

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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 www.columbia-city.org



CITY COUNCIL WAIVES SEWER USAGE FEE FOR MAY

Due to the highly unusual number of summer-like days during the month of May, the City Council voted for a one-time suspension of the May sewer usage fee. The sewer usage fee is charged in addition to the basic sewer charge during non-summer months (October through May) and the amount of the fee varies, based upon the customer's actual water usage. For example, in addition to the basic sewer charge of \$37.70 per month, a residential customer using 300 cubic feet of water would also pay a sewer usage fee of \$2.13, while a residential customer using 700 cubic feet of water would pay a sewer usage fee of \$4.97. The sewer usage fee does not apply during the months of June, July, August or September.

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. This free service is available to all Columbia City residents.



WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT PUBLIC HEARING - JUNE 16, 2016, 6 PM

The Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing on June 16, 2016, at 6 pm to accept testimony about proposed adjustments to the current water and sewer rates as recommended in the 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 approximately 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	\$36.0000	\$37.0000
Per cf over 101 and up to 500	\$0.0210	\$0.0220
Per cf over 501 and up to 1000	\$0.0350	\$0.0360
Per cf over 1001	\$0.0490	\$0.0500

Monthly Sewer Rates		
Residential Connection	Current	Proposed
Minimum Base Rate	\$37.7000	\$38.8500
Usage Fee (per cf - Oct-May)	\$0.0071	\$0.0073
Usage Fee (per cf - Jun-Sep)	\$0.0000	\$0.0000

cf = cubic foot

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

The additional revenue will help 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 fourth of five annual 3% rate increases recommended in the 2013 Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Summary Report.

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. The owner of the RV or boat must reside on the property.

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.



Attention pet owners! You must pick up after your pets! It's the law!



To report violations, please contact the City Hall - (503) 397-4010. Thank you.

BUDGET HEARING - JUNE 16, 2016

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 6 pm on June 16, 2016 to accept testimony about the budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 as approved by the Columbia City Budget Committee.



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.

SEWER EMERGENCIES

If you experience a sewer emergency, such as sewer 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.



HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

The Columbia County Transfer Station will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Event on **Saturday, June 25, 2016 from 8 am to noon**. The following hazardous waste materials are accepted during the event:

- ✓ Pool and spa chemicals
- ✓ Lawn/garden chemicals
- ✓ Pesticides/herbicides
- ✓ Light ballasts - *remove from light fixture*
- ✓ Fluorescent tubes
- ✓ Art/hobby chemicals
- ✓ Solvents/thinners
- ✓ Batteries - *only car, rechargeable, button - no alkaline batteries*
- ✓ Gasoline/diesel/fuels
- ✓ Cleaners/detergents
- ✓ Poisons
- ✓ Fireworks/flares
- ✓ Ammunition
- ✓ Items containing mercury
- ✓ Propane cylinders
- ✓ Compressed gas cylinders

***Bring product in original container and
secure your load***

Items **NOT** accepted during the event:

- ⊗ Garbage or trash
- ⊗ Asbestos
- ⊗ Unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals or medicine - *St. Helens Police Department accepts unused prescriptions*
- ⊗ Liquid in containers larger than 5 gallons

The following are not household hazardous waste and are accepted at the Transfer Station anytime, Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm:

- Latex and acrylic paint, oil-based paint, enamel, stains, lacquers, shellacs, varnishes, primers
- Used motor oil and antifreeze
- Medical sharps - *must be in sealed, puncture-proof containers (available at local pharmacies, at the Transfer Station scale house, or Walmart)*

Toxic.Free.Home.



Participate In Your Local Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

1601 Railroad Avenue
St. Helens OR 97051

Regular Business Hours:
Open Monday – Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm

*If you have any questions about hazardous collection
events, please call:
(503) 397-7259*

ROSE FESTIVAL FLEET WEEK

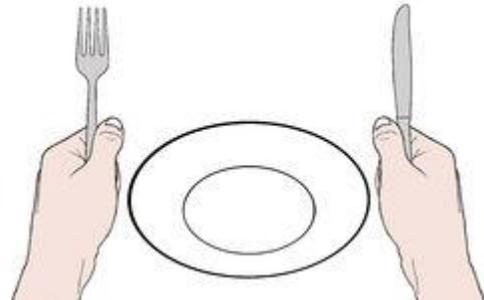
The Rose Festival Fleet Week is June 8 through June 12. Since the very beginning of the Rose Festival in 1907, visiting ships have been making their way to Portland's waterfront. Ships usually sail by Columbia City the first two days of that week, but there are no specific times for their arrival. For more information go to <http://www.rosefestival.org/event/fleet-week>.



COLUMBIA PACIFIC FOOD BANK WORKS TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

The Columbia Pacific Food Bank operates the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry in St. Helens, and also distributes food to the St. Helens Senior Center, Community Meals, SAFE, St. Helens Backpack Program and the Brown Bag Program within the local area.

You can join the local fight against hunger by sending a contribution to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, PO Box 1031, St. Helens, OR 97051. Other ways in which you can help may be found on the Columbia Pacific Food Bank website - www.cpfoodbank.org.



LIBRARY NEWS

New Hours! New Shelves! Starting in June the Library will be open on Tuesdays from 2 to 6 pm. We have a great set of volunteers and feel we have enough staff to be open the additional day. Now prove we need the extra day and keep us busy on Tuesdays!

Chip Gardes and Mark Ebert built four beautiful bookshelves that we have used to expand our selection of books in every area of the Library. Thanks to them and to the people who helped move books and bookshelves and kept the library ready to use as we were making all these changes! Come visit us and take a tour!

Thanks to all who helped at our May book sale. We have the routine down now and we were all set up half an hour before the sale was supposed to start! We couldn't do it without all of you!

Summer Reading Program: Ready, Set, Read! Mondays at 11 am get ready to read! We start our Summer Reading Program on June 27. Expect books, crafts and games to keep you reading all summer!

Raffles are Ready to Go! The 2016 raffle quilt is a beautiful combination of batiks, finished just in time to start selling tickets at the May book sale. It will be displayed at the Library and City Hall, as well as at the Columbia County Fair in July. Paulson's Printing has also generously donated two nights at their beach cabin in Long Beach, Washington to the Library to use as a raffle prize. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and can be purchased at the Library or City Hall. Your winning tickets will be drawn during the Columbia City Celebration on September 17.

Saturday Crafts for Kids: Please join us down at the Columbia City Community Library on Saturday, June 11th from 11 am to 2 pm. This month we'll check out bugs and I'm sure it will be fun! As always, you supply the kids and we'll supply everything else!

Support our Library! We got our first donation through the Amazon Smile Foundation Friends of The Columbia City Community Library (EIN: 20-0210620) for program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2016. Bookmark this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0210620> to have your purchases support the Library!

Second Hand Prose encourages Summer Fun! Are you going on a trip this summer? Do you need to learn some new games? Check out Second Hand Prose! Books like these and many others will be half price in June.

New Books: We added 123 books to the Library during the past month. Some recent additions to our Library include:

An American Son: A Memoir by Marco Rubio
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
Killing Patton by Bill O'Reilly
The Art of the English Murder by Lucy Worsley
The Boys from Little Mexico by Steve Wilson (about a Woodburn, Oregon high school soccer team)
Marco Polo: The Journey that Changed the World by John Man
The Secret Rescue: An Untold Story of American Nurses and Medics Behind Nazi Lines by Cate Lineberry
Train Dreams by Denis Johnson (audiobook)
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman
The Last Mile by David Baldacci
Fool Me Once by Harlan Coben
The Gangster by Clive Cussler
The Chase by Janet Evanovich
X by Sue Grafton
Clawback by Judith A. Jance
An Event in Autumn by Henning Mankell
Private Paris by James Patterson
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (for grade school)
Bon Appetit! The Delicious Life of Julia Child by Jessica Hartland (for children)

Library Hours

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

Story Time

Every Monday, 11 am

Saturday Craft: Bugs

Saturday, June 11, 11 am - 2 pm

Novel Quilters

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 pm

Friends of the Library

Monday, June 20, 7 pm

Summer Reading Program

Monday, June 27, 11 am

Mystery Book Club

Wednesday, June 29, 7 pm

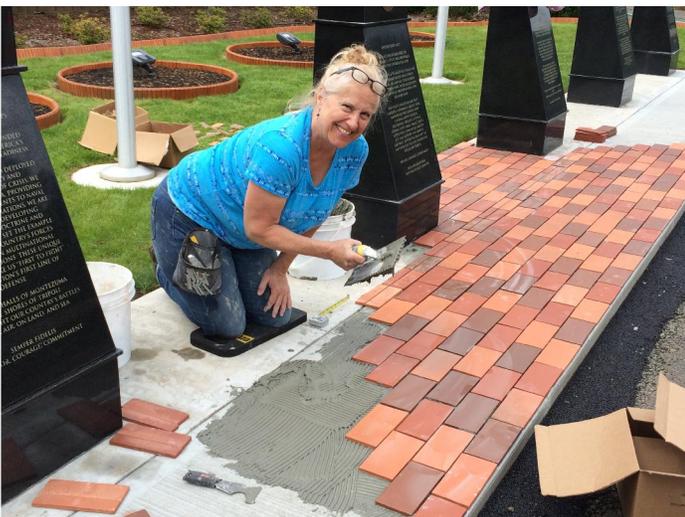
**VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE COLUMBIA CITY VETERANS PARK**



St. Helens Garden Club Members plant new annuals each season and maintain the rose bushes and wildflowers

Members of the St. Helens Garden Club, along with other volunteers and City crews, were busy sprucing up the Columbia City Veterans Park during the month of May in preparation for the Memorial Day ceremony and the upcoming season.

Phase III improvements to the park are well underway. The veteran wall construction, quarry paver tile, and tile engraving work is complete, and new tile has been installed around the base of each of the monuments.



Julie Heiselt of Geneva Floors installs quarry paver tile

Future Phase III improvements include:

- A monument honoring US military personnel taken as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action (POW/MIA's);
- A monument providing a tribute to the family members of all American veterans;

- A plaque explaining the purpose of the unique features on the existing All American monument;
- A park bench, a trash receptacle and a drinking fountain with a pet dish - all handcrafted in a manner that is similar to the existing picnic tables and park benches;
- An extension of the split rail fencing and rose bushes along the bike path leading in to the park from the west.



Wayne Mayo of Wayne Mayo Construction builds the veteran wall and Kevin of Artisan Concrete helps with the concrete pour and finish work



Terry Waymire, Buddy Rivers and Cameron Page pour and finish concrete with assistance from other volunteers

Funding for Phase III improvements comes from a \$15,600 grant from the Veterans & War Memorials Grant Program and a \$2,000 grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition. Phase III improvements are also supported by donated skilled and unskilled labor, in-kind labor and equipment, and cash donations.

**CITY RECEIVES GRANT FROM
OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

We are pleased to announce that the Oregon Community Foundation recently awarded a \$12,000 grant to the Columbia City Community Hall - A Legacy To Treasure - Capital Campaign.

**OUR COMMUNITY HALL
A LEGACY TO TREASURE SPONSORS**

Diamond - \$1,000 or more:

Port of St. Helens
The Oregon Community Foundation
The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation
Michael Allen Harrison
The Snowman Foundation
Bake Sale Volunteers
James and Thelma Hays
Lower Columbia Engineering
Columbia River PUD
The Gardes Family Trust
Parnell and Elsie Hovland
Leonard and Sally Ann Marson



Ruby - \$500:

Ace Hardware - West
Lowell Bauer
Landis & Landis Construction LLC
Nancy Radcliffe



Sapphire - \$250:

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



Emerald - \$100:

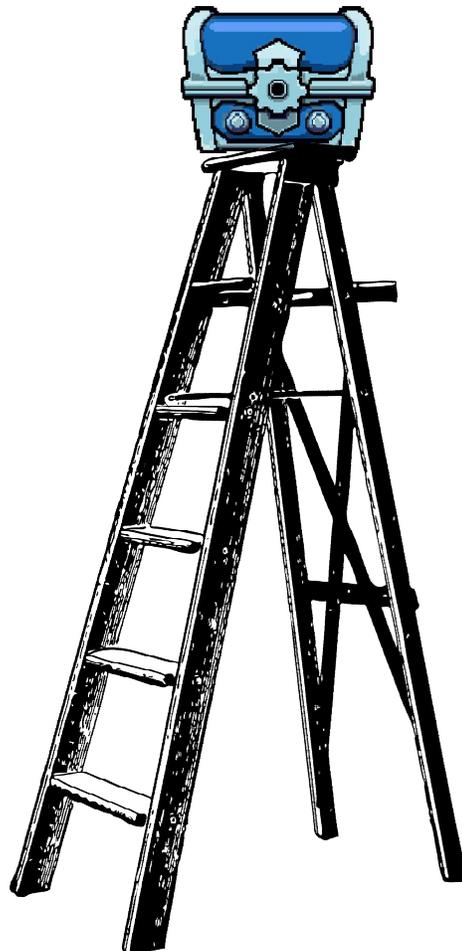
Sheila Bauer
Mike and Kay Brown
Sean and Monica Burns
The Burrito House
Doug and Colleen Calkins
Marian Calnon
Robert and Carlene Clore
Columbia County Brewing
Columbia City Community Club
Rich and Jeanette Crandall
Mark and Barbara Gordon
Roy "Bud" and Dolores Heinz
Hudson Portable Toilet Service
Margaret Jeffries
John and Patti Julian



Terry and Karen Kent
Klondike Restaurant/Strange Birds Coffee House
Joe and Sue Kovich
George and Jean LeMont
Bill and Jan Mansheim
Jean McBride
Scott and Sharon Morris
Robert Schmor and Shirley Palm
Dorothy M. Rofinot
Robert and Konnie Speirs
Tennessee Cable Service, Inc.
Gordon and Gail Thistle

Amethyst - \$50:

Dana and Jim Belisle
Raymond and Sunghe Buckno
Geneva Burwell
Jack and Molly Hruska
Nancy Hudson
Les Schwab - St. Helens
Donna McAtee
Fred and Winnie Neilson
Gregory Newcomb
Northwest Plumbing Services
Sante and Judy Valpiani
Cheryl Young



**POLICY ACTIVITY REPORT
APRIL 2016**

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 questions that you may have.

Stay safe ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

ACTIVITY REPORT: Your police officers answered 341 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: Assault, Burglary, Domestic Disturbances, Fraud, Juvenile Abuse, Missing Persons, Prowler Calls, Runaway Juvenile, Suicide Threats, Theft, Threats, Trespassing, and Warrant Service.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

Residential Security Checks: 92
Area Patrols: 11
Foot Patrols: 11
Assist the Public: 18
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 6
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 18
Parking/Traffic Complaints: 3
Nuisance Complaints: 1
Welfare Checks: 4
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 182

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:

Death Investigation: 1
Investigative Follow Up's: 31
Suspicious Circumstances, People, and Vehicles: 5
Traffic Stops: 60
Burglary: 1
Assault: 1
Attempted Fraud: 2
Theft: 2
Trespassing: 1
Threats: 1
Juvenile Investigations: 4
Warrant Service: 1
Prowler Calls: 2

