

Columbia City Newsletter



February 2023



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NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR SUSAN (SUE) ZIGLINSKI

I have lived in Columbia City since 1993. I have recently been elected Mayor of Columbia City and have served on the City Council for 4 years. The community of Columbia City is a place where wonderful people live that love their city. I am currently learning the ropes of my new position. I have been asked my goals for the city, I would like to see our small community continue to be a helpful, peaceful, enjoyable, agreeable community. Everyplace has their ups and downs but I want the Community with the help of the City Staff to be able to work through our issues together and solve any problems we may have.

The city has opportunities for our community members to become more involved by volunteering. We currently have openings on the Budget and Parks Committees. We are always interested in new volunteers. We also have a committee called the Fast Team which helps stuff our envelopes with newsletters and billings to be mailed to our citizens each month.

I have served for four years on the Hazard Mitigation committee which plans for our City in the event of a major disaster such as a fire, earthquake or some other unplanned emergency.

Please feel free to inquire through City Hall if you are interested in helping the City of Columbia City to be the best place to live!

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER ROB FORMAN

Greetings! As your newly elected Councilman, I'd like to introduce myself a bit and share some of my background and goals for the upcoming term. I am a proud father of one, husband and budding gardener. I attended St. Helens High School, graduating in 2010 with honors and later attended the University of Portland where I obtained a Bachelors of Accounting in 2014. I am currently

managing a team of 7 financial analysts for a well-known national health insurance agency providing financial oversight and reconciliation while specializing in debt and loan management. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, long walks on trails with family and cooking.

Entering my first term in office, I plan to utilize my skillset in Finance and Accounting to develop advanced internal controls with our budget committee to ensure tax revenues are accounted for and will constantly be looking for opportunities to increase transparency in the decision-making process for budget preparation. Additionally, I am heavily invested in ensuring ongoing capital projects remain on schedule and are completed at the highest standards so that our community can continue to enjoy safe, green public spaces and that our sewer and septic projects continue uninterrupted.

Most importantly, I hope to ensure the long term growth of our city is sustainable and Columbia City remains a beautiful gem by the river for decades to come. I will always be open to new perspectives and concerns and will make myself available to anyone who has questions or comments, no matter the size of the issue. I am so grateful to represent our community and will work tirelessly to provide positive results. I look forward to working with you all!



SPRING CLEANUP – SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH, 2023

Spring cleaning is just around the corner! Now is the time to start preparing to get rid of that unwanted junk - old appliances, scrap metal, yard debris, old furniture, unwanted items, etc. The annual Spring Cleanup Day will be held on **Saturday, April 29th, 2023, from 8 am to noon** at the Columbia City School. More information will be in future newsletters.

DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Our cold, wet days lend themselves to snuggling up with those inspiring garden catalogs and dreaming about spring! While considering where to place those colorful annuals and deciding what vegetables to plant, hatching a plan to care for them is also in order.

Personally, the time spent watering isn't enjoyable. Dragging a hose around and resetting the sprinkler can rob some of the joy of gardening. Commercial nurseries and farm operations have commonly used drip irrigation systems, and now, more and more homeowners are taking advantage of its uses and benefits.



Drip irrigation involves placing tubing with emitters on the ground alongside the plants. The emitters slowly drip water into the soil at the root zone. Because moisture levels are kept to an optimal range, plant productivity and quality improve. In addition, it prevents disease by minimizing water contact with the leaves, stems and fruit of plants. The area between plants remains dry, reducing weed growth. Time and money can both be saved. Drip irrigation systems are 90% efficient at allowing plants to use the water applied. Runoff and evaporation are reduced, too.

The initial cost of installation can vary greatly depending on your equipment choices, the size of the area to be watered and your ability to "Do It Yourself" or not. The internet is full of options and ideas to create simple drip systems to meet most garden needs. Home Improvement stores most likely have associates that help with decisions on the system best for your needs, also.

So, enjoy these cold, wet days by using them to plan for your best garden yet, one that is a joy to spend time relaxing in.

BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Budget Committee meets 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. Applicants must reside within the City. If interested, please inquire at City Hall.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Saturdays: Feb. 25, Jun. 10, Aug. 26, and Oct. 21 8 am - 2 pm
Columbia County Transfer Station - 1601 Railroad Ave., St. Helens

BRING to HHW Events:

- Lawn / Garden Chemicals
- Herbicides / Pesticides
- Pool / Spa Chemicals
- Light Ballasts
 - remove from light fixture
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Art / Hobby Chemicals
- Solvents / Thinners
- Items Containing Mercury
- Propane Cylinders
- Compressed Gas Cylinders
- Batteries
 - all types and applications
- Cleaners / Detergents
- Poisons
- Ammunition
- Fireworks / Flares
- Gas / Diesel / Fuels

Bring product in original container and **Secure Your Load**

DO NOT BRING to HHW Events:

- Asbestos
- Garbage / Trash
- Liquids in Containers Larger Than 5 Gallons
- Unwanted / Unused Medicines or Pharmaceuticals
 - drop off at the County Sheriff's Office

RECYCLE these items at the Transfer Station (during business hours):

- Latex and Acrylic Paint, Oil-Based Paint, Enamels, Stains, Lacquers, Shellacs, Varnishes, and Primers
- Used Motor Oil and Antifreeze
- Electronics
 - TVs, computers, monitors, etc.

MEDICAL SHARPS:

must be in sealed, OSHA approved, puncture-proof containers. (available at the Transfer Station scale house)

For All OTHER MATERIALS:

including Commercial Generators (CEG) and liquids in containers larger than 5 gallons: call Mark Haynes with ACT Enviro (971.303.2979) at least 2 weeks prior to an event for an appointment.

REMOTE

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events:

- April 22, 2023 - Vernonia
- May 20, 2023 - Rainier
- October 7, 2023 - Clatskanie

SATURDAYS, 8 AM - NOON

Call **Jake Anderson**, Solid Waste Coordinator, at **503.397.7259** for additional information



CAPLES HOUSE – FEBRUARY EVENTS

Valentine's Tea

Sunday, February 12th from 2 to 4 p.m.

\$35 by reservation only - 503-367-8494

This high tea will feature a special Lover's Leap Tea and program on Presidential Love Letters. Join us for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

Friday Tea

Every Friday Afternoon 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At the Caples House Cottage

1925 First Street

\$5 for tea and a homemade dessert

NW NATURAL – GET BILL DISCOUNTS

The NW Natural Bill Discount Program for income-qualifying customers in Oregon can save you 15% to 40% on your monthly gas bills. The application takes only a few minutes to complete and can be done online, by email, post mail, or over the phone. Learn more at

<https://www.nwnatural.com/account/bill-discount-program> or contact NW Natural at 503-226-4211 or 800-422-4012, Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., csst@nwnatural.com.



SERGEANTS CORNER

Winter Driving. We are entering into what is normally our last month of winter and freezing temperatures. These freezing temperatures are causing some roads to develop pot holes that can create dangerous driving conditions. Please keep an eye out for the icy roads and potholes as you're driving in the local area. Make sure you have a spare tire in good condition. Plan ahead and carry enough clothing and supplies to keep you comfortable in the event you have to wait a period of time for assistance to arrive if your vehicle becomes disabled.

During the month of December we had the following calls: 1 assist fire, 1 audible alarm, 1 school fire alarm, 3 assist persons, 1 behavioral health, 1 civil enforcement, 1 assist fire (AED), 1 disturbance fight, 1 extra patrol, 8 follow ups, 3 cold frauds, 1 hit & run, 2 incomplete 911 calls, 1 motorist assist, 1 ordinance violation, 9 premise checks, 2 suspicious circumstances, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 injury traffic crash, 1 non-injury traffic crash, 1 cold theft, 7 traffic stops, 1 violation of restraining order and 5 welfare checks, in all the Police Department serviced 63 calls.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

The Friends of the Columbia City Community Library have paid for storage improvements under the City's Community Hall. We put in a platform to store our tables, signs and many other things. Winegar Construction did the carpentry. The City Council supported our plans and Public Works helped with moving things out of the way and back to their places.



