

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

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VETERANS PARK UPDATE

New grant award! We are pleased to announce that the City has received a grant award in the amount of \$28,680 under the 2014 Veterans and War Memorial Grant Program from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to complete Phase II of the Veterans Park. This is the second award we've received from this grant program for the development of this park.

What are we building, and when? We plan to complete Phase I improvements in time to hold a Grand Opening Event on Memorial Day - May 26, 2014. In Phase I, a 5-foot tall sculpted stone monument recognizing all American veterans sits on a 2-foot tall base engraved with the following quote by General John L. Pershing, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds." The sculpted faces of six veterans - one representing each branch of the service - peer out from the stone, and the name of each respective branch is carved close by. A hole has been drilled through the 5-foot stone, placed in such a manner that each year on Memorial Day a ray of sun will reach through the hole and shine upon a bronze star placed at the base of the monument. Phase I will also consist of a veterans wall displaying engraved memorial bricks, a Blue Star Byway Marker offering tribute to the Armed Forces of America, and the United States and MIA/POW flags. In addition, Phase I improvements include paved walkways, engraved sponsor bricks, landscaping, an irrigation system, electrical service, water service, etc.

The City's Parks Commission plans to utilize the Phase II grant funds to add six more individual monuments, flagpoles with lighting, and flags (each representing one branch of the service) to the site. The funds will also be used to add picnic tables and benches to the park. We plan to complete Phase II improvements in time for Memorial Day 2015.

No tax dollars used! Park development fees, grant funds, and sponsor donations are being used to pay for this park. Many businesses and individuals have shown their support for this project by investing cash, materials, and/or skilled labor towards this project. We would like to recognize all of our sponsors with a very special "thank you" for committing to and investing in this project:

Knife River Corporation
Brundage Bone Concrete Pumping
Columbia River PUD
NW Natural
Anonymous Citizen
Hudson Garbage Service
Wayne Mayo Construction
West Oregon Wood Products
St. Helens Garden Club
CalPortland Company
Julie Heiselt
RS Media
VFW Post #1440
Citizen Volunteers

We would also like to thank all of the businesses and individuals that have supported this project by purchasing engraved veteran bricks and engraved sponsor bricks! The proceeds from brick sales will be used to pay for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the park. Engraved bricks sell for \$75.00 each. **To guarantee inclusion in Phase I, please submit your brick order by March 14, 2014.**

CAPLES HOUSE – ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Caples House, 1925 First Street, on Saturday, March 15, 2014 with corned beef, cabbage and drinks. Adults \$20 and children (under 12) \$5. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., with an Irish sing-along and entertainment for the children. RSVP by March 8th at (503) 397-5390.



**COLUMBIA CITY OFF-LEASH DOG PARK
IS THE RESULT OF A
SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP**

The Grand Opening of the new off-leash dog park was well attended. Mayor Young cut the ceremonial ribbon and gave special recognition to representatives of Port of St. Helens, Columbia County Community Corrections, and Columbia City Parks Committee for their partnership in this project. Goodie bags filled with dog treats, tennis balls and dog-doo bags were distributed to all of the "happy dogs" in attendance, and the "human" attendees munched on dog bone shaped sugar cookies, sipped coffee, and visited with one another. The new dog park is located on "E" Street between Highway 30 and Second Street, and we feel it is truly a fine example of a successful partnership!



We'd like to extend a very special thank you to the partners on this project - Port of St. Helens, Columbia County Community Corrections, and Columbia City Parks Committee. The Port donated the use of the property, the Corrections Crew installed the fencing and plans to routinely mow the site, and the Parks Committee came up with the idea and designed the park. We would also like to recognize RS Media for donating signage for the park, and thank all of the citizens that donated the funds to create the dog treat bags.



Park development fees were used to purchase the fencing and other amenities for the site. Park development fees are restricted and may only be used for park development projects. **No tax dollars were used for this project!**

The fully fenced dog park encompasses ½ acre of open grassy field divided into two areas - one for large and one for small dogs. The park features a picnic table, park bench, waste stations, double gates, specific rules for dogs and their owners, some shade, and (of course) a fire hydrant. **Please**



note: Dog owners should bring their own water for their dogs!



**SPRING CLEANUP DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014
8 AM TO NOON**

Spring cleaning is just around the corner! Now is the time to get rid of that unwanted junk - old appliances, scrap metal, yard debris, old furniture, newspaper, solidified latex paint cans, unwanted items, etc. The annual Spring Cleanup Day will be held on **Saturday, April 26th, 2014, from 8 a.m. to noon** at the Columbia City School. You can drop off your yard debris, trees and limbs for **FREE!** Extra bulky waste or hard-to-dispose-of items, such as old furniture, lawn mowers, mattresses, etc. will be accepted for a fee. More information will be in next month's newsletter.



