

Columbia City Newsletter



February 2024



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NEW CITY COUNCILOR

The City would like to welcome Connie Quick, our newest City Council member, appointed and sworn into office on Thursday, January 25, 2024 during the City Council meeting.

Connie has been a resident of Columbia City for over 37 years and retired from Columbia River PUD. She is excited to be more involved in the community and believes this is a great way to make a positive impact.

PORT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY AND LIGNETICS IMPORTANT MEETING

Article provided by resident Jan from Lower Columbia City

Concerned about the air you breathe? Tired of cleaning sawdust off your car, patio and lawn chairs?

If so, you need to come to this meeting! We have a rare opportunity to hear from and ask questions of the Lignetics Corporate VP of Operations and a representative from the Columbia County Port Commission regarding the steps that need to be taken to improve the pollution that our Columbia City neighborhood has been dealing with for decades. In our previous two meetings we have aired our concerns, but we have not had anyone present that has the power to fix the problem. This is our opportunity to ask questions and voice our concerns directly to the people that have created the problem and have the ability to fix it. It is very important that we have a good turnout; if only a few people show up it sends the message that there really is not an issue and the neighborhood is okay with the pollution that comes from the pellet plant.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Columbia City Community Hall** and bring your questions and concerns to the meeting. Based on the information that will be made available to us in this meeting, we can move forward to decide what, if any, action needs to be taken by the neighborhood. Your input is important for our future quality of life. It is easy to forget in the dead of winter what it is like all summer

long with their pollution, both that you can and cannot see, and how it negatively affects your life. We hope to see you at this very important meeting.

Blood Drive

Columbia City Community Hall

1850 Second Street
Columbia City, OR 97018
Friday, March 1, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND CITY SERVICES

With the recent snow and ice storms experienced in our area, we would like to share with the community our operating plan in such events.

Typically if the roads are becoming unsafe for regular employees to travel, City Hall will close early allowing employees to get home safely. If the weather causes unsafe traveling conditions for reporting to work, City Hall will either open late or be closed depending on the severity and duration of the conditions.

Public Works does their best to prepare the roads beforehand and to clear the roads as quickly and safely as possible. Some weather conditions, like the recent ice event, are not safe for anyone to be on the roads and our Public Works Department will not be dispatched until it is safe.

Equipment preparations and planning for weather emergencies are always being reviewed and altered in order to keep everyone safe.

Thank you to all our residents who have expressed their appreciation for the hard work and long hours put in by our Public Works Department to keep the City's streets as safe as possible.

SPRING CLEANUP - SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2024

More information will be in future newsletters.

TIPS TO HELP AVOID FROZEN PIPES

Although we all hope our freezing temperatures are finished for this winter, planning ahead to ensure the safety of everyone and your personal property only seems prudent. Be aware that if temperatures drop to 28 degrees or below for four hours or more, precautions need to be taken to protect your water pipes:

- Keep the thermostat no lower than 65 degrees in your home.
- Locate and insulate the pipes most susceptible to freezing: typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces or in attics.
- Heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Be sure to use products approved by an independent testing organizations, and only for the use intended (exterior or interior). Closely follow all manufacturers' installation and operation instructions.
- Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate near plumbing.
- Let cold water drip from faucets served by exposed pipes because running water is less likely to freeze.
- Disconnect garden hoses and shut off and drain water pipes leading to outside faucets.
- Make sure you know how to shut off the water in case pipes burst.
- If your home does not have a shut off valve separate from the one on the meter box, consider having one installed.
- Thaw frozen pipes as soon as possible.

SIGNS IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Signs are not to be placed in public right-of-way's, without City Council approval. Signs are not to be placed on utility poles without permission of the appropriate utility. No trespass, no parking, pickup after your pet and business service signs all need to be placed on your private property. The City has very large public right-of-ways in some areas of town and the edge of the roadway or sidewalk does not indicated the edge of your property.

The City has recently observed several signs in violation. In the next few weeks steps will be taken to bring violations into compliance. If you have any questions about sign placement and regulations, contact City Hall.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Winter Road Conditions. With all the recent winter conditions our local roadways have suffered some significant damage. The State and County are working hard to make repairs, but this may take some extra time. Please be careful while out driving around, watch for potholes and sink holes, both of which can cause serious damage to your vehicles tires and wheel alignment. Make sure you keep your car stocked with essential items that will help you remain comfortable in the event you become stranded on the side of a road. Please use caution if you see a car stopped on the shoulder of the road. We want to see everyone make it home safely.



