

Columbia City Newsletter

December

2009

COLUMBIA CITY
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RESOURCES FOR WINTER TRAVEL

Reprinted from the Traffic Safety Connection Newsletter.



ODOT offers travel information via the Internet, by phone, and on cable TV. Visit www.TripCheck.com, ODOT's travel information website. In addition to text-based reports, the site offers camera images from urban areas, mountain passes, and other key locations

throughout the state. Maps detail road conditions and trouble spots and include information about weather, road construction, and maintenance work and traffic incidents.

In the Portland area, a speed map provides average travel times for local commuters and other highway users. You can also develop a custom camera page to check specific routes at a glance. The QuickCheck page brings camera and incident information together in a text-based format for easy access.

TripCheck.com has links to bus, airport, train, bicycle and trucking information. A mileage calculator allows you to estimate distance and choose the most direct route. Other features include detailed information on scenic byways, safety rest areas, and SnoParks. Motorists can access winter driving information at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml>. Topics include preparation for stormy conditions, driving in the rain, low-visibility driving, chains and traction tires, road conditions and travel information.



Travelers in Oregon can dial 511 to access TripCheck road and weather information by phone. You can select updated reports about driving conditions by highway, mountain pass, or major city from easy-to-use menus. The 511 system responds to voice as well as touch-tone commands. Calls to 511 are local calls when dialed from a pay or wire line phone. Wireless phone users are responsible for airtime and

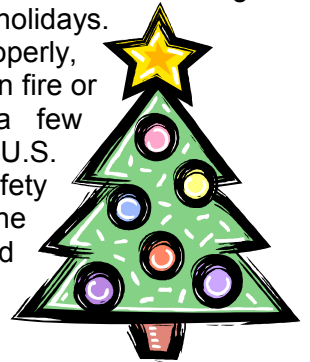
roaming charges according to their service contracts. If you cannot use 511, call toll-free (800) 977-6368 for road and weather information. Outside Oregon, call (503) 588-2941.

Comcast subscribers in the Portland area can view full-motion video from 18 freeway cameras from 5 AM to 9 PM, Monday - Friday, on Channel 14 (CNW14).

HOLIDAY LIGHT SAFETY TIPS

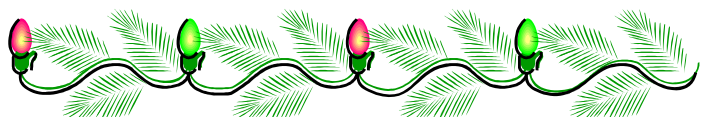
Decorating your home with indoor and outdoor lights brings a festive glow to the holidays.

However, when used improperly, these decorations can result in fire or serious injury. Following a few simple guidelines from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission will ensure that the holidays remain joyous and safe for your family and neighbors:



- Before using lights outdoors, check the label to be sure they are certified for outdoor use.
- Unplug lights before replacing burned-out bulbs.
- Check for frayed or bare wires and throw away damaged sets.
- Keep plugs and connections away from sources of water, like puddles and snow.
- Know your circuits' limits and don't overload the system.
- Stay away from power lines leading from utility poles.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls, or other firm supports to prevent wind damage.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

For more information on basic safety precautions when decorating for the holidays, visit www.necaibew48.com.



RECENT BLACK BEAR SIGHTINGS COLUMBIA CITY AREA

Residents have reported recent sightings of a black bear in the residential area around Seventh and Penn Streets. Also scattered garbage, scat and prints have been discovered in the same area and Trestle Beach. If you see the bear, please contact the following agencies **immediately**:

- Oregon State Police - (503) 397-3131
- C-COM (Dispatch) - (503) 397-1521
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - (503) 621-3488.

After the sighting, please leave paw prints and other signs undisturbed if possible.

Identifying characteristics. Despite the common name “black bear” they aren’t always black. They may be honey-colored, blond, brown or black. They have a tan muzzle or a white spot on their chest. A black bear’s body appears heavy and is supported by short, powerful legs. The highest point of a black bear is the middle of its back. Males are generally larger than females. Adult males average

275 pounds while adult females may average 175 pounds.

Human encounters. Bears are not generally dangerous to people, but they may forage in trash containers or eat pet food.

