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# CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



## 2012 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 19th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 12, from 7-8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. Pre-registration is required; the deadline is 5 p.m., Jan. 6.

The theme of this year's celebration is, "One Community, Many Stories." A breakfast and live music will be followed by the presentation of the 15th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. The highlight of the event will be an original artistic program honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The cost is \$14 per person. Scholarships are available upon request. The celebration is designed to be accessible to all. Call the Division of Human Services at 874-7488 (V) or 874-7356 (TTY) for registration information or for information or accommodations related to disability. A registration form is available on the City's website at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth

Please help area children this holiday season. When shopping, 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 be accepted through Dec. 16. 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.

## Help your neighbors in need DONATE TO UTILITY ASSISTANCE

### CASH and HELP

**Boone County is not immune to the economic downturn...One in four people live in poverty... Unemployment has tripled in the last decade...40 percent of public school children live in poverty.**

Please put yourself in someone else's shoes. Imagine you once were generous enough to give to the utility assistance programs and now are in need of help yourself. Each month half the people who apply for utility assistance through the CASH and HELP programs are turned away due to lack of funds. Can you imagine choosing between buying food and paying your utility bill? 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.

874-7380 • [www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Forms/cash-help.php](http://www.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.*





## We're looking for GREAT City of Columbia volunteers!

It's time to nominate deserving persons for the fourth 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 are making 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 do your part by nominating a volunteer who may be an elected official, member of a City board or commission, other City volunteer or one who leads an effort that benefits the City. The recipient will be chosen based on his/her impact, initiative and length of service.

Nomination forms can be found at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com); search for "Lang Award Nomination Form." Print and return to the address noted on the form. Nominations are due by Friday, Jan. 13, 2012.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Trust Specialist John Baker at 817-5027 or email [jdbaker@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:jdbaker@GoColumbiaMo.com).



## Neighborhood Leadership Program

The Department of Community Development and University Extension are pleased to announce that the Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) will be held again in 2012 with the goal of helping leaders — and future leaders — grow personally and gain skills to help them guide Columbia's neighborhoods. Sessions are scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 6-8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 24. For more information and to register, please contact Bill Cantin at 874-7248 or [bpcantin@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:bpcantin@GoColumbiaMo.com).



## Water Quality Notifications

Sign up for the Nixle notification to be alerted either by email or a text message that there is an issue with the quality of your water. There are two types of alerts that might be sent. A boil order is when there is known contamination of the water. A water boil advisory means there is a possible contamination.

**Sign up:** [GoColumbiaMo.com/Nixle/index.php](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Nixle/index.php)

## Columbia Imagined - Phase II 'Who Are We?'

Be sure to participate in the second phase of Columbia Imagined, the City's new comprehensive plan. During this phase, presentations describing "Who Are We?" can be made to you, your organization or neighborhood. Please provide feedback on the topics covered in this phase by reading the report and taking the online surveys. The feedback received will be used to assist the Comprehensive Plan Task Force, Planning and Zoning Commission and staff in further developing the plan.

### The existing conditions topics include descriptions of "Who Are We?" in these categories:

- Sustainable/livable communities
- Accessibility, mobility and sustainability
- Economic Development
- Environmental management
- Infrastructure
- Intergovernmental management
- Land use and growth management

Additional information is available by contacting the Planning Department at 874-7239 or visiting the City's website at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com). Additionally, you can follow this process on Facebook@Columbia\_Imagined or on Twitter@COMOimagined.



## Be prepared for winter weather

Winter Weather Awareness Day is Nov. 16. Boone County residents are encouraged to have proper supplies in their home and vehicle to deal with all that winter can bring.

The Office of Emergency Management has publications available addressing winter preparation on the OEM page of the City's website at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM) or call 874-7400.



## ONS helps Missouri United Methodist Church with 9/11 service project

Six Missouri United Methodist churches collaborated on a service project in conjunction with the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. More than 250 volunteers worked in teams to perform minor home repairs, yard work and cleanup projects for families in need. ONS was privileged to support this project by making property referrals and helping write a mini-grant application to the HandsOn Network (HON). HON awarded this project \$1,000 used to purchase needed project supplies. Columbia's was one of only 20 community projects to receive this award.



## Community Development Department

The City's new Community Development Department was created Oct. 1 with the start of the 2012 fiscal year. This department includes what was previously the Planning & Development Department, the Building & Site Development Division of Public Works and the Office of Neighborhood Services.

The Office of Neighborhood Services will continue to operate out of 3601 S. Providence through the end of the calendar year and will relocate to City Hall with the rest of the department beginning Jan. 3.

Beginning Jan. 3, all transactions related to the Community Development Department will be made at the service counter on the 3rd floor of the Historic Daniel Boone Building, 701 E. Broadway. All phone numbers and email addresses will continue for staff coming into the new department.

To learn more about the new Community Development Department, visit the City's website at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Help 9-1-1 protect you and your family

Columbia/Boone County Joint Communications now offers a free, new service to help you when you call 9-1-1. Once you've signed up, first responders will be provided important information that will help them address your emergency. This information, including medical issues and current location, can help police, fire and EMS locate and help you. [www.Smart911.com](http://www.Smart911.com)

## PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

### DECEMBER

- 3 Santa Hotline, children ages 3-7 call 874-7473 only from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 3 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 2012: Make Some Noise!, The District, 7 p.m. to midnight, admission button is \$8 for ages 8 and over, \$10 at the door

## 'Use Less Stuff' Holiday Campaign - Nov. 18 to Jan. 1

During the five weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's, it is estimated that the nation's trash increases by an extra one million tons per week. The purpose of *Use Less Stuff* Day on Nov. 18 is to point out the necessity of creating less waste in the first place, and to show how easily and profitably source reduction can be made a part of our lives.

Using less stuff means "reduce" rather than "reuse" or "recycle." As you are holiday shopping this year, the City of Columbia offers some tips to avoid waste during the annual *Use Less Stuff* campaign:

- Take your own shopping bags.
- Consolidate your purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.
- Consolidate your shopping trips to save fuel.
- Buy rechargeable batteries for toys and other items that are used frequently.

For more tips on avoiding waste this holiday season, check out the City's website at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) (search: GoUseLessStuff) or call the Solid Waste Division at 874-6271.

## Volunteers of the Month - the Jones Family



For November Volunteers of the Month, the Jones family, volunteering has become contagious. Willie Jones first started volunteering for the City more than four years ago when he signed up to photograph the annual Cleanup Columbia event. He had a passion for photography and was excited to use his talents to serve the City.

After that volunteer experience, Willie was hooked and couldn't wait to get other people in his life on board. It was easy to recruit his wife, Debbie, and their daughter, Kia. They have since made volunteering a family priority. One volunteer event the Jones' look forward to each year is the annual First Night event held on New Year's Eve in downtown Columbia.

When asked about why his family enjoys volunteering, Willie said, "Our family really loves this city and enjoys the plethora of experiences and facilities it provides for citizens. Volunteering for the City is our way of giving thanks for those opportunities and giving back to a place that has given us so much."

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

~ Written by volunteer Brittany Perrin

## Now's the time for your Flu Vaccine

As you head into the busy holiday season, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services reminds you to make the flu vaccine a priority. A quick stop at the department's clinic at 1005 West Worley can protect you and your loved ones from the flu, a serious respiratory illness.

The CDC recommends that everyone over six months of age get a flu vaccine every fall. This year, thanks to a generous grant from the David B. Lichtenstein Foundation, the health department has **free** flu vaccines for all children 6 months – 18 years of age. Adults age 19 and older will be charged \$25 for the flu shot and \$30 for FluMist®. The following insurance plans will be accepted: Medicaid, Medicare Part B, Aetna and Humana.

The flu vaccine, your best protection from the flu, is available without an appointment Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Sign up for transmission line project updates

Columbia Water & Light is continuing to study ways to serve electric loads and improve reliability for the southwestern part of the city. This project involves adding transmission lines to connect the new Millcreek substation on Peach Tree Drive with some of the existing substations. For detailed information about this project and to sign up for email updates:

[GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Electric/ProposedElectricTransmission.php](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Electric/ProposedElectricTransmission.php).

## Holiday Schedule

City offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas and Monday, Jan. 2, 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. 26 or Jan. 2.

## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

**Application deadline: Dec. 9 at noon**

- Community Services Advisory Commission
- Finance Advisory & Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Police Retirement Board
- Sustainable Farms & Communities, Inc. Board
- Columbia Special Business District Board

Applications and current vacancies for City boards and commissions are available online at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information.

## Web Did you Know....

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services shares timely health information on Facebook and Twitter. Get the latest health news at [www.facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept](http://www.facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept) or on Twitter @CoMo\_HealthDept.

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City of Columbia

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