

# Columbia City Newsletter

## December

### 2015

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### CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2015-16 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 14 mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. This is Columbia City's 15<sup>th</sup> budget award.

### 2015 SHOP WITH A COP SPONSORS

*Dyno Nobel*

*PCE Pacific Inc.*

*Turnaround Consulting Services*

*Northwest Innovation Works*

*Christopher Sharron*

*Tyler and Haylee Bruce*

*Thomas and JoAnn Hughes*

*Brian and Sheryl Little*

*Len and Sally Ann Marson*

*L. Lee Phillips*

*Glenn and Kathy Keudell*

*Lynn Heil*

~ Thank you for your support ~

### CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM HOSTS CHRISTMAS SHIP EVENT

The Caples House Museum will serve cocoa and cookies in the Knapp Social Center while the Christmas Ships visit Columbia City on Saturday, December 12, 2015. The Caples House event will begin at 6 pm. A Christmas Sing-A-Long will follow the parade of ships.



### CITY RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO "L" STREET

We are pleased to announce that the City will receive a 2016 Special City Allotment Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be used towards improvements to "L" Street between the bridge and Second Street.

Improvements will include widening the travel lanes and a pavement overlay. We plan to complete the work in 2016 as soon as the weather permits.



### CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

- **Sidewalks:** The owner of property abutting a sidewalk is responsible for keeping the sidewalk free of snow, ice, leaves, weeds, blackberries, and other obstructions.
- **Burning trash is prohibited:** Burning household garbage or trash is prohibited within the City. Garbage or trash includes food packaging, cardboard, plastic food containers, food products, paper (except as needed to start a fire), etc.
- **Attention pet owners!** You must pick up after your pets! It's the law!
- **Steep slope excavation prohibited.** Ground excavation activities on steeply sloped properties are prohibited between October 1 and April 15.

## HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED BY SUICIDE?

Training is available to any person or organization interested in helping prevent suicide and reducing its impact in their community.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer, an emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons created by Paul Quinnett, and first described in 1995 in a number of presentations and publications by the QPRR Institute.



In a suicide crisis, the difference between recognizing and acting where there are vague ideas of suicide before these lead to a self-inflicted injury can mean the difference between life and death.

Become a part of the solution in suicide prevention. Contact Brianne Mares, Prevention Coordinator, Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH). Call Brianne at (503) 438-2200 or send an e-mail to [BrianneM@ccmh1.com](mailto:BrianneM@ccmh1.com).

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255  
Oregon Lines for Life (877) 968-8491  
CCMH After Hours (866) 866-1426

### 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 special items for 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.



## A MESSAGE FROM UNITED WAY OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

United Way of Columbia County (UWCC) was established in 1964 to carry out just one fundraising drive to fund locally necessary social services. From these humble beginnings, our local United Way has expanded the ability to help fund more than 30 individual local programs. That's more than 30 programs designed to meet the needs of local **Columbia County** residents and families.



We can't do it without your help. Even one small gift, made simple by using payroll deduction, or by donating through our Paypal account, gives all year long to help meet community needs!

Helping us help others. Your tax-deductible donation stays right here in Columbia County, supporting deserving organizations that provide needed services to our area residents. UWCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

If you can't donate cash, there are other ways to help that are very inexpensive, and some that won't cost you a penny.

Please check out other ways you can donate on our website [www.unitedwayofcolumbiacounty.com](http://www.unitedwayofcolumbiacounty.com).

### BOY SCOUTS TROOP 106 OFFERS HOT MEALS ON CHRISTMAS EVE 2015



The Boy Scouts of Troop 106, in cooperation with the American Legion, First Lutheran Church, St. Helens Lion's, and Columbia County merchants and volunteers, will provide Christmas hot meals to approximately 120 families (over 650 people) living in the Columbia County area on December 24, 2015. 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 for your donations, 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, OR 97018.

**OUR COMMUNITY HALL**  
*A Legacy to Treasure*

The capital campaign for the Community Hall renovation is off to a great start!!

**Project Sponsors:**

We would like to extend a sincerely special thank you to our project sponsors for their support of this very important community project! To date we've received sponsor contributions valued at \$3,900.00!

**Diamond:**

James and Thelma Hays  
 Parnell and Elsie Hovland



**Sapphire:**

Jeff and JoAnn Hughes  
 L. Lee Phillips  
 Steve and Tyra Schroeder  
 Christopher and Hester Thurman  
 Tom and Brandy Vernon



**Emerald:**

Robert and Carlene Clore  
 Robert Schmor and Shirley Palm  
 Gordon and Gail Thistle  
 Scott and Sharon Morris



**Amethyst:**

Raymond and Sunghe Buckno  
 Fred and Winnie Neilson  
 Gregory Newcomb



If you'd like to join the sponsor list, complete a project sponsor form - available at City Hall or on our website - [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org).

**Traditional Homemade Pie Sales:**

A group of skilled pie makers volunteered to make and sell homemade pies for the Thanksgiving holiday and donate all of the sale proceeds to the Community Hall capital campaign. Their pies were a big hit with our customers, who feasted on 39 of their delicious delicacies! The group raised \$695.00 for the project, and we appreciate their efforts!

The pie makers have decided to take pie orders again for the Christmas holiday. Place your holiday pie order now using the enclosed form.

**💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧**

Make sure all outdoor spigots are winterized to keep pipes from freezing, bursting and losing water.

**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.
- 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.



**Help Wanted!  
 "FAST" VOLUNTEERS!**

Are you interested in joining the City's "FAST" Volunteers? The FAST (*Fold and Stuff Team*) Volunteers generally meet on the last working day of each month to fold newsletters and utility bills and stuff and seal envelopes. We are currently accepting applications for FAST Volunteers. Apply at City Hall.

**PLANNING TO GET AWAY?**

This time of year many residents escape to warmer locations or make plans to visit family and friends out of town. 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](http://www.columbia-city.org).



## 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.



## 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.

## BUSINESS LICENSE REMINDER

Now is the time of year to renew business licenses for the new 2016 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.

## **POLICY ACTIVITY REPORT - OCTOBER 2015**

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 670 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: Criminal Mischief, Domestic/Disturbances, Fraud, Harassment, Possession of Controlled Substances, Prowler Calls, Threats, Unwanted Subjects, and Warrant Service.

### **COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:**

Residential Security Checks: 176  
Area Patrols: 57  
Foot Patrols: 18  
Assist the Public: 25  
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 5  
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 29  
Animal Complaints: 9  
Parking/Traffic Complaints: 10  
Nuisance Complaints: 1  
Welfare Checks: 4  
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 45

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

Investigative Follow Up's: 34  
Suspicious Circumstances, People, and Vehicles: 17  
Traffic Stops: 91  
Thefts: 2  
Warrant Service: 1  
Unwanted Subjects: 2  
Fraud: 4  
Criminal Mischief: 2  
Harassment: 6  
Drug Activity: 2  
Prowler Calls: 2

### **CALLS OF INTEREST:**

1. Criminal Mischief investigation in the 200 block of Second Place on October 1, 2015. Investigation closed with leads exhausted.
2. PCS-Heroin arrest in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on October 5, 2015. Angyl

Hanson-James, 20, of Longview, WA arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.

3. PCS-Methamphetamine and Probation Violation arrest in the area of Highway 30 near "L" Street on October 31, 2015. Tara Anderson, 43, of Columbia City arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.

## **CHIEF'S CORNER**

**STAY CONNECTED IN EMERGENCIES!** We would like to encourage all of our citizens to connect with us in order to receive emergency information and notifications. In order to achieve this goal several communication forums are used. In addition to the educational efforts of the City Newsletter we encourage participation in the Columbia Alert Network (CAN) system, as well as continued involvement with Facebook and Twitter accounts. Registration for participation in the CAN network can be completed at the front desk of City Hall. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

**SEASONAL SAFETY TIPS:** Different times of year should play into your crime prevention considerations and personal safety. Seasonal events affect safety, such as kids returning to school in the fall which increases the need for more vigilance in cross walks and school zones. Meanwhile, during the holiday season busy parking lots and gift giving can make vehicles and property a target for thieves.

Weather also has an effect on crime and safety. Icy conditions require advance route planning, for pedestrians as well as drivers, and effects safety. Summer often makes people more careless about locking doors and windows.

**GENERAL WINTER CONSIDERATIONS:** Crime doesn't take a holiday. You know when it is a holiday and so do thieves. Winter holidays bring lots of presents and vacant houses while people are traveling. During these times, be especially vigilant about home and property security.

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



## MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2015



December 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 p.m.  
 December 8<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.  
 December 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.  
 December 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> CLOSED  
 December 25<sup>th</sup> CLOSED



Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall  
 Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall  
 Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall  
 Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall  
 City Hall is closed on Christmas Eve  
 City Hall is closed on Christmas Day



### LOST AND FOUND

We recently found a **coffee maker** and a **pocket knife** in the Community Hall. A citizen found a **backpack** in Harvard Park. To claim one of these items, please contact City Hall.

### LIBRARY NEWS

We will be electing a new slate of officers in December, and revising the Friends of the Library bylaws. More people are getting actively involved in our Friends of the Library, so expect to see great things happening next year!

The library will be closed for the holidays, Thursday December 24, and Thursday December 31. We want to celebrate too!

**Second Hand Prose Holiday Sale!** In December, Secondhand 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 89 books to the library during the past month. Some recent additions to our library include:

*The Constitution: Understanding America's Founding Document* by Michael Greve  
*Dearie: The Remarkable Life of Julia Child* by Bob Spitz  
*Go Dive: Learn to Scuba Dive Today* by Drew Richardson  
*The Omen Machine* by Terry Goodkind

*Cleopatra's Shadows* by Emily Holleman  
*14th Deadly Sin* by James Patterson  
*The Execution* by Dick Wolf  
*Ice! The Amazing History of the Ice Business* by Lauren Pringle  
*Guilty Wives* by James Patterson  
*The Death and Life of Zebulon Finch* by Daniel Kraus  
*Applewhites at Wit's End* by Stephanie Tolan  
*The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins  
*Winter's Tale* by Mark Helprin  
*A Cold and Lonely Place* by Sara J. Henry  
*Miracle at Augusta* by James Patterson  
*Don't Go* by Lisa Scottoline  
*Abercrombie Trail* by Candace Simar  
*Benni Harper's Quilt Album* by Earlene Fowler  
*Tibetan Peach Pie* by Tom Robbins  
*Badlands* by C.J. Box  
*Make Me* by Lee Child  
*Tom Clancy Under Fire* by Tom Clancy and Grant Blackwood  
*The Stranger* by Harlan Coben  
*Porch Lights* by Dorothea Frank  
*Natchez Burning* by Greg Iles  
*Dance of the Bones* by J.A. Jance  
*The Janson Command* by Paul Garrison for Robert Ludlum  
*Naked Greed* by Stuart Woods  
*The Madman of Piney Woods* by Christopher Curtis (prequel to *Elijah of Buxton*)  
*Allegiant* by Veronica Roth

### Library Hours:

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

### Storytime:

Every Monday - 11 am

### Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, December 7 - 7 pm

### Mystery Book Club Meeting:

Wednesday, December 9 - 7 pm

### Library Closed :

Thursday, December 24 & Thursday, December 31  
 2000 2nd Street - PO Box 189  
 (503) 366-8020 - ccclibrary@live.com

