low cost safety precaution measures you can take to protect your home and workplace:

### Candles:

- Ensure candles are in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down. Most importantly, keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never leave the house with candles burning and never leave burning candles unattended.

### Electrical:

- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- When buying electrical appliances look for products evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories.

### Gas:

- When lighting a gas fireplace or gas space heater, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
- Never use a gas range as a substitute for a furnace or space heater.

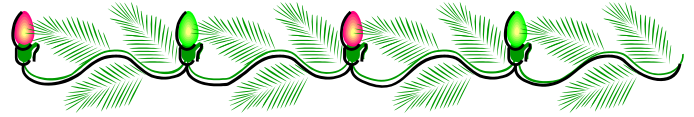
### Additional Tips:

- Purchase an ABC type extinguisher for extinguishing all types of fires. Fire extinguishers should be mounted in the kitchen, garage, and workshop for use only on small fires. If there is a large fire, leave immediately and call 9-1-1.
- Cooking equipment is also the leading cause of unreported fires and associated injuries. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.



## BUSINESS LICENSE REMINDER

Now is the time of year to renew business licenses for the new 2015 year. Be advised that late fees or penalties may apply if the license is not purchased prior to starting work. Business license applications are available on our website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org). If you have any questions about business licenses please contact City Hall.



## HOLIDAY LIGHT SAFETY TIPS

Decorating your home with indoor and outdoor lights brings a festive glow to the holidays. However, when used improperly, these decorations can result in fire or serious injury. Following a few simple guidelines from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission will ensure that the holidays remain joyous and safe for your family and neighbors:

- Before using lights outdoors, check the label to be sure they are certified for outdoor use.
- Unplug lights before replacing burned-out bulbs.
- Check for frayed or bare wires and throw away damaged sets.
- Keep plugs and connections away from sources of water, like puddles and snow.
- Know your circuits' limits and don't overload the system.
- Stay away from power lines leading from utility poles.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls, or other firm supports to prevent wind damage.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.



### 💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

#### Get to know your pipes!

Water pipes located in crawl spaces, outside walls, outside faucets, unheated rooms, basements, garages and attics are the most vulnerable to freezing. Get to know the location of these pipes so you can take the necessary precautions to prevent freezing.



## CHIEF'S CORNER

**Shop with a Cop 2014:** We would like to thank all of our community members who have nominated families for this year's Shop with a Cop program. Nominations for this program continue until Friday, December 5, 2014, at 5 pm, and may be dropped off at the front desk at City Hall. Please consider nominating a family which you believe is in need of assistance this year!

**Identity theft and fraud protection tips:** Memorize your Social Security number - don't carry your card with you. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. It can occur when a criminal steals personal identifying information such as name, birth date, Social Security number or your mother's maiden name and uses it for their own gain. These thefts can occur through lost or stolen credit or debit cards, non-secure online transactions, personal information recovered from your garbage, and most frequently, stolen mail from your mailbox.

### Basic safety tips:

- Don't carry important numbers or passwords with you.
- Memorize your Social Security number.
- Don't use your date of birth as your password.
- Never leave receipts behind.

### Credit/debit cards:

- Sign your new credit cards immediately.
- Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately. Make sure you keep the numbers of the issuers somewhere besides on the back of your card!
- Always check your monthly financial statements carefully against your receipts.
- Review your consumer credit report annually.

### Mail:

- Don't leave mail in your mailbox for more than a day. If you are gone, arrange to have a trusted neighbor or friend pick up your mail.
- Double check that mailboxes are official U.S. Postal Service collection boxes before you deposit your mail.
- Shred or tear up all unnecessary documents that have your personal information on them.

### Online:

- Never put in a credit or debit card number through a website unless it offers a secure transaction.

- A secure transaction will have a "padlock" icon at the bottom strip of the web page. Also, the URL address will change from "http" to "https" on the page where you input personal data.

### Discovering ID theft:

- Checking your financial statements frequently and carefully can be your best first step towards discovering an ID theft.
- The sooner you discover your identity is being used, the sooner you can begin to fight back to lessen the damage the criminal can do.

### Reporting ID theft:

- Call the police to report a physical theft of your belongings, or a robbery. If immediate danger is over, you can make a report to the Columbia City Police non-emergency line: (503) 397-1521. In an emergency or immediate danger call 9-1-1.
- Call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service office if the crime involved U.S. mail: (503) 397-0089.
- Call the U.S. Secret Service if the crime involved counterfeit credit cards or computer hacking: (503) 326-2162.
- Call the issuing credit card company if the crime involved credit card fraud.

### Other steps you can take:

- Call the Federal Trade Commission 1-877-IDTHEFT for counseling and help to resolve problems arising from this crime.
- Call one of the major credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion) to see if any new accounts were opened in your name without your consent. You can place a "fraud alert" on your file. Please note if you call before you have a police incident number, the alert stays on your information for only 90 days. If you call WITH a police incident number, the alert will stay on your file for 7 years.
- Keep a record when you start calling agencies to report your case, keep a record of the names and phone numbers of the people you talked to, along with any supporting documentation.

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 (503) 397-1521 (non-emergency dispatch). Best regards, Chief Michael S. McGlothlin



## **POLICY ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 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 1,325 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: Assault, Criminal Mischief, Domestic Assault, Endangering, Fraud, Harassment, Juvenile Abuse, Possession of Controlled Substances, Prowler and Suspicious Circumstances, Theft, Traffic Crashes, Trespassing, Violation of Restraining Order, and Warrant Service.

### **COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:**

Residential Security Checks: 333  
Area Patrols: 17  
Foot Patrols: 5  
Assist the Public: 58  
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 11  
Radio Calls: 51  
Juvenile Situations: 3  
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 61  
Animal Complaints: 18  
Parking/Traffic Complaints: 14  
Welfare Checks: 4  
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 244.25

### **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:**

Investigative Follow Up's: 50  
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles  
and Prowler Calls: 55  
Traffic Stops: 342  
Trespassing: 1

Criminal Mischief: 4  
Domestic/Disturbances: 5  
Restraining Order Violations: 3  
Juvenile Investigations: 4  
Narcotics Investigations/Arrests: 1  
Theft Investigations: 2  
Fraud: 2  
Obstruction & Resisting Arrest: 2  
Assault: 1  
Unlawful Use of Weapon: 1  
Warrant Arrest: 2

### **CALLS OF INTEREST:**

1. Theft Investigation in the 2400 block of Sixth Street on August 27, 2014. Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
2. Restraining Order Violation Investigation in the 400 block of "D" Street on September 2, 2014. Investigation cleared by the arrest of Niki Fransik, 29, of St. Helens. Suspect was transported to the Columbia County Jail.
3. Obstruction and Resisting Arrest Investigation in the area of Highway 30 near "I" Street on September 5, 2014. Investigation cleared by the arrest of Enrique Tapia, 25, of Scappoose. Suspect was transported to the Columbia County Jail.
4. Assault and Unlawful Use of a Weapon Investigation in the 1400 block of Second Street on September 7, 2014. The investigation was cleared by the arrest of Tina Pase, 45, of Columbia City. Suspect was transported to the Columbia County Jail.
5. Warrant Arrest in the 2400 block of Fifth Street on September 10, 2014. Suspect Edward Conner, 55, of Columbia City was arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
6. Theft Investigation in the 400 block of Spinnaker Way on September 20, 2014. Juvenile suspect identified and case forwarded to the Columbia County Juvenile Department for further action.
7. Warrant Arrest in the area of "E" Street near Third Street on September 24, 2014. Suspect Bradley Brown, 27, of St. Helens was arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
8. Fraud Investigation reported in the 1400 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Place on November 10, 2014. Case was closed and referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency with jurisdiction for further investigation.
9. Fraud Investigation reported in the 500 block of Lincoln Street on November 18, 2014. Case was closed and referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency with jurisdiction for further investigation.

## LIBRARY NEWS

With the Columbia City School almost certainly opening in fall 2015, we will be looking for a new location within the next year and a half. We'd prefer a location on Second Street in Columbia City, centrally located. If you are considering selling your property in that area, please contact us to see whether it might be suitable as the Library's new location.

The Library will be closed for the holidays, Wednesday and Thursday December 24 and 25, and December 31 and January 1. We want to celebrate too! Keep us busy on the Mondays and Saturdays!

**Second Hand Prose is open!** In December, Second Hand Prose will feature holiday books for our half price sale. Cookbooks, mysteries centered around Christmas, decorating – tell us why you think it is a holiday book and you'll get the special price!

**Magazine Subscriptions:** This is the time of year that magazines try to get you to renew your subscriptions and send a new subscription to a friend, all in the same price! Think of the Library as a friend, and add us as you are renewing your subscription! Our mailing address is Columbia City Community Library, PO Box 189, Columbia City, OR 97018. What a low-cost way to benefit everyone in the community! Thanks in advance!

**New Books:** We added 79 books to the Library during the past month. Some recent additions to our Library include:

*Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* by Amy Chua  
*Dear Life: Stories* by Alice Munro  
*The Target* by David Baldacci  
*A Week in Winter* by Maeve Binchy  
*The Heist* by Janet Evanovich  
*The Silkworm* by Robert Galbraith (really J.K. Rowling)  
*Empire and Honor* by W.E.B. Griffin

*The Book of Life* by Deborah Harkness  
*Shadow of Night* by Deborah Harkness  
*Any Other Name* by Craig Johnson  
*Still Life with Bread Crumbs* by Anna Quindlen  
*Through the Evil Days* by Julia Spencer-Fleming

### Library Hours

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

### Storytime

Every Monday at 11 am

### Library CLOSED

Wednesday, December 24th  
 Thursday, December 25th  
 Wednesday, December 31st  
 Thursday, January 1st

## ATTENTION: SENIORS WITH A NEED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN PORTLAND

Twice a month Columbia County Rider provides a Wednesday Medical Shuttle to West Portland area Hospitals and Medical Clinics. This service is provided for Qualified Dial-A-Ride passengers, who have attained an Honored Citizen card through a qualifying process for Dial-a-Ride service. With a phone call, dispatch can assist with the application for honored citizen status and scheduling rides.

Due to service demand and coverage area, medical appointments must be made for the time period between 10 am and 12 pm. This is a door to door service, with the cost based on our Dial-A-Ride mileage pricing.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2015 Medical Shuttle Schedule

January 7 and 21  
 February 4 and 18  
 March 4 and 18

*Make your appointment between 10 am and 12 noon*



## MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2014

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:00 p.m.		Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.		Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.		<del>Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - Cancelled</del>
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.		Municipal Court at City Hall
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED AT NOON		City Hall will close at noon on Christmas Eve
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED		City Hall is closed for the Christmas Holiday
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED		City Hall is closed the day after Christmas

