

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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PARKS SURVEY – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Columbia City has started a community-led process to update its citywide Parks Master Plan. We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and what we should focus on to keep our parks and activities thriving into the future. We ask you to consider your needs for the future as you evaluate recreation amenities to help guide us in the community's needs. Your opinions are important. The survey is 15 questions long and will only take a few minutes to complete. You can reply to the survey through the provided QR code or link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ColumbiaCityParks>. Don't want to complete it online? That's okay, a survey will also be mailed to every address in the City.



CHIEFS CORNER

Fireworks. With the 4th of July coming up we wanted to remind you, in Oregon, the only legal fireworks are the ones purchased here in Oregon. They must be Oregon consumer legal fireworks, illustrated below. Please do not bring fireworks from out of state here to light them off, it is not legal. Fireworks that fly in the air, explode, or behave in an uncontrolled and unpredictable manner are not allowed in Oregon. Using illegal fireworks or using



State of Oregon Firework Chart / Legal Fireworks

Includes fountains, spinners and wheels. Available for purchase at retail fireworks outlets.



legal fireworks improperly can lead to penalties, including fines, civil liability, and potential criminal charges. Specifically, using fireworks on prohibited lands or violating specific regulations can result in fines up to \$500, while illegal fireworks can lead to a class B misdemeanor with fines up to \$2,500. Additionally, individuals can be held civilly liable for any damage caused by fireworks, including fire suppression cost. Columbia City will have an Officer on duty July 4th to help monitor the use of fireworks. Please be safe and make wise choices during the holiday weekend.

The Police Department serviced the following calls during April 2025: 1 abandoned vehicle, 1 assist fire, 1 audible alarm, 2 animal complaints, 2 assist agencies, 3 assist persons, 2 behavioral health, 1 civil enforcement, 1 DHS referral, 1 disturbance fight, 7 follow up calls, 2 harassment/threats, 2 hazard calls, 1 juvenile problem, 3 motorist assist, 2 noise complaints, 1 ordinance complaint, 40 premise checks, 1 lost/found property, 4 suspicious circumstance, 5 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 1 sex crime, 1 traffic accident, 3 cold thefts, 1 traffic complaint, 12 traffic stops and 1 warrant service. In all the Police Department serviced 118 activities.

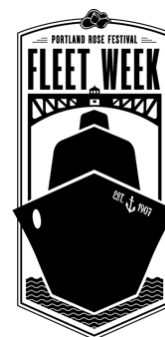
The Police Department would like to request your continued support in being our eyes and ears in the community. Please feel free to contact us via 9-1-1 (emergency), 503-397-4010 (office), or 503-397-1521 (non-emergency dispatch).

Best regards ~ Chief Jerry Bartolomucci

ROSE FESTIVAL FLEET WEEK

Since 1907, visiting ships have made their way to Portland's waterfront. Ships will be arriving June 4th and departing June 9th. For more information visit:

www.rosefestival.org





Address: 1925 First Street / PO Box 263
Columbia City OR 97018

Website: www.CaplesHouse.com

Email: Caples.House@OregonDAR.org

Phone: 971-203-3533

Monthly Sunday Afternoon Tea

One Sunday per month at either 2 or 3 pm you can enjoy tea and treats for \$15 per person. You may also take a leisurely stroll through our beautiful grounds and explore the historic Caples House Museum property. For an additional \$5 per person, hear the fascinating story of the Caples family brought to life during a guided tour. For reservations or more information visit our website or use this QR code.



Upcoming Sunday Teas:

June 1st * July 6th
August 3rd * September 7th
October 12th * November 9th

Friends of Caples House Museum. This program helps keep the Caples family story alive by allowing individuals and companies to contribute funds of any amount, in-kind donations of goods or services, or by volunteering in exchange for museum tickets, meeting/event space and public recognition. The Caples House Museum property operates based on donations, event proceeds and volunteer support. Every gift of any amount allows us to maintain and grow our programs, preserving and sharing the history and heritage of Caples House Museum. For more information or to donate visit our website or use this QR code.



Calling all volunteers... Join us in volunteering at Caples House Museum as a museum tour guide/docent, assist at community events or help behind the scenes. If interested, reach out to join our roster of volunteers.

Book your next event at Caples House Museum. We would love to host your next event... wedding, reception, bridal or baby shower, birthday or anniversary party, family or group gathering, team building event and club or business meetings.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

As advertised on the flyer in the April newsletter the next HHW event is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Columbia County Transfer Station – 1601 Railroad Avenue, St. Helens OR 97051. For a list of accepted items or more information visit:
<https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/departments/SolidWaste/household-hazardous-waste-1>

COLUMBIA CITY TURNS 100 NEXT YEAR!

The coordinators of the City's 100-year Celebration Event are looking for your help! They need pictures and stories of memorable events that happened in Columbia City since it was incorporated in June of 1926. If you have information, please reach out to Mark Stevens at markstevens@colcomuseum.org.

SIGNS IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

The City has very large public right-of-ways and in many areas of town the edge of the roadway or sidewalk does not indicate the edge of your private property.

Signs are not to be placed in the public right-of-ways without City Council approval. Signs are not to be placed on utility poles without permission of the appropriate utility. No trespass, no parking, pickup after your pet, political signs and businesses that have serviced your home or property, all these signs need to be placed on your private property.

The City has recently observed several signs in violation and some have been pulled and taken to the Public Works shop and will be held for a limited amount of time before being disposed of. If you had a sign placed that is now missing or if you have any questions about sign placement and regulations, contact City Hall.

A RAT REDUCTION PLAN

- Store seed & pet food in rodent-proof containers.
- Remove fallen fruit or nuts.
- Move compost into rodent-resistant containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Remove all fecal matter (dogs, cats, rodents, birds) and/or food waste every day.
- Eliminate standing water and improve drainage, so water doesn't pool or settle.
- Remove clutter from storage sheds and garages.

A VIEW INTO THE PAST
Remembering Columbia City - A Child's view of
prohibition and the Great Depression - Part 5
Written by Carl Sigler Annotated by Mark
Stevens - markstevens@colcomuseum.org

When young people got married, we usually gave them a big chivaree as soon as they got back from their honeymoon. The first one I was old enough to go to was when Les Furer and Ester Griffith got married (*the two were married October 14, 1931 in Vancouver WA. And later moved to Rainier*). When they got back from their honeymoon, someone saw them back in their home.

It was on a Saturday, so that night about half of the town got ready. At about ten o'clock we saw the lights go out. We approached the house, and when someone hollered, all hell broke loose with cow bells and horns. I had an old hot water heater, and a large pipe. I pulled the pipe up and down over the rivets and it made a heck of a noise. They never came out or turned on the lights or anything. We kept making noise. After about 30 minutes they gave in and turned on the lights, and we all went into the house.

Les Furer had the fish traps on the Washington side of the river. He couldn't have them on the Oregon side. One day he asked me if I would like to go with him the next day to lift the traps. I said yes. Les told me to tell my mom and dad where I was going.



(These traps are formed by nets attached to pilings that gently guide the fish into a kind of underwater corral.)

The next morning, I got up bright and early and went down to his house. As soon as he was ready, we got into the boat, along with the rest of the crew, and away we went to the Washington side of the river to the traps. We pulled in with the boat, and he had a barge they put into the trap. The men got into the barge and started lifting the net up. Such splashing was going on. As the trap came up, the men started to gaff the salmon and put them in the barge. I had never seen that many salmon in my life.

When they got the salmon all out, Les told me to get a gunny sack and get all the fish I wanted of the ones they couldn't sell to the cannery. There were large trout, some bass and crappies. Anyway, I got all I could carry home and then I went around to all the close neighbors and gave them all the fish they could eat. That night you could smell fish frying all over town.

After they built the community hall, they had dances most every Saturday night. I used to go down early Sunday morning, looking for empty whiskey bottles that I knew would be laying around. They wouldn't let them in the hall with a bottle, so they would hide them outside. The best place to find them was down along the fence of the Caples House, in the grass. (*Hmmm, I wonder if that is still true*)

I could take them across the highway from the bridge and Mr. Wesenberg had a garage where he could fix flat tires and had a few grocery items. He would buy whiskey and pop bottles. He would give me five cents for a whiskey bottle and if you had a really flat one that they could carry in their breast pocket he would pay a dime. I don't know if he was bootlegging or if he just sold them to someone else that was.

They had a veneer plant just south of Maclays Store (*See March 2024 Newsletter for info on the store*). It also was a furniture plant. Just past that was a small sawmill. The veneer and furniture operations went out of business when the shipyard closed down.

We used to have a medicine show come to town about once a year. They pitched a large tent in the back of the community hall. To sell the medicine, they put on a show and entertainment using some of the locals. The one I remember they called for some young men to come up on the stage and crow like a rooster. Several of them got up there and my dad told me to get up there too. "You can crow like a rooster," he said. So I got up there and was the last one. They all crowed first, and I was the last to crow. I let out a shrill crow and everyone laughed because they all knew me. Then the man went down the line and each one crowed and the audience clapped and when he came to me he said, "And now the banty rooster." All my friends let out a big roar and he said, "There is no doubt, the winner is the banty rooster." He handed me two silver quarters. Easiest money I ever made.

To be continued....



Summer Fun for Kids: Grab & Go Kits. This is the third year we have had fun Grab & Go craft kits for children of all ages. Stop in each week to see what is new. Stay and create, pick out a new book to read, play a game with your friends. There is something in our new Kids' Corner for everyone – parents included. We are grateful to the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation for providing matching funds to our grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition that make the enrichment programs for our local children possible.



Field Trip for 3rd Graders. In May, the Library hosted both third grade classes from the Columbia City Elementary School. A quick walk across the playground gave the children a half-hour tour of the library. The staff read to the kids and gave them time to explore our new Kids' Corner and the wonderful assortment of educational toys, graphic novels and books for all reading levels. We welcome all classes at the school to sign up for a visit.

Secondhand Prose. June HALF PRICE SALE in Secondhand Prose is on all the Children's, Juvenile's, Youth and Young Adult books. Stock up for naptime & bedtime stories, picnics in the park, rainy day reading and device time diversion. There are 4 shelves up front and 5 shelves in the back to select from. Children's & Juvenile softbacks are \$.25, hard cover \$.50 Youth and Young Adult's soft backs are \$.50 and hard cover \$1.00.

Storytime: Mondays at 11 am
Friends of the Library: Mon., June 16th at 6:30 pm
Novel Quilters: Wed., June 18th at 2 pm
Mystery Book Club: Wed., June 26th at 7 pm

New to the Library. 68 new titles added to the Library this month! Some of the added titles are:

Abundance by Ezra Klein (best seller)
Chaos (Charles Manson) by Tom O'Neill (best seller)
Lights Out by Navessa Allen (best seller)
The Strangler Vine by Miranda Carter (award winner)
Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord by Celeste Connally (award winner)
Devil House by John Darnielle (award winner)
How to Solve Your Own Murder by Kristen Perrin (recent best seller)
The City Beautiful by Aden Polydoros (award winner)
Mother-Daughter Murder Night by Nina Simon (award winner)

Large Print:

The Wife Stalker by Liv Constantine
The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz
I Have Some Questions for You by Rebecca Makkai
Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead

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 – 6 pm

Email: ccclibrary@live.com

Website & Card Catalog:

www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING GROUP VACANCIES

Applications may be picked up at City Hall, or may be found on the City's website.

The City currently has an two openings on the Hazard Mitigation Planning Group. The committee monitors and documents progress made on the implementation of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan, reviews actions taken in response to disasters or emergencies that occur, makes recommendations for new projects or revised action items and discusses implementation problems that may arise. Terms are for three years and applicants must reside within the City or the City's Urban Growth Boundary. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Group meets at 6:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month when there are topics to discuss.



MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JUNE 2025

June 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
June 12 th	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
June 17 th	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting - canceled
June 18 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall - special date
June 19 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed for the Juneteenth Holiday
June 25 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall

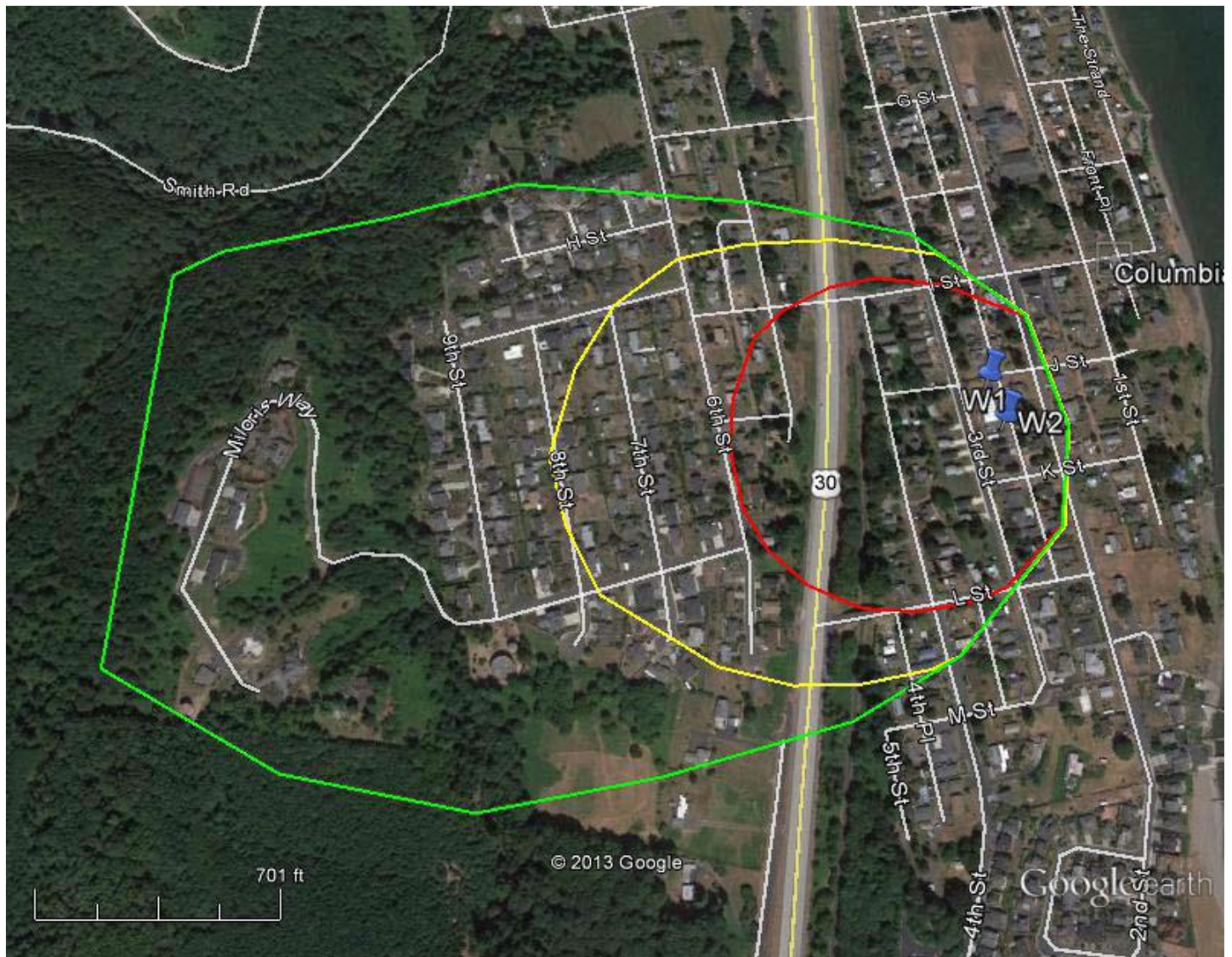
DEFENSIBLE SPACE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.



Give your home an increased chance of surviving a wildfire,
even if firefighters cannot reach your home.

PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Clean drinking water is critical, and the majority of Columbia City's drinking water comes from two groundwater wells. To protect our drinking water, Columbia City developed a Source Water Protection Plan in 2014 that identified a Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA). The DWPA is the area most critical to preserving your drinking water quality.



Delineation of Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA)

Red Zone inner circle - higher risk - one-year estimated time of travel to source water

Yellow Zone middle circle - moderate risk - two-year estimated time of travel to source water

Green Zone outer circle - lower risk - two-five year estimated time of travel to source water

Contamination is one of the primary threats to our drinking water supply. Contamination occurring within the red zone may travel to our drinking supply within just one year, contamination within the yellow zone might take up to two years, and green zone contamination is estimated to take two to five years.

Safe drinking water is essential, and it's important for all of us to protect water quality, not only for the present, but for the future. If you live within the above DWPA, it's especially important for you to help to protect your drinking water source.