

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

September 2023



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
1840 SECOND STREET
PO BOX 189
COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018
PHONE: (503) 397-4010
FAX: (503) 366-2870
colcity@columbia-city.org
www.columbia-city.org



C STREET SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The Sewer Improvements Project is moving along ahead of the construction schedule. The mainline replacement and installation of sewer manholes should be substantially complete by the end of August. In September the project will transition to sewer lateral work and septic tank abandonment.

We appreciate everyone's patience with all of the work both in the roadways, and in select yards within the project area. If there are any concerns or questions, feel free to contact either City Hall 503-397-4010, or Public Works Office 503-366-0454.



City staff will do their best to answer any questions, or mitigate concerns regarding the project activities.

Have a great day ~ Micah Rogers, Public Works Superintendent

LOST AND FOUND

The following item was recently found and turned into City Hall:

- A fleece jacket left at the Community Hall during the strawberry pancake breakfast on Saturday, August 12th.

If you think this item might be yours, contact City Hall at 503-397-4010.

SKUNKS

Skunks are opportunists at heart – they're mainly attracted to garbage and pet food left out at night, as well as convenient denning sites, such as wood

piles, elevated sheds and openings under concrete slabs, porches and crawl spaces.

Preventative measures, such as removing attractants around houses will decrease the likelihood of an unpleasant skunk encounter. This includes securing trash, covering window wells, feeding pets indoors, or if fed outdoors, removing food immediately after pets eat.

Skunks like dark, quiet places, so loud sounds and bright lights will urge them to leave, as will certain strong smells. Keep in mind that you should never close off a denning location unless you are sure all skunks have vacated it.



MEETING TO DISCUSS FUGITIVE DUST PROBLEMS

Article provided by resident Jan from Lower Columbia City

As residents of Columbia City, some of you may have noticed thick tan colored dust that collects on your cars, lawn furniture, roofs, really anything that is left outside. If you live near the Forest Energy of Oregon (Lignetics) pellet plant on the Port of Columbia County property in lower Columbia City near E Street, it is very likely the source of your dust. Neighbors to the south of the plant have been trying to get the company to make improvements on the amount of fugitive dust released into the community for many years to no avail.

It is often irritating to eyes and throats and is worst during the summer months when the prevailing wind is out of the north and the weather is drier.

As residents, we would like to know if more of you are impacted by this problem and would like to get together to discuss options to improve the situation. Please join us for a meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Hall. Look forward to seeing you there.

A VIEW INTO THE PAST
**Columbia City during the Depression – from a
little girls point of view - *continued***
By Mark Stevens -
markstevens@colcomuseum.org

Lighting was by lamps. She remembers being sent to the store with a kerosene can to obtain a refill. A potato was used for a plug. McVey's Store was the only general merchandise store in town, and an interesting variety of goods were sold.

She remembers woods where the mill site is now located. She said Columbia City was a wonderful place for children to live. It was a great place in which to grow up and provided a lot of freedom to them. She said, "It was just fun!" Jean recalled the area had many beautiful wild flowers. Wild strawberries were also very plentiful -- they could pick 5 gallons if they had enough "kid pickers" and then her mother would make the most delicious wild strawberry shortcake. Wild blackberries were also readily available.

Her family moved to Columbia City from Portland, and it seemed like paradise. At night they went to sleep to the chug of the sternwheelers--which provided yet one more fascination for her. She said the only thing they worried about were cougars. She particularly remembers traveling the path to the Community Hall with a lantern and worrying about cougars.

Many of the families picnicked on the beach in those days. The beach was located close to where



the mill site is now. She noted one day a man drowned while she and other children watched; she said she was never able to learn to swim after that.

She thought the population was no more than 200 people. At that time she remembers houses located between the shipyards and the mill site with only a few on the other side of the highway.

She said the Griffiths lived on the other side of the highway. She said prior to the use of the

Community Hall, the whole town would go to their house to dance on Saturday night. They had a player piano. The meal was potluck. She remembered they had 10 children and were wonderfully hospitable, although very casual.

When asked if she might have some pictures of Columbia City, she noted their family didn't have the money for that. She said except for a few families, most families were not wealthy in Columbia City.

Jean recalled some other residents of the City at that time: McVeys, Maclays, Caples, Freemans, Kanopkas, and Mrs. Dew.

She recalls being in a group of children who rolled some Indian tobacco in paper down by the River and tried out their product. They got caught and had to write "I will not smoke" 500 times -- and she never did.

She said they grew a big garden, and people could have a cow if they wanted. There were not the regulations there are now in cities. People took care of each other, too. She recalls her dad fixing up a living area in their garage with a wood stove for a lady and her son who had no place to live. They shared from the garden and got along -- they didn't have the homeless problems we have now.

They occasionally walked the railroad tracks to St. Helens to see a movie. She remembers few cars and said her Dad walked to work -- a number of miles. There was a walking trail along the River when you first left Columbia City (going south) that cut inland to St. Helens. She said she thought it was a very old trail --maybe even first used by Indians.

She remembered the school she attended at first as being located near the bridge in an old storefront.

Fish were readily available. They had sturgeon and salmon. Some residents had small boats, but much of the fishing was from the riverbank.

In conclusion, Jean said she wished I could have interviewed her mother -- she would remember so much more and more accurately. She said her viewpoint was a child's and, no doubt, much more joyful than an adult's remembrance would be.

However, she again declared how much she loved Columbia City as a child -- and still does.

CAPLES HOUSE – SEPTEMBER

Please join us in welcoming our new Caples Coordinator, Eugene “Gene” Foley and his wife Elaine.

Caples Museum Tours

Hours: Friday – Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
\$5 adult / \$4 children

Teas and Sweets – in the Cottage
Every Friday Afternoon 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
\$5 for bottomless tea and a dessert plate

Fireside Chats

September 19th at 7 p.m., \$5
Bug Nutz

Harvest Festival



Sunday, October 8
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Are you an artisan or have a talent to showcase?
Would you like to supervise and event?

If so, contact the Caples House at 503-397-5390.
Or just come to enjoy the day and have some fresh
pressed cider and a Runsas.

CHIEFS CORNER

Back to School. It is that time of year that we all need to start watching out for the kids on the streets again. School is starting back up and they will be walking to the bus stops and schools. We also need to pay attention to the school bus stop lights, and never pass a bus when they are on. The only time we do not need to stop, even on Hwy 30, is when the Hwy is physically divided with a barrier in place. And for the parents driving their kids to school, please leave yourself plenty of time so you don't feel a need to speed through the neighborhoods near the school to make up for lost time. We all have a responsibility to the kids to keep them safe.

The police department serviced the following calls during July 2023: 2 audible alarms, 2 animal complaints, 1 assist outside agency, 5 assist persons, 1 cold burglary, 2 civil actions, 1 CPR assist fire, 2 criminal mischiefs, 1 death investigation, 3 domestic calls, 6 follow up calls, 1 fraud, 1 fireworks call, 1 harassment/threat call, 3 hazard calls, 1 minor in possession, 1 motorist assist, 6 ordinance violations, 1 overdose, 19 premise checks, 1 found/lost property, 5 suspicious circumstances, 2 suspicious vehicles, 3 suicidal threats, 6 cold thefts, 4 traffic complaints, 4 traffic stops, 1 unwanted, 1 violation of restraining order and 2 welfare checks. In all we serviced 99 activities and wrote 4 new reports.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to everyone who made the August 12th City Celebration a success. It was a beautiful day and the money raised will go a long way to funding the library for the coming year. The beautiful quilt was won by Chastity Boyce and the beach cabin weekend was won by Serena McCurdy.

See the following outline of sponsors, donators and volunteers. The Celebration would not be possible without the help of an army of volunteers, and the person organizing the whole event, **Wendy Wells!** Again, thank you to everyone who organized, ran and visited the 2023 City Celebration. My apologies if I forget to mention anyone. We would not have a community library without your support.

Art in the Library. September's featured artist is Marnita Bahmer. Come in to see her display of repurposed books.

A Note of Passing. Dedicated volunteer and friend, Don Jeanroy passed away in July. Don helped with every child's program offered through the library over the years and was a featured artist displaying his exceptional photography.

Library News continued on page 4

Library News - continued

Board News. Your Friends of the Library (FOL) has been busy. A nominating committee for 2024-25 officer candidates has been formed. Please consider putting your name forward if you would like to serve. The positions are for two years: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Contact Kit Gardes, kitgardes@yahoo.com for more information.

FOL has received a grant to hire Penny Hummel Consulting to help in the implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Plan. Discussions about filling numerous volunteer positions and a revision of the volunteer application were topics at the August 21st meeting.

Meetings:

Storytime: Every Monday at 11 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

September 4 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Labor Day
September 12 th	2:00 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
September 19 th	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting - Canceled
September 21 st	6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting at City Hall
September 27 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE 2023 COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION!!!

Show & Shine Sponsors: Port of Columbia County, Dan Garrison CPA, Alliance Automotive & Exhaust, Pacific Industrial Service Inc, Lawrence Oil, Emmert Motors, Eaton's Tire & Auto Repair, Wauna Credit Union, NFP Property & Casualty Insurance, Sunset NAPA Auto Parts, Dr. Auto, St. Helens Auto Center, Schwab Tire Center-St. Helens, Lively Repairs, St. Helens Auto Body Collision Repair, Scappoose Sand & Gravel, David's Automotive, Knife River, InRoads Credit Union, and The Ebert Family.

Other Sponsors and Donors: The Tractor Works, Ichabod's Restaurant, Fred Meyers, Fultano's Pizza and Burgerville.

Show & Shine Volunteers: Gordon & Gail Thistle, Roger Rombalski, Simon Ebert, Lowell Bauer, Jack Graff, Dan Jimerson, Rich Mazzella, Buddy Rivers, Ken Aho, John King, Jason Beck, Ray Clift, Marley Tinney and Karol Wendler.

Show & Shine Band: The Decades.

Signs and Advertising: Chip Gardes, Mark Ebert, Kay Brown, Shannon

Burgard, Wendy Wells, Sophie Martinson, Fred Love, Wynne Frank, KOHI radio station, The Columbia River Reader and Stacey Tinney.

Book Sale: Cathy Lundberg, Kay Brown, Monica Cannon, Sandy McMillan, Tiffany Ward, Jane Eggleston, Jim & Paulette Lichatowich, Dennis Willson, Frank & Dee Loyd, Barb Wooton, Scott & Kathy Bauska, Jacob Longshore, Edna Morse, Katrina Clift, Colleen Menze, Chip & Kit Gardes, Marcie Olson, Jean Stanijer and Lee Phillips.

Raffle Quilt: Novel Quilters, Columbia River Piecemakers Quilt Guild and Cathy Lundberg.

Beach Cabin Donor: Thanks to Paul & Chris Stansbury for donating a weekend at their cabin.

Raffle Sales: Jane Eggleston, County Fair Volunteers and City Hall Staff.

Art Show: Dana Belisle, Catherine Ridenour, Ron and Joan Youngberg and Mary W.

Vendors/Craft Fair: Wendy Wells.

Friends of the Library:

Monday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Novel Quilters:

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Mystery Book Club:

Wednesday, September 27th at 7 p.m.

Library Hours:

Mondays & Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursdays 3 – 6 p.m.

Columbia City Community Library

2000 Second Street / PO Box 189 / Columbia City

503-366-8020 / ccclibrary@live.com

Website: www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com

Reach our book catalog:

<https://columbiacitycommunitylibrary.follettdestiny.com>

Kids Zone: Merrick, Micah & Melinda Gartman, Laura Stroh, Adrian & Parker Burgess, Debbie Davis, Stan, Cindy & Talitha Warby, Asonia Fogarty, Crystal Bump, Don & Karen Brooks, Skylar Grover, Laura & Daniel Grant and Keven Kutch.

Coffee Cart: Kay Brown, Hester Thurman and Monica Cannon.

Breakfast Volunteers: Jan & John Burdett, Jack & Molly Hruska, David Markham, Leahnette Rivers, Rebecca Pickering, Katrina Claridge, Lyle Bluhm, Diana Anderson and Rowan Russell.

Columbia City Booth: Sue Ziglinski, Mark & Glorene Stevens, Frank Hupp, and Jeff Reinan.

Prepare Fair: Columbia County Sheriff's Office, St. Helens Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Columbia River Fire & Rescue (CRF&R).

Special thanks: Columbia City Staff for hosting the delicious strawberry pancake breakfast and for helping us prep during the day and afterwards to cleanup.