

COLUMBIA CITY

Newsletter - July 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

A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY: THANK YOU FOR AN INCREDIBLE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

The City would like to give a big thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the Centennial Celebration! This would not have been possible without everyone's incredible support. We are grateful for:



- **Financial Support:** Generous grant funds, Holiday Concert proceeds, and donated prize gift certificates.
- **Planning & Coordination:** Dedicated volunteers who spent months working on making this event special.
- **Special Loans & Displays:** Historical photos and videos, 1920s vintage items, tents to cover the band, a tour bus, and a special visit from the historic boat "The Pixie" at Pixie Park on the Columbia River.
- **Day of Event:** Volunteers who managed setup, takedown, field games, the photo booth, historical bus tours, music, the team behind the food preparation and service, and everyone who attended and enjoyed the celebration.

Thank you for being a part of our history!!!

- *Shelton H. and Mary I. Duff Fund of Oregon Community Foundation*
- *Michael Allen Harrison*
- *Columbia River PUD*
- *Durham School Services*
- *Caples House-DAR*
- *Oregon Trail Lanes*
- *Scappoose Cinema 7*
- *Columbia County Sports*
- *Centennial Celebration Planning Committee*
- *Columbia City Mayor & Council*
- *City Hall & Public Works Staff*

Essay Contest Winner. Sophie Brinegar was our winner of the essay contest. Her essay answered the topic of "My Life in Columbia City".

CITY WILL SEEK INCREASED LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR POLICE PROTECTION

Columbia City has one of the lowest permanent city tax rates in Oregon at just \$1.13 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Due to being a primarily residential bedroom community with minimal commercial or industrial tax bases, our per capita tax revenues remain exceptionally low. For the last fourteen years, these limited permanent revenues have subsidized the rising law enforcement operational costs. To ensure stable, dedicated funding and maintain current public safety levels, the City is placing a Local Option Levy for Police Protection on the November 3, 2026, ballot. The proposed rate of \$1.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value ensures the police department is almost fully self-sustaining. For a home with an assessed value of \$300,000, this represents a total annual investment of \$585 (about \$1.60 a day) dedicated strictly to local public safety. This represents an increase of \$315 per year (about \$0.86 per day) over the current police levy, which expires in June of 2027.



THANK YOU ROB FORMAN!

The City would like to extend a very special *thank you* to City Council President Rob Forman for his recent service to the City on the City Council. He was elected to the Council in November 2022. Councilor Forman served in office from January 2023 through June 2026. During his time in office, he served as Chair of the Audit and Streets Committees. He was the Master of Ceremonies for our Memorial Day event the last two years, helped serve at the annual Strawberry Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, and was always willing to volunteer where needed. Thank you, Rob, for your time and commitment to making Columbia City a better place!



Schedule of Events

11 am to 12:30 pm – Bring your own picnic and eat on Caples Historic Grounds or purchase a hot dog, chips & soda/water for \$5.

12 to 1 pm – Free Ice Cream Sandwiches

12:30 pm – Join us in reading the Declaration of Independence. Those who wish to participate will have a section to read.

1 pm – Patriotic Sing Along with April

1:30 to 3:45 pm – Watch “1776” Movie (snacks available)

*Ice Cream courtesy of
Caples Buildings and Grounds Committee
Hot Dogs and Snacks courtesy of
Mount St Helens Chapter, NSDAR*

VACANT CITY COUNCIL POSITION

Columbia City has an open council position. If you are interested in serving on City Council, you must

have resided in Columbia City for at least one year immediately before appointment to office and be a qualified elector.

Public Service Applications are available online at the City’s website or at City Hall. Interested parties can stop by 1840 Second Street or go to: www.columbia-city.org → “Doing Business” → “Public Service Forms”.

Applications will be accepted at City Hall until 5 pm on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. Interviews will then be conducted by the Mayor and Council during their meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2026. The term of the appointed councilor will run until the first Council meeting in January 2027. If the resident appointed to this position wishes to remain on Council for the next full four-year term, they must apply and run for the position in this year's November general election.

If you have any questions, please reach out to City Administrator, Kim Karber by calling City Hall or emailing her at: kkarber@columbia-city.org.



MONTHLY RECYCLING TIP

Everything Must Be Clean and Dry

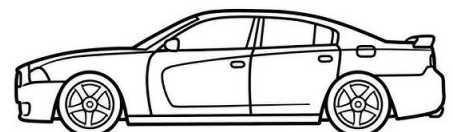


Paperboard Packaging – such as cereal boxes, cracker boxes, and dry-food packaging. Ensure all boxes are empty, flattened, and placed loose in your curbside recycling bin.

SEALED BID ON 2014 DODGE CHARGER

Minimum bid \$2000 or Best Reasonable Offer. Vehicle is 4 door, with 5.7L V8, rear wheel drive, automatic, A/C, AM/FM radio, power windows and door locks, tilt wheel with cruise control, 137,078 miles. New rack and pinion, possible steering column issue. Sold as is. To view this vehicle, call 503-397-4010 to schedule an appointment. Sealed bids must be received no later than 5 pm on Monday, July 27th. Send or deliver bids to:

City of Columbia City
SEALED BID – 2014 Dodge Charger
1840 Second Street
PO Box 189
Columbia City OR 97018



CHIEFS CORNER



Be Safe-Lock Your Doors. We just want to remind our community members to be on the safe side and remember to lock all your doors. Don't make yourself stand out as an easy target by leaving car doors or your homes unlocked. If the door opens this is an invite for a criminal to enter and steal what they can walk away with. Please do not leave valuable items out in plain sight. It only makes you more likely to be targeted. Take the extra time to secure your doors and conceal valuables - It can be the difference to keeping you and your personal items safe.

Fireworks. Just as a reminder, do not use fireworks from out of state. There will be an officer on duty to respond to fireworks calls. Your fireworks may be seized and a citation issued if you are found to be using illegal fireworks. We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

The Police Department serviced the following calls during May 2026: 3 assist fires, 2 audible alarms, 8 animal complaints, 1 assist agency, 2 assist persons, 2 civils, 2 civil enforcements, 1 DHS referral, 1 disturbance fight, 1 domestic disturbance, 5 follow ups, 2 harassment/threats, 1 hit and run non-injury, 2 incomplete 911 calls, 1 information call, 2 juvenile problems, 3 motorist assists, 2 noise complaints, 1 open door/window, 2 ordinance violations, 1 parking complaint, 18 premise checks, 1 prowler, 2 suspicious persons, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 suicide attempt, 2 suicide threats, 2 traffic complaints, 14 traffic stops, 1 drug/prostitute, and 1 welfare check. In all the Police Department serviced 95 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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY-VETERANS PARK

The St. Helens Garden Club works monthly in the Columbia City Veterans Park to help keep the park looking its best. On Monday, July 27th, the Club will be at the park starting at 10 am. If you are interested in helping, 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.

City Celebration. The Columbia City Celebration is coming up fast, Saturday, August 8th. Now is the time to bring in books you want to donate, so we have time to sort through them for the sale. We also have sign-up sheets for those that can help us with book sale setup, and cashiers for the raffles and book sale. We are looking forward to a great day!

Library Raffle Quilt. This year's quilt is beautiful as seen on the enclosed Celebration flyer. To truly capture its artful precision come by City Hall, catch it on display at the County Fair or on the day of the Celebration. Tickets will be available at each location and prices are listed on the flyer.

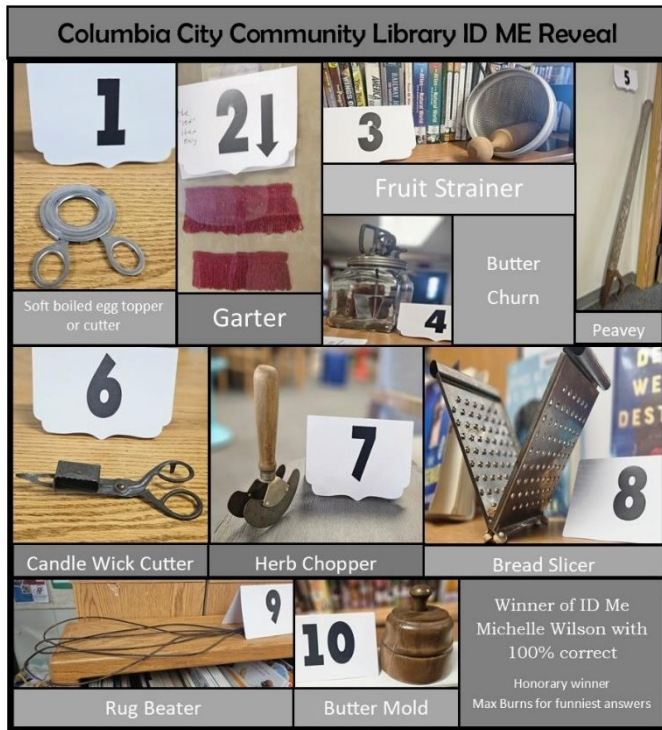
Summer Reading & Crafts. Our Kids' Corner has been transformed into an underwater adventure with colorful coral reefs and floating jellyfish! Stop by to explore, read, and join the fun all season long. Watch for **Grab & Go crafts** throughout the summer, plus some exciting **outdoor Messy Art Days**, details coming soon, stay tuned! We will also be accepting donations of **gently used books** for the City Celebration book sale and **LEGO bricks or sets** to help support future library programs. Every donation helps keep creativity and learning afloat!

Upcoming Events. Messy Art (outside) on July 9th from 10 am to 12 pm and 1 to 3 pm. And again on August 18th from 10 am to 12 pm and 1 to 3 pm. Introduction to AI for Seniors on August 12th from 1 to 2 pm.

Reader's Recommendation. Take a pause from murder and mayhem with these two thoroughly enjoyable summer reads: *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Phaedra Patrick and *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Storytime: Mondays at 11 am
City Celebration Planning: Tue, July 7th at 6 pm
(via Zoom)
Friends of the Library: Mon., July 20th at 4 pm
Mystery Book Club: Wed., July 29th at 7 pm





The Let Them Theory by Mel Robbins (best seller)
Money Unlocked by John Lee (recent best seller)
Sonny Boy by Al Pacino (autobiography)
Hidden World: A Lower Columbia County Writers Anthology
Hope Rises by David Baldacci (recent best seller)
The Crossroads by C.J. Box (recent best seller)
Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke (best seller in Large Print!)
The Fourth Option by Jack Carr (recent best seller)
The Keeper by Tana French (recent best seller)
Mad Mabel by Sally Hepworth (Facebook buzz)
The Night We Met by Abby Jimenez (Recent best seller)
The Deal by Elle Kennedy (best seller)
The Last Mandarin by Louise Penny (recent best seller)
Purple State by Dano Perino (recent best seller)
The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett (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

Centennial Celebration ID ME Items Revealed.
 The following photo shows the names of the 1920's items that were on display at the library at the centennial event in June. Congrats – Michelle Wilson for scoring 100% on the Quiz.

New to the Library. 79 new titles added to the Library, here are just a few:

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - JULY 2026

July 3 rd	CLOSED	City Offices are closed in honor of Independence Day
July 14 th	6:00 pm	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall - canceled
July 16 th	6:00 pm	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
July 21 st	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall - canceled
July 28 th	6:00 pm	Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting at City Hall

DEFENSIBLE SPACE



MAKES A DIFFERENCE