

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Columbia Eve Fest

- A New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts
- December 31, 2014
- Entertainment from 7 p.m. to midnight

Join us for a New Year's Eve block party on Ninth Street in the District where culture is celebrated and community is created! The New Year's Eve celebration will include dancing, music, children's entertainment with finale and a grand finale. Activities will take place at multiple venues on Ninth Street, between Elm and Locust.

Early tickets are available for \$6; admission will be \$8 at the door. Children 6 and under are free. For more information, visit ColumbiaEveFest.com.

First Night Columbia is sponsored by the City of Columbia, Columbia Convention and Visitors Tourism Development Program, KPLA 101.5, KFRU 1400 and NASH 100.1 Radio, KOMU-TV8, Missouri Arts Council (a state agency) and Parks and Recreation.



happy new year!

2015 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 22nd annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration to be held from 7-8:45 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. Pre-registration is required by 5 p.m. Jan. 9.

The cost is \$15 per person, but scholarships are available upon request. Call the Office of Cultural Affairs at 874-6386 for registration information. A registration form is available on the City's website at GoColumbiaMo.com (search: **Diversity Celebration**).

The theme of this year's celebration is "Harmonious Voices in a Diverse Community." The program will include performances representing the rich diversity of the community, live music at the breakfast followed by the presentation of the 18th annual Columbia Values Diversity awards.

The celebration is designed to be accessible to all. Call 874-6386 for more information or accommodations related to disability.

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The second regular City Council meeting in January will be held Tuesday, Jan. 20. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made Jan. 19 and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week.

Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have questions. Parking meters will not be enforced, the landfill will be closed and COMO Connect, Columbia's public transit system, will not run Jan. 19.



Pet Safety In Winter

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services wants to protect all citizens during the winter months – even the furry ones. Winter weather requires a little extra attention to keep pets safe and warm. Follow these tips to ensure your pal stays healthy this winter:

- **Check your pet's water regularly to make sure it's not frozen.**
- **Provide a dry space for your pet – a doghouse works perfectly! Put straw or blankets inside.**
- **Bang loudly on the hood of your vehicle before you start the engine. Cats like to get up in the engine of a vehicle where it is warm. Banging loudly gives them a chance to escape before you get moving.**

If you think someone isn't providing adequate care for a pet, contact Animal Control at 449-1888.



CoMoGives

CoMoGives is an easy way to support local nonprofits with end-of-year gifts until midnight Dec. 31. You may have already seen paper CoMoGives guides in various public places around Columbia. Pick one up and find out about many local non-profit services worthy of your support. Then donate online as you are able!

Announcements about CoMoGives are on TV and radio and throughout local social media. Point your Internet browser to www.comogives.com and make donations to your favorite charities. This year, you can give to more than one with a single transaction. You can give until Dec. 31.

CoMoGives is powered by the Community Foundation of Central Missouri and sponsored by Shelter Insurance Companies, Commerce Trust Company, Columbia Daily Tribune, MayeCreate Design, KOMU 8 and Cumulus Media.

Community Health Improvement Plan

In January 2013, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services facilitated a community-wide strategic planning process for improving public health. Over the next year, data was collected, community stakeholders were interviewed and strategic issue areas were identified to more fully assess the overall health of Boone County.

As a result, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was developed. The CHIP is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems on the basis of the results of community health assessment activities and the community health improvement process. **Over the next three years, action team members will focus on carrying out the strategies and activities outlined in the CHIP to achieve the community vision for Boone County, in an effort called Live Well Boone County.**

For more information on the strategic issues, the CHIP and Live Well Boone County, visit GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/2013CommunityHealthAssessment.php.

Community Development announces Neighborhood Planning Program

The Neighborhood Planning Program invites neighbors to come together to develop a shared vision for where they live. At their core, neighborhood plans are land-use plans designed to help support livable and sustainable neighborhoods, and neighborhood planning is identified as a top priority in the City's comprehensive plan *Columbia Imagined*. These plans also provide neighbors the opportunity to offer guidance for future development and redevelopment of land within or adjacent to their neighborhood. Some of the outcomes that participating neighborhoods can expect are:

- *Future land-use map*
- *Guide rezoning and redevelopment decisions*
- *Capital facilities planning*
- *Identify key opportunity areas*
- *Foster community-based coalitions*

Community Development Department staff is working toward identifying the first neighborhood (or neighborhoods) that will kick off the Neighborhood Planning Program with representatives from the City's neighborhood associations.

Contact Community Development at 874-7248 or bpcantin@GoColumbiaMo.com if you are interested in learning more about this program. Visit the program's website (search "**Neighborhood Planning Program**" on GoColumbiaMo.com for an in-depth description of the program).

Power Outages and Restoration Process

Columbia Water & Light's top priority is to provide reliable electric service. Unfortunately, there are times when high winds, ice, squirrels, birds, etc., can cause interruptions with the electric system. When problems occur, Water & Light makes every effort to restore your power as soon as possible.

What should I do when my power goes out?

Call 875-2555. Water & Light encourages you to call the 24-hour emergency number during an outage so the problem can be quickly located and crews sent. Any detailed information you can supply to the utility about the outage is very beneficial in the troubleshooting process. You can see if the outage has been reported by viewing the online outage map.

How long will it take to restore my power?

Water & Light sends crews out as soon as possible to fix electric system problems. The time of the repair depends on the problem. Many times it is as easy as replacing a fuse; other times an entire line must be replaced. Crews often must search for the cause of an outage and will continue working on a problem until it is resolved. Please do not disturb the crews while they are working so they can focus on safely solving the problem.

Who gets their power restored first?

During times of multiple power outages in Columbia, repairs to main distribution line feeders are repaired before feeder lines to individual customers. By prioritizing restoration efforts, the utility can restore power to a greater number of people first. Some customers, like hospitals, are also at the top of the restoration priority list due to the critical nature of their business.

Electric Outage Map: view reported outages at outageviewer.GoColumbiaMo.com/

Contact UCS before utilities are disconnected

Per city ordinance found in Chapter 27-21 (h), the City of Columbia may disconnect utilities when the temperature is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit and below 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Disconnections are based on actual temperatures, not forecasted temperatures. When the actual temperature is above 32 degrees, service can be shut off. Before utilities are shut off for non-payment, please call 874-7380 or visit the Utility Customer Service office. If the account is eligible for a payment agreement, these are easily done.



How are utility rates established?

Water, electric and sewer rates are studied by city staff members and consultants analyzing the cost to serve residential and commercial customers. The utilities are run as separate businesses within city government and do not receive funding through taxes. The money generated through rates stay within each utility to cover the cost of providing the service. As an elected body, the Columbia City Council makes the final decision on rates after holding public hearings.

Electric rate changes: Cost of service analysis showed that the monthly customer charge was not fully covering the cost of being connected to the electric system. The costs for meter reading, billing, meter maintenance and a portion of the distribution system are fixed costs, regardless of how much energy a customer uses. If these costs are not paid through the monthly customer charge, other customers are subsidizing these costs. The FY2015 rate increase raised the monthly charge to \$14.60 a month and created a new, lower electric usage charge for the first 300 kilowatt hours. For the average residential customer, using around 800 kilowatt hours a month, the increase is 1.4 percent or \$1.27 a month.

Sewer rate changes: In 2013, 80 percent of the voters approved a \$32 million sewer bond issue. The FY2015 rate increase of 6 percent or \$2.99 a month will go towards the money borrowed for sewer infrastructure improvements.

Don't forget to update utility account information

'Tis the season for holiday travel! Whether leaving town for an extended holiday visit or moving out of Columbia permanently, please update contact information (address and phone number) with Utility Customer Service (UCS). Many accounts go delinquent over the holiday season due to lack of current contact information. Visit GoColumbiaMo.com, click "**utilities**" and submit the form to update contact information, or call 874-7380. Go to the same link to register for online account access and bill payment to stay on top of the account while out of town.

Columbia Water & Light receives service award



Alex Dzurick, Water & Light energy educator, accepts the Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA) Outstanding Service Award from board member Mary McCarthy at the MEEA awards ceremony Nov. 8. Columbia Water & Light won the award for its significant contributions in energy efficiency education.

Crime Prevention Tips

During the holiday season, many residents leave their homes for extended periods of time. To lessen your chance of becoming a victim of BURGLARY, remember the following tips:

- Ensure all doors and windows are locked.
- Secure valuables (jewelry, laptops, cameras, etc.) in a safe place or take them with you.
- Put exterior/interior lights on a timer.
- Disable automatic garage doors.
- Arrange for pickup of mail, newspapers and packages.
- Have a neighbor watch your residence. If you are staying home for the holidays, be watchful in your neighborhood and notify police immediately of any suspicious activity, vehicles or persons. Be able to provide good descriptions, license plate numbers and locations for responding officers.

Howard B. Lang Jr. Award

It's time to nominate deserving persons to receive the seventh annual Howard B. Lang Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the City of Columbia.

Howard Lang was mayor of Columbia from 1953-57 and made a positive difference for the City. There are now hundreds of volunteers with a similar volunteer spirit and dedication who make a positive difference for Columbia in their own way.

The recipient of the Lang Award will receive \$1,000 (which may be designated to a project, program or charity of his/her choice) and an engraved plaque.

Please consider nominating a volunteer — someone who serves to benefit the City of Columbia through its departments, services or programs. This person may be a member of a City board or commission, an unpaid elected official or other City volunteer. The recipient will be chosen based on his/her impact, initiative and length of service.

Nomination forms can be found at GoColumbiaMo.com; search for "**Lang Award Nomination Form.**" Click, print and return to the address noted on the form. Nominations are due by Friday, Jan. 16, 2015.

If you have questions, contact Trust Specialist John Baker at 817-5027 or jdbaker@GoColumbiaMo.com.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

January

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|----|---|
| 5 | CARE summer program applications available online |
| 19 | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candle Light Walk and Celebration, Walk at Douglass H.S. at 6:30 p.m., proceed to St. Luke UMC |
| 24 | R.O.C. 7K Trail Run, Rhett's Run Trail at Cosmo Park, 9 a.m., \$30 in advance, \$35 race day |

Code Corner – Safe Rental Housing

Since the late 1970s, the City of Columbia has enforced the Rental Unit Conservation Law to ensure safe and healthy housing for tenants. All rental property in Columbia is to be registered and inspected to meet building codes. The law also allows tenants to file a complaint if their landlord is not addressing maintenance issues. To learn more about rental enforcement or how to file a complaint, contact Neighborhood Services at 817-5050 or visit the City's website.

Support for Entrepreneurs

Are you starting a new business? Have an idea you'd like to market? Would you like to network with others in the same situation? 1 Million Cups is a program run by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs, held each Wednesday at 9 a.m. in cities across the nation — and in Columbia at the REDI Downtown Incubator.

Each week, one or two local entrepreneurs in varied stages of start up present their businesses to a diverse audience of mentors, advisers and entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurs and audience share ideas to improve their businesses, gather feedback, learn from each other's successes and failures and connect with others in an entrepreneurial community that cares about everyone's progress.

1 Million Cups is open to the public at 500 E. Walnut St., Suite 105 (ground floor offices of the Fifth and Walnut parking garage). Stop by, or for more information, visit <http://como.sites.1millioncups.com/>.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Follow these tips to help make your holidays safer.

Picking the tree

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1- 2 inches from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Add water to the tree stand daily.

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that are labeled for indoor use only.
- Replace strings of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed outside against the home.



Snow and ice are around the corner



Columbia's first snowfall often occurs in December, with winter snowfall averages around 20 total inches. Columbia Public Works is charged with ensuring Columbia's roads remain passable during snow events. Public Works maintains a fleet of vehicles used daily for roadway maintenance and construction that doubles as the snow plow fleet.

When snow is forecast, Public Works determines if conditions warrant pre-treating streets with a brine (salt water) solution or beet juice. Both assist in preventing snow and ice from binding to the roadway when snowfall begins.

Crews work to ensure roads are passable — meaning a front-wheel, two-wheel-drive vehicle with tires in good condition, driving at speeds below the posted limits, will have at least one travel lane to navigate — but individual driving ability will also affect a motorist's navigation.

Help crews ensure Columbia's roads remain passable during winter weather by following these steps:

- Be mindful of the forecast. If winter weather is forecast to begin after normal work and school start times, consider the consequences of travel.
- When snowfall begins, consider staying off the roads to allow plows to work without traffic impairing their progress.
- Remove vehicles from the street by parking in driveways and other parking areas, if possible.
- Parking is prohibited on first and second priority snow routes when snowfall depth is 2 inches or greater. If the forecast indicates a total accumulation of 2 inches or more, don't wait to move your vehicle. The fine for parking on a snow route has been raised to \$100, plus towing and vehicle storage fees.
- Keep up with city snow operations by visiting CoMoSnow.com or following on Twitter and Facebook.

Volunteer of the Month

Charles Craig

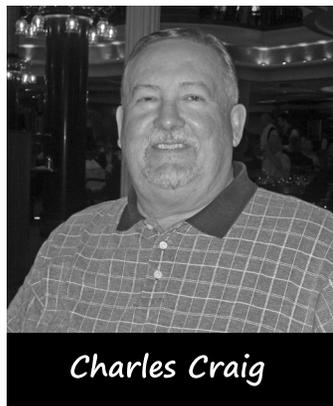
A 23-year career as a police officer in St. Louis County prepared Charles Craig to help train officers in Columbia. For the past 12 years, Craig has shared his extensive knowledge of firearms and intensive driving by running several programs for officers at the University of Missouri.

"Mr. Craig has helped supplement the training staff by providing outstanding firearms and emergency driving training," said Lt. Geoff Jones, Columbia Police Department. "His experience in law enforcement, coupled with his experience teaching in an academy setting, has given him credibility as a department instructor. We are thankful to have him".

Craig also worked for six years with the National Animal Control Association, providing training across the country, and has dedicated his time with the Missouri Sheriff's Academy, where he helped provide firearms and intensive driving training.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or visit GoColumbiaMo.com.

Written by volunteer Amanda Atkinson



Charles Craig

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: Feb. 6 at 5 p.m.

- Commission on Human Rights
- Public Transit Advisory Commission
- University of Missouri Extension Council of Boone County

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at Go-ColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information.

Buses help locals get to work in the snow

If this winter is anything like the past two years, Columbia residents may want to plan ahead for snowy roads. Heavy snowfall can easily strand commuters, and constant vehicle traffic only slows down the snow plows trying to clear the way.

When roads get treacherous, consider taking COMO Connect to work. Bus routes are intentionally placed on priority snow plow routes so they can be up and running well before many residential streets are cleared. Stay informed with the free DoubleMap app for real-time bus information, delays or service alerts.

Columbia Imagined plan honored with Outstanding Plan Award



The Plan for How We Live & Grow

The Missouri American Planning Association Chapter awarded the City's comprehensive plan, Columbia Imagined, the 2014 Outstanding Plan Award — Honorable Mention.

Development Services Manager Patrick Zenner accepted the award in St. Louis Oct. 16 on behalf of the Community Development Department.

"We are honored to have received the state's highest award for planning professionals and plans which foster communities of lasting value. Columbia Imagined: The Plan for How We Live and Grow is the result of the community coming together to voice how and where growth and development should occur over the next 20 years. The plan identifies what we need to do to ensure our community values and uniquely special characteristics are preserved and promoted," Zenner said.

Columbia Imagined was adopted by the City Council in October 2013 after nearly four years of work by citizens, staff, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Comprehensive Plan Task Force and University of Missouri consultants. The plan provides livability, land use and policy guidance for professional staff, citizens and appointed and elected officials through 2030 and was developed through extensive, highly-invested and diverse public input.

Columbia Imagined may be viewed online at Columbiainmaged.com.

CITY SOURCE is published by the City of Columbia as a public service to the residents of Columbia, Missouri.

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Bob McDavid

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