

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2010

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CELEBRATION 2010

Mark your calendar and join us for the Columbia City Celebration on Saturday, September 11, 2010!



We'll start the day with a Strawberry Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the Columbia River PUD. Breakfast will be served in the Knapp Social Center, 1925 First Street from 8 to 10 AM - \$6 adults/\$4.50 children under 10.

We welcome you to visit the Columbia City Police Department booth to meet your police officers. They will provide child fingerprinting kits, present tips for emergency shelter in place, register your bicycle, have traffic safety information on hand, and have neighborhood watch information available. Please take the time to stop by and get to know your police officers.

The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale in the Community Hall from 9 AM to 3 PM. Choose from a huge selection of great books at incredible prices!

The Caples House Museum and store will be open from 9 AM to 4 PM. Museum tours will be free of charge for the day.

New this year will be a Bingo game from 11 AM to 2 PM in the Community Hall. Win prizes from a great selection of gift cards and other items. Come join the fun!



The historical book, "Columbia City Days", Columbia City note cards, a variety of Columbia City T-shirts and the new Columbia City Community Cookbook will all be available for sale during the Celebration event.

We still need your help with the Celebration! We are looking for volunteers to help gather donations

and to help the day of the event. This is a fun time to volunteer and help the Community Library - just call City Hall to sign up.

All of the proceeds from the Celebration are used to operate the Columbia City Community Library. We hope to make this the biggest and best Celebration ever!

PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS TODAY!

Blue raffle tickets provide you with an opportunity to win the following prizes:

1st prize: Beach Getaway (\$550 approx. value)

2-night stay at Holiday Inn Express, Astoria
1-night stay at the Cannery Pier Hotel, Astoria
Passes to Columbia River Maritime Museum
Gift certificates to Cottage Bakery & Delicatessen,
Benson's by the Beach and more!

2nd prize: Ocean Park, Washington Vacation Home (\$170 value)

2-night stay (*provided by Paulson Printing*)

3rd prize: Shilo Inn Certificate (\$150 average value)

1-night stay at any Shilo Inn

4th prize: Gift card for gasoline (\$50 value)

To win this beautiful quilt, purchase your **red raffle tickets**. Tickets are just \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for six. A total of 1,500 tickets are available for sale. The drawing will be held during the 2010 Columbia City Celebration on Saturday, September 11, 2010, at 1 PM. Tickets are on sale now at the City Hall and the Community Library, and all raffle proceeds go to the Library.



**COLUMBIA COUNTY
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)
PROGRAM TO COLLECT LATEX PAINT**



Oregon is the first state in the nation to enact a law requiring paint manufacturers to safely manage leftover latex and oil-based paint from consumer and contractor painting jobs. This historic product stewardship legislation responds to the problem of managing leftover paint -- the largest component of local household hazardous waste collection programs.

An estimated 10% of the more than 750 million gallons of architectural paint sold each year in the United States is unused. This difficult-to-manage waste can be captured for reuse, recycling, energy recovery, or safe disposal, but doing so requires public awareness and a convenient and effective local infrastructure, currently beyond most local budgets and capacity.

The new paint stewardship law, signed July 23, 2009, is expected to result in the proper management of up to 800,000 gallons of leftover paint each year. Paint recycling will be more convenient throughout the state, particularly in areas where local governments do not offer paint recycling opportunities. Local government agencies that currently collect leftover paint will realize a direct financial savings.

Communities that are currently under-served will see new services. Under the new law, the paint industry will set up a program to reduce paint waste, increase reuse and recycling and safely dispose of remaining unusable paint. Costs for safely managing leftover paint will be incorporated in the purchase price of new paint.

As of July 31, 2010, **all** unwanted house paint (in 5 gallon or smaller containers) can be brought to the Columbia County HHW Facility located at the Transfer Station in St. Helens. The Columbia County HHW Facility is only open the last Saturday of each month, from 8 AM to Noon.

For more information on the Paint Program and other drop off locations, go to the DEQ Website <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/prodstewardship/paint.htm>

💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on houseplants or your garden.



**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:

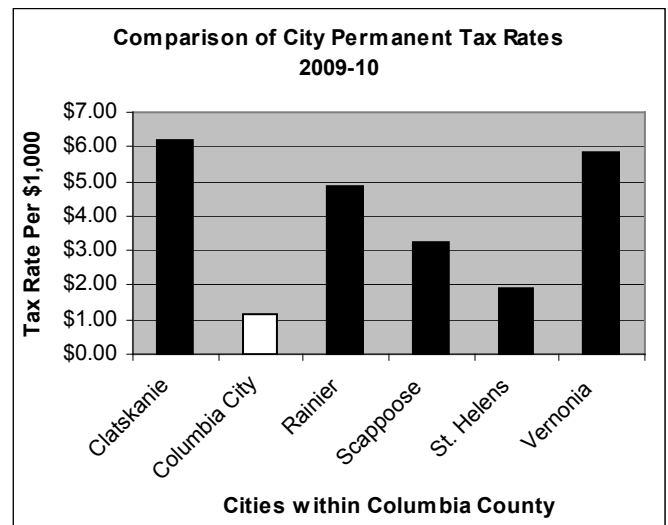
- **Don't put anything in the storm drains but rainwater.** Storm drains can carry surface runoff directly to streams and rivers without treatment. Make sure runoff carries only rainwater.
- **Remove litter from the street.** Trash-laden gutters increase neighborhood pollution and clog drains, which 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.

LOCAL OPTION LEVY PROPOSAL

For years Columbia City has provided a wide range of services at a tax rate that is significantly lower than other cities within the County. In 1992 Columbia City voters approved a tax base of \$67,574. With the passage of Ballot Measure 50 in 1997, the tax base transitioned into a permanent tax rate of \$1.1346 per \$1,000 assessed value - the lowest permanent property tax rate of any City within Columbia County, with the exception of Prescott (estimated population - 60).

Recent financial projections indicate that the City will need to reduce services levels by July 2011 unless additional funding is secured. In addition, the City has no identified revenue source for storm water system maintenance activities, and the system must be brought into compliance with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rules and regulations. The resources to perform many vital street pavement preservation activities are not available, creating a backlog of needed street projects.

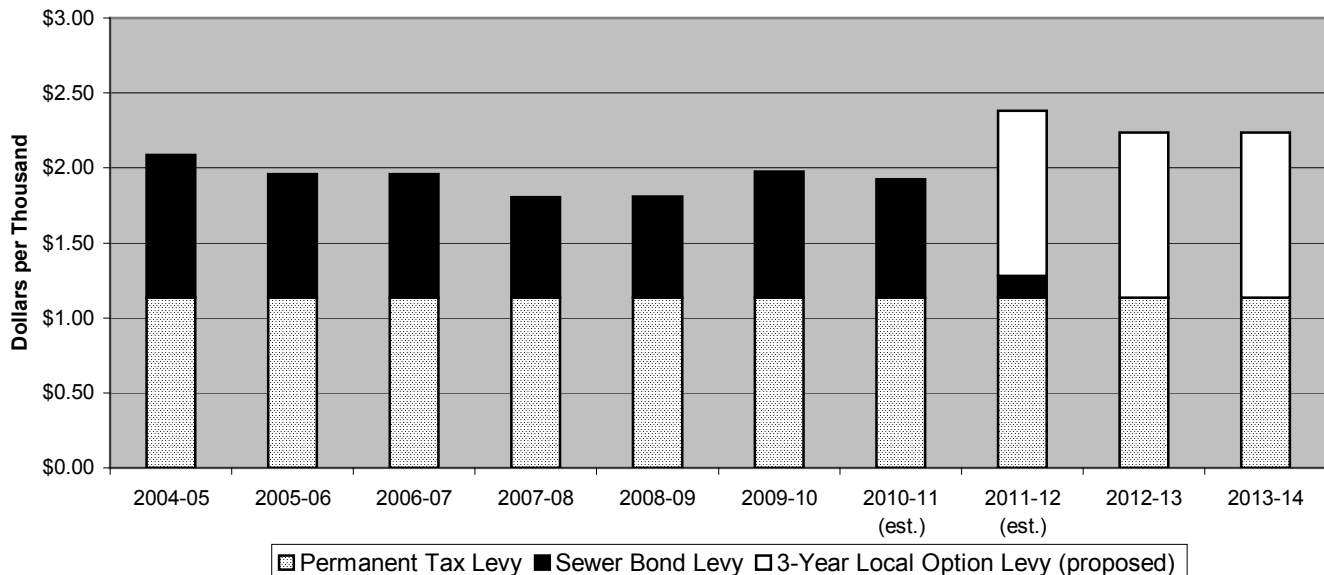
In an effort to maintain current service levels, protect the investment in the street system by performing critical maintenance activities, and comply with DEQ storm water regulations, the City Council is moving forward with referring a ballot measure for a 3-year Local Option Levy of \$1.10 per \$1,000 assessed value to qualified voters



during the November 2, 2010 General Election. If approved, the City would levy an additional \$1.10 per \$1,000 assessed value on the November 2011 tax bills.

In addition to the permanent tax rate, the City collects taxes under a Debt Service Levy to make payments on the sewer system that was built in 1991-92. The last debt payment is due in 2011-12, and the Debt Service Levy will end. If approved by voters in November, the net cost of the Local Option Levy per \$1,000 assessed value, considering the end date of the Debt Service Levy, is estimated at \$0.52 in 2011-12, \$0.26 in 2012-13 and \$0.26 in 2013-14 as depicted in the graph below.

**City of Columbia City
Permanent Tax Rate Levy, Sewer Bond Levy, and Proposed 3-Year Local Option Levy**



LIBRARY NEWS

SPECIAL BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, September 11, 2010... 10 am – 2 pm
Columbia City Community Hall

Outlaws On the Big River

Outlaws on the Big River is a true account of the experiences of Joe Schwab as he worked the Columbia River as a Wildlife Enforcement Officer for the Oregon State Police. The danger, tedium and humor encountered while matching wits with determined fish poachers and law breakers makes for some interesting reading and insight into a field of Law Enforcement the public knows little about. Accounts date from early 1970s through the 90s and even after the Author's retirement in 1994.

The Columbia River stretches from the border of Canada to the Pacific Ocean. It becomes the Boarder of Oregon and Washington upriver from McNary Dam and is jointly managed by both States. It also includes a Tribal Fishery area above Bonneville Dam, a non-tribal Commercial Fishery below Bonneville Dam and Sport Fishing along its entire length.

Wildlife Officers on both sides are thinly spread and must have a keen working knowledge of the river and its myriad of fish runs in order to situate themselves efficiently. This book covers a small portion of one man's experiences. Multiply by 20 or 30 officers over the same stretch and the problems become clear.

The book sells for only \$12.95 and you can be one of the first to get a signed copy by the author, Joe Schwab, who is retired and living in Columbia City.



Mr. Schwab also plans to make a donation to the Columbia City Library for every book sold at the Celebration, so we are doubly happy to sponsor this event. Interesting reading and a way to help others at the same time.

Library News: Thank you to Kit and Lynn who have been helping on Mondays while Dee is on vacation! You have made a big difference in what

we can get done! There is so much that can be done when you volunteer. Rob, who works on Thursdays, will be out of state for the first three weeks of September, so we are looking for substitutes for those days. If you haven't been trained, or it has been a long time, spend an hour on a Monday between 10 and 2, and get a refresher course in running the library!



There are a LOT of garage sales out there! When you are done with your garage sale, don't forget to bring your unsold books to the library for our upcoming book sale. We really appreciate them!

Summer Reading Program: Our summer reading program is continuing at the library. Come visit our dry beach (so the books don't get wet!) and listen to a few stories on Mondays at 11 AM. Take-away crafts are available all the time, so stop in and see what we're doing each week! Pizza and a Paperback dates will be posted in the library. The older kids are reading *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart.

Story Time:

Every Monday, 11 AM

Friends of the Library:

Monday, August 16, 7 PM

Novel Quilters

Wednesday, August 18, 6:30 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, August 25, 7 PM

Staffed Library Hours:

Monday and Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM

Wednesday, 4 PM – 8 PM

Thursday, 2 PM – 6 PM

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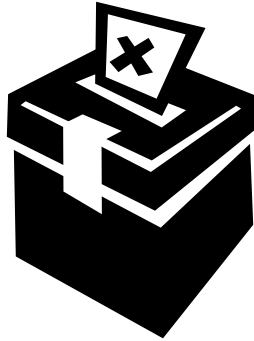
<http://www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm>

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Casey Wheeler, our newest Planning Commission Member. Casey was appointed to the Planning Commission in June and we appreciate his interest in serving!

CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The position of Mayor and two City Council positions will be filled by the voters during the November 2, 2010 General Election. Qualified electors who have resided within the City since November 2, 2009, may run for office. Nominating petition forms available at the City Hall. The nominating petitions must be signed by 20 qualified electors, and must be filed with the City Administrator/Recorder by 5:00 pm on August 19, 2010. The positions are for a term of four years.



POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT June – July 2010

See below for the department's activity during the most recent reporting period. Please feel free to contact me, or any of your police officers, with feedback or further questions that you may have.

Stay safe, - Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

Your police officers answered 370 calls for service during the past reporting period. These activities decreased from 465 calls for service during the previous month. The reduction in calls was primarily related to reduced residential security checks over the past reporting period. Although many of these calls were self-initiated by officers of this department, we have summarized below both significant community policing and criminal investigations that we have conducted.

Community Policing Activity:

- Residential Security Checks: 32
- Area Patrols: 43
- Foot Patrols: 7
- Assist the Public: 26
- Welfare Checks: 2
- Radio Calls: 178
- Animal Complaints: 1
- Assist Outside Agencies: 8
- Disabled Vehicles/Motorist Assists: 3
- Noise Complaints: 1
- Traffic Complaints: 7
- Civil Situations: 2

Criminal Activity:

- Assault Investigations: 1
- Domestic Disturbances: 3
- Theft Investigations: 1
- Traffic Crash Investigations: 2
- Nuisance/Disturbance Calls: 6
- Investigative Follow Up's: 13
- Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 10
- Fraud Investigations: 1
- Traffic Complaints: 7
- Traffic Stops: 61
- DUII Arrests: 2
- Parking Violations: 2
- Criminal Mischief: 1
- Juvenile Investigations: 3
- Missing Juvenile: 1

Calls of Interest:

1. Suspicious person at Sixth Street near Pacific Street on 06/02/2010 – Person left the area prior to officer arrival.
2. Disturbance reported in the 3300 block of Fifth Street on 06/06/2010 – Disturbance resolved and peace restored.
3. Suspicious person at Highway 30 near "L" Street on 06/06/2010 – Person checked out OK.
4. Suspicious person at Sixth Street near James Street on 06/11/2010 – Person checked out OK.
5. Suspicious person at the 2300 block of Second Street on 06/12/2010 – Person checked out OK.
6. Suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of "E" Street on 06/19/2010 – Vehicle and occupants checked out OK.
7. Suspicious circumstance in the 1900 block of Second Street on 06/21/2010 – Call nature changed to assist the public.
8. Prowler call in the 500 block of Yakima Court on 06/23/2010 – Prowler(s) fled the area on foot prior to officer arrival, security patrol conducted of the area.
9. Suspicious person at Highway 30 near "E" Street on 06/26/2010 – Person checked out OK.
10. Theft reported from the 2100 block of Second Street on 06/28/2010 – Criminal report filed, investigation open.
11. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Hwy 30 near "L" Street on 06/29/2010 – Vehicle and occupants checked out OK.
12. Suspicious person in the 300 block of "A" Street on 06/29/2010 – Person checked out OK.



One is not born into the world to do everything but to do something.

Henry David Thoreau, poet, writer, philosopher

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

Some door to door sales are reputable companies, but some may be scams. Here are some tips to avoid being scammed:

- ❑ 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 and you 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.
- ❑ Before doing business with anyone selling door-to-door, ask them to provide you with a copy of their Columbia City business license and solicitation permit, and report violators.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - AUGUST 2010

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|--|
| August 5 | 6:00 p.m. | Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall |
| August 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - CANCELED |
| August 11 | 7:00 p.m. | Bingo Fundraiser for the Library at the St. Helens Senior Center |
| August 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Municipal Court at City Hall |
| August 16 | 7:00 p.m. | Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library |
| August 17 | 5:00 p.m. | Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall |
| August 18 | 5:30 p.m. | Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall |
| August 19 | 6:00 p.m. | Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall |
| August 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Bunco Fundraiser for the Library at the St. Helens Senior Center |

THANK YOU

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

- Norm Jones for mowing the grass in Datis, Pixie and Ruth Rose Richardson Parks.
- Bernie Albertine, Judy Anderson, Jean Carulli, Gloria Chinell, Dolores Heinz, Phyllis Rowley and Vonnie Walker for helping with the utility billing and newsletters in June.
- Glenn Keudell for power washing and helping clean up in Bundy Park.
- Jeff and JoAnn Hughes and Gary Hansen for their continued help mowing and weeding in Harvard Park.
- Stan Hopkins for helping with park maintenance activities in Jim Bundy Memorial Park.
- All of our Library and Reserve Officer volunteers and our anonymous volunteers.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Contractor advertising signs: One temporary construction sign is permitted per parcel, but it must be removed within 15 days after the completion of the project. These signs cannot exceed four square feet in size or be illuminated.

Construction work hours: Construction work (including excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair) may only occur between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., except that a resident may conduct construction work until 8 p.m.

Alley, street and sidewalk clearance: Trees and bushes may not interfere with alley, street or sidewalk traffic. The owner of property adjacent to an alley, street, or sidewalk is responsible for keeping all trees and bushes trimmed so that any overhanging portions are at least eight feet above the sidewalk, and at least twelve feet above the roadway or alley.