

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

vol. 17 • No. 12 • December 2015

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Columbia Eve Fest

A New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts

- December 31, 2015
- 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 capped off with their own kids' finale, and a grand finale for the public at midnight. 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**.

Columbia Eve Fest 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.



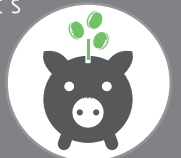
City flag finalists are on display in the City Hall lobby.

Public comment sought for city flag finalists

The City of Columbia has set out to adopt a new, official city flag designed by its citizens. The public is invited to comment on the three design finalists for the City Flag Design Contest through early January 2016. Visit the Office of Cultural Affairs website at **GoColumbiaMo.com/Arts** for more information on the contest, to review designs and submit comments online. Or, visit Columbia City Hall's main lobby to leave a comment in person.

Budget Breakdown

At the end of each year, city departments' general fund savings from incentive based budgeting (reserve budget) is split among departments and the City Council. From 2014, the City Council received \$2,083,494 to allocate. On September 21, 2015, the City Council voted to dedicate \$100,000 of this money to community policing. This money will support the expansion of Columbia Police Department's Community Outreach Unit and community-oriented events.



Snow and ice management



It's winter in Missouri. That means snow and ice will likely create hazardous roadway, runway and sidewalk conditions.

To prepare for whatever winter throws at us, Columbia Public Works has been busy getting ready. Over the summer we took delivery of roadway salt and all 5,000 tons are in storage at the LeRoy Anderson Salt Facility on Big Bear Blvd.

In October, we hosted our annual Snow Conference with representatives from all over Boone County. The Missouri Department of Transportation, Boone County Public Works, Emergency Management, Public Safety Joint Communications, Columbia Public Schools, the University of Missouri and others gathered to plan and coordinate our efforts to ensure roadways will be treated and made passable as soon as possible during winter weather. Our GIS Department ensured maps were updated and staff reviewed and updated policies.

At the beginning of November the trucks we use to treat and plow roads, sidewalks and runways were brought into the shop to ensure each is in good working order and plows and spreaders were attached to ensure they work properly. On Oct. 28, Columbia Regional Airport conducted classroom and field operator training. On November 18, we conducted operator familiarization for Street Division drivers who were provided with safety classes and then operators drove their routes.

Keep up to date with the latest snow operations updates, policies and information about snow and ice management at COMOSnow.com.

Code Corner—residential code enforcement year end numbers

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handled 4,209 cases in the City's 2015 fiscal year (ending September 30, 2015). Nuisances (including trash, debris, hazardous trees) were the largest category of cases with 1,611 followed by weeds at 1,197 cases and property maintenance (violations on structures) at 577.

City staff identified 58 percent of the cases with resident complaints making up the remaining 42 percent. In addition, ONS ended the year with 26,437 registered rental units. All rental units are registered every three years and must meet property maintenance code standards. ONS staff responded to 197 tenant complaints during the year as well.

If there is an issue in your neighborhood where ONS can assist, please contact us at 573-817-5050 or through the "Report A Problem" link on the City's webpage.

Nominate an outstanding volunteer for the Howard B. Lang, Jr. Award

It's time to nominate deserving persons to receive the eighth 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 our City. We now have 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 her/his choice) and an engraved plaque.

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

Nomination forms can be found at GoColumbiaMo.com; (search Lang Award Nomination Form). Click, print and return to the address noted on the form. Nominations are due by Friday, January 15, 2016.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Trust Specialist John Baker at 573-817-5027 or email him at jdbaker@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Report street light outages

If you notice a light on during the day or one out at night, please report it to us.

An online form is available at **GoColumbiaMo.com**, search for "street light outage" or call us at 573-874-7325.



Utility disconnects during winter months

Per city ordinance (Chapter 27-21 (h)), the City of Columbia may disconnect delinquent utility accounts when the temperature is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit and below 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Disconnections are based on actual temperatures, not weather forecasts. When the actual temperature is above 32 degrees, service can be shut off. Before utilities are shut off for non-payment, please call 573-874-7380 or visit the Utility Customer Service office. Payment agreements are easily done for eligible accounts.

2016 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 23rd Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Thursday, January 14, 2016 from 7-8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. Pre-registration is required by January 8, 2016 at 5 p.m.

The cost is \$17 per person, but scholarships are available upon request. Please call the City's Office of Cultural Affairs at 573-874-6386 for registration information. A registration form is available on the City of Columbia's website at **GoColumbiaMo.com** (search: Diversity Celebration).

The theme of this year's celebration is Unity in Our Community. The program will include performances representing the rich diversity of our community, live music at the breakfast followed by the presentation of the 19th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Starsky Wilson, President and CEO of the Deaconess Foundation and co-chair of the Ferguson Commission.

The Celebration is designed to be accessible to all. For more information or accommodations related to disability call 573-874-6386.



CoMoGives

CoMoGives 2015 is here. CoMoGives is an easy way to support local nonprofits with end-of-year gifts until midnight, December 31. You may have already seen paper CoMoGives guides in various public places around Columbia. Pick one up and find out about many terrific, local nonprofit services worthy of your support. Then donate online as you are able.

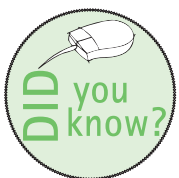
Announcements about CoMoGives are on TV and radio, and throughout local social media. Point your internet browser to **CoMoGives.com** and make donations to your favorite charities. You can give to more than one organization with a single transaction.

CoMoGives is presented 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. Many thanks to these local businesses for their generosity.



 **CoMoGives.com**

City of Columbia budget 101



Putting together a budget for an entire city is not easy. Decisions must be made on how best to allocate limited resources. For a basic understanding of the City of Columbia's budget process and to find out how you can be a part

of the process, view the City Channel's City of Columbia Budget 101 video at

GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/budget101.



Undergrounding power lines

Columbia Water & Light has allocated money to bury overhead electric and telecommunication lines for many years. Over 50 percent of Columbia's electric distribution lines are now underground. In the 1970s, lines in the downtown area were moved underground as the budget allowed. During the same decade, underground electric distribution lines were introduced in new residential developments. Columbia Water & Light has been burying lines along the Business Loop since 2002. The area between West Boulevard and Garth is completed and underground work continues to Providence.



*Downtown Columbia
in the 1970s.*



The recent electric undergrounding project near Garth Avenue on the Business Loop.

Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Awards

The Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) awards aim to recognize excellence in sustainable practices demonstrated by local businesses and organizations while promoting a culture of environmental responsibility.

Please nominate Columbia businesses or nonprofit organizations you think deserve to be rewarded for their efforts to make Columbia an environmentally responsible community. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations will be accepted September until the end of December by filling out an application. Semi-finalists may be contacted with additional questions in January and winners will be chosen in February 2016. Awards will be given at the MCPA Awards reception in April 2016. Applications are available online at GoColumbiaMo.com/Sustainability/documents/MCPAapplication-fillable.pdf.

Five award categories

Environmental Stewardship

A business or organization that actively protects the land around them and advocates for sustainable land uses.

Innovative Best Practices

A business or organization that is innovating ways to be more environmentally sustainable and helping the community be more sustainable.

Pollution Prevention

A business or organization nominated for this award is aware of their carbon footprint. They may have installed efficient appliances, or have put in place an energy reduction plan to lessen their footprint or they also might have looked into innovative forms of transportation.

Resource Conservation

A business or organization who has improved the community by reducing, reusing or recycling.

Mayor's Award

This award will be given to past MCPA Award winners who have continued to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability in Columbia.

Switch for safety and savings! Switch to LED holiday lights

Not only do LED light strings cost significantly less to operate, they run cooler reducing the risk of fire and they can last up to 40 holiday seasons.

ComoEnergyChallenge.com
Brought to you by the CoMo Energy Challenge. Competing for \$5 million and change.



What is net metering?

A net meter can measure electricity flowing to the utility from a customer’s renewable energy system when a customer is producing more energy than they are using. It can also reverse its direction to measure the amount of electricity used by the customer that is supplied by the utility. At the end of the month, the customer is billed for the difference or the ‘net’ amount of electricity used over the billing period.

For more information about net metering, solar rebates and loans, search “solar” at **GoColumbiaMo.com**.

Columbia named as Digital Cities Survey winner

The City of Columbia was named as the 7th place winner in the Digital Cities Survey. To determine winners, the 15th annual survey looked at each city’s technology programs and plans.

The survey is part of the Center for Digital Government’s Digital Communities program. It focuses on 10 initiatives across four categories: citizen engagement, policy, operations, and technology and data. Those judging the cities use a set of criteria and look at how well a city implemented technology projects across their community.

“This is an incredible recognition for the IT Department and the hard work of so many people. To be recognized by the profession is a high honor indeed,” Deputy City Manager Tony St. Romaine said.

The survey lists several areas where the City of Columbia is thriving when it comes to technology as well as the focus on citizen engagement.

“Citizen engagement is important to Columbia, which sought to adopt innovative ways to involve all residents, and improve services based on community values, priorities and expectations,” the judges said.

SpeakUpCoMo.com, judges said, is easy to use and navigate and provides residents with a good method to communicate feedback and receive information.

Judges found the City’s pursuit of a \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize to be innovative because of the community maps that show how neighborhoods use energy. The CoMo Energy Challenge encourages residents to reduce energy use.

The transparency of the City’s utility data impressed the judges because of measurements and benchmarks that compare Columbia to international peers. They also praised a software sharing project called cITYSOFT which encourages government entities to collaborate to solve common problems. The Columbia Police Department K9 unit was the first shareable software application that the City released; it is used by public safety agencies to track individual canine use and training.

“It truly was a team effort including folks outside the IT Department, with GIS and the City Channel. I’m very proud of my team,” Assistant IT Director Mark Neckerman said.

The award was presented at the National League of Cities conference in Nashville. The annual Digital Cities Survey is conducted from July to August and all cities, towns, villages and consolidated city/county governments are invited to participate. Columbia was in a category that included cities with populations ranging from 75,000 to 124,000.

Parks & Recreation
Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

January

1	CARE summer program applications available online
18	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candle Light Walk and Celebration, Walk at Douglass H.S. at 6:30 p.m., proceed to Second Missionary Baptist Church
23	ROC Trail Run, Rhett’s Run Trail at Cosmo Park, 8:30 a.m., \$35 in advance

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed Monday, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The second regular City Council meeting in January will be held Tuesday, January 19. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made January 18 and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 573-874-6291 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 January 18.

Strategic plan released

The new strategic plan adopted by City Council members in September sets top priorities for making Columbia a better place over the next three years. The aim is to make Columbia the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play. That means closing the gap between citizens who work and who are looking for work. With wages that allow people to support themselves and their families, the odds of success should improve for the whole community.

City staff will work with residents and community organizations to see where more attention is needed to improve education; health; public safety; housing; streets and sidewalks; utility service; and neighborhood connections. Anyone who is willing to help is welcome.

The plan also calls for helping City employees deliver excellent public service. These employees, who may be your family members, friends and neighbors, are the bedrock for Columbia’s reputation as a “full-service City.” To see the plan and a video of the City Manager’s community briefing, visit **GoColumbiaMo.com/city-manager/**.

December volunteer of the month — Adrienne Hamlin

Volunteering is something Adrienne Hamlin just does. As a volunteer coach for the Little Lady Bulldogs Cheer and Dance team, Hamlin works with kids to choreograph dance and cheerleading routines.

"I love working with kids, because it just comes so naturally to me," Hamlin said.

The kids love Ms. Adrienne. Her supervisor, Mary Dewey, said parents have told her their kids have never been happier to get in shape and look forward to coming to class because she cares for her students.

Along with creating routines, Hamlin finds places for the girls to perform and gives them opportunities to do other things in the community. As a recent college graduate, she feels that she has time to volunteer now, before she starts a family. To Hamlin, volunteering isn't something you do temporarily. "When I volunteer with an organization, it is a long-term commitment," Hamlin said. "Seeing the same people every time I volunteer, seeing their growth, seeing how much enjoyment I can provide by just giving up a little bit of time is very rewarding."

For more information about volunteering, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or visit **GoColumbiaMo.com**.

Written by volunteer Abby Holman.



Adrienne Hamlin

Winter weather and warm rides

We all like a warm car with a defrosted windshield during winter months, but the Columbia Police Department (CPD) reminds drivers that thieves do too. From December 2014 through February 2015, CPD took 31 reports of motor vehicle theft. Some of these reports included vehicles that were unlocked and running with the keys inside at the time they were stolen.

A car that is idling while unattended attracts the attention of a thief who can easily get inside and drive off. CPD encourages drivers to use a remote start, if possible. In cases where remote start is not an option, drivers may choose to start the vehicle with one set of keys and lock it up while it warms, then use a second set of keys to unlock it when you're ready to leave. Never leave children or pets in an unattended vehicle and be alert—do not warm up a vehicle in an enclosed, unventilated area due to the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Expanded plastics recycling

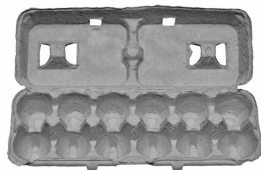
Columbia Public Works now accepts #1 through #7 plastic containers in our recycling stream. You can now place more plastics in your blue bag for curbside pickup or in the bins at the drop off locations across town.

This month, we'll focus on #6 plastic containers. Common examples of #6 plastic containers include: Meat trays, egg cartons, aspirin bottles, some food containers and compact disc cases. #6 plastics are commonly recycled into: Insulation, light switch plates, egg cartons, vents, rulers, foam packing and carry out containers.

A few examples of #6 recyclable plastics



Polystyrene



The City does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, familial status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

City of Columbia
701 E. Broadway • Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 874-7111 • GoColumbiaMo.com

MAYOR
Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

First Ward	Clyde Ruffin
Second Ward	Michael Trapp
Third Ward	Karl Skala
Fourth Ward	Ian Thomas
Fifth Ward	Laura Nauser
Sixth Ward	Betsy Peters
City Manager	Mike Matthes



Printed on recycled paper