

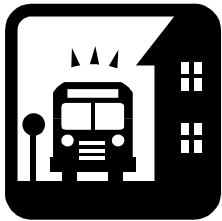
# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2009

**COLUMBIA CITY**  
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### COLUMBIA COUNTY RIDER COMES TO COLUMBIA CITY



Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, Columbia County Rider began operating a FlexRoute between St. Helens and Rainier. The decision to start this new intercity service was based on the updated

Community-wide Transit planning, rider requests and increasing demands by riders to get from North County to medical appointments, state services and fixed route service in St. Helens.

The FlexRoute bus operates on a 90-minute schedule beginning at 8:30 a.m. serving stops at the Rainier Transit center, Rainier Senior Center, Lindberg Store, Prescott, Goble Marina, Deer Island Store, Columbia City Mini-Mart, Columbia City Hall, and Columbia Commons – St. Helens.

This FlexRoute connects at the Columbia Commons stop with the South County FlexRoute serving 14 stops in the Scappoose and St. Helens areas. Transfers between the two routes are free. FlexRoutes have a small amount of extra time built into their schedules to allow for short trip deviations to better serve the elderly and disabled passengers who may have difficulty getting to the FlexRoute bus stops. In addition, this new service offers connections to the Fixed Route buses from St. Helens to Portland and PCC Rock Creek/Willow Creek, and the Westport to Longview/Kelso route, which offers connections to the Oregon Coast via Sunset Empire Transportation.

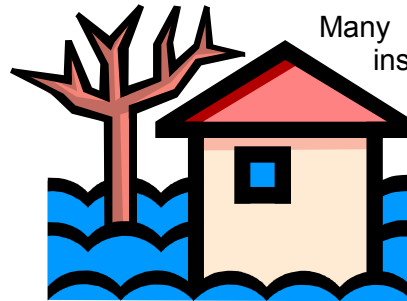
The cost for riding the FlexRoute buses is \$1.50 per boarding. For further information you can visit the Columbia County Rider website at [www.columbiacountyrider.com](http://www.columbiacountyrider.com) or call the dispatch center at (503) 366-0159.

### PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

We want to sincerely thank Craig Davis for serving on the City's Planning Commission for 19 years! Craig was originally appointed to the Commission in January 1990. He became the Chair of the Commission in January 1994, and continued to serve in that capacity until his resignation in January 2009. Due to recent changes at Boise's St. Helens Pulp and Paper mill, Craig accepted a new job in Wallula Washington, which prompted his resignation from the Commission. He'll be dearly missed, and we greatly appreciate his past service.

We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to two new Planning Commission Members. Kenneth Wieland and Bill Jackson were appointed to the Planning Commission in February, and we appreciate their interest in serving!

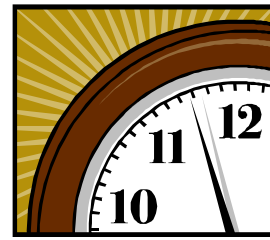
### CITIZEN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Many people purchase insurance for their homes, cars, health, and other things. Yet there are also many who do not have food or other supplies on hand if there is a disaster and they cannot leave their homes. Government IS AFFECTED BY DISASTERS AS WELL and cannot always respond immediately. Columbia County Emergency Management, along with local emergency responders and citizen response teams, will be speaking about how citizens and their families can be ready to survive the next disaster. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2009, in the Council Chambers of Columbia City Hall, 1840 Second Street, Columbia City, from 7 to 8 PM.** For information, contact Columbia County Emergency Management at (503) 366-3930.

## NEW WATER RATES

The City Council approved a water rate increase following a public hearing in February. The rate increase will take effect on March 26, 2009, and will be reflected on the April 26, 2009 billings. For a residential customer within the City limits, the new rates include a \$0.75 increase in the minimum monthly charge and a \$0.15 increase in the first volume charge, for an overall average increase of about 2.5%.



## DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS

Daylight-saving time begins on the second Sunday in March. Mark your calendars to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

## THANK YOU

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

- Bernie Albertine, Judy Anderson, Karin Bates, Gloria Chinell, Nell Harrison, Barbara Jones, Jean Lord and Gladys Riahi for helping with the utility billing and newsletters in January.
- Donald Truedson and "Jackie" for the cookies.

Residential Customer In Columbia City	New Rate 3/26/09
Minimum charge - less than 500 cubic feet of usage	\$30.75
For each additional 100 cubic feet (or portion thereof), but usage less than 1,000 cubic feet	\$3.75

The rates for commercial, industrial and outside City water users received similar adjustments. For detailed information about other rate classes, please contact City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010.

## U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS

The SBA is working to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the recent disaster that occurred between December 14, 2008 through January 4, 2009. The loan interest rate is 4%, and the application filing deadline is November 12, 2009.

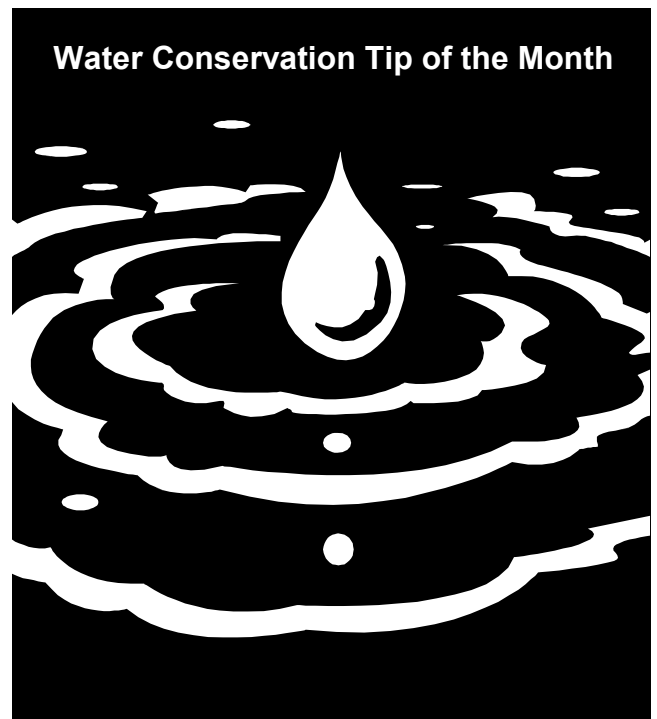
For more information contact SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).

## FERAL CAT SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC



The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon will be holding a clinic in the St. Helens area on March 8<sup>th</sup>. For reservations or additional information call Laura at (503) 397-3333 or to volunteer call Sue (503) 366-8223.

## Water Conservation Tip of the Month

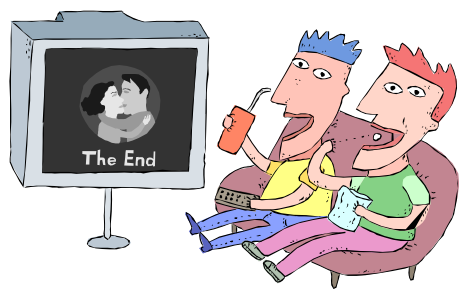


Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave. Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.

## LIBRARY NEWS

I've seen several news reports that library use is up with our poor economy. There are a lot of good reasons to use the library now. If you don't have as much disposable income, the library is an excellent source for books. Even if you do have lots of disposable income, we probably have lots of books you'd enjoy! We also have magazines, about 30 different ones, including some for kids. We have a computer available for public use to access the Internet or check email. If you are going to college or using distance learning, you can take your proctored tests at our site (free!). We have a very limited selection of movies for adults, but quite a few for children.

We do have a need for children's movies on DVD. Most of the ones we have are on videotape, and most households have switched over to DVDs by now. If your kids have outgrown



their Disney movies, and they still play, we would love to have them for other children to share!

### New at the Library...

We typically get ten to fifteen award winners a month in as new books at the library, even if they are a year or so old. Check out the new bookshelf by the desk each time you come in to see what we've processed recently!

*Prime Time* by Hank Phillippi Ryan was a finalist for the Daphne Du Maurier Award, and was nominated for two Rita awards: Best first novel and Best Romantic Suspense.

"*Prime Time* is an exciting story packed with action, adventure and lots of mystery. Charlie is an excellent lead character with her smart, quirky ways; she just pulls you right into the story as you see life through her eyes. Hank Phillippi Ryan has written a terrific tale of the world she knows and it shows in the details she has included throughout the story. Her writing style flows along fast and smooth as her bold

characters take center stage and make you feel as though you're a part of their world. *Prime Time* gets 5 Angels and I will be eagerly awaiting more stories from this talented writer."

—*Fallen Angel Reviews*

*Pushing Ice* by Alastair Reynolds was nominated for the Arthur C. Clarke Award.

