

# Columbia City Newsletter

## December

### 2018

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#### MANY CHANGES IN THE WORKS

**Mayor Young prepares to retire after 36 years of public service:** Cheryl Young was first elected to the City Council in 1982 as a write-in candidate. After serving four years on the City Council, she ran for Mayor and won the seat – a post she retained for 32 consecutive years.

“I was born in St. Helens, and my family moved to Columbia City in 1952. My father served on the City Council when I was a child, but at the time I did not set my sights on following in his public-service footsteps. Then, in the 1980s, several friends encouraged me to run for the City Council....so I gave it a try....and once I got started, I just could not give it up!”

During her 36 years in office, Cheryl saw many changes, studied hundreds of meeting packets, attended a countless number of meetings, and spent thousands of hours serving the City as an elected official. During her tenure, voters approved the construction of a new City-wide sewer system, Highway 30 was widened from two lanes to five, a house was renovated to become the new City Hall, the City developed a new source of water, several City parks were developed, the City’s population grew from 680 to nearly 2000, voters approved a levy supporting police services.....the list just goes on and on and on.

When the City constructed the new sewer system in the early 1990s, many residents complained that their yards had not been properly restored by the City’s contractor, and the City staff was inundated with phone calls. Mayor Young stepped in to help – fielding calls, logging complaints, distributing the information to the City engineer and contractor, and going door to door with her son, Charles, to meet with citizens to make sure each problem was ultimately resolved.

Cheryl also initiated the annual City Celebration in 1994. “I wanted it to be an annual event that provided families with an opportunity to celebrate and have fun together. In the initial years, the City Celebration included a parade, children’s carnival games and prizes.”

When asked what she liked best about being Mayor, Cheryl said, “Back in the day, I really loved riding in the patrol car on Halloween and handing out candy to all of the trick-or-treaters with our City Marshall, Duke Smith. I had lots of fun joking around about issuing tickets to people for walking too fast!”

After several recent health episodes, Cheryl decided it is time for her to retire – from her position as Columbia City’s Mayor as well as her job as Manager of the St. Helens Senior Center.

“It’s really hard for me to leave the Mayor’s office. The City staff has been like family to me. We’ve had great staff members over the years – I simply could not have asked for any better.”

After she retires, Cheryl and her husband Emmett plan to take a trip to Colorado to see some family members. “I want to do some traveling while I am still able.”

The City will honor Cheryl for her many years of dedicated public service during a 2 pm ceremony on Monday, December 31, 2018, at the Community Hall. Please be sure to join us for this very special event.

**Mayor-elect Wheeler steps into the office of Mayor in January:** Casey Wheeler was born and raised in rural upstate New York, and throughout the years he has lived in New York, Connecticut, Idaho and Oregon. Casey and his wife Donna have been married 30 years, and they moved to Columbia City 13 years ago. Casey enjoys reading, working on family genealogy, and playing with model trains - and he is a huge fan of the New York Yankees.

Casey is currently the Executive Director of the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. He has spent most of his career in executive management roles in state-level trade associations. He has also served on a number of national, regional, state and local boards and committees.

Casey previously served on the Columbia City Council from 2011 to 2014. While serving on the Council, he served on the City’s Budget Committee, Audit Committee, Hazard Mitigation Planning (*cont.*)

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Group, and Streets Committee. He also chaired the working group that updated the City Charter and he was active in the development of the City's mission and vision statements. He previously served on the Port of Columbia County's Budget Committee, and currently serves on the 9-1-1 District's Budget Committee. He is an alternate Board Member for Columbia County's Homeland Security Emergency Management Commission.

When asked what he looks forward to in his upcoming post as Mayor, Casey said, "I plan to hold quarterly 'Coffee with the Mayor' meetings to give everyone an opportunity to get to know me better and discuss their concerns and ideas in a less formal setting."

Casey also said, "The City is always looking for volunteers to serve on committees and help with events and I urge each citizen to consider these opportunities, which can be found on the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org). I also want to thank Cheryl and Leahnette for their many years of service to our City. We would not be the enjoyable community we are without their vision and leadership. Finally, I want to wish you all a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year!"

Casey is scheduled to be sworn in as the City's new Mayor at 6 pm on January 3, 2019. He will become the City's 15<sup>th</sup> Mayor.

**Council Member Harrison prepares for year-end retirement:** Nell Harrison was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council in May 2014, and she was subsequently elected to serve another four-year term. Her current term will expire at the end of December.

Nell, who was born and raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma, moved to Beaverton, Oregon in 1962 with her late husband, Owen, who was originally from the St. Helens area. Nell said, "We moved all around the country for a while. Owen was an electronics engineer and we followed his work. My favorite place was Long Island, New York. It was so beautiful there – there were gorgeous gardens everywhere. I was a Girl Scout leader and there were lots of amazing places to go and things to do with the Scouts – horseback riding, museums, you name it."

Nell said she and Owen settled into Columbia City in 1997. "We spent a lot of time on the water. At one

point, Owen built a 40-foot ferro-cement documented boat – we traveled up the Columbia River as far as Lewiston, Idaho, and we ventured 200 miles out into the ocean."

Nell and her little dog, Jake, are frequently visited by family members from Switzerland. Nell's father was born in Switzerland, and she still has about 35 surviving family members living there – most of which have made the trek out here to visit her at one time or another.

Besides being a Girl Scout leader, Nell also taught art at Portland Community College, was involved in the development of the Village Art Gallery in Beaverton, worked for the Beaverton School District, and worked in the insurance industry. Currently, she is a member of the Warren Community Fellowship and performs a variety of volunteer community service work. She is a Master Gardener and a very active member of the St. Helens Garden Club. She has been a member of the Columbia City Community Club since 1998 and was instrumental in the recent refurbishment of the Community Hall and involved in all of the fundraising activities for the project.

Over the years, Nell has spent hundreds of hours performing park maintenance work in several of the City's parks. She plans to continue to serve on the City's Parks Committee and Audit Committee. Nell's contributions to the City as a Council Member have been greatly appreciated, and we are very grateful for her past service.

**Council Member-elect Zigliński set to take office in January:** Sue is the mother of two sons that she raised with her late husband, Dick (Ziggy) in North Portland, and is now the proud grandmother of three grandchildren.

She and her husband lived in North Portland for 26 years, and during that time they were involved in many nonprofit activities. She said, "We performed fundraising activities for Holy Cross School for ten years so no one had to pay tuition. The following year we were asked to return by parents who had to start paying tuition!"

They were very involved in Little League. Sue drove three popcorn wagons to the parks to sell goodies to keep the Little League running. They were involved with the other sports, too - including football, soccer and basketball. "There were no soccer teams for girls at that time, so I started one, but I could not find a league for the girls to play in. So, we joined the *(cont.)*

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Mt. Hood Soccer League. The next year, the Portland Parks system finally agreed to let girls play in a league.”

In 1993 Sue and her husband moved to Columbia City. She originally worked as a medical assistant in Portland, and then had the opportunity to start the Oregon Drug and Alcohol Information Center, which is still operating today.

She made a career change and went to work for the government in Multnomah County - first for the Regional Drug Initiative, then Family and Children Services, and then the Department of Community Justice. She worked for Multnomah County for 20 years until she retired in 2012.

Sue currently consults for the federal government in the Department of Human Services, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Department of Justice. She consults on tribal issues and tribal Law and social services issues.

Sue currently volunteers as a board member for the Native American Rehabilitation Center (a position she has held for 33 years), the Stumptown Stages (a musical theater in Portland), and the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, which serves Columbia County. She also officiates golf tournaments for the Juniors and the Men and Women Amateurs, and performs course rating for the Oregon Golf Association.

“I am honored to serve as a Council Member for the City of Columbia City.” Sue is scheduled to be sworn in as a Council Member at 6 pm on January 3, 2019.

**Rivers retires from City Administrator post on December 31:** Leahnette Rivers will soon retire with 40 years of public service - she has served as the City Administrator for Columbia City since July 1999.

Her public service career began as a part-time clerk-typist with the City of Rogue River in 1978. Shortly after she was promoted to a full-time Deputy-Recorder/Accounting Clerk position, and in 1985 she moved into the position of City Recorder/Treasurer – a department head position that reported directly to the Mayor and City Council. In 1995 she became Rogue River’s first City Administrator.

After 18 years with Rogue River, Leahnette accepted a City Administrator post with the City of Talent.

Leahnette said, “Talent was very exciting – and highly challenging. They had just fired their manager, and they were in a state of crisis in the areas of financial management, personnel management, failing infrastructure, flood recovery.....we went through a 100% turnover in management personnel in 1997. It was very fast paced – and an incredibly demanding and rewarding experience all at the same time.”

In 1999, Leahnette married Buddy, who was working in the Beaverton area at the time. The couple’s marriage meant a move to the Portland area, which brought Leahnette to Columbia City. “Once I found Columbia City, I knew this is where I wanted to stay until retirement. It is such a special community, and Mayor Young and the Council have been fantastic to work for over the years. I am excited about the future of Columbia City – we have an outstanding team of dedicated and talented employees and volunteers.”

During her three-city career, Leahnette received over 30 Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), including a very rare “Especially Notable” rating. She also attained GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the cities of Talent and Rogue River. In 2015 she received the Herman Kehrli Award from the League of Oregon Cities for making long-lasting contributions in her communities.

“I have really enjoyed serving small communities. Positions in a small community offer so much variety throughout a typical work day. I have enjoyed a wide range of responsibilities, projects, assignments, and even bosses - I’ve reported directly to a group of elected officials for 33 years. I can’t think of anything I would rather have done.”

After retirement, Leahnette and Buddy plan to do some traveling around the US and Canada with their RV and their dog, Dixie. Leahnette looks forward to having more time to spend with family and friends. She enjoys a variety of activities and hobbies, and plans to do volunteer work in the City parks.

**McGlothlin steps in as new City Administrator:** Mike McGlothlin is a native of the Gulf Coast area of Florida. He and his wife, Jessica, have three children and two grandchildren. Mike and his family moved to Columbia County in July of 2009 when he was hired as the first full-time Chief of Police for the Columbia City Police Department.

Mike holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal *(cont.)*

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Justice Administration, an MBA-Public Administration degree, and is a graduate of the Oregon Executive Development Institute, the Rural Executive Management Institute, and the North Carolina Executive Law Enforcement Institute.

Mike entered the law enforcement profession in 1986 by joining the U.S. Army Military Police Corps. During his military law enforcement career he served as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Supervisor, Criminal Investigator and Operations Sergeant where he supervised 26 criminal, juvenile crimes, and narcotics investigators. He was also assigned to the U.S. Army's Joint Special Operations Command until he was honorably discharged in 1994 as a Sergeant First Class.

Mike joined the Fayetteville, North Carolina Police Department in 1994 and served as a Patrol Officer, Gang/Intelligence Unit Investigator, SWAT Officer, Police Sergeant and Special Assistant to the City Manager where he designed, trained, and developed the city's Community Improvement Team. This team focused on taking community policing and problem solving concepts city-wide to a population of over 200,000 citizens in order to improve organizational responsiveness and efficiency.

Mike joined the Zebulon, North Carolina Police Department in 2000 where he served as a Police Lieutenant/Division Commander. He served as both the Patrol Division and Service Division Commander with this agency for more than nine years. He also held additional duties as: Team Commander for the Special Emergency Response Team, Federal and State Grants Manager, Department Policy and Procedure Coordinator, Vehicle, Equipment and Supply Procurement Officer, Police Reserve Program Coordinator, K-9 Operations Supervisor, School Resource Officer Supervisor, Traffic Enforcement Unit Supervisor and Department Training Coordinator.

After more than 31 years, Mike's law enforcement career will come to a close as he moves into the role of City Administrator, which he officially assumes on January 1<sup>st</sup>. "I look forward to working with the Mayor and City Council in achieving the City's goals and objectives, with the assistance of the fantastic team we have that already works very hard for the local community and its citizens on a daily basis."

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for people to help with an after school program at Columbia City School in February. Please contact us at the Library if you'd like to help.



### Second Hand Prose:

Second Hand Prose is cleaned out and all our stock is new to you! Winter is here, so curl up with a good movie! Besides the 971 movies we have available for check out, we have some DVDs on sale for \$1 during December.

**New Books at the Library:** We added 125 new items to the Library this month! Check out the shelf we have for new books at the Library - it changes every week.

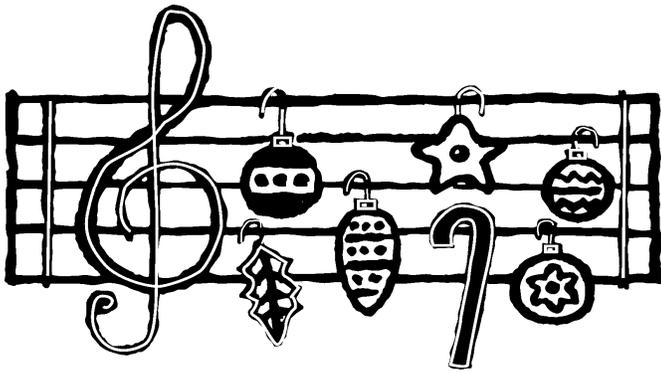
*Remarkable Creatures: Epic Adventures in the Search for the Origins of Species* by Sean B. Carroll  
*All that the Rain Promises: A Guide to Western Mushrooms* by David Arora  
*Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers Who Helped Win World War II* by Liza Mundy  
*Fear: Trump in the White House* by Bob Woodward  
*Hardcore Twenty-Four* by Janet Evanovich  
*Quilt the Town Christmas* by Ann Watkins Hazelwood  
*Winter in Paradise* by Elin Hilderbrand  
*The Western Star* by Craig Johnson  
*Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver  
*Holy Ghost* by John Sandford  
*Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward

### Library Hours:

Monday through Thursday 3 pm – 6 pm  
Saturday 10 am – 2 pm  
Closed Christmas Eve, December 24  
Closed Christmas Day, December 25  
Closed New Year's Eve – December 31

No Friends of the Library Meeting in December  
Mystery Book Club meeting date to be determined

2000 Second Street/PO Box 189/Columbia City  
(503) 366-8020 [ccclibrary@live.com](mailto:ccclibrary@live.com)



## *Holiday Concert*

featuring

*Michael Allen Harrison*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 6 PM**

**Tickets: \$20.00 per person**

Purchase tickets at City Hall now or at the door

### **Event location:**

**Columbia City Community Hall,  
1850 Second Street**

**Food and beverages,  
including beer and wine,  
sold separately during the event**

All event proceeds will benefit  
"Our Community Hall,  
A Legacy to Treasure"

### **CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM HOSTS CHRISTMAS SHIP EVENT**

See the Christmas Ship Fleet on the Columbia River from the Caples House Museum on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 6 pm.

Holiday cookies and cocoa will be served, and there will be a Christmas Sing-A-Long. Admission is free and donations are appreciated!



### **WATER CONSERVATION TIP**

Make sure all outdoor spigots are winterized to keep pipes from freezing, bursting and losing water.

## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SELECTS MCBRIDE CREEK TRAIL SYSTEM PROJECT**

We are pleased to announce that the National Park Service has selected Columbia City's McBride Creek Trail Project as one of over 40 projects in the Pacific West Region that will receive technical assistance during fiscal year 2019. Experienced staff from the National Park Service will provide the City with free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise under their Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. This is the second year this project has been selected to receive assistance.

During the next year the National Park Service will continue to assist the City with gathering information, studying options, identifying obstacles, seeking solutions, collaborating with stakeholders, and seeking public participation and input as we work towards the development of an overall conceptual plan for the McBride Creek Trail System project. Further investigations into how to best overcome issues associated with providing safe and legal access to the Trestle Beach area are needed – this includes both pedestrian and vehicular access across the highway and the railroad tracks.

## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 106 OFFERS HOT MEALS ON CHRISTMAS EVE 2018**

The Boy Scouts of Troop 106, sponsored by American Legion Post #42, will be providing Christmas Eve Hot Meals again this year. The Hot Meal program has grown from serving one family of four in 1986 to over 680 individuals in 2018. The meals are delivered to the homes by Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts along with boys and girls that are associated with the Troop family. Deliveries occur between 1 and 5 pm in cooperation with the American Legion Post 42 and several businesses in Columbia County. Included with the dinner will be a toy or two for each child 12 and under.



The Troop is looking for help from the community in the form of donations of money, toys, vegetables, hams, or turkeys. They are also looking for individuals that might want to spend an hour or two helping on that afternoon. If you can help please send your contribution to Boy Scout Troop 106, PO Box 216, Columbia City, Oregon 97018 or call Bill Reese at (971) 328-2344 or email him at foresttoday@outlook.com for a pick-up of your item.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS**

**Sidewalks:** The owner of property abutting a sidewalk is responsible for keeping the sidewalk free of snow, ice, leaves, weeds, blackberries, and other obstructions.

**Attention pet owners!** You must pick up after your pets! It's the law!

**Steep slope excavation prohibited.** Ground excavation activities on steeply sloped properties are prohibited between October 1 and April 15.



**MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2018**

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm		Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm		Michael Allen Harrison concert in the Community Hall
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm		<del>Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - cancelled</del>
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED		City Hall is closed the day before Christmas Eve
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED		City Hall is closed the day after Christmas



***Holiday Bake Sale***  
**Place your order now!**

A group of skilled bakers has offered to make homemade goodies for the Christmas holiday. Prices are \$16 for each delicious treat. Order now to add them to your holiday tradition! All proceeds benefit the renovations to the Community Hall, "A Legacy to Treasure."

→ **Orders will be accepted at City Hall until 5 pm on Monday, December 17.**

→ **Pick up baked goods at City Hall on Monday, December 24 between 9 am and 10 am.**

**Note:** Special pick-up dates may be available upon request - please inquire at City Hall.

→ **To order, complete this form and return it to City Hall, 1840 Second Street, PO Box 189, Columbia City, OR 97018 with your payment.**



**How many?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Classic chocolate fudge
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cranberry nut bread
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkin bread  nuts  no nuts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Banana nut bread
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apple crisp
- \_\_\_\_\_ Peach rhubarb crumble
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blackberry crisp
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkin pie
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apple pie
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blackberry pie
- \_\_\_\_\_ Strawberry rhubarb pie
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkin cream cheese pie
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apple cake
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carrot cake
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee cake

**\$16.00 each – place your orders now!**  
**Orders due by 5 pm on 12/17**  
**Pick up items 12/24 from 9 am - 10 am**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Your address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Your phone number

**Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
*Payment must accompany your order*