If you encounter a bear. In almost all cases, the bear will detect you first and leave the area. However, if you do meet a bear, here are some suggestions. Remember - every situation is different with respect to the bear, the terrain, the people and their activity.

- **Stay calm.** If you see a bear and it hasn’t seen you, calmly leave the area and speak softly to let the bear discover your presence.
- **Stop.** Back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, as bears may perceive this as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape. Wild bears rarely attack people unless

they feel threatened or provoked. If on a trail, step off the trail on the downhill side and slowly leave the area. Don’t run or make any sudden movements. Running is likely to prompt the bear to give chase and you can’t outrun a bear.

- **Speak softly.** This may reassure the bear that no harm is meant to it. Try not to show fear.
- Coming between a female and her cubs is dangerous. If a cub is nearby try to move away from it. Be alert - other cubs may be in the area.
- In the unlikely event you are attacked by a black bear, **FIGHT BACK.** Black bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.
- Bears use all of their senses to try and identify what you are. Remember - their eyesight is good and their sense of smell is acute. If a bear stands upright or moves closer, it may be trying to detect smells in the air. This isn’t a sign of aggression. Once it identifies you, it may leave the area or try to intimidate you by charging to within a few feet before it withdraws.
- If you have a backpack, place it slowly on the ground and then slowly back away. The bear is likely to go for the backpack instead of you.

Human safety precautions. Black bears eat almost anything, including human food, garbage, hummingbird food, pet food, and livestock feed. Once a bear has found the easily accessible, consistent food source that humans offer, it may overcome it’s wariness of people and visit regularly increasing the chance of a human/bear encounter. By handling food and garbage responsibly, you and your neighbors can prevent encounters with a bear.

- Remove all food attractions.
- Keep all garbage inside your house or garage, and only place it outside just before the garbage pick-up. If bears have previously ransacked garbage cans, pour bleach into cans.
- Keep all pet food inside the house or garage.

Most bears sighted in residential areas do not cause any damage. If a bear doesn’t find abundant food, it will move on.

Information from “Living with Wildlife Black Bear” - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

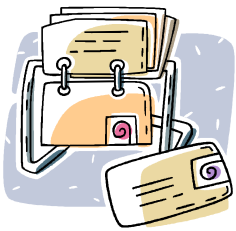


❁ THANK YOU ❁

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

- ❖ Bernie Albertine, Karin Bates, Jean Carulli, Gloria Chinell, Nell Harrison, Kathy Keudell, Gladys Riahi and Phyllis Rowley for newsletters and utility billing in October.
- ❖ Aaron Troutman for leaf clean up around City Hall.
- ❖ Sadie Stockton for donating plants to the parks.

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.

Please complete the enclosed form to update your contact information and return it with your next payment or you may email the information to: colcity@columbia-city.org.

STORM WATER PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

What is storm water pollution? Rainwater or even runoff from sprinklers or hoses carries contaminants - such as litter, animal waste, automobile fluids, fertilizers and pesticides - into the storm drains and pollutes the City's neighborhoods, creating health risks for children and polluting our waterways.

What can I do to prevent storm water pollution? Here are a few tips that can help improve our storm water quality and protect our environment:

- **Don't put anything in the storm drains but rainwater.** Storm drains can carry surface runoff directly to streams and rivers without treatment. Make sure runoff carries only rainwater.

- **Remove litter from the street.** Trash-laden gutters increase neighborhood pollution and clog drains, which may lead to street flooding.
- **Pick up after your pet.** Animal waste, when left on the ground, washes down storm drains and contaminates waterways and beaches.
- **Recycle your motor oil.** The Columbia County Transfer Station, along with many gas stations, auto parts stores and repair shops will collect and recycle used motor oil.
- **Bag, compost or recycle grass, tree limbs, leaves and other yard waste.** Soggy yard waste is a major contributor to clogged storm drains.
- **Be smart when you apply pesticides or fertilizers.** Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers before it rains. Not only will you lose most of the chemicals through runoff, but you will also be harming the environment. Do not over-water after application. Read the label and do not apply more than recommended.
- **Don't wash dirty paintbrushes under an outdoor faucet.** This dirty rinse water flows into the street and down the storm drain.

RECYCLE DEEP FRYER GREASE

Used vegetable grease from turkey fryers and deep fryers can be recycled between 8 am and noon on Saturday, December 26, 2009 during the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event at the Columbia County Transfer Station located at 1601 Railroad Avenue in St. Helens. Please bring the used grease in closed containers (like a used milk jug with lid) and in quantities less than 5 gallons. For questions, contact the Solid Waste Coordinator at (503) 397-7263.

PURCHASE YOUR COLUMBIA CITY COMMUNITY COOKBOOK TODAY!!

The Columbia City Community Cookbook (first edition) would make a great present! The Cookbook is new this year as an additional way to raise funds and benefit our Community Library. We really appreciate everyone's contributions of great recipes that made the cookbook possible.

The cookbook is available for sale at either City Hall or the Community Library for just \$8.00. What a great gift idea for your friends and relatives! Stop by and purchase your cookbook(s) today!



CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2009-10 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, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. This is the ninth year that Columbia City has received the award.

CHRISTMAS SHIPS

The Christmas Ship Parade will visit Columbia City on **Saturday, December 12**. The ships will assemble at the St. Helens City docks at 6:00 p.m. and motor downriver to Columbia City. Both the Columbia and Willamette Fleets will be in the parade! The Christmas ships will be out approximately two hours, will stay overnight at the St. Helens City docks and leave Sunday morning via the Multnomah Channel. If you would like additional information, visit www.christmasships.org.



"TOGETHER WE PREPARE" WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN EVACUATION

In certain emergencies, you may need to evacuate your home. Listen to the local radio Emergency Alert System or television and follow the instructions of emergency officials. Evacuate immediately if told to do so. Authorities do not ask people to leave unless

they truly feel lives may be in danger. Follow their advice.

Some things you might want to consider in the event of an evacuation:

- Lock your home. If instructed, turn off water, gas and electricity.
- Post a message on the door (and put one on your voicemail or answering machine) indicating where you can be found.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes and take your disaster supplies kit with you.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities.
- Make arrangements for your pets. Pets, other than service animals who assist people with disabilities, are not allowed in Red Cross shelters for health and safety reasons. It is recommended that you pre-identify friends or relatives who agree to take your pets temporarily. Include contact information for these people and your animals' veterinarian in your emergency contact information.



If you have to evacuate your home for an extended period of time because of a disaster, your local Red Cross will open a shelter at a church, school, recreation center or other public building. Listen for shelter locations announced over the radio Emergency Alert System. Make sure the following items are in your disaster supplies kit, which you will take with you when you evacuate. They will be particularly important if you stay in a shelter or temporary lodging.

- Prescription drugs in childproof containers
- Eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Pillows
- Toys and games
- Phone numbers/addresses of people you'll want to contact

💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.

LIBRARY NEWS

Since Christmas and New Year's Day are on Friday this year, there should be few disruptions of library service this year, other than those caused by weather. Last year we were closed for most of two weeks because of snow – I'd just as soon have the winter be a little rainier than last year!

Take a look at some of the books we have that were on the best sellers list in November. Sorry I can't tell you what's on the list for December, but stop in at the library and we have a display every week! If you buy books that are on the best sellers list, and need a good home for them after you've finished reading them, consider us! We'd love some gently used current books to add to our shelves!



Books from the New York Times Best Sellers List:

The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown
9 Dragons by Michael Connelly
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
The Girl Who Played with Fire by Stieg Larsson
Superfreakonomics by Steven D. Levitt
and Stephen J. Dubner
Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
The Shack by William P. Young
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein
The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson
and David Oliver Relin
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
Blink and *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert
Cross Country by James Patterson
Your Heart Belongs to Me by Dean Koontz
Heat Lightning by John Sandford
Scarpetta by Patricia Cornwell
The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

New at the Library...

