



COEXISTING WITH COYOTES



Coyotes are frequently spotted in Columbia City. Seeing a coyote cross a field, backyard, or road does not necessarily constitute a problem or dangerous situation, either for humans or domestic animals. Coyotes will be more active and more visible in late winter/early spring during their breeding season. Most coyotes are harmless; their goal is to eat more natural foods such as mice and rabbits.

However, coyotes are opportunistic. If coyotes see easy food – such as open garbage – and aren't afraid, they may take advantage. That puts them in direct line for a confrontation with pets.

Some tips on living near coyotes:

- Don't feed any wild animals such as raccoons or deer, which encourages coyotes as well. Garbage should be stored in secure containers. Do not put meat scraps in compost piles.
- Remove bird feeders and outside pet food containers. Coyotes will prey upon small mammals that are attracted to birdseed and pet food.
- Don't allow pets to run free and keep a watchful eye on them. Walk dogs on a leash, especially at night. Keep cats indoors at all times. Do not let pets out at night unless accompanied by a person. Don't leave cat or dog food outside.
- Provide secure shelters for poultry, rabbits, or other outside pets.
- Clear woodpiles, brush piles and other potential cover for coyotes. Secure garbage in areas where coyotes can't access it; keep yards clean of refuse and brush.
- Don't leave small children outside unattended.

- Reinforce the coyotes' natural fear of humans by turning on outside lights, making loud noises, throwing rocks and so forth. Be aggressive in your actions. Although the response may not be immediate, eventually the coyotes will flee.

A LOCAL SHOWCASE FOR TRILLIUM

From March through June, large-flowered trilliums bloom gracefully on the forest floor throughout Jim Bundy Memorial Park. The trillium has a large, often white, three-petaled flower above three broad leaves. Along with its three sepals, it's easy to see where trillium got its name. The plants are 8 - 18 inches high with a stem bearing a 2 - 4 inch flower. The white flowers turn pink with age. They grow in rich wooded areas, and trillium is often the first wildflower noticed by casual walkers as other spring wildflowers are much less apparent.

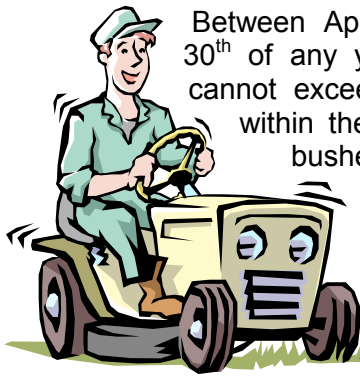


Trillium

Trillium flowers should never be picked. In fact, it is illegal to pick trilliums in Oregon, Washington, New York, Michigan and British Columbia. The three leaves below the flower are the plant's only food source and a picked trillium may die or take many years to recover. Trillium plants take 6 years to grow from seeds to flowers.

Trillium is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants and mice. Trillium seeds have a fleshy organ called an elaiosome that attracts ants. The ants take the seeds to their nest, where they eat the elaiosomes and put the seeds in their garbage, where they are protected until they germinate. They also get the added bonus of growing in a medium made richer by the ant garbage.

IT'S TIME TO MOW WEEDS AND GRASSES



Between April 15th and September 30th of any year, weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height within the City limits. 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 may be cited into Municipal Court, or the City may abate the nuisance and lien the property for the costs. To report violations, please contact City Hall.

THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a very special "thank you" to:

- Judy Anderson, Karen Bates, Sheila Bauer, Gloria Chinell, Nell Harrison, Betty Jensen, Barbara Jones, Jean Lord and Vonnie Walker for helping with the newsletter and utility billing in February.
- Jim Carlson for the donation of 24 flowering cherry trees to the City Parks.

LIBRARY NEWS

Get rid of it at our big **Rummage Sale** during Spring Clean-Up day! The Friends of the Library will be hosting a Rummage Sale (and used book sale) at the Community Hall during the Spring Clean-Up taking place in Columbia City on Saturday, April 26, from 10 am to 4 pm. Come get a bargain!

Space rental is only \$10 plus \$5 for an 8' table if needed. **Reserve your space now!** All rental fees benefit the Friends of the Library. Sign up at the library or call (503) 366-8020 for more details.

Novel Quilters will reveal their quilts based on *The Maltese Falcon* this April 16 at 6:30. Come and see what we've done, even if you aren't a quilter! We will find out our next book as well.

<http://www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm> is our new website for the Library. It is up and

running, and we will be adding more content to it over time.

We are still looking for more volunteers to fill our Thursday and Saturday schedules. Training takes about an hour, and the work isn't hard, it's fun! Contact Cathy Lundberg, (503) 556-1958 or the Library for more information.

New at the Library... We have a lot of current best sellers in at the Library, including *In Defense of Food* and *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. I read *The Omnivore's Dilemma* last week and *The Botany of Desire* by him several years ago. Both books are thought provoking and interesting for those who like science-based writing. I am now more keenly interested in how to integrate my chickens and my gardening!

Also just in: *The Appeal* by John Grisham and *7th Heaven* by James Patterson. We also had some recent donations that filled in much of the fiction bestseller list from the last few months. Stop in and see our display of current best sellers!

Library Hours:

Monday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursday 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Story Time:

Every Monday at 11:00 a.m.

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Columbia City Community Library

205 "I" Street
PO Box 189
Columbia City, OR 97018
(503) 366-8020



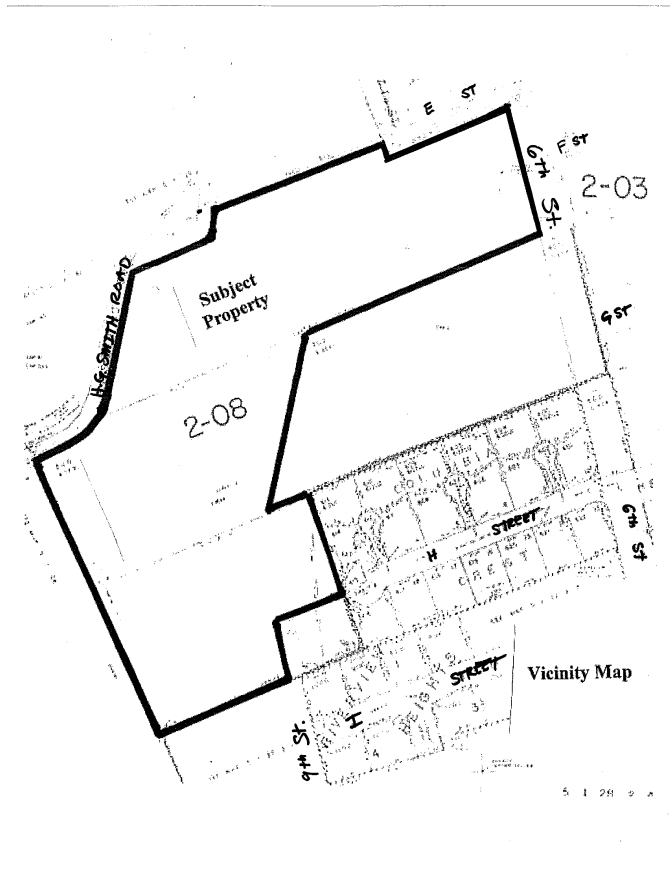
PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The Columbia City Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. to review and act on an application for a 23-lot subdivision.

The subject property is identified on Columbia County Tax Maps 5128-024-00100 and 5128-024-00200. The property is generally described as 15.5 acres of vacant property in two parcels, a portion being north of Ninth Street and a portion being west of Sixth Street. If approved, the applicant will be allowed to create a subdivision, subject to the standards in Columbia City Development Code.

This decision is a limited land use decision by the Planning Commission. A limited land use decision does not require an interpretation or the exercise of policy or legal judgment. **There is no public hearing. All comments regarding this subdivision must be submitted in writing and must be received at City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.**

Additional information about the application may be obtained at City Hall.



CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM

The Caples House Museum needs your help - they are looking for docents. If you might be interested, please attend a planning/organizational meeting on April 2, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Caples House Museum. A light lunch will be served. This will be fun - things are happening at the Caples House Museum!

COLUMBIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S 12TH ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN FAIR

Don't miss the **Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association's** 12th annual fair on April 26th at St. Helens High School, inside the Commons and outside in the courtyard. The sale starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Admission and parking are free.



Master Gardeners will offer over 5,000 plants from 50 varieties of standard and heirloom tomatoes, still only \$1.00 per plant. Come early for the best selection. We will also have certified members on hand to provide general gardening information at the Education table and tomato-specific information at the tomato sale.

Of course, we will also have our raffle, with tickets on sale for \$1.00 each and hourly prizes. Raffle tickets are on sale now and can be purchased from many Columbia County Master Gardeners and at the OSU Extension Service in St. Helens. You don't need to be present to win.

Over 30 local vendors will be offering garden-related items such as trellises, containers, ceramics, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, fertilizers, hanging baskets, trees and more.

New this year is the Oregon Department of Forestry with information to help you implement a wildfire protection plan for your home and garden.

Visit the Columbia County Master Gardeners website, www.ColumbiaCountyMasterGardeners.org See you at the fair!

**REMINDER
BIANNUAL BURN PERIOD**



The biannual burn period will begin on **Saturday, April 5th, and end on Sunday, April 20th.** The burn period is for yard debris only, burn barrels are prohibited and it must be a burn day. **Call (503) 397-4800 for burn day information before you burn.**

Burn permits are required prior to burning! If you obtained a permit in the Fall of 2008 you may not need to get a new one - check the expiration date. Permits may be obtained at City Hall or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District.

POLICE ACTIVITY 02/09/08 - 02/23/08

02/09/08 Death investigation in the 1900 block of Third Street.
 02/10/08 Domestic dispute reported at a residence on Metlako Way.
 02/11/08 Vandalism reported at the Columbia City Grade School.
 02/12/08 Traffic complaint reported near Highway 30 and Pacific Street.
 02/12/08 Theft report taken in the 1900 block of Third Street.
 02/13/08 Citizen assist at the Post Office.
 02/13/08 Suspicious person near Highway 30 and "I" Street.
 02/13/08 Found property (ring of keys and padlock) near Fourth and "L" Streets.

02/15/08 Premise checks conducted.
 02/15/08 Assist another agency near Highway 30 and "I" Street.
 02/16/08 Premise checks conducted.
 02/16/08 Suspicious vehicle checked at Pixie Park.
 02/16/08 Suspicious vehicle checked at the Mini Mart.
 02/17/08 Traffic complaint near Skookum Court and Fifth Street.
 02/20/08 Assist another agency in the 1800 block of Second Street.
 02/20/08 Public assist in the 1800 block of Second Street.
 02/20/08 Warrant service in the 300 block of "L" Street.
 02/21/08 Traffic complaint near Highway 30 and "A" Street.
 02/21/08 Public assist in the 1800 block of Second Street.
 02/22/08 Hazard reported near Highway 30 and "A" Street.
 02/22/08 Traffic complaint in the 400 block of Skookum Court
 02/22/08 Premise checks conducted.
 02/22/08 Incomplete 911 call in the 2200 block of The Strand.
 02/22/08 Vandalism in the 2200 block of Third Street.
 02/23/08 Premise checks conducted.
 02/23/08 Suspicious person checked near Sixth and "A" Streets.
 02/23/08 Harassment reported in the 1600 block of Seventh Street.
 02/23/08 Public assist in the 3000 block of Sixth Street.
 02/23/08 Hazard checked in the 2800 block of Sixth Street.
 02/23/08 Suspicious person checked near the Columbia City Grade School.
 02/23/08 Suspicious person checked near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - APRIL 2008

April 3rd	7:30 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 5th	dawn	First day of open burning
April 8th	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
April 10th	7:30 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
April 15th	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 17th	7:30 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 20th	dusk	Last day of open burning
April 21st	7:00 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
April 22nd	7:00 PM	Street Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 24th	7:30 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
April 26th	9:00 AM	Spring Clean Up Event at the Grade School