



SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

**130 6TH Street West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
(406)-892-4391**

www.cityofcolumbiafalls.com

Message from the City Manager

Hello Everyone! I'm so pleased to be sending my first newsletter as your City Manager. Like the start of any new endeavor, the past few months have been a challenge, with lots of time spent reviewing municipal code, long range planning, developing capital improvement plans, following up on loose ends, meeting and talking to residents, and attending important meetings. Thank you all so much for your tidings of well wishes. I look forward to serving this community for years to come.

Website Updated

Please visit the City's website at www.cityofcolumbiafalls.org for information about the City including meeting agendas, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, department information, business license applications, building permits, and important announcements.

COUNCIL ACTION



Summer Sewer Rates

Single Family Residence – June Meter Reading through October Meter Reading

Now that Spring has arrived and Summer is just around the corner, we want to remind you that when watering lawns, gardens and washing cars, that a winter sewer average is established based on December, January, and February's water usage (unless you are a new customer, then an average will be assigned). Summer sewer rates (based upon this average) begin with the June meter reading and continue through the October reading. Regardless of how much outdoor water you use, you will only be charged for sewer usage up to your winter average.

Green Space Allowance

For all other users, Green Space rates will be applied to qualified businesses beginning with June through October meter readings. Eligible customers will receive their first reduction on the June water/sewer bill based upon the "Green Space Allowance" calculation (green space area x 2 gallons per month = gallons to be reduced/green space allowance). In some cases the City will use average consumption based upon December, January, and February usage versus the Green Space Allowance. Please contact the City's Public Works Director to determine if you qualify for "Green Space Allowance".

Backflow Prevention

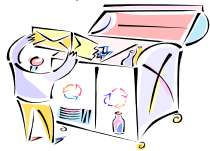
A backflow prevention assembly on an irrigation system keeps contaminants and chemicals from “back flowing” into the City’s drinking water. If you have an irrigation system, please remember your backflow protection assembly needs to be tested again this year by a properly licensed and certified tester. If you are planning to install an irrigation system this year please contact us at 892-4392 and we will be happy to have a City backflow specialist explain why a backflow prevention system is necessary and how you can make your system compliant with city ordinance. With your help and the help of our neighbors, we can keep our natural untreated water supply without chlorination. The deadline for providing certification that your system is compliant with city ordinance is August 1, 2012.



Fowl and Livestock – “Chickens”

City Council recently approved the first reading of an ordinance that will allow residents to keep up to five (5) fowl in a fenced yard or enclosure for lots less than one acre. No roosters or male fowl may be kept on lots of less than one acre. Residents must contain fowl within the area and must keep the area clean and well maintained. The entire ordinance can be reviewed on the City’s website at <http://cityofcolumbiafalls.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Ord-728-Code-Amendment-18-434-010-Fowl-and-Livestock.pdf>

TIPS, TRICKS AND REMINDERS



Weeds, Junk Cars and Decay

The City of Columbia Falls Municipal Code provides the police department the authority to enforce the removal of tall or noxious grasses and weeds that pose a fire hazard, unlicensed junk cars, unsightly trash and discarded household items which are offensive to the public view, health or safety of our residents. The police department will be assigning an officer to advise residents who may be required to bring their property into compliance with city code. Also, please remember if you have trees and shrubs growing in such a way to obstruct vision at an intersection, pruning and trimming of the trees and shrubs may be ordered.



Mosquito Season

Unfortunately with Spring rains and warmer temperatures come mosquitoes. There is a very good chance the city will see another bad year for mosquitoes. We encourage our residents to contact us as well as the County Health Department to report mosquito conditions so larvae and adult mosquito problems can be addressed early in the mosquito season. We also suggest the following tips and tricks for mosquito reduction:

- A. Keep lawn mowed.
- B. Remove tires and other pieces of equipment that collect water.
- C. Contact the Health Department before you spray so you know what efforts have been made in your area by the County and to education yourself about the impact and effectiveness of the type of spray you plan to apply. Contact Bruce Gunderson at Flathead County (406) 751-8100.



NEWS FROM THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENT

A new fire truck (apparatus) will be arriving in August 2012. The City in cooperation with the Rural Fire Department purchased the new fire apparatus. The equipment will be on display in August or as soon as it arrives.

The police department offices were recently remodeled and will be completed in early June 2012. Please visit our website to see pictures and learn more about the project. Remember the following when you have an emergency:

- A. If you have an emergency, dial 911. The non-emergency number is 892-3234 and select option 1. Please note that all calls go directly to the Call Center and not directly to the City. The Call Center dispatches the Columbia Falls City Fire and Police Departments.
- B. Report all suspicious activity and remember to lock doors and windows while away or on vacation.
- C. Roll up car windows and lock your car to avoid the theft of electronic devices stored in vehicles.



NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The 3rd Avenue East Bike Path project is well under way and will be completed very soon. We want to remind everyone to please not drive or park on any City bike paths.

The public works department purchased a new larger street sweeper with a Federal air quality grant. The sweeper will provide the City the opportunity to keep the city streets much more clean and free of debris.

Remember to report potholes, street lights that are out, and any other unsafe street conditions to the public works department.



NEWS FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The City Parks and Recreation crew has been working hard mowing and cleaning up city parks. When using our City parks please, please, please remember to cleanup after your pet.

The city pool will open Monday, June 11, 2012. Season passes are now on sale at City Hall through June 11, 2012. Prices have not changed and are as follows: (Pool Phone #892-3500)

In-City Residents Passes		Out-of City Passes	
Family	\$55.00	Family	\$69.00
Individual	\$32.00	Individual	\$40.00
Lap Swim	\$25.00	Lap Swim	\$32.00



CONTACT US

Send us your feedback on City services, safety concerns, new ideas, etc. Go to the website cityofcolumbiafalls.org and click on CONTACT, call us, or email the City Manager and/or Department heads.

Susan Nicosia, CPA, MPA	City Manager	nicosias@cityofcolumbiafalls.com
David Perry	Police Chief	cfpolice@colfallsmt.com
Rick Hagen	Fire Chief	cffire@centurytel.net
Lorin Lowry	Public Works	lowryl@cityofcolumbiafalls.com
Tina Gordon	City Judge	tgordon2@mt.gov
Todd Watkins	City Clerk/Treasurer	watkinst@cityofcolumbiafalls.com
Barb Torres	Deputy Clerk	torresb@cityofcolumbiafalls.com
Vicki Ott	Water/Sewer Dept	ottv@cityofcolumbiafalls.com

Reminder, General Business License Application, Pool Season Pass, Swimming Lesson Registration, Building Permit Information and Permit Applications can be found on the website.