

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

November 2010



COLUMBIA CITY
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OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS NOVEMBER 6TH TO NOVEMBER 21ST BURN PERMITS NOW REQUIRED

Yard debris may be burned outdoors beginning **Saturday, November 6th**, and ending **Sunday, November 21st**. Burning is restricted to 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, at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District or on their website: www.CRFR.com. Please remember you will also need to 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.

💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.

FLU SEASON 2010-11

The following information was provided by the Columbia Health District-Public Health Authority:



- Everyone 6 months and older should get the flu shot. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/index.htm>
- Seasonal and H1N1 vaccines are combined in one shot this year. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/index.htm>
- Public Health in Columbia County will receive the flu vaccine by the end of October.
- If you can afford to get the flu shot now from your doctor or pharmacy, do so. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/1011season.htm>
- For the most current information about flu visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention site www.cdc.gov/flu.
- Where to get flu shots - www.flu.oregon.gov (800) 978-3040.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

On November 7th (the first Sunday in November), clocks are set back one hour at 2:00 a.m. local daylight time, which becomes 1:00 a.m. local standard time.



Happy Thanksgiving



COLUMBIA COUNTY RECYCLES

Monday, November 15th is America Recycles Day. Here are some tips for your curbside recycling efforts:



- Confirm your recyclables - Make the effort to discover which materials are included in your local program. The Columbia County Web Site has information regarding your haulers curbside services.
- Follow sorting guidelines - Keep glass and yard debris separate from your co-mingle container.
- Keep it Clean - One extra benefit from rinsing is that it deters pests from making a home in your recycling bin.
- Know your recycling day - Many curbside recycling programs schedule pickup concurrent with an area's garbage collection schedule. It is best not to assume that your program follows that pattern. Check to make sure.
- Know your recycling bins - Most curbside recycling programs designate specific official recycling bins. Use them and remember to place them in the specified curbside location on pick-up day.
- In doubt, leave it out - If you are unsure if an item is recyclable at your curbside, do not put it in the recycling bin. Many recyclable products cannot be processed in the curbside system. For more information on how to recycle obscure items, go to one of the links below.

Recycling Tips web-links: www.co.columbia-or.us or www.oregonmetro.gov. For more information on America Recycles Day, go to www.kab.org.

PLANNING TO GET AWAY?

This time of year many residents escape to warmer locations or make plans to visit family out of town. The Columbia City Police Department would like to remind you that they could periodically check your home while you are away. To receive this service, please register with the Columbia City Police Department before you leave. Forms are available at City Hall.



BETTER BURNING TIPS FOR CLEANER AIR

During colder months in Oregon, smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves is one of the largest threats to healthy air. Wood smoke is basically fuel from your firewood that does not burn and becomes air pollution.

If you heat your home with wood you can take steps to burn cleaner (good for your health) and more efficiently (good for your pocketbook):

- Use only dry, seasoned wood. Dry wood for at least 6 months.
- Burn only wood. Do not burn garbage, plastics, rubber, paint or oil, briquettes, paper, etc. – burning these items releases harmful chemicals into the air.
- Build small, hot fires instead of large, smoldering ones.
- Don't "bed the fire down" for the night. Holding a fire overnight is a fire hazard and can create serious indoor and outdoor air pollution problems.



For more tips on how to burn smart, visit our woodstoves web page: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/woodstoves/index.htm>.

Information brought to you by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, "Oregon Environment" Fall 2009 eNewsletter.

👉 THANK YOU 👈

- We'd like to extend a very special thank you to:
- ❖ Bernie Albertine, Karin Bates, Marian Calnon, Gloria Chinell, Phyllis Rowley, Lynn Vellenga and Vonnie Walker for helping with the utility billing and newsletter in September.
 - ❖ Our volunteer Reserve Officers.
 - ❖ Our volunteers that work in the library and the parks.

FOUND ITEM

A thermos was recently found in front of City Hall. Does it belong to you? If so, please contact (503) 397-4010.

NEW GROUP TO HELP SPUR JOB & BUSINESS GROWTH IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Bright spots can be hard to find in today's economy. Fortunately, the Columbia County Economic Team is now actively working to fix that through a new local partnership for economic development.

The organization officially launched on October 1 when its board-of-directors met for the first time. It was the beginning of what is likely to be a long-term initiative geared towards making Columbia County more productive and competitive for community-sustaining businesses.

In turn, the organization hopes its efforts will yield more employment opportunities, a larger tax base, better infrastructure, and more vital communities, overall.

David Stocker, Executive Director for the Columbia County Economic Team, explained, "This organization wants to improve the economic well-being and quality-of-life for all communities in Columbia County." He added, "We know that none of us can do it alone, which is why elected officials and many business leaders throughout the county have embraced a team approach."

In fact, each of Columbia County's communities—from Clatskanie, to Scappoose, Vernonia, and all those in between—are represented on the organization's board-of-directors, along with leaders from the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, the Port of St. Helens, the public utility districts, and Portland Community College.

Representatives from a dozen businesses operating in the county also sit on the board, bringing essential private-sector insight on how best to strengthen Columbia County's business climate.

Tony Hyde, Columbia County Commissioner and a member of the Columbia County Economic Team's Board of Directors remarked, "I'm excited to see all of Columbia County working together as a team with a common goal of creating jobs and improving our local economy."

If the organization's big picture goals are ambitious, its day-to-day work is expected to create tangible results for individual businesses and, by extension, their employees.

The organization is now planning what services it will

offer to businesses already located in the county—to keep them local and support their growth—while also launching a campaign to encourage new businesses to consider the advantages of operating in Columbia County.

With the Columbia County Economic Team now launched, community and business leaders are confident that county residents will begin seeing economic bright spots everywhere.

If you would like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with David Stocker send an email to david.stocker@columbiacountyoregon.com or call (503) 397-7218.

COLUMBIA RIVER ARTS FAIR & TEA

Don't miss the Columbia River Arts Fair and Tea on Saturday, November 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Caples House Museum (1925 First Street). This event will benefit the Caples House Museum Complex, property of the Oregon State Daughters of the American Revolution. Enjoy the opportunity to purchase special handcrafted items and holiday gift items. Assorted hot and iced teas, hot cider, cocoa, soups, tasty tidbits and other refreshments will also be available. For more information call Sarah Bowman at (503) 639-7720, e-mail her at csnstw@comcast.net, or go to their website at <http://capleshouse.com>.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Political signs: Political signs for the November 2nd General Election must be removed by November 18th.

Business licenses: Independent contractors conducting work within Columbia City are required to have a business license.

RV parking: Recreational vehicles, boats, motor buses, or utility trailers may be:

- Parked in a legal manner upon a public street for up to 72 hours;
- Parked within the undeveloped public right-of-way for an unlimited amount of time provided it is at least 6 feet from the edge of the paved portion of the street and is directly adjacent to the owner's property.

CHRISTMAS SHIPS

The Christmas Ships will visit Columbia City on **Saturday, December 11**. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

RECENT BLACK BEAR SIGHTINGS COLUMBIA CITY AREA

Recent sightings of a black bear have been reported just outside the city up Smith Road. If you see the bear, please contact the following agencies **immediately**:

- Oregon State Police - (503) 397-3131
- C-COM (Dispatch) - (503) 397-1521
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - (503) 621-3488.

After the sighting, please leave paw prints and other signs undisturbed if possible.

Identifying characteristics. Despite the common



name "black bear" they aren't always black. They may be honey-colored, blond, brown or black. They have a tan muzzle or a white spot on their chest. A black bear's body appears heavy and is supported by short, powerful legs. The highest point of a black bear is the middle of its back. Males are generally larger than females. Adult males

average 275 pounds while adult females may average 175 pounds.

If you encounter a bear. In almost all cases, the bear will detect you first and leave the area. However, if you do meet a bear, here are some suggestions. Remember - every situation is different with respect to the bear, the terrain, the people and their activity.

- **Stay calm.** If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, calmly leave the area and speak softly to let the bear discover your presence.
- **Stop.** Back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, as bears may perceive this as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape. Wild bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. If on a trail, step off the trail on the downhill side and slowly leave the area. Don't run or make any sudden movements. Running is likely to prompt the bear to give chase and you can't outrun a bear.
- **Speak softly.** This may reassure the bear that no harm is meant to it. Try not to show fear.

- Coming between a female and her cubs is dangerous. If a cub is nearby try to move away from it. Be alert - other cubs may be in the area.
- In the unlikely event you are attacked by a black bear, **FIGHT BACK.** Black bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.
- Bears use all of their senses to try and identify what you are. Remember - their eyesight is good and their sense of smell is acute. If a bear stands upright or moves closer, it may be trying to detect smells in the air. This isn't a sign of aggression. Once it identifies you, it may leave the area or try to intimidate you by charging to within a few feet before it withdraws.
- If you have a backpack, place it slowly on the ground and then slowly back away. The bear is likely to go for the backpack instead of you.

Human safety precautions. Black bears eat almost anything, including human food, garbage, hummingbird food, pet food, and livestock feed. Once a bear has found the easily accessible, consistent food source that humans offer, it may overcome its wariness of people and visit regularly increasing the chance of a human/bear encounter. By handling food and garbage responsibly, you and your neighbors can prevent encounters with a bear.

- Remove all food attractions.
- Keep all garbage inside your house or garage, and only place it outside just before the garbage pick-up. If bears have previously ransacked garbage cans, pour bleach into cans. Also, clean garbage containers regularly with bleach or moth balls to reduce odors.
- Keep all pet food inside the house or garage.
- Keep barbecues clean. Store them in a shed or garage.
- Hang bird feeders from a wire at least 10 feet off the ground and 6 to 10 feet from the trunk of a tree. Keep the area under bird feeders clean.
- Remove fruit that has fallen from trees.
- Add lime to compost piles to reduce odors. Do not compost meat, bones, fruit, dairy products or grease.
- Don't leave scented candles, soap or suntan lotions outdoors or near open windows.
- Talk to neighbors to encourage everyone in the neighborhood to remove attractants.
- Never, ever feed a bear.
- Stay indoors and allow a visiting bear to move on.

Most bears sighted in residential areas do not cause any damage. If a bear doesn't find abundant food, it will move on.

Information from "Living with Wildlife Black Bear" and "Oregon is Black Bear Country" - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

BUILD A DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

What you have on hand when a disaster strikes can make a big difference for your comfort and safety in the hours and days following a disaster. Basic services, such as electricity, gas, water and telephones, may be cut off, or you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice. If you are confined at home, it may take some time for professional emergency responders to get to you, so plan on storing enough supplies for everyone in the family for at least three days. Your family will cope best by preparing for disaster before it strikes.

Disaster Supplies Kit Basics: The following list provides the basic supplies you need to have on hand in case of an emergency. Keep these items in a rugged but easy to carry container such as a large covered trashcan, overnight backpack or duffel bag. Keep smaller versions of the kit in the trunk of your car and at work. If you become stranded or are not able to return home, having some items will help you to be more comfortable until help arrives. Store your kit in a structurally sound location.

- ✓ Water - one gallon per person per day, for drinking, cooking and sanitary needs.
- ✓ Food - ready to eat, non-perishable, high-protein, high-calorie foods that you enjoy (peanut butter, canned meats, energy bars, canned fruits and vegetables, etc.)
- ✓ First aid kit and first aid reference guide (available from your local Red Cross).
- ✓ Portable battery-operated radio and spare batteries.
- ✓ Flashlights and spare batteries.
- ✓ List of emergency contacts.
- ✓ Blankets, extra clothing, sturdy shoes and gloves.
- ✓ Can opener (non-electric).
- ✓ Three-day supply of critical medications, an extra pair of eyeglasses, copies of important documents, and comfort items such as toys, books and games.
- ✓ Food and water for pets.
- ✓ *A Together We Prepare Oregon* booklet (available from your local Red Cross).
- ✓ Map of local area in case evacuation to shelters is necessary.
- ✓ Crescent wrench for utility shut-off.
- ✓ Duct tape and plastic sheeting or large plastic garbage bags for sheltering-in-place.
- ✓ Extra cash and coins for emergency purchases and pay phones.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Be on the Lookout!!! We have seen an increase over the past month with thefts of property that have been left unsecured. While the amount of financial loss has been minimal the cost in peace of mind has been significant. Don't give criminals the chance to make you a crime victim!!! Help us by remembering to secure your property when it is left unattended. Keep looking out for each other and report any suspicious activity that you may see or hear.



A Job Well Done: The department completed our annual traffic safety grant operations campaign during the month of September. This grant focused on seat belt and child safety seat usage. A total of 15 designated enforcement patrols were conducted resulting in 165 traffic enforcement stops being conducted. Most importantly, our area seat belt usage rate increased from 90% to 97%!!!

2010 "Shop with a Cop Program": The department still needs your help with nominating a local needy family, preferably with children, who could use assistance during the Holiday Season. Our priority will continue to be providing warm winter clothing, winter necessities, and as many "wish list" items as we possibly can. Please see the attached nomination form if you wish to nominate a Columbia City family. The nomination form may be placed in the drop box which is located at the front desk area of City Hall. As always, anyone who is interested in donating to the program may also do so at the front desk at City Hall. A receipt will be provided to anyone that wishes to donate.

Clarification: In order to clarify recent misconceptions regarding code enforcement operations within our department, and the city as a whole, please note the following:

1. Both City Hall staff and Police Department personnel field, investigate, and take proper enforcement actions in regards to code enforcement issues within the City;
2. These issues are brought to our attention by both citizen complaints as well as proactive patrols within the City;
3. The violating citizen is notified by either a bright yellow door hanger at their residence, in cases of police officers observing them in the field, or a telephone call or letter from City Hall staff notifying them of the violations;

CHIEF'S CORNER (cont.)

4. In either case of notification the violating citizen is given a noted amount of time in order to voluntarily comply with the applicable City code;
5. If voluntary compliance is not met by the noted amount of time then a warning letter is sent with a final date for voluntary compliance. Additionally, a police officer will be dispatched to review compliance;
6. If no voluntary compliance is gained then one of two options may be chosen:
 - a. The issuance of a citation into municipal court;
 - b. The abatement of the code violation with the City placing a lien against the property.

While these activities are not daily in nature they are processed on a routine basis. Not counting the total amount of phone calls that City Hall staff has fielded, which fluctuates with time, the Police Department has handled 24 of these calls within the last quarter.

The Police Department would like to request your continued support in being our eyes and ears in the community. Please feel free to contact us with any information that you feel would help us in keeping our community safe. We can be reached via 911, (503) 397-4010 (office), or (non-emergency) Columbia 911 at (503) 397-1521.

Thanks, ~Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT September - October 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 382 calls for service during the past reporting period. These activities decreased from 401 calls for service during the previous month. 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: 47
- Area Patrols: 24
- Foot Patrols: 4
- Assist the Public: 27
- Welfare Checks: 2
- Radio Calls: 212
- Animal Complaints: 2
- Alarm Calls: 1
- Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 11
- Parking Violations: 2
- Assistance Outside Agencies: 2
- Disabled Vehicles: 1
- Road Hazards: 3
- Lost/Found Property: 2
- Noise Complaints: 1
- Disabled Vehicles: 1

Criminal Activity:

- Harassment Investigations: 1
- Domestic Disturbances: 2
- Theft Investigations: 4
- Traffic Crash Investigations: 1
- Investigative Follow Up: 6
- Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 12
- Traffic Stops: 58
- Missing Persons: 1
- Disturbance Calls (Other than Domestic): 1
- Trespass Calls: 1
- Warrant Service Arrests: 2
- DUI Arrests: 1

Calls of Interest:

1. Suspicious person in the 400 block of Pacific Street on 09/01/2010 – Person checked out okay.
2. Theft investigation in the 300 block of Lincoln Street on 09/02/2010 – Investigation completed with leads exhausted.
3. Theft Investigation in the 400 block of Lincoln Street on 09/02/2010 – Investigation complete with leads exhausted.
4. Suspicious person at "E" Street near Third Street on 09/03/2010 – Person checked out okay.
5. Suspicious person at Fifth Street near "I" Street on 09/03/2010 – Person checked out okay.
6. Suspicious person on the area of Harvard Park/Sixth Street on 09/03/2010 – Person checked out okay.
7. DUI Arrest on Hwy 30 near Pacific Street on 09/03/2010 – Person arrested, charged, and awaiting trial.
8. Suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of "A" Street on 09/03/2010 – Vehicle and driver checked out okay.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT (cont.)

- 9. Suspicious person in the area of Fifth Street and "I" Street on 09/05/2010 – Persons involved checked out okay.
- 10. Suspicious person in the area of the bike path at Fourth Street on 09/10/2010 – Persons involved checked out okay.
- 11. Disturbance call in the 1600 block of First Street on 09/10/2010 – Peace restored with no physical arrest required.
- 12. Warrant arrest in the 1900 block of Third Street on 09/10/2010 – Person arrested with warrant served.
- 13. Suspicious person in the area of Hwy 30 near "G" Street on 09/17/2010 – Person checked out okay.
- 14. Theft investigation in the 200 block of Metlako Way on 09/18/2010 – Investigation still on-going.
- 15. Theft investigation in the 1800 block of Second

- Street on 09/20/2010 – Investigation still on-going.
- 16. Warrant arrest in the 1900 block of Third Street on 09/21/2010 – Person arrested with warrant served.
- 17. Suspicious person in the 300 block of "A" Street on 09/24/2010 – Person checked out okay.
- 18. Suspicious person in the area of the bike path near Fourth Street on 09/24/2010 – Person checked out okay.
- 19. Suspicious vehicle in the 500 block of "E" Street on 09/24/2010 – Person checked out okay.
- 20. Suspicious person in the 1700 block of 2nd Place on 09/26/2010 – Persons involved checked out okay.
- 21. Suspicious persons in the area of Sixth Street near "A" Street on 09/26/2010 – Persons involved checked out okay.



2010 "Shop with a Cop" Nomination Form

Dear Citizen,

It is time once again for the Columbia City Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" Program. This is our second year hosting this worthwhile endeavor within our city and we need your help! For those that are interested, we need assistance in selecting a needy family within our community. Our goal is to provide warm clothing, winter necessities, and Christmas wish list items for the nominated family. Please take the time by filling out the information below if you wish to nominate someone who you know could use some assistance during the holiday season.

Thank you,

Michael S. McGlothlin
Chief of Police

Name of Family: _____

Family Address: _____

Family Bio (Please answer all that apply): ___ Father ___ Mother ___ Number of children

Reason for your nomination: _____

Return completed nomination forms to: Columbia City Hall, PO Box 189, 1840 Second Street, Columbia City, OR 97018

LIBRARY NEWS

You will notice there are temporarily two desks in the library. Percy Smith likes to keep busy, and refinished



both desks for us. The library will be using the larger one, and the smaller one (36" by 72") is for sale for \$100. Previously, it was our library desk and was great but somehow the top was always full, so when Percy offered us a larger desk we jumped

on it. The money will go to Friends of the Library.

We are handing out a bookmark at the library with a few fun facts on the front, and a place to list 10 books on the back. The returned lists will give us an idea of what people are reading, which will help us in making book purchase decisions. I'm always trying to do a better job at getting books you want to read without spending beyond our FOL budget! We also have book request forms at the library – fill one out if there is something you would like the library to get!

We have three small groups meeting at the library on Wednesday nights. The library is an option for small groups to meet, and we encourage them. They do not have to be reading groups! Last year we had a 4H-sewing club meeting there twice a month. So keep us in mind!

The Novel Quilters will be reading *The Map of True Places* by Brunonia Barry. Barry, New York Times best-selling author of *The Lace Reader*, offers an emotionally compelling novel about finding your true place in the world. Joann Ballantyne, a member of the Novel Quilters, met with Barry in Massachusetts during her recent trip to Boston.

Book Review...

The Darkest Place by Daniel Judson. Deacon Kane has been in a downward spiral since the accidental drowning of his son several years ago. He's hitting the bottle, having an affair with a married woman, and barely hanging on to his job as a Long Island writing teacher. Then one of his students, Larry Foster, turns up dead, and the police consider him a "person of interest" because he can't account for some critical time periods. Meanwhile, PI Reggie Clay, trying to prove Foster's death wasn't a suicide and knowing that other teenage boys have died in a similar manner, enlists Kane's help in looking for a serial killer. When it becomes clear to Kane that he may have been set up, he doesn't know whom to trust, and Clay and his colleagues begin to believe Kane just might be the killer after all. Told from multiple points of view, populated with well-drawn moral and amoral characters, and permeated with violence, this riveting albeit bleak crime novel offers a strong sense of place along with thoughtful rumination about doing the right thing and finding redemption for past actions. Sue O'Brien Copyright © American Library Association

Story Time: Mondays @ 11 AM
Friends of the Library: Mon. 11/8 @ 7 PM
Adults Reading Kids Books (ARC):
 Wed 11/10 @ 7 PM
Novel Quilters: Wed 11/17 @ 6:30 PM
Mystery Book Group: Wed 11/24 @ 7 PM

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

Library **CLOSED November 25** for Thanksgiving.
 Be thankful for your library!

MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2010

November 4 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
November 6 th	dawn	First day of open burn period
November 9 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall CANCELED
November 10 th	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
November 11 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed in observance of Veteran's Day
November 15 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Meeting in the Library
November 16 th	4:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting at City Hall
November 16 th	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
November 18 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
November 21 st	dusk	Last day of burn period
November 25 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Thanksgiving Day
November 26 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed the day after Thanksgiving