

# Columbia City Newsletter

## February 2017

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### FROMM RETIRES, EBERT JOINS, MARSON CONTINUES

After eight years in office, Councilor Fromm retired from serving on the City Council on December 29th. During his tenure, Fromm was an active member of the Hazard Mitigation Group and Chair of the Water and Sewer Committee. Fromm, currently a Facilities Project Manager for Portland General Electric, plans to direct his attention to Scouting activities with his son, Max, and pursuing his running interests, which include a marathon.



*Leahnette Rivers administers the Oath of Office to Incoming Councilor Ebert and re-elected Councilor Marson at the start of their new four-year terms.*



*Mayor Young thanks outgoing Councilor Fromm for his many years of dedicated service (January 2009 to December 2016) and presents him with a plaque expressing the City's sincere thanks and appreciation.*

Councilor Marson, who has served on the Council since April of 2007, returns to complete another four-year term. Marson currently serves as President of the Council, Chair of the Parks and Streets Committees, and member of the Community Hall Committee. Retired from the banking industry, Marson is involved in a far reaching range of volunteer activities. One of her most visible local efforts can be seen around the City's entrance sign, where she nearly single handedly maintains the rose garden - which is fondly referred to as Marson's Garden.

Newly elected Councilor Ebert took her seat at the Council table during the January 5th Council Meeting. Ebert will serve on the Audit Committee, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Group, and the Water and Sewer Committee. She has lived in Columbia City almost all her life, except during college and her travels through Europe, Japan, and West Africa. She has a BA in International Affairs and Spanish from Eastern Washington University and a MS in Writing/Book Publishing from Portland State University. Ebert taught English in Japan, worked as a freelance editor, and currently works at the Courthouse in St. Helens. She spends her free time reading, designing her own sewing and knitting patterns, attempting to write a novel, learning French, and walking with her husband, Simon, and their miniature Schnauzer, Baxter.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND, 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 22nd from 8 am to noon** at the Columbia City School. More information will be in next month's newsletter.



## BUSINESS LICENSE REMINDER

Now is the time of year to renew business licenses for the new 2017 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.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

**Trash, recycle and yard debris containers:** Store trash, recycle and yard debris containers on private property. Move them into the street right-of-way for servicing, and remove them from the street right-of-way after servicing. Trash containers, recycle bins, and yard debris bins should not be stored on the street or on the sidewalk where they obstruct views, impede traffic, and/or block on-street parking spaces.



**Tree permits:** If you plan to trim or remove a tree on your property that may fall into the public right-of-way, you must first obtain a Tree Falling Permit from City Hall. These permits are free of charge.

**Pick up after your pets:** All pet owners must pick up after their pets!



**Kennels are prohibited!** Kennels are defined as any location where four or more dogs, cats or other small animals are kept for the business of boarding, training, propagation or sale.

**Sidewalk maintenance:** The owner of property abutting a sidewalk is responsible for keeping the sidewalk free of ice, snow, yard debris and other hazards or obstructions.

**Burning 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.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACCESSORY BUILDING AND STRUCTURE REGULATIONS

Some of the City's regulations for accessory buildings and structures have changed. Here are a few things you should know if you currently have, or you are planning to put in, one or more accessory structures:

### Submit an application for a placement review:

All buildings and structures require a review. Before you build or purchase a new portable or permanent accessory structure, complete an application and submit a proposed site plan to City Hall for review and approval. The application and site plan requirements may be found on the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org). There is a minimal fee of \$25 for this review process.



**Membrane or fabric covered storage structures are no longer permitted.** Under the new regulations, structures may no longer have vinyl or canvas materials. Those structures that were in existence and legally placed prior to December 18, 2016 will be grandfathered in for the life of their current vinyl or canvas materials, but when those vinyl or canvas materials reach the point that replacement is needed those portable structures will need to be brought up to current standards or removed.

**Some of the regulations vary depending upon the size of the structure:** For the most part, all accessory structures must:

- Be set back from the front property line at least as far as the primary structure;
- Be placed at least six feet from each of the other buildings or structures on the property.

However, the side and rear yard setbacks, height restrictions, construction material specifications, and other requirements may vary depending upon the size of the structure.

Specific regulations may be viewed on the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org), or at City Hall.

## COLUMBIA CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2016-17 Budget.

The award represents a significant achievement. It 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 16<sup>th</sup> budget award. In 2015, 1,565 entities received the award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

## COLUMBIA CITY T-SHIRTS FOR SALE AT CITY HALL

Select from three Columbia City T-shirts - one in grey with a front pocket, one in navy blue, and one in white. The grey shirt has the design on the front pocket and on the back of the shirt.



### **Grey Sternwheeler Shirts:**

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



### **Navy Blue Fish Shirts:**

- Small-XL - \$10**
- 2XL - \$11**
- 3XL - \$12**
- 4XL - \$13**

### **Nautical Flag Shirts:**

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



## AFTER HOURS WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCIES

When City Hall and Public Works offices are closed and an urgent water or sewer situation arises, call **(503) 397-1521**. The dispatcher will contact the appropriate person to respond to the situation.

## WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES

Columbia City residents can take an active role in protecting the City's drinking water from contamination.

### **Participate in a Household Hazardous Waste Event:**

The Columbia County Transfer Station will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Event on **Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 8 am to noon**. For more information regarding the event or any other solid waste issues, please contact Columbia County Transfer Station by calling (503) 366-2613.

### **Substitute less hazardous substances for products used in the home:**

- Read the label before you buy, and buy the least-hazardous product available to do the job.
- Buy fragrance-free when possible. Perfumes and fragrances can contain hazardous chemicals and trigger an asthma attack or affect those with sensitive skin.
- Buy the least harmful garden products. Consult the Grow Smart Grow Safe: A Gardener's Guide website at [www.growsmartgrowsafe.org](http://www.growsmartgrowsafe.org) or download the Grow Smart iPhone App.
- Choose products that carry the "Safer Choice" label which identifies products that meet the U.S. EPA Safer Product Standards.
- Choose safer art supplies, toys, and plastics and avoid products that contain mercury.

### **When using products at home:**

- Follow product label instructions.
- Never mix household cleaning products - some mixtures make a poisonous gas.
- Use safer methods for common household jobs such as hand washing, laundry, painting, etc.

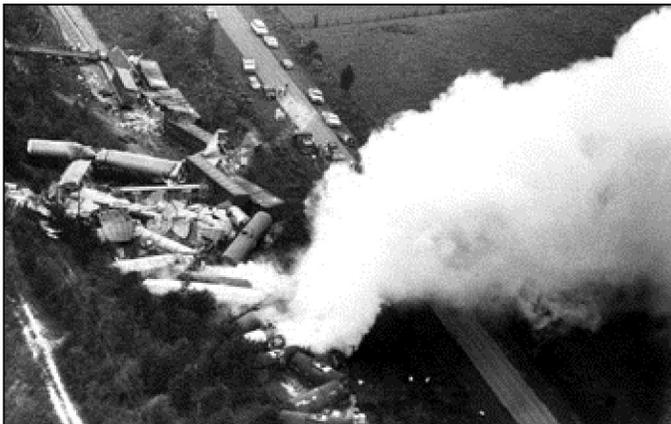
### **Car care:**

- Check your car for oil or other fluid leaks, and repair leaks quickly.
- Dispose of waste oil properly - never in drains or on the ground. Recycle oil at a car care center or hazardous waste center.

## HOW TO SHELTER IN PLACE DURING A CHEMICAL OR RADIATION EMERGENCY

**What Shelter-in-Place Means:** One of the instructions you may be given in an emergency where hazardous materials may have been released into the atmosphere is to shelter-in-place. This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe at times when an evacuation would be more risky. (This is not the same thing as going to a shelter in case of a storm.) Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building.

**Why You Might Need to Shelter-in-Place:** Chemical, biological or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally, by a truck, a train, or a facility, or intentionally by a terrorist. Should this occur, information will be provided by local authorities by television and radio stations, by a telephone call through the Columbia Alert Network (CAN), and by social media technologies on how to protect you and your family. The important thing is for you to follow the instructions of local authorities and know what to do if they advise you to shelter-in-place and keep a television and radio on to receive further information and instructions.



*Anhydrous ammonia escapes from a derailed train in Florida.*

### How to Shelter-in-Place:

Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.

- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds or curtains.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your family disaster supplies kit and make sure the radio is working.

- Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.
- Bring your pets with you, and be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition.
- If possible, you may want to use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal any large cracks around the door and any vents into the room. This is only an extra precaution.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

Local officials on the scene are the best source of information for your particular situation. Following their instructions during and after emergencies regarding sheltering, food, water and clean up methods is your safest choice.

## HOUSING REHABILITATION FUNDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Is your house in need of repairs? Low-income homeowners may now be eligible for ***no-interest, deferred payment loans!*** The funds may be used to complete the following housing rehabilitation projects:

- Update electrical, plumbing or sewer
- Replace or update heat source
- Replace roof, doors, windows
- Structural repairs
- Foundation repairs
- Energy saving measures

In order to qualify, you must be a homeowner, meet certain income and property guidelines, and live in the dwelling to be repaired. Loan funds are limited! Please contact the Community Action Team, Inc., at (503) 366-6544 for additional information and/or a loan application.



**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT  
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 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 further questions that you may have.

Stay safe ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

**ACTIVITY REPORT:** Your police officers answered 484 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, Death Investigation, Drug Activity Complaints, Fraud, Harassment, Hit and Run Traffic Crashes, Juvenile Investigations, Missing Juvenile, Suicide Attempts and Threats, Theft, Traffic Crashes, and Warrant Service.

**COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:**

Residential Security Checks: 240  
Area Patrols: 18  
Foot Patrols: 12  
Assist the Public: 15  
Disabled Vehicles/Hazards: 6  
Assistance to Outside Agencies: 24  
Parking/Traffic Complaints: 2  
Ordinance Violation Complaints: 14  
Welfare Checks: 4  
Reserve Police Officer Hours Worked: 44

**CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATIONS:**

Investigative Follow Up's: 24  
Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles: 23  
Traffic Stops: 54  
Hit and Run Traffic Crashes: 1  
Harassment: 1  
Death Investigation: 1  
Disturbance Calls: 7  
Theft: 2  
Juvenile Investigations: 3  
Warrant Service: 1

**CALLS OF INTEREST:**

1. Vehicle Break In and Theft Investigation in the area of 6<sup>th</sup> Street near I Street on November 12, 2016. Investigation remains open.

2. Vehicle Break In and Theft Investigation in the 400 block of A Street on November 12, 2016. Investigation remains open.
3. Felonious Assault on a Juvenile Under 10 years of Age Investigation in the 1600 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street on November 13, 2016. Investigation closed with the suspect identified and case forwarded to the Columbia County District Attorney's Office and juvenile victim taken into protective custody.
4. Burglary, Arson, and Criminal Mischief Investigation in the 1500 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street on December 13, 2016. Suspect identified, arrested, and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
5. Theft Investigation in the 1800 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street on December 18, 2016. Investigation remains open.
6. Death Investigation in the 1800 block of 6<sup>th</sup> Street on December 28, 2016. Investigation complete, with the assistance of Deputy Medical Examiner, and ruled a natural cause's death.

**VALENTINES FOR VETS 2017**

The St. Helens Elks will hold a Gala Fundraiser Dinner and Auction to benefit the Elks Veteran's Bunker which serves as a local resource for all veterans and their families. The event will be held on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at Buccini Hall, St. Frederic Church, 165 14<sup>th</sup> St., St. Helens. Doors open at 5 pm. Please contact (503) 410-5225 to purchase advance tickets (\$20), to sponsor the event, or to donate auction items.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

We are up to over 14,000 items in our great Library. Our shelves are full! We could really use more people coming in to check out books, and making use of our wonderful community resource! There are a number of things we need to accomplish this year, and we welcome everyone's involvement.

**Saturday Crafts:** Please join us at the Columbia City Community Library for Valentines Galore Kid's Craft day on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm. As always, you supply the kids and we'll supply everything else!

**Second Hand Prose is open any time the Library is open!** In February, romance is in the air – or on the bookshelves! Take away some of our lovely romance novels, 4 for a dollar!

**Thanks for supporting your Library!** Thanks to our supporters (17 households) who shopped at Fred Meyer between October 1 and December 31 2016. Fred Meyer, thanks to you, contributed \$79.35 to our library for that period of time! Visit [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) to link your Fred Meyer Reward Card to the Library!

**New books:** We added 209 items to the Library during the past month, including 54 videos. Some recent additions to our Library include:

*Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance  
*Eruption, The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens* by Steve Olson  
*The Natural Habitat Garden* by Kenneth Druse  
*500 Baskets: A Celebration of the Basketmaker's Art* by Lark Publishing  
*500 Art Quilts: An Inspiring Collection of Contemporary Work* by Lark Publishing  
*The Wild Christmas Reindeer* by Jan Brett (to read aloud!)  
*The Girls* by Emma Cline  
*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline  
*Tricky Twenty-Two* by Janet Evanovich  
*Outrage* by Arnaldur Indridason  
*Prodigal Son* by Danielle Steel  
*Code of Conduct* by Brad Thor

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down* by Jeff Kinney  
*P.K. Pinkerton and the Pistol-Packing Widows* by Carol Lawrence  
*Why Did It Have to be Snakes? From Science to the Supernatural, the Many Mysteries of Indiana Jones* by Lois Gresh  
*Love Potion #9* (DVD)  
*My Favorite Martian* (DVD)  
*Ice Age* (DVD)

**Storytime** - every Monday at 11 am  
**Saturday Kid's Craft: Valentines Galore**

2/11, 11 am to 2 pm

**Friends of the Library** - 2/13 at 7 pm

**Novel Quilters** - 2/15 at 6:30 pm

**Mystery Book Club** - 2/22 at 7 pm

**LIBRARY HOURS:**

**Monday 10-2, Tuesday 2-6,**

**Wednesday 4-8, Thursday 2-6, Saturday 10-2**

Columbia City Community Library

2000 2nd Street/PO Box 189

(503) 366-8020 ccclibrary@live.com



**WATER CONSERVATION TIP**

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

**MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2017**

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00 p.m.	<del>Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall</del> CANCELLED
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President's Day
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Streets Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Water and Sewer Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall

**CRAFTS DAY AT THE LIBRARY  
 VALENTINES GALORE!**



Valentine's Day comes early to the Columbia City Community Library this year.....at least for the kids. Bring your kids and come join us on Saturday, February 11th from 11 am to 1 pm for a fun filled crafts day. It is a chance for the young ones to make Valentines for parents, grandparents and siblings!