



COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

January 2009

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WHAT A GUY!

We want to sincerely thank Bill Guy for his years of service as a City Councilor (Jan. 1993 - Dec. 2008). Bill's education, knowledge, and experience were exactly what we needed, especially when it came to our Water Department. He has worked tirelessly and steadfastly to accomplish, with much help, a task that has been one of our city's goals for many years. Former Councilor Carolyn King worked toward this goal for a number of years and left it for us to continue our search for a water source and storage facilities. For those who knew Carolyn, you know she is smiling now that we have a source and, for the moment, adequate storage; but she is still warning us not to become complacent. We can thank Bill for helping us give Carolyn that smile.



Bill also lent his knowledge and experience when it came to lighting, both interior and exterior. His dedication to the city and our citizens and his continuous need to provide the best service possible has been the underlying theme of his years of service. We are going to miss him sitting at the council table, but we know he will be available to help with future projects whenever possible. Bill, thank you so much! You are family and we love you.

WHAT A GAL!

Normally, we would also be giving thanks to Sally Ann Marson for her service on the City Council and as Chair of our Parks Committee. However, we are extending a huge thank you to her not only for the past few years of service, but also for agreeing to be appointed to another term of office as Council Member to fill a vacancy left after the election. Sally Ann is very busy serving on several other committees and felt the need to retire for a while, but we knew she was still needed desperately to help the city ... and she has been an avid supporter of our "quiet zone" and needs to finish what she began. She also has extensive financial education and experience. She will be appointed at our first meeting in January.

A NEW YEAR - 2009

As I begin my 27th year on the City Council and 23rd as Mayor, I look back through the years and have many fond memories and a couple not-so-fond ones. Overall, I can say I have always loved Columbia City and am sincerely grateful for those I have worked with and our accomplishments. We are not always able to please everyone, but we have always tried to work in a democratic and ethical way. We believe in community involvement and encourage citizens to attend meetings or call and write to us if they have concerns, insofar as input is productive. We make decisions, but are not afraid to revisit issues if necessary and if we find another approach is more beneficial to the majority of our citizens.

This recent snowstorm reminded me once again how dedicated our staff is. A few years ago Councilor Gary Hudson talked us into purchasing a snowplow. He is a very wise man and that snowplow has been put to good use, especially this year. Thank you to our Public Works Superintendent and his crew who tried to plow as often as they could, including early morning hours and later in the evening. They were able to rotate their schedules to avoid a lot of overtime, too. They were able to get to some areas better than others, but they really worked hard.

Columbia City government and staff are using tax dollars and other revenues to provide the best quality and cost-effective services we can. At this time we are working within our budget. We do not pay city councilors, planning commission members, or volunteers any salaries or stipends. No one gets free water and sewer services as has been a floating rumor for as long as I can remember. Councilors are reimbursed for mileage and expenses for City-related activities if they turn them in, but most do not even do this.

Yes, we are always searching for ways to fund new and necessary projects such as bringing our streets up to par, but that is nothing new. From time to time we also have to adhere to new State and Federal regulations that end up costing us money

A NEW YEAR - 2009 (continued)

also. We also run into unforeseen expenses and try to manage them appropriately. Our City Administrator's budget document has earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the eighth time.

To our staff, council members, planning commission members, other volunteers: Thank You! You have made my job easier through the years and you have made our city exactly what we call ourselves - A City by the River - A City of Beauty and Livability. May God Bless you all and may He help us through the trials and frustrations present in our country at this time.

Cheryl Young, Mayor

JOSH FROMM JOINS THE CITY COUNCIL

Write-in candidate Josh Fromm recently accepted the office of City Council member and has certified his qualification for service. He is scheduled to take the Oath of Office during the January 8, 2009 City Council Meeting. Josh has served on the Columbia City Planning Commission since September, and we would like to offer him a warm welcome to the City Council and thank him for his service on the Planning Commission.

CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Columbia City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2008-09 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. This is the eighth year that Columbia City has received the award.

COLUMBIA COUNTY "TIP LINE"

The **Tip Line** may be used to report crimes, possible crimes or suspicious situations. If you have an immediate need for law enforcement, dial 911.

The **Tip Line** can be reached by dialing **(503) 397-0007** or dialing **1 (877) 768-8881** (toll free).

CITY COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED

The first City Council Meeting in 2009 will be held on January 8 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting date has been rescheduled from January 15 to January 8.

LICENSE & PERMIT REMINDER

Planning to hire a contractor to help you with a repair or project around the house? If so, please make sure the contractor has a current 2009 business license to do work within the City of Columbia City. Most City Business Licenses expire December 31st of each year.

Also, whether you're hiring a contractor or planning to do the work yourself, please remember that many types of projects require a permit. For building, plumbing and mechanical permit information, call City Hall at (503) 397-4010. For electrical permit information, contact Columbia County Land Development Services at (503) 397-1501.

Construction work is limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m., although a resident may perform construction activities around their home until 8:00 p.m.

THANK YOU COLUMBIA CITY FROM CUB SCOUT TROOP 142

In December the noble generosity of the Columbia City Community surpassed the highest record of food donations in the past 14 years of "Scouting for Food" in this County.



It is with the deepest gratitude that we, the Cub Scouts of Troop 142, extend our heartfelt thanks to the Columbia City residents for their significant contribution.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

Frequently you will see people selling door-to-door. Some of the sales are reputable companies, but some may be scams. Here are some tips to avoid being scammed from Nick A. Congemi, Chief of Police of Kenner:

- ❑ Always ask to see identification, even if the person at your door is dressed in a uniform.
- ❑ Never give money to a charity unless it is a known representative from your church or a local charity.
- ❑ Be wary of someone offering to do an expensive home repair for an unusually low price, especially when the worker just *"happens to be in the neighborhood."*
- ❑ Never buy anything sight unseen.
- ❑ Stay alert. Don't give strangers the opportunity to distract you and enter your home.
- ❑ Never give cash to a salesperson. Always use a check and write it out to a company, not an individual.
- ❑ When unsure of a business, call the Better Business Bureau at (503) 226-3981 to determine the company's customer experience record.
- ❑ When deciding to purchase from a door-to-door salesperson, make sure everything promised to you is in a written contract.

The federal government requires solicitors to provide the seller's name and place of business, a description of the goods or services, the amount of money paid and an explanation of the cooling off period. Anyone who makes a purchase from this type of salesperson has a three-day cooling off period. During those three days, you are free to change your mind about the purchase and are not required to give a reason. The company may not charge a cancellation fee during this time.

If you purchase anything from a door-to-door salesperson, you should receive an invoice that includes the date of the transaction, the date by which the buyer may give notice of cancellation and notification of the three-day cooling off period, the name and address of the seller and duplicate copies for the customer.



The City requires a City business license and a solicitation permit for this type of activity. **Before** doing business with anyone selling door-to-door,

please ask them to provide you with a copy of their Columbia City business license and solicitation permit, and report violators to the City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010 or the non-emergency dispatch at (503) 397-1521.

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Interested in serving on the Columbia City Planning Commission? Applicants must reside within the City or the City's Urban Growth Boundary. The term is for a period of four years, and the Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Applications are available at the City Hall.



THANK YOU

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

- * Murray Smith & Associates, Inc., for the box of chocolates.
- * Bernie Albertine, Judy Anderson, Jean Carulli, Gloria Chinell, Dolores Heinz, Betty Jensen and Phyllis Rowley for helping with the November utility billing and newsletter.
- * Stan and Sheri Hopkins for the butter crunch toffee.
- * Donald Truedson and "Jackie" for the chocolate chip cookies.
- * Mabel Pennel for the assortment of nuts.
- * Lower Columbia Engineering for the deli pack gift bag.
- * John Sachs for the poinsettia.
- * Rob and Leslie Campbell for the fudge.

SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE POSTMASTER

Jack, the Columbia City Postmaster, asked us to provide a gracious thank you to the City Public Works Department for all of their hard work plowing the snow from the streets, to the residents for clearing pathways to their mailboxes, to the mail carrier, Joyce, for all of her efforts, and to everyone for their patience and understanding through the challenges that were caused by the recent severe weather event.

LIBRARY NEWS



We hope most of the snow will stay away now so that the library can be open! Sorry for so many missed days at the library in late December, but our staff and some of our volunteers live outside the city where we got

even more snow than you did in town! It is still excellent weather for reading, so come in and stock up! The more you read, the more room we have on our shelves for new books!

The Mystery book group is meeting again after a month or so. All the holidays landed on Thursdays so we didn't want to meet the evening before a big holiday! Come join us – we always welcome new participants! We meet the last Wednesday of each month.

If you have a small group that would like to use the library to meet, contact us. We're always looking for ways to expand our audience, and we want to be a resource to the community. Let us know what we can do to help!

New at the Library...

The King of Lies by John Hart was nominated for the 2007 Anthony and Edgar awards for Best First Novel. Hart creates a literary thriller that is as suspenseful as it is poignant, a riveting murder mystery layered beneath the southern drawl of a humble North Carolina lawyer. When Work Pickens finds his father murdered, the investigation pushes a repressed family history to the surface and he sees his own carefully constructed façade begin to crack.

Work's troubled sister, her combative girlfriend, his gold digging socialite wife, and an unrequited lifelong love join a cast of small town characters that create no shortage of drama in this extraordinary, fast-paced suspense novel.

Hart's mastery of prose and plot belie his newcomer status as he explores the true heart of a man. An illuminating anatomy of a murder and the ripple effect it produces within a family and a community, *The King of Lies* is a stunning debut.

Inferno by Karen Harper was nominated for the

Mary Higgins Clark award in 2008. In Vermillion, Montana, widow bush pilot Lauren Taylor raises her two sons by herself since her firefighting spouse Ross died trying to put out a wildfire blaze two years ago. Though not easy, she has adjusted to being a single mom.

However, she becomes very concerned when she flies in Rocky Marston, who upon landing seems to have vanished. She becomes concerned later when she sees a picture of the notorious Boy Next Door Arsonist killer who is the media's "darling" as the BND and on the FBI most wanted list with four dead due to his infernos. She thinks her charter Rocky is BND so Lauren uses the federal hotline to report her belief. FBI arson investigator Brad Hale comes to Vermillion to investigate because the agency takes any tip on the whereabouts of this arrogant serial arsonist-killer seriously. As the evidence mounts that Evan is the culprit and planning something nasty and big, Lauren and Brad team up to prevent another tragedy caused by this ruthless murderer while their attraction to one another remains simmering as stopping Evan remains the top objective.

What makes *Inferno* a fascinating police procedural romantic suspense in spite of the overused serial killing arsonist villain is the isosceles "triangle" that forms between Lauren, Brad, and BND. Whereas Lauren and Brad are dedicated individuals who fall in love, BND is a lunatic who is obsessed with deadly infernos. Though everyone knows Evan is BND and that he is insane, he remains sly and elusive as he continues to evade his adversaries while torching anything and anyone who tries to douse his fire. Karen Harper provides a tense action-packed thriller. (Harriet Klausner)

Staffed Hours:

Monday & Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM
Wednesday, 4 PM to 8 PM
Thursday, 2 PM to 6 PM

Story Time:

11 AM every Monday

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 1/19/09 - 7 PM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 1/21/09 - 6:30 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 1/28/09 - 7 PM

Phone: (503) 366-8020

E-mail: cclibrary@opusnet.com

Address: 205 "I" Street

STAYING SAFE IN COLD WEATHER

As we recently experienced, one of the worst winter storms of record, the bad weather season is upon us. Exposure to cold can cause injury or serious illness such as frostbite or hypothermia. The likelihood of injury or illness depends on factors such as physical activity, clothing, wind, humidity, working and living conditions, and a person's age and state of health. Follow these tips to stay safe in cold weather:

Travel:

- ◆ Dress appropriately before going outdoors. The air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite. Wind speed can create dangerously cold conditions even when the temperature is not that low. If possible, dress in layers so you can adjust to changing conditions. Avoid overdressing or overexertion that can lead to heat illness.
- ◆ Traveling and winter can be a dangerous combination. Allow extra time when traveling. Monitor weather conditions carefully and adhere to travel advisories. Don't travel alone and let someone know your travel plans and estimated arrival time.
- ◆ If you get tired or storm intensity increases, seek shelter off the road. Use maps, seat covers and newspapers to help provide additional insulation if you are trapped in a car during a winter snowstorm.
- ◆ Do not leave your car unless you see a building close by where you know you can take shelter. If you need to leave the car to get help, follow the road if possible. If you walk across open country, orient your route toward distant landmarks to maintain your sense of direction.
- ◆ Keep a winter storm survival kit in your car. This should include blankets, high calorie non-perishable food, flashlight, ice scraper, paper towels, extra clothes, matches, a compass, maps, sand, flares, chains, gloves and first aid supplies.

At home:

- ◆ Keep extra batteries for radios and check battery-operated equipment before the storm arrives.
- ◆ Keep an extra supply of food in the house, especially food that requires no cooking.
- ◆ Check to make sure there is adequate home heating fuel before a storm.

- ◆ Keep blankets, clothing, curtains, furniture and anything that might catch fire away from portable heaters. Never use charcoal to heat the house because it gives off deadly amounts of carbon monoxide.
- ◆ Winterize your house - install storm shutters, doors and windows, clear rain gutters, repair leaky roofs. Keep plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and even sandbags accessible for emergency repairs.

During a storm:

- ◆ Know how the public is warned (siren, radio, TV)
- ◆ Keep a local radio station on for emergency information and instructions.
- ◆ Keep in touch with the elderly and friends or neighbors with disabilities.

After a storm:

- ◆ Report downed power lines and broken gas lines immediately.
- ◆ Check on neighbors, especially those who may have special needs.
- ◆ Beware of overexertion and exhaustion.
- ◆ Check to see that no physical damage occurred to your home. Make sure the water is running.

POLICE REPORT - 10/10/08 - 11/20/08

10/10/08 Premise checks conducted.
10/11/08 Premise checks conducted.
10/11/08 Suspicious person in the 2500 block of Sixth Street.
10/11/08 Vandalism in the 1800 block of Fourth Street.
10/11/08 Agency assist on Highway 30 at milepost 30.
10/12/08 Suspicious person near Highway 30 and "I" Street.
10/12/08 Animal complaint in the 3200 block of Fifth Street.
10/13/08 Alarm at the Four Square Church.
10/13/08 Fraud in the 1500 block of Third Street.
10/14/08 Animal complaint in the 1700 block of Seventh Street.
10/14/08 Alarm at Dixieline Lumber.
10/14/08 Harassment in the 1800 block of Second Street.
10/15/08 Theft in the 500 block of "B" Street.
10/16/08 Premise checks conducted.
10/16/08 Ordinance violation reported in the 1500 block of Third Street.
10/17/08 Missing juvenile in the 3000 block of Sixth Street.

POLICE REPORT (continued)

10/17/08 Premise checks conducted.
 10/18/08 Premise checks conducted.
 10/18/08 Animal complaint near Highway 30 and "E" Street.
 10/18/08 Agency assist near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.
 10/19/08 Assist Forestry Department in the 400 block of "E" Street.
 10/19/08 Premise checks conducted.
 10/19/08 Animal complaint near Seventh and "I" Streets.
 10/19/08 Alarm in the 100 block of "E" Street.
 10/20/08 Public assist at City Hall.
 10/22/08 Public assist near Second and "I" Street.
 10/22/08 Agency Assist in the 300 block of "A" Street.
 10/22/08 Vandalism in the 1400 block of Fourth Street.
 10/10/08 Civil situation on Metlako Way.
 10/23/08 Public Assist at City Hall.
 10/24/08 Criminal mischief call in the 1700 block of Fourth Street.
 10/24/08 Nuisance call in the 1700 block of Seventh Street.
 10/24/08 Suspicious person checked at Highway 30 and "I" Street.
 10/25/08 DUII complaint of vehicle approaching Columbia City on Highway 30.
 10/25/08 Premise checks completed.
 10/28/08 Animal complaint in the 1800 block of First Street.
 10/28/08 Nuisance call in the 2300 block of Sixth Street.
 10/28/08 Premise checks completed.
 10/28/08 Public assist at the Post Office.
 10/30/08 Theft in-progress reported in the 2800 block of Fifth Street.
 10/31/08 Animal complaint in the 2400 block of Sixth Street.
 10/31/08 Premise checks completed.
 10/31/08 Suspicious person checked in area of Seventh and "K" Streets.

10/31/08 Suspicious person checked in the area of Third and "I" Streets.
 11/01/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/01/08 Suspicious circumstances in 2000 block of Fifth Street.
 11/02/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/02/08 Public assist completed via phone contact.
 11/05/08 Disabled vehicle in the area of Highway 30 and "A" Street.
 11/06/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/06/08 Suspicious circumstances reported in area of Eighth Court and "H" Street.
 11/07/08 Fraud activity reported in 1900 block of Second Street.
 11/07/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/08/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/08/08 Suspicious circumstances in 2000 block of Third Street.
 11/12/08 Suspicious person checked in the 300 block of "A" Street.
 11/12/08 Suspicious person checked near Highway 30 and "E" Street.
 11/14/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/15/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/15/08 Suspicious vehicle checked near "A" Street and Smith Road.
 11/16/08 Animal complaint in 3300 block of Tahoma Street.
 11/16/08 Premise checks completed.
 11/17/08 Nuisance call in the 1700 block of Second Street.
 11/17/08 Public assist in the 1800 block of Third Street.
 11/17/08 Public assist in the 3600 block of Tahoma Street.
 11/19/08 Hazard removed from Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.
 11/19/08 Public assist at the City Hall.
 11/19/08 Public assist at the Community Hall.
 11/20/08 Suspicious person checked in 3000 block of Sixth Street.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JANUARY 2009

January 1 st	CLOSED	City Hall is closed in observance of New Year's Day
January 1st	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall – Cancelled
January 8 th	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 8th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall – Cancelled
January 13 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
January 15th	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall – Moved to January 8th
January 17 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
January 19 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 22 nd	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall