



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY  
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### PASSING OF MAYOR SUSAN ZIGLINSKI

On Friday, November 10, 2023 Mayor Susan (Sue) Ziglinski passed away.

She would often say, "Never be boring". . . and she certainly never was!!!! Sue will be remembered as having a "sparkling" personality which was reflected by her color coordinated outfits from head to toe including glittery eye shadow.

Sue and her family moved to Columbia City in 1993. She started as a City Council member and served for four years before becoming Mayor on January 19, 2023. Though she had not been Mayor long, she really got involved with the community and truly enjoyed learning all about her new role.

She was very generous with her time, and besides being Mayor of Columbia City, she was active in many other organizations including the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, Native American Rehabilitation Center, Stumptown Stages and the Oregon Golf Association, just to name a few.

Scott Ziglinski, Sue's son was quoted to say, "She was the person you sought out when the most important thing in the world was to hear something positive."

City Staff, and others, will remember her fun email sign-off: "Never drive faster than your guardian angels can fly."

Family advised that a public memorial service will not be held until sometime in the summer of 2024. When information becomes available it will be posted to the City's website and Facebook page.

Thank you for your support and patience as we transition through this unfortunate and unexpected change in our City.

### VACANT CITY COUNCIL POSITION

On Thursday, November 16, 2023 the City Council of Columbia City unanimously voted City Council member Katrina Claridge to take over as Mayor of

Columbia City until the next general election.

With Katrina taking on the role as Mayor, there is a vacancy on the City Council. If you are interested in serving on the City Council, you must have resided in Columbia City for at least one year immediately before appointment to office and be a qualified elector.

Public Service Applications are available online at the City's website or at City Hall. Interested parties can stop by City Hall at 1840 Second Street or go online to: [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org), "Doing Business", and "Public Service Forms".

Applications will be accepted at City Hall until Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Then at the December 21, 2023 City Council meeting, interviews will be done by the Mayor and Council.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Interim City Administrator, Kim Karber by calling City Hall or emailing her at: [kkarber@columbia-city.org](mailto:kkarber@columbia-city.org).

### CHRISTMAS SHIP EVENT – December 9<sup>th</sup>

The Christmas Ships assemble at the St. Helens City Docks at 6 p.m. and head downriver to Columbia City. If weather/river conditions permit, they will cross to the Washington side of the river and pass by the Columbia Riverfront RV Park in Woodland, and then pass by Columbia City again on their return trip to St. Helens. The fleet will be out for approximately two hours.



### BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCY

There is currently an opening on the Budget Committee. They meet at least once annually to review the proposed budget, hear public testimony and approve a budget for submission to the City Council. Budget Committee terms are for a period of three years, but the current vacancy goes through 12/31/2025. Applicants must reside within the City. If interested, please inquire at City Hall.

## SUCCESSFUL PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE

A big THANK YOU to all who donated peanut butter! It has been a huge success with 185 jars donated as of November 27<sup>th</sup>!

### CHIEF'S CORNER

**Weather changes and road conditions.** We have arrived at the time of year when we should be checking the weather and our road conditions prior to venturing out to the store or any other destinations we are headed to. Nowadays the weather predictions can easily be found on your tv or smart phone. Make sure you are prepared for any bad weather by stocking your vehicle with survival items such as water, food, extra clothing and blankets. You never know when you could run into a closed road or just get stuck alongside the road. Some preplanning can go a long way to saving your life. These same conditions can create hazardous conditions for the kids who are walking to and from bus stops. Please keep an eye out for them. Slow down and give them plenty of room. We wish you all safe travels.

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 ~ Chief Jerry Bartolomucci

### A VIEW INTO THE PAST

#### The Sommarstrom Shipbuilding Company (Part 2)

By Mark Stevens –

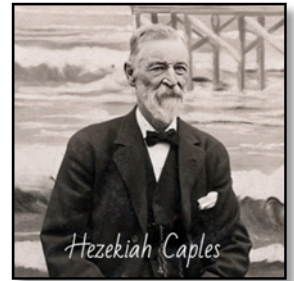
[markstevens@colcomuseum.org](mailto:markstevens@colcomuseum.org)

You may wonder, why did the Sommarstrom's pick Columbia City for a shipyard? It turns out it was due to a local connection. On May 11, 1917 an article was published in the St. Helens Mist that stated that M. F. Sommarstrom had made a visit to the Northwest in search of a suitable shipyard site and that when he passed Columbia City he recognized the potential there. The article also mentions that upon returning to San Francisco that he mentioned to a Mr. Baxter who was a prominent banker that he had found the site he intended to purchase to build the shipyard and Mr. Baxter tells him he is familiar with the site.

Yes, Mr. Baxter was quite familiar with the site. There was much more to this than meets the eye. Mr. Baxter was none other than the husband of the widow of

Senator George Wycliffe McBride who had passed away in 1911 leaving property in Columbia City to his wife Laura. Laura was none-other than the sister-in-law of Lucinda McBride Caples. Lucinda and George McBride's father was Dr. Thomas McBride. Laura had married Maxwell P. Baxter after George McBride died.

The majority of the property that the Sommarstrom's had purchased was owned by Hezekiah Caples. So, Laura was the wife of George McBride who was the brother-in-law of Hezekiah Caples. Hezekiah is the father of my Great Grandfather Hugh Caples. Hugh married my Great Grandmother Ida LeRoy Armstrong. Hugh and Ida had no children. So Hezekiah is my Great Great Grandfather but not by blood. So quite simply, Laura Baxter was the wife of the brother-in-law of the uncle of the husband of my Great Grandmother. To make matters even more confusing for me is that Hezekiah's wife Minerva Bonser is my cousin which makes my Great Grandfather Hugh Caples also my cousin.



Here is a photo of Laura my..... well here is a photo of Laura.

If you can follow all of that, more power to you, as it kind of reminds me of the song "I am my own grandpa".

So it was no coincidence that M. F. Sommarstrom chose Columbia City. It made a good story that as he passed by the city he found it enticing. In reality his good friend had real estate interest here.

So I guess if George McBride had not passed on when he did that there may never have been a shipyard at Columbia City and the future of the South end of the city would have looked quite different. Since the home my folks purchased was built by the Sommarstrom's I may have never been born here and lived here and thence this story would have never been written ☺.

Next we will discuss what changes took place in Columbia City in order to facilitate the construction of eight wooden ships.

## CAPLES HOUSE

Did you know that celebrating Christmas was ILLEGAL in some early American colonies? Well, YOUR local museum is available to help you celebrate Christmas. Not only will we be happy to schedule tours of our museums while your family is visiting, but we have space for you to rent in our meeting areas, as well as making available our certified catering kitchen to help handle your additional cooking needs. Our on-site coordinator, Gene Foley, will be happy to reserve space for your needs. As a historian and genealogist, he can also customize the tours to your family's interests. So, this season, make the Caples House Museum complex a part of your celebrations. Call 971-203-3533 to reserve your time, your space, or schedule a tour.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Go Christmas shopping at the library! We have a lot of books in very nice condition. Help us upcycle our books!

Friends of the Columbia City Community Library have elected our 2024-2026 officers. Our President is Kit Gardes, Vice President is Paulette Lichatowich, Secretary is Wendy Wells and Treasurer is Rachelle Cade. Our Past President is Kay Brown, and our Library Director is Cathy Lundberg. Our meetings are held the third Monday of each month, but we will not meet in December. Friends of the Library is our governing body, and directs how the library is run. It is also the fundraiser for our library, so your membership helps keep the library open!

**Digital Resources.** We have been looking at digital resources our patrons can access. Links to several are listed on our website.

Project Gutenberg has over 70,000 free eBooks, containing the world's great literature. Their focus is on older works for which the US copyright has expired.

- <https://digital.osl.state.or.us/> is a link to the State Library of Oregon Digital Collections
- <https://secondary.oslis.org/find-information/i-need-to-find-information> is a website for the Oregon School Library Information System, aimed at students

**A Short Story.** An estate sale was held, but unwittingly all of the family's remaining books were donated to our library by the estate sales person. Fast forward to the August City Celebration book sale. With grateful tears in her eyes, the lady's daughter was able to find many of the family cookbooks and add them to her own bookshelves. Mother's favorite recipes are not lost.

**New to the Library.** Amazon has listed their selection of the 10 best books of 2023, and we either have or have ordered all of them. This month we added 55 titles to the library, some include:

*His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham  
*Speaking For Myself* by Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
*Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing* by Matthew Perry (best seller)  
*Win* by Harlan Coben (past best seller)  
*The Armor of Light* by Ken Follett (recent best seller)  
*Starling House* by Alix E. Harrow (recent best seller)  
*Troubles in Paradise* by Elin Hilderbrand (past best seller)  
*Poison* by John T. Lescroart  
*The Last Trial* by Scott Turow  
*Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner  
*A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara (best seller)

### Storytime:

Every Monday at 11 am

### Friends of the Library Meeting:

No Meeting in December

### Mystery Book Club:

Wednesday, December 27 at 7 pm

### Library CLOSED

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas**

**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day**

### Columbia City Community Library

Mon. & Sat. 10 – 2 pm / Wed. & Thu. 3 – 6 pm  
2000 Second Street / PO Box 189  
Columbia City, OR 97018  
503-366-8020

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

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

### Reach our book catalog:

<https://columbiacitycommunitylibrary.follettdestiny.com>

**Blood Drive**  
**Columbia City Community Hall**  
 1850 Second Street  
 Columbia City, OR 97018  
**Wednesday, December 27, 2023**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
 To Schedule your appointment or for more information,  
 please call 1-800-RED-CROSS  
 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
 Sponsor Code: ColumbiaCC

**COLUMBIA CITY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY  
 RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)  
 INFORMATIONAL SURVEY**

The Columbia City Mayor and City Council are requesting a public interest survey regarding the formation of a Columbia City Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The CERT program educates local and regional volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. CERT members are trained to save lives and property until professional responders (Police, Fire, and Medical) can arrive. These volunteers are specially trained to

help others, without putting themselves in harm's way.

The CERT program trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as:

- Fire safety
- Light search and rescue
- Team organization
- Disaster medical operations
- Disaster Preparedness

The basic CERT program is usually about 28 hours of class, offered on Saturdays and Sundays for about a month. There are additional advanced classes for those who complete basic CERT training and want to learn and do more.

The City Council is looking for 10 to 12 interested community volunteers, no younger than 18 years of age, who can pass a basic background check, and who are interested in helping their local community during local and regional disaster events, i.e. earthquakes, floods, volcanic activities, fires, and medical assistance needs.

If you have an interest, please fill out the Survey below and return it to Columbia City, City Hall by January 15, 2024.








**COLUMBIA CITY CERT INVOLVEMENT SURVEY**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What skills do you have that you could contribute in the case of an emergency? Select all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid/Medical Provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Care                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Search & Rescue/ CERT Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Counseling          | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Fighting                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Ham Radio         | Other: _____  |

**MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2023**

	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 p.m.		Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall	
	December 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.		Municipal Court at City Hall	
	December 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.		Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall and via Zoom*	
	December 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 p.m.		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall	
	December 25 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED		City Hall is closed for the Christmas holiday	
	December 26 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED		City Hall is closed for the Christmas holiday	

\*For zoom information contact City Hall.