

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING DATES

Two City Council positions will be filled by the voters during the November 3, 2020 General Election. Qualified electors who have resided within the City since November 3, 2019 may run for office. Nominating petitions are currently available at City Hall. The nominating petitions must be signed by 20 qualified electors, and candidates must submit the signature sheets to the City Administrator/Recorder for verification allowing sufficient time for the verification process to be completed prior to the August 25, 2020 filing deadline. The positions are for a term of four years.



WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT PUBLIC HEARING - JUNE 18, 2020, 6:15 PM

The Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2020, at 6:15 p.m. to accept testimony about proposed adjustments to the current water and sewer rates as recommended in the Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Summary Report. With the uncertainty of the re-opening status, the location of this meeting has yet to be determined. It is very likely the meeting will additionally be available via conference call. It is anticipated that the new rates will generate also revenue equal to approximately 3%. If approved, the new rates will take effect on June 26th and show up on the July 26th bills.

Monthly Water Rates (inside City limits)		
Residential Meter 3/4" or 5/8"	Current	Proposed
Base Rate - includes 100 cf	\$38.0000	\$39.1400
Per cf over 101 and up to 500	\$0.0230	\$0.0240
Per cf over 501 and up to 1000	\$0.0370	\$0.0380
Per cf over 1001	\$0.0510	\$0.0520

Monthly Sewer Rates		
Residential Connection	Current	Proposed
Minimum Base Rate	\$42.4400	\$43.7100
Usage Fee (per cf - Oct-May)	\$0.0079	\$0.0081
Usage Fee (per cf - Jun-Sep)	\$0.0000	\$0.0000

cf = cubic foot

Information about the proposed rates for other customer classes may be obtained by contacting City Hall.

The additional revenue will help pay for operation and maintenance costs associated with the utility systems, make annual debt payments, meet loan debt coverage requirements, and complete necessary capital improvements as outlined in the water and wastewater system master plans.

DOG PARK UPDATE

At the end of April the City posted signs considering the closure of the Dog Park. Large volumes of dog poop made grass maintenance difficult for the Public Works Department. The City is happy to



report that the park has shown much improvement and at this point will stay open. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

PHASE I OF RE-OPENING

The City has entered its Phase I re-opening for City buildings, which were closed to the public pursuant to Mayor Casey Wheeler's Emergency Declaration for the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic.

Effective Monday, May 18, 2020 both City Hall and the Public Works Shop were re-opened to



the public on a modified basis. City Hall is allowing two (2) visitors at a time in the front counter/lobby area and the Public Works Shop is allowing one (1) visitor at a time into its office. Social distancing measures, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitizing materials and COVID-19 informational/warning materials are in place at these facilities.

The Community Hall remains closed to rentals at this time, with the exception of the Columbia County Justice Court system which will return to operations after July 1, 2020. Full use of the Columbia City Community Hall is expected to resume when re-opening criteria and conditions can feasibly be met.

VETERANS PARK

Even though our Veterans Park event was cancelled for this year, the Park has still received a lot of attention from our volunteers. A big thank you to residents Jane Eggleston, Sally Ann Marson Debbie Johnstone and Leahnette & Buddy Rivers, for their hours of weeding, pruning roses, spreading bark dust and much much more! The St. Helens Garden Club has also stepped up! Members: Nell Harrison*, Tom & Fonda Lawson*, Stan Chiotti and Diana Washburn have done a beautiful job preparing the soil and planting the lovely petunias the Club donated. We love our volunteers!

**Also city residents.*

LOST AND FOUND

A black and neon yellow jacket with a set of keys in the pocket was found on the sidewalk near the Welcome to Columbia City sign off Highway 30. A single key on a coiled band was found by the dog park. If you think either of these items might be yours, please contact City Hall.

BUDGET HEARING – JUNE 18, 2020

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 6:15 p.m. on June 18, 2020. With the uncertainty of the re-opening status, the location of this meeting has yet to be determined. It is very likely the meeting will also be available via conference call. Testimony will be accepted about the budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 as approved by the Columbia City Budget Committee.



A full copy of the budget may be inspected at City Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon, and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It can also be found on our website.

STREET VACATION – K STREET

The City Council of Columbia City will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 6:15 p.m. With the uncertainty of the re-opening status, the location of this meeting has yet to be determined. It is very likely the meeting will also be available via conference call. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public input concerning a proposed petition to vacate a portion of K Street off Fourth Street north of L Street. The area is in between blocks 1 & 2 of Block 52 and Lot 3, 4, 5 & 6 of Block 53, Columbia City.



A petition to vacate this portion of K Street was filed with the City Recorder on April 30, 2020 by Richard & Bonny Wagoner. The petition was determined to be sufficient and meets the requirements of ORS 271.080. Written objections may be filed with the City Recorder by 5:00 p.m. on June 18, 2020. Comments can also be submitted in writing during the public hearing on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., at which time objections will be heard and considered.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Columbia City Community Library is approaching our 20 year anniversary this July! We would not be here without our wonderful community support that has continued and grown over the years. Thank you, everyone!

Unfortunately, with the Covid-19 pandemic we won't be able to do much to celebrate this year. The library has been operating at a very low level over the last two and a half months. Inventory was completed (after a February 2019 start!) and a few books were cataloged including some best sellers purchased in March right before everything closed. We checked out large print books to a lady who was providing them to her 100-year-old neighbor! And several times we have given books to elderly readers and home bound children.

In June, we will be starting the process of re-opening to the community. Since most of our volunteers are retired, only the Library Director, Cathy Lundberg, will be working while Oregon is in Phase 1 of the re-opening. We will have restrictions and requirements to allow patrons to safely use the library, including limiting how many people are in the library and visits by appointment. The restrictions will be posted at the library, and here is what you can expect:

1. Please email the librarian to setup an appointment to return, borrow, or purchase books. Please include your phone number in your email so the library staff can call you to schedule a time. Email address: cjl80@hotmail.com (To leave a voice message on the library phone call 503-366-8020.)
2. Starting June 1, the library will be open on Mondays 10-2 p.m. and Thursdays 3-6 p.m. Outside of the above hours appointments can be made with the library staff.
3. A bin will be located inside the front door entrance to place book returns. Staff will leave the items returned in the bin for two or more days before checking them in as returned.
4. All persons, including patrons and staff must wear mask and gloves during the appointments. Please bring your own mask and wear it. Rubber gloves will be provided during your visit.
5. If you arrive as a family, please stay together as a group and keep six feet distance from other people.
6. If the library is staffed and a patron arrives without an appointment, and the patron agrees

to follow the restrictions while remaining a six foot distance from other people or groups, use of the library can be granted by the staff.

7. No portapotty will be available for public use. The facility is locked.
8. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance, please feel free to use.
9. If a visitor refuses to wear a mask while in the building, no service will be provided and the staff member has the authority to ask the individual to either wear a mask fully covering their nose and mouth or leave the building. We are required to protect ourselves and others from possible harm.
10. A list of names and addresses of visitors will be kept for the month of June.

Columbia City Celebration 2020. The City Celebration for this year has been cancelled. It falls within the time that large gatherings are not allowed. We will try to have a book sale in the fall. In the meantime, Second Hand Prose will be open Mondays and Thursdays or by appointment! Email cl80@hotmail.com with your name and phone number to set up a time to visit.

Summer Reading Program. Program theme this year is "Imagine Your Story" with a focus on fantasy and fairy tales. We will not have a story time this summer, unfortunately, but we will have reading logs. When your reading log is turned in, you will get a small prize, and you will be entered to win a grand prize at the end of the summer. Encourage your children to read, it will help them when they can finally return to school this fall!

We have a Little Library in a bin on the front porch of the library. Please choose books, read them and return to the bin. Starting June 15th, we will have Summer Reading Logs in the bin.

Again, thank you all for your continued support of your Library during these different and difficult times. We hope that our efforts to re-open gradually will encourage you to make an appointment and utilize this valuable community asset.

Columbia City Community Library
2000 Second Street / PO Box 189 / Columbia City
503-366-8020 / ccclibrary@live.com



Library Hours:

Mondays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thursdays 3 – 6 p.m.



Browse our book catalog:

<https://columbiacitycommunitylibrary.follettdestiny.com>

**THE COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRANSFER STATION**

1601 Railroad Avenue
St. Helens OR 97051

Regular Business Hours:
Open Monday – Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm

*If you have any questions about hazardous collection
events, please call:
(503) 397-7259*

JUNE HHW EVENT CANCELED



BUILDING PROJECTS

With more spare time on your hands, have you considered a remodel of your home? Do you need a permit? This is a question many people should be asking themselves when planning alterations to their home. A decision not to get a permit could be very costly. Some homeowners are finding when they try to sell or refinance their home, prospective buyers or lending institutions want proof that alterations are in compliance with local codes and permits and inspection were acquired. Without a permit and inspections on record, there is no proof. The homeowner must then apply for a permit with no guarantee that the remodel will meet the codes, and they face the possibility that the remodel must be redone or removed. This is costly and frustrating and could cause delays in refinancing or a lost sale of the home.

In general, you do not need a building permit for projects that are less than 10 feet tall and less than 200 square feet. All construction projects, including sheds, must still meet the applicable lot coverage and setback regulations by zone and require a placement review approved by the City Planner.

Working without a permit will result in additional fees until a permit is obtained.

It's always better to be safe than sorry, so call or come in to City Hall to speak with someone before you start construction.

SERGEANTS CORNER

Increased Vehicle Traffic. With Oregon moving into Phase 1 of the re-opening of society, we have already seen traffic volumes beginning to increase. Please watch out for one another and obey all the traffic rules. Officers will be monitoring speed more closely to keep our streets and highway safe for those returning to work.

With the lack of vehicle traffic our pedestrian traffic has increased so please be careful and watch out for those who are still at home and out for a walk.

The following is a summary of the Police Department Activity for the month of April: 3 animal complaints, 2 assist persons, 3 cold theft calls, 6 cold fraud, 3 civil complaints, 4 follow up investigations, 5 radio calls, 3 suspicious circumstance, 1 overdose, 2 suspicious vehicles, 1 welfare check, 6 traffic stops and 7 premise checks. Over all there were 68 activities for the month of April.

The Police Department would like to request your continued support in being our eyes and ears in the community. Please feel free to contact us via 9-1-1 (emergency), 503-397-4010 (office), or 503-397-1521 (non-emergency dispatch).

Best regards ~ Sergeant Jerry Bartolomucci

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JUNE 2020

June 9 th	2:30 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
June 16 th	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at TBD
June 18 th	6:15 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting/Budget Hearing at TBD
June 22 nd	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at TBD