

Columbia County



COLUMBIA COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA RELEASE

INFORMATION CONTACT:

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COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OFFICE

CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

Beginning **Friday, July 9, 2010**, the County Land Development Services office in St. Helens will be closed on Fridays. The Friday closures are necessary due to another round of staff cuts in the Land Development Services Department.

“Planning and Building Program staff have been reduced to levels that are inadequate to maintain the current public counter hours of Monday through Friday and to complete necessary development review activity in a timely fashion. Staff cuts have resulted from continuing low levels of permit activity and related permit revenue which is the primary source of funding for the Land Development Services Department”, said Todd Dugdale, Land Development Services Director.

“Columbia County, like many other Oregon cities and counties, is having to cut both staff and service hours in response to the impact of the economic recession on development activity. However, we will continue do our best to provide quality and responsive services to our customers within the limitations imposed by budget and staff cuts,” said Director Dugdale.

The Land Development Services offices will continue to be open from 8:30 p.m. to 12 Noon and 1p.m. to 5:00 p. m., Monday through Thursday excepting Holidays and the staff furlough days scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2010, and Thursday, December 23, 2010.

The Friday closure will **not** affect building and on-site wastewater system inspections. County Building and On-Site Program inspectors will continue to perform inspections on Fridays, even though the main office is closed.

Building and on-site wastewater system inspections will also continue to be received on the County inspection phone line Monday through Friday and every effort will be made to perform these inspections within 24 hours of any request on a Monday through Friday schedule.

Residents should note that Land Development Services will not be accepting planning, building, and on-site wastewater applications on Fridays nor will County planning, building, solid waste, and code enforcement staff be available in the office or by phone during the Friday office closures.

For any questions regarding the Friday closure, please contact Land Development Services Director, Todd Dugdale at 503-397-7207.