

Columbia City Newsletter

February 2010

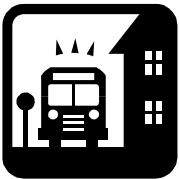
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COLUMBIA COUNTY RIDER TRANSPORTATION BEGINS SATURDAY SERVICE

On Saturday, January 30, 2010 Columbia County Rider Transportation will begin offering four round trips from St. Helens/Scappoose to downtown Portland for residents of Columbia County.

Riders will be able to catch the bus at the St. Helens Medical Mall at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. The bus will use the same stops beginning in St. Helens and Scappoose on Saturdays as it does on weekdays.



“We are very excited about offering this new service and we hope that as residents become more familiar with the schedule, they will find the service convenient to the south county area and downtown Portland”, said Dan Garrison, Vice Chair of the Columbia County Citizens Transit Advisory Committee. “We have been working a long time to provide weekend service, and it was one of the highest priorities coming out of the update of our Columbia County Community-wide Transit Planning process that was completed last year”. “In addition to the new Saturday service, this grant also allows us to provide additional demand response service for elderly and disabled through-out the county”.

Our ability to expand our transit service to include service on Saturdays is provided by a \$120,857 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Public Transit Division through the Special Transportation Operating Program.

WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS

During the next six weeks, the Public Works crew will be replacing old steel water service lines on Sixth Street between "A" and Penn Streets, and on "E" Street between Sixth Street and Highway 30. This work is being done in preparation of the upcoming Sixth and "E" Street resurfacing project. Residents can expect intermittent lane closures or detours.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT MICAH ROGERS

We are pleased to announce the recent promotion of Micah Rogers to the position of Public Works Superintendent. Micah originally joined the Public Works staff as a Utility Worker in May 2005. He's served in the interim position of Public Works Supervisor position since September 2009, and was promoted to Superintendent at the first of the year. Micah's working knowledge of our public works systems and operations, as well as his dedication and commitment to the City and its citizens, will serve him well in his new position.

CITY PARKING REGULATIONS

In an effort to improve compliance with the City's parking regulations, we'd like to remind our residents of the following:

- Boats, motor homes and trailers may be parked temporarily on an improved public street for up to 72 hours if currently licensed and registered and not blocking traffic or obscuring the visibility of an intersection, crosswalk, or a traffic control sign or device. The same rules apply to the undeveloped right-of-way, except the 72-hour time limit does not apply as long as it is parked adjacent to the owner's property and it is at least six feet from the edge of the pavement.
- No parking or storage of vehicles, RV's, trailers, campers, boats, or other similar items shall occur in the front 20-foot setback except in a paved driveway, and the parking or storage may not occupy more than 720 square feet.
- Any vehicles parked in the street right-of-way must be currently licensed and drivable.



Voluntary compliance is our most cost effective method of enforcement. Please be aware of and comply with the above regulations, and share this information with others. Please feel free to report violations to the Police Department by calling (503) 397-4010.

WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE

On January 21, 2010, the City Council held a public hearing to accept comments on a proposal to increase water and sewer rates. The rate increases are needed to generate additional revenue to cover recent rate hikes imposed by the City of St. Helens on wholesale water rates and sewer treatment fees, and to help pay for necessary repairs and improvements to the water and sewer systems.



The City Council plans to implement the new rates on February 26th, and the increase will be reflected on the March 26th utility bills. For a residential customer within the City limits, the proposal is to increase the minimum monthly water charge by \$3.70, increase the first volume charge by \$0.10, and increase the second volume charge by \$0.25. The proposal also includes a \$3.60 increase in the residential monthly sewer charge.

Residential Customer in Columbia City	Current Rate	New Rate
Water minimum charge - includes less than 500 cubic feet of usage	\$30.75	\$34.45
For each additional 100 cubic feet, but usage less than 1,000 cubic feet	\$3.75	\$3.85
For each additional 100 cubic feet	\$4.50	\$4.75
Residential sewer rate (per unit)	\$24.15	\$27.75

The rates for commercial, industrial and outside City water and sewer users are scheduled to increase in similar proportions. The Council will consider approving the rate increases during their February 4, 2010 meeting.

THANK YOU

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

- ❖ Bernie Albertine, Marian Calnon, Betty Jensen, Gladys Riahi, Phyllis Rowley and Vonnice Walker for helping with the newsletters and utility billing in December.
- ❖ Gladys Riahi for the See's chocolates.
- ❖ Iona Dworschak for the boot brush.
- ❖ Columbia River PUD for taking down the holiday lights and banners.
- ❖ Vonnice Walker for working in our flowerbeds around the City Hall.



SEWER SMART TIPS

Sanitary sewer systems are designed to handle three types of waste products: used water, human waste, and toilet paper.

You can help prevent unwanted sewer backups and keep your sanitary sewer working properly by following these simple Dos and Don'ts!

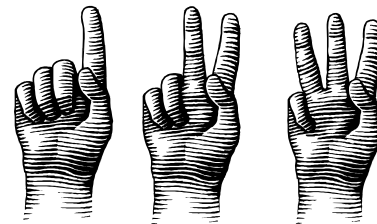
DO:

- Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Place food scraps in the garbage for disposal with solid waste.
- Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. Disposable diapers, personal hygiene products, rubber gloves and other similar items do not belong in the sewer system.

DON'T:

- Pour grease, fats, and oils from cooking down the drain.
- Use the sewer to dispose of food scraps.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket for garbage and chemicals.

STAND UP, BE COUNTED!



Census Day is April 1, 2010 and the questionnaire is a count of everyone living in the United States. Remember, achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands. In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will define who we are as a nation. The form is short, your answers are protected, and many benefits rely upon an accurate count. Help your community receive the funds it requires. **Ensure that everyone is counted.**



LIBRARY NEWS

February is Love Your Library month. Stop by and see what there is to love! Check out some books – our shelves are getting too crowded again!

We have a book sale planned for Saturday, February 27, from 10 AM until 4 PM at the Community Hall. Our closet is brimming with books, but we'll fit more in if you want to clean out your bookshelves for us. It is amazing how many books are here in our community! We will be setting up for the book sale Saturday morning from 8 AM until the doors open at 10 AM, and probably for a few minutes after that! If you can help, please let us know, and show up at 8 AM Saturday at the Columbia City Community Hall.

The Novel Quilters are reading *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver. We met in January, and we will meet again in February to discuss the book. The meeting is at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 17. The reveal of our quilts will be at our April meeting.

The Mystery book group always meets after I write this newsletter, so I can never say what we'll be reading next month. Stop by the library and look at our display to see what we'll be reading.

New at the Library...

Curse of the Spellmans by Lisa Lutz. I've had this one on my wish list since I read *The Spellman Files*. A fun read!

In the two years that have passed since the action in Lutz's hit debut, *The Spellman Files* (2007), zany Isabel Spellman, who works for the family PI firm in San Francisco, has become a somewhat responsible member of society. Unfortunately, she's also become obsessed with Subject (aka John Brown), a next-door neighbor who she's convinced has an evil secret she must expose, even if it means losing her PI license. Adding further hilarity is The Stone and Spellman Show, transcripts of recordings revealing 15-year-old sister Rae's fascination with her middle-aged best friend, stoic SFPD inspector Henry Stone, who endures Rae's adoration with liberal doses of *Doctor Who* watching. Henry's link to the Spellman family's fortunes suggests he might be a good candidate for Isabel's Ex-boyfriend #11 when Subject fails to make the grade. Fans of *The Spellman Files* will laugh just as loudly at the comic

antics chronicled in this sparkling sequel. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Shotgun Opera by Victor Gischler : The blackest of Gischler's works so far. Populated by low-lives and the scum of the earth, he manages to paint vivid portraits of reprehensible individuals I came to care for and reprehensible individuals I absolutely loathed.

When the protagonists, seeking redemption are set against each other, the unrealistic hope I had in my heart for them vanished in the utter brutality of a shotgun blast. Filled with the blackest humor, while not reaching quite the giddy and outrageous heights of Pistol Poets, it is still a most enjoyable read.

Gischler consistently out-Tarantino's Tarantino. His book is populated with assassins, terrorists, carnival freak-show killers, ex-CIA, special forces enforcers, hitman-turned winemaker, mobsters and psycho juvenile delinquents off their meds.

Gischler's books are a madcap universe of the perverse and poetic. He is a brilliant and entertaining author whose next effort is a welcome guest in my house. I anxiously await his next. (*R.E. Moore*)

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, 2/8/10 - 7 PM

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, 2/17/10 - 6:30 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, 2/24/10 - 7 PM

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

FOUND ITEM

An “*ecko unltd.” hooded sweat jacket was found at Harvard Park in late summer. Does it belong to you? If so, please contact (503) 397-4010.

WHEN IT COMES TO DRINKING WATER DEQ CONFIRMS: 'REDUCE FIRST, THEN RECYCLE'

If you think it makes more sense to drink tap water in reusable bottles rather than to keep buying bottled water and recycling the containers, you're absolutely right.

A recent DEQ analysis of drinking water delivery systems confirms that it's best to reduce or reuse first, then recycle.

A DEQ study compared dozens of scenarios and examined a range of environmental effects across the entire life cycle of single-use, five-gallon reusable and tap water delivery methods. Among the conclusions:

- Buying and then recycling a typical bottle of water reduces energy consumption by 24 percent and greenhouse gas emissions by 16 percent over the entire life cycle, compared to buying then throwing away the same water bottle.
- However, consuming the same quantity of water from the tap in a reusable bottle reduces energy consumption by 85 percent and greenhouse gases by 79 percent (compared to buying bottled water and disposing of each bottle).

The most important message for consumers is: reduce first, then recycle. Drinking tap water and recycling single-use bottles are equally effective ways of keeping waste out of landfills and incinerators, but DEQ's study shows that most effects on the environment from bottled water occur from manufacturing and transportation, not disposal. If you have single-use water bottles, please recycle them but it's better to avoid them in the first place. *This information was provided by Columbia County Solid Waste Coordinator.*



PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council will hold a public hearing on February 18, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1840 Second Street, Columbia City, Oregon. The purpose of the hearing is to gather public testimony relating to proposed changes to fees for certain services performed by the City. Fees subject to change under the

proposal include those associated with solicitation permits, reproduction costs, public records requests, Municipal Court suspension fees, Community Hall rental rates, and various City maps. Information about the proposed fee changes is available for public inspection at the City Hall, Monday through Friday, during regular business hours. Written input will be accepted prior to the hearing and written and oral input will be accepted during the public hearing.

CHIEF'S CORNER

The Chief's Corner is a supplement to the Police blotter dedicated to providing specific information to you, the citizens of Columbia City by the Columbia City Police Department.

The Columbia City Police Department frequently receives complaints in regards to traffic safety. These valid concerns range from speeding and violations involving commercial motor vehicles on Highway 30 to speeding vehicles on our city streets. Our department has been fortunate to have been recently awarded a traffic safety grant which will enable us to assist our citizens in addressing these safety and quality of life issues. As we continue to respond to these problems through increased patrols we encourage our citizens to help us with addressing these problems.

If you see a problem we do not encourage you to confront the other driver. However, you can help by getting a license plate number and being able to identify the driver. Once you have that information, you may contact the law enforcement agency for that jurisdiction. For instance, if it is in Columbia City it would be your Police Department. If it is on Highway 30, outside of our city limits, it would be the Oregon State Police, etc. By citizens getting involved it helps us to identify problem drivers and hold them accountable. Should you not want to become involved in this way, simply providing us with the time of day, location and nature of the problem helps us plan on when and where we need to concentrate our patrols. With your help, we can minimize these problems and make traffic safety more of a priority in our community.

You can reach the Columbia City Police Department by calling (503) 397-4010, by leaving a message with C-COM at (503) 397-1521. To report violations to the Oregon State Police, call (503) 397-3131.

Thanks and Stay Safe, Chief Michael S. McGlothlin



POLICE ACTIVITY 11/29/09 – 01/09/10

11/29/09 Suspicious circumstances in the 400 block of North Star Court.
11/29/09 Suspicious circumstances in the 400 block of Belle Street.
11/29/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/29/09 Public assist in the area of Second and "I" Streets.
11/29/09 Suspicious person near the Port of St. Helens offices on "E" Street.
11/29/09 Suspicious person on Highway 30 near "E" Street.
11/29/09 Harassment call in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.
11/29/09 Public assist in the area of Lincoln and Tahoma Streets.
11/29/09 Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.
11/30/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/01/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/01/09 Theft from City Public Works.
12/02/09 Public assist at the Mini Mart.
12/03/09 Agency assist in the 3600 block of Park Drive.
12/03/09 Suspicious circumstances in the 2300 block of 4th Place.
12/03/09 Suspicious person in the 3400 block of Tahoma Street.
12/05/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/05/09 Suspicious person in the 300 block of "A" Street.
12/05/09 Suspicious circumstances in the 2300 block of Fifth Street.
12/06/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/06/09 Hazard in the 1200 block of Fourth Street.
12/06/09 Suspicious person in the area of Fifth and "K" Streets.
12/06/09 Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 and "I" Street.
12/07/09 Suspicious circumstance in the 300 block of Pacific Street.
12/09/09 Vandalism reported in the 1900 block of Third Street.
12/10/09 Public assist in the 400 block of Belle Street.
12/10/09 Harassment reported in the 1500 block of Third Street.
12/10/09 Missing juvenile reported in the 3400 block of Tahoma Street.

12/11/09 Public assist in the area of "I" and Second Streets.
12/12/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/12/09 Suspicious vehicle in the area of Pixie Park.
12/13/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/13/09 Juvenile situation reported in the area of 2nd Place and "I" Street.
12/13/09 Assist outside agency in the area of "K" and Ninth Streets.
12/13/09 Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 and "A" Street.
12/13/09 Disabled vehicle in the area of Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.
12/13/09 Assist outside agency in the 3400 block of Fifth Street.
12/14/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/14/09 Juvenile abuse call taken at the Police Department.
12/14/09 Disabled vehicle in the area of Second and "I" Streets.
12/14/09 Public assist at the Police Department.
12/14/09 Suspicious person in the 500 block of Yakima Court.
12/14/09 Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 and "A" Street.
12/14/09 Suspicious person in the 400 block of Belle Court.
12/16/09 Parking complaint in the area of Second and "K" Street.
12/16/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/16/09 Vandalism reported in the 3400 block of Fifth Street.
12/17/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/17/09 Suspicious person checked in the area of Highway 30 and "E" Street.
12/18/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/18/09 Public assist in the area of Highway 30 and Pacific Street.
12/18/09 Public assist at the Post Office.
12/18/09 Suspicious person checked on Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.
12/18/09 Public assist in the 3100 block of Sixth Street.
12/18/09 Burglary in progress call checked okay in the 2000 block of Fifth Street.
12/18/09 Public assist in the area of Second and "I" Street.
12/19/09 Premise checks conducted.
12/19/09 Public assist in the area of Fifth and Pacific Street.
12/19/09 Suspicious circumstances checked in the area of Penn and Sixth Street.
12/19/09 Suspicious person checked at the Mini Mart.
12/19/09 Suspicious person checked in the 2500

POLICE ACTIVITY 11/29/09 – 01/09/10 (cont.)

block of Sixth Street.

12/19/09 Suspicious vehicle checked at Jim Bundy Memorial Park.

12/19/09 Disabled vehicle checked in the area of Highway 30 and Chimes Crest.

12/20/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/20/09 Public assist at the Community Hall.

12/20/09 Audible alarm in the 400 block of "B" Street.

12/20/09 Checked on a person in the area of Fifth and "J" Street.

12/21/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/21/09 Public assist in the 3500 block of Tahoma Street.

12/21/09 Animal complaint in the 400 block of "A" Street.

12/21/09 Animal complaint in the 400 block of Weown Court.

12/22/09 Nuisance call in the area of Sixth and Pacific Street.

12/22/09 Public assist in the 3400 block of Sixth Street.

12/22/09 Burglary in progress checked unfounded in the 300 block of Pacific Street.

12/23/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/23/09 Vandalism reported in the 1800 block of Fifth Street.

12/25/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/26/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/26/09 Public assist at the Post Office.

12/26/09 Suspicious vehicle checked at the Columbia City Grade School.

12/27/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/27/09 Missing adult reported from the 2200 block of Third Street.

12/27/09 Disabled vehicle checked on Highway 30 near "A" Street.

12/27/09 Hazard checked in the 400 block of "A" Street.

12/27/09 Public assist at the Columbia City Mini Mart.

12/27/09 Public assist in the area of Highway 30 and "E" Street.

12/27/09 Domestic dispute reported in the 300 block of Metlako Way.

12/28/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/28/09 Vandalism reported at Harvard Park.

12/29/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/29/09 Public assist in the 2800 block of Seventh Street.

12/29/09 Hazard checked in the area of Highway 30 and "L" Street.

12/29/09 Traffic crash in the area of Highway and mile post 31.

12/30/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/30/09 Nuisance call in the 1700 block of Second Street.

12/31/09 Premise checks conducted.

12/31/09 Public assist at the Columbia City Mini Mart.

01/01/10 Noise complaint in the 300 block of "A" Street.

01/02/10 Premise checks conducted.

01/02/10 Suspicious vehicle checked at Pixie Park.

01/02/10 Threats call in the 300 block of Metlako Way.

01/03/10 Premise checks conducted.

01/03/10 Suspicious vehicle checked in the area of Highway 30 and Pacific Street.

01/04/10 Premise checks conducted.

01/05/10 Premise checks conducted.

01/05/10 Fraud activity checked in the 2300 block of Seventh Street.

01/05/10 Burglary reported in the 1700 block of First Street.

01/06/10 Premise checks conducted.

01/07/10 Premise checks conducted.

01/07/10 Suspicious circumstances checked in the 400 block of Pacific Street.

01/09/10 Premise checks conducted.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2010

February 4th	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 8th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
February 9th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - cancelled
February 11th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 15th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President's Day
February 16th	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 18th	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 20th	10:00 a.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 25th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 27th	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale at Community Hall