COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER
January 2010

COLUMBIA CITY
1840 SECOND STREET
PO BOX 189
COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018
PHONE: (503) 397-4010
FAX: (503) 366-2870
colcity@columbia-city.org
www.columbia-city.org

2009 "SHOP WITH A COP"

The Columbia City Police Department would like to thank all that made the 2009 "Shop with a Cop" event a huge success! We were able to assist a local family and their four children with wintertime necessities as well as Holiday Wish List items. This would have been impossible without the support of many of our generous citizens and community friends. Specific thanks to this year's corporate sponsors - both Wal-Mart and the ACE Hardware Stores of St. Helens. Their generosity and compassion in the Holiday season was a true example to all. As one participant aptly said, "This is why we love Columbia City..."

Best Wishes for a Safe Holiday Season

Chief Michael S. McGlothlin
Columbia City Police Department

HOLIDAY TIME RECYCLING

Christmas trees, greeting cards and wrapped presents brighten homes and warm our hearts. After the holidays, however, sometimes these holiday items end up in our garbage cart. That means they will go to the landfill, even though they could have been recycled. When you consider the trees, cards, wrapping paper, envelopes and the stamps, that's a lot of trees cut down for our holiday enjoyment.

Why should I recycle my tree?
Recycling your tree "gives back" to the environment as trees are composted for garden mulch. Mulch provides a protective barrier for the roots of other plants while suppressing weeds and holding in moisture. As the mulch decomposes, it provides nutrients that plants need.

Why recycle my wrapping paper and gift cards?
Americans will dispose of an estimated 4 million tons of wrapping paper and shopping bags during the holiday season, and almost all of it can be recycled. In the United States alone, an estimated 2.65 billion greeting cards were sent to friends and loved ones with holiday greetings.

Tree Recycling Tips

• Recycle your tree and support Boy Scout Troop 106 in Columbia County. If you drop off your tree at the Fred Meyer parking lot in Scappoose, the troop will recycle it for $5. For $6.50 local scouts will pick up your tree and recycle it. To schedule pick up, call (503) 366-0726.
• If you have yard debris service, you may recycle your tree by cutting it up and placing it inside your yard debris cart. It must fit entirely in your cart.
• Recycle your whole tree for $12 at the Waste Management Transfer Station.
• Beaver Bark in Scappoose will process your old tree into compost for a minimum charge of $8.
• Before recycling or composting discarded trees, be sure to remove the tinsel, plastic and other non-recyclable ornaments.

Wrapping Paper, Gift Boxes and Greeting Card Recycling Tips
•Save used wrapping paper, gift boxes, bows and ribbons this Christmas and reuse it all next year.
• Recycle your non-shiny or non-glittering wrapping paper, the cardboard roll the paper is wound around, tissue paper, gift boxes and tags by placing these items in your co-mingle bin or roll cart.
•You can send entire greeting cards, or cards with the backs cut off via UPS ground or the "library rate" rate at the post office to *St. Jude's Ranch Card Recycling, 100 St. Jude Street, Boulder City, NV 89005.* Since the mid 1970's Saint Jude's Ranch, a non-profit youth home, has operated a holiday card reuse program. The ranch provides counseling and opportunities for troubled youth. The kids operate a business taking used greeting cards, neatly cutting off the front covers, gluing on new back covers, and selling the result. The kids earn money, experience and a sense of purpose through this program.

WATER AND SEWER RATES EXPECTED TO INCREASE

In January the City Council will consider increasing Columbia City's water and sewer rates by 12% and 15% respectively. The 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. Wholesale water purchase costs recently increased by 38% and sewer treatment fees rose by 32%, and St. Helens has additional increases planned.

Columbia City's water comes from two sources. Our primary source is groundwater from the City's well, and we make every effort to supply water to our customers from that source. However, because the well does not produce enough water to meet our current demand, we also purchase water from the City of St. Helens. In the event that our well is taken off-line for maintenance or repairs, we rely solely on the St. Helens supply. Columbia City also operates and maintains a City-wide sewer collection system. The City's sewer is then sent, via a high pressure sewer main, to the St. Helens Sewer Treatment Facility.

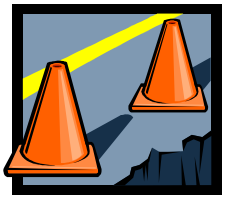
The Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing during the January 21, 2010, meeting to discuss the proposed rate adjustments. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

COLUMBIA HUMANE SOCIETY BINGO

The second bingo fundraiser hosted by Columbia Humane Society (CHS) last October at the Columbia City Community Hall was a great success. Thank you to all who attended. The first CHS Bingo fundraiser event of 2010 will be at the same place, same time (7-9pm) on Saturday, January 23rd. Please join us for free cookies and coffee while having fun supporting our shelter. 100% of the proceeds benefit the homeless animals of Columbia County.

CITY AWARDS CONTRACT FOR STREET REPAIR WORK

In December, the City Council awarded a contract to Baker Rock Resources in the amount of $118,769 for pavement restoration work on Sixth Street between Pacific and Franklin Streets, on Sixth Street between "A" and "H" Streets, and on "E" Street between Highway 30 and Sixth Street. The restoration project includes the repair of sinkholes and failed pavement areas, pre-leveling uneven pavement areas, the installation of geotextile engineered paving mat and associated tack coat, and an asphalt overlay. Construction is scheduled to begin after March 15, 2010.



This project is funded entirely by grant funds consisting of a $94,000 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and a $25,000 grant from the 2010 Special City Allotment Program.

FOUND ITEMS

The following items were found recently and turned into City Hall. Do they belong to you?

- Digital camera found on the Bike Path in the area of Fourth and “M’ Streets.
- Checkbook cover found on sidewalk near church on Second Street.

THANK YOU

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

- Donna McAtee for the chocolate cake treats.
- Bernie Albertine, Judy Anderson, Jean Carulli, Gloria Chinell, Kathie Fellows, Dolores Heinz, Betty Jensen and Phyllis Rowley for helping with the November utility billing and newsletter.
- Santa’s helper for the candy canes and M&M®’s.
- Mabel Pennel for the chocolate covered cherries.
- Columbia River PUD for hanging lights on the Community Hall and the Caples House Museum buildings, and for hanging our holiday banners.
- Marian Calnon for the paper whites.
- George and Jean LeMont for the pumpkin bread.
- MSA for the See’s chocolates.
- The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew for their assistance with glass debris removal from the site at the corner of "I" Street and Highway 30.

COMPUTER, MONITORS & TV'S LANDFILL BAN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

As of January 1, 2010, Oregonians can no longer dispose of computers, monitors and TV's in the landfill. Unwanted, non-working or damaged computers, monitors and TV' s must be recycled instead.

Electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the United States. Recycling electronics is important, because electronics contain valuable precious metals like copper, gold and aluminum that can be recycled and used in new products. In addition, these electronics contain hazardous and toxic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium. Even small amounts of these metals can be dangerous if released into the air, soil and/or water. In 2007 alone, Americans generated about 232 million used computers, monitors and TV's for disposal or recycling. In addition an estimated 235 million TV's, computers and monitors are stored in our basements, closets and garages.

Through the new Oregon E-Cycles Program, anyone can take seven or fewer computers, monitors and TV's at one time to one of more than 200 Oregon E-Cycles collections sites in Oregon for free recycling. Households, small businesses and small non-profits with 10 or fewer employees may recycle more than seven items at a time. Locally, the Columbia County Transfer Station accepts these items for recycling free of charge.

Anyone needing additional information on the landfill ban or recycling locations can visit the DEQ's website www.oregonecycles.org or send an e-mail to Roy Weedman, Columbia County Solid Waste Coordinator, at roy.weedman@co.columbia.or.us or call him at (503) 397-7263.

"WELCOME TO COLUMBIA CITY" ENTRANCE SIGN PROJECT PROGRESSES

The Columbia City Parks Committee, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), is pleased to report their progress on the "Welcome to Columbia City" entrance sign project. The entrance sign was designed and crafted by local artist and sign maker, Bruce Brickman, of Art and Sign Unlimited. The sign will be double-faced and mounted between two dolphin pilings. The project site, which is located on the west side of Highway 30 just to the south of "I" Street, will be landscaped with lawn and shrubs.

We would like to extend a very special "thank you" to ODOT for the considerable contributions they are making to this project. In addition to granting us use of the site, ODOT grubbed the site about a year ago, and recently helped with glass debris removal. During the next few months, ODOT will complete the landscaping, which will include installing an irrigation system, providing soil amendments, providing and planting shrubs and trees from their nursery, and planting grass. ODOT has contracted with the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew to work with them on their local projects.

LICENSE & PERMIT REMINDER

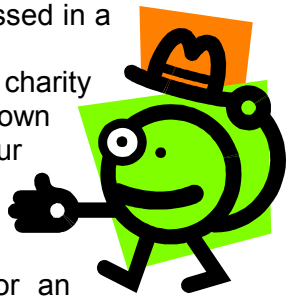
Planning to hire a contractor to help you with a repair or project around the house? If so, please make sure the contractor has a current 2010 business license to do work within the City of Columbia City. Most City business licenses expire December 31st of each year.

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.

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, Louisiana:



- 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.

FYI

FYI is a supplement to the Police report, dedicated to providing specific information to you, the citizens of Columbia City, by the Columbia City Police Department.

With the holiday season upon us, the scammers are hard at work. As with every Christmas season, we get those who want to make a quick buck off of unsuspecting kind people. Some are charity solicitors and others are scam artists who try and sell you something cheap or as in a recent case, try to give something away free. We received a call from a citizen here in Columbia City who had such a thing happen to him. We thank him for calling us and letting us know about this incident. Someone called him saying that he had won a free security system. As the resident inquired more, the person said that the resident had won a sweepstakes at an ACE Hardware, and they wanted to come out and look at his house. We tried calling the phone number back that the resident had obtained for the company, and it had been disconnected. So, please be aware of these people. Rarely is anything free. Don't give out any personal information over the phone or to anybody you cannot verify who they are. And, if you have any questions, feel free to call your local police department, we would be more than happy to look into it for you.

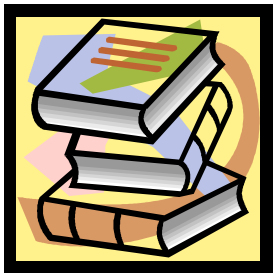
For Chief Michael S. McGlothlin
by Sgt. Josh Harper

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Leave the water off when brushing your teeth or shaving. Turn it on again to rinse. A faucet left running wide open puts about 3 to 5 gallons a minute down the drain.

LIBRARY NEWS

Last year I kept a list of the books I read. I was inspired by Steve Duin of The Oregonian, who publishes a column every year with the winners – often 100,000 plus pages. I'm not in that realm – as of 12/28 I'm just over 22,000 pages and 77 books. The members of the Mystery Book Club have decided they will keep a list this year as well, and I'd like to encourage you to keep a log. I just have a page at the back of my notebook where I write the title, author, and number of pages. Having done so since 2004, I can see which authors I've gone back to and which books I've read when I forget. I sometimes pull from those lists when I do "New at the Library", and I often refer to it when I'm recommending books to people. I know our kids in school are required to keep reading logs, and example is the best teacher!



Now I must tell you that I read a lot of books that are destined for the library book sale – as they pass by me, I think "If I don't read this, I'll never find it again!" So home it goes, to return to the sale books in a month or so. Is that taking advantage of my position? (If you wish you could do so, come volunteer at the library!) Anyway, the books that stand out from my list are these.

The Midnight Band of Mercy by Michael Blaine
Crazy for You by Jennifer Crusie
The Blue Edge of Midnight by Jonathan King
The Darkest Evening of the Year by Dean Koontz
The Cabinet of Curiosities by Douglas Preston
The Black Book by Ian Rankin
An Isolated Incident by Susan R. Sloan
Season of Ponies by Zilpha Keaton Snyder (one I remember from 5th grade!)
In the Bleak Midwinter by Julia Spencer-Fleming
Th1rte3n by Richard K. Morgan

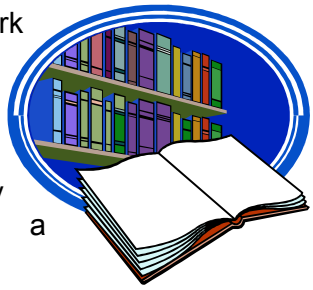
I would love to publish your top five this time next year!

We have moved the Friends of the Library monthly meetings from the third Monday of each month to the second Monday. This will allow us to avoid Martin Luther King Jr. Day and President's Day holidays, with which we always conflict!

Please stop in and say welcome to the new owner of the pizza shop, Juraj Csak. We are so happy to have that end of our building busy again! We will reinstate self-checkout, since the building will now be open when nobody is staffing the library. Instructions will be on the library desk. We will have a crate on the desk for returns. As always, books can be returned to City Hall from 8-12 or 1-5 if you can't make it in during library hours.

New at the Library…

Your Money or Your Life by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin has been on my bookshelf at home since I read it more than 15 years ago. We recently got a copy in the library, and I would urge you to read it. The subtitle is *Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence.* I am your librarian partly because of this book's influence on me. I quit my job as a marketing engineer, because the time I needed to put into the job was not worth the money to me. I haven't regretted my decision, and this was one of the books that helped me decide. Rather than focusing on being rich, *Your Money or Your Life* instead looks deeply at finding the central values in one's life and realigning your life and money to follow these values**.** The idea here is that most people's money problems are actually connected to a lack of fundamental direction in their life: they work just to earn money, not because it's what they love doing. This was one of three finance books the Oregonian recently recommended as gifts in a December 20 column.



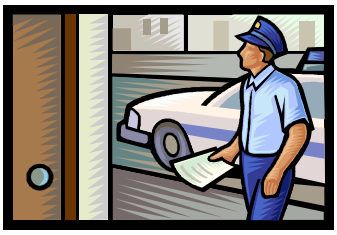
Staffed Hours:
Monday & Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM
Wednesday, 4 PM to 8 PM
Thursday, 2 PM to 6 PM

Story Time:
11 AM every Monday
Friends of the Library Meeting:
Monday, 1/11/10 - 7 PM
Novel Quilters Meeting:
Wednesday, 1/20/10 - 6:30 PM
Mystery Book Group:
Wednesday, 1/27/10 - 7 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

POLICE REPORT – 11/06/09 to 12/06/09

11/06/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/06/09 Public assist in the 2100 block of Fifth Street.
11/06/09 Suspicious vehicle in the parking lot at the Columbia City Grade School.
11/07/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/09/09 Nuisance call reported in the 400 block of "A" Street.
11/09/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/10/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/12/09 Premise checks conducted.



11/12/09 Suspicious person on Highway 30 near "I" Street.
11/13/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/14/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/14/09 Suspicious person on Highway 30 near Chimes Crest.
11/14/09 Assist outside agency in the 1600 block of Fourth Street.
11/14/09 Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 and "E" Street.
11/14/09 Animal complaint in the 400 block of "A" Street.
11/14/09 Suspicious person in the area of First and "E" Streets.
11/15/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/15/09 Suspicious person in the area of Fifth and "I" Streets.
11/15/09 Found property in the area of Sixth and "E" Streets.
11/16/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/16/09 Suicide threat in the 2400 block of Fifth Street.
11/16/09 Disturbance in the 400 block of "A" Street.
11/17/09 Nuisance call in the 3200 block of Park Drive.
11/17/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/18/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/18/09 Public assist in the area of Highway 30 and Pacific Street.
11/18/09 Suspicious person near the Caples House Museum.
11/20/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/20/09 Assist outside agency in the 2400 block of Fifth Street.
11/20/09 Suspicious vehicle in the area of Fourth and "E" Streets.
11/20/09 Suspicious circumstances in the area of Sixth and "A" Streets.
11/21/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/21/09 Hazard in the area of "K" and Second Streets.
11/23/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/23/09 Public assist in the 1500 block of First Street.
11/23/09 Nuisance call in the 3300 block of Park Drive.
11/24/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/25/09 Incomplete 911 call checked in the 2200 block of First Street.
11/25/09 Vandalism call in the 400 block of "B" Street.
11/28/09 Premise checks conducted.
11/28/09 Suspicious person in the 1800 block of Sixth Street.
11/28/09 Hazard reported in the 1700 block of Second Street.
11/28/09 Public assist at the Police Department.
11/28/09 Public assist in the 2300 block of Sixth Street.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JANUARY 2010

January 1st	CLOSED	City Hall is closed in observance of New Year's Day
January 7th	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
~~January 12th~~	~~7:00 p.m.~~	~~Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall~~ - **Cancelled**
January 14th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
January 18th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
January 18th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 19th	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
January 21st	7:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
January 28th	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall