

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

September 2014



COLUMBIA CITY
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INVITATION

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is holding a Day of Service in Columbia City on September 13, 2014 for the purpose of cleaning and working on our city parks. All adults and children interested in our city parks are invited to join in the fun. It is anticipated that there will be participants from as far away as Long Beach, Astoria, and Seaside to Scappoose. Everyone will meet at the Community Hall at 10:00 a.m. where work assignments will be handed out. Work will end between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served to all participants. We hope to see you there.

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 as needed. Applications may be picked up at the City Hall, or may be found on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org.

FREE WATER CONSERVATION KITS

The City still has free water conservation kits available to water customers while supplies last. Kits include a 1.5 GPM dual thread faucet aerator, a dish squeegee, leak detection dye tablets, a toilet tank fill cycle diverter, and a shower timer. Limit one kit per water customer. To obtain your free water conservation kit, complete the form on page 7 and bring it to City Hall.



CUSTOMERS MAY NOTICE A CHANGE IN WATER PRESSURE

Due to continued construction delays, the new pressure zones have not been activated. However, we anticipate wrapping up the project during the month of September!



Water customers may notice a change in water pressure as the water project nears completion. The project will stabilize water pressures throughout the system. Currently, more than 50% of the connections to the system have pressures in excess of 80 pounds per square inch (psi), and one smaller area in town has low pressure.

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

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

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

VETERAN PARK PROJECT UPDATE

Recent progress on the Columbia City Veterans Park includes the addition of a lit flag pole proudly displaying the American and POW/MIA flags, a Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker offering a tribute to the Armed Forces of America, additional paved pathways, a split rail fence, and a rose garden.



The engraved sponsor bricks are set in place, and progress has been made on the engraved veteran bricks that will line the three veteran walls.

Completion of the brick work is expected in approximately six weeks.

Three park benches and two picnic tables are being fabricated out of steel by a local artist. The fabrication work is in the final stages. Once complete, the tables and benches will be powder coated and set into place within the park. A raised planting bed will soon be constructed near the base of the flag pole, and the park will be landscaped this fall.

The park includes a stone monument honoring all American veterans. The monument has been constructed in such a way that each year, on Memorial Day, the sun will shine through a narrow hole drilled through the five-foot stone and light upon a brass star that is



mounted at the base of the monument. Finishing details associated with the monument are still underway.

The Phase II Monument project recently kicked off. Phase II will consist of six individual monuments and lit flag poles – each honoring one branch of the US Service – the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Construction of the Phase II monuments is currently underway.



The City plans to hold annual Memorial Day celebrations at the park to honor all of our American veterans. A park dedication ceremony is planned for Memorial Day in 2015.

The Veterans Park is strategically placed at the site of the planned McBride Creek Trailhead, which will eventually lead down and traverse along the bank of McBride Creek. The trail will provide hikers with an opportunity to appreciate the beautiful riparian area along the creek, which sports an extraordinary display of trillium in the spring. The City is currently seeking grant funding to assist with the development of the future trail system.

The Columbia City Veterans Park project received funding assistance from two Veterans & War Memorial Grants, as well as contributions of cash, materials and skilled labor from a wide range of sources. A third grant application will be submitted in 2015 for the Phase III Monuments Project, which is currently in design.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS PARK!

It's not too late to show your support for the Veterans Park by purchasing a brick or making a donation! 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 sell for \$75 each, and the proceeds from brick sales will be used to support the park's upkeep. Brick order forms are available at City Hall and on the City's website www.columbia-city.org.

CHIEF'S CORNER

MANY THANKS! We would like to thank all of our community members who increased their vigilance and contacted us regarding the recent burglaries within our area. Information gained assisted in identifying and charging a responsible suspect. Without your help these investigations would have been much tougher to solve! Thanks again for a job well done!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPARE FAIR:

During this year's Columbia City Celebration, on Saturday September 20, 2014, we will be hosting several partners who have expertise in the field of emergency preparedness. The focus this year will be on earthquakes as well as general emergency preparedness concerns. Please come join us from 10:00 a.m. until noon in the event tent at the Columbia City School field area. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your continued support. We can be reached via 9-1-1 (emergency), (503) 397-4010 (office), or the non-emergency dispatch at (503) 397-1521.

Best regards ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

POLICY ACTIVITY REPORT AUGUST 2014

ACTIVITY REPORT: Your police officers answered 474 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, Criminal Mischief, Domestic Assault, Possession of Controlled Substances, Sexual Assault Theft, and Trespassing.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 64
Area Patrols: 4
Foot Patrols: 14
Assist the Public: 22
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 6
Radio Calls: 30
Juvenile Situations: 1

Assistance to Outside Agencies: 22
Animal Complaints: 9
Parking/Traffic Complaints: 11
Welfare Checks: 3
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 52.25

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigative Follow Up's: 20
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 21
Traffic Stops: 164
Trespassing: 2
Criminal Mischief: 3
Domestic/Disturbances: 2
Restraining Order Violations: 1
Juvenile Investigations: 1
Narcotics Investigations/Arrests: 1
Sexual Assault Investigations: 1
Theft Investigations: 3
Burglary: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Theft and Criminal Mischief Investigation in the 2200 block of Second Street on August 1, 2014. Investigation remains open.
2. Theft Investigation in the 1700 block of First Street on August 14, 2014. Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
3. Burglary Investigation of Seventh Street residence on July 22, 2014 was cleared by arrest on August 14, 2014. Alexander J. Ross, 22, a local transient who was jailed on other multiple county-wide burglaries, was identified as the responsible suspect. Case forwarded to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office for their review and prosecution.
4. Sexual Assault Investigation in the 2100 block of Second Street on August 20, 2014. Investigation remains open.
5. PCS-Marijuana Investigation in the area of Highway 30 near "L" Street on August 21, 2014. Suspect; Nicholes Popken, 31, of West Linn, Oregon cited and released on scene.
6. Domestic Assault Investigation in the 400 block of "D" Street on August 24, 2014. Suspect: Gregory Grinsfelder, 29, of Columbia City was arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
7. Burglary, Criminal Mischief, Theft, and Trespass Investigation and Arrest in the 400 block of "D" Street on August 24, 2014. Suspect: Niki Fransik, 24, of St. Helens, Oregon was arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.

**PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR
SAFE DRINKING WATER LOAN AMENDMENT**

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 6 pm on Thursday, September 4, 2014, to hear public testimony about a proposed amendment to a loan under the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program for water system improvements. The public hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1840 Second Street, Columbia City, Oregon.

The amendment involves a \$70,380 increase in the Safe Drinking Water Loan to cover unforeseen costs that were incurred with the Columbia City Water System Improvements Project. The water system improvements are efficiency-related and qualify for 40% debt forgiveness. The debt forgiveness results in a cost savings of more than \$28,152.

LIBRARY NEWS

Columbia City Celebration, September 20, 8 am to 3 pm: The Columbia City Celebration is growing by leaps and bounds! The National Guard is bringing their climbing wall and bungee jumping. We have over 15 local vendors, bringing items hand-made in Columbia County. The Lions and Elks will sponsor an eye clinic. Bring your 3 to 7 year-old in to the Library for screening. It takes longer to fill out your name than it does to do the test!

Look for the flyer in your newsletter for the City Celebration and the Show and Shine car show.

Keep in mind that we are still looking for great silent auction items. You can also donate plants, bulbs or seeds to our plant sale, or cakes, cookies, and candy to our bake sale. We will be doing an antique quilt show, featuring a quilt done in the 1970s by school children in the Columbia City School. If you have an antique quilt you'd like to

show off, contact Dianne Ebert at (503) 397-5048. Help us support the Library and make the City Celebration lots of fun! We will need many volunteers for the day of the City Celebration. Start thinking about how you would like to help. A sign-up sheet is available at the Library, so come pick your job!

Second Hand Prose: In September, Second Hand Prose will be featuring quilting and crafting books. Get ready for Christmas with hand-made presents. The featured books will be half price.

Many books are being donated as the Columbia City Celebration's big book sale approaches, so make sure to get in here and look at what is already on our shelves. Help us make room for more! Our sale books are wonderfully organized, so be sure you shop in the Library - the largest used book store in the county!.

New Books: We added 135 books to the Library during the past month. Stop by the Library to check out one of our recent additions!

Library Hours:

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

Storytime:

Every Monday at 11 am

City Celebration Planning Meeting:

Tuesday, September 9 at 7 pm

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, September 15 at 7 pm

Novel Quilters:

Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm

Columbia City Celebration:

Saturday, September 20 from 8 am to 3 pm

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, September 24 at 7 pm

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

September 1 st	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Labor Day
September 4 th	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting at City Hall
September 9th	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - canceled
September 11 th	6:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
September 15 th	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
September 16 th	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
September 18 th	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting at City Hall
September 20 th	8:00 AM - 3 PM	Columbia City Celebration along Second Street
September 22 nd	6:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall