

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

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MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

Join us in honoring all veterans on Monday, May 26th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Columbia City Veterans Park.



More information will be provided in the May newsletter.

VETERANS PARK CLEANUP

The St. Helens Garden Club helps in the Columbia City Veterans Park by working to keep the park looking its best, especially for the Memorial Day event. Monday, April 14, 2025, the Club will be at the park starting at 10 a.m. If you are interested in helping out, come to the park that morning. Bring gloves and tools for weeding. They'd love to see you there! If it rains they will NOT be working.

SPRING BURN PERIOD April 5th to April 20th

The biannual burn period will begin on Saturday, April 5th, and end on Sunday, April 20th. The burn period is for yard debris only and it must be a burn day. Burn barrels are prohibited. **Burn permits are required prior to burning!** Permits may be obtained online at www.cfr.com/burn-information. Call (503) 397-4800 for burn day information each day before you burn.

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP EVENT

The Spring Clean Up Event is Saturday, April 26th, at 8 a.m. See included flyer for more information.

COLUMBIA CITY LOCATION ONLY - the St. Helens Lions Club will be collecting: Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, Sneakers, Hiking Shoes and Non-Metal Cleats (Clean, Like-New or Gently Used).

Handicapped or elderly citizens needing assistance with transporting items for the event may contact City Hall at 503-397-4010. Coordination must be arranged by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25th.

VETERANS PARK – BRICKS AVAILABLE

All bricks on the upright sections of the five memorial walls are engraved, but there are still bricks available for engraving on the flat areas in front of each wall. This is a great way to honor or remember anyone whether it be a veteran, someone special, a pet, a business or your family.

All bricks are \$75. Proceeds are used to maintain the park. Order forms are available at City Hall or on our website.

Please turn in order forms by Monday, May 5th, 2025 so bricks can be engraved before the Memorial Day Event. (weather permitting)

CODE ENFORCEMENT WEED ABATEMENT & DOG POOP

The weed abatement season is here once again. Please consider this a friendly reminder City ordinances prohibit the uncontrolled growth of weeds, grass and other noxious vegetation.

Starting April 15th and ending September 30th weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height. An owner or person in charge of property shall cut down or destroy vegetation **as often as needed to prevent it from becoming unsightly, from becoming a fire hazard, or, in case of weeds or other noxious vegetation, from maturing or going to seed.**



There have been an increased number of reports of dog poop not being picked up at the Dog Park. Not only does this make grass maintenance difficult for the City's Public Works Department, but it is unpleasant for others using the park.



Pick up after your dogs! Bags and waste receptacles are provided for your convenience at the park and other areas around town.



Wednesday, March 19th was the big day for the Kids' Corner reveal party. Using grants from both the Roundhouse Foundation of Sisters, Oregon, and the Columbia County Cultural Coalition this new space offers kids of all ages educational games, free wi-fi, age appropriate graphic novels and new furniture in a fun space to hang out. A HUGE THANK YOU to our team of volunteers who made it all happen.



EXCITING NEWS! Starting April 1st the library will expand its hours to be open from 12 to 6 pm on Wednesdays! The new Kids' Corner invites children and their parents to have some fun time and access to books after the early release of school.

Specials at Secondhand Prose: April: Well-Being and Self-Care, May: Animals, June: Children and Young Adult books.

Too much of a good thing. In the past we have had a "come one, come all" policy when it came to book donations (with the exclusion of textbooks, dictionaries and encyclopedias). However, with our boxes and shelves in Secondhand Prose overflowing, we are temporarily asking only for the following kinds of books:

- Non-fiction, biographies, memoirs or history
- Current fiction for both children and adults
- Current (2025) magazines
- Rare books

Remember to bring the donations inside; please don't place in the library book drop-box.

When you are looking for something to buy, Secondhand Prose has something for everyone. Credit and debit cards are now accepted.

More Books in More Hands. We are proud to announce that we are partnering with Community Meals of St. Helens to provide children's books for their **Free Book Night for Children** on the fourth Tuesday each month. If your organization would like to receive free books, please email a request to the Friends of the Library board president, Kit Gardes at kitgardes@yahoo.com.

A Note of Passing. Percy Smith passed away at his home on March 9, 2025. He was a tremendous help to the library throughout its 25 years, and is best remembered for his warm smile and eagerness to pitch in wherever and whenever needed. Our condolences to his family.

44 new titles added to the Library this month!

The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt (best seller)

The Beauty of Dusk: Vision Lost and Found by Frank Bruni (past best seller)

An Unfinished Love Story by Doris Kearns Goodwin (past best seller)

The Grey Wolf by Louise Penny (recent best seller)

Intermezzo by Sally Rooney (recent best seller)

Onyx Storm by Rebecca Yarros (best seller)

14 New Graphic Novels for younger readers.

Large Print:

We All Live Here by Jojo Moyes (best seller)

Three Days in June by Anne Tyler (best seller)

Columbia City Community Library

2000 Second Street, PO Box 189

Columbia City OR 97018

503-366-8020

HOURS: Mon & Sat 10 am – 2 pm

Wed 12 – 6 pm - **NEW**

Thurs 3 pm – 6 pm

Email: ccclibrary@live.com

Website & Card Catalog:

www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com

Storytime: Mondays at 11 am

Novel Quilters: Wed., April 16th at 2 pm

Friends of the Library: Mon., April 21st at 6:30 pm

Mystery Book Club: Wed., April 30th at 7 pm

A VIEW INTO THE PAST

Remembering Columbia City - A Child's view of prohibition and the Great Depression—Continued

Written by Carl Sigler - Special to The Chronicle

Annotated by Mark Stevens -

markstevens@colcomuseum.org

Also on this end of town, we had a lighthouse on the river below McVey's store. It was kerosene light and the lighthouse tender was Mr. Adams, who came down every day to fill the light with fuel, so it would burn all the next day for the river traffic. *(I would love to see a photo of that lighthouse.)*

The first place my dad took me was beyond the old shipyard and sawmill to a lake to go fishing. *(now called Dalton Lake)* There was a long drainage ditch *(this later became Harrie Creek and it was created to bring water from the lake to the sawmill that was at the shipyard)* and people could fish both sides of it for catfish — the small kind, not the big channel cats, or the big ones like they have in the South. In the summer, men from the mill would bring their families down to fish. When it started to get dark, we would light up small fires and keep on fishing until late at night. We had to share the ditch with the muskrats. They had holes all along and you had to be careful not to step in one.

In the winter it was also a good place to trap muskrats. If you caught a nice muskrat and skinned it out and stretched it out and dried it, you could get about \$1 each, if you sent them back East to fur buyers.



(This photo was presented to the Heritage Committee in 1987 and labeled as Dalton Lake — there is some debate as to whether or not this is actually Dalton Lake.)

In the winter the lake would freeze over, solid enough to ice skate on. I didn't have ice skates, but my dad had the blacksmith at the mill build me a steel sled. I would go to the lake with my sled and lots of the older boys and men would skate into where they had a big bonfire going to warm everyone up. I would sit there with my sled and guys would holler at me to throw my rope to them, and away we would go — clear to the other end of the lake and back to the fire. Pretty soon another one would grab my rope and away we would go. This went on until I had to go home. Fun! Fun! Fun!

What a world my dad brought me into, and I am just starting. Always something new. I see kids nowadays and they are all crying the blues that there is nothing to do. I feel sorry for them, but most of the things we did are still here, they just don't want to look for them.

We lived in the office building for about a year, and then my dad bought a small house over on what we called Bridge Street or Main Street. (now L Street) Then after I got a little older than five, I got a paper route, delivering the Portland Telegram all over town, so I got acquainted throughout town. People came and they went during those times, moving a lot to wherever they could find work. I had to be careful to keep track of my customers, or I could lose a lot of money. The Portland Telegram sold out to the Portland News, so then I delivered the News Telegram, until the Journal bought it out, and then I delivered the Journal.

When I first carried the Telegram, I knew all the people personally. I never had anyone beat me out of any money, so I kept all of the customers and more each time I changed papers. They knew me and I knew them. Maybe they would say, "I don't have it today, but you come back next week and I will have it." They always did. Mrs. Eulrick always had the right amount in change when I collected, and a pocketful of cookies. Mrs. Albert Butts, who lived in the big house with the windmill, also always had the right change and a pocketful of cookies. Mrs. Rambolski, who was my teacher, had gotten sick and had to be in a wheelchair. I delivered the paper to her personally, and she always wanted to talk and get the local news. She always had some treat for me every day until she died.

To be continued...

CHIEF'S CORNER

Tax Fraud. It is that time of year when you may start to receive phone calls or emails requesting your personal information for various tax purposes. Please do not give out any of your personal information, banking information or address. Some of these people may make threats to get you to provide your information. If you receive any of these requests, please give us a call and we can follow up for you and verify the legitimacy of these callers. We are always here to help you out.

The Police Department serviced the following calls for service during February 2025: 1 assist fire, 3 animal complaints, 1 assist agency, 6 assist persons, 2 civil complaints, 2 death investigations, 1 DHS referral, 3 domestic calls, 7 follow up calls, 1 cold fraud call, 2 harassment/threats, 3 information calls, 1 juvenile problem, 2 juvenile custody disputes, 1 missing person, 1 ordinance violation, 1 parking complaint, 65 premise checks, 2 lost or found properties, 4 suspicious circumstances, 1 suspicious person, 3 suspicious vehicles, 1 suicide threat, 2 suspect stops, 1 non-injury traffic crash, 2 unknown injury traffic crashes, 3 cold thefts, 3 traffic complaints, 23 traffic stops, 1 unwanted, 1 violation of restraining order, 5 welfare checks and 3 warrant services. In all the Police Department serviced 168 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

TRILLIUM IN THE PARKS

This time of year you will start seeing the trillium in Bundy Park and along River's Walk. Oregon law prohibits the willful or negligent cutting, digging up,

trimming, picking, removing, mutilation, or injuring any plant, flower, shrub, bush, fruit, or other vegetation growing on the right-of-way or any public highway, or on public lands. Trilliums are a type of wildflower that are particularly vulnerable to being picked, as they can take years to recover from having their flowers and leaves removed. The Oregon Department of State Parks and Recreation encourages people to enjoy trilliums and other wildflowers by observing them in their natural habitat, but not by picking them.



DURING A COLUMBIA CITY EMERGENCY...

In March, a utility contractor hit a water main on Tahoma Street, causing a disruption in water service. Initially the break interrupted service to many residents until our Public Works Department was able to isolate the damaged water line, leaving around 40 residents without water.

Where can you find accurate information in an emergency? The City's Facebook page (logo below) is the best location to find accurate and up-to-date information or call City Hall at 503-397-4010 during business hours.



The City of Columbia City,
Oregon

Could the City reach you if needed? If your contact information has changed or you would like to verify the City has the most accurate information, contact City Hall at 503-397-4010.

Are you registered with the Columbia Alert Network (CAN)? The Columbia 911 Communications District uses the (CAN) system for emergency notifications. Some of you may have received notice during the water break. If not, you can register at: www.columbia911.com and click on the Columbia Alert Network link.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - APRIL 2025

April 3 rd	4:00 p.m.	Workshop City Council at City Hall
April 5 th	dawn	First day of open burning season
April 8 th	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
April 15 th	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
April 17 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 20 th	dusk	Last day of open burning season
April 23 rd	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 26 th	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Spring Clean Up Event at Columbia City Grade School