



BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

**Summer 2020
Volume 3, Issue 07**

“Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.”

-Sonia Ricotti

Inside this Issue

- 1** Unity in Community
Community Events
- 2** Keeping Cool
Water Safety
- 3** Park Department
Public Notice
- 4** Share the Road
Citizen Spotlight

City of Columbia City

112 South Chauncey Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
(260) 248-5100
info@columbiacity.net

Columbia City



CityScene



The Unity in Community

By Mayor Ryan Daniel

If we have learned nothing else from the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have learned how dependent we are on one another for “normal” life. Whether it is the grocery store restockers, the meat processing plants, nurses, or public safety officials; we are intertwined together to make this society move forward. Consider this: How many people does it take to put a t-bone steak on your table? From the farmer, to the trucker, to the butcher/processor, to the inspector, to the grocery store clerk, and many others – we are connected for the betterment of each other.

I’ve always thought it interesting that the word “unity” was a part of the larger word “Community”. Merriam Webster has many (up to 13) different definitions of Community. My personal favorite is: “an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location”. Yet, *with all due respect to Merriam Webster*, I think it’s even deeper than that. The “Unity” in Community focuses on the intertwined connection we all have that makes up the uniqueness of that common location.

If you’ve ever stayed home for a couple of days, (or weeks for that matter) working with a child on E-learning, you know the itch of wanting to get out and have conversations and interactions with other adults. I’m personally blessed to have a wife who, during Covid-19, handled the e-learning assignments with my daughter. If you’ve lived through that, you know how important interactions with others is to your personal and mental wellbeing. Social Media is fine and all, but it cannot replace the face-to-face, and heart-to-heart conversations that we need to experience community. We were created as social beings (yes, even you introverts) and if this time of separation hasn’t proven that, I’m not sure what will.

In other words, without you, your neighbors, your family, and your friends, this community would be different. Without groups like The Center, Passages, Mission 25, Troy Center, the CFWC, and so many other fantastic nonprofits, our community would be different. Without the businesses that line our streets, employ our residents, and donate to local causes and youth leagues, our community would be different. My point is that it takes Unity – all of us together - to create this unique, loving, and hospitable community that we call Columbia City. As our economy fights to recover, families work to replenish their emergency funds, businesses try to adjust, and nonprofits strive to keep serving, we all must work together, in unity, because it will truly take all of us to recover. *Until Next Time...*

Community Events

Farmers Market Opening Day – June 6th

Old Settlers Days/Parade – Cancelled

Independence Day Fireworks – Rescheduled (Date TBD)

Due to the changing nature of the Covid-19 Pandemic, many events have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please check with event organizers for information related to typical events to determine its status.

Keep Cool and Save Money

By Electric Superintendent Shawn Lickey



Hot and humid Hoosier summer weather is fast approaching, but cooling your home doesn't have to break the bank! Here are a few low-cost ways to keep your home cooler and also reduce energy waste at the same time. Before temperatures peak, make sure your heat pump or central air conditioning system is in good shape. Clean filters are essential to an efficient system, make sure your filters are clear and remember to check them monthly. To keep cost down, set your cooling temperature around 75 degrees or even higher. The higher the cooling setting, the more energy it will save. If you're in the market for a portable or window air conditioner, consider an Energy Star model. It will use at least 10 percent less energy than other models. Alternatively, install an energy star rated ceiling fan. Set the fan to blow air down and you'll feel cooler and save even more. Low cost no cost during the hottest part of the day, keep curtains drawn to block out the sun, and doors, and windows closed to keep cool air in. You might even consider visiting the Russel and Eveln Fahl Aquatics Center while temperatures are high. Open all curtains and windows during the morning and evening hours to take advantage of cooler outdoor temperatures. SEAL IT UP AND INSULATE! Having a weatherized home isn't just beneficial in the winter. Sealing cracks around windows doors will also prevent warm air from getting in the house in the summer, which will help keep your home cooler and your energy bill down.

Important Information:

We have been notified that the most recent phone book has listed the Columbia City Police Department phone number incorrectly.

The general service line for the CCPD is:
(260) 248-5121

Rain Barrel Rebate Program

Don't forget the City provides a rebate on purchased and installed Rain Barrels.

For more information on the program and guidelines, go to:

www.columbiacity.net/stormwater

How do we know our water is safe?

By Water Superintendent Mike Soda



Columbia City's "raw water" is drawn from wells that are located in one well field near our treatment facility, at 920 E Van Buren St. Water that comes from these wells is filtered, then chlorinated for disinfection. The water that our customers receive in their home is tested before it leaves the plant to ensure it is safe for consumption.

Our water system is working to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect these well sources of our drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and local watershed groups to help educate the community on ways to keep our water safe and disinfected.

If you have any questions about our community's water, please contact Water Superintendent Mike Shoda at (260) 248-5118, or join us at our Board of Works meetings, that our held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 5:15 PM. We encourage you to participate and value your feedback.

Park Department Update

By Mark Green, Park Director



With the parks now open it has been great to see so many people out getting exercise and enjoying the parks around the community. Many people have used their “quarantine time” to get outside with their families. We have seen a big upswing with people using the trails and walking their dogs.

There are many changes this summer for our Park Department due to COVID19. First of all, we are not having city-managed summer baseball and softball leagues. After a recent survey that we sent to all of the parents of registered participants, we found out that 47% of the kids that had registered would not be playing, if we decided to have a league. We also found out from the survey that we would lose 65% of our coaches. With this information it was a tough, but necessary decision for us to cancel our summer baseball and softball leagues. We would really like to be able to do some sort of baseball and softball clinics for kids during the month of July. That decision would depend on what is going on with Covid-19 at that time and if it is appropriate, and possible, to safely run a program.

The Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatics Center is planning on opening on June 1st. Open swimming would be from noon-7pm every day. With the recommendations from the CDC, we need to limit our normal amount of people that are in the aquatics center. We will only be able to have 250 people (half our capacity) in the aquatics center at one time. Another major change will be that we will not be placing out our lounge chairs for the public to use. All visitors are encouraged to bring your own chairs to sit along the pool. We are very sorry that we have to go through these extensive measures, but it is very important that we try to be as safe as possible as we open the aquatics center. For more information about the aquatics center you can visit our website at www.columbiacity.net/aquaticscenter/

It is our hope to have a Junior Football League this fall. Hopefully we will have some information to put out this summer about registration. You can also check out our website for additional information at www.columbiacity.net/departments/city-departments/parks-and-recreation.

Thank you for your patience during this time.

Meetings to Remember

1st Mondays of Each Month, 7pm
WC Government Center
Columbia City Plan Commission

1st Tuesday of Each Month, 7pm
WC Government Center
CC Board of Zoning Appeals

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Board of Works and Safety

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Common Council Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Each Month, 12p
City Hall – Council Chambers
CC Redevelopment Commission

3rd Monday of Each Month, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Park Board

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Housing Authority

Proper notice will be given for any changes to meeting dates and times

**Follow the
City of Columbia City
on Facebook or
Twitter!**



PUBLIC NOTICE

City Hall will reopen to the public on June 8th, 2020, after being “by appointment only” throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. However, residents are encouraged to follow CDC and State of Indiana safety guidelines. City Hall will not *require* masks/facial coverings, but encourage social distancing, using hand sanitizer, and hand washing.

Share the Road

By Scott Leatherman, Columbia City Chief of Police



Warmer weather attracts many types of roadway users, including motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

While they have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as every motorist, these road users are more vulnerable because they do not have the protection of a car or truck.

Leave more distance between you and a motorcycle—3 or 4 seconds worth. Motorcycles are much lighter than other vehicles and can stop in much shorter distances.

Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows other road users to anticipate your movement and find a safe lane position.

Be mindful of pedestrians. Things to remember as a driver:

- You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere.
- Distracted walking is becoming part of the distracted traffic epidemic. Keep your eyes open for distracted pedestrians.
- Pedestrians can be very hard to see – especially in bad weather or at night.
- Stop for pedestrians who are in a crosswalk, even if it's not marked. This will help drivers in the other lanes see the pedestrians in time to stop.
- Cars stopped in the street may be stopped to allow pedestrians to cross. Do not pass if there is any doubt.
- Do not assume that pedestrians can see you or that they will act predictably. They may be distracted, or physically or mentally impaired.
- When you are turning and waiting for a "gap" in traffic, watch for pedestrians who may have moved into your intended path.
- Be especially attentive around schools and in neighborhoods where children are active. Drive the way you want people to drive in front of your own home.
- The focus of every driver, at all times, should be driving.

Citizen in the Spotlight: Tim Kumfer

By Executive Assistant, Theresa Green

The name Tim Kumfer probably sounds very familiar to many. Tim is the current Whitley County Councilman who represents the precincts in the City of Columbia City. Tim has served two years on the Whitley County Council. Tim is married to Cindy and they have three children: Timothy, Andrew, and Jyllian. He has one Granddaughter, Ayyah, who is 18 months old. It is well known that Tim has been a pastor for the last 38 years, and he is proud of it. However, his helping heart doesn't stop at being a public servant and pastor. Tim volunteers with *Horizon International* to care for African Orphans. Tim has traveled to Africa five times and visited three countries to care for orphans. In addition to that, Tim serves on the board of directors for *Haiti Hungry No More* and has traveled to Haiti eight times to serve those in need. Tim's favorite place to catch some fish is Northwest Ontario, when he gets the opportunity. He and his family also enjoy vacationing in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. A quote that Tim lives by is "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. As long as ever you can."- John Wesley

