

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2024



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### COLUMBIA CITY MAYOR & COUNCIL CANDIDATES

The City has one candidate running for mayor and two candidates running for two open council positions on the November ballot. Below is some information written and submitted by our candidates.



**Mayor: Alexander Reed** "Let me introduce myself, I am Alexander Reed and I am running for mayor of Columbia City. I have been a resident of beautiful Columbia City for 23 years. My wife of 15 years and I have 3 kids, 2 live at home and one is an adult with her own family. I've been teaching at St. Helens High School for 25 years. I, of course, enjoy the summer breaks, which give me an opportunity to go camping with my family. Whether its gardening, visiting the many parks in town or riding bikes with my kids, I enjoy being outside. Previously, I was a member of the budget committee for several years and I know I will make a solid addition as mayor of Columbia City."

**City Council: Connie Quick** In January 2024 Connie was appointed and sworn in as City Councilor to fill a vacancy. Connie is running to continue her City Council position in Columbia City because she genuinely cares about the community where she lives and raised her family. With her background in human resources from Portland State University and over twenty years at Columbia River PUD, she has gained valuable experience that she applies to her initiatives. As a member and former President of the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce and the St. Helens Student Foundation, Connie has shown her commitment to local development and the future of the region.

After retiring, she started an informal neighborhood group to help neighbors connect by sharing contact information. This effort has been helpful in keeping everyone informed and engaged. Connie hopes to expand this model to all of Columbia City, reflecting her desire to encourage more community involvement. She understands the importance of

adapting to change and believes in supporting residents as they take part in shaping their community's future. By promoting participation, Connie aims to foster a sense of belonging and collaboration that can contribute to positive change in Columbia City. Her efforts could help strengthen the community and create more connections among residents.

**City Council: Lyle Bluhm** I am a Senior Application Engineer for Seco Tools Inc. I am an accomplished sales professional with a background in metal cutting applications. I enjoy using my skills to engineer, educate and train my customers in the latest metal working trends.

I was born and raised in Chehalis, Washington. I joined the US Navy out of high school, where I served for four and a half years as a Machinery Repairman. After the service I moved to Scappoose for a few years and then in 1996 I moved to Columbia City.

I am currently serving on the Budget committee for Columbia City, which I was appointed to in May 2005.

My goal is to be elected to the Columbia City Council. I am looking forward to working with the other council members to make this our City. Columbia City is a small bedroom community with a great small town feel with neighbors looking out for neighbors. I want to make a small contribution by representing the voice of the people on our City Council. Thank You. ~ Lyle Bluhm

### SAVE THE DATE MICHAEL ALLEN HARRISON HOLIDAY CONCERT

Michael Allen Harrison, Portland area composer, songwriter and pianist, will be returning for a Holiday Concert in Columbia City on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm, tickets will go on sale in November for this special event.



## **CITY RECEIVES 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT AWARD**

We are pleased to announce the City has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$40,000 under the 2024 Local Government Grant Program (LGGP). The LGGP is a voter approved, State lottery funded grant program administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The City submitted an application in May of 2024 and in September received notification of approval. The City plans to use the funds towards updating the Parks Master Plan which was last updated in September 2001.

As part of the process watch in future newsletters for surveys asking residents for their input on how you want to shape the future of the parks in the City. Thank you in advance for your participation.

## **FUGITIVE DUST COMMUNITY MEETING FOLLOW UP**

*Article provided by resident Jan from Lower Columbia City*

Thank you to all who attended the August meeting with Lignetics and The Port of Columbia County representatives. The following is a brief recap as well as some subsequent information.

Lignetics confirmed that all the improvements the company committed to in the previous community meeting in February were in process; dispersion modeling had been submitted to DEQ, who asked for minimal changes; these changes have been subsequently submitted. Although the original DEQ response took several months, Lignetics is optimistic that completion can be achieved by June, 2025. Portions of the new equipment have already arrived onsite. Lignetics also is in compliance with the recent DEQ requirement that all raw material be stored under cover.

Additional discussion centered on the need for improvement to the existing hammermill and bag house. It was determined that the new hammermill purchased by Lignetics would require a larger bag house and transformer. Lignetics, The Port and CRPUD are in discussion on how to accomplish this task. This upgrade was not part of the initial scope of work and will also require DEQ approval. It is reasonable to believe this improvement will likely be implemented and will further help reduce dust the pollution.

After many meetings with Lignetics since they acquired the operation, and years of residents dealing with the plants pollution issues, it now seems the above improvements should positively impact the pollution coming from the plant. Lignetics is planning a meeting in the spring to provide updates on the completion of the projects. The community's involvement has been a major factor in driving this progress. Your feedback, thoughts and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated!

## **OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS COMING IN NOVEMBER**



Columbia City's burn period is scheduled to begin **Saturday, November 2,** and end **Sunday, November 17.**

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

At a recent City Council meeting, the question was asked if the City had ever considered making their meetings available by livestream to the public. If this option was available, would you watch and or participate more in city meetings? Please provide your thoughts and input to: [colcity@columbia-city.org](mailto:colcity@columbia-city.org). Thank you in advance for your feedback.

## **CURBSIDE YARD DEBRIS EXTRA NOVEMBER COLLECTIONS**

Don't forget!! Hudson Garbage Service will provide weekly curbside yard debris collections for subscribed Columbia City customers during the month of November. Yard debris service is provided on an every-other-week basis during the remaining 11 months of the year. Yard debris collection service is provided on the same weekday as the customer's regular garbage collection service. Interested citizens may subscribe for the yard debris service for a minimum period of one year by contacting Hudson Garbage Service at (503) 397-1534.

### **Caples House is Looking for Volunteers**

The Caples House is looking for volunteers to assist as docents. They will be provided training and will assist in the "behind-the-scenes" work of the museum complex, as they share some of history of Columbia City with visitors. Please email: [Caples.House@OregonDAR.org](mailto:Caples.House@OregonDAR.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

## A VIEW INTO THE PAST 1954 Highway Improvement

By Mark Stevens - [markstevens@colcomuseum.org](mailto:markstevens@colcomuseum.org)

Did you know that there used to be service stations, tavern's and homes along Highway 30 that were removed when the highway was straightened and widened in 1954?

From the June 1, 1954 Sentinel Mist – “**New Columbia River Highway Will Change Landscape For Many Miles Between St. Helens and Goble**”.

“The new section of highway between St. Helens and Goble, which will begin as soon as several right-of-ways have been cleared, will create almost a new landscape between the two towns” (Columbia City and Deer Island).

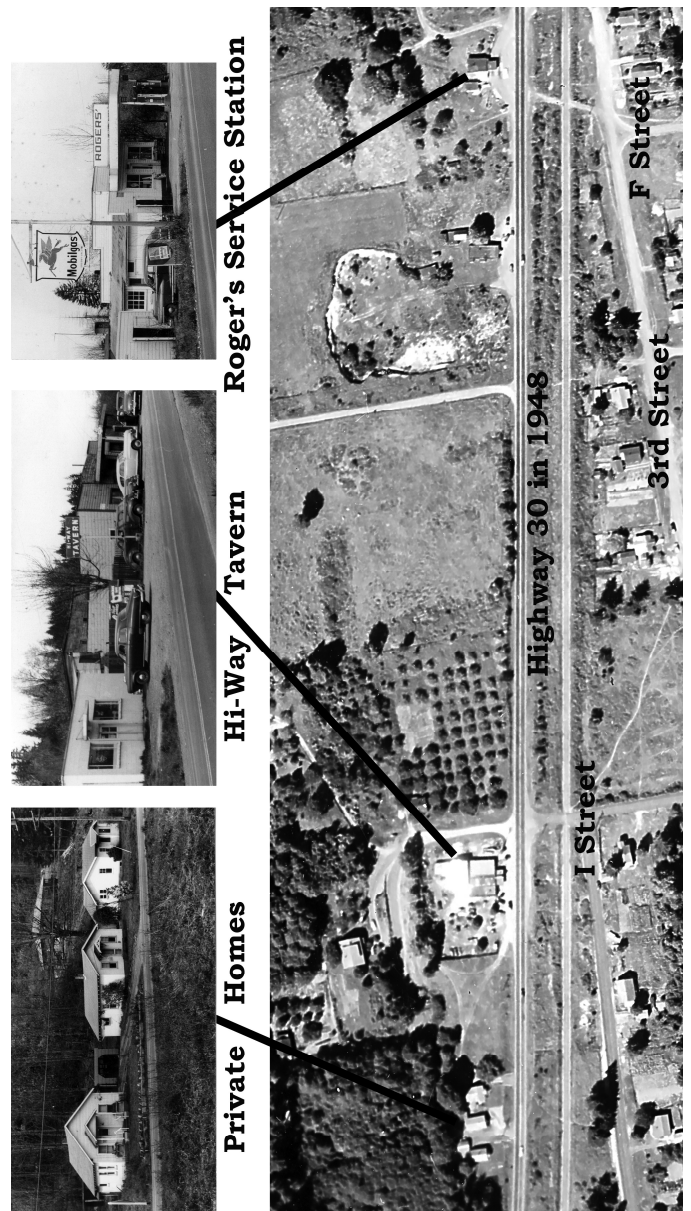
“Homes and stores which have been along the highway for years will have to be or have been torn down to make way for the new road which eventually may be a four-lane expressway.”

“Many of the homes along the highway were purchased by the state highway commission and then auctioned off during two separate auctions. However, some were moved to other properties owned by the owners of the homes.”

“Set to be moved or torn down is the Columbia City Auto Wreckers, the Cabin lunch room and Rogers’ service station as well as several homes.”

The illustration to the right is of a few of the businesses and homes that were impacted.

The following February 1955, Ivan Roger’s built his new store and service station on Second and I Street.



### CAPLES HOUSE – OCTOBER EVENTS

Caples Museum Tours  
**Temporary** Hours: Friday 1 to 4 pm  
Closed Saturday & Sunday  
\$5 adult / \$4 children

Teas and Sweets – in the Cottage  
Every Friday Afternoon 2 to 4 pm  
\$5 tea (or coffee) and a dessert plate



### Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 12 to 5 pm

Come enjoy apple cider pressing, pioneer era crafts and games, stories, demonstrations and so much more. Guest Speaker at 1 pm – Darrell Jabin, Oregon’s Traveling Historian, will share a presentation titled: “31 Women; Oregon wouldn’t be the same without them!” Museum tours will be available from 2 to 4 pm. Admission is free, but there will be a bake sale, food available for purchase and raffle opportunities. The event is mostly outside, so dress accordingly.

Watch [www.CaplesHouse.com](http://www.CaplesHouse.com) for upcoming events and opportunities.

## LIBRARY NEWS

**Kid's Corner News.** The library will be updating our children's corner with educational toys, seating and signage. We are asking for input from parents of young children. Please contact us at 503-369-6091 with suggestions or if you want to be involved. This project is funded by a grant from the Roundhouse Foundation, whose focus is on enhancing rural communities in Oregon. We have purchased all of Oregon's Battle of the Books selections, a great assortment of books for your children to read, from third grade through high school!

**Events at the Library.** We will have a pumpkin carving event for the kids on Saturday, October 19, be sure to register, see information below. We have a whole bunch of workshops planned, including cards,



a necklace or keychain and BOO or EEK decorations! Please see our website for more information and costs.

**Novel Quilters.** The Novel Quilters have finished reading *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, and will show quilts based on the book on Wednesday, October 16 at 2 pm. The public is welcome to attend and see the quilts. The next book will be revealed at the meeting.

**Second Hand Prose.** October's half price special in Second Hand Prose is science fiction and fantasy. Come browse the shelves and find your next new read!

**Storytime:** Every Monday at 11 am

### Card Workshops:

Tuesday, October 1 – 1 to 2 pm

Thursday, October 3 – 6 to 7 pm

Saturday, October 5 – 2 to 3 pm

### Necklace or Keychain Workshop:

Saturday, October 5 – 3 to 4 pm

### Novel Quilters (Quilt Reveal):

Wednesday, October 16 at 2 pm

**Pumpkin Carving:** Saturday, October 19 at 1 pm

### Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, October 21 at 6:30 pm

### BOO or EEK Workshop:

Tuesday, October 22 – 10 am to 1 pm

### Mystery Book Club:

Wednesday, October 30 at 7 pm

### Columbia City Community Library

Mon. & Sat. 10 – 2 pm / Wed. & Thu. 3 – 6 pm

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[ccclibrary@live.com](mailto:ccclibrary@live.com)

[www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com](http://www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com)

### Reach our book catalog:

<https://columbiacitycommunitylibrary.follettdestiny.com>

## CHIEF'S CORNER

**Fall weather.** Now that fall is here, it is time to start thinking about getting your vehicle ready for the bad weather ahead. Check your tires to be sure you have enough tread to maintain adequate traction. Install new wipers and washer fluid so you have good visibility. Keep some extra snacks and blankets in the vehicle just in case you have a breakdown or become stranded for any reason. As you drive make sure you continually watch the road conditions. Surface appraisal is essential to avoiding crashes. Give yourself more distance and reduce speed. There will be a lot of oil coming to the surface of the roads when the rain starts so be prepared for slippery conditions. Preparation is key to making our roads safe for all.

The Police Department serviced 127 different activities during August 2024.

The Police Department requests 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 ~ Chief Jerry Bartolomucci

## OCTOBER 2024 MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

October 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting at City Hall
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall