

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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KEEP ACCESSES TO UTILITIES CLEAR

The water meter is City property and used to measure water usage by a residence or business. All meter boxes are located in the public right-of-way. In some areas the public right-of-way is very large and it may seem that the meter is located on your private property, when in fact it is not.



Good example of accessible meter



What not to do. Where is the meter box?



Blocked/Inaccessible meter box

On the other hand, septic tanks and their access lids can be located in the right-of-way or on private property. Not all properties have a septic tank as many homes are on direct flow for sewer services. If you are unsure where yours is located, please call the City.

It's important when the City's Public Works Department, or one of our contracted service providers, needs to access water meter boxes or septic tanks they can quickly and easily locate and open them. Please keep these areas free of vegetation, dirt, vehicles, etc. so staff can gain access to them

quickly in the event of an emergency or when service is needed for any reason.

Trees, bushes and plantings.

- Trim bushes, trees and grass that block the way to, or cover, the meter or septic tank lid. During



the growing season, plants can cover utilities very quickly.

- Please minimize plants in the area of the utilities so they aren't damaged while accessing services.

Pets.

- If you have a guard dog for security, please let Public Works know so that when they have to access the septic tank they can be aware and take appropriate precautions. They may request for the dog to be confined during septic tank pumping.

Objects that cover or block your utility boxes.

- Please make sure that no objects cover or block access to utility boxes. Items we have found blocking them include cars, trailers, garbage and recycling cans, construction equipment and supplies, landscape bark or gravel and other plantings.

CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM



Did you know that St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated since the fifth century? That's a lot of partying! As YOUR local historic museum, we feel obligated to continue the tradition.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sunday, March 17th at 6 p.m.

\$35 per person

Reservation only - 503-397-5390

Knapp Social Center – 1925 First Street

Join us for dinner and refreshments. Reservations are essential, as this event is likely to sell out and payment in advance will hold your seat. When making your reservation, be sure to share any food restrictions. Make sure to wear green and be prepared to sing an Irish ditty or two!



BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCY

The City is still looking to fill a vacancy on the Budget Committee. The 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.

DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS

Daylight-saving time begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March. Mark your calendars to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 10, 2024.



CHIEF'S CORNER

Tax Scams. We are at the time of year when you may start to receive phone calls from people identifying themselves as tax agents/government agencies asking for your personal information or bank account information. Please don't give any of your personal information over the phone. If anyone shows up at your house and identifies themselves as a government agent do not provide any information to them. Please give your local law enforcement a call. We will be happy to respond or call the person for you and verify that they are a legitimate person or contact. If it doesn't feel or sound right, it probably is not, so call us and let us do our part in keeping you safe.

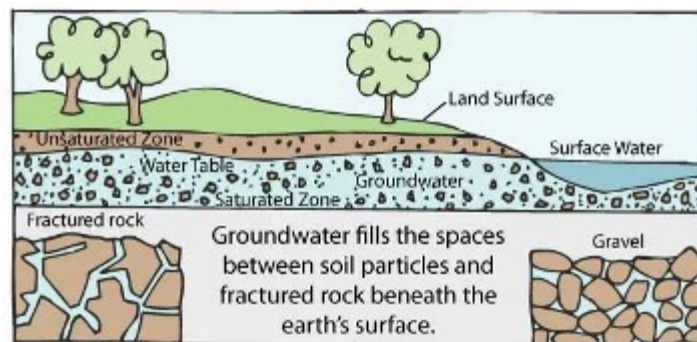
The Police Department serviced the following calls during January 2024: 4 abandoned vehicles, 2 audible alarms, 3 animal complaints, 3 assist persons, 4 behavioral health, 2 civil actions, 5 civil enforcements, 1 assist fire, 2 domestics, 1 follow up, 2 frauds, 2 hazards, 2 juvenile problems, 2 juvenile runaways, 5 ordinance violations, 2 parking complaints, 123 premise checks, 1 suspicious circumstance, 2 suspicious persons, 6 suspicious vehicles, 2 traffic complaints, 15 traffic stops and 1 unwanted. In all the Police Department serviced 202 activities.

The Police Department would like to request 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

WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

What is Groundwater? Groundwater contributes most or all of the water that is derived from wells or springs. It is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. If the openings in a geologic formation are filled with water and the water can be extracted by a well, then the formation is referred to as an aquifer. Aquifers are not underground rivers, lakes or veins, rather they are geologic materials including old river sediments and fractured volcanic rocks such as basalt.



Where does groundwater come from?

Groundwater originates as precipitation that sinks into the ground. Some of this water percolates down to the water table and recharges the aquifer. Much of the recharge area can be located in the immediate vicinity around the wellhead. However, some recharge areas are located quite a distance from the well itself.

How can well water become contaminated?

If the downward percolating precipitation encounters any source of contamination, at the surface or below it, the water may dissolve some of that contaminant and carry it to the aquifer. Groundwater moves from areas where the water table is high to where the water table is low. Consequently, a contaminant may enter the aquifer some distance from the well, and then continue to move towards the well. When a well is pumping, it lowers the water table in the immediate vicinity of the well, increasing the tendency for water to move towards the well.

What are the potential sources of contamination?

Contaminants can be conveniently lumped into three categories: microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, Giardia, etc.), inorganic chemicals (nitrate, arsenic, metals, etc.) and organic chemicals (solvents, fuels, pesticides, etc.) Importantly, it takes only a very small amount of some contaminates in drinking water to raise health concerns.

LIBRARY NEWS

March is for the Birds. Visit the library during the month of March and be treated to bird art from local artists. Jim Lichatowich will have his beautiful carved wooden birds on display. Also, you can vote for the "People's Choice" award.

Build a Birdhouse craft day is Saturday, March 16th from 11 am – 2 pm. Kits will be available for all ages and skill levels. Pre-register for this free event with the name of the child, age and a phone number at: ccclibrary@live.com, or come in to the library and sign up. As always, you bring the kids and we supply everything else.



Left: Sharon Shiel reading her book to the kids and her son Cory joined her. Right: Maia M. proudly showing her Valentine's craft.

The library was full of fun on Valentine's Day as Sharon Shiel read her book "At The River". Her son, Cory illustrated this charming book. Valentine's crafts followed. Thank you everyone who participated.

After School Program Opportunities. The St. Helens 21st Century Community Learning Center Afterschool Program has begun at Lewis and Clark Elementary School and the Columbia City Elementary School. They are interested in involving community partners to provide enrichment for the after school programs. The library is investigating a way to participate. We will need additional help when we entertain the grade schoolers. Contact us if you are interested.

Who Done It? During the month of March, all mysteries in Secondhand Prose will be half-priced. Look for the special sticker and stock up on your favorite authors.

Little Free Library at the Dog Park. The Columbia City Community Library built and sponsors the Little Free Library located at the dog park. We are encouraged by seeing significant use of the Little Free Library. Keep it busy!

Save the Date. Saturday, April 13th – Indie Author's program. See our website for further information about this event, we are still working on it.

New to the Library. This month we added 90 titles to the library, some include:

Most Delicious Poisons by Noah Whiteman
The Secret by Lee Child (recent best seller)
First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston (best seller)
House of Flame and Shadow by Sarah J Maas (best seller, fantasy)
House of Sky and Breath by Sarah J Maas (best seller, fantasy)
All the Devils are Here by Louise Penny
Black Ice by Brad Thor (best seller)
Rising Tiger by Brad Thor (best seller)
All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson (graphic novel)
Finding Nemo (along with 29 other new movies or TV shows)



Story Time

Every Monday at 11 am

For the Birds: Build a Birdhouse

Saturday, March 16th 11 am to 2 pm

Friends of the Library

Monday, March 17th at 6:30 pm

Novel Quilters

Wednesday, March 27th at 2 pm

Mystery Book Club

Wednesday, March 27th at 7 pm

Library Hours:

Monday & Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

Wednesday & Thursday 3 to 6 pm

Columbia City Community Library

2000 Second Street / PO Box 189

503-366-8020 / ccclibrary@live.com

Website: www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com

Reach our book catalog:

<https://columbiacitycommunitylibrary.follettdestiny.com>

A VIEW INTO THE PAST

The Columbia City Grocery Store

By Mark Stevens - markstevens@colcomuseum.org

I constantly strive to find new information about Columbia City and last month Bill Martini, a cousin and great-great grandson of Charles Caples, stopped by the house and dropped off some family material. One of these items was a photo album of Fred Caples who was a son of Charles and Lucinda Caples. In it there is a treasure trove of photos.

Elijah McVey owned the House on The Strand that also served as a Post Office and store and I was also aware of a store on First and I Streets that was owned by Herbert Wharton and later purchased by William Maclay. But no known photo of the store existed.

Fred's photo album contained a photo of that store circa 1910-1915. However, the photo shows that the store was originally located on The Strand and the man and woman in the doorway are none other than Elijah and Maggie McVey so I assume it was their 2nd store.



I know it is the same store that was on First and I Streets based on the following photos:

The first cropped photo was taken by Fred in about 1920 from above Columbia City and shows that the store is located on First and I Streets. (Notice the Community Hall is not in the photo. It was built in 1926.)

This second aerial photo was taken by Von Smith in 1960 and shows a very dilapidated building. The Community Hall can now be seen as well as the Caples House on the left.



Above is the receipt box from this store that Kay Brown so graciously donated to the Columbia County Museum a few years ago when we were visiting with her.

At some point (1915-1920) the store was moved up one block from the river. I would have walked by this store as a child but have no memories of it. I just find it very fascinating to discover new facts about our little city and I hope you do to.

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

Full Flyer in Next Month's Newsletter

OPEN BURNING IN APRIL

The next **biannual burn period will begin on Saturday, April 6th and end on Sunday, April 21st.** More information in next month's newsletter.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - MARCH 2024

March 6 th	6:00 p.m.	Water and Sewer Committee Meeting at City Hall
March 12 th	2:30 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
March 12 th	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
March 14 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
March 19 th	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
March 27 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall