

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014



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WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT PUBLIC HEARING - JUNE 19, 2014

The Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing on June 19, 2014, at 6 PM to accept testimony about proposed adjustments to the current water and sewer rates as recommended in the recent Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Summary Report prepared by Shaun Pigott and Associates LLC. It is anticipated that the new rates will generate additional revenue equal to 3%. If approved, the new rates will take effect on June 26 and show up on the July 26 bills.

Monthly Water Rates (inside City limits)		
Residential Meter 3/4" or 5/8"	Current	Proposed
Base Rate - includes 100 cf	\$35.0000	\$35.0000
Per cf over 101 and up to 500	\$0.0150	\$0.0200
Per cf over 501 and up to 1000	\$0.0375	\$0.0340
Per cf over 1001	\$0.0475	\$0.0480

Monthly Sewer Rates		
Residential Connection	Current	Proposed
Minimum Base Rate	\$35.5400	\$36.6000
Usage Fee (per cf - Oct-May)	\$0.0067	\$0.0069
Usage Fee (per cf - Jun-Sep)	\$0.0000	\$0.0000

Information about the proposed rates for other customer classes may be obtained by contacting City Hall.

The additional revenue is needed to pay for operation and maintenance costs associated with the utility systems, make annual debt payments, meet loan debt coverage requirements, and complete necessary capital improvements as outlined in the water and wastewater system master plans.

This is the second of five annual 3% rate increases recommended in the 2013 Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Summary Report.

COMMUNITY INPUT WANTED ABOUT MINI-MART GROCERY AND GAS

A marketing team is currently soliciting your input about what should be done with the Mini-Mart Grocery and Gas property at the corner of "A" Street and Highway 30. The team believes this is an important point in time where community input will be invaluable, and help guide the property usage in a direction that is more likely to be successful - resulting in a win-win for everyone involved.

They are asking for your input prior to June 30, 2014. Survey forms may be picked up at City Hall, the Post Office, or the Pacific Athletic Club. Survey forms are also available on the City's website www.columbia-city.org. Complete the survey for entry into a drawing to win \$100! See survey for details!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SURVEY RESPONDENTS

The Basketball Hoop Study Group was very pleased with the number of responses they received to their recent survey about the placement of basketball hoops within the City's right-of-ways. A total of 113 completed surveys were returned to City Hall during the month of May. The Basketball Hoop Study Group reviewed the survey responses during a May meeting, and forwarded their recommendations about the placement of basketball hoops within City right-of-ways to the Council for consideration.



We would also like to thank all of the citizens that took the time to complete and return the annual Citizen Satisfaction Survey form. We value your input, and we greatly appreciate you providing us with your feedback.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Fireworks - many types are prohibited! Cone fountains, cylindrical fountains, flitter sparklers, ground spinners, illuminating torches and wheels are permitted. All other exploding fireworks are



prohibited by City Ordinance and Oregon State Law. Refer to ORS 480.110 through 480.165 for additional information.

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.

Keep grass and weeds cut!

Between April 15 and September 30 of any year, weeds and grass cannot exceed 10-inches in height and blackberry bushes cannot extend across property lines or into the City's right-of-way, including streets, alleys and sidewalks. Property owners or other persons in charge of the property must keep weeds, grass and other noxious growth, such as poison oak, cut and maintained to prevent them from becoming unsightly and a fire hazard, and to prevent them from maturing and going to seed. Violators can be cited into Municipal Court. Additionally, the City may abate the nuisance and lien the property for the costs.



Please report violations to the City Hall.

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

We recently redesigned an older Columbia City T-shirt style using colorful nautical flags to spell out "Columbia City, Oregon." Shirts may be purchased at City Hall during regular business hours.



Short sleeve white shirts are available in the following sizes:

- Small-XL: \$15**
- 2X: \$16**
- 3X: \$17**
- 4X: \$18**

Columbia City Celebration

Craft Fair

VENDOR BOOTH SPACE NOW AVAILABLE!!

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. 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

LOST AND FOUND

A key was recently found in the street in the area of Sixth and Penn Streets.

CUSTOMERS MAY NOTICE A CHANGE IN WATER PRESSURE

Our water customers may notice a change in water pressure during the month of June as the City's Water System Improvements 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 startup and adjustment is appreciated.

BUDGET HEARING - JUNE 5, 2014

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 6 PM on June 5, 2014 to accept testimony about the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 as approved by the Columbia City Budget Committee.

A summary of the budget is available on our website at www.columbia-city.org, and a full copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at the City Hall between the hours of 8 AM and noon, and 1 PM and 5 PM.

CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRIAL AREA DESIGNATION

The City Council will consider a recommendation from the Port of St. Helens to support a Regionally Significant Industrial Area Designation for the Columbia City Industrial Park during a Special City Council Meeting. The Special Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 6 PM in the Columbia City Community Hall.

During the meeting, the City Council will consider whether or not to take action on Council Bill No. 14-721, which supports the Regionally Significant Industrial Area Designation for the Port's site. A copy of Council Bill No. 14-721 may be obtained at City Hall, or viewed on our website at www.columbia-city.org.

PARKS COMMITTEE HONORS A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

The Parks Committee recently recognized Sally Ann Marson for her outstanding volunteer efforts by naming the rose garden near the entrance sign after her. Sally Ann may frequently be spotted working in the midst of the roses along the hillside - which is just one of her ongoing volunteer efforts.

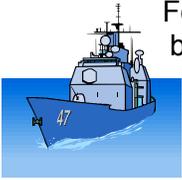


CANDIDATE FILING DATES

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 will be available at the City Hall beginning June 9, 2014. The nominating petitions must be signed by 20 qualified electors, and candidates must submit perfected nominating petitions (containing 20 or more signatures verified by the Columbia County Elections Department) to the City Administrator/Recorder no later than 5 PM on August 21, 2014. The positions are for a term of four years.

ROSE FESTIVAL FLEET WEEK

The Rose Festival Fleet Week is June 4 through June 8. Since the very beginning of the Rose Festival in 1907, visiting ships have been making their way to Portland's waterfront. Ships usually sail by Columbia City the first two days of that week, but there are no specific times for their arrival. For more information go to the following link: <http://www.rosefestival.org/event/fleet-week>.



VETERAN PARK SPONSORS

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following sponsors of the Veterans Park for the valuable assistance they have provided through contributions of cash, materials and/or skilled labor:

Artisan Concrete
Brundage Bone
CalPortland
Columbia River PUD
Ferguson Waterworks
Geneva Floors
Hamer Electric
Hudson Garbage Service
Samuel S. Johnson Foundation
Knife River
NW Natural
RS Media
St. Helens Garden Club
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1440
Wayne Mayo Construction
West Oregon Wood Products

We would also like to offer a special thank you to our Public Works Crew, our anonymous donor, the Parks Committee Members, all of the other volunteers that have assisted us with this project, and the many businesses and individuals that have supported this project by purchasing engraved veteran bricks and engraved sponsor bricks! All of the proceeds from brick sales will be used to pay for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the park.

This project is funded in part by two separate grant awards under the Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

CAR SEAT EVENT

Columbia County Safe Kids will be holding a child safety seat checkup event on Thursday, June 12, 2014, at St. Helens Fire Station, 105 S 12th St. Helens, from 4 to 6 PM.

The clinic provides an opportunity to have a child safety seat checked by a certified technician who is trained to correct misuse, help with installation, teach you how to correctly install the seat, and check for seat recalls. The clinic services are free to the public.

Child safety seats are also available to low-income families at a reduced cost or no cost while supplies last. For additional information or questions: Call (503) 397-7211 or contact ACTS Oregon Child Safety Resource Center at 1 (877) 793-2608.



WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.



VETERANS PARK DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The underground utility work (electricity, water, and irrigation) is complete. We are installing the engraved bricks, working on the monument, and getting ready to add the paved pathways, picnic tables, park benches, flag pole, and raised planting bed. The Parks Committee is working on the design details for the Phase II monuments.

It is not too late to purchase engraved bricks for the park! We will continue to sell bricks, and add new engraved bricks each year. The bricks are 4-inch by 8-inch quarry paver tiles, and may be engraved with a personalized message displaying up to 51 characters (each space counts as a character). Bricks are \$75 each and the proceeds from brick sales will be used to support the park's upkeep.

For more information, or to order a personalized memorial brick, contact City Hall or visit the City's website.

**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
MARCH - MAY 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 870 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: Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle, DHS Investigation, Hit and Run, multiple Motor Vehicle Crashes, Restraining Order Violations, Service of Arrest Warrants, DUII, Nuisance Animal Ordinance Violations, Menacing, Harassment, Attempting to Elude Police, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Domestic Assault, and Possession of Controlled Substances.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 308
Area Patrols: 6
Missing Adult: 1
Assist the Public: 25
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 11
Radio Calls: 29
Juvenile Situations: 4
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 22
Animal Complaints: 15
Parking/Traffic Complaints: 1
Lost Property: 4
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 97

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 32
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 39
Traffic Stops: 186

Trespassing: 2
Criminal Mischief: 3
Domestic/Disturbances: 4
Restraining Order Violations: 2
Juvenile Investigations: 4
Narcotics Investigations/Arrests: 1
Warrant Service Arrests: 4
Hit and Run/Traffic Crash Investigations: 4
Harassment: 3
Menacing: 1
Theft: 3

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Unlawful Entry to Motor Vehicle Investigation at Highway 30 near Trestle Beach on March 27, 2014. Suspected arrested and transported to jail.
2. DHS/Child Welfare Investigation in the 1400 block of Second Street on March 29, 2014. Investigation closed as unfounded.
3. Hit and Run Investigation in the 300 block of "A" Street on April 8, 2014. Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
4. Restraining Order Violation in the 1700 block of Third Street on April 9, 2014. Investigation closed and referred to the District Attorney's Office for review and prosecution.
5. Warrant Service Arrest in the area of Highway 30 and "E" Street on April 9, 2014. Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
6. DUII Arrest in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on April 22, 2014. Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
7. Nuisance Animal Ordinance Violation in the 3000 block of Park Drive on April 28, 2014. Animal owner cited into Municipal Court.
8. Menacing and Harassment Investigation in the 3200 block of Tahoma Street on April 28, 2014. Suspects identified and investigation closed with referral to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.
9. Attempting to Elude Police Investigation in the area of Highway 30 near "A" Street on May 3, 2014. Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
10. Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle Investigation in the 500 block of "E" Street on May 13, 2014. Vehicle recovered and investigation remains open.
11. Domestic Assault Investigation in the 1700 block of Fifth Street on May 15, 2014. Suspect arrested and transported to jail.
12. Possession of Controlled Substance (Marijuana) Investigation in the 400 block of "E" Street on May 16, 2014. Suspect cited and released.

SEWER EMERGENCIES

If your sewer is backing up into your home or you are experiencing a strong sewer smell, please:

**CALL PUBLIC WORKS
IMMEDIATELY**

**Office: 503-366-0454
After Hours: 503-397-1521**

GRILL SAFETY TIPS

- ☛ Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. It is also unsafe to use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can catch fire.
- ☛ When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or at least 4 gallons of water close by in case of fire.
- ☛ Keep children away from fires and grills. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave grill unattended.



**THE COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRANSFER STATION**
1601 RAILROAD AVENUE
ST. HELENS OR 97051

Regular Business Hours:
Monday – Saturday / 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

*If you have any questions about hazardous collection
events, please call:
503-366-2613 or 503-397-7207*

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.



HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

The Columbia County Transfer Station will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Event on **Saturday, June 28, 2014 from 8 AM to noon**. The following hazardous waste materials are accepted during the event:

- ✓ Pool and spa chemicals
- ✓ Pesticides herbicides, fertilizers & poisons
- ✓ Thinners and solvents, paint spray cans, auto & marine paint
- ✓ Household cleaners, disinfectants & detergents
- ✓ Propane tanks & bottles
- ✓ Light ballasts
- ✓ PCB's
- ✓ Art & hobby chemicals
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Used oil
- ✓ Gasoline/diesel/fuels
- ✓ Antifreeze
- ✓ Fireworks / flares
- ✓ Ammunition
- ✓ Mercury thermometers



Items **NOT** accepted during the event:

- ⊗ Radioactive materials
- ⊗ Household trash/empty containers
- ⊗ Latex or acrylic paint
- ⊗ Explosives
- ⊗ Bio medical waste
- ⊗ Asbestos
- ⊗ Prescription/over the counter medications
- ⊗ Business hazardous waste from small (SQG) or large quantity (LQG) generators

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program Begins! The Summer Reading Program this year focuses on science. Our theme is **Fizz, Boom, Read!** Programs start Monday, June 16 with kinetic games, such as Jenga. Join us at 11 AM each Monday to have some fun!

Second Hand Prose

In June, all travel books will be half price in honor of summer vacations! Our sale books are wonderfully organized, so be sure you shop in the Library for a great selection of books.

Columbia City Celebration, September 20

Planning is continuing for this year's Columbia City Celebration. We will be having a car show, book sale, raffles for a quilt and a stay at a beach cabin, a silent auction, bake and plant sales. There is lots going on, watch for our Columbia City Celebration posters at the Library and around town.



Consider raising or dividing some plants for the plant sale, or creating a cookie recipe that you can include in the new edition of the Columbia City Cookbook and the bake sale! Please send your recipes to kitgardes@yahoo.com, or

bring them by the Library or City Hall.

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 Books

We added 88 books to the Library during the past month. Some recent additions to our Library include:

- *The Politics of Voter Suppression* by Tova Andrew Want
- *Nudge: Improving decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness*, by Richard Thaler
- *Crossing the Heart of Africa* by Julian Smith
- *The Harbinger* by Jonathan Cahn
- *The Magnolia League* by Katie Crouch
- *W is for Wasted* by Sue Grafton
- *Death Without Company* by Craig Johnson
- *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *Phantom* by Jo Nesbo
- *Mad River* by John Sandford

Staffed Library Hours:

Monday & Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM
Wednesday 4 - 8 PM
Thursday 2 p.m. - 6 PM

Story Time:

Every Monday at 11 AM

Summer Reading Program Kickoff

Monday, June 16 at 11 AM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 PM

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, June 23 at 7 PM

City Celebration Planning

Tuesday, June 24 at 7 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, June 25 at 7 PM

Phone: (503) 366-8020

Address: 2000 Second Street

E-mail: ccclibrary@live.com

AT THE CAPLES HOUSE

Tea Time: each Friday from 2 to 4 PM join the Caples House for a pot of tea and sweets. Come alone or bring a friend for a relaxing visit and a lovely setting. Cost is \$5 per person with proceeds going to the museum.

Book Club: The 3rd Friday of each month during Tea Time the Caples Book Club meets. This month the book is: *Empty Mansions: the Mysterious Life of Hageette Clark* by Bill Dedman. Cost is \$5 per person for tea.

Fleet Week Lunch: On June 5, 2014 from 11:30 AM to 2 PM enjoy a day by the Columbia River watching the ships come in for the Rose Festival. Explore a pioneer house museum and shop for crafts at the Country Store.

Lunch will be served, and tickets are \$15 per person. Enjoy your lunch and refreshments on the porch of the Knapp Center. Ring the Caples family's bell when the ships go by! Lunch tickets may be ordered by calling (503) 397-5390 or sending an e-mail to museumdirector@capleshouse.com. The Caples House Museum is located at 1925 First Street.



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.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JUNE 2014

June 2 nd	10:00 AM	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
June 4 th	6:00 PM	Special City Council Meeting in the Community Hall
June 5 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
June 9 th	8:00 AM	First day for candidates to file for Mayor/Council
June 10 th	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - Cancelled
June 12 th	6:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
June 16 th	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
June 19 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
June 23 rd	6:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall
June 24 th	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall