

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Parks and Recreation plans holiday events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS...

Santa Hotline

■ **Saturday, Dec. 1**

Children ages 3-10 can call the North Pole from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will have the opportunity to speak with Santa, Mrs. Claus or one of the many elves. CALL 874-7473 or 874-6335 ONLY on this day.

City Kwanzaa Celebration

■ **Saturday, Dec. 1, 2-5 p.m.**

■ **Douglass High School**

Come celebrate this African-American holiday based on developing positive families and communities. There will be community awards given, entertainment and a holiday feast. Please call 874-6379 for more information. The event is free.

Help your neighbors in need

DONATE TO UTILITY ASSISTANCE

CASH and HELP

In Boone County...

- Nearly 25,000 or 23 percent of Columbia residents live in poverty.
- Unemployment has doubled in the last decade.
- Thirty-eight percent of public school children qualify for free or reduced lunch.



Can you imagine choosing between buying food and utility service? It is not an easy choice for many Columbians. You can help by filling out the contribution slip on this month's utility bill return envelope for the CASH and HELP programs or fill out the online form. These programs were established to help seniors, the disabled and families with children pay their utility bills. By giving a little extra, to one or both programs, you can help someone in our community a great deal.

874-7380

GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Forms/cash-help.php

Donations to the program are tax deductible.

All money donated to the program goes to help those in need.

Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth



Please help area children this holiday season! When you are shopping, please pick up an extra gift for a needy child for Parks and Recreation's annual toy drive. Toys can be dropped off at the Armory Sports Center (701 E. Ash) or the downtown Parks and Recreation office (#1 South Seventh Street).

Toys and monetary donations will also be accepted through Dec. 12. Cash, checks or credit cards are accepted. A letter of receipt for tax purposes will be provided for your generosity. Call 874-7460 for more information.



Home Cooking Fires/Safety Tips

Stay in the kitchen when frying, broiling or grilling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove. If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly. Remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. Leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool. In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

For further information, visit www.nfpa.org/cooking.

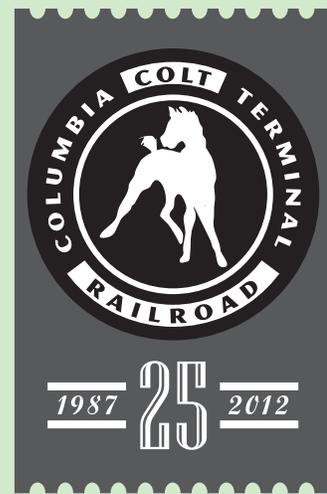


Utility Payment Convenience Fee

The City Council passed resolution R173-12 Oct. 1, authorizing the city manager to enter into a contract with Tele-Works Incorporated for the implementation of the Summation 360 Solution Suite, a hosted multi-channel billing, payment and automation solution for utility billing, and the incorporation of a convenience fee. When the solution is implemented, a \$4.60 convenience fee per \$1,000 payment will be charged to those customers who pay by credit card or e-check via the Internet or telephone.

The solution allows customers to better manage their accounts in real time, with various payment options, allows for scheduled payments, the ability to link multiple accounts for monitoring and payments and the ability to manage how the customer wants to receive bills and updates, while providing invoice, consumption and payment history.

Customers will continue to have no-cost payment alternatives when choosing to pay via mail, in person or automatic bank draft. For additional information, call 874-7380 or 874-7319.



*mid-Missouri
shipping specialists*

25th Anniversary COLT Railroad

In the early 1980s, Norfolk Southern announced that it planned to discontinue rail service on the spur from Centralia to Columbia, and no other private businesses were interested in continuing the line. Concerned about what the lack of rail service would mean for Columbia's future, the City of Columbia stepped in and purchased the rail line Oct. 2, 1987, naming it the Columbia Terminal or COLT. Under the management of Columbia Water & Light, the COLT became an increasingly popular way to ship materials for businesses in the region.

Twenty-five years later, the COLT Railroad is thriving and growing. Traffic has increased from over 600 cars in 1988 to over 2,000 cars in recent years. The rail line offers reliable, energy-efficient, cost-competitive transportation services for a myriad of goods.



Web did you know?

Check out the free and simple online energy audit. This service provides specific energy efficiency tips for your home plus there's a great reference library for researching projects.

**GoColumbiaMo.com, search for
"online energy audit"**





Columbia Imagined

The Plan for How We Live & Grow

Columbia Imagined

City staff, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Comprehensive Plan Task Force continue to draft chapters for Columbia Imagined, the City's new comprehensive plan. Drafts will be available for public review in late November/early December.

To stay up to date on the plan, please visit <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/TCC/index.php> or watch the latest video airing on the City Channel (Mediacom channel 80 (digital 23s), Charter Communications channel 992 and CenturyLink 601).



Tips for Hiring a Contractor

Did you know that the City requires electricians, plumbers and mechanical tradesmen to be tested and certified to do work in the City? Before you hire a contractor ask them to provide proof that they have a trade license to do work in the City. Hiring a contractor with a license helps ensure that:

- the contractor will acquire the necessary permits;
- materials used will meet code requirements; and
- the work will be inspected for code compliance.

Did you know that the City requires contractors with more than one employee to have workers' compensation insurance? Workers' compensation insurance is important; if an accident occurs on your property you could be legally liable. Before hiring a contractor ask him/her to provide you a copy of his/her certificate of insurance.

Hiring a contractor can be a stressful and confusing process. The City does not provide contractor recommendations but if you have specific questions about whether or not a contractor is licensed or if you need a permit for the work, just ask. The Building and Site Development Division can be reached at 874-7474 or via email at bldg-inspection@GoColumbiaMo.com.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

DECEMBER

1	Santa Hotline, children ages 3-7 call 874-7473 only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
1	City Kwanzaa Celebration, Douglass High School, 2-5 p.m., free
31	First Night 5K Run/Walk, Flat Branch Park, 4 p.m.
31	First Night 2013: The Night is Young!, The District, 7 p.m. to midnight, admission button is \$8 for ages 8 and over, \$10 at the door

November Volunteer of the Month: CERT Leadership Team



CERT Leadership Team

Columbia citizens can have peace of mind knowing that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is ready to assist with local disasters and emergencies. CERT, a national program through FEMA, is comprised of volunteers trained to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds.

Coordinating and managing the Columbia CERT program and the team of community volunteers is the CERT Leadership Team, a dedicated group of volunteers. Maria Cox, Barbara Ball, Bob Young, Laura Naiper, Cindy Parshall, Bob Jett and Ingrid Moertel each serve hundreds of hours every year coordinating training, maintaining equipment, conducting leadership meetings, dealing with issues and scheduling volunteers for events. All but one have been leading CERT since its inception.

“They are the heartbeat of the CERT program and invaluable because of the services they provide our community,” said Lt. Brian Davison, assistant fire marshal who oversees CERT. “If an emergency happens, these are the first people we would call. They are a vital supplement to emergency responders.”

Trained to provide emergency medical care, search and rescue, triage, wellness checks and basic fire fighting skills, CERT volunteers serve at many Columbia events, such as First Night, Roots and Blues, Art in the Park and football games.

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

-Written by volunteer Theresa Nelson

Building Permit Fee Increase

On Oct. 1, Community Development adopted a new permit fee multiplier of \$2.25 per thousand dollars of valuation. This change marks the first increase in building permit fees since 1996. This multiplier will apply equally to commercial and residential building permits and will help make the building permit fee calculation simpler and easier to understand.

Valuations will be calculated by City staff based on the square foot construction cost established by the International Code Council (ICC). The square foot construction cost is based on the occupancy and construction type and will be updated on an annual basis as part of the budget process. The permit fee multiplier is based on a cost recovery goal of 75 percent established by the City Council. The multiplier will be reviewed on an annual basis.

If you are thinking about building and have questions about the changes, please contact the Building and Site Development Division at 874-7474.

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: Dec. 7 at 5 p.m.—

- Boone County Community Services Advisory Commission
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Police Retirement Board

Applications and current vacancies for City boards and commissions are available online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information.

Holiday Schedule

City offices will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas and Tuesday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made on these days and will be delayed one day the remainder of these weeks. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have questions. Also, city buses will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

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

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City of Columbia

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MAYOR

Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	Fred Schmidt
<i>Second Ward</i>	Michael Trapp
<i>Third Ward</i>	Gary Kespohl
<i>Fourth Ward</i>	Daryl Dudley
<i>Fifth Ward</i>	Helen Anthony
<i>Sixth Ward</i>	Barbara Hoppe
<i>City Manager</i>	Mike Matthes



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