



BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

**Summer 2021
Volume 4, Issue 1**

“Around here, however, we don’t look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new things, because we’re curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths”
-Walt Disney

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Columbia City

CityScene

You win some, you lose some

By Mayor Ryan Daniel

Winston Churchill once said, “To improve is to change; To be perfect is to change often”. Over the last 9.5 years as Mayor, we’ve definitely seen our fair share of change. Of course, one of the main goals of any good leader is to seek out that which is failing and improve it. As Mayor, I’ve always seen my job as being three-fold. First, I am to be a visionary for the City. In a nutshell, I’m supposed to plan for the future, keeping an eye on any potential coming challenges or opportunities. Second, I am to be the leader of our “City” organization – meaning leading our employees, directing projects, and managing the day-to-day tasks of our service to residents. And Third, I am to be a cheerleader for our community to internal and external customers. This role is to make sure people are informed about events and other things happening in our City, while inviting visitors to come join us.

In these roles, I’ve definitely won some and lost some. Like many of you, some days I catch myself falling short. Yet, the promise of a new day tomorrow gives me a chance to change for the better. When a project has fallen through, we make changes and move forward. When a grant application gets denied, we make changes and resubmit. When we’ve not met someone’s expectations, we change and improve. While we can never be the end-all, be-all for our residents, we strive every day to represent you with integrity, high ethical standards, and a servant mindset. We are thankful you continually choose to live in our community and I will strive, every day, to make our community a great place for all.

So, when life hands you lemons, gets some ice, squeeze out the juice, blend with a bit of sugar and plenty of water, then enjoy a nice cold glass of lemonade. Capitalize on the opportunities that come with failure. Seek out change and improvement. Find those partners who can walk along-side you, and take on the next day with encouragement and persistence. Until Next Time...

Community Events

- 6/4/21 – First Friday**
- 6/11/21 – Graduation Day** 
- 6/13/21 – Fathers Day**
- 6/22-26/21 – Old Settlers Days Festival**
- 6/26/21 – Old Settlers Days Parade**
- 7/2/21 – First Fridays**
- 7/3/21 – Independence Day Celebration @ Morsches Park**
- 7/4/21 Independence Day** 
- 7/5/21 City Hall Closed**
- 7/16-23/21 4H County Fair** 
- 8/6/21 First Friday**



Citizen in the Spotlight

Samara Thompson

By Theresa Green, Executive Assitant

Samara (Qureshi) Thompson has been a lifelong resident of Columbia City. Most of you might know her from her time at the local YMCA. She began working for the YMCA when she was in high school and just ended an (almost) 10 year career! Samara now works at Three Birds Casual as their Business Manager and loves every minute of it! As a part of her community involvement, she sits on the Redevelopment Commission for the City of Columbia City and volunteers with her church, The Foundry and other local organizations. Her and her husband, Derek Thompson, have been married for three years. She also has the pleasure of holding the title “Bonus Mom” to a step-son, Ayden! Their family loves baseball season (Go Cincinnati Reds), spending time outdoors, trying new restaurants, and spending time with their families! They love to stay active in the Thompson household! Her favorite quote to live by is from Cinderella, “Have courage and be kind. Where there is kindness, there is goodness, and where there is goodness there is magic!”



Summer Fire Safety

By Tom La Rue, Fire Cheif



Summer is upon us! June 21st is the summer solstice, which means a couple of things. For the average guy, that means fun, family and BBQ's. For us it means heat, campfires, Old Settlers, fireworks, dry conditions, droughts, and other things that make our jobs harder. All of these things create challenges for us; some of them are manmade challenges and some are natural. The biggest issue is that all of them require manpower and equipment. As far as the campfires are concerned, please refer to city ordinance 94.071, it is available on the internet under the city's website. Fireworks re another big issue that will be coming up towards the end of the month. If you light a campfire or firework, please become familiar with these two ordinances because they are always an issue during summer months.

Enjoy your summer,

Chief Tom LaRue



Betcha' didn't know...?



- Indiana was the first place to introduce sliced bacon
- The bloody mary cocktail was developed at French lick Springs Hotel
- The first breathalyzer machine was developed at Indiana University
- Residential refrigerators were invented by Fred Wolf from Fort Wayne
- The designer of Chuck Taylors is from Brown County Indiana

ADA City Updates



By Beth Igney, Human Resources Director

It is that time of year when we review our Title VI Implementation Plan and update it accordingly. We depend on our citizens to let us know where there might be barriers for those citizens with disabilities, both physical and non-physical. This is where we need assistance from citizens of our community. We ask that you consider completing the Title VI Public Involvement Survey. You can obtain the survey form on the City's website – columbiacity.net under "Department" and then "Human Resources", or at City Hall (Dispatch/Communications open 24 hours or Utilities open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.), or by e-mailing Beth Igney at bigney@columbiacity.net, or phoning at 260-248-5109.

The City of Columbia City recognizes its legal obligations to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 49 CFR Part 26 and its related statutes and regulations to ensure that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity on the grounds of race, color, age, sex, disability, national origin (including Limited English Proficiency), or income status. To this end, you will find the City's Title VI Implementation Plan also on our website under the Government link.

The City is committed to ensuring that community involvement and outreach is done in a respectful and inclusive manner that will allow for diverse involvement. Public meetings, programs, and activities will provide equitable opportunities for participating. City Council meetings are open to the public. All public meetings are held in locations accessible to individuals with disabilities. Upon request, assistance and translation services may be made available to individuals in need of such services as soon as possible but no later than 48 business hours before the scheduled meeting by contacting Beth Igney, ADA/Title VI Coordinator at 260-248-5109.

The City's Title VI Implementation Plan (programs, meetings, activities) and ADA Transition Plan (City roads/curbs) and complaint procedures are available on the City's website. Copies of these plans will be provided to the public free of charge upon request. Translated copies of the plans will be made available upon request.

Meetings to Remember

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

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

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

**2nd Tuesday of Each Month,
Noon**
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

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Community Update



By Community Development Director Chip Hill

With the weather turning nice and hopefully the worst of the pandemic behind us, it is time to get out and do the things we were not able to do last year. The major, long term control plan construction project that has been underway for the past year is wrapping up and the City will only have minor construction work for the remainder of the year. The City has so much to offer that you do not have to go far to find something interesting. Ohki Alley was officially opened on May 7. It has taken some time to wrap up the finishing touches, but please stop by, sit down for awhile and relax. The alley provides the best views of the Courthouse! While you are downtown, grab a bite to eat from one of the local restaurants or an ice cream cone and take in the beautiful city that you call home. In honor of the alley opening, we wanted to share a 'Did You Know' about Columbia City featuring Shinzo Ohki. Did you know that Baker Park has the only Ginko tree in the City? It was brought from Japan by Shinzo Ohki and planted in the city over 60 years ago.



Storm Water

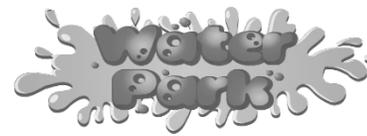
By Mike Shoda, Water Superintendent

Each time it rains or snow melts, storm water runs off over roofs, streets, driveways and parking lots picking up pollutants along the way. Sooner or later, this polluted storm water enters our lakes and streams. Catching rain, in a rain barrel, to water our gardens, and reduce storm water pollution.

Columbia City's storm water utility (MS4) offers a onetime rebate of \$30 to City residents who pay a monthly storm water fee and who purchase and install an approved rain barrel. Requirements and rebate claim forms are posted on the storm water webpage.

Sewer overflows occur when storm water enters our sewer system. Mixed wastewater and storm water can exceed the capacity of the sewers and then the mixture is discharged into the Blue River without treatment causing pollution. Downspouts on your house that go into a pipe in the ground contribute to the problem, because the pipe is connected to the sewer system. Disconnecting your downspouts from the pipe and re-directing them to your lawn can help eliminate overflows.

The MS4 offers free downspout disconnections to City residents who pay a monthly storm water fee and who submit a signed agreement form to the City utility office. The agreement form is also posted on the Storm Water webpage.



Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatic Center 2021 information!

Daily rates

- Ages 3 & up \$5, after 4pm \$4 pr person

Hours

Mon-Sat 12-7pm & Sun 12-5pm

Membership rates

	Resident	Non-Resident
Senior (60+)	\$75	\$105
Adult (18-59)	\$95	\$125
Child (3-17)	\$75	\$105
Infants (0-30)	FREE	FREE
Family of 3	\$215	\$340
Family of 4	\$250	\$375
Family of 5	\$310	\$435

** any additional family members after five are an additional \$50 each



Call 260-248-5182 for more information!