

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## September 2016

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY  
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*Save the date!*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> - 6 PM

### *Holiday Concert*



*featuring*

### *Michael Allen Harrison*

*In addition to being a sought after producer, composer and arranger, Michael Allen Harrison is a well-known concert pianist who has been in the music scene for over two decades.*

Tickets: \$20.00 per person  
Event location: Columbia City School Gym  
Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

*Seating is limited!*

*Purchase your tickets now at City Hall!!!*

*All event proceeds will benefit "Our Community Hall - A Legacy to Treasure - Capital Campaign."*

### **KNIFE RIVER FOUNDATION GRANT & KNIFE RIVER SPONSORSHIP**

We are pleased to announce that the Knife River Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Community Hall - A Legacy to Treasure - Capital Campaign. In addition, Knife River will also sponsor the project with a \$3,000 donation. We greatly appreciate their support of this vital community project!

### **CITY RECEIVES TWO HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS FROM FEMA**

We are pleased to announce the City's receipt of two Hazard Mitigation Grants from FEMA.

**K Street storm system improvements:** The first grant, in the amount of \$9,150, will be used to construct a new storm system along K Street between Sixth Street and Highway 30. The existing system, which is an above ground section of open galvanized culvert, was severely damaged during the December 2015 storm event. Rather than replacing the above ground system, a new culvert will be buried in the existing trench which should eliminate future overflows, undermining, and damage during similar storm events. A section of culvert under Sixth Street will also be replaced.

**K Street lift station electrical panel junction box:** The second grant, in the amount of \$3,813, will be used to install a new electrical panel junction box for pump power cables and float switch cables at the K Street lift station. Currently, the electrical panel junction box is located inside of the lift station wetwell. In the December 2015 storm event, the lift station was overwhelmed by high sewage flows which damaged the electrical panel and floats. The new panel will be located outside of the wetwell to protect it from damage during storm events.

FEMA also paid for a portion of the City's response costs during the December 2015 storm event.

## VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILIES SOUGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Education, Travel & Culture (ETC), a non-profit corporation for student exchange, is seeking volunteer host families for high school students from around the world. They have several students left who are looking for host families in Oregon for the upcoming 2016/17 school year.

Volunteer host families provide international students with a window in which to view and understand American life and culture. Students are expected to act as a member of your family. They will participate in your family's daily activities and chores, bond with their host siblings, and join in family conversations. At the same time, the students will be sharing their culture and values with their American families.

Volunteer host families can host a student for 6-8 weeks, one semester, or the full school year. Contact Sarah Rohler of ETC, or visit the ETC website at [www.edutrav.org](http://www.edutrav.org) for more information.

## LIBRARY NEWS

**Columbia City Celebration:** The locations of some events will be moving this year. The Strawberry Pancake Breakfast will be held in the Community Hall starting at 7 am. The silent auction and the raffles will move to the Columbia City School gym. We have local vendors bringing items handcrafted in Columbia County. The Columbia County Art Guild and other local artists will be showing their art.

We will be displaying the Novel Quilters creations based on *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah and *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. The Lions and Elks will sponsor an eye clinic. Bring your 3 to 7 year-old in to the Library for

screening. It takes longer to fill out your name than it does to do the test!

The Show and Shine car show and live music by "The Decades" will be in the school field. The Prepare Fair and the kids activities, along with the book sale, will also be on the school grounds.

We are still looking for great silent auction items! You can also donate cakes, cookies, and candy to our bake sale. We're looking for people to sign up to do bake sale items. Help us support the Library and make the Celebration lots of fun! We need many volunteers for the day - sign up at the Library!

**Saturday Crafts for Kids:** Please join us down at the Columbia City Community Library on Saturday September 10 from 11 am to 2 pm. Let's create fish this month! As always, you supply the kids and we'll supply everything else!

**Second Hand Prose!** This month's sale selection is all nonfiction. Half price for the month of September (excluding September 17).

Many books are being donated as the Columbia City Celebration and its big book sale approaches, so make sure to get in here and look at what is already on our shelves. Help us make room for more! Our sale books are wonderfully organized, so be sure you shop in the Library - the county's largest used book store.

**Storytime** - every Monday at 11 am

**City Celebration Planning** - 9/6 at 7 pm

**Saturday Craft: Fish** - 9/10, 11 am to 2 pm

**Novel Quilters** - 9/14 at 6:30 pm

**Columbia City Celebration** - 9/17, 8 am to 3 pm

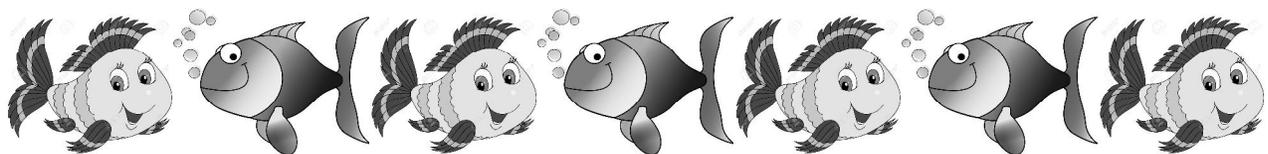
**Friends of the Library Meeting** - 9/19 at 7 pm

**Mystery Book Club** - 9/28 at 7 pm

**HOURS: Monday 10-2, Tuesday 2-6,**

**Wednesday 4-8, Thursday 2-6, Saturday 10-2**

## CRAFTS DAY AT THE LIBRARY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 11 AM - 2 PM



Saturday, September 10th Crafts at the Columbia City Library will feature fantastic fun fabricating fanciful fish! Bring your kids to the library between 11 am to 2 pm! You bring the kids, we'll provide everything else!

Our Community Hall Capital Campaign  
*A Legacy to Treasure Sponsors*

Diamond - \$1,000 or more:

Port of St. Helens  
Robert H. Noyes, Jr. Fund of  
The Oregon Community Foundation  
The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation  
Knife River Foundation  
Knife River  
Lower Columbia Engineering  
Michael Allen Harrison and  
The Snowman Foundation  
Leonard and Sally Ann Marson  
City of St. Helens  
Bake Sale Volunteers  
K Restoration LLC  
James and Thelma Hays  
Columbia River PUD  
The Gardes Family Trust  
Parnell and Elsie Hovland  
NW Natural



Ruby - \$500:

Ace Hardware - West  
Lowell Bauer  
Landis & Landis Construction LLC  
Nancy Radcliffe



Sapphire - \$250:

In Memory of Donald Cass  
Columbia County Brewing  
Comcast  
Jeff and JoAnn Hughes  
L. Lee Phillips  
Leslie and Chuck Ramsdell  
Steve Schroeder  
Christopher and Hester Thurman  
Tom and Brandy Vernon



The Burrito House  
Klondike Restaurant/Strange Birds Coffee  
House

Ronald L. Jaramillo  
Sean and Monica Burns  
Mike and Kay Brown  
Doug and Colleen Calkins  
Marian Calnon  
Robert and Carlene Clore  
Columbia City Community Club  
Rich and Jeanette Crandall  
Mark and Barbara Gordon  
Roy "Bud" and Dolores Heinz  
Mark and Beth James  
Margaret Jeffries  
Don Jeanroy and Chan Springer  
John & Patti Julian  
Terry and Karen Kent  
Joe and Sue Kovich  
George and Jean LeMont  
Bill and Jan Mansheim  
Jean McBride  
Scott and Sharon Morris  
Robert Schmor and Shirley Palm  
Dorothy M. Rofinot  
Robert and Konnie Speirs  
Tennessee Cable Service, Inc.  
Gordon and Gail Thistle  
Doug and Barbara Wootan

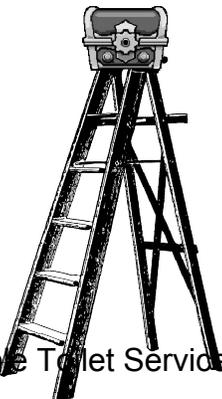
Amethyst - \$50:

Les Schwab - St. Helens  
Dana and Jim Belisle  
Raymond and Sunghe Buckno  
Geneva Burwell  
Jack and Molly Hruska  
Nancy Hudson  
Donna McAtee  
Fred and Winnie Neilson  
Gregory Newcomb  
Northwest Plumbing Services  
Sante and Judy Valpiani  
Tim and Pat Valpiani  
Cheryl Young



Emerald - \$100:

Sheila Bauer  
Hudson Portable Toilet Service



**We thank all of you for your support  
of this vital community project!**

**MEASURE 5-256**

## RENEWAL OF 5-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES

**What is Measure 5-256?** Measure 5-256 submits to the voters the question of renewing a five-year local option levy to sustain current police protection services.

