

# Columbia City Newsletter

## February 2008

**COLUMBIA CITY**  
 1840 SECOND STREET  
 PO BOX 189  
 COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018  
 PHONE: (503) 397-4010  
 FAX: (503) 366-2870  
[colcity@columbia-city.org](mailto:colcity@columbia-city.org)  
[www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org)



### PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATE INCREASE



On February 21, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. the City Council will hold a public hearing to accept comments on a proposal to increase water rates. The rate increase is needed to raise revenue to repay the City's Safe Drinking Water Loan.

The City received a low interest (1%) loan in the amount of \$2,990,500 to construct a 1.0 million gallon water reservoir and to develop production wells. The reservoir project is complete, and the new water source project is nearing completion.

Initially the City plans to use a combination of system development charge revenues and water usage revenues to make the annual loan payments. In order to retain the low interest rate and make future loan payments solely from water usage revenues, additional annual increases will be necessary. The low interest rate will save nearly \$2 million during the loan payback period.

To raise funds for the upcoming loan payments, the City Council plans to implement an increase in water charges, effective March 26th, which will be reflected on the April 26th water bills. For a residential customer within the City limits, the proposal is to increase the minimum monthly charge by \$0.65, increase the first volume charge by \$0.10, and increase the second volume charge by \$0.05.

Residential Customer in Columbia City	Current Rate	New Rate
Minimum charge - less than 500 cubic feet of usage	\$29.35	\$30.00
For each additional 100 cubic feet, but usage less than 1,000 cubic feet	\$3.50	\$3.60
For each additional 100 cubic feet	\$4.45	\$4.50

The rates for commercial, industrial and outside City water users are scheduled to increase in similar proportions. The rate increase is expected to increase water revenues by about 2%.

Comments about the proposed water rate increase may be submitted in writing prior to the hearing or may be delivered in person during the hearing. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1840 Second Street.

### CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

**Well Number 2:** The final development stages of the City's large production well are currently underway. Improvements include a chlorination facility, site piping, drainage facilities, telemetry and distribution piping.

The distribution piping has been extended from the public works well site to Third Street and down Third Street to "L" Street. It is currently being extended on "L" Street towards the bridge, where it will cross under the railroad tracks and Highway 30 to connect to the City's existing pumping facilities on the west side of the Highway.

Progress is also being made on the chlorination facility located near the public works well site. We expect to complete this project by the end of March.

**Shop and Wall Project:** The new retaining wall behind the City shop on Third Street was completed in August. The large shop building will be expanded and re-sided, and the existing shop office will be repainted. New fencing and landscaping will complete the project. We hope to complete this project by the end of June.

**"A" Street Project:** The City plans to complete full street improvements on "A" Street between Highway 30 and Sixth Street. This project will involve the construction of sidewalk, curb, gutter, and storm drainage improvements. Narrow sections of the street will be widened to meet current street standards. The existing 4-inch sewer main will also be upgraded to a 6-inch main. Design engineering for this project will begin soon. A \$25,000 grant under the Special City Allotment Program will help pay for this project. We expect to start construction in June.

## FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL



What's under your sink? Household Hazardous Waste is dangerous to you and the environment. Dispose of it safely and at no charge. Columbia County Solid Waste and Land Development Services will host a Household Hazardous

Waste (HHW) Collection Event Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Columbia County Transfer Station in St. Helens.

The County's HHW facility accepts the following (no containers larger than five gallons):

- Pool and spa chemicals
- Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and poisons
- Thinners and solvents
- Household cleaners and disinfectants
- Art and hobby chemicals
- Aerosol spray products
- Propane tanks and bottles
- Fluorescent lamps and ballasts
- Items containing mercury
- Oil based paints and stains
- Motor oil, antifreeze and other automotive fluids
- Batteries

Not accepted:

- Ø Radioactive materials
- Ø Household trash
- Ø Explosives-including ammunition
- Ø Bio Medical waste and needles

Recycle: (anytime)

- Water based latex paints
- Antifreeze
- Used motor oil and automotive batteries
- Other recyclable materials

The HHW Intake Facility is located at the Columbia County Transfer and Recycling Center, 1601 Railroad Avenue, St. Helens, Oregon.

## THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a big "thank you" to:

- The Columbia River PUD for helping us take down our holiday lights and banners.
- Marian Calnon, Jean Carulli, Gloria Chinell, Nell Harrison, Dolores Heinz, Phyllis Rowley and Debbie Virts for helping with the newsletter and utility billing in December.



## HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM

Do you need a home repair loan?

You may qualify for a 1% interest home repair loan through the Rural Development Home Repair Program.



- Do you live in and own, or are purchasing a home that needs repairs or improvements?
- Is your family income below 50% of the median county income?

If so, USDA may be able to help with your...

- Leaky roof
- Unsafe wiring
- Faulty plumbing
- Poor heating

Or other home repair needs.

Contact USDA Rural Development  
Tangent Office:

1 (541) 967-5925, ext. 4

Administrative Office for Oregon:

1 (503) 414-3335 or

toll free 1 (866) 923-5626.



## FOUND ITEM

A flat iron was found on Second Street and turned into City Hall. Does it belong to you? If you think this item may be yours, please contact City Hall at (503) 397-4010 for more information.

In fond memory of  
**Herbert J. Sandstrom,**  
who served as  
Mayor of Columbia City from  
January 1, 1959 to December 31, 1964.  
Our condolences to his wife, Helen,  
and to his family.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Columbia City Community Library is excited to take part in the BIG READ featuring the classic detective novel *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. Our library is an integral part of the program, which has events in Scappoose, St. Helens and Columbia City. Pick up your free book, plus brochures and readers guides at City Hall and the Library, as well as anywhere in the area that will let us put up a poster! Visit [www.st.helens.plinkit.org](http://www.st.helens.plinkit.org) for more information.



We will be holding the Library Lovers' Book Sale on Saturday, February 16, 2008, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Columbia City Community Hall. Volunteers will be needed at 8:00 am to help set up. Please sign up at the Library or call at 503-366-8020. We have a ton of books in our storeroom waiting to go back into the community!

### Hunt for the Falcon

When: Starting Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>

Where: City of Columbia City

It's been nearly 80 years since Sam Spade wandered the streets of San Francisco in search of the Maltese Falcon. Now, the statue is missing again. Can you find the Maltese Falcon hiding in Columbia City? New clues will be displayed in the Library weekly. Locate the falcon and win a prize.

### Friends of the LIBRARY LOVERS' BOOKSALE

When: Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 10 AM - 2 PM

Where: Columbia City Community Hall

Sleuth out a good book. Books so cheap - it could be a crime!

### Stolen Art Works

When: Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 10 AM - 2 PM

Where: Columbia City Community Hall

Although the Maltese Falcon statue was never a real art artifact, many famous pieces of art have been stolen over the centuries. Contribute to our recreations of these works of art. Participate in a collaborative project that will surely result in a masterpiece. For all ages, no skill required - just bring your creativity.

### Young Readers (Ages 8-12) Book Club

When: Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Where: Columbia City Community Library

### *The Malted Falcon* by Bruce Hale

Come listen to a book talk and meet Chet Gecko, a fourth-grade wisecracking detective, determined to solve the mysteries at Emerson Hicky Elementary.

First 10 readers will take home a copy of the book to keep.

### Pizza & A Paperback: Book Club for Teens

When: Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Where: Columbia City Community Library

We will be reading and discussing *The Maltese Falcon*. Learn more about this "hard-boiled" detective genre and noir films. Solve mini-mysteries and collaborate on a mystery of our own. Snacks will be provided.



### Novel Quilters Book Club

When: Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM

Where: Columbia City Community Library

For those who love to read and quilt, too. Quilters will be discussing the novel and share their inspired quilt designs from *The Maltese Falcon*.

### New at the Library...

*The Quantum Rose* by Catherine Asaro, winner of the Nebula award

The sixth volume in the Saga of the Skolian Empire (Primary Inversion; The Radiant Seas; etc.) is a freestanding page-turner as a romance, with a hard science framework. It begins in an idyllic forest bathing pool on the backwater world of Balumil. Kamoj Quanta Argali, attractive young female governor of a poor province with decaying traces of millennia-old technology, notices the mysterious off-worlder, Havyrl Lionstar, watching her dress. Retreating in consternation, she also attempts to hide from and thus offends her lifelong fiancé, Jax Ironbridge, overbearing governor of a wealthier neighboring province. Soon Havyrl (brother of previous protagonists in the series) blunders into outbidding Jax for marriage with Kamoj. Jax objects violently and reclaims Kamoj by force, puzzling the off-worlder, whose presence by then is entangling the provincial governors in the imperial politics of the wider universe. The gender-role elaboration in the maneuvers that follow will seem over detailed to some readers, but fascinating to others. To Havyrl and his staff, Balumil is a rediscovered colony; hence they spend a lot of time explaining to Kamoj

## LIBRARY NEWS (continued)

the significance of the quasimagical remnants of technology in her culture. Desperate for clues to understanding the wider universe as her planet's isolation ends, Kamoj proves to be as brainy as she is beautiful. *Publishers Weekly Review*

### **Internet Access:**

Online access available at the library. The staff can help with online research or guide new users.

**Friends of the Library Meeting:** 2/18/08 - 7 PM

(subject to change - call for information)

**Novel Quilters Meeting:** 2/20/08 - 6:30 PM

**Storytime:** Mondays 11 AM

### **Staffed Library Hours:**

Mondays & Saturdays

10 AM to 2 PM

Wednesdays

4 PM to 8 PM

Thursdays

2 PM to 6 PM



**Phone:** (503) 366-8020

**E-mail:** cclibrary@opusnet.com

**Address:** 205 "I" Street

## THANK YOU, CAPLES FRIENDS

The Caples House Museum wishes to thank the following for their contributions to the Friends of Caples program:

Raymond and Terry Maloney

Charles E. Tapper

Boeing Company

Billie Jo Westby

John and Beverly Przybylski

Deanna J. Peterson

Mary Ruth Rose

Lillian Eaton Stewart and Robert Allen

Scott Parker

Roberta Mills

Robert and Barbara Kieffer

John W. Sherida

Mickey Sieracki

Thank you for being Friends of Caples.

## POLICE ACTIVITY 11/10/07 – 01/15/08

11/10/07 Vacation premise checks conducted.

11/10/07 Suspicious vehicle checked at the Columbia City School.

11/10/07 Unwanted subject reported in the 1700 block of First Street.

11/12/07 Audible alarm reported in the 1200 block of Second Street.

11/12/07 Follow-up investigation in the 3600 block of Tahoma Street.

11/13/07 Parking violation in the 1200 block of Fourth Street.

11/13/07 Public assist in the 1800 block of Second Street.

11/13/07 Suspicious circumstances reported near "E" and The Strand.

11/14/07 Animal complaint near Pacific and Tahoma Streets.

11/14/07 Harassment call in the 200 block of "G" Street.

11/17/07 Premise checks completed.

11/18/07 Premise checks completed.

11/18/07 Assisted outside agency near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

11/18/07 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and "L" Street.

11/19/07 Premise checks completed.

11/20/07 Premise checks completed.

11/21/07 Animal complaint in the 3600 block of Tahoma Street.

11/21/07 Animal complaint near "E" and Second Streets.

11/23/07 Unwanted subject reported in the 1900 block of Fifth Street.

11/23/07 Theft reported in the 1900 block of Fifth Street.

11/24/07 Parking violation reported near Fourth and "M" Streets.

11/24/07 Premise checks conducted.

11/24/07 Suspicious person checked at the Columbia City Grade School.

11/26/07 Alarm call in the 2300 block of Second Street.

11/26/07 Animal complaint near Lincoln and Tahoma Streets.

11/27/07 Disabled vehicle near Second and "E" Streets.

11/30/07 Trespass call in the 2300 block of Second Street.

12/01/07 Premise checks conducted.

12/02/07 Traffic complaint near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

12/02/07 Suspicious person near Pacific Street and Metlako Way.

12/02/07 Premise checks completed.



## **POLICE ACTIVITY 11/10/07 – 01/15/08 (cont.)**

12/03/07 Suspicious vehicle near Highway 30 and "A" Street.

12/03/07 Incomplete 911 call from Metlako Way.

12/04/07 Suspicious vehicle near "A" and Fifth Streets.

12/05/07 Suspicious vehicle near Yakima Court and Park Drive.

12/05/07 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

12/05/07 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and "E" Street.

12/05/07 Suspicious person checked near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

12/05/07 Citizen assisted in the 1800 block of Second Street.

12/06/07 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and Pacific Street.

12/07/07 Premise checks conducted.

12/08/07 Citizen assisted in the 1900 block of Second Street.

12/08/07 Incomplete 911 call in the 1700 block of Ninth Street.

12/08/07 Traffic complaint near Highway 30 and Pacific Street.

12/09/07 Suspicious vehicle checked in the 400 block of Belle Street.

12/14/07 Citizen assisted in the 1800 block of Second Street.

12/14/07 Premise checks completed.

12/15/07 Suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of "A" Street.

12/15/07 Noise complaint in the 2000 block of Fifth Street.

12/16/07 Premise checks completed.

12/16/07 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and Pacific Street.

12/17/07 Suspicious circumstances checked in the 1900 block of First Street.

12/17/07 Animal complaint near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

12/18/07 Trespass in progress at the Mini Mart.

12/20/07 Suspicious vehicle reported at the Mini Mart.

12/20/07 Vandalism reported in the 3300 block of Fifth Street.

12/21/07 Premise checks completed.

12/22/07 Premise checks completed.

12/22/07 Noise complaint in the 3600 block of Tahoma Street.

12/23/07 Disturbance reported in the 1900 block of Second Street.

12/23/07 Citizen assisted in the 400 block of "D" Street.

12/24/07 Premise checks completed.

12/24/07 Disturbance reported in the 3600 block of Tahoma Street.

12/25/07 Domestic dispute in the 1900 block of Second Street.

12/26/07 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and "A" Street.

12/26/07 Incomplete 911 call in the 1900 block of First Street.

12/26/07 Premise checks completed.

12/26/07 Citizen assisted in the 2800 block of Sixth Street.

12/26/07 Warrant served in the 1700 block of Fifth Street.

12/26/07 Theft call in the 400 block of "B" Street.

12/26/07 Disabled vehicle on Highway 30 near mile post 30.

12/27/07 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and Pacific Street.

12/27/07 Hazard reported in the 300 block of "A" Street.

12/28/07 Burglary report taken in the 2300 block of Sixth Street.

12/28/07 Premise checks conducted.

12/29/07 Premise checks conducted.

12/30/07 Domestic dispute reported in the 1500 block of Second Street.

12/30/07 Theft reported at the Mini Mart.

01/01/08 Warrant served in the 1700 block of Fifth Street.

01/02/08 Audible alarm at Dixieline Lumber.

01/02/08 Suspicious vehicle checked near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

01/02/08 Suspicious person checked near Highway 30 and "E" Street.

01/03/08 Public assisted in the 2200 block of Second Street.

01/03/08 Domestic dispute reported in the 1800 block of Second Street.

01/04/08 Hazard checked in the area of Fifth and "I" Streets.

01/04/08 Premise checks conducted.

01/05/08 Premise checks conducted.

01/05/08 Vandalism call taken in the 1800 block of Second Street.

01/05/08 Fraud call taken in the 1700 block of Eighth Street.

01/07/08 Vandalism call taken in the 400 block of Pacific Street.

01/08/08 Disabled vehicle on Highway 30 near Chimes Crest.

01/09/08 Animal complaint in the 2300 block of Sixth Street.

01/09/08 Audible alarm in the 3500 block of Fifth Street.

01/10/08 Public assisted in the 1800 block of Sixth Street.

**POLICE ACTIVITY 11/10/07 – 01/15/08 (cont.)**

- 01/10/08 Hazard checked on Highway 30 near “G” Street.
- 01/11/08 Trespass report taken in the 1800 block of Second Street.
- 01/11/08 Animal complaint reported near Sixth and “E” Streets.
- 01/12/08 Juvenile situation reported in the 1800 block of Sixth Street.
- 01/13/08 Suspicious circumstances reported in the 2000 block of Second Street.
- 01/13/08 Domestic dispute reported in the 400 block of Belle Street.
- 01/14/08 Theft call taken in the 3300 block of Park Drive.
- 01/14/08 Vandalism reported at Harvard Park.
- 01/14/08 Suspicious person on Highway 30 near Chimes Crest.
- 01/14/08 Suspicious circumstances reported in the 400 block of Skookum Court
- 01/15/08 Audible alarm in the 2000 block of Fifth Street.

**PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**



We would like to welcome Glen Pritchard to the Columbia City Planning Commission. We look forward to working with him.

**CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD**

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2007-08 Budget.

The award 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
- a communications device



Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories to receive the award.

Since the inception of the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program in 1984, approximately 900 entities have received the award. This is the seventh year that Columbia City has received the award.

**FRAUDULENT PHONE CALL ALERT**



Recently a resident received a phone call from someone claiming to be the IRS wanting bank account information in order to deposit \$5,000 into their account for being such a good tax payer.

Another caller claimed to be a jury coordinator and asked to verify personal information in order to cancel an arrest warrant for failing to show for jury duty.

We would like to caution residents to please be wary of persons soliciting their personal information over the telephone. Play it safe and refuse to give any personal information to someone that calls you over the telephone. You should report any suspicious call activity to C-COM (Dispatch) by calling (503) 397-1521.

**MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2008**

February 7th	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 12th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall <b>CANCELLED</b>
February 14th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 16th	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale at Community Hall
February 18th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President’s Day
February 18th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
February 19th	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 19th	7:00 p.m.	Water Committee Meeting at City Hal
February 21st	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 28th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall