

COLUMBIA CITY

Newsletter - August 2026



CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY
 1840 Second Street
 PO Box 189
 Columbia City, OR 97018
 Ph: (503) 397-4010
 Fax: (503) 366-2870
colcity@columbia-city.org
www.columbia-city.org

WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO AND WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE POLICE LEVY?

Columbia City property taxes are split between 16 different local agencies, with only a small portion paid directly to the City. We receive approximately **12%** of your total paid property taxes, which include funds from both the permanent levy and the police levy. These resources go directly into the General Fund to cover essential community services like city administration, police, building, and parks departments. The remaining taxes paid go to schools, Columbia County, Columbia River Fire & Rescue, The Port of Columbia County, and others.

Why is an increased police levy needed? For the last 14 years, the actual cost of providing police protection has exceeded the revenue generated by the police levy. The City has filled this gap using the permanent tax levy, which is a financially unsustainable practice (see chart below). The proposed new levy of \$1.95 per \$1,000 of assessed property value will successfully sustain current public safety and police protection services, including: 2.38 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) officers, vehicles, equipment (body cams, tasers, guns, vests, etc.), uniforms, PPE, seven day a week coverage with 'on-call' protocol, premise check services, traffic enforcement patrols, directed patrols, proactive criminal patrol, follow-up investigations, and continued partnerships with adjoining local law enforcement agencies.

	Second Five-Year Local Option Police Levy \$0.67/\$1000					Third Five-Year Local Option Police Levy \$0.90/\$1,000				
	Actual 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2024-25	Estimated 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Police Department Revenues Includes Police Levy	\$157,347	\$135,849	\$121,738	\$161,726	\$177,639	\$193,160	\$244,763	\$240,950	\$223,919	\$234,361
Police Department Expenses	\$388,240	\$366,750	\$327,898	\$257,629	\$328,007	\$312,425	\$383,453	\$411,790	\$396,788	\$455,171
Net	(\$230,893)	(\$230,901)	(\$206,160)	(\$95,903)	(\$150,368)	(\$119,265)	(\$138,690)	(\$170,840)	(\$172,869)	(\$220,810)
Property taxes from Permanent Levy \$1.1346/\$1000	\$212,680	\$220,730	\$205,828	\$228,604	\$231,199	\$241,593	\$251,851	\$250,688	\$256,531	\$258,929
Permanent Levy Remaining for other government services	(\$18,213)	(\$10,171)	(\$332)	\$132,701	\$80,831	\$122,328	\$113,161	\$79,848	\$83,662	\$38,119

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES THIS MONTH

Three City Council positions (one for Mayor and two for City Council) will be filled by the voters during the November 3rd General Election. Qualified electors who have resided within the City since November 3, 2025, may run for office. Filing deadlines are: **4 pm on August 13th for incumbent candidates**, and **4 pm on August 20th for new candidates**. Nominating petitions are available at City Hall or online at our website: <https://columbia-city.org/ballot-measures-and-elections/>. Petitions must be signed by 20 qualified electors, and candidates must submit the signature sheets to the City Administrator/Recorder for verification allowing sufficient time for the verification process to be completed prior to filing deadlines.

CITY RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS

We are pleased to announce that the City will receive a 2026 Special City Allotment Grant in the amount of \$244,050 to be used towards multiple pavement restoration projects.



NEXT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) EVENT SATURDAY, AUGUST 22nd

8 am to 2 pm
 Columbia County Transfer Station
 1601 Railroad Avenue - St. Helens, OR 97051



CELEBRATION

Sat. August 8th

- Strawberry Pancake Breakfast
- Show & Shine Car Show 
- Emergency Prepare Fair
- Craft Vendors 
- Kids Zone
- Book Sale 
- Quilt Raffle 
- Music by the Decades
- PIG COW SPUD–Food Cart
- Art Show 
- City History & Tours

***Lots of fun for the whole family!
Benefitting your Library!!***

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, August 24th, they will be there starting at 10 am. If you're interested in helping, join them that morning. Bring gloves and tools for weeding. They'd love to see you there! If it rains, they will NOT be working.

SOLICITORS

Unlicensed door-to-door solicitors are becoming more and more of a problem in Columbia City, especially pest control services. We need your help to improve this situation.

Please note as of 7/28/2026 the only current door-to-door solicitation permit issued in Columbia City is:

High Performance Homes Inc
Roof, windows, siding – expires 5/27/2027

Residents should ask for credentials, request to see city-issued solicitation permits and/or business licenses and report suspicious or aggressive sales tactics to local law enforcement by calling the non-emergency dispatch at 503-397-1521 or 911 if the situation escalates to an emergency.

City ordinances exist to protect homeowners from fraud, aggressive high-pressure sales, and unaccountable contractors.

Solicitation Permit. Any individual going door-to-door to sell services must first obtain a solicitation permit from the city. Permits issued by the city outline if a “No Solicitation” sign is posted the solicitors are prohibited from leaving written materials or physically soliciting upon the real property. Solicitors are not permitted to solicit before 9 am or after 7 pm.

Business Licenses: Companies that secure contracts or perform services within the city limits are legally required to hold an active Columbia City business license. You can call the City to verify if someone has a valid business license, even if they are already working for you.

What You Can Do

- **Before Doing Business.** Ask them to provide you with a copy of their current Columbia City business license. You can call City Hall at 503-397-4010 during regular business hours to verify if a business has a valid license. Please be prepared to provide the **business name and type of business** they represent.
- **Don't Feel Pressured to Answer.** You are never obligated to open your door to a stranger.
- **Signs.** Display clear “No Soliciting” and/or “No Trespassing” signs. Solicitors must respect these notices.
- **Report Violations IMMEDIATELY.** Note the company name, a description of the solicitors, and the direction they are heading, then contact the non-emergency dispatch at 503-397-1521 to report unregistered workers or violations of a solicitation permit.





City Celebration. The Columbia City Celebration is almost here, **Saturday, August 8th**. The book sale associated with the event generates our largest sale proceeds, so please continue to donate books until August 5th. Once the event is over we will once again accept book donations.

There are fiction novels and non-fiction books, audiobooks, DVD's, both for children and adults. There is also a limited selection of special books; signed by authors, first editions, and unique older books. Remember to look through the more recent donations on the shelves in the Secondhand Prose area of the library.

Join us for the pancake breakfast, car show, Kid's Zone, vendors, raffles and more! The Novel Quilters will be showing quilts and the Historical bus tour of the City is back.

What's Happening at the Library. Messy Art Outdoors is back on **Tuesday, August 18th**, with two fun sessions: **10:30 am to 12 pm** and **1 to 2:30 pm**. All ages are welcome, so come get creative with us!

Stop by the library to pick up one of our **ocean-themed Grab & Go crafts**, available while supplies last.

We're also collecting **LEGO donations** to help launch a free, drop-in LEGO Hour for the community.

Storytime: Mondays at 11 am
City Celebration: Saturday, August 8th
7 am to 3 pm

Friends of the Library: Mon., Aug. 17th at 4 pm

Messy Art: Tuesday, August 18th

10:30 am to 12 pm and 1 to 2:30 pm

Mystery Book Club: Wed., Aug. 26th at 7 pm

NOTE: The Introduction to AI for Seniors has been postponed to September. The date is still to be determined.

New to the Library. 22 new titles were added to the library this month! Some include:

Revolution: The Birth of the Greatest Nation in the History of the World by Eric Metaxas (best seller)
Our Perfect Storm by Carley Fortune (best seller)
Land by Maggie O'Farrell
Whistler by Ann Patchett (best seller)

Columbia City Community Library

2000 Second Street, PO Box 189

Columbia City, OR 97018

HOURS: Mon, Tue & Sat 10 am – 2 pm

Wed & Thurs 10 am – 6 pm

Phone: 503-366-8020 **Email:** ccclibrary@live.com

Website & Card Catalog:

www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com



MONTHLY RECYCLING TIP **Everything Must Be Clean and Dry**



Nursery Packaging & Trays
Plastic Identifier: #2 HDPE, #5 PP
Examples: Green or Black Plant Pots

The above containers can be recycled. For more information visit:

<https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/departments/solidwaste/residential-garbage-and-recycling-collection-services>.

DONORS DESPERATELY NEEDED



Community Hall - 1850 Second Street
Columbia City, OR 97018

Monday, August 10th
10 am to 3 pm

To schedule your appointment or for more information call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit

www.RedCrossBlood.org

Sponsor Code: ColumbiaCC

4th OF JULY NEIGHBORHOOD CELEBRATION Submitted by Connie Quick

On July 4, 2026, neighbors came together for the Third Annual Upper Ninth Street Fourth of July Celebration. Everyone brought food to share, and the Grill Master Challenge gave people a chance to show off their favorite recipes and grilling skills. There was plenty of great food, laughter, and friendly conversation throughout the day.

One of the best parts was seeing familiar faces and meeting neighbors we had never met before. It's amazing how much you can learn about the people who live around you, their jobs, hobbies, interests, and stories. Events like this remind us that a neighborhood is much more than just a place to live; it's a community.

Upper Ninth Street has always been a special neighborhood filled with people who care about one another and are willing to lend a hand when needed. Getting together like this helps strengthen those connections and makes our neighborhood even better.

A huge thank you to Susan Schwarz, Tom Halligan, and Mark Ebert for all their hard work planning and hosting this wonderful event. Special recognition goes to Susan, whose idea started this tradition back in 2024. It's proof that one person's idea can bring people together and make a lasting difference.



Great food, great neighbors, great fun, and great memories. We can't wait to do it again next year!

For information on how to get one started in your neighborhood, reach out to Tom @ 503-794-2835.

CHIEF'S CORNER

We have seen more fraud cases occurring where people are taking advantage of the elderly, who in general are more trusting and not as tech savvy as others. If you receive any emails, phone calls, or other requests to participate in any type of situation where there is money involved, please contact the Police Department. If someone threatens you, says you're a lottery winner when you haven't bought a ticket, says your child or grandchild is in jail and needs bail money, or says you have a warrant for your arrest—**THESE ARE SCAMS**. Call the Police Department and we can call on your behalf and try to help you navigate these situations. You have worked very hard for your money; we want to help you protect it from these fraudsters.

The Police Department serviced the following calls during June 2026: 1 assist fire, 1 audible alarm, 3 animal complaints, 2 assist agencies, 1 assault, 3 assist persons, 1 burglary in progress, 1 civil action, 2 civil enforcements, 1 death investigation, 3 domestics, 8 follow ups, 2 cold frauds, 1 harassment/threat, 2 hazards, 1 incomplete 911, 3 information calls, 1 juvenile disturbance, 2 noise complaints, 2 ordinance violations, 14 premise checks, 2 lost/found property, 2 prowlers, 2 promiscuous shootings, 1 suspicious circumstance, 1 suspicious person, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 traffic crash, 5 traffic complaints, 1 trespass and 1 unwanted. In all the Police Department serviced 94 activities.

The Police Department can be reached via 9-1-1 (emergency), 503-397-4010 (office), or 503-397-1521 (non-emergency dispatch).

Best regards ~ Chief Jerry Bartolomucci

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - AUGUST 2026

August 8 th	7:00 – 10:00 am	Strawberry Pancake Breakfast at Community Hall
	8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Show & Shine Car Show / Prepare Fair at the School
	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Craft Fair, Vendors, Art Show, Kids Activities at the School
August 10 th	4:00 pm	City Council Workshop Session at City Hall
August 11 th	6:00 pm	Parks Committee at City Hall - cancelled
August 13 th	6:00 pm	Municipal Court at City Hall
August 18 th	4:00 pm	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
August 18 th	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Meeting – cancelled
August 20 th	6:00 pm	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
August 25 th	6:00 pm	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall