

# Columbia City Newsletter



## February 2026

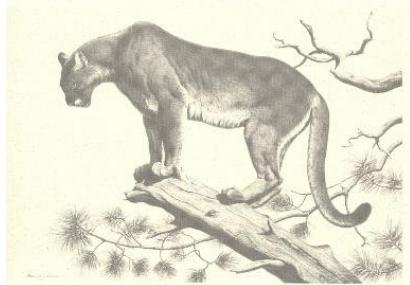


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### COUGAR SIGHTING REPORTED

On January 27<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6:50 am a large adult cougar was sighted crossing Highway 30 heading west in the Chimes Crest area. **If you spot a cougar in Columbia City, please IMMEDIATELY call 9-1-1 to report the incident.** After the sighting, please leave paw prints and other signs undisturbed until authorities arrive.



**Identifying characteristics:** Adults of both sexes have light tan coats and long black-tipped tails, with black coloration on the backs of their ears. Adult males may exceed 8 feet in length, from nose to tail, and weigh between 130 and 170 pounds. Adult females can be 7 feet long from nose to tail and weigh between 75 and 105 pounds.

**Safety precautions:** The potential for human/cougar interactions has increased in recent years. However, more people are injured or killed by deer, bees, dogs and spiders than by cougars. If you are concerned about safety, familiarize yourself with the signs of cougar and their habitat and follow these suggestions:

- **Keep an eye on your children.** Don't let your children play unattended in the backyard, especially when cougars are known to be in the area. You also want to keep your children away from dense brush, which the cougar may use for cover.
- **Be cautious at dusk and dawn.** Contrary to popular belief, most predators are most active at dusk and dawn. This is a time to be especially cautious.
- **Don't leave food or garbage outside.** The strong smell of food or garbage may attract a cougar into your yard.

- **Keep your pets indoors.** While you may have left your pet in the backyard in the past, you may want to start bringing it indoors with a cougar in the area. Cougars can easily kill the largest dog and leaving your pet out may prompt an attack. Don't feed pets outside as this can attract cougars and their prey.
- **Don't feed wildlife.** By feeding deer, raccoons or other wildlife in your yard, you may inadvertently attract cougars, which prey on them as a food source.
- **Do not hike alone.** Go in groups, with adults supervising children.

### COMMITTEE VACANCY

The City currently has one vacancy on the Budget Committee. Applicants must reside within the City. Applications for this committee position may be picked up at City Hall, or may be found on the City's website at [www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org) – under Doing Business, Public Service Forms.



The Budget Committee 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.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall.

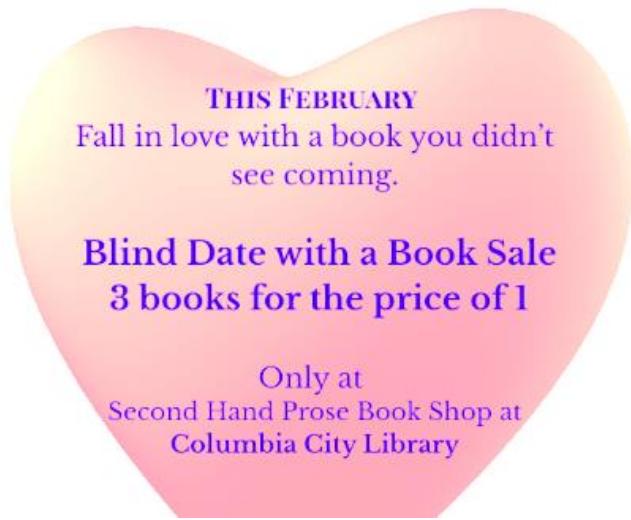
**SPRING CLEANUP – SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, 2026**

More information will be in future newsletters.



Oregon Battle of the Books is on! Come check out the books near the graphic novels! We have the middle school books, all of them!

**Secondhand Prose.** Blind Date with a Book.



**New Hours.** Starting February 1<sup>st</sup>, we are excited to announce our new hours. Now the library will be open 5 days a week, opening each day at 10 am. We hope that these new hours will be more convenient for library patrons.

Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 10 am to 2 pm  
Wednesday & Thursday 10 am to 6 pm

**New Office Manager.** The library has a new office manager, Laura Drew.



"I am more than happy to introduce myself as the new office manager! When not at work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two kids, often outdoors on a hike or experimenting with a new recipe in the kitchen. I love learning new languages and

am an avid reader. I am thrilled to be a part of a place that values curiosity, learning, and community as much as I do! I am looking forward to meeting you!"

## LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

### We want to hear from **YOU**

Tell us why you **love** the library and how it **benefits** you and our **community**.

#### Whether it's...

- ♥ **Finding your next read**
- ♥ **Attending events**
- ♥ **Enjoying a quiet space**
- ♥ **Sharing a book with your child**

Share your stories, experiences, and what makes the library **special** to you.

Let's celebrate our library and the **impact** it has on all of us.

Drop your thoughts in the comments, send us a message, or email us at [ccclibrary@live.com](mailto:ccclibrary@live.com). We can't wait to hear from you!

**New to the Library.** 33 new titles were added last month, some of the titles are:

*Memorial Days* by Geraldine Brooks (memoir, best seller)

*Circle of Days* by Ken Follett (best seller)

*Tilt* by Emma Pattee (past best seller)

*The Picasso Heist* by James Patterson (past best seller)

*Birds of the Pacific Northwest for Kids* by Tom Myers (for your children!)

**Storytime:** Mondays at 11 am

**Friends of the Library:** Mon, Feb 16 at 6:30 pm

**Novel Quilters:** Wed, Feb 18 at 2 pm

**Mystery Book Club:** Wed, Feb 25 at 7 pm

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**Columbia City Community Library**

2000 Second Street, PO Box 189

Columbia City OR 97018

**NEW HOURS:** Mon, Tue & Sat 10 am – 2 pm

Wed & Thurs 10 am – 6 pm

**Phone:** 503-366-8020, **Email:** [ccclibrary@live.com](mailto:ccclibrary@live.com)

**Website & Card Catalog:**

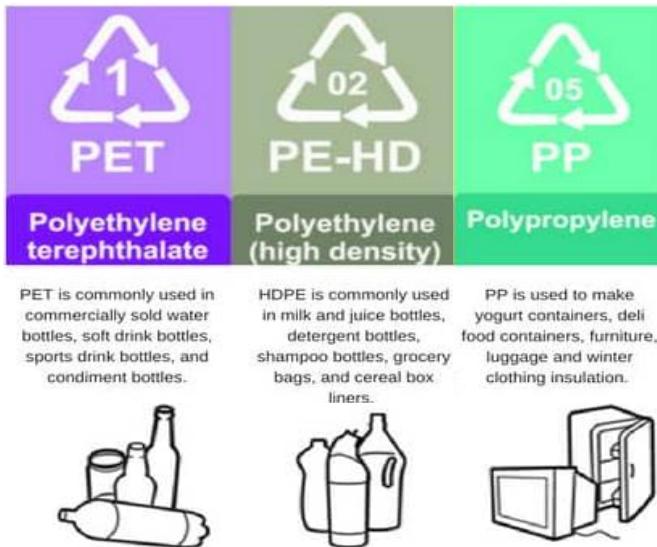
[www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com](http://www.columbiacitycommunitylibrary.com)

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## MONTHLY RECYCLING TIP

### Everything Must Be Clean and Dry

**Plastic Tubs** – larger than 2 inches in two dimensions, made of PET (#1), HDPE (#2) or polypropylene (#5) e.g., cottage cheese containers can be recycled. For more information visit: [www.columbiacountyor.gov/recycle](http://www.columbiacountyor.gov/recycle).



### A VIEW INTO THE PAST Pat Cody Remembers

by Mark Stevens - [markstevens@colcomuseum.org](mailto:markstevens@colcomuseum.org)

During the Heritage Committee meetings between 1987 and 1992 many memories were shared with the committee by visiting guests. The following are some memories shared by Pat Cody.

Cody, a former teacher and principal in the St. Helens School District, and later director of the Civil Air Patrol's Pacific Region, had lived, off and on, for 30 years in Columbia City.

Pat said the Cody family first arrived in Columbia City in 1922. "We lived in the second house on the left, just across the bridge. Once upon a time the house had floated down the Columbia during a spring freshet."

Cody remembered attending the old Columbia City school, even recalled that he and Clyde Barchus had the chore of cutting wood for use in the school's wood stove. Later his was the first class to graduate from the eighth grade in what was then the new school here (on 2nd St.).

"There were board walks here when I first came, and a pool hall near the bridge. It was closed, but we kids would sneak in and play pool until" - he laughed - "until someone stole the pool balls. There was a barbershop

too, and a little store and a hotel - it was still serving meals in 1928, I remember."

Talking about the earlier times brought a fresh rush of memories. Pat said, "The post office then was in the Maclay store (then on 4th St.), and it was kind of a gathering place. In those days people would still shivaree the newly married couples, and they would come and throw candy to the crowd.



We had a sawmill too - ships from all over the world docked here." Pat went on, "That Japanese sailors would hold sumo wrestling matches in the sand near the sawmill. There was a sandy beach here then, and we kids would swim in the river and sometimes hook onto log rafts and be towed to St. Helens."

Cody told about the time his father had a contract to cut maple wood, and Pat and his brother were given the job of greasing the skid road. Steamboats still provided transportation - Pat said he remembers best the Georgiana and the Fleetwood.



"Sometimes we'd travel on them to Portland. Took several hours because the boats stopped to pick up milk along the way."

He asked his audience, "Remember when cars had just two wheel brakes, and they couldn't stop as quickly as cars do now. Well, some of us kids got an old purse, tied a string to it, and put it out on the highway. Then we'd hide alongside the road and wait until a car came along and the driver would spot the purse. The brakes would screech, and when the driver got out to pick up the purse, we'd pull the string - and run."

At that time Columbia City students had to walk to high school in St. Helens. Until the Rainier School District, apparently anxious for more pupils, sent buses, "Instead of walking two miles each way," Pat said, some of us would ride the bus to Rainier - 18 miles each way."

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

The next HHW event is scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026, 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>



### CHIEF'S CORNER

**Scams.** Once again, we have been receiving reports of phone calls where the caller is trying to convince you there is a warrant for your arrest. They want you to go get a pre-paid visa or gift card to suspend the warrant after you provide the numbers from your cards. Once they have the card numbers, they strip the money from the card, and you are out all the cash. A court or any law enforcement agency will **never** ask you for money by phone. Please contact your local law enforcement agency if you receive these types of calls.

The Police Department serviced the following calls during December 2025: 4 animal complaints, 1 assist agency, 4 assist persons, 1 burglary in progress, 2 civil enforcements, 1 detail, 1 DHS referral, 2 domestics, 1 DUII, 6 follow ups, 1 information, 2 missing persons, 1 noise complaint, 1 ordinance violation, 41 premise checks, 1 promiscuous shooting, 1 suspicious circumstance, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 out with suspect, 2 traffic complaints and 15 traffic stops. In all the Police Department serviced 100 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



### Blood Drive Columbia City Community Hall

1850 Second Street  
Columbia City, Oregon 97018

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: ColumbiaCC to schedule an appointment.

### AMERICAN HEART MONTH

February is recognized nationally as American Heart Month, a perfect time to focus on cardiovascular health. Heart disease remains a leading health concern, but many risk factors can be managed at home through simple everyday actions.

Here are a few ways you and your neighbors can make heart health a priority this month and all year long: 1. Know your numbers: blood pressure, cholesterol levels, blood sugar and body mass index (BMI). 2. Move more sit less. 3. Eat heart-healthy and flavorfully. 4. Manage stress.

This American Heart Month, let's all commit to making small changes that can have a huge impact on the long-term health of our entire community!

### MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2026

February 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Streets Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 p.m.	Audit Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court at City Hall
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on President's Day
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 p.m.	Water and Sewer Committee Meeting at City Hall
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - <b>canceled</b>
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Hazard Mitigation Meeting at City Hall