

Columbia City Newsletter

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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February 2025



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OUR NEW MAYOR

At the January 16th City Council meeting, our new Mayor Alexander Reed was sworn into office.



Also sworn in as City Councilors after being elected by the voters in November 2024 was Connie Quick and Lyle Bluhm.

COLUMBIA CITY TURNS 100 NEXT YEAR!

Columbia City was incorporated in June of 1926 and we intend to celebrate! If you are interested in helping to plan the events that will take place to commemorate this occasion, please reach out to Laura Markham at City Hall, markham@columbia-city.org or 503-397-4010.

PIXIE PARK – DONATED TO THE CITY

In August of 2023, the City received a letter from the Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (OSSDAR) in which they expressed their desire to enter into discussions about donating Pixie Park to the City. The Parks Committee first discussed the proposal and recommended the City Council accept the donation and the Council agreed. On December 27, 2024, Pixie Park became the property of Columbia City.

The property became the possession of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) around 1972 when it was acquired from Harvey & Nora Jordan and David Bennett. In 1977, Nora Jordan approached the DAR about developing the property into a park for the benefit of the community. It was dedicated to the memory of Harvey and his boat, the Pixie, and the name will go unchanged.

Pixie Park is a lovely little waterfront park that is popular for picnics, viewing the Christmas Ships in December and watching fireworks on the 4th of July. Its breathtaking views of the Columbia River, Mt Adams and Mt Hood just add to its charm. The City has no plans to make any changes to this gem, but will maintain it and keep it available for public enjoyment.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND CITY SERVICES

As this time of year’s weather can bring snow and ice storms, we would like to share 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 last year’s 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 who have expressed appreciation for the hard work and hours put in by our Public Works Department to keep the City’s streets as safe as possible.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Multi Agency Traffic Detail. Over the last few months Columbia County Law Enforcement Agencies have been conducting traffic details to reduce speeds, crashes and other traffic violations on Hwy 30. So, if you see several agencies working in an area of Columbia County this is what you are probably observing. These details have been developed due to the increase in traffic-related calls. The goal is to increase safety and reduce traffic related incidents. Ultimately it is up to each driver on the roadway to pay attention, drive responsibly and follow the laws.

The Police Department serviced the following calls in December 2024: 1 assist fire, 1 animal complaint, 1 assist agency, 4 assist persons, 2 behavioral health, 1 cold burglary, 4 civil enforcements, 1 criminal mischief, 3 domestics, 10 follow up investigations, 1 cold fraud, 2 incomplete 911 calls, 6 information calls, 1 noise complaint, 1 parking complaint, 56 premise checks, 2 promiscuous shooting calls, 3 suspicious circumstances, 2 suspicious persons, 2 suspicious vehicles, 2 out with suspect vehicles, 1 adult sex crime, 2 cold thefts, 6 traffic complaints, 15 traffic stops and 5 welfare checks. In all the Police Department serviced 145 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 1, 2025 from 8 am to 2 pm**. For a complete list of accepted items 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

Exciting things are happening at the Caples House Museum Complex. In January we had tree work completed and in the coming months you will see more activity occurring on our buildings and grounds.

Are you considering hosting an event of your own or would you like to volunteer with the Caples House? Please reach out to: Caples.House@OregonDAR.org.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and check out our website: www.CaplesHouse.com for upcoming community events and opportunities.

**SPRING CLEANUP – SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2025**

More information will be in future newsletters.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City currently has vacancies on the following Committee and Commission.



Applications for any of these positions may be picked up at

City Hall, or may be found on the City's website at www.columbia-city.org – under Doing Business, Public Service Forms.

Budget. The Budget Committee has one position open and 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.

Planning Commission. The Planning Commission currently has one open position. Terms are for four years and applicants must reside within the City or the City's Urban Growth Boundary. The Planning Commission meets at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month if there are topics to discuss.

If you have any questions about any of these available positions, please call City Hall.

BLOOD DRIVE

Columbia City Community Hall
1850 Second Street – Columbia City OR 97018

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2025
12:00 p.m. TO 5:00 p.m.



What's Happening. January 18th citizens visited with new Mayor Alex Reed. Some came to ask questions, some to welcome him to his new post, and some came to express ideas for the future of the city. It was a well-attended event. Thank you, Alex for serving.



Awarded \$1,100 Grant From Columbia County Cultural Coalition. This grant is to update furnishings and materials that will attract children and youth to enjoy our city's community library. This is a new one-time project that compliments the work the library has begun in redesigning the library's kids' corner. This grant will allow us to create new storage space for rotating venue items and purchase furnishings such as ergonomic fidget stools, appropriate sized worktable with chairs, art and crafts supplies, and premade kits for "Grab and Go Crafts" this summer. We are grateful for the support from this grant opportunity in 2025.

Secondhand Prose Used Bookshop. February's half price special is "Love is in the Air" with all Romance novels ½ price. If you are itching to get into the garden, the March special will be all gardening and landscape books.

Upcoming Event

February 22nd, 1 to 2 pm: Meet the Artist – Leslie Karlson. Leslie will talk about her work and how her creative energy has taken many forms. See her wonderful art in the Library through the end of February.



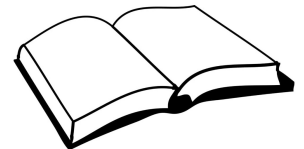
February is Love Your Library Month

Join Friends of the Library and help celebrate 25 years as a free community library. Pick up a membership form at the library. It is only \$25 a year to join. Already a Friend? **Thank You!**

Please consider joining our great group of volunteers by helping on a committee and sharing your thoughts on how we can make the library even better. Meet us at a Friends of the Library meeting, the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the library.

Committees awaiting your help include:

- Events Planning
- City Celebration
- Community Outreach
- Strategic Planning
- Newsletters
- Desk Duty



To find out more about volunteer opportunities, email us at ccclibrary@live.com.

Monthly Schedule

- **Storytime** – Mondays at 11 am
- **Friends of the Library** – Mon., Feb. 17th at 6:30 pm – everyone welcome
- **Novel Quilters** – Wed., Feb. 19th at 2 pm
- **Mystery Book Club** – Wed., Feb. 26th at 7 pm

New to the Library this month we added 61 titles!

- Love, Mom: Inspiring Stories Celebrating Motherhood* by Nicole Saphier
- The Seige* by Ben Macintyre
- Finding Chika* by Mitch Albom
- The Secret of Life: Discovery of DNA* by Howard Markel
- The Night We Lost Him* by Laura Dave
- The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose
- The Fraud* by Zadie Smith

Large Print

The Last Chance Olive Ranch by Susan Wittig Albert

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 & Thurs 3 pm – 6 pm
Email: ccclibrary@live.com
Website & Card Catalog:
www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com

A VIEW INTO THE PAST
Remembering Columbia City - A Child's view of prohibition and the Great Depression
Written by Carl Sigler - Special to The Chronicle
Annotated by Mark Stevens -
markstevens@colcomuseum.org

In June, 1925, my family moved to Columbia City. We moved from Yacolt, WA. We were all day getting here by way of Vancouver, WA, across the interstate bridge with all of our belongings on a truck, and my sister and I riding on the top of the furniture. When we crossed the bridge, we were in Oregon, and heading to St. Johns. When we got to St. Johns, we had to wait for the ferry across the Willamette River to Linnton. Crossing the river on the ferry, my dad went down and bought what was to be my first Eskimo Pie, was it ever good! Then we headed down Highway 30 to Columbia City. By the time we got there, it was near dark, and I was asleep, so it would be the next morning before I would see anything.

My dad had come here and gotten a job in the sawmill and made arrangements for us to live in the office building that had been the office for the Sommerstrom Shipyards. The lower part was still an office for the sawmill. *(this was at Third and M Street, below my house)*



The next morning I awakened to strange noises, and leaped up to see what was going on. I ran to the window overlooking the river, the sawmill, and what remained of the shipyard. All of the noises that woke me up turned out to be boats on the river.

Needless to say, I spent that first day watching the different boats: tug boats, lumber schooners, fish boats. Coming from the backwoods of Washington, I had never seen anything like this.

The next day, I ventured outside. Up the hill and behind us was a two-story hotel, and as I walked up the boardwalk that went up toward town, the first place I came to was a barber shop. As I was looking around, a man came out and asked me if I wanted a shave. I told him I didn't have any whiskers. I later found out that the barber's name was Mr. Radamaker, and he became my first real friend. Just below the shop was a firehouse that had a two-man pumper cart, in case of fire.



Looking down M Street between 3^d and 4th

Next up the sidewalk, I came to the other hotel and boarding house, which had a small store in front, operated by a nice lady named Mrs. Condin, whom I became acquainted with. That was enough for that day, so I walked back down the boardwalk, which went past our house, and down the hill to the river.

To be continued....

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2025

February 6 th	6:00 p.m.	Water and Sewer Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 11 th	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 12 th	6:00 p.m.	Streets Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 13 th	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 17 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Washington's Birthday/President's Day
February 18 th	2:30 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 20 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 21 st	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
February 26 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall