

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

May 2025

CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT

The Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing on May 15, 2025, at 6 p.m. to accept testimony about proposed adjustments to the current water and sewer rates. The changes proposed to the monthly rates for residential customers located within the city limits are outlined in the tables below. Information about the proposed rates for other customer classes may be obtained by contacting City Hall.

Monthly Water Rates (inside City limits)		
Residential Meter 3/4" or 5/8"	Current	Proposed
Base Rate - includes 100 cf	\$41.93	\$48.22
Per cf over 101 & up to 500	\$0.0257	\$0.0296
Per cf over 501 & up to 1000	\$0.0408	\$0.0469
Per cf over 1001	\$0.0557	\$0.0641

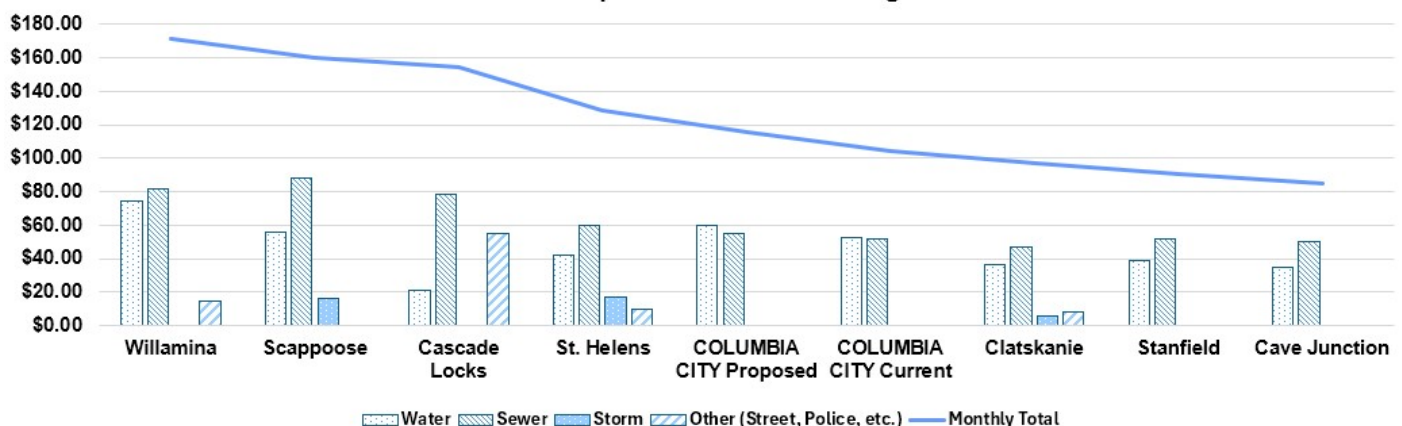
Monthly Sewer Rates		
Residential Connection	Current	Proposed
Minimum Base Rate	\$48.22	\$50.63
Usage Fee (per cf, Oct-May)	\$0.0088	\$0.0092
Usage Fee (per cf, Jun-Sep)	none	none

It is anticipated that the new rates will generate additional water revenue equal to 15% and sewer revenue equal to 5%. The bulk of the additional revenue is needed to cover construction costs which skyrocketed during the past four years, and to make annual debt payments associated with recent construction projects and meet loan debt coverage requirements. System operation and maintenance costs also increased significantly during the same four-year period. If approved, the new rates will take effect on June 26 and show up on the July 26 bills.

Even after the proposed rate increases, Columbia City's monthly utility fees are average compared to other cities for a residential household using 500 cubic feet of water. The chart below and table to the right reflect a small sample of the data we collected from other cities within Oregon.

City	Water	Sewer	Storm	Other - Street, Police, etc.	Monthly Total
Willamina	\$74.58	\$81.57	\$0.00	\$14.87	\$171.02
Scappoose	\$55.97	\$88.15	\$16.28	\$0.00	\$160.39
Cascade Locks	\$20.73	\$78.20	\$0.00	\$55.19	\$154.12
St. Helens	\$42.04	\$59.42	\$16.97	\$10.00	\$128.44
COLUMBIA CITY Proposed	\$60.06	\$55.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$115.29
COLUMBIA CITY Current	\$52.21	\$51.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103.95
Clatskanie	\$36.16	\$46.93	\$5.84	\$8.00	\$96.93
Stanfield	\$39.00	\$51.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.33
Cave Junction	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85.00

**Water, Sewer, Storm, and other Monthly Fees
Based Upon 500 cf of Water Usage**



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY COLUMBIA CITY VETERANS PARK

Please join us in honoring all American veterans on Monday, May 26 from 11 am to 12 pm at the Columbia City Veterans Park.

Before attending the event, please review these **IMPORTANT transportation and parking instructions**: Free bus service will be offered to and from the event! To catch the bus, park on Second Street near the Caples House Museum or park at the CC Rider Park 'n Ride in St. Helens, and be bussed directly to the park! Bus service will start at 9:30 am. Parking near Veterans Park is **NOT RECOMMENDED**. Vehicular access to the park from Highway 30 and parking along Highway 30 will be **PROHIBITED** on event day.

Refreshments will be available, compliments of the Mt. St. Helens Chapter of the DAR

VETERANS PARK CLEANUP

The St. Helens Garden Club will be working in the Columbia City Veterans Park on Monday, May 12, 2025, starting at 10:00 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.

Also, please sign-up, by calling City Hall at 503-397-4010 to help plant the Petunia's in the park when they come in.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SET

The Columbia City Budget Committee will meet on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 6 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. The purpose of this meeting is to present the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the proposed budget for fiscal year 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026. A copy of the proposed budget document may be inspected or purchased on or after May 22nd.

ANNUAL COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

The annual Columbia City Celebration event is coming up on Saturday, August 9th. The Columbia City Community Library is celebrating 25 years. Get ready for FUN in the sun at the Columbia City Elementary School grounds. Highlights include: * Strawberry Pancake Breakfast (Community Hall) * Book Sale * Prize Raffles * Craft Vendors * Art

Show * Kid Zone Make & Take Crafts * Columbia City History Tours * Live Band * Food Vendors * Show and Shine Auto Event *

Are you an artist, crafter or creator of cool things? We would love for you to show off and sell your crafts. If you are interested in securing a vendor booth, or helping out as a volunteer, email Jazzmin Love at iamjazzminlove@gmail.com or stop by the Library or City Hall and pick up a booth application. We do require that all items and products sold be hand crafted in Columbia County.

LIONS CLUB – EARTH DAY CITY CLEAN UP

A big **thank you** to the St. Helens Lion's Club for organizing a garbage pick-up event in Columbia City on Saturday, April 26th, and for running the Spring Clean Up event.



CHIEF'S CORNER

The Police Department serviced the following calls for service during March 2025: 5 animal complaints, 2 agency assists, 2 assist persons, 2 DHS referrals, 1 verbal disturbance, 8 follow up calls, 2 cold frauds, 3 harassment/threat calls, 2 juvenile problems, 2 motorist assists, 1 marine assist, 2 parking complaints, 46 premise checks, 1 lost/found property, 4 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 1 sex crime exposure, 1 traffic crash, 7 traffic complaints, 1 trespass, 17 traffic stops, 2 unwanted persons and 2 welfare checks. In all the Police Department serviced 126 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

CAPLES HOUSE OPENING – MAY 4TH

New this year, Caples House Sunday Afternoon Tea! Join us for Sunday afternoon tea and a guided tour to help kick-off our 2025 season! Once a month on Sunday at either 2 or 3 pm you can come enjoy tea and treats for \$15 per person. For an additional \$5 per person, hear the fascinating story of the Caples family brought to life during a guided tour. Reservations and more information can be found at www.CaplesHouse.com.

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

There was a small dock straight down from the Caples House, in front of Elmer Graham's. People would order things from stores in Portland and have them shipped down by boats, like the **America** or the **Georgeana**.



(If you recall, my mother, Gladys Davey, came to Columbia City on the steamer America in the early 30's)

They also picked up freight to Astoria, I think Elmer Graham also took care of that.

Elmer built a boat in the basement of his house. He was several years building it. When he finished, he couldn't get it out of the basement, and finally had to tear out one wall of the house to get it out. He was then going to have a launching and told the people when it would be ready. Then came the day, and lots of people showed up, but when he launched it, it started leaking very bad and he had to pull it out right away. Later on, he launched it again and it was okay. He took one trip to Astoria and it never came back. I think it either sank down or he sold it.



I remember in the summer, when school was out, we kids gathered at the school grounds (boys and girls both) to play baseball. When it started to get dark, we would all get on the school house steps for a sing along until about eleven o'clock, before we broke up and went home. Our families knew where we were and didn't worry.

All the kids those days looked after each other. Whether we were swimming or playing ball, the older ones looked after the younger ones.

We used to swim at a float that was owned by Hugh Caples. He had his little tug boat tied to it and logs that he picked up floating in the river. He sawed them into cord wood and sold the cord wood to boats for fuel in their boilers.

I learned to swim there and hundreds of other kids did also. The younger kids learned from the older kids, and when we got older, we taught the young ones. I don't remember any kids ever drowning here.

The whole town looked after each other, especially when the Depression hit. Very few people had steady jobs. The sawmill shut down, as did most everything else.

My dad started a little shop to recork boots for the loggers and anyone else that wore cork boots. He would half-sole shoes and put heels on them also to make them last, because they couldn't afford new ones. We cut cord wood in the woods for \$1.75 a cord and then pulp wood peeled for \$2 a cord.

My dad had a Model T Ford and we took the back seat out and picked up copper, brass, zinc, aluminum and scrap iron. When we got enough for a load, we took it into Portland and sold it to Cal Bag and Metal. We usually had about \$4 or \$5 and would go down to the farmers' market and get enough food to fill the back seat with everything to eat.

To be continued....

THANK YOU - MR BIRKLE'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

Recently Mr. Birkle's Class from the Columbia City Elementary School celebrated Earth Day by pulling 2 cubic yards of weeds and invasive plants in Jim Bundy Memorial Park. Wow! They did an amazing job for only one hour of work. Thank you!



By Popular Demand. The library is now open 3 more hours a week. **Noon until 6 pm on Wednesdays.** School is out early that day, so bring the kids in to enjoy some books they won't find in the school library as well as educational games. We have increased the number of graphic novels for all ages. (See New to the Library)



Specials in Secondhand Prose. The May monthly special is on books about ANIMALS. Do you like dog stories? Need a name for your cat? Raise chickens? Multiple options are available at just \$1 for hardback and \$.50 for softback books. Browse the stacks and stock up for your summer reading.

Novel Quilters Show Off Their Creations. The book selected was *Esme Cahill Fails Spectacularly* by Marie Bostwick. The interpretive quilts were beautiful and varied. We only have space to show a couple, but look for more photos in the Library's Quarterly Newsletter and see them in person at the City Celebration. (To subscribe to the electronic Newsletter please email ccclibrary@live.com and let us know to put you on the list.)



More Books in More Hands. We are proud to announce that we are partnering with Head Start of St. Helens to provide books at their library.

Help Wanted. For just a couple of hours a month you can help your library thrive. Can you make our bulletin boards attractive? Can you plan an activity for adults or children? Can you help out in Secondhand Prose? Can you use your writing skills to help with the newsletter? Would you like to be part of the Strategic Planning committee? Please let us know in an email.

Storytime: Mondays at 11 am
Friends of the Library: Mon., May 19th at 6:30 pm
Mystery Book Club: Wed., May 28th at 7 pm

Craft Classes at Columbia City Community Library. Join the fun of making your own crafts, see items outlined below.

Make card(s), many kits available. Cost \$2 a kit.

- Tues., May 6th from 11 am to 1 pm
- Sat., May 10th from 1 to 3 pm
- Wed., May 21st from 6 to 8 pm

Make a HOME Sign. Cost \$15 per sign.

- Tues., May 6th from 2 to 4 pm
- Sat., May 17th from 11 am to 1 pm

Make a necklace or key chain. Cost \$5 per item.

- Tues., May 6th from 1 to 2 pm
- Sat., May 10th from 1 to 3 pm

For more information about these craft making opportunities go to the library or email: ccclibrary@live.com.

New to the Library. 54 new titles added to the Library this month! Some of the added titles are:

The Poisoned City: Flint, MI by Anna Clark
NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity by Steve Silberman
Will by Will Smith (past best seller)
Battle Mountain by C. J. Box (best seller)
Dead Land by Sara Paretsky
Run, Rose, Run by Dolly Parton and James Patterson (past best seller)
From a Far and Lovely Country by Alexander McCall Smith
The Sky Beneath Us by Fiona Valpy (next Novel Quilters selection)

New Graphic Novels:

Max Meow, Cat Crusader by John Gallagher
The Cosmic Adventures of Astrid and Stella by Sabrina Moyle
Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza and the Case of the Missing Hat by Jenna Schroeder
Band Camp! All Together Now by Brian Smith
Band Camp! Out of Sync by Brian Smith

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

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - MAY 2025

May 6 th	2:30 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
May 15 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
May 20 th	6:00 p.m.	Regular Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
May 22 nd	8:00 a.m.	2025-26 City Budget available for public review
May 26 th	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Memorial Day
May 26 th	11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park
May 28 th	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall
May 29 th	6:00 p.m.	Budget Committee Meeting at City Hall

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CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

Columbia City provides a range of services to the community. We'd like to ask you to please take a moment to let us know how we are doing. Your input is important to us, and we look forward to hearing how we might better serve you. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and you need not answer all of the questions.

Your feedback is appreciated!

Please return completed surveys to City Hall during the month of May

PO Box 189 ♦ 1840 Second Street ♦ Columbia City, Oregon 97018

Phone 503-397-4010 ♦ Fax 503-366-2870

E-mail colcity@columbia-city.org ♦ Web site www.columbia-city.org

Question 1:

A. In the past year or so have you or anyone in your household had direct contact with a representative of the City Hall Office?

Yes _____ No _____ (skip to Question 2)

B. If you answered yes to Question 1A, please indicate the nature of the contact(s) and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied 5=very satisfied

_____ Water or Sewer Utility Payment or Inquiry	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Municipal Court Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Building, Plumbing or Mechanical Permit	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Nuisance/Code Violation Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Land Use Related	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Street Light Problem	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: _____

Question 2:

A. In the past year or so have you or anyone in your household had direct contact with a representative of the Police Department?

Yes _____ No _____ (skip to Question 3)

B. If you answered yes to Question 2A, please indicate the nature of the contact(s) and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied 5=very satisfied

_____ Criminal Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Traffic Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Traffic Stop	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Nuisance/Code Violation Complaint	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: _____

Question 3:

A. In the past year or so have you or anyone in your household had direct contact with a representative of the Public Works Department?

Yes _____ No _____ (skip to Question 4)

B. If you answered yes to Question 3A, please indicate the nature of the contact(s) and rate your satisfaction (circle one):

1=not at all satisfied 5=very satisfied

_____ Water Service Need or Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Sewer Service Need or Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Park Facility Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Storm Drain Problem	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Street Maintenance Issue	1	2	3	4	5
_____ Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

C. Additional suggestions or issues not specifically covered above: _____

Question 4:

What is your perception of the overall quality of services provided by the City of Columbia City? (circle one)

1
(Poor)

2

3

4

5
(Excellent)

Additional comments you would like to make: _____
