

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024



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A VIEW INTO THE PAST

By Mark Stevens - markstevens@colcomuseum.org

First of all, I wanted to thank everyone who came out and took my little historic tour of Columbia City during the Columbia City Celebration. We had a total of 66 people take the tour. A very big thanks goes out to CC Rider for graciously supplying the bus and the driver.

Now, about a Cave on the river. Have you ever heard of a cave that was down on the river below the Strand? Many years ago there was talk that there had been a cave down at the river and that the Indians had stayed there when they came here to fish in the late 1800's.

While listening to an audio tape of my 1st cousin Don Caples that was done in 1989 during the Columbia River Heritage Committee meetings, Don was asked if there were Indian Caves on the river and his response along with other old-timers in the room was that yes there was a "cave" or a 6-8 foot hole in the bank along the river, but that it wasn't dug by Indians, but by the early pioneers to make paint.

According to the conversation in the recording, the early pioneers really didn't like to paint their houses more than once, and that they developed a paint consisting of clay dug from the river bank that was then mixed with an iron pigment and linseed oil to make a very durable paint that lasted the lifetime of the house.

A specific reference was made to the Sauervein house near to the McVey house. Christopher Sauervein emigrated from France to the United States in 1873 and settled along with his family in Columbia City. According to the census, his house was on 1st or Columbia City Road as it was called then.

Don stated that the paint lasted for the life of the house until it was torn down.

So I feel comfortable that the story of the Indian caves were really holes that were dug by the pioneers to extract clay for paint.

Did Indians use them for shelter in the late 1800s when they came to fish at Columbia City? I don't see why not. They would have been a convenient shelter at the time.

It is unlikely they were actually dug by Indians as shelters as they would have been flooded by the river each Winter and Spring.



This photo shows L-R Margaret McVey, John McVey, Elijah McVey (in the car), George Sauervein, and Nora Maclay. George was the youngest son of Christopher and Celestine Sauervein. Notice the dark color of the McVey house in the background. I wonder if it was a reddish color because of the iron pigment that was mixed in the paint?

CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM

Caples House Museum invites you to join us...

Sunday, October 6, (12:00 pm – 5:00 pm) for Caples House Harvest Festival. Admission is free and includes apple cider pressing, pioneer crafts and games, stories, museum tours, and so much more.

Friday and Saturday, November 8th – 9th, (9:00 am – 5:00 pm) for Caples House Annual Holiday Bazaar. Admission is free and there will be a variety of vendors with unique crafts, artwork and photography.

Caples House Museum is also looking for volunteers to assist as docents (we will provide training!) and to assist in the “behind-the-scenes” work of the museum, as we share some history of Columbia City with visitors. Please email Caples.House@OregonDAR.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Watch www.CaplesHouse.com for upcoming events and opportunities!

Caples Museum Tours
Hours: Friday – Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm
\$5 adult / \$4 children

LIBRARY NEWS

Columbia City Celebration News. The Columbia City Celebration was a great success this year. It was a nice day and we were busy all day. We sold half again as many books as usual, so that was great! Your books are going to a good cause. We had a great display of 85 of the Novel Quilters quilts from the past 20 years. I saw a lot more people looking at our quilt display than years past. We had almost 90 cars at the Show and Shine Car Show. We also had a new event, the historic tour of Columbia City. We will have the photographs on display in the library.

We had a lot of help, and managers of the events did a great job. So thank you to everyone who helped, everyone who donated, everyone who attended, and everyone who spent money to help support our library! All proceeds from the Columbia City Celebration go to help fund the library.

Raffle Winners. Johanna M won the quilt and Michelle C won the beach trip. Congratulations!



Library Director, Cathy Lundberg pictured working on the quilt. The Columbia River Piecemakers and other friends also helped create this beautiful quilt.

City History Tour. If you were not able to enjoy the Columbia City History Tour on CC Rider guided by Mark Stevens during the City Celebration, then you are in luck. The photos of historical sites in the City are on display during the month of September at the library. Come in to get the map of the walking tour and photos to help you learn the history of our wonderful city.

Art and Events. During September, we will have photographs of historic Columbia City on display in the library. In October, we will have workshops on scrapbooking, with kits for adults to make cards.

Second Hand Prose. This month quilting and craft books will be half price in Second Hand Prose.

New to the Library. This month we added 35 titles to the library:

The Sea Around Us by Rachel Carson (a classic)
The Black Bird Oracle by Deborah Harkness (best seller)
Never Lie by Freida McFadden (best seller)
The Inmate by Freida McFadden (best seller)
The Housemaid's Secret by Freida McFadden (best seller)
A Death in Cornwall by Daniel Silva (best seller)
Paul Bunyan Swings His Axe by Dell J. McCormick (fun tall tales for younger school children)



Meetings:

Storytime: Every Monday at 11 a.m.

Friends of the Library:

Monday, September 16th at 6:30

Novel Quilters:

Wednesday, September 18th at 2:00 p.m.

Mystery Book Club:

Wednesday, September 25th at 7:00 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>

CHIEFS CORNER

City Parks and Beaches. As I walk along the parks and beaches, I have been seeing more people out enjoying the fun they can provide. I have also noticed that there is more and more garbage being left behind. Please take the time to clean up the space you use. Don't leave wrappers, broken glass, diapers or any other items you brought with you.



There are garbage cans near most areas for people

to dispose of their waste at the end of the day. Many local areas have been closed to the public because people didn't take the time to remove their own waste. We do not want to see this happen here. So please, take what you brought back with you. I would also like to thank all the residents I see daily who take the time out of their own day to clean up what others have left behind. Your efforts are noticed by many.

The Police Department serviced the following calls during July 2024: 1 assist fire, 1 audible alarm, 6 animal complaints, 1 assist agency, 2 assaults, 7 assist persons, 1 behavioral health, 1 burglary in progress, 3 civil enforcements, 1 criminal mischief, 1 disturbance fight, 1 domestic, 9 follow ups, 2 cold frauds, 7 fireworks, 2 threat/harassments, 2 hazards, 2 incomplete 911, 4 informational, 2 juvenile problems, 1 missing juvenile, 1 runaway juvenile, 1 minor in possession, 2 motorist assists, 8 ordinance violations, 58 premise checks, 1 prowler, 1 traffic crash, 2 cold thefts, 7 traffic complaints, 19 traffic stops and 2 welfare checks, in all the Police Department serviced 175 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



Exhibitor's Choice winner presented by Marley Tinney to Dell McBride for his 1941 Lincoln Continental. People's Choice winner presented by Marley Tinney to Dodi Orr for her 1966 Chevrolet Corvair.



ACCOUNTING CLERK/COURT CLERK

Columbia City - part-time (30 hours per week). Performs a variety of routine and semi-skilled bookkeeping and accounting tasks and serves as municipal court clerk. Tasks include a variety of bookkeeping tasks involved in water and sewer utility accounts, including billing, receipts, reports and other account activities. Performs secretarial and clerical services, reconciliations and bank deposits. May perform accounts payable, payroll and related reports and maintain files. Does related work as required. Minimum high school graduate or equivalent education; preference given to Associates or Bachelor's Degree in related field. Requires minimum of two years experience with computer applications for finance activities; preference given to experience in governmental accounting work and experience with Springbrook Software. Combination of equivalent experience and education may substitute. Salary range \$21.11 to \$28.29 per hour/DOQ, PERS membership, and pro-rated leave and insurance benefits. For a complete job announcement and employment application, visit www.columbia-city.org, send an email to colcity@columbia-city.org, or visit City Hall at 1840 Second Street, Columbia City. Call 503-397-4010 for information. Position open until filled. EOE.

SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

September 2 nd	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Labor Day
September 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
September 17 th	2:30 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
September 17 th	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
September 19 th	6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting at City Hall

