

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER

October 2025



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
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MICHAEL ALLEN HARRISON HOLIDAY CONCERT

Michael Allen Harrison, will be returning for a Holiday Concert in Columbia City on Monday, December 1st, at 6 pm. Tickets go on sale October 20th at City Hall.



A VIEW INTO THE PAST Remembering Columbia City's First Grade School

by Mark Stevens* - markstevens@colcomuseum.org

*Edited from an article by Pearl Becker in Volume 5, Columbia County History

In 1884 a little school house was built on the corner of 3rd and L street from money willed to the school district by John Gumm, a bachelor, who lost his life in 1883 when he was hit by the train when driving a team of horses across the railroad track. He had willed half of his property, \$1100 to each of the St. Helens and Columbia City school districts, for his property was on the hillside between the two places, where he lived by himself in a little log cabin. St. Helens some years later named a school for him, and Columbia City was fortunate in having this much money to build with.

The following photo of the school was taken in 1918. – photo credit Allan Sommarstrom



For many years all grades were taught in this building. "Barnes Readers", five in number, were used, and spelling, arithmetic, grammar and writing were taught. Desks and seats were homemade; a flat board with a straight back for each two pupils to use with a space in the middle for their books, and another board in the front for the student to write on. In 1926 the current grade school was built, which housed the upper grades with only the first and second grades being taken care of at the old school house. The school was torn down in 1966.

The accompanying picture was taken in 1895 when Miss Lizzie Wetle was the teacher. Pupils are Front row: Bertha Morrison, Libby Fowler and Sadie Morrison. Second row: Ella Morrison, Gladys Blair, Dixie Spinner, Gertrude Wharton, Mamie Maclay. Top row: Orwin Graham, Lester Spinner and Herbert Wharton. Benjamin Butts should have been in the picture, but he hurried home to change to his good clothes and missed getting his picture taken. – photo credit Mary (Maclay) Whittier





Every two years in November the Friends of the Library board is elected. This year the open positions are President, Vice President and Treasurer. Please consider volunteering for an open position and email your contact information to ccclibrary@live.com, Attn: Kit Gardes. We need your ideas and enthusiasm to continue our mission to provide free library services to everyone in Columbia County. Board member duties are posted at: www.ColumbiaCityLibrary.com.

Friends of the Library. Our members play a vital role in sustaining the library. Your membership dollars (only \$25 a year) keep the lights on and the shelves full of new books for all ages. Additional donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Please join today by filling out the enclosed form. If you are already a member, we sincerely thank you and a renewal reminder will be sent out at your anniversary.

Craft Events:

Tuesday, October 7th – 11 am to 1 pm

BOO or EEK craft workshop \$20/per person

You will decorate the papier-mache' letters BOO or EEK using Halloween scrapbooking paper along with cricuts, die cuts, and other embellishments to decorate the 8" letters. You will be given all the materials and instructions to complete this Halloween decoration.

Tuesday, October 7th – 12 to 2 pm

Card Buffet \$2/card

Want to get a head start on your holiday greetings? Make your Thanksgiving and Christmas cards at the Card Buffet. A Card Buffet is a paper crafting event where participants can choose from a variety of pre-made card kits and create their own cards.

Saturday, October 18th – 11 am to 1 pm

SPOOKTACULAR Halloween event for kids at the library. Come and make crafts and join in the fun. No reservations required; just come and have a hauntingly good time.



Secondhand Prose Book Shop. "Secondhand books are wild books, homeless books; they have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather,

and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack. Besides, in this random miscellaneous company we may rub against some complete stranger who will, with luck, turn into the best friend we have in the world."

----- Virginia Woolf

Novel Quilters. We will reveal the quilts we have made based on Fiona Valpy's *The Sky Beneath Us*. It is set in a village in Nepal in two different time frames. Rosemary Jeffries spoke to us about her time taking books to children in Nepal. Join us on Wednesday, October 15th at 2 pm to see the quilts.