What's Irish and stays out all night?

(Answer on page 3)



Answer:

Paddy O'Furniture

CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2013-14 Budget.



The award reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document,
- a financial plan,
- an operations guide, and
- a communications device.

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. Columbia City has received the award for thirteen years.

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Are you interested in serving on the Columbia City Planning Commission? The City currently has a position available. Applicants must reside within the City or the City's Urban Growth Boundary. The term is for a period of four years. The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month when there are topics to discuss. Applications may be picked up at the City Hall, or may be found on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org.



VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO GIVE INPUT ABOUT THE ISSUE OF BASKETBALL HOOPS IN RIGHT-OF-WAYS

The City is seeking interested volunteers to serve on a Committee to study the issue of basketball hoops placed within the City right-of-ways. The Committee will be asked to look at the current placement of basketball hoops, review some regulations enacted by other communities, and make a recommendation to the City Council about the level of regulation they believe would best serve the community.



Applications to serve on the Basketball Hoop Study Committee will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2014. Public Service Applications may be picked up at City Hall or found on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org.

The first meeting of the Basketball Hoop Study Committee will be held in March 2014.

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

If your toilet was purchased before 1992, purchasing a WaterSense® labeled toilet can reduce the amount of water used for each flush.

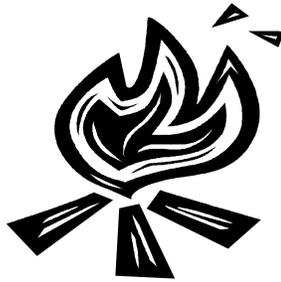


CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

- 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.

OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS BURNING PERMITS REQUIRED

The next **biannual burn period will begin on Saturday, April 5th and end on Sunday, April 20th**. The burn period is for yard debris only, and burn barrels are prohibited. Yard debris is lawn clippings, leaves, brush, trimmings, prunings, sawdust and wood scraps. It is **not** dirt, gravel, paper, plastic, metal, rocks, bricks, sod, or food waste.



Burn permits are required prior to burning! Permits may be obtained at City Hall or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District. Permits are valid for one year and are free of charge. Please remember you must call the "Burn Line" at (503) 397-4800 each day to see if it is a burn day.

You must follow these basic rules for proper open burning:

- ❑ You must have a garden hose, or a shovel and a 5-gallon bucket of water at all times, and the fire must **NOT** be left unattended at any time until out.
- ❑ Yard and garden trimmings must be cut and piled no larger than 6 feet wide by 4 feet high.
- ❑ The ground must be cleared not less than 10 feet around the burning area. There must be a separation of 50 feet between the burn pile and any structure, trees, vehicle or property line if the burn pile is greater than 3 feet in diameter; and a 25 foot separation if the burn pile is less than 3 feet in diameter.
- ❑ The fire must not adversely affect neighbors (smoke).
- ❑ It must be daylight hours during a designated burn day.

Have questions? Please call Fire Marshall, at (503) 397-2990.

DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS



Daylight-saving time begins on the second Sunday in March. Mark your calendars to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 9th.

CHIEF'S CORNER

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

Identity Theft Prevention: 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.

(continued on page 5)

CHIEF'S CORNER *(Cont.)*

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 US 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.
- If the crime involved U.S. mail, call the U.S. Postal Service – Columbia City office: (503) 397-0089.
- If the crime involved counterfeit credit cards or computer hacking, call the U.S. Secret Service: (503) 326-2162.
- If the crime involved credit card fraud, call the issuing credit card company.

Other Steps You Can Take:

- For counseling and help to resolve problems arising from this crime, call the Federal Trade Commission 1 (877) IDTHEFT.
- 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 C-COM (non-emergency dispatch) at (503) 397-1521.

Best regards, Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

HAZARD MITIGATION TEAM UPDATE

Residents can rest assured that the Columbia City Hazard Mitigation Team is actively working to mitigate hazards that might impact the community. Nearly all of Columbia City's Hazard Mitigation Team members currently hold, or have past experience in, positions involving emergency response. Some of the Team's recent activities include:

- Organizing and hosting the first annual Columbia City Emergency Preparedness Fair.
- Assessing the effectiveness of the local emergency alert notification system, identifying system shortcomings, and coming up with ideas to improve communication with residents during an emergency.
- Raising awareness of railcar transportation hazards and supporting efforts to increase railcar safety along the Columbia River corridor.
- Reviewing and updating the Columbia City Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Serving as stakeholders for the Columbia City Emergency Operations Plan update project.

EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN PROJECT KICKS OFF

Columbia City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) will be updated during the next few months with the assistance of 2012 Homeland Security Grant funds. Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) has selected the City to participate in this project, which is designed to standardize statewide operational planning for emergency response, address the risks and needs unique to our jurisdiction, and increase statewide consistency with the National Incident Management System.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

The City awarded a contract to NW Kodiak Construction to complete the Columbia City Water Improvements Project, which includes completing several pressure reducing valve improvements 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. Construction activities are expected to commence in March and wrap up in August, 2014.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT FEBRUARY, 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 338 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: Forgery,

Hit and Run Traffic Crash, Harassment, and Restraining Order Violation.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 160
Area Patrols: 44
Foot Patrols: 2
Missing Adult: 1
Assist the Public: 13
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 4
Radio Calls: 9
Juvenile Situations: 1
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 2
Civil Situations: 2
Lost Property: 1
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 41

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 8
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 6
Traffic Stops: 11
Theft Investigation Follow Ups: 9
Harassment: 1
Assault: 1
Restraining Order Violations: 1
Juvenile Investigations: 1
DUII Investigations: 1
Forgery/Fraud Investigations: 1
Hit and Run Traffic Crash: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Forgery/Fraud investigation in the 200 block of Spinnaker Way on 01/25/14. Investigation closed and referred to the United States Postal Service.
2. Harassment investigation in the 400 block of A Street on 02/04/14. Suspects identified and investigation closed with prosecution declined.
3. Assault investigation in the area of 6th Street near Franklin Street on 02/13/14. Juvenile suspects identified and investigation closed with referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department for prosecution.
4. Hit and Run Traffic Crash investigation in the 2000 block of 3rd Street on 02/19/14. Investigation closed as leads exhausted.
5. Restraining Order Violation investigation in the 1500 block of 3rd Street on 02/21/14. Suspect identified and investigation closed with forward to the Columbia County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you for your continued support and book donations. Make sure to support us by buying some of our used books too. We have over 5000 books on our sale shelves, and many more in boxes waiting for the next book sale (expect one in May.) After we check donated books for our own use, we support local school libraries with your donations, as well as some local non-profits that can use books. Books are wonderful, and they need to be read!

Second Hand Prose is growing! In March, all gardening books will be half price. We have some beautiful books, and always too many for our sale shelves! Help support the Library, and take home a lovely book.

Check Out Our Classics! We have over 250 books in our classics section, from Shakespeare and Mark Twain to Gerald Seymour, from Louisa May Alcott to H.G. Wells. We use the classics section for authors taught in college classes, as well as for books that are just too old to go on our normal fiction shelves but we just can't bear to discard! Recently added to classics:

- *The Fiction* by H.P. Lovecraft (all his horror/weird fiction novels and stories, 1920's)
- *Great American Poets* series, Edgar Allan Poe
- *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

New Books: We added 95 books to the Library during the past month. Some recent additions to our Library include:

- *Money 911: Your Most Pressing Money Questions Answered* by Jean Chatzky
- *Prague Winter* by Madeline Albright
- *The Fairy Alphabet* by F.Y. Cory (1920's watercolors, she also illustrated *The Wizard of Oz*)
- *Sanctuary* by Ken Bruin
- *The Lady of the Rivers* by Philippa Gregory
- *Summerland* by Elin Hilderbrand
- *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger
- *I'd Know You Anywhere* by Laura Lippman
- *The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty
- *Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick
- *The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling

- *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life* by James Patterson
- *Jekel Loves Hyde* by Beth Fantaskey

Library Hours:

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

Story Time:

11:00 a.m. every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 3/17/14 - 7:00 p.m.

City Celebration Planning Meeting:

Tuesday, 3/18/14 - 7:00 p.m.

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 3/19/14 - 6:30 p.m.

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 3/26/14 - 7:00 p.m.

CITY CHARTER UPDATE SLATED FOR MAY 20, 2014 BALLOT

During the May 20, 2014 election, Columbia City voters will have an opportunity to vote on Measure 5-236 to update the City's home rule charter. This measure would update the city charter of 1972 to remove obsolete provisions, clarify provisions, and reflect standard municipal organization and practices. The proposed revisions were developed by a citizen charter review committee and are based upon the League of Oregon Cities' model charter.

The Oregon Constitution gives City voters the right to revise a charter. The charter grants legal authority to the City and establishes duties and responsibilities.

The proposed revisions establish the position of city administrator as the administrative head of the City; require the municipal judge and city attorney be members in good standing of the Oregon State Bar; require the council to meet at least once monthly; require the establishment of council rules; require approval of ordinances by a majority of the council; prohibit the mayor and council from being employed by the City; require the council adopt nomination procedures to run for public office; prohibit council members from attempting to coerce the city administrator in matters concerning contracts, property, or the appointment or removal of employees; and set debt limits.

