

# COLUMBIA CITY

## Newsletter - May 2026



**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY**  
 1840 SECOND STREET  
 PO BOX 189  
 COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018  
 PHONE: (503) 397-4010  
 FAX: (503) 366-2870  
[colcity@columbia-city.org](mailto:colcity@columbia-city.org)  
[www.columbia-city.org](http://www.columbia-city.org)

### WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT PUBLIC HEARING – JUNE 18, 2026, 6 PM

The Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2026, at 6 pm to accept testimony about proposed adjustments to the current water and sewer rates. It is anticipated that the new rates will generate additional revenue equal to approximately 5% in water and 6% in sewer. If approved, the new rates will take effect on June 26 and show up on the July 26 bills. The additional revenue will help pay for operation and maintenance costs associated with the utility systems, make annual debt payments, meet loan debt coverage requirements, and complete necessary capital improvements as outlined in the water and wastewater system master plans.

Monthly Water Rates (inside City limits)		
Residential Meter 3/4" or 5/8"	Current	Proposed
Base Rate - includes 100 cf	\$48.2200	\$50.6300
Per cf over 101 and up to 500	\$0.0296	\$0.0311
Per cf over 501 and up to 1000	\$0.0469	\$0.0492
Per cf over 1001	\$0.0641	\$0.0673
Monthly Sewer Rates		
Residential Connection	Current	Proposed
Minimum Base Rate	\$50.6300	\$53.6700
Usage Fee (per cf - Oct-May)	\$0.0092	\$0.0098
Usage Fee (per cf - Jun-Sep)	None	None

Information about the proposed rates for other customer classes may be obtained by contacting City Hall.

### VETERANS PARK CLEANUP

The St. Helens Garden Club will be working in the Columbia City Veterans Park on Monday, May 11, 2026, 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.



### MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY COLUMBIA CITY VETERANS PARK

Please join us in honoring all American veterans on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 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 10 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

### BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SET

The Columbia City Budget Committee will meet on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. The purpose of this meeting is to present the budget message and to receive comments from the public on the proposed budget for fiscal year 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027. A copy of the proposed budget document may be inspected or purchased on or after May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION BENEFITING THE COLUMBIA CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

The annual Columbia City Celebration event is coming up on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 \*

## PELLET PLANT UPDATE

At the April Port Commission meeting, Lignetics management provided an update on the improvements the company previously committed to making. To date, a taller stack, new scrubber, and cyclone equipment are up and running properly. The larger capacity transformer and hammermill are onsite, and the baghouse is on the way. This equipment is the final phase of the improvements Lignetics agreed to make in an effort to improve air quality in Columbia City. Lignetics indicated their readiness to complete this phase, but DEQ approval must first be obtained. Necessary paperwork has been submitted but no date has been given by DEQ for their approval. Lignetics indicated this last step will likely provide the most significant improvement in dust pollution from the plant.

## LIONS CLUB – EARTH DAY CITY CLEAN UP

A big **thank you** to the St. Helens Lion's Club for organizing a cleanup of the streets and Highway 30 within Columbia City on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and for running the Spring Clean Up event at the Columbia City Grade School.

## COLUMBIA CITY ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS ON VEHICLES

### **2005 Dodge Ram 1500 Truck–Minimum bid \$2,000**

White quad cab SB with grey interior, 4X4, 4.7L V8, automatic, 145,764 miles. Needs AC compressor, has oil leak, transfer case shifter linkage needs repair. Sold as is. To view this vehicle, call 503-366-0454 to schedule an appointment.

### **2014 Dodge Charger–Minimum bid \$2,500**

4 door, 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.

Columbia City is accepting bids for the purchase of the two different vehicles listed above. For either vehicle, sealed bids must be received no later than 5 pm on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Send or deliver bids to:

City of Columbia City  
SEALED BID – **name of the vehicle of interest**  
1840 Second Street  
PO Box 189  
Columbia City OR 97018



## **Blood Drive Columbia City Community Hall**

1850 Second Street  
Columbia City, OR 97018

**Thursday, May 21, 2026  
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: ColumbiaCC to schedule an appointment.

## CHIEF'S CORNER

**Safe Driving This Spring.** As the weather improves, our roadways are becoming increasingly busy. Unfortunately, we often see driving habits decline as speeds rise and motorists travel in a hurry. Please remember that springtime also brings more active wildlife and a significantly higher number of motorcycles to our roads.

We encourage you to prioritize safety: follow all traffic laws, plan ahead to avoid rushing, and stay vigilant for animals and smaller vehicles. Driving is one of the highest-risk activities we engage in—let's work together to make it a safe season for everyone.

