

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## November 2020

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY  
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### PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION

Oregon law requires you to obtain permits for a range of work on your home to ensure that the improvements meet minimum building standards and safe workmanship.

All new construction as well as specific alterations to existing homes require permits, these include: structural, plumbing, mechanical and electrical changes. (Note: Columbia County Land Development Services handles all electrical permits for Columbia City.)

If you are not sure if you need a permit, go to: <http://www.permitsprotect.info/index.htm> or contact City Hall.

The person performing the work, whether it is a homeowner or contractor, is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits. Once the permit has been issued you can begin work. The permit must be on site and available to the inspector; and if your permit has accompanying approved plans, they must be available as well.

**A \$250 penalty fee will be assessed for work done without first obtaining an approved permit.**

Your permit expires if work is not started within 180 days from its issuance. Once you have begun work your permit expires if work is suspended or abandoned for 180 days or more. If you cannot work within a 180 day period, but do not wish to abandon the project, you need to submit a written request to extend your permit for an additional 180 days.

The City went live with ePermitting and it's easy to use! If you are a contractor, permits can be issued online through the State's ePermitting website by going to: <https://aca-oregon.accela.com/oregon/>. Electronic plan review is **not** being provided at this time, continue to submit hard copies to City Hall. If you're not a contractor permits will need to be applied for in person at City Hall.

### FEED THE NEED

## Food Drive



Please help us **Feed the Need** by bringing your donations of boxed and canned foods to City Hall

during the month of November. The biggest needs are canned soup, vegetables and fruit. Other useful items include: canned meats, peanut butter, almond butter, jams and jellies, canned beans, dried beans, canned stews, chili, broth, boxed macaroni and cheese, pasta, rice, cereal, corn meal, cooking oil, olive oil, canned tomato products, bread, rolls, buns and personal care products (soap, shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brushes, child and adult diapers).

All of the collected goods will be given to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank in St. Helens. Other ways in which you can help may be found on the Columbia Pacific Food Bank website: [www.cpfoodbank.org](http://www.cpfoodbank.org).

### CURBSIDE YARD DEBRIS EXTRA NOVEMBER COLLECTIONS

Hudson Garbage Service will provide weekly curbside yard debris collections for subscribed Columbia City customers during the month of November. Yard debris service is provided on an every-other-week basis during the remaining 11 months of the year. Yard debris collection service is provided on the same weekday as the customer's regular garbage collection service. Interested citizens may subscribe for the yard debris service for a minimum period of one year by contacting Hudson Garbage Service at (503) 397-1534.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 1**

## PLANNING NEWS – PUBLIC HEARING

On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. the Columbia City Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing through Zoom.

The hearing was continued from October regarding proposed changes to the Columbia City Development Code. Changes include refinement to the permitting and review process for modifications to existing boat ramps and docks, as well as the full incorporation of the Oregon Model Flood Code.

Interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and present oral and written testimony regarding the application. If you would like to comment but cannot participated in the hearing, you may submit your comments in writing to City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing.

For more information about the hearing or for Zoom meeting access contact City Hall at 503-397-4010.

### TIPS FOR GETTING DMV SERVICES

DMV is continuing to improve its services by adding more appointments, expanding online services and retrofitting offices to catch up with its backlog.

However, customers who need DMV services this fall and into 2021 should start early to set an appointment.

It will take months for DMV to catch up with the backlog created by the 10-week closure of offices due to COVID-19. Here's what DMV is doing to catch up safely:

**Appointments:** Due to COVID-19 safe distancing needs, DMV offices are open by appointment only for the foreseeable future.

Driver's license, ID cards, including the Real ID option, and knowledge tests must be done in person. The only exception is if you need to replace a card that's lost, damaged or stolen; you can order it at [DMV2U.Oregon.gov](https://www.oregon.gov/dmv/docs/Citation_Moratorium_Memo.pdf).

Customers – including commercial driver license holders and new applicants – can set appointments themselves at [DMV2U.Oregon.gov](https://www.oregon.gov/dmv/docs/Citation_Moratorium_Memo.pdf). Please be aware that the earliest available appointments are weeks away at some of our busier offices.

If you need a VIN inspection, check your local office page on [OregonDMV.com](https://www.oregon.gov/dmv/docs/Citation_Moratorium_Memo.pdf) to see if drive-up VIN inspections are available. Otherwise, you need to schedule an appointment for a VIN inspection.

**Drive tests:** DMV has not yet resumed behind-the-wheel test appointments. We are preparing to offer this service by appointment in some offices by December.

**Calling DMV:** If you call DMV, expect long wait times or a message that the phone system is beyond capacity. We continue to update our website with helpful information, so save yourself some time and check [OregonDMV.com](https://www.oregon.gov/dmv/docs/Citation_Moratorium_Memo.pdf) before calling. You may find what you need without waiting on hold by phone.

**Do it yourself:** Many DMV services are now available online at [DMV2U.Oregon.gov](https://www.oregon.gov/dmv/docs/Citation_Moratorium_Memo.pdf). You can replace a lost, stolen or damaged driver license or ID card, change your address, order a driving record, pay a reinstatement fee, renew your registration, and more from the comfort of your home.

**Where's my title and registration?** Title transfers and other mailed-in services are taking 2-3 months because of the backlog. We understand this is frustrating and continue to seek ways to leverage our updated technology and hire/train new employees to shorten the COVID-19 backlog. Please allow 10-12 weeks for processing your title before calling DMV to check the status of your transaction.

**If you can't renew before your expiration date.** The Oregon law enforcement moratorium on expiring driver licenses, ID cards, vehicle registration and more is in effect through Dec. 31. Find out what the moratorium covers here: [https://www.oregon.gov/dmv/docs/Citation\\_Moratorium\\_Memo.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/dmv/docs/Citation_Moratorium_Memo.pdf)

Will this moratorium be extended? We don't know yet, but discussions are underway.

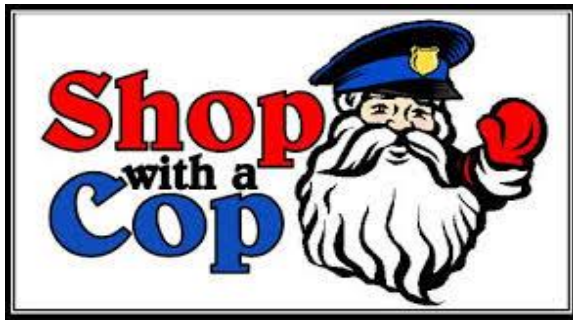


## A RAT REDUCTION PLAN

- Move compost into rodent-resistant containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Store seed and pet food in rodent-proof containers.
- Remove fallen fruit or nuts.
- Remove all fecal matter (dogs, cats, rodents, birds) and/or food waste every day.
- Eliminate standing water and improve drainage, so water doesn't pool or settle.
- Remove clutter from storage sheds and garages.
- Cut grass or weeds and trim back plants around buildings and walls.

## DONATIONS WELCOMED! NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

The Columbia City Police Department is getting ready to host its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Shop with a Cop program. The goal of the program is to provide warm clothing, winter necessities and Christmas wish list items for selected participants that are in need of some additional help.



We are accepting nominations for families in need until November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact City Hall to obtain a nomination form if you have a family in mind.

We are also accepting donations to help support this year's program. If you would like to help, please send your donation to City Hall, PO Box 189, Columbia City, OR 97018. Please be sure to identify the donation as Shop with a Cop. Thank you for your support to this rewarding program.

**TO REPORT  
WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCIES  
OUTSIDE OF NORMAL WORK HOURS,  
CALL (503) 397-1521.**

The dispatcher will contact the appropriate on-call person to respond to the situation.

## PLANNING TO GET AWAY?



At your request, the Columbia City Police Department 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 our website.

## OPEN BURNING NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> BURN PERMIT REQUIRED

Yard debris may be burned outdoors beginning **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and extending to Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Burning is restricted to yard debris only, and burn barrels are prohibited. Yard debris is lawn clippings, leaves, brush, trimmings/prunings, sawdust and wood scraps. It is **not** dirt/gravel, paper/plastic, metal, rocks/bricks, sod, or food waste.



**Burn permits are required prior to burning!** Permits are free and can be obtained at City Hall, any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District, or on their website: [www.CRFR.com](http://www.CRFR.com). Please remember you will also need to call the "Burn Line" at (503) 397-4800 each day to see if it is a burn day.

## PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

The City currently has an opening on the Columbia City Planning Commission. Terms are for four years and applicants must reside within the City or the City's Urban Growth Boundary. The Planning Commission meets at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month when there are topics to discuss. Applications may be picked up at the City Hall, or may be found on the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org).

## LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to Dyno Nobel for their recent donations to the library. We also had many people renew their Friends of the Library memberships in the last month. We are grateful that you are still supporting us, especially since we weren't able to have our City Celebration fundraiser this year.

Thank you to Sophie Martinson for her hearts in the park project. The hearts were auctioned as a fundraiser for the library. Even with the smoke in September, people enjoyed finding the hearts.



We have a great selection of magazines, all due to our community support! Now's the time to start thinking about the library when you get your magazine renewals with gifts for friends! Send your gifts to:

Columbia City Community Library  
PO Box 189  
Columbia City OR 97018

**Art Exhibit:** Do you remember the times when you would look through copies of the 'National Geographic' magazine and admire the beautiful photographs from around the world? There would be pictures from Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe and throughout the United States and Canada. Right now we have neighbors and friends in Columbia City who have traveled to many interesting places and have brought back their own amazing photographs. In November, the Library will be displaying photos by Don Jeanroy who has traveled to Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Lithuania and the Antarctic over

many years. You might recognize some of the places in his photographs.

**Books we've added:** This month we added 130 items to our library, including 16 movies. Books we've added include:

*Orca: How We Came to Know and Love the Ocean's Greatest Predator* by Jason Colby  
*Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas Tallamy  
*Me* by Elton John  
*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett (best seller list)  
*A Dangerous Man* by Robert Crais (recent best seller)  
*Wrath of Poseidon* by Clive Cussler (recent best seller)  
*Twisted Twenty-Six* by Janet Evanovich (recent best seller)  
*The Evening and the Morning* by Ken Follett (best seller list)  
*The Witch Elm* by Tana French  
*Cave of Bones* by Anne Hillerman  
*The Institute* by Stephen King (best seller list)  
*The Chain* by Adrian McKinty (best seller list)  
*1st Case* by James Patterson (recent best seller)

### Library Hours:

Monday and Saturday 10 am to 2 pm  
Thursday 3 pm to 6 pm

### Columbia City Community Library

2000 Second Street / PO Box 189  
503-366-8020 [ccclibrary@live.com](mailto:ccclibrary@live.com)

### Reach our book catalog:

<https://columbiacitycommunitylibrary.follettdestiny.com>

### ATTENTION DOG OWNERS!!

Please **pick up after your pets!!** Use the doggie bags that are provided around town, stop by City Hall for a free roll, or use your own from home.



## MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2020

November 7 <sup>th</sup>	dawn	First day of open burn period
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed in observance of Veteran's Day
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Municipal Court at City Hall
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom*
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Regular City Council Meeting via Conference Call*
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	dusk	Last day of open burn period
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Thanksgiving Day
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed the day after Thanksgiving