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Unauthorized Entry to Motor Vehicle and Theft Investigation in the 400 block of E Street on April 25, 2016. Investigation remains open.
2. Runaway Juvenile Investigation in the 1900 block of Fifth Street on April 28, 2016. Juvenile located and returned home.
3. Death Investigation in the 2700 block of Sixth Street on April 28, 2016. Investigation completed and found natural causes as to manner of death.
4. Theft Investigation in the 1700 block of Seventh Street on May 4, 2016. Investigation remains open.
5. Warrant Service in the area of Highway 30 near L Street on May 17, 2016. Timothy Sparks, 24, of St. Helens was arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
6. Reckless Driving and Eluding Investigation in the area of Pacific Street near Highway 30 on May 18, 2016. Investigation remains open.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JUNE 2016

June 4 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall - cancelled
June 16 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
June 21 st	6:30 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
June 30 th	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall

**CRAFTS DAY AT THE LIBRARY
JUNE 11TH, 11 AM - 2 PM**



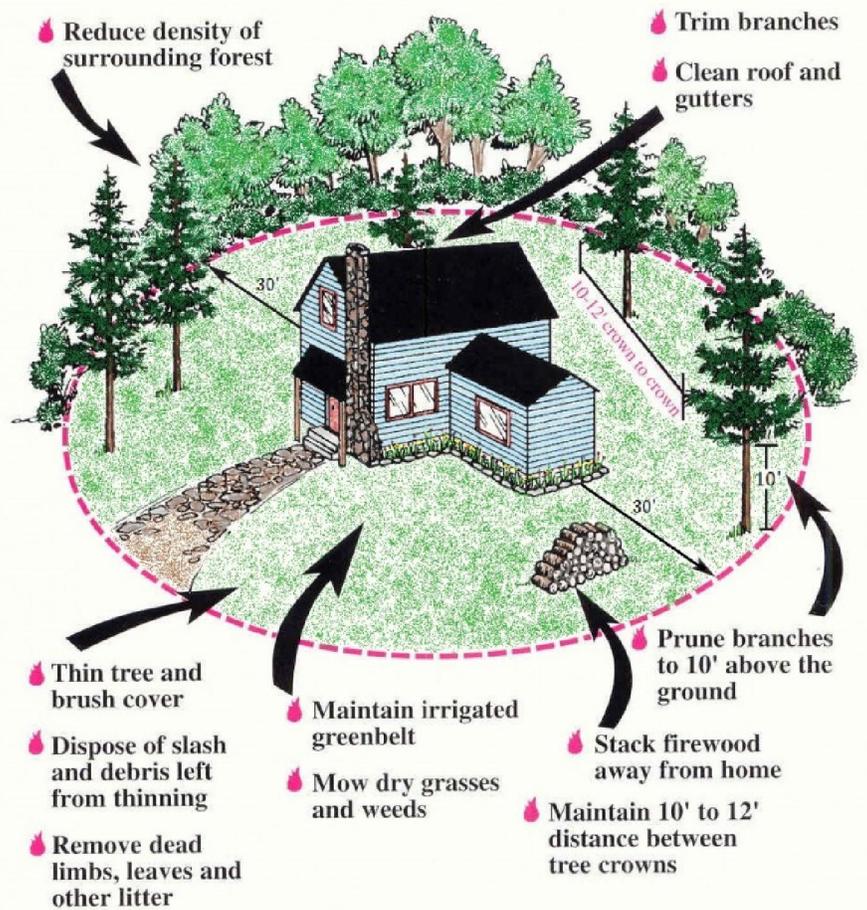
Please join us down at the Columbia City Community Library on Saturday, June 11th from 11 am to 2 pm. This month we'll check out bugs and I'm sure it will be fun! As always, you supply the kids and we'll supply everything else!

**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.

Defensible Space Guidelines



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.

**ST. HELENS LIONS CLUB
IS BACK IN THE PAPER RECYCLING BUSINESS**

Since 1955 the St. Helens Lions Club service projects have benefited our community, answering sight and hearing assistance needs, supporting local scouting groups, providing weekly assistance to 108 local families with the School Back Pack Program, and proudly displaying the American Flag on Holidays. Support the St. Helens Lions Club by recycling newspapers, books and magazines with the LIONS drop box located at Wal-Mart.



Lions Clubs International