



COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

January 2017

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TALENTED COLUMBIA CITY YOUTHS WIN VFW ESSAY CONTESTS

The Patriot's Pen youth essay contest is offered nationwide by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Prizes and awards are offered at all levels.

We are very proud to announce that Maria Burns, a Columbia City home schooled 8th grader, recently won the VFW Post 1440 contest, the VFW District 2 contest, and the VFW Oregon State contest! This year's essay theme was "The America I Believe In." Next, Maria will move on to compete at the VFW National contest level. We congratulate her on her outstanding accomplishments, and wish her the best during the upcoming national competition!

We would also like to extend our congratulations to Brendan Fugere, who recently won the VFW Post 1440 Voice of Democracy contest! Brendan is a home schooled high school senior and a Columbia City resident. This year's essay theme was "My Responsibility to America."

What do you get when
you cross a snowman
with a vampire?



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:

Contact City Hall first for a placement review: All buildings and structures require a review. Before you build or purchase a new portable or permanent accessory structure, submit a proposed site plan to City Hall for review and approval. Site plan requirements may be found on the City's website at 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, or at City Hall.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We frequently find that the phone numbers we have listed on our utility accounts are no longer valid. It is very important that we have current contact information on file for you. We may need to call you to:



- Let you know about a water leak we discovered while reading your meter, or
- Notify you of a temporary street closure that will impact your access, or
- Let you know your water will be shut off due to a waterline break or other repair work, or
- Let you know your dog was spotted near Highway 30, or
- Contact you in the event of an emergency.

For whatever the reason, we hope we have your current contact information in our records when we attempt to call you. If your work phone number has changed, or you have a new cell phone or home telephone number, please keep us informed so we can update our records. To update your contact information, please fill out and return the enclosed form, or email the information to colcity@columbia-city.org.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

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.

Home occupations: Under certain conditions, residents may use their home to engage in small-scale business ventures which might not be sustainable if it were necessary to lease commercial space. All home occupations require a permit.

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

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

WHEN A SERIOUS EARTHQUAKE STRIKES, 6 STEPS TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE

An earthquake is a sudden release of pent-up energy along a fault line in the earth's crust. Without warning, the ground under your feet will begin to shake or roll.

A timely response is critical. Gas leaks may have occurred, which could lead to fire and explosion. People may have been injured. What you do in the **first hour** following an earthquake can save lives, reduce the severity of injuries, and save property.



What to do:

Step 1 Check on the well-being of your loved ones and pets. Do not call 9-1-1 unless necessary. Remember, 9-1-1 is an emergency-only number.

Step 2 Dress for safety. Protect your head, hands and feet. Sturdy shoes will protect your feet from broken glass. Leather gloves will protect your hands from sharp debris. A bicycle helmet or hard hat will help to protect your head from falling objects, like chimney bricks teetering or roof edges.

Step 3 Check the natural gas or propane at your home. Shut it off if necessary. This is one of the best ways to prevent fire.

Step 4 Shut off water at the house master shut off valve. If water pipes have broken, this will help keep the water in your water heater safe from pollutants.

Step 5 Place an OK or HELP sign in your front window or on your front door. If you - or a neighbor - have been injured and are going into shock, time is critical. This signals your status to your neighbors and helps prioritize response activity.

Step 6 Put your fire extinguishers on the sidewalk or street edge so they are visible and available for immediate use should anyone in the neighborhood experience fire. Time is critical. In a disaster, 9-1-1 fire responders will likely be unavailable.

2016 SHOP WITH A COP SPONSORS

~ Thank you for your support ~

Walmart

Silas Hough

Len and Sally Ann Marson

L. Lee Phillips



**A total of 18 officers assisted
18 happy and grateful shoppers during
Columbia City's 2016 Shop with a Cop event**

**The smallest act of kindness
is worth more than the grandest intention.**

~ Oscar Wilde ~

LIBRARY NEWS

CCCC Grant Award: Exciting news! The Columbia County Cultural Coalition (CCCC) has awarded a \$500 grant to our Library to further its vision of strengthening arts and culture in our county. Our grant proposal was for a Puppet Theatre as an after school program at the elementary school when it re-opens next year. If you love puppets, kids, stories and fun, please volunteer to help. You can email ccclibrary@live.com and someone will contact you.

Our strategic planning starts now! We have a Friends of the Library board position open. If you are interested, please email the Library and we will contact you.

DVD shelving: We have purchased DVD shelving. The unit holds 1500 DVDs, and we are working to fill it, with over 600 videos already in our collection.

Saturday Crafts: Please join us at the Columbia City Community Library for It's Snow Wonderful Kid's Craft day, featuring felt corsages, paper snowflakes,

and T.P. snowmen on Saturday, January 14 from 11 am to 2 pm. As always, you supply the kids and we'll supply everything else.

Second Hand Prose: Open any time the Library is open! In January, New Year's Resolutions are the theme. Improve your home, improve your body, or improve your mind, Secondhand Prose will feature improvement books for our half price sale.

Thanks for Supporting Your Library! Thanks to Bob and Betty Rodgers for a subscription to Sports Illustrated! And thanks to all of you who have joined or rejoined Friends of the Library!

New Books: We added 211 items to the Library during the past month. Some recent additions to our Library include:

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

Nature's Gardens: Create a Haven for Birds, Butterflies and Yourself by Better Homes and Gardens

1001 Timely Tips for Clutter Control

When Organizing Isn't Enough by Julia Morgenstern

Private London (an audiobook) by James Patterson

Mightier than the Sword by Jeffrey Archer

The Skin Collector by Jeffery Deaver

Radiant Angel by Nelson DeMille

The Hurricane Sisters by Dorothea Benton Frank

The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George

Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good by Jan Karon

Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur

The Bazaar of Bad Dreams by Stephen King

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Journey to Munich by Jacqueline Winspear

Neotopia 4 (a graphic novel) by Rod Espinosa

Evan Almighty (a DVD)

Gunfight at the O.K. Corral (a DVD)

Guns at Navarone (a DVD)

Storytime - every Monday at 11 am

Columbia Art Guild Meeting - 1/11 at 7 pm

Saturday Kid's Craft: It's Snow Wonderful

1/14, 11 am to 2 pm

Friends of the Library - 1/16 at 7 pm

Novel Quilters - 1/18 at 6:30 pm

Mystery Book Club - 1/25 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

503-366-8020 ccclibrary@live.com

GET READY FOR WINTER STORMS

1. Minimize the impact of rainwater and melting snow by clearing walkways and keeping leaf piles and debris out of the street and storm drains.
2. Report flooding, downed trees, storm system problems, backed up sewer, and other similar problems to the Public Works Department by calling (503) 366-0454 during regular work hours, or by calling (503) 397-1521 (dispatch) after hours and on weekends.
3. Free sand bags can be picked up at the City Shop, 1755 Second Place, anytime during a declared flood-related emergency.
4. Keep snow from piling up on flat rooftops. In the event of accumulation, heavy snow load can cause structural failures.
5. Listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of falling mud or debris may precede larger landslides. If you think there is danger of a landslide, leave immediately.
6. Assume highways are not safe. Be alert when driving, especially at night. Don't overdrive your headlights. It should take your car four seconds to catch up to the spot where your low beams were originally at. Embankments along road sides may fail, sending rock and debris onto the road.
7. Remember to check on your elderly or disabled neighbors, friends and family.

HOLIDAY TIME RECYCLING

Christmas trees, greeting cards and wrapped presents brighten homes and warm our hearts. After the holidays, however, sometimes these holiday items end up in our garbage cart. That means they will go to the landfill, even though they could have been recycled. When you consider the trees, cards, wrapping paper, envelopes and the stamps, that's a lot of trees cut down for our holiday enjoyment.

Why should I recycle my tree? Recycling your tree "gives back" to the environment as trees are composted for garden mulch. Mulch provides a protective barrier for the roots of other plants while suppressing weeds and holding in moisture. As the mulch decomposes, it provides nutrients that plants need.

Tree Recycling Tips:

- Recycle your tree and support Boy Scout Troop 106 in Columbia County. The Scouts offer two recycling options:
 - ✓ Drop your tree off in the drop box at

Lawrence Oil in St. Helens for \$6.50.

- ✓ Schedule curbside pick up for \$8.50. Curbside pickup will be offered on January 6, 7, 8, and 9. To schedule a curbside pickup, call Bill Reese at (503) 366-0726, or e-mail him at billr@columbia-center.org.
- If you have yard debris service, you may recycle your tree by cutting it up and placing it inside your yard debris cart. It must fit entirely in your cart.
- Beaver Bark in Scappoose will process your old tree into compost for a minimum charge of \$9.
- Recycle your whole tree at the Columbia County Transfer Station. The minimum load fee of \$21 will apply.

Before recycling or composting discarded trees, be sure to remove the tinsel, plastic and other non-recyclable ornaments.

Wrapping Paper, Gift Boxes, Greeting Card Tips:

Save used wrapping paper, gift boxes, bows and ribbons this Christmas and reuse it all next year.

- Recycle your non-shiny or non-glittering wrapping paper, the cardboard roll the paper is wound around, tissue paper, gift boxes and tags by placing these items in your co-mingle bin or roll cart.
- You can recycle your greeting cards by donating them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The program accepts all types of greeting cards. Only the card front can be used, (please check to be sure the back side is clear of any writing etc.) they are not able to accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards. 5" x 7" size or smaller is preferred. Mail donations to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Recycled Card Program, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005. Currently, they have found the least expensive way to mail large quantities of card donations is through the USPS in a Flat Rate Box which holds up to 70 pounds (available at the Post Office). The ranch provides counseling and opportunities for troubled youth. The kids operate a business taking used greeting cards, creating new ones and selling the results. The kids earn money, experience and a sense of purpose through this program. For more information visit their website: www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/.

Electronic Recycling Tips: Electronics can be recycled for FREE at any time during regular business hours at the Columbia County Transfer Station on Railroad Ave. in St. Helens.

BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Budget Committee meets at least once annually to review the proposed budget, hear public testimony, and approve a budget for submission to the City Council. Applicants must reside within the City. If interested, please inquire at City Hall.

ABOUT HOME FIRES



If a fire starts in your home, you may have just a minute or two to escape. The most effective way to protect yourself and your home from fire is to identify and remove

fire hazards. 60 percent of house fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. During a home fire, working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives.

If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL for help. If your clothes catch on fire, stop where you are, cover your face, drop to the ground and roll back and forth. STOP, DROP AND ROLL!

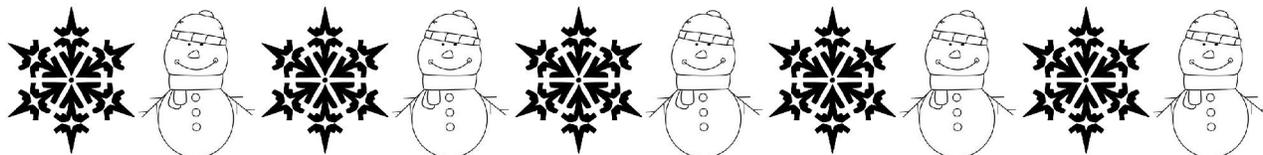
Smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms once a month. If they are not working, change the batteries.

Fire extinguishers: Purchase an A-B-C- type fire extinguisher and teach all responsible family members how to use it. Fire extinguishers are for small fires only. When using one, stand back ten feet from the fire, keep your back to an exit and remember the PASS sequence:

- Pull the pin out.
- Aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze or press the handle.
- Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire.

CRAFTS DAY AT THE LIBRARY SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 11 AM - 2 PM



It's Snow Wonderful! Make felt corsages, paper snowflakes and TP snowmen at the Columbia City Community Library on Saturday, January 14 from 11 am to 2 pm. As always, you supply the kids and we'll supply everything else!

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JANUARY 2017

January 2nd	CLOSED	Closed the day after New Year's Day
January 5th	6:00 pm	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 12th	6:00 pm	Municipal Court at City Hall
January 16th	CLOSED	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 17th	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
January 19th	6:00 pm	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 23rd	10:00 am	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 23rd	6:00 pm	Hazard Mitigation Team Meeting at City Hall
January 24th	5:00 pm	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall

