

Columbia City Newsletter

December

2025

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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CHRISTMAS SHIP EVENT – DECEMBER 13th

The Christmas Ships assemble at the St. Helens City Docks at 6 pm and head downriver to Columbia City. If weather/river conditions permit, they will cross to the Washington side of the river and pass by the Columbia Riverfront RV Park in Woodland and then pass by Columbia City again on their return trip to St. Helens. The fleet will be out for approximately two hours.



SUCCESSFUL PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE

A big THANK YOU to all who donated peanut butter! It has been a huge success with 103 jars donated as of November 25th!

JOIN CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM FOR

Tree Lighting & Christmas Ships

Saturday, December 13, 2025

1925 First Street, Columbia City, Oregon



5:30pm

Tree Lighting at the
Caples House Gazebo

Following Christmas Ships

Caroling and cookies
in Knapp Center at
Caples House Museum Complex

www.CaplesHouse.com



GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED BY CITY

The City has recently been awarded two grants. The first was received from Walmart for \$2,500 to use towards the Shop with a Cop program. This event will be on December 13, 2025, at the St. Helens Walmart. The second was received from the Oregon Community Foundation for \$4,000. That money will be used for the City's Centennial celebration, which is scheduled for June 6, 2026. A big Thank You to Walmart and Oregon Community Foundation!

OREGON DMV TO INCREASE VEHICLE TITLE AND REGISTRATION FEES

As part of House Bill 3991, vehicle title and registration fees will increase starting December 31, 2025. The transportation funding bill, passed on September 29, 2025 by a three-fifth's majority of the Oregon Legislature, will raise revenue to maintain the quality, safety and reliability of Oregon's transportation system.

For more details about the increase visit:
www.oregondmv.com.



Columbia City Community Hall

Friday, December 26, 2025

12 pm to 5 pm

1850 Second Street
Columbia City OR 97018

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org

Enter: ColumbiaCC

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Give Something that Means Something®

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



The St. Helens Middle School is participating in the 2025-2026 Oregon Battle of the Books. We have purchased the books we didn't already have so that we can be a resource for those that are reading them! Check them out for your holiday break!



Exciting News. Visit the Columbia River Maritime Museum for free. The Museum and Columbia City Community Library are collaborating to provide no-cost access for library members to the museum. Visit the library and check out a pass for up to one week. The pass is good for two adults and their minor children. The pass also includes entry to 3D movies, the Lightship *Columbia*, and a 10% discount at the museum store. This is just another benefit of being a member of the Columbia City Community Library.



Membership is always free for everyone in Columbia County.

Last Chance for Card Making. Join in the fun of making your own unique holiday cards on December 6th and 13th from 11 am to 2 pm. All supplies provided, and the cost is only \$2 per card.



Grab & Go for December. The popular Grab & Go

craft kits have been re-tuned for December fun. Bring the young kids and grandkids in to choose from a selection of holiday crafts while supplies last.

Secondhand Prose. What are YOUR kids doing over the holiday break? Instead of screen-time, give them BOOKS to read. There are four shelves of youth and young adult novels on special for \$0.50 or \$1.00 each for December. Bring them in and let them choose from stories about vampires, dragons, journeys, friendships, and more.

New to the Library. 70 new titles were added this month, some of the titles are:

- Flight of the Diamond Smugglers: A Tale of Pigeons, Obsession, and Greed along Coastal South Africa* by Matthew Frank
 - Mushrooms of Cascadia* by Michael W. Beug
 - What an Owl Knows* by Jennifer Ackerman
 - The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick
 - Off the Air* by Christina Estes (Hillerman award winner)
 - Apostle's Cove* by William Kent Krueger (favorite author at our library)
 - The House of Wolves* by James Patterson
 - Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See
- For middle school readers:
- Soar* by Joan Bauer
 - Aru Shah and the End of Time* by Roshani Chokshi
 - Projekt 1065* by Alan Gratz
 - Ellen Outside the Lens* by A. J. Sass

More to be cataloged by the time this is published!

Storytime: Mondays at 11 am
Friends of the Library: No December meeting
Mystery Book Club: Wed, Dec 17 at 7 pm

Library Closures:
Wed, Dec 24 – Thu, Dec 25 – Wed, Dec 31

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 / Thurs 3 – 6 pm

Email: ccclibrary@live.com

Website & Card Catalog:

www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com

CHIEF'S CORNER

Deliveries. Soon we will be entering into the holiday season, and people will be ordering gifts online, if they haven't started already. Please make sure you try to have items delivered during the time when you will be home or see if a neighbor can store your package until you get home. Items remaining on your porch make easy targets for thieves who just drive around looking for items to take from porches. Also be sure to check your mail daily so cards with money or checks do not remain vulnerable in any non-lockable mailbox. And always be neighborly and watch out for one another by reporting any suspicious person you see in your neighborhood. We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season.



The Police Department serviced the following calls during October 2025: 1 assist fire, 1 audible alarm, 6 animal complaints, 1 assist agency, 6 assist persons, 2 behavioral health, 1 burglary in progress, 3 civil enforcements, 1 criminal mischief, 3 DHS referrals, 1 domestic, 1 DUII, 1 extra patrol, 3 follow ups, 1 cold fraud, 1 harassment/threats, 1 incomplete 911, 1 info call, 1 juvenile problem, 1 juvenile runaway, 1 noise complaint, 2 overdoses, 43 premise checks, 1 promiscuous shooting, 1 subject stop, 2 suspicious circumstances, 1 suspicious person, 1 suicide attempt, 2 suicide threats, 2 out with suspect vehicles, 1 traffic crash, 1 cold theft, 3 traffic complaints, 1 criminal trespass, 17 traffic stops, 2 unwanted and 1 welfare check. In all the Police Department serviced 125 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

A CALL FOR MATERIAL

by Mark Stevens - markstevens@colcomuseum.org

As many of you might know, next year is the 100th anniversary of our City's incorporation and we are planning a celebration to mark the event.

If you have any materials and photos of early Columbia City, we would appreciate it very much if you would consider sharing it with us. The City is

also looking for any events of special interest from the last 100 years. Information provided might be used for possible displays or in my future articles about Columbia City's past.

Please contact City Hall or myself if you are interested in sharing any materials you might have.



MONTHLY RECYCLING TIP
Everything Must Be Clean and Dry



Magazines, catalogs and similar glossy paper – can be recycled. For more information visit: www.columbiacountyor.gov/recycle.

A festive poster for Caples House Holiday High Tea. The poster has a white background with a green and red border of pine branches and berries. At the top, it says "CAPLES HOUSE" in a serif font. Below that, in a large red oval, is "HOLIDAY HIGH TEA" in white serif font. Underneath the oval, it says "We need a little Christmas" in a cursive font. Then, in a smaller cursive font, it says "Join us for a relaxing afternoon filled with laughter, memories, and festive cheer. Savor the tea and wonderful holiday inspired, gluten free treats. Enjoy live music, and good company!". Below that, in a bold serif font, is "DECEMBER 7 | 2-4 PM". Underneath that, in a smaller serif font, is "\$55 per guest" and "Add \$5 for a guided tour of the museums after the tea". At the bottom, it says "Reservations via QR Code or by emailing Caples.House@OregonDAR.org" and includes a QR code. At the very bottom, it says "1925 FIRST STREET, COLUMBIA CITY, OREGON" and "www.CaplesHouse.com".

LOST AND FOUND

The following items were recently found and turned into City Hall:

- Pocket knife near Harvard Park.
- Set of keys, with car key fob, left on community mailbox in 1300 block of Second Street.

If you think either of these items might be yours, contact City Hall at 503-397-4010.

A VIEW INTO THE PAST
Remembering Columbia City
Columbia City's Oldest Home (sort of) Part 2
 by Mark Stevens - markstevens@colcomuseum.org

Now to answer the question of what does the old building in St. Helens have to do with Columbia City. Richard Spiro wrote an article for the Columbia City Heritage Committee around 1989 that mentions that a home here was built from the lumber from an old store in St. Helens. Glorene and I scoured the old Sentinel Mist Newspapers until we found the following article:

Sentinel Mist Friday, July, 1941
"Sin-Tainted Boards To Make House For Columbia City Pastor, Wife."

If the boards with which Pastor J. K., Knapp, of the Columbia City Foursquare church is building his new parsonage, (if the walls) could talk they could tell some tall tales. And some of these tales, be it here remarked, might be entirely out of keeping with the lumber's respectable job as an important part in the parsonage of a minister.

For the lumber with which this house is being constructed"... "has run the gamut of occupations -- pool hall, movie palace and store being among the more prominent."

"Pastor Knapp decided he wanted a new parsonage. (the) Result was that the mill owners gave the parson the go ahead on his offer to wreck the building and he is now in the midst of the job. Despite the fact that the lumber is laden with history and mildly tainted with sin, Rev. Mr. Knapp is of the opinion that he'll have an A No. 1 parsonage when he gets through. Boards from the old structure are nearly as sound as the day they were put in and some of the ancient square iron nails with which the building was put together may be of use in the five room house now being constructed.

During its prime as a flicker palace and pool hall the

old building did its part in promoting a good many of the boys along what some folks are pleased to call the primrose path. It seems only fitting and proper, therefore, that it should spend its sunset years keeping the Oregon rain off a minister and his wife. In a way, Pastor and Mrs. Knapp will probably be a good influence on the hard-bitten lumber which will make up their new parsonage."



Richard Spiro made some references to where the parsonage was located and after viewing early aerials, I found what I thought was the home. I subsequently contacted Dianne, the current owner, and she graciously allowed us to inspect the building. Upon viewing the crawl space, attic, and some interior openings in walls, and finding very old lumber, there is no doubt that we had located the building in question.

I would even say that the current home even resembles the old building in many ways.

So there you have it. Columbia City, in some manner, has one of the oldest buildings in the county.



MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2025



December 11 th	6:00 pm		Municipal Court at City Hall	
December 16 th	6:30 pm		Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - canceled	
December 18 th	6:00 pm		Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall	
December 24 th	CLOSED		City Hall is closed for the Christmas holiday	
December 25 th	CLOSED		City Hall is closed for the Christmas holiday	
December 30 th	6:00 pm		Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall - canceled	