Storytime: Mondays at 11 am

Novel Quilters Reveal!: Wed, Oct 15th at 2 pm

Friends of the Library: Mon, Oct 20th at 6:30 pm

Mystery Book Club: Wed, Oct 29th at 7 pm

New to the Library. 98 new titles were added to the library this month! Some of the added titles are:

Atomic Habits by James Clear (past best seller)

Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green (best seller)

Pay Dirt Road by Samantha Jayne Allen (award winner)

The Almost Widow by Gail Anderson-Dargatz (award winner)

Her Name is Knight by Yasmin Angoe (award winner)

Nobody's Fool by Harlan Coben (recent best seller)

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid (best seller)

Counting Miracles by Nicholas Sparks (best seller, large print)

Caldecott award winners for read-aloud books:

Noodles on a Bicycle by Kyo Maclear

My Daddy is a Cowboy by Stephanie Seales

Big by Vashti Harrison

Chooch Helped by Andrea L. Rogers

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

DURING A COLUMBIA CITY EMERGENCY...

Where can you find accurate information in an emergency? The City's Facebook page (logo below) or our website: www.columbia-city.org under "City News" are the best locations 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 affecting our area. You can register at: www.columbia911.com and click on the Columbia Alert Network link.



VETERANS PARK CLEANUP

The St. Helens Garden Club works monthly in the Columbia City Veterans Park to help keep the park looking its best. On Monday, October 27th, they will be there starting at 9 a.m. If you're interested in helping, join them that morning. Bring gloves and tools for weeding. They'd love to see you there!

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Solicitation Permit. The City requires a solicitation permit for businesses that go door-to-door selling products or soliciting business. Permits issued by the City state that if a "No Solicitation" sign is posted the solicitors are prohibited from leaving written materials or physically soliciting upon real property. **Before** doing business with anyone selling door-to-door, please ask them to provide you with a copy of their Columbia City solicitation permit, and report violators to the City Hall by calling (503) 397-4010 or after hours to the non-emergency dispatch at (503) 397-1521. Please be prepared to provide the business name and type of business the solicitor represents.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING GROUP VACANCY

The City currently has an opening 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 Tuesday of each month when there are topics to discuss. Applications may be picked up at City Hall or may be found on the City's website.



RECYCLING TIPS



Updated in July of this year all Oregon community members and businesses throughout the state can recycle the same set of materials. Some items now accepted may be different from previous guidelines. The City will be providing recycling items accepted in upcoming newsletters that are suitable for commingled curbside collection. The following is this month's tips for recyclable items:

Tissue Paper – used as packaging (not facial or sanitary tissue)

CURBSIDE YARD DEBRIS EXTRA NOVEMBER COLLECTIONS

Don't forget!! Hudson Garbage Service will provide weekly curbside yard debris collections for subscribed Columbia City customers during the month of November. Yard debris service is provided on an every-other-week basis during the remaining 11 months of the year. Yard debris collection service is provided on the same weekday as the customer's regular garbage collection service. Interested citizens may subscribe for the yard debris service for a minimum period of one year by contacting Hudson Garbage Service at (503) 397-1534.

OPEN BURNING PERIOD FOR YARD DEBRIS COMING IN NOVEMBER

Columbia City's burn period is scheduled to begin **Saturday, November 1, and end Sunday, November 16**. Permits are required.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Fall Season. We are now beginning our Fall Season, and it is time to start preparing for the weather changes. Make sure you check your wiper blades and top off your wiper fluid so you can keep your windshield clean. Pay close attention to the road surfaces, leaves and other debris can make it

difficult to see the potholes and other obstacles that may be in your lane of travel. Have your interior air filters checked so you breathe clean air, and your defroster/heater will work more efficiently. Have your tires and brakes checked so you know they will work properly in all weather conditions. A little bit of time preparing can go a long way to keeping you and others safe on our roadways.

The Police Department serviced the following calls during August 2025: 1 assist fire, 7 animal complaints, 1 assist agency, 1 behavioral health, 3 civil enforcements, 1 assist fire/CPR, 4 follow ups, 2 harassment/threats, 1 hazard, 1 incomplete 911 call, 2 juvenile problems, 1 motorist assist, 1 missing person, 3 ordinance violations, 37 premise checks, 1 found/lost property, 1 promiscuous shooting, 1 prowler, 2 search and rescue calls, 1 subject stop, 2 suspicious circumstances, 1 suspicious person, 2 suspicious vehicles, 3 cold thefts, 1 theft in progress, 4 traffic complaints, 1 trespass, 14 traffic stops, 2 unwanted and 1 warrant service. In all, the Police Department serviced 112 activities.

The Police Department requests 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) SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

The next HHW event is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 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>



OCTOBER 2025 MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR

October 9 th	6:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
October 16 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
October 21st	6:30 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - canceled
October 28th	6:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall - canceled