The Police Department serviced the following calls during March 2026: 1 audible alarm, 1 panic alarm, 9 animal complaints, 1 assist agency, 2 assist persons, 4 civil enforcements, 2 extra patrols, 2 follow-ups, 1 cold fraud, 2 hazards, 3 home visits, 2 incomplete 911 calls, 1 motorist assist, 1 ordinance violation, 70 premise checks, 1 promiscuous shooting, 3 suspicious circumstances, 4 suspicious persons, 4 out with suspect calls, 1 traffic crash, 3 cold thefts, 2 traffic complaints and 17 traffic stops. In all the Police Department serviced 140 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

**A VIEW INTO THE PAST**  
**1926 Memories & Who Was Ruth Richardson**  
by Mark Stevens-[markstevens@colcomuseum.org](mailto:markstevens@colcomuseum.org)

Here is a little news from 1926 about Columbia City as printed in the St. Helens Mist March 5, 1926.

**Columbia City**

The steamer Erie Maru from Japan loaded 450,000 feet of lumber here, leaving Thursday.



The steamer West Jena docked Sunday to take on more than 2,000,000 feet of lumber.



Steamships from around the world—including these vessels—once loaded lumber at the Western Spar Company. After Western Spar filed for bankruptcy and was foreclosed upon in July, operations resumed just a few months later. Sibley-Mills Lumber company had taken over in October 1926 and restored the steady shipment of lumber from the site until 1929. The mill burned in June 1930. These lumber companies were using the old Sommarstrom Shipbuilding grounds and saw mill on the South End of Columbia City.

Many of you have had the pleasure of walking through the Ruth Rose Richardson Memorial Gardens located between the Caples House and Pixie Park, but do you know who Ruth Rose Richardson was?

Ruth Rose Richardson, 1893-1975, was a former Portland municipal judge and supporter of historic landmark preservation.



Mrs. Richardson, an attorney and public accountant, was a member of several city commissions and for 12 years was the only woman on the Commission on Inter Group Racial Relations.

Born In Marshall, MO on December 12, 1893, she came to Portland in 1917. During 1929-1931, she was the Regent of the Multnomah-Portland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Through her efforts, historic markers were placed throughout the state marking the graves of many founders and pioneers of Oregon. Under her leadership, the chapter participated fully in the restoration of the three local DAR museums: Pioneer Mothers' Memorial Cabin, Robert Newell House and **Charles Caples House**. She was national president of the Daughters of the American Colonists from 1964-66 and elected state vice chairwoman for the Oregon Republican State Central Committee for seven years.

She was reporter general to the Smithsonian Institution, president of the National Officers Club of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of the Colonial Dames of America.

So now you know!

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE  
FILING DATES**

Three City Council positions (one for Mayor and two for City Councilor) will be filled by the voters during the November 3, 2026, General Election. Qualified electors who have resided within the City since November 3, 2025, may run for office. Nominating petitions are currently available at City Hall. The nominating 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 the filing deadline. Incumbent candidates filing deadline is August 18, 2026, and new candidates deadline is August 25, 2026. The positions are for a term of four years.



**Library News.** I hope most of you have met Laura, our office manager. Laura works three days a week. With her help, we are now open 32 hours a week. Volunteers work the rest of the hours. There are 21 slots (3-4 hours each) a month that we still need to fill with volunteers. We could really use some more volunteers to fill some of those slots. Check in at the library to sign up!

**New to the Library.** This month we added 72 new titles, some of them are:

- How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates
- Devolution: A Firsthand Account of the Rainier Sasquatch Massacre* by Max Brooks (horror!)
- Kin* by Tayari Jones (recent best seller)
- Undercover Women: History's Greatest Spies* by F. S. Kim (juvenile nonfiction)
- Bill, the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman* by Marc Nobleman (juvenile nonfiction)

**Storytime:** Mondays at 11 am

**Friends of the Library:** Mon, May 18 at 6:30 pm

**Mystery Book Club:** Wed, May 27 at 7 pm

**Novel Quilters Show Off.** Anthony Doerr's novel *Cloud Cuckoo Land* inspired the quilts that were revealed at the April Novel Quilters' meeting. See all of the quilts and more at the City Celebration in August.

**Novel Quilters.** Our next book is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. We will meet next for a book discussion on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Read it and join us, whether you quilt or not!



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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 MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - MAY 2026**

May 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Regular Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 pm	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 am	2026-27 City Budget available for public review
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED	City Hall is closed on Memorial Day
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting at City Hall
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Budget Committee Meeting at City Hall
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm	City Council Workshop at City Hall



**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - COLORING & ESSAY CONTEST**

**Entries Due: 5 pm Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