*Pushing Ice* is a hard Science Fiction novel in the 'Big Dumb Object' tradition, following in the footsteps of Arthur C. Clarke's *Rendezvous with Rama*, Larry Niven's *Ringworld* and Greg Bear's *Eon*. However, unlike a lot of BDO books which tend to put characterization way behind spectacle and awe, *Pushing Ice* is centered firmly on the relationship between two female crewmembers of the Rockhopper, Captain Bella Lind and navigator Svetlana Barseghian, two firm friends who suffer a catastrophic falling-out over the Rockhopper's new mission and whose subsequent relations color much of the novel. This gives the book an emotional center that helps make it easier to relate to the more traditional, awe-inspiring spectacle stuff that unfolds later on.

### Staffed 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:

11 a.m. every Monday

### Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, 3/16/09 - 7 p.m.

### Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 3/18/09 – 6:30 p.m.

### Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 3/25/09 - 7 p.m.

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

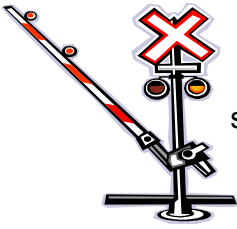
**E-mail:** cclibrary@opusnet.com

**Address:** 205 "I" Street

## Library Volunteers needed!

Please call 503-366-8020 if you're interested!

## APRIL IMPLEMENTATION PLANNED FOR QUIET ZONE



The City is gearing up to start the new Quiet Zone in early to mid April. The additional safety measures the City and ODOT installed must first pass an ODOT Rail inspection, and then a 30-day notice of Quiet Zone implementation will follow. The Quiet Zone is permitted by the Federal Railroad Administration, and will silence the routine sounding of train horns within Columbia City.

## 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.

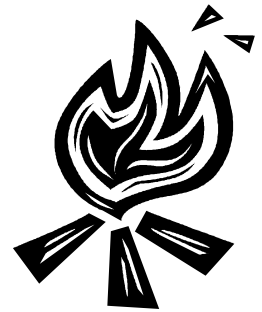
Trillium is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants and mice. Trillium seeds have a fleshy organ called an elaiosome that attracts ants. The ants take the seeds to their nest, where they eat the elaiosomes and put the seeds in their garbage, where they are protected until they germinate. They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

## OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS BURNING PERMITS NOW REQUIRED

The next **biannual burn period will begin on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. The burn period is for 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 may be obtained at City Hall or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District and they are valid for one year. Please remember you must call the "Burn Line" at (503) 397-4800 each day to see if it is a burn day.



You must follow these basic rules for proper open burning:

- ❑ You must have a garden hose, or a shovel and a 5-gallon bucket of water at all times, and the fire must **NOT** be left unattended at any time until out.
- ❑ Yard and garden trimmings must be cut and piled no larger than 6 feet wide by 4 feet high.
- ❑ The ground must be cleared not less than 10 feet around the burning area. There must be a separation of 50 feet between the burn pile and any structure, trees, vehicle or property line if the burn pile is greater than 3 feet in diameter; and a 25 foot separation if the burn pile is less than 3 feet in diameter.
- ❑ The fire must not adversely affect neighbors (smoke).
- ❑ It must be daylight hours during a designated burn day.

Have questions? Please call Bill Goodwin, Fire Marshall, at (503) 397-2990 ext. 17.

## FOUND ITEM

A cell phone was found on Fourth 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.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY TRANSIT DIVISION  
HOLDS COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Columbia County will be holding three Community Meetings to share information and to seek public feedback about two transit planning projects that affect County residents and workers. The meeting in St. Helens is scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2009 at noon, and will be held at the St. Helens at the St. Helens Senior Center.

Recommendations from these projects will be presented at the meetings along with a variety of opportunities to comment on them. More information will be available on the Columbia County Transit Division Web site.

**HELP WANTED  
MUSEUM COMPLEX MANAGER**

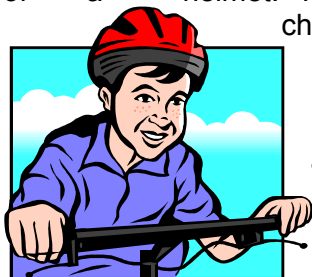
Conscientious, friendly manager of a small museum complex to give tours, book events and keep up the grounds.



Send resume to:  
Caples  
PO Box 263  
Columbia City, OR 97018-0263

**BIKE HELMETS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL**

The Columbia City Police Department has bicycle helmets available to young riders in need of a helmet. The helmets are free of charge to those that cannot



afford to purchase their own helmet, and donations are always appreciated. To qualify for a free helmet, children must reside in Columbia City. Bring your child by City Hall to

be fitted for a free helmet, or contact City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010 to obtain additional information. The Columbia City Police Department would like to remind young riders that State law requires persons under the age of 16 to wear protective headgear when operating or riding a bicycle.

**STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS!**



With the flu season in full swing, remember to stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!



After coughing or sneezing...wash your hands with soap and warm water, or clean with an alcohol-based hand cleaner or wipe.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve - not your hands.

**POLICE REPORT (01/25/09 to 02/24/09)**

- 01/25/09 Animal Complaint near "E" Street and Highway 30.
- 01/25/09 Public assist at the Mini Mart.
- 01/25/09 Premise checks conducted.
- 01/26/09 911 hang-up call checked in the 3000 block of Sixth Street.
- 01/26/09 Animal complaint in the 200 block of "E" Street.
- 01/28/09 Theft call at the Mini Mart.
- 01/30/09 Attempt to locate a DUII driver near the Grade School.
- 01/30/09 Theft reported from West Oregon Wood Products.
- 01/31/09 Disturbance reported in the 200 block of "K Street.
- 02/01/09 Premise checks conducted.
- 02/02/09 911 hang-up call checked at the Columbia City Sports and Recreation Club.
- 02/04/09 Warrant service in the 400 block of "C" Street.
- 02/05/09 Public assist in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.
- 02/06/09 Repossession information given for the 3000 block of Fifth Street.
- 02/06/09 Assist the Columbia River PUD in the 2100 block of Third Street.
- 02/08/09 Follow-up investigation at the Columbia City Sports and Recreation Club.
- 02/09/09 Welfare check at the Mini Mart.
- 02/09/09 Suspicious person at the Mini Mart.
- 02/09/09 Public assist at City Hall.
- 02/09/09 Disabled vehicle on Highway 30 near Pacific Street.
- 02/09/09 Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near "L" Street.

## POLICE REPORT (continued)

02/09/09 Disabled vehicle near Highway 30 and "L" Street.  
02/13/09 Traffic complaint near Highway 30 and "E" Street.  
02/13/09 Public assist in the 300 block of Spinnaker Way.  
02/14/09 Suspicious person near Highway 30 and "I" Street.  
02/17/09 911 hang-up call checked in the 400 block of Skookum Court.  
02/18/09 Traffic complaint in the 200 block of "K" Street.  
02/18/09 Suicide attempt reported in the Columbia City Estates area.  
02/19/09 Traffic complaint in the 200 block of "K" Street.  
02/19/09 Audible alarm at Dixieline Lumber.  
02/20/09 Public assist at the City Hall.  
02/21/09 Assist the Fire Department in the Columbia City Estates area.  
02/21/09 Public assist in the 400 block of Pacific Street.  
02/21/09 Domestic dispute reported in a vehicle near the 1200 block of Second Street.  
02/21/09 Non-injury traffic crash in the area of "I" Street and The Strand.  
02/23/09 Public assist at the Post Office.  
02/23/09 Premise checks conducted.  
02/23/09 Suspicious person near Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.  
02/24/09 Vandalism reported in the 400 block of Skookum Court

### "DO NOT CALL" REGISTRY INFORMATION

Oregon consumers placing their landline and cell phone numbers on the National "Do Not Call" registry will be protected by both the federal and state "no call" laws. Registration is free.

Oregon residents may register by calling toll-free at 1-888-382-1222 or online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers who register their telephone numbers on the National "Do Not Call" Registry can expect a large reduction in the number of telemarketing calls to their homes.



For those telemarketers who ignore the law and "cold call" Oregon residents, consumers may file a complaint with the Attorney General's consumer protection office.

The Oregon "No Call" complaint form, in both an email and printable version, can be found at <http://www.doj.state.or.us/finfraud/donotcall.shtml#complaint>.

Under Oregon's No Call law, certain solicitation calls are allowed, including:

- Calls from public agencies or charitable organizations to which you belong, or to which you have previously donated or expressed interest in making a donation;
- Calls that are made in response to your request that a company call you;
- Calls that ask for your opinion or vote; and
- Calls from companies you have bought from in the past, or a "predecessor of a business enterprise" for certain financial institutions.

For more information on Oregon's "No Call" law, consumers may call the Attorney General's consumer hotline at (503) 229-5576 (Portland area only) or toll-free at (877) 877-9392.

## MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - MARCH 2009

March 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Citizen Emergency Preparedness Meeting at City Hall
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Water Committee Meeting at City Hall
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Streets Committee Meeting at City Hall