We got some great donations this month. One family donated about a dozen graphic novels, so expect to see them in the library soon. Another person donated really recent books which will go into our collection, and be posted to trade for other books that we need. Thank you for the donations!

Display in the Library – Columbia City History. On display last month and this month is a Time-line

History of Columbia City with significant dates and photos depicting the journey from the humble beginnings in 1867 when Joseph Caples founded our city through the years to present day.

On **Thursday, February 9th from 5 to 6 pm** Mark Stevens will talk about Columbia City history at the Library. Join us!

Book Recommendation. *Big Lies in a Small Town*, by Diane Chamberlain was recommended by Paulette. "I can recommend this book to you as a book you'll enjoy and possibly inspire you to read additional books by the author. The setting is in a small town in North Carolina with a few history lessons intertwined within the story." The book is available for checkout in the new book section.

New to the Library. This month we added 84 titles to the library, some include:

All About Me! by Mel Brooks (best seller)
The Three Ninja Pigs by Corey Rosen Schwartz (Everybody book, recommended)
The Scam by Janet Evanovich
A World of Curiosities by Louise Penny (best seller)
Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
Frozen (video for children)

Graphic Novels:

Spill Zone by Scott Westerfeld

Large Print:

Hotshot by Julie Garwood

Library Hours:

Monday and Saturday 10 am to 2 pm
Thursday 3 to 6 pm

Columbia City History

Thursday, February 9th at 5 pm

Novel Quilters

Wednesday, February 15th at 2 pm

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, February 20th at 7 pm

Mystery Book Club:

Wednesday, February 22nd at 7 pm

Columbia City Community Library

2000 Second Street / PO Box 189
503-366-8020 / ccclibrary@live.com
www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com

Reach our book catalog:

<https://columbiacitycommunitylibrary.follettdestiny.com>

**VIEW INTO THE PAST –
The Joseph Caples Family Part Three
By Mark Stevens**

The First House in Columbia City. Joseph Caples built his first log cabin along the banks of the Columbia River just north of Riverview Estates. The below painting (located at the Caples Museum) was done by Joseph’s daughter Joanna.



In an interview with Don Caples done in 1995, he states that he had a rock that had been painted by Joanna that depicted a house with large trees behind it and Mt. St. Helens. This would have been Joseph’s second house which according to Don Caples was one of the first homes to have been built with planks instead of logs.

Joseph probably built this second house to get away from the spring floods that were prevalent prior to the dams being built. The house would have been located down below Second and M Streets. A home built in 1950 by Ray Livingston is now at that location in front of the two trees in this photo taken from my home in about 1995. Harvard



Anderson stated that Ray found cans when he was digging the foundation of his house. The trees are now gone and based on photos of the area this second house was torn down prior to 1918.

This information has been corroborated by interviews that were done with Joseph’s gg granddaughters, Margaret Parker and Doris Bateham, also done in 1995.

A Cougar and Charles and Hez - Oh My. “Charles and Hez (Hezekiah) were returning from a trip to Crosley’s store at Milton, now site of Crown Z. plant.

Their father Joseph Caples looked up to the South to see if the boys were coming. They were coming, but not far behind them was a cougar skulking along so their father took his rifle and motioned the boys to keep coming, not stop at all, then he got a little to one side, just out of range of the boys, and shot the cougar. The boys were delighted, so they skinned it. The next day they got straw and some sticks and a little red flannel for eyes and set it up on the little front porch to the cabin.

There was an old half blind Indian who had a mania for collecting coats if he had been lucky he would be wearing not one but two of them. So he was going down the river in his canoe when he came ashore at the Caples cabin. The boys were hid and he groped his way up the path with his cane and a coat or two on when he thought he was about to the house he looked up from the path and low and behold there was a cougar right there on the front porch about to spring on him.

Well he didn't wait for anything! He took off as fast as he could for his canoe. My grandfather said he didn't come back, for a long time.”

(written by an unknown grandchild of Joseph’s)

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2023

February 7 th	6:30 p.m.	Water and Sewer Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 16 th	6:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 20 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President’s Day
February 21 st	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting - canceled
February 21 st	6:30 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 28 th	6:30 p.m.	Streets Committee Meeting at City Hall