



BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

Winter 2018-2019 Volume 3, Issue 1

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”

— Bob Hope—

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Columbia City



CityScene



Why Can't I Recycle Styrofoam?

By Solid Waste Director Jorell Tucker

There are two reasons expanded polystyrene (EPS) is not allowed in recycle bins: **density** and **contamination**. Polystyrene foam is 95% air so it is not cost-effective to store or ship. It is often contaminated with food or drink, and it is difficult to clean because it is so porous. Remember that recycling uses energy for transport and processing. There is no point in recycling if you use more energy disposing of the item, than if the item had not been recycled at all. Instead of looking to your recycle bins, consider these alternatives.

Don't Use It-Polystyrene foam is a cheap material for insulation and packing material. It's also just awful for the environment many aspects. Alternate packaging made from other plastics, cardboard, paper and other materials are a better option than EPS. Instead of polystyrene coffee cups, use a washable ceramic mug. Avoid vendors such as restaurants and shippers that still use polystyrene.

Reuse It-If you receive a package full of foam packing peanuts, send the peanuts to your shipping department. If your company doesn't ship products, then look around for companies that do.

Polystyrene, for all its flaws, is probably never going to go away because it's cheap and versatile so some organizations will always use it. Try avoiding its use. The short-term cost of polystyrene may be low but the long-term damage is enormous.

Community Events

12/7/18 - Christmas at the Courthouse (6p-8p)



12/15/18 – Breakfast w/Santa
The Center for WC Youth
CC Main Street Association



12/16/18 – Holiday Pops
First Church of God



12/24/18 – CCFD Candy Giveaway (6-8pm)
Courthouse



12/24/2018– Christmas Eve
(City Hall Closed)

12/25/2018 – Christmas
(City Hall Closed)



12/31/2018 - New Year's Eve
(City Hall closed)

1/1/2019 – New Year's Day
(City Hall Closed)



1/8/2019 & 1/9/2019 – Father Daughter Dance
4-H Grounds



1/21/2019 – MLK Day
(City Hall Closed)



2/18/2019 – President's Day
(City Hall Closed)



**Whitley County
Solid Waste District:**
(260)248-3132
recycling@whitleygov.com



Facts about Fires and CO

By Fire Chief Thomas LaRue



Everyone is human and it's easy to think that "IT" won't happen to me. There are things we can do to lessen the possibilities of "IT" happening to us. Knowing our statistics can help make us less vulnerable and is a key factor to prevention.

- **On Average 890 people die in winter home fires each year.**
- **\$2 billion in property loss occurs each year from winter home fires.**
- **Winter home fires account for only 8 percent of the total number of fires in the U.S., but result in 30 percent of all fire deaths.**
- **Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.**
- **A heat source too close to combustibles is the leading factor contributing to the start of a winter home fire (15 percent).**
- **5 p.m. to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.**

Another problem that occurs throughout the year but has drastically increased risk in the Winter is Carbon Monoxide.

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is called the "Invisible Killer" because it's a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. More than 150 people in the United States die every year from accidental nonfire-related CO poisoning associated with consumer products, including generators. Other products include faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces. Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission

Know the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission

Because CO is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not know that they are being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimately death

If at any time your fire or carbon Monoxide Alarms go off or if you even suspect an issue, CALL 911.

Meetings to Remember

1st Mondays of Each Month, 7pm
WC Government Center
Columbia City Plan Commission

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Board of Works and Safety

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
City Council Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Each Month, Noon
City Hall – Council Chambers
CC Redevelopment Commission

3rd Monday of Each Month, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Park Board

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Housing Authority

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5:30pm
City Hall – Conference Room
Columbia City Tree Board

Proper notice will be given for any changes to meeting dates and times



The Father/Daughter dance will be held again this year on February 8th and 9th. Tickets will be sold in the park office starting on January 2nd for \$20 per person. This event has proven to be a special evening for dad's to spend some quality time with their daughters. The event will be held at the Whitley County 4-H Center. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the park office at 248-5180.

What's New with the Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatic Center

By Park Director Mark Green

The Russell and Evelyn Fahl Aquatics Center will be having a discount in December for Aquatic Center memberships leading up to Christmas! The sale will begin on Monday, December 3rd, and run until Friday, December 21st. You can purchase memberships at the Morsches Park Office between 8a-4p Monday-Friday. (*Discounted rates are shown below*)



Also....the Aquatic Center will also be in need of hiring around 10-15 more lifeguards (minimum) for the summer of 2019. We are in the process of working on a payback program for certifications so that there are no upfront costs to those wanting to get certified. Contact Jake Johnson at jjohnson@columbiacity.net or text 260.213.7370.

Whitley County Residents

Senior (60+): \$45	
Adult (18-59): \$60	You can
Child (3-17): \$45	add
Infant (0-2): FREE	additional
Family of 3: \$140	family
Family of 4: \$160	members
Family of 5: \$200	for just \$30!!



Non-Residents

Senior (60+): \$70	
Adult (18-59): \$85	You can
Child (3-17): \$70	add
Infant (0-2): FREE	additional
Family of 3: \$220	family
Family of 4: \$250	members
Family of 5: \$280	



Emails you should NEVER open

By Information Technoloy Director Terry Wherry



The internet can be scary, but emails are the scariest. Unsurprisingly, people are much easier to trick than security systems like firewalls and anti-virus. If you aren't extremely vigilant about your email inbox, you could be in for a nasty malware surprise.

Confirm Your Account/Unusual login activity

You use the Internet to log into multiple important websites every day. Likely, you do your banking online. You may pay your bills online. You shop online. And of course, we all have social media accounts. BUT, you should never open emails suggesting a password change or an account confirmation.

You Missed a Delivery

UPS and Amazon are both big favorites of hackers. If you receive an email from UPS, USPS, Amazon, etc claiming that you missed a delivery - don't open it. Especially don't click on anything. Log into your various mailing accounts and review your tracking activity. Are you even expecting a delivery? It's also very easy to pick up the phone and give the company a call and verify that a package was unable to be delivered.

Your Account has been locked

It probably hasn't been. If you get an email like this one, be very careful not to click any button to unlock your account (whether it's Facebook or LinkedIn or Chase). Instead try logging into the account directly from a new window.

Unexpected Refunds or Payments

Don't fall for this one, either! Think about it - how likely is it that you are owed a refund for something you hadn't even thought about? Why are you being paid for something you're not sure you did? Instead, call up the sender of these sorts of emails to verify their legitimacy.

Information provided by Preferred IT Group <https://www.preferreditgroup.com/>



Update on the City Title VI Implementation Plan



By Beth Igney, City of Columbia City Human Resource Director/ADA and Title VI Coordinator

“The City of Columbia City recognizes its legal obligations to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 49 CFR Part 26 and its related statutes and regulations to ensure that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity on the grounds of race, color, or national origin”. – This is the mission statement found in the City of Columbia City Title VI Implementation Plan.

This document explains the concept of the Title VI Implementation Plan, the Complaint procedures, accomplishments and the work plan. Earlier this year, the plan was updated to include language changes to the Limited English Proficiency section of the Plan under Executive Order 13166. This executive order states that individuals who do not speak English well and who have a limited ability to read, write and speak, or understand English are entitled to language assistance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with respect to a particular type of service, benefit or encounter. These individuals are referred to as being limited in their ability to speak, read, write, or understand English, hence the designation, “LEP” or Limited English Proficient. Title VI covers a recipient’s entire program or activity.

The City of Columbia City utilizes a four factor analysis to assess the LEP populations in Columbia City: 1) The number and proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the City, 2) the frequency with which LEP individual come into contact with the program, activity or service, 3) the nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program, and 4) the resources available to the City and costs. Citizens can find this Implementation Plan on our website at www.columbiacity.net



Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) Update

By: Jeff Walker, Community Development Director



Columbia City entered into an aAgreed Order with the Indiana Department of Environment Management (IDEM) in 2006 that provided system improvements to reduce raw wastewater discharges to receiving waters during wet weather events. We are one of over 100 communities in Indiana that has a combined sewer system where storm water and raw sewage are collected together before flowing to the water pollution control facility for treatment. Our collection system was not large enough to convey everything and would often discharge raw, untreated waste directly into the stream during rain events or quick snow melt periods.

By Order, Columbia City would be required to capture, convey, and provide primary treatment and disinfection for a 10 year/1 hour design storm event (1.9 inches) once all the phased-in improvements were completed. Due to the extraordinary high costs associated with this Order (est. \$36.72M), IDEM allowed a compliance phase-in period of 18 years. Early in Mayor Daniel’s first term of office, the City representatives began looking to see how best to comply with the Order and also reduce the rate impact on our users. We were able to work with our design engineer to achieve the requirements by other means, saving the city an estimated \$5M-\$6M. We also looked for grant opportunities to further reduce the impact. We applied to the USDA’s Rural Development program for funding and are currently making application to the Office of Community & Rural Affairs for a \$700K grant.