During the month of December, the police department serviced the following calls: 1 assist fire, 2 alarms, 5 animal calls, 1 outside agency assist, 2 assist persons, 4 behavioral health, 5 civil action calls, 1 DUII, 1 extra patrol, 7 follow up calls, 1 fraud, 1 fireworks call, 1 hazard, 2 incomplete 911 calls, 3 info calls, 1 juvenile call, 1 noise complaint, 4 ordinance violations, 1 overdose, 3 parking complaints, 47 premise checks, 1 prowler, 1 suspicious person, 2 traffic crashes, 7 traffic violations, 23 traffic stops and 2 welfare checks. In all the police department serviced 140 activities.

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

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

The Columbia County Transfer Station will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Event on Saturday, **March 2, 2024 from 8 am to 2 pm**. For a complete list visit the following link from the Columbia County Oregon [website:](https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/departments/SolidWaste/household-hazardous-waste-1)

Contact Jake Anderson, Solid Waste Coordinator at the Columbia County Transfer Station if you have any questions by calling 503-397-7259.

CAPLES HOUSE

Tea Time! YOUR local museum has events for YOU. Enjoy "High Tea" with all the dainties of the upper class, offered to our community at the Knapp Social Center 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, February 11th. The price of admission is \$35. This is an important event to help support our community museum.

As many of you already know, tea is normally served every Friday (except holidays) in the tea cottage on the Caples property. The weekly teas include tea or coffee and sweets, for which a \$5 fee is charged. Tea is served from 2 to 4 pm. It is a great place for parents to come and have a quiet moment before the elementary school lets out. Enjoy low key conversations with neighbors and friends.

Spring Forward! Caples House IS open. If the gate is open and the sign says OPEN, we're waiting for you to visit us. We are happy to show folks the historic Caples House, scare the boys in the children's museum and its hundreds of dolls, and tour the grounds with its heritage orchard that includes five varieties of apples, in addition to pear trees, grape vines, oaks, maples, Douglas fir, and black walnut, some of which are hundreds of years old. Chances are that if you are living on the east side of Highway 30, members of the Caples family once owned the land you are on. Visit soon. Or, when you have an event, consider the Caples House property for your special day or evening. Call 971-203-3533 when you're ready to explore YOUR local museum.

LIBRARY NEWS

♥ February is Love Your Library Month ♥

Wednesday, February 14th - Children's book author Sharon Friese Shiel will read "*At The River*" in the library on Valentine's Day at 1:00 p.m. Written for pre-readers, this charming alliterative book tells the story of a trip to a river-front park, based on our own Pixie Park. Also available will be Valentine crafts for all ages. Please register to hold a spot for you and your friends; options for free registration: online at <https://columbiacitylibrary.com/>, phone or text 503-369-6091 or at the front desk at the Columbia City Elementary School.

Friday, February 23rd - Meet artist Michael Brundage and hear how he creates his beautiful animal drawings using colored pencil on suede mat. Several of his drawings are on display at the library, and he will bring more in for this event. 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Save the Dates. Saturday, March 16th -- Build a Bird House and Saturday, April 13th -- Indie Author's program. See our web site for further information about these events, we are still working on them!

♥ February Book Sale in Secondhand Prose ♥

Secondhand Prose is overflowing with great books for your winter reading. Find books with special heart stickers and they are half-priced. Also see the table of FREE books. Our gift to you!

New to the Library. This month we added 132 titles to the library. Check something out in case the weather is bad again this month!

The Storyteller by Dave Grohl (recent best seller)
Hiking Oregon by Lizann Dunegan (one of four or five books about hiking regionally)
Our Wives Under the Sea by Julia Armfield (Carnegie award finalist, strange interesting book)
The Secret by Lee Child
The Raging Storm by Ann Cleeves (one of three new books by her!)
The Ink Black Heart by Robert Galbraith (best seller)
The Housemaid by Freida McFadden (current best seller)
A Rule Against Murder by Louise Penny

Library Hours:

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

Storytime

Every Monday at 11 am

At the River reading by Sharon Friese Shiel

Wednesday, February 14th at 1 pm

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, February 19th at 6:30 pm

Novel Quilters

Wednesday, February 21st at 2 pm

Michael Brundage-Meet the Artist

Friday, February 23rd at 4 pm

Mystery Book Club:

Wednesday, February 28th 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>

A VIEW INTO THE PAST

The Sommarstrom Shipbuilding Company (Part 4)

By Mark Stevens - markstevens@colcomuseum.org

The Sommarstrom Shipyard constructed eight vessels between 1918 and 1920. The first six were delivered to the Pacific Marine Iron Works in Portland where their engines were installed and they were outfitted and then delivered to the United States Shipping Board (U.S.S.B.). The 7th ship was completed by the shipyard but was then converted to a barge. The 8th ship's construction was halted and was converted by the shipyard into a 5-masted sailing vessel.

The first four were Hough design cargo ships of 3,044 tons and the last four were Ferris design cargo ships of 2,532 tons.

Early in 1919, the United States Railroad Administration placed an order for 100,000,000 feet of railroad ties from the Northwest and some of the wooden ships were put in service shipping these ties to Philadelphia.

Little information can be found on most of the ships. The following is what I have found, otherwise, no other information has been located.

Hull 437 – The S.S. Maratanza was launched on July 4, 1918. It is mentioned in a Philadelphia paper on September 10, 1919, as coming in with a coal load – on July 1920 is put up for sale.

Hull 438 – The S.S. Mattapan was launched on June 11, 1918. It is listed for sale on July of 1920 and on September 7, 1925 sails from NY to Guatemala.

Hull 439 – The S.S. Musketo was launched on May 14, 1918. It is one of the ships put into service delivering railroad ties. It was listed for sale in July 1920

Hull 440 – The S.S. Wanzu was launched on July 4, 1918. It is also one of the ships put into service delivering railroad ties.

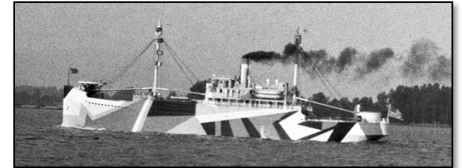
Hull 2521 – The S.S. Dardania was launched on December 16, 1918. It was the first of the Ferris Hulls built. It was mentioned as coming into port at Newport News, Virginia on November 1919.

Hull 2522 – The S.S. Datis was launched on January 22, 1919. It traveled all over the Atlantic Ocean between 1919 and 1920 and was laid up on August 12, 1920 at Claremont CA, and eventually scrapped on April 29, 1924.

Hull 2523 – The S.S. Daulis was launched around February 10, 1919. The U.S.S.B. decided to make it into a barge.

Hull 2524 – The S.S. Delos' contract was canceled and the ship was sold to the Sommarstrom's who then obtained a private contract to build it as a 5-masted sailing ship. The ship was renamed the "Kate G. Pederson" and traveled all over the Pacific Ocean delivering cargo. An article on November 20, 1929 states that she was stranded behind the Carquinez Bridge in San Francisco Bay which had been built while the ship was at anchor. The ship's masts were 162 feet high while the bridge was only 148 feet high. The only way she could leave is if the masts were shortened. Cliff Sommarstrom, the son of Ed Sommarstrom (one of the shipyard owners) mentioned to Harvard Anderson that one day as he was leaving San Francisco Bay on board another ship he saw the stern of the Katy G. sticking out of the water. So I have to assume that it was never able to leave the bay.

Some of these ships were painted in "Dazzle" paint in order to confuse the German U-Boats. Here is a photo taken by a member of the Maclay family at Columbia City in 1919 of a Hough type ship in a "Dazzle" paint scheme. It could very possibly be a Sommarstrom built ship.



If you happen to come into City Hall, ask to see if you can view my shipyard photos that the City has printed and framed. There you can see all of the ship hulls except 2523. Kind of like a "Where is Waldo"?

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2024

February 1 st	4:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session at City Hall
February 8 th	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 13 th	2:30 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 15 th	6:30 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 19 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President's Day
February 20 th	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
February 21 st	6:00 p.m.	Water and Sewer Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 28 th	6:00 p.m.	Streets Committee Meeting at City Hall