**Why is the local option levy needed?** The local option levy is needed to bridge the funding gap between the tax revenues collected under the City's permanent tax rate, and the total cost of providing basic police protection services.

Since July 2004, the annual amount of total tax revenue generated by the City's permanent tax rate has consistently fallen short of funding a Police Department staffed by 2.5 paid full-time equivalents (FTEs) and volunteer police reserves.

**Why is there a funding gap?** Columbia City has one of the lowest permanent City property tax rates within the State of Oregon - just \$1.1346 per thousand. In comparison, some other cities in Columbia County levy the following permanent tax rates:

▪ City of Clatskanie	\$6.2088
▪ City of Rainier	\$4.8327
▪ City of Scappoose	\$3.2268
▪ City of St. Helens	\$1.9078
▪ City of Vernonia	\$5.8163

In addition, Columbia City is primarily a bedroom community - there are few taxable commercial and industrial developments within the City. As a result, Columbia City collects just \$160.26 per capita from the permanent tax levy. In comparison, some other cities in Columbia County collect the following amounts per capita from their permanent tax rates:

▪ City of Clatskanie	\$347.53
▪ City of Rainier	\$774.75
▪ City of Scappoose	\$271.01
▪ City of St. Helens	\$126.86
▪ City of Vernonia	\$328.71

**What will the local option levy cost?** \$0.67 per \$1,000 assessed value. A home with an assessed value of \$240,000 would pay \$160.80 per year.

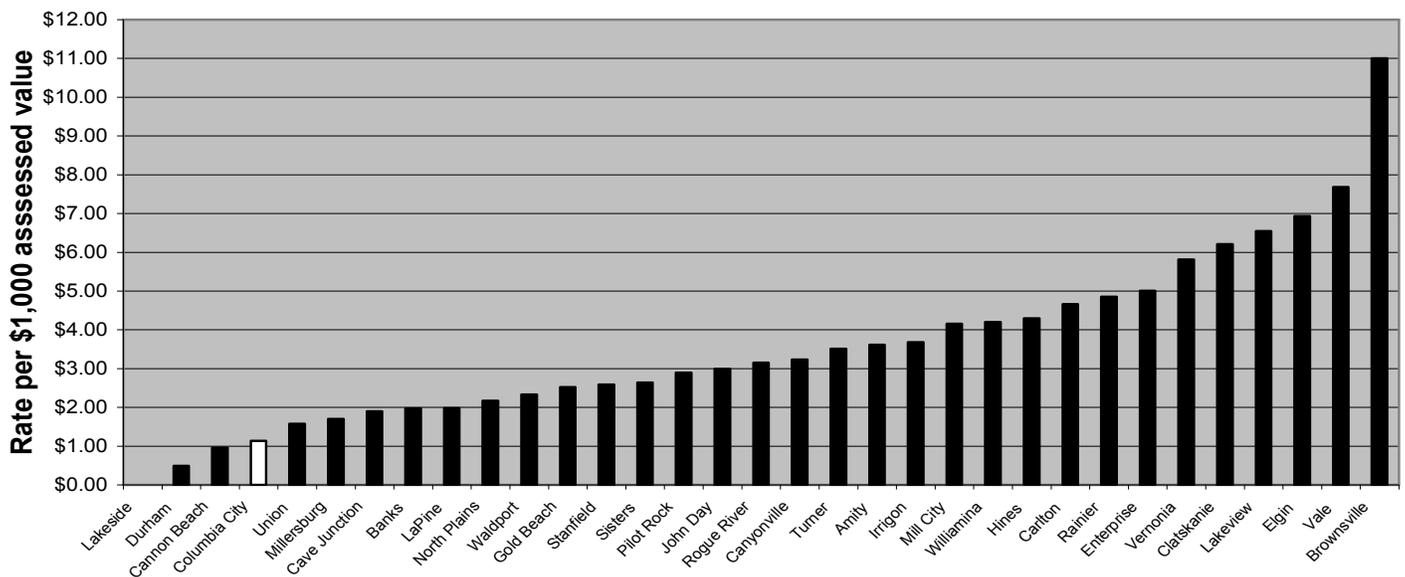
**How long will the local option levy last?** Five years. At the end of five years, the levy will expire.

**When will I vote on Measure 5-256?** During the November 8, 2016 General Election.

**When would I start to pay?** November 2017.

**How much do I pay now?** The City levies a permanent tax rate of \$1.1346 per \$1,000 of assessed value, plus the current local option levy of \$0.67 per thousand, for a total tax rate of \$1.8046. Even the combined rate of \$1.8046 is among the lowest in the State of Oregon. The local option levy will expire after the current tax year unless it is renewed by voters. *(Continued on page 5)*

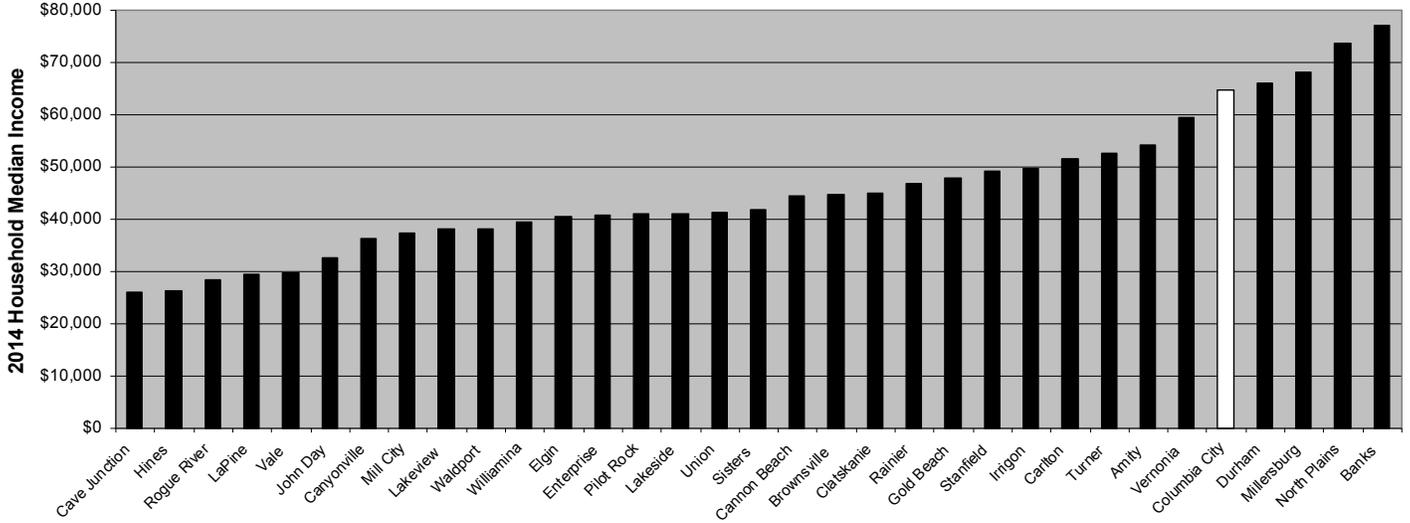
### Comparison of Permanent Tax Rates



All Oregon cities with populations ranging from 1,500 to 2,500

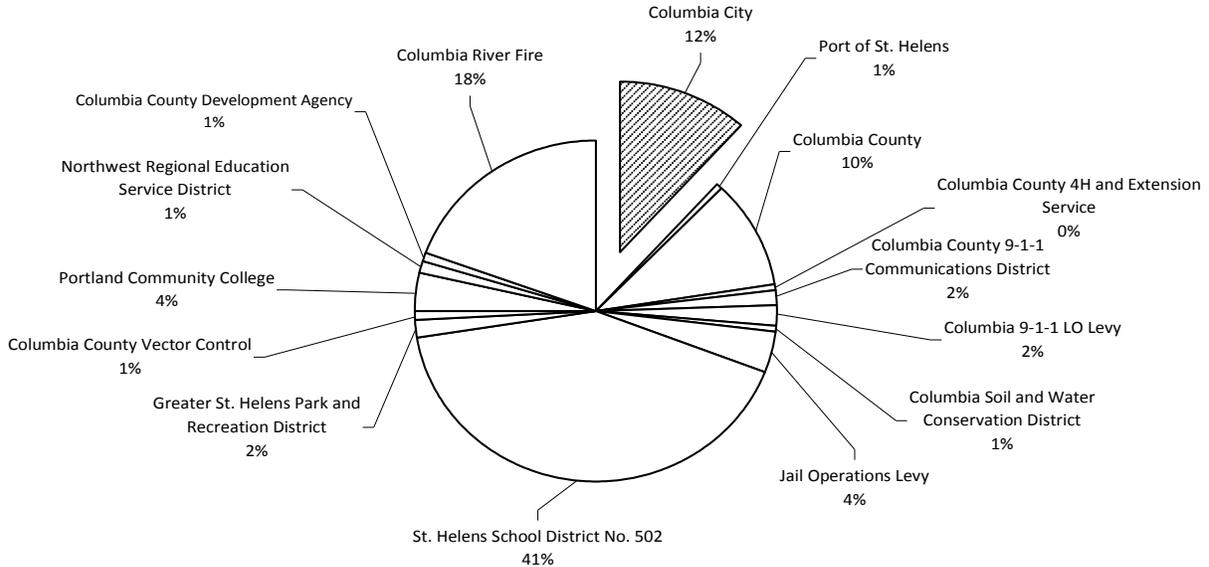
**RENEWAL OF LOCAL OPTION LEVY (Continued)**

**Comparison of Household Median Income Level**



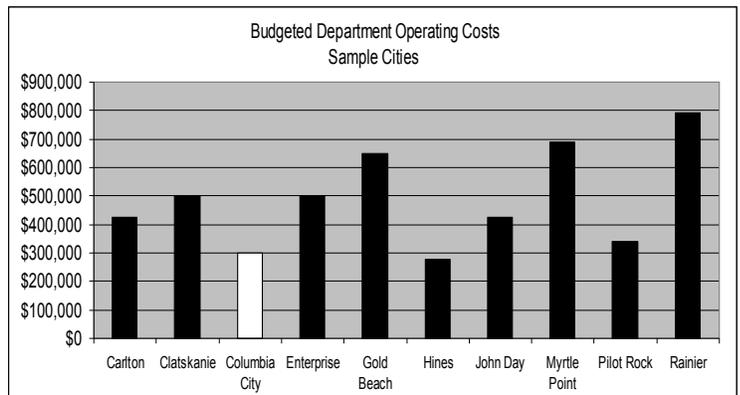
All Oregon cities with populations ranging from 1,500 to 2,500

**Columbia City's Share of 2015-16 Property Tax**



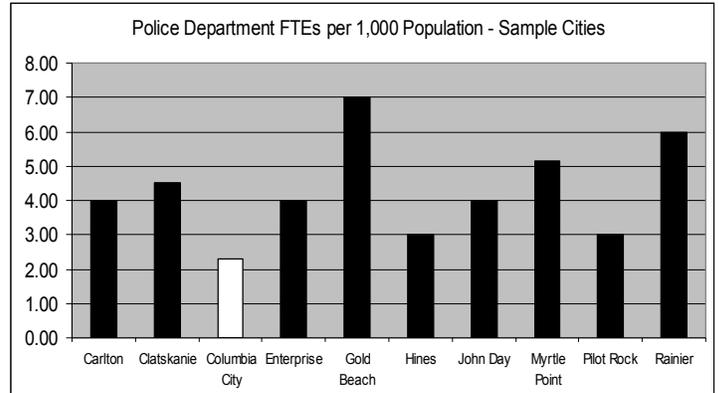
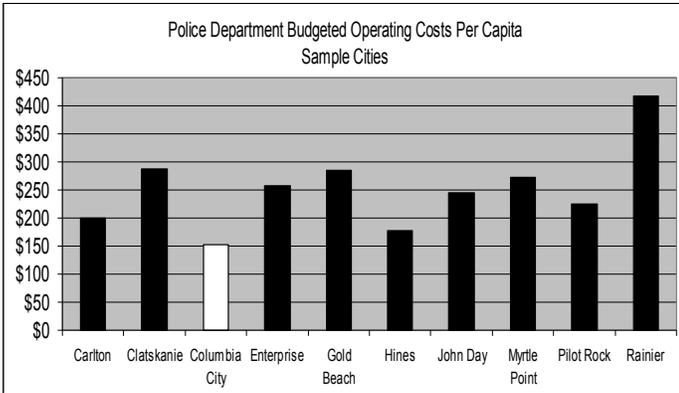
**When I pay property taxes, where does all of the money go?** Most of the property tax you pay goes to other agencies. Columbia City receives just a small piece of the pie. The City's permanent rate, combined with the local option levy, is equal to just 12 percent of the total property tax bill.

**Does Columbia City spend more on police services than other cities?** Columbia City Police Department's budgeted operating costs are actually low compared to other cities. In addition, the per capita operating costs (Continued on page 6)

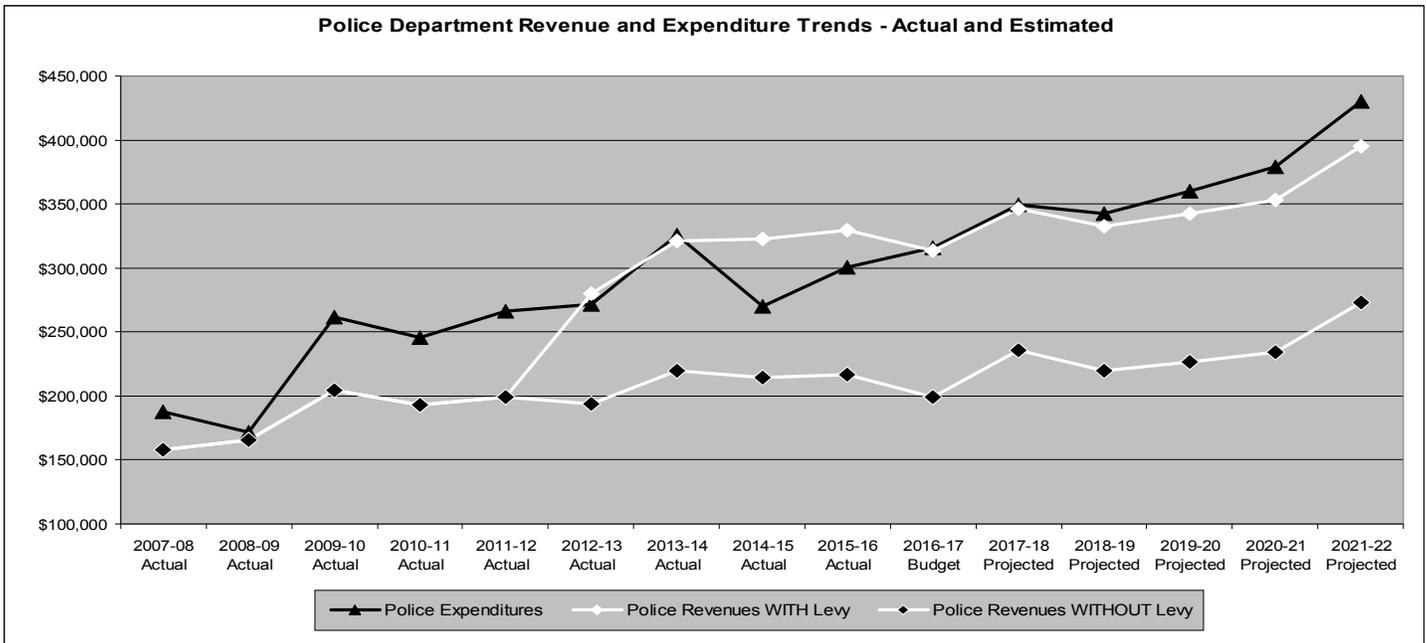


## RENEWAL OF LOCAL OPTION LEVY *(Continued)*

of Columbia City's Police Department are noticeably lower than most small cities. Columbia City's Police Department maintains a high quality level of service with a paid staff of less than 2.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs) per 1,000 citizens - a ratio that is considerably lower than many small cities. Volunteer reserve officers assist the department, and an on-call protocol applies if no one is on duty.



**What will happen if the local option levy is not renewed?** Without the levy, there is a significant funding gap as demonstrated by the graph below. The funding gap will create an unsustainable situation, forcing the City to consider other options, such as reducing service levels.



### SEPTEMBER MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

September 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting at City Hall
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Labor Day
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting at Community Hall
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 AM - 10 AM	Strawberry Pancake Breakfast at Community Hall
	8:00 AM - 2 PM	Show & Shine Car Show in the School field
	9:00 AM - 1 PM	Emergency Preparedness Fair in the School field
	9:00 AM - 3 PM	Craft Fair, Vendors, Art Show, Kids Activities.....
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall