

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

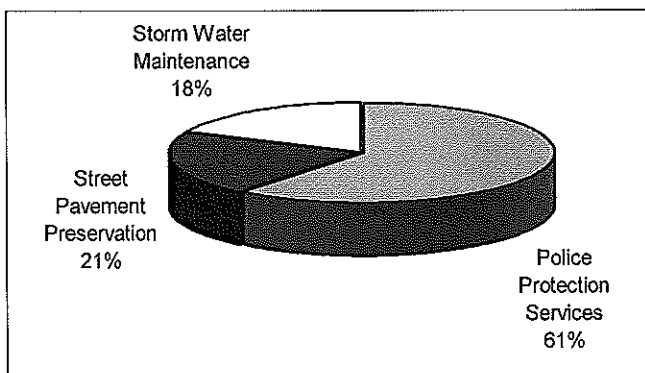
September 2010

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

PROPOSED LOCAL OPTION LEVY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the taxes from the levy be used?

The taxes will be used for police protection services, street system maintenance and storm water system maintenance.



When will I be asked to vote on the local option levy?

The levy will appear on the November 2, 2010 ballots.

What will happen if the levy fails?

If the levy fails, service level reductions may occur and street and storm drainage utility fees may be developed and implemented.

How can I learn more about this subject?

A good way to learn more about this subject is to attend the next **Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall.** The Mayor, City Council and staff members will provide you with information about the local option levy, and you will have an opportunity to ask them questions.

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The Columbia City Planning Commission will hold public hearings on September 14 at 7:00 p.m. for the following:

- Conditional Use Request as applied for by Kifayat Khan for property located at 300 "A" Street for revisions to the interior of the existing Columbia City Mini Mart building to create a separate eating and drinking establishment area; and
- Amendments to the Columbia City Development Code consisting of updates to the floodplain management regulations and the adoption of updated floodplain maps.

The staff reports and related materials will be available for public inspection one week prior to the meeting.

How long will this local option levy last?

This is a three-year levy. If approved by voters in November, it will first appear on the November 2011 property tax bills.

What will the levy cost?

The levy will cost \$1.10 per \$1,000 assessed value. A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$220.00 per year.

How much property tax do I pay to the City now?

The City levies a permanent tax rate of \$1.13 per \$1,000. The City also levies taxes for bonded indebtedness on the sewer system that was built in 1991-92. The sewer bond levy amount varies each year, typically ranging between \$0.67 and \$0.84 per \$1,000.

How long will I pay taxes for the sewer system?

The final payment for the sewer debt will be made in August 2011. The last time it will appear on your tax bills will be November 2011. The rate during that final year is expected to be about \$0.26.

COLUMBIA CITY BUNCO EVENT

benefiting the Community Library

Wednesday, September 15 - 7 PM

Community Hall

\$10.00...lots of fun...chance to win prizes!

COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION 9/11/10

Strawberry Pancake Breakfast - 8 AM to 10 AM

At the Knapp Social Center, 1925 First Street
Adults \$6.00, children (10 and under) \$4.50.

Silent Auction - 9 AM - 2 PM

Friends of the Library Book Sale - 9 AM - 3 PM

Bingo - 11 AM - 2 PM

Quilt Raffle Drawing - 1 PM

Prize Raffle Drawing - 2 PM

In the Community Hall, 1850 Second Street

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, from the Columbia City Police Department.

"LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK

Your department now has a Facebook page! We plan to use this social networking site to help keep citizens informed of issues in the community, share our accomplishments with you, and provide another forum where we can share information with each other. Please join us and tell us what you think.

GRANT AWARDED TO POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department has been fortunate to be awarded a grant from our insurance carrier, CityCounty Insurance Services (CIS). The grant was awarded to help defray "start up" costs associated with our agency becoming a member of the Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA). The OAA is an organization that assists law enforcement agencies in becoming both state and nationally accredited police departments. The accreditation process is a very lengthy and stringent process where police agencies have to show compliance with legal mandates, policies and procedures, and law enforcement "best practices". Being an accredited department is extremely critical in today's competitive federal grant process.

WORD OF THANKS

Special recognition goes to our Reserve Police Officers this month. These officers have to go through a stringent screening process prior to appointment with our agency. Additionally, they have to successfully complete a Reserve Academy

as well as our Field Training Program before they can work solo patrol. The amount of dedication these officers bring to our community is noteworthy. Reserve Officers Alex Bubar and Chris Cowen have contributed over 100 hours of volunteer service to our community within the past month! Keep up the great work!! Three additional Reserve Officer Candidates will be competing shortly in order to join our ranks.

EQUIPMENT UPDATE

As many of you have seen our department fleet has had both a new addition as well as an appearance change. Several months ago we added a 4WD Chevrolet Tahoe to our fleet. This vehicle replaced a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria patrol car that had reached the end of its safe service life. The addition of this special service vehicle



has increased our response capabilities tremendously within the community, especially during our winter months, as many of our citizens live in locations of significant grade. Our department fleet also changed in appearance to a more noticeable "black and white" color scheme in order to increase our visibility as well as the addition of legally mandated reflective marking for emergency vehicles.

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

💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Check the leak detector on your water meter. It is usually a small red triangle or small blue square (not the large dial). The leak detector measures a fine amount of water and it should not move at all when you have no water running. Contact City Hall if you need assistance.



POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT July – August 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 328 calls for service during the past reporting period. These activities decreased from 370 calls for service during the previous month. The reduction in calls was primarily related to fewer 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: 11
- Area Patrols: 20
- Foot Patrols: 2
- Assist the Public: 22
- Welfare Checks: 1
- Radio Calls: 204
- Animal Complaints: 4
- Abandoned 911 Calls: 1
- Nuisance Complaints: 3
- Traffic Complaints: 1
- Assistance Outside Agencies: 6
- Audible Alarms: 2
- Road Hazards: 2
- Found Property: 1
- Parking Violations: 2



Criminal Activity:

- Burglary Investigations: 1
- Harassment Calls: 2
- Domestic Disturbances: 1
- Theft Investigations: 3
- Traffic Crash Investigations: 1
- Investigative Follow Up's: 10
- Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 10
- Traffic Stops: 42
- Juvenile Investigations: 3
- Missing Juvenile: 1

Calls of Interest:

1. Theft investigation at 1700 block of Sixth Street on 07/02/2010 – Investigation complete and

forwarded to Juvenile Department for prosecution.

2. Suspicious vehicle in the 64000 block of Columbia River Highway on 07/02/2010 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
3. Suspicious person in the 64000 on 07/02/2010 – Person checked out OK.
4. Suspicious person in the 100 block of "E" Street on 07/03/2010 – Person checked out OK.
5. Theft investigation in the 2400 block of Fifth Street on 07/05/2010 – Investigation still open.
6. Suspicious circumstances in the 400 block of Skookum Court on 07/13/2010 – No criminal activity – area patrols conducted.
7. Suspicious vehicle at Mattie Street near Park Drive on 07/17/2010 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
8. Suspicious person in the area of Jim Bundy Park on 07/17/2010 – Person checked out OK.
9. Suspicious vehicle at Hwy 30 near Pacific Street on 07/18/2010 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
10. Suspicious person in the area of Second Street near "J" Street on 07/21/2010 – Person checked out OK.
11. Burglary investigation in the 2000 block of Third Street on 07/23/2010 – Investigation concluded – case unfounded.
12. Suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of "A" Street on 07/23/2010 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
13. Theft investigation in the 1800 block of Second Street on 07/26/2010 – Investigation suspended with leads exhausted.
14. Suspicious vehicle in the 62000 block of Columbia River Highway on 07/28/2010 – Vehicle and operator checked OK.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to lend a hand? **We need help with...**

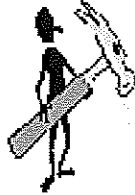
- **Park maintenance.** We need help pulling weeds and performing basic landscape maintenance.
- **Library staffing.** We're looking for more volunteers to help staff the library.
- **Book sale activities.** The library needs volunteers to help with the set up and take down of the September 11th book sale.
- **The Columbia City Celebration.** We are looking for kitchen help, food servers, and auction assistants on September 11th.

To volunteer, contact City Hall - (503) 397-4010.

HOUSING REHABILITATION LOANS AVAILABLE

Is your house in need of repairs? Low-income homeowners may be eligible for no-interest, deferred payment loans! The funds may be used to complete the following housing rehabilitation projects:

1. Update electrical, plumbing or sewer
2. Replace or update heat source
3. Replace roof, doors, windows
4. Structural repairs
5. Foundation repairs
6. Energy saving measures



In order to qualify, you must be a homeowner, meet income and property guidelines, and live in the dwelling to be repaired. Loan funds are limited! Please contact the Community Action Team, Inc., at (503) 397-1675 for additional information and/or loan applications.

Columbia Humane Society 10th Annual Garage Sale

50925 SW Old Portland Road, Scappoose
Fri. & Sat., Sept. 24 & 25, 7AM-7PM

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Please drop donations off at Columbia Self Storage,
755 Columbia River Hwy., St. Helens
Tues. & Thurs. 4PM-6PM

Sun. 12PM-2PM (excluding Sept. 5)
now through September 19

www.columbiahumane.org (503) 397-4353

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Junk: The open storage of junk, rubbish, trash, or debris is prohibited.

Curfew: Curfew is in effect between 10:30 pm and 4:00 am Sunday through Thursday, and between midnight and 4 am Friday and Saturday.

Discharge of gun or weapon: Firing a gun or other weapon, including spring or air actuated pellet gun, air gun, paint gun, BB gun, etc., is prohibited.

Animals: Animals must be kept on a leash when away from the owner's property, and droppings must be picked up.

Please report violators to City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010 or to dispatch (after hours) by calling (503) 397-1521.

TOWN HALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.

A Town Hall meeting will be held in the Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29, 2010. During the meeting, the City will present information about a proposed three-year levy for police protection services, street system maintenance, and storm water system maintenance.

All citizens are invited to attend and participate in this informal public meeting. The Mayor, City Council and staff members will provide the public with information about the proposal, and citizens are encouraged to attend, voice their opinions, and ask questions.

The Community Hall is located at 1850 Second Street, Columbia City, Oregon. Please mark your calendars and attend this important event!

WATCH OUT FOR OUR KIDS!

Summer months are coming to an end and children will be heading back to classes soon. Please slow down and watch out for our kids! Here are a few tips to make heading back-to-school safe for our local youth.

- Be aware of speed zone changes near schools. Most speed changes are indicated by a sign or flashing lights.
- Observe pedestrian right-of-way and stop for children in crosswalks. Proceed only after they have completely crossed the roadway.
- Watch for children loading and unloading from school buses and come to a complete stop when their lights are flashing. Failure to do so could result in fines of up to \$679, or worse, injuring or killing a child.
- Children are difficult to see around parked cars and can misjudge when it is safe to cross. Be alert and prepared to stop.

Help protect our children and our future. Slow down! This message brought to you by Columbia River Fire & Rescue where we wish all of our students a safe and wonderful school year!

☞ SPECIAL THANKS ☞

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

- ❖ Bernie Albertine, Karin Bates, Jean Carulli, Dolores Heinz, Phyllis Rowley, Debbie Virts and Vonnie Walker for helping with the utility billing and newsletters in August.
- ❖ Stan Hopkins for helping in Jim Bundy Memorial and Pixie Parks.
- ❖ Norm Jones for mowing Datis Park.
- ❖ Jeff & JoAnn Hughes for weeding and Gary Hansen for mowing in Harvard Park.
- ❖ The family of Bill and Carolyn King for donating framed artwork depicting the Community Hall and former City Hall.

LIBRARY NEWS



September 11 is the Columbia City Celebration, which is how the library is supported! We don't charge any fees for you to have access to our great selection of recent books, in great shape. But we must still pay rent for our space, and that's what the City Celebration pays for. Friends of the Library donations and book sale funds pay for supplies, books, furniture, and other bills. We do a great job providing this service, and we want to keep doing. So make sure you are there for the Celebration. Participate, donate and volunteer!

We will setup for the big book sale on Friday, September 10, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Lots of volunteers helps setup go fast, resulting in a well-organized selection of books. Our closet is getting full again – you have about a week left to donate your books to get them in September's book sale! Bring them to the library during open hours, or to City Hall if we don't happen to be open at a convenient time for you.

We have something for everyone at the library. Our most popular books this year are *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* and *The Girl Who Played With Fire* by Steig Larsson; and *The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body* by Joanna Cole. If you want something we don't have, let us know. You can fill out a library request form, and we can try to get it. It is your library, tell us what you want! Ask at the library if you have read everything by a favorite

author, we can help you find another author you will like.

SPECIAL BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, September 11, 2010...

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Knapp Social Center

&

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 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.

Story Time:

Every Monday, 11 AM

Friends of the Library:

Monday, September 20, 7 PM

Novel Quilters

Wednesday, September 15, 6:30 PM

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, September 29, 7 PM

Staffed Library Hours:

Monday and Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM

Wednesday, 4 PM – 8 PM

Thursday, 2 PM – 6 PM

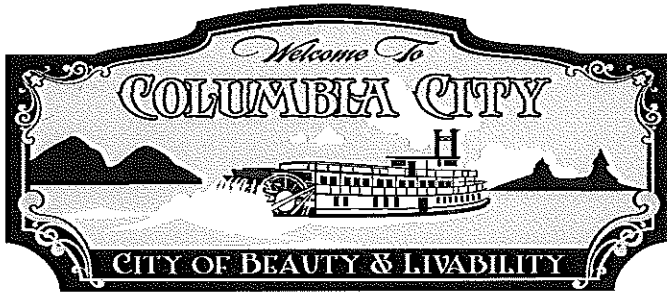
205 "I" Street, PO Box 189

(503) 366-8020

cclibrary@opusnet.com

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

ENTRANCE SIGN PROJECT MOVES FORWARD



The Columbia City Parks Committee, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), is pleased to report further 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 was purchased with park development funds and will be placed in the open space area at the corner of "I" Street and Highway 30. Under an adoption agreement, ODOT has granted the City use of the site at no charge. In addition, ODOT has removed blackberries, cleaned up debris, graded the site, and brought in topsoil. ODOT is currently in the process of installing an irrigation system.

Next, the City will install the sign between two dolphin pilings. Once the installation work is completed, ODOT will return to the site to add soil amendments, plant shrubs and trees from their nursery, and plant grass. ODOT contracts with the Columbia County Community Corrections Crew to work with them on their local projects. We'd like to extend a very special thank you to the ODOT crew for their contributions towards this project.

DOG POEM

If you can start the day without caffeine; if you can get going without pep pills; if you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains; if you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles; if you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it; if you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time; if you can forgive a friend's lack of consideration; if you can overlook it when those you love take it out on you when, through no fault of your own, something goes wrong; if you can take criticism and blame without resentment; if you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him; if you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend; if you can face the world without lies and deceit; if you can conquer tension without medical help; if you can relax without liquor; if you can sleep without the aid of drugs; if you can honestly say that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed or color, religion or politics; then, my friend, you're almost as good as your dog. Almost, but not quite.

*--This poem is dedicated to every dog lover in the world.
(Dr. James Dobson for Focus on the Family)*

FOUND ITEM

A pair of flip-flops were found at Pixie Park. Do they belong to you? If so, please contact (503) 397-4010.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

September 2 nd	6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting at City Hall - cancelled
September 6 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Labor Day
September 9 th	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
September 11 th	8:00 a.m.	Strawberry Pancake Breakfast at the Knapp Social Center
September 11 th	9:00 a.m.	Silent Auction in the Community Hall
September 11 th	9:00 a.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale in the Community Hall
September 11 th	11:00 a.m.	Bingo in the Community Hall
September 11 th	1:00 p.m.	Quilt Raffle Drawing in the Community Hall
September 11 th	2:00 p.m.	Prize Raffle Drawing in the Community Hall
September 14 th	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
September 15 th	5:30 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall
September 15 th	7:00 p.m.	Bunco in the Community Hall
September 16 th	6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting at City Hall
September 20 th	7:00 p.m.	Friends of the Library Annual Meeting at the Library
September 21 st	5:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
September 29 th	7:00 p.m.	Town Hall Meeting in the Community Hall

2010 Columbia City Summer Celebration Events Benefiting our Community Library

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

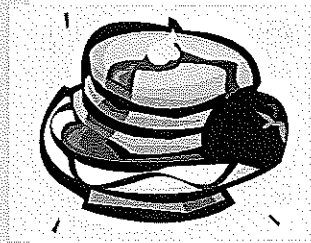
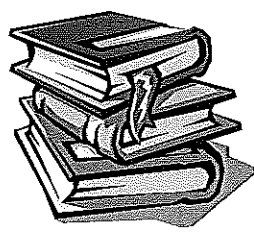
STRAWBERRY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

(Partially Sponsored by Columbia River PUD)

Tickets may be purchased at City Hall or at the door
Adults are \$6.00 and children 10 and under are \$4.50

Knapp Social Center, 1925 First Street



COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOOK SALE

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Community Hall, 1850 Second Street

SILENT AUCTION

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Community Hall, 1850 Second Street



BINGO

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Community Hall, 1850 Second Street
\$15.00 for 4 Cards

QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING

1:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

PRIZE RAFFLE DRAWING

2:00 p.m.

- 1st Prize:** Beach Getaway Trip
 - 2nd Prize:** Ocean Park, Washington Vacation Home
 - 3rd Prize:** Shilo Inn Certificate one night, any location
 - 4th Prize:** \$50 Chevron Gas Gift Card
- Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00



CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1915 First Street

The City of Columbia City

PO Box 189 / 1840 Second Street / Columbia City, Oregon 97018
503-397-4010 phone / 503-366-2870 fax
Email: colcity@columbia-city.org / Web site: www.columbia-city.org

COLUMBIA CITY HISTORICAL BOOK, T-SHIRTS, NOTE CARDS & COOKBOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DURING EACH EVENT