



# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## January 2014

**COLUMBIA CITY**  
1840 SECOND STREET  
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COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018  
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FAX: (503) 366-2870  
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[www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org)



### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS LOAN FOR SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 6 PM on January 16, 2014, to accept public testimony about a proposed loan under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program. The loan will be used to complete sewer system improvements as recommended by the City's Wastewater Collection System Facility Plan.

The total estimated project cost is \$430,000, and the City is seeking financial assistance in the amount of \$400,000 under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program to complete the project. The loan will be payable over a period of twenty years with an interest rate of approximately 2.54% or less, and an annual loan fee of 0.5%. The loan will be repaid with user fees.

The sewer system improvements include the following major components:

RCE Pump Station Upgrade: The City's main pump station needs additional firm capacity of 88 gallons per minute (gpm) to accommodate existing peak flows and 110 gpm to serve future needs. The 25 horsepower pumps will be upgraded to 35 horsepower pumps, and associated necessary electrical improvements will be made, including an additional transformer, to accommodate the additional horsepower. An overflow alarm will also be installed.

Telemetry: A cellular and internet based telemetry system will be added to each of the City's four pump stations. The telemetry system will record flow rates and pump run times, handle alarms, and make emergency call outs in the event of a problem. Real time data will be accessible from remote locations, enabling simple controls to be conducted remotely, often preventing unneeded trips to the pump stations when an alarm goes off.

Manhole Lining: Approximately 25 manholes within the "K" Street pump station basin (located in the southwest area of the City) are exhibiting high

degrees of groundwater flow into the sewer system, commonly referred to as infiltration. Infiltration increases energy and sewer treatment costs and reduces system capacity. Infiltration occurs through holes, cracks, joint failures, and faulty connections. The manholes will be lined with an epoxy type grout to reduce infiltration.

Steel Septic Tank Replacement or Abandonment: There are currently 54 steel septic tanks remaining within the City's Sewer System. Based upon a recent investigation of the condition of the steel tanks, some of the tanks have holes and may be leaking. 17 steel tanks have been targeted for replacement or abandonment under this project.

For additional information about this project, please contact City Hall by calling 503-397-4010, or attend the hearing on January 16.

### **WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT WRAPS UP**

The City's Water Meter Replacement Project is nearing completion. The project involved the replacement of 499 manual read meters that were more than 20 years old and in need of replacement. The meters were replaced with automated smart meters, and updated automated meter reading equipment was purchased. The new meters and reading equipment will improve meter accuracy, increase system efficiency and effectiveness, reduce system operation costs, and promote water conservation efforts.

The City received a Safe Drinking Water Loan to complete this project, and the project qualified for 40% debt forgiveness. The Water Meter Replacement Project is expected to be fully completed by January 22, 2014.

 **WATER CONSERVATION TIP** 

When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your indoor houseplants or outdoor trees and shrubs.

## **WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT WILL GO OUT FOR BID**

The City's Water System Improvements Project will go out for bid during the month of January 2014. The project consists of completing several pressure reducing valve (PRV) improvements, performing a system-wide leak detection survey, and abandoning 7,650 feet of old 4-inch water main.

The City received a Safe Drinking Water Loan to complete this project, and the project qualified for 40% debt forgiveness.

Each component of the project is described in the following paragraphs, and additional information may be found in the City's Water System Master Plan:

System Pressure: Excessive high water pressure may be found within three of the four existing water system pressure zones. 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 water system has seven pressure reducing stations - each with a smaller diameter low flow by-pass 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 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.

Redundant Pipe Abandonment: Approximately 7,650 feet of old 4-inch water line that runs parallel with newer 10-inch pipe will be abandoned. When the newer pipe was installed, the 4-inch line was not disconnected and only some of the services and hydrants were connected to the new pipe. The old 4-inch line is still connected to other water mains at various intersections. The redundant pipe increases system maintenance costs, adds to unaccounted for water loss, and is detrimental to system efficiency.

Leak Detection: The City has experienced an average water loss of 13% in recent years, which is typical; though 10% or less is a recommended goal. A system-wide leak detection survey is recommended.

### **RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL**

*For all types of events!*

**Wedding Reception  
Baby Shower  
Family or School Reunion  
Rummage Sale  
Holiday Bazaar  
Birthday Party  
Retirement Party  
Basketball/Volleyball Fun  
Memorial Services  
Banquets**



1850 Second Street  
\$17.50/hour or \$175/full day  
\$30 food/beverage fee  
\$200 liquor fee  
[www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org)  
Call (503) 397-4010 for availability

## PUBLIC HEARING ON DRINKING WATER PROTECTION STRATEGIES

The City Council will hold a continued public hearing at 6 PM on January 16, 2014, to accept public testimony about proposed drinking water protection strategies for the City's water source.

The City received a Technical Assistance Grant from the Source Water Protection Fund to complete a source water assessment update. The update included the delineation of a source water protection area - the critical area over that part of the groundwater aquifer that supplies water to the City's wells. That critical area is shown on the map below in three time travel zones. The largest zone represents a three-year travel time, the next zone represents a two-year travel time, and the smallest zone represents a one-year travel time. The travel time is the estimated amount of time it would take for contaminants within that area to reach the City's drinking water source.



The project includes the development of source water protection strategies designed to protect against potential contamination to the City's drinking water supply. Source water protection strategies also raise local community awareness of drinking water contamination risks and provide information about how communities can help protect their drinking water sources.

The draft source water protection strategies are available for public inspection at the City Hall or may be found on the City's website [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org).

An implementation schedule will also be developed for the source water protection strategies, which will be included in a Source Water Protection Plan and submitted to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for certification.

## GET READY FOR WINTER STORMS

1. Minimize the impact of rainwater and melting snow by clearing walkways and keeping leaf piles and debris out of the street and storm drains.
2. Report flooding, downed trees, storm system problems, backed up sewer, and other similar problems to the Public Works Department by calling (503) 366-0454 during regular work hours, or by calling (503) 397-1521 (dispatch) after hours and on weekends.
3. Free sand bags can be picked up at the City Shop, 1755 Second Place, anytime during a declared flood-related emergency.
4. Keep snow from piling up on flat rooftops. In the event of accumulation, heavy snow load can cause structural failures.
5. Listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of falling mud or debris may precede larger landslides. If you think there is danger of a landslide, leave immediately.
6. Assume highways are not safe. Be alert when driving, especially at night. Don't overdrive your headlights. It should take your car four seconds to catch up to the spot where your low beams were originally at. Embankments along road sides may fail, sending rock and debris onto the road.
7. Remember to check on your elderly or disabled neighbors, friends and family.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

**Recreational vehicles:** Only one vehicle that is designed for human occupancy (RV, boat, travel trailer, camper, or motor home) may be parked or stored at any single property at any time.

**Home occupations:** Under certain conditions, residents may use their home to engage in small-scale business ventures which might not be sustainable if it were necessary to lease commercial space. All home occupations require a permit.

**Sidewalk maintenance:** The owner of property abutting a sidewalk is responsible for keeping the sidewalk free of ice, snow, yard debris and other obstructions.

Report violators to City Hall.

## LIBRARY NEWS

On Sunday, January 5, 2014, our own local fisheries biologist, Jim Lichatowich, will be reading from his book *Salmon, People, and Place: A Biologist's Search for Salmon Recovery*. Jim has been invited to speak as far away as the Midwest and Toronto so we are lucky to have him speak to us. Please join us at 3 PM at the Library.

**Our Community Reads:** This year, the libraries of Columbia County have selected Survival, Self-Reliance and Sustainability for the 2014 Our Community Reads theme. The two adult book selections – *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed and *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson – will allow readers to hear two distinct voices of survival and self-reliance as Cheryl hikes the Pacific Crest Trail through California and Oregon and Bill shares his experience of the Appalachian Trail.

During January, February, and March 2014, libraries in Columbia County will be hosting a variety of events and activities related to this year's theme. These events are open to all members of the public. Visit the Library to check out a copy of one of these titles, or to get further information about county-wide events.

**Second Hand Prose is open!** During the month of January, we will be encouraging use of our second hand book store by handing out \$2 certificates for our used books to everyone that comes in to the Library. Stop by and see what we have!

**New Books:** We added 141 books to the Library during the past month. Some recent additions to our Library include:

*Every Landlord's Tax Deduction Guide* by Stephen Fishman  
*Of Thee I Zing* by Laura Ingraham  
*Alaska and the Northwest: Audubon Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges* by Loren MacArthur  
*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai  
*The Twelve Days of Christmas Dogs* by Carolyn Conahan (a read-aloud book)  
*Dust* by Patricia Cornwell  
*Bad Monkey* by Carl Hiaasen  
*A Serpent's Tooth* by Craig Johnson  
*Doctor Sleep* by Stephen King  
*Handling the Undead* by John Lindqvist  
*Cross My Heart* by James Patterson  
*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead  
*What's for Dinner? Quirky, Squirmy Poems from the Animal World* by Katherine Hawth

*Snow White and the Huntsman* by Lily Blake  
*The Carbon Diaries 2017* by Lloyd Saci

### Library Hours:

Monday 10 AM - 2 PM  
Wednesday 4 PM - 8 PM  
Thursday 2 PM - 6 PM  
Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

### Story Time:

Every Monday at 11 AM

### Jim Lichatowich Reading:

Sunday, January 5 at 3 PM

### Friends of the Library:

Monday, January 13 at 7 PM

### Novel Quilters:

Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 PM

### Mystery Book Club:

Wednesday, January 29 at 7 PM

Columbia City Community Library  
2000 2nd Street  
PO Box 189  
Columbia City, OR 97018  
503-366-8020  
ccclibrary@live.com

## LOST AND FOUND

A bicycle tire pump was found at Harvard Park on December 13. If it belongs to you, please contact City Hall.

## HOLIDAY TIME RECYCLING

Christmas trees, greeting cards and wrapped presents brighten homes and warm our hearts. After the holidays, however, sometimes these holiday items end up in our garbage cart. That means they will go to the landfill, even though they could have been recycled. When you consider the trees, cards, wrapping paper, envelopes and the stamps, that's a lot of trees cut down for our holiday enjoyment.

### Why should I recycle my tree?

Recycling your tree "gives back" to the environment as trees are composted for garden mulch. Mulch provides a protective barrier for the roots of other plants while suppressing weeds and holding in moisture. As the mulch decomposes, it provides nutrients that plants need. (Continued on page 5)



## HOLIDAY TIME RECYCLING

(Continued from page 4)

### Tree Recycling Tips

- Recycle your tree and support Boy Scout Troop 106 in Columbia County. The Scouts offer two recycling options:
  - ✓ Drop your tree off in the drop box at Lawrence Oil in St. Helens for \$5.50.
  - ✓ Schedule curbside pick up for \$7.00. Curbside pickup will be offered on January 2, 4, 5, 12, and 13. To schedule a curbside pickup, call Bill Reese at (503) 366-0726, or e-mail him at [billr@columbia-center.org](mailto:billr@columbia-center.org).
- If you have yard debris service, you may recycle your tree by cutting it up and placing it inside your yard debris cart. It must fit entirely in your cart.
- Recycle your whole tree at the Columbia County Transfer Station. Trees will be charged as garbage with a \$20.40 minimum fee.
- Beaver Bark in Scappoose will process your old tree into compost for a minimum charge of \$8.

Before recycling or composting discarded trees, be sure to remove the tinsel, plastic and other non-recyclable ornaments.

### Wrapping Paper, Gift Boxes and Greeting Card Recycling Tips

- Save used wrapping paper, gift boxes, bows and ribbons this Christmas and reuse it all next year.
- Recycle your non-shiny or non-glittering wrapping paper, the cardboard roll the paper is wound around, tissue paper, gift boxes and tags by placing these items in your co-mingle bin or roll cart.
- You can recycle your greeting cards by donating them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The program accepts all types of greeting cards. Only the card front can be used, (please check to be sure the back side is clear of any writing etc.) they are not able to accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards. 5" x 7" size or smaller is preferred. Mail donations to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Recycled Card Program, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005. Currently, they have found the least expensive way to mail large quantities of card donations is through the USPS in a Flat Rate Box which holds up to 70 pounds (available at the Post Office). The ranch provides counseling and opportunities for troubled youth. The kids operate a business taking used greeting cards, creating new ones and selling the results. The kids earn money, experience and a sense of purpose through this

program. For more information visit their website: [www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/](http://www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/).

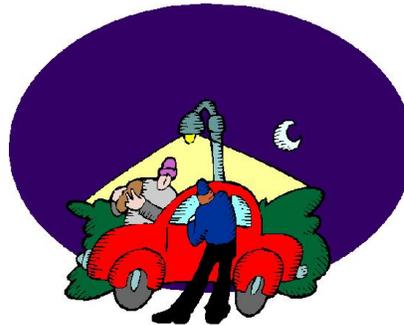
### Electronic Recycling Tips

Electronics can be recycled for FREE at any time during regular business hours at the Columbia County Transfer Station on Railroad Ave. in St. Helens.

## CHIEF'S CORNER

### SHOP WITH A COP 2013 A HUGE SUCCESS!

This year's Shop with a Cop event was held on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at the Walmart in St. Helens. This program focused on providing needy family and children with wintertime necessities and as many "wish list" items as we could provide. As well, we were able to sponsor 12 additional local children during this Christmas season. Special thanks to our citizens who provided donations of gifts as well as funding – you made this another fantastic event! We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors – Walmart of St. Helens, General Mills Inc., and Fultano's Pizza of Scappoose!



### CAR PROWL:

During the past month we have experienced a rash of thefts from unlocked motor vehicles in our city. Through the hard work of your police officers the suspects

responsible have been identified and are pending arrest. We would like to take the time to remind all citizens to lock their vehicles, garage doors, and homes for the evening, remove valuable property from their cars and trucks, and to contact the police department with any concerns regarding suspicious activity. ***"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" ~ Benjamin Franklin.***

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), at the office (503) 397-4010 (non-emergency), or through C-COM (non-emergency dispatch) at (503) 397-1521.

Stay safe ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**November – December 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

424 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: Burglary, Harassment, Traffic Crashes, Theft from Motor Vehicles, and Warrant Service.



**COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:**

Residential Security Checks: 218

Area Patrols: 60

Foot Patrols: 4

Assist the Public: 7

Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 4

Radio Calls: 5

Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 1

Assistance to Outside Agencies: 3

Traffic Complaints: 3

Welfare Checks: 1

Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 59

**CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:**

Investigative Follow Up's: 10

Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 12

Traffic Stops: 35

Burglary: 1

Theft Investigations: 10

Service of Arrest Warrant(s): 1

Harassment: 1

Motor Vehicle Crash: 1

Prowler Calls: 2

Juvenile Investigations: 1

**CALLS OF INTEREST:**

1. Unauthorized Entry to Motor Vehicle investigation in 2200 block of Second Street on 11/25/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
2. Theft from Motor Vehicle investigation in the 1700 block of Third Street on 11/25/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
3. Theft from Motor Vehicle investigation in the 1700 block of Sixth Street on 11/26/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
4. Theft from Motor Vehicle investigation in the 2100 block of The Strand on 11/27/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
5. Theft from Motor Vehicle investigation in the 3600 block of Fifth Street on 11/30/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
6. Found property in the area of Park Drive near Yakima Court on 11/30/13. Property returned to the owner.
7. Found property in the 3600 block of Fifth Street on 12/01/13. Property returned to the owner.
8. Theft from Motor Vehicle investigation in the 3600 block of Fifth Street on 12/01/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
9. Theft from Motor Vehicle investigation in the 2200 block of The Strand on 12/1/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
10. Theft investigation in the 3200 block of Park Drive on 12/2/13. Suspect identified, case referred to DA's Office for prosecution.
11. Unauthorized Entry to Motor Vehicle investigation in 1700 block of Third Street on 12/04/13. Suspects identified, case remains open, arrests imminent.
12. Warrant arrest in the area of The Strand and "E" Street on 12/08/13. Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
13. Theft investigation in the 300 block of "A" Street on 12/16/13. Case closed with leads exhausted.



## FIRE SAFETY

### **Be Aware.**

Fire is the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury and death in the United States. It also ranks as the first cause of death in the home for children under the age of 15.

### **Prepare.**

- ✓ Install working smoke alarms that have long-life lithium batteries and a hush button on each level of your home (on the ceiling, inside each bedroom, in the basement, near but not in the kitchen).
- ✓ Check smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button. If alarm doesn't sound, replace battery immediately. Change batteries yearly unless using lithium batteries. Replace smoke alarms after ten years of use.
- ✓ Make an escape plan. Identify two exits from every room in your home.
- ✓ Agree on a reunion site immediately outside of the house where family members will meet.
- ✓ Remind everyone to exit quickly and call 9-1-1 from a safe location away from the home.
- ✓ Practice crawling out of the home with your eyes shut. Heavy smoke and poisonous gases make it hard to see and breathe. Staying low increases your chance of escape.

### **Respond.**

**Escape:** If you are in a building and smell smoke or see fire, get out quickly and call 9-1-1 from a safe place.

- ✓ Sleep with bedroom doors closed. If the smoke alarm sounds, crawl to the door; the freshest air will be closer to the floor.
- ✓ Before opening a door in a burning building, kneel down and check the air coming under the door and also feel the door handle and door with the back of your hand. If the air, handle and door are cool and you don't smell smoke, kneel behind the door while you open it just a little with your face turned away from the opening. Listen and smell for fire and smoke. If smoke is present, use another exit.
- ✓ Close doors behind you as you leave.
- ✓ Use a stairway, NOT AN ELEVATOR, to escape from a burning building.

### **If You're Trapped by Fire and Heavy Smoke:**

- ✓ Stay low under the smoke and close the doors between you and the fire.
- ✓ Open a window slightly and hang something out of it (like a shirt or towel) to attract attention.

- ✓ Stay low and leave the window slightly open for ventilation.
- ✓ If your clothes catch on fire, stop where you are, cover your face, drop to the ground and roll back and forth. **STOP, DROP AND ROLL!!**

## KEEPING CATS INDOORS



According to the National Audubon Society and the Seattle Audubon Society, predation by cats is a leading threat to birds and wildlife in urban and suburban areas. By keeping your cats indoors, you help protect local wildlife, and you help your cat lead a longer, healthier life.

### Cat facts:

- ✦ Outdoor cats (both companion animals and strays) kill millions of songbirds and small mammals per year.
- ✦ Cats are not a natural part of ecosystems: they compete with native predators.
- ✦ Cats transmit diseases to wildlife.
- ✦ Even well fed cats hunt and kill wildlife.
- ✦ Bells do not prevent cats from killing wildlife.
- ✦ Interrupting an attack by a cat usually does not allow the prey to escape and live.
- ✦ Indoor cats live three times longer, on average, than outdoor cats.

## 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.

## 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.



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

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed for the New Years Holiday
January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	<del>Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - Cancelled</del>
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall



**The Columbia City Veterans Park  
BRICK ORDER FORM**  
(4" x 8" Quarry Paver Tiles)



Purchaser Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_


Please spell out in the above space exactly how you would like your brick to appear.  
Maximum 17 character spaces per line (including commas and spaces)  
Maximum of 3 lines of lettering

**I have double-checked the spelling on the form above and would like the brick engraved as I have it.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**PRICE: \$75.00 per brick (4" x 8" Quarry Paver Tiles)**

Make checks payable to: Columbia City

Return form to City of Columbia City, 1840 Second Street, PO Box 189, Columbia City, OR 97018