Four Kinds of Rain by Robert Ward was nominated for the Hammett Prize by the International Association of Crime Writers in 2006. "This may well be one of the most plausible noir novels I've read in some time as Ward takes his psychiatrist protagonist down what seems to be an innocent path, only to morph into something scarier and more calamitous with every

plot turn." -[Sarah Weinman](#) "*Four Kinds of Rain* is a great read. Robert Ward has created a darkly comic masterpiece that keeps you thinking long after the last page is turned." -Michael Connelly

Story Time:

11 AM every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

No meeting for December

Novel Quilters Meeting:

No meeting for December

Mystery Book Group:

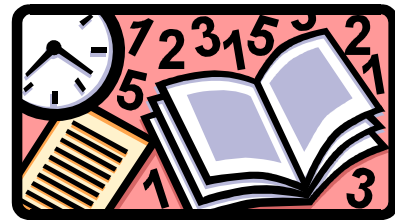
No meeting for December

Staffed Hours:

Monday & Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM

Wednesday, 4 PM to 8 PM

Thursday, 2 PM to 6 PM



Columbia City Community Library

205 "I" Street, PO Box 189

Columbia City OR 97018

(503) 366-8020

cclibrary@opusnet.com

<http://www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm>

COLUMBIA CITY'S FIRST ANNUAL SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM

This program is non-profit and is for needy families within Columbia City. It focuses on building relationships within the community by positive interaction with Columbia City Police officers. In doing this, it will provide these individuals with winter necessities, and Christmas "wish list" items. DHS will pre-screen the families to verify their individual needs.



The event will take place on Saturday, December 19th, 2009 at the St. Helens' Wal-Mart, and ACE Hardware Store.

All donations are requested by Wednesday, December 16th, 2009, and are tax deductible. Donations can be made to Columbia City Police Department, at City Hall. Questions can be directed to Chief McGlothlin.



POLICE ACTIVITY – 10/16/09 to 11/05/09

10/16/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/16/09 Parking complaint in the 1800 block of Sixth Street.
 10/16/09 Public assist in the 400 block of Pacific Street.
 10/16/09 Parking complaint in the 200 block of The Strand.
 10/17/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/17/09 Welfare check in the 200 block of “G” Street.
 10/17/09 Public assist at the Columbia City Mini Mart.
 10/18/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/18/09 Suspicious circumstance in the area of Highway 30 and “E” Street.
 10/19/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/19/09 Public assist in the 1500 block of Third Street.
 10/20/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/20/09 Public assist in the 2300 block of Second Street.
 10/21/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/21/09 Suspicious circumstance reported in the 800 block of “K” Street.
 10/21/09 Alarm in the 1900 block of The Strand.
 10/22/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/23/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/23/09 Traffic complaint at the Post Office.
 10/24/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/24/09 Burglary at the West Oregon Wood Products plant.
 10/26/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/26/09 Welfare check in the 400 block of “A” Street.
 10/26/09 Motor vehicle crash on Highway 30 near “I” Street.
 10/26/09 Domestic dispute on Metlako Way.
 10/27/09 Suspicious vehicle in the 1500 block of Third Street.



10/27/09 Domestic dispute in the 200 block of “K” Street.
 10/28/09 Animal complaint in the 1900 block of First Street.
 10/28/09 Animal complaint in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.
 10/29/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/30/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/30/09 Disabled vehicle in the area of Highway 30 and “E” Street.
 10/30/09 Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 and “I” Street.
 10/31/09 Premise checks conducted.
 10/31/09 Suspicious person in the area of “E” Street and The Strand.
 10/31/09 Hazard in the 1900 block of Third Street.
 10/31/09 Parking violation in the area of Second and “G” Street.
 10/31/09 Suspicious vehicle at Jim Bundy Park.
 10/31/09 Audible alarm at the Four Square Church.
 11/01/09 Premise checks conducted.
 11/01/09 Domestic dispute in the 1800 block of Third Street.
 11/01/09 Suspicious vehicle in the area of Highway 30 and “E” Street.
 11/01/09 Suspicious person in the area of Sixth and “H” Street.
 11/01/09 Public assist in the 3400 block of Park Drive.
 11/01/09 Public assist in the 1800 block of Third Street.
 11/01/09 Parking violation in the 1900 block of The Strand.
 11/02/09 Premise checks conducted.
 11/02/09 Hazard on Highway 30 near “A” Street.
 11/02/09 Premise checks conducted.
 11/03/09 Premise checks conducted.
 11/04/09 Premise checks conducted.
 11/05/09 Premise checks conducted.
 11/05/09 Suspicious person in the area of Sixth and “I” Street.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2009



December 3 rd	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall CANCELED
December 8 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall CANCELED
December 10 th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
December 14 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library CANCELED
December 17 th	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall CANCELED
December 24 th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall CANCELED
December 24 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed Christmas Eve
December 25 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed Christmas Day

