

# COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

## May 2020

**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY**  
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### The City of Columbia City

*In Columbia County on the Columbia River*



## CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

Columbia City provides a range of services to the community. We'd like to ask you to please take a moment to let us know how we are doing. Your input is important to us, and we look forward to hearing how we might better serve you. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and you need not answer all of the questions.

***Your feedback is appreciated!***

***Please return completed surveys to City Hall during the month of May***

**PO Box 189 ♦ 1840 Second Street ♦ Columbia City, Oregon 97018**

**Phone 503-397-4010 ♦ Fax 503-366-2870**

**E-mail [colcity@columbia-city.org](mailto:colcity@columbia-city.org) ♦ Web site [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org)**

### Question 1:

A. In the past year or so have you, or has anyone in your household, had a direct contact with a representative of the City Hall Office?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (skip to Question 2)

B. If you answered yes to Question 1A, please indicate the nature of the contact(s) and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied

5=very satisfied

_____ Water or Sewer Utility Payment or Inquiry	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Municipal Court Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Building, Plumbing or Mechanical Permit	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Nuisance/Code Violation Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Land Use Related	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Street Light Problem	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:**

A. In the past year or so have you, or has anyone in your household, had a direct contact with a representative of the Police Department?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (skip to Question 3)

B. If you answered yes to Question 2A, please indicate the nature of the contact(s) and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied

5=very satisfied

_____ Criminal Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Traffic Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Traffic Stop	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Nuisance/Code Violation Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:**

A. In the past year or so have you, or has anyone in your household, had a direct contact with a representative of the Public Works Department?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (skip to Question 4)

B. If you answered yes to Question 3A, please indicate the nature of the contact(s) and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied

5=very satisfied

_____ Water Service Need or Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Sewer Service Need or Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Park Facility Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Storm Drain Problem	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Street Maintenance Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 4:**

What is your perception of the overall quality of services provided by the City of Columbia City? (circle one)

1  
(Poor)

2

3

4

5  
(Excellent)

Additional comments you would like to make: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **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.

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SET**

The Columbia City Budget Committee will meet on Friday, May 29th, 2020 at 6:15 pm at the Columbia City Community Hall at 1850 Second Street. Alternate attendance and participation in the budget meeting may be accomplished by participating in a teleconference call. For those wishing to do so, please call 425-436-6318 and utilize the access code of 752011\*. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message, to receive comment from the public on the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and to discuss the possible use of revenue sharing funds. A copy of the proposed budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 22, 2020.

## **REMINDER THE FOLLOWING EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

Michael Allen Harrison Concert – 5/4/2020  
Memorial Day Ceremony – 5/25/2020

## **A WORD FROM THE MAYOR**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created hardships for us all in different ways. I want to thank all of you for doing your part in helping to flatten the curve in Oregon, our county and our city. You have maintained a safe distance from others when out walking or in our parks. You have checked on elderly neighbors to make sure they have the supplies they need. You have kept your trips to the store to a minimum. You have developed fun activities for children while maintaining a safe distance. You have continued to support local businesses by buying takeout meals or purchasing gift cards. You have recognized the efforts of essential workers in our community and the unique

challenges they face on a daily basis. You are what makes our city a fantastic place to live.

I also want to thank the employees of our city. They have continued to maintain the level of service that we have come to expect from them while maintaining all of the safe measures to protect you and themselves.

We are all looking forward to a time when life will return to a somewhat normal routine. It may not be as soon as some would like and too soon for others. We will get through this and be a stronger community because of it.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone to fill out their census form as this is an important piece in determining future federal funding for our state, counties and city. I would also ask that you make sure to complete your May ballots and send them in. We are fortunate that we are not forced to make a decision to stand in line to cast our vote or stay home for fear of getting ill. Again, thank you for all that you do to make our city a great place to live.

## **BRICKS STILL AVAILABLE ON THE VETERANS PARK MEMORIAL WALL**

Even though we will not be having our annual Memorial Day event at the Veterans Park, there are still bricks available on our 5<sup>th</sup> and final wall. If purchased by Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> they will be engraved late May or early June.

You can also purchase a brick in support of the Park or as a sponsor. These bricks are located at the base of any of the walls.

All bricks are \$75.00. Forms are available online at the City's website or contact City Hall.

## **FREE VEGETABLE SEEDS AVAILABLE**

Your local Columbia-Pacific Food Bank and Master Gardener's chapter have free vegetable seeds available. Look for the bright yellow box at the Columbia City Post Office and plant a row for yourself and a row for the Food Bank. As the weather warms it is a perfect time to share the joys of growing your own food with your children and a way to give back to the community.



## CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

It sure was a very good day for Columbia City when Sally Ann Marson and her husband, Leonard, decided to leave Portland and move here. Right away Sally Ann began to attend City Council Meetings... and she was soon appointed to the Planning Commission. In 2007 she was appointed to the City Council - a position she still holds today. During her time in office, she has served as City Council President, Chair of the Parks, Streets and Audit Committee and member of the Water and Sewer Committee. She's also served on a variety of subcommittees, ad hoc committees, advisory committees, boards and commissions at the City and County levels.

In Columbia City, Sally Ann has made many substantial and significant contributions to the community that will last for years and years to come! Just a few of those include:

- The Michael Allen Harrison concerts! Yep! It was her idea to bring Michael Allen Harrison to Columbia City to raise funds for the Community Hall refurbishment project.
- Marson's Garden, named after Sally Ann, is the beautiful rose garden around the City's entrance sign area. She spends hundreds of hours each year maintaining those roses!
- The Columbia City Quiet Zone, which prohibits the sounding of routine train horns. Bet you didn't know - but it was her idea to pursue the Quiet Zone in the first place... it's a rare designation that is coveted by many other communities.
- If there's an event going on, you can pretty much bet she's behind the scenes setting up, cleaning up, cooking, organizing, baking, planting, donating... the list just goes on and on and on...

She is retired from US Bancorp and the St. Helens Federal Credit Union. She's also an avid (and expert) gardener, decorator, baker, hostess, walker and volunteer! And did you know that she is a true cat lover through and through? Yep - it sure was a very good day for Columbia City when Sally Ann and Leonard decided to leave Portland and move here...

### LOST AND FOUND

A bike was found on Smith Road, if you think it belongs to you, please contact City Hall.

## 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 pm to accept testimony about proposed adjustments to the current water and sewer rates as recommended in the Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Summary Report. It is anticipated that the new rates will generate additional revenue equal to approximately 3%. If approved, the new rates will take effect on June 26 and show up on the July 26 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.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Like a lot of other community services, the library is closed until allowed to reopen. A little work is still being done at the library, such as inventory and processing a few books. But we can't accept book donations right now and you need to keep your overdue books until we reopen.

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. Email the library if you have book suggestions. Sorry, they won't be the current best sellers!

**Online Resources.** The St. Helens Public Library is now offering a digital-access only library card to our community members. This card is available to anyone regardless of residential address, age or status of your current St. Helens Library Card. Cards will be good until June 30, 2020. With the card, you have access to Library2Go, Freegal, RBDigital and we are working to grant access to Gale databases and A-Z World Foods in the coming days. Sign-up for your card today.

Register online at <https://www.ci-st-helens.or.us/library>. Another resource is stories.audible.com. All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet.

**Free Books for Children.** Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five in Columbia County. Currently, the program mails over 1,200 specially selected, age-appropriate books monthly to registered children. The goal of the program is to create a lifelong love of reading, prepare children for school, and inspire them to dream.

Starting with only a handful of participants in 2018, Columbia Counties Imagination Library has grown to serve 1,764 children over the past 20 months. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is not expecting

any delays in delivery during COVID-19 and is eager to enroll more Columbia County children to build their home libraries. To sign-up your child, visit <https://imaginationlibrary.com/> or call United Way of Columbia County at (503) 556-3614. This program costs about \$25.00 per child to administer. To make a tax-deductible contribution to this program, large or small, text DOLLYP to 41444.

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

## SERGEANTS CORNER

**Fraudulent Text Messages.** With the stay at home order still in place we have seen the fraud activity via phone increasing. If you receive a text message or phone call from someone you do not know, please do not respond. Several of these scammers will tell you they need your information to send you a stimulus check. If they are asking for any personnel information, passwords, or account information do not provide that information. Please call your local Police Department to report any fraudulent calls you receive.

The following is a summary of the Police Department Activity for the month of March: 3 animal complaints, 3 agency assist, 3 assist persons, 4 civil complaints, 1 Domestic violence call, 1 missing person call, 1 warrant arrest, 7 follow up investigations, 12 radio calls, 3 suspicious circumstances, 7 suspicious persons, 4 welfare checks and 19 traffic stops.

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 - MAY 2020

May 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Michael Allen Harrison Concert at Community Hall - <b>Cancelled</b>
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall – <b>Set Over to 7/9/2020</b>
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - <b>Cancelled</b>
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting <b>via conference call</b>
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	2020-21 City Budget available for public review
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – noon	Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park - <b>Cancelled</b>
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Memorial Day
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 p.m.	Budget Committee Meeting <b>at Columbia City Community Hall</b>

# 2020 Census FAQ

## What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

## What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

## Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

## When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

## What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

## What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

**2020CENSUS.GOV**

**Shape  
your future  
START HERE >**

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**Census  
2020**

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