

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Donate to utility assistance

CASH and HELP

Many Columbians have to make difficult financial decisions each month. It's not an easy choice to decide between buying food and paying a utility bill. You can help people in our community 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.

CASH and HELP assistance programs often run out of funding on the first week of the month. By giving a little extra, to one or both programs, you can help someone in our community.

- **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.



Please help those in your community!

Holiday toys for Columbia's youth

Please help area children this holiday season. While 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 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.

Holiday Food Safety

With holiday season fast approaching, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) reminds residents to practice safe food preparation for family gatherings.

- + **Clean:** Wash hands and surfaces often. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and infect cutting boards, knives, sponges and countertops.
- + **Separate:** Don't cross contaminate. Keep raw meats, poultry and seafood away from other foods that are ready to eat.
- + **Cook:** Properly cooking foods at the correct temperature and cooking time kills harmful bacteria. A whole turkey is safely cooked when the internal temperature is 165 degrees throughout. Also, remember that those most eager to sample raw cookie dough are often the most vulnerable – kids.
- + **Chill:** Any perishable food on the buffet table should be discarded after two hours at room temperature. To keep harmful bacteria from growing and multiplying, refrigerators should be set at 41 degrees or less.

For more information on keeping your holiday celebration safe and healthy, visit GoColumbiaMO.com/Health.

Discover dinosaur bones at Cosmo Park



The largest playground in Columbia's park system, Steinberg Playground at Cosmo Park, has been completely renovated. New play features take children from prehistoric times to the space age. Children can climb on a dinosaur head, uncover dinosaur bones in the sand play area, climb down a dinosaur tail, swing side by side on the big swing, spin in the merry go round, climb up the rocket ship and slide down, and more.

The former 112,000 square-foot, 17-year old playground was in need of replacement due to worn equipment, difficulty in procuring replacement parts and the need to comply with current standards required by the Consumer Project Safety Commission and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The voter-approved park sales tax provided the funding to do the much needed renovations. The Disabilities Commission also contributed to the project to help fund the poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing, creating an all-inclusive play area that is easily accessible for children with mobile disabilities.

No calendars this year

Since 1982, the Columbia Water & Light calendar contest has highlighted the creativity of junior high artists. This Partners in Education program has showcased the artwork of Columbia youth, exposing them to career opportunities in marketing and graphic design, while teaching them about energy efficiency. The majority of calendar entries come from Columbia Public Schools. Recent curriculum changes mean there is no longer time in the classroom for a calendar contest assignment. None of the other options explored by Water & Light would continue the tradition of featuring area youth's artwork while conveying the messages in a meaningful way, so the annual calendar contest has been discontinued. Water & Light looks forward to working with area schools to find new opportunities for partnership.

Fall efficiency projects

Tired of being uncomfortable and paying high bills when the weather is extreme? If you add up the hidden air leaks in your home, they can equal a hole the size of an open window. Fall is the perfect time to invest in your home's energy efficiency.

Caulk to stop leaks:

- around window and door frames
- in foundation cracks
- where siding meets the foundation, roof and chimney
- and outside where wires/plumbing lines meet your structure.

Weatherstrip:

- along the bottom of exterior doors or doors that lead to unheated areas
- on the inside of door jams.

Insulate:

Attic Insulation: R-38 or approximately 12 inches

Floor: R-19 above unheated areas

Crawl Space Wall Insulation: R-10 with a vapor barrier

Duct Insulation: R-13 in unheated areas

Rim Joist Insulation: R-13

Consider the Home Performance with Energy Star program and receive up to \$1,200 in rebates for sealing air leaks, insulating your home and upgrading heating and cooling equipment. Through this program you can also receive a low-interest loan to help finance the projects. Call 874-7325 or go to ColumbiaPowerPartners.com for more information.

Snow Shoveling

The Office of Neighborhood Services offers the reminder that removing snow and ice from sidewalks is not only required by ordinance, it is also the neighborly thing to do. It is the responsibility of property owners and occupants to keep sidewalks clear. Section 302.3 of the International Property Maintenance Code says that all sidewalks, walkways.... shall be...maintained free from hazardous conditions. Chapter 24 of city ordinance requires property owners or occupants to keep sidewalks, "clear and free from rubbish, filth, refuse, dirt, snow, ice and from any and all obstructions and dangerous agencies of every kind and description whatsoever." Keeping Columbia's sidewalks clear, can help provide a safe walking environment for those who enjoy, live and work in Columbia.

Interested in helping your neighbors with snow removal? ONS has shovels available to lend to neighborhoods interested in coordinating a street- or neighborhood-wide snow removal project over the winter. Neighborhood mini-grant funds are also available that your neighborhood may use toward the purchase of a snow blower to help remove snow. If interested, email bpcantin@GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7248. Seniors who need assistance with snow removal and volunteers who want to assist can contact the Boone County Council on Aging at 443-1111.

CPD increases efforts to combat crime

As the holiday season approaches, Police Chief Ken Burton would like to highlight an accomplishment of the past year — the Columbia Police Department's (CPD) response to violent crime through collaboration with other agencies.

In May 2013, the CPD and many Columbia citizens noticed an increase in violent behavior, most notably an increase in "shots fired" calls for service. This trend continued into June and July of 2013.

As a result, members of the CPD's Patrol Division, Street Crimes Unit and Criminal Investigations Division partnered with other local law enforcement agencies (Boone County Sheriff's Department, Missouri University Police Department) and federal agencies to combat the problem. Between August 2013 and May 2014, four multi-day saturation events were conducted in the Columbia area to locate and arrest the individuals responsible for these violent crimes.

A noticeable decrease in the number of "shots fired" calls was observed in the months when the saturation events occurred.

Due to limited staffing levels/resources, the CPD relied heavily on other agencies for support to conduct these saturations. The results would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of CPD officers and the officers, deputies and agents of partnering agencies. The CPD would like to extend gratitude to these individuals for helping make the community a safer place.

Mayors Climate Protection Agreement Awards

Do you know a business or non-profit organization that "walks the talk" for sustainability? If so, nominate them today for the 2015 Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) awards. The MCPA awards program was established by the City of Columbia to recognize the efforts of local businesses and organizations who take action to reduce impacts on the environment. Award categories include: environmental stewardship, innovative best practices, pollution prevention and resource conservation. Applications will be accepted until Dec. 31, 2014. Applications are available in the Office of Sustainability, Lucky's Market, Columbia Water & Light and online at GoColumbiaMo.com, search "**MCPA awards**". Awards will be given April 2015.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas and Thursday, 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. COMO Connect, Columbia's public transit system, will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

December

6	Santa Hotline, children ages 3-7 call 874-7473 only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
6	City Kwanzaa Celebration, Douglass High School, 2-5 p.m., FREE
19	Holiday Lights and Sights Tour, meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 p.m. or 7:45-9 p.m., \$7.50 per person, must pre-register
31	Columbia Eve Fest 5K Run/Walk, Flat Branch Park, 4 p.m.
31	Columbia Eve Fest: A New Year's Eve Celebration, The District, 7 p.m. to midnight, admission button is \$6 for ages 7 and over, \$8 at the door

Get your flu vaccine!

It's that time of year again – if you are six months or older, stop by the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services for your annual flu vaccination. Flu vaccine is available from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday at the clinic, 1005 West Worley. No appointment is needed; walk-ins are welcome.

Learn more at GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/Fluclinicschedule.php. For flu updates and more check us out on Facebook at facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept and on Twitter at @CoMo_HealthDept.

Public Art on your iPhone

Columbia's collection of public art can now be experienced on your mobile device. The City's Office of Cultural Affairs has launched a free mobile app for iPhone to guide users on a tour of over 35 pieces of public art around town. Each stop on the tour includes photos, written and audio descriptions and geo-location mapping to guide you along the way. Powered by Otocast, LLC, the app is currently available for download in the iTunes store by searching, "**Otocast**." For more information, visit the Office of Cultural Affairs page on the City's website at GoColumbiaMo.com/Arts.

Volunteer of the Month—Wade Sanders



Wade Sanders
(left)

Wade Sanders, who has 14 years of experience in small city government, understands how a small group can make a big difference in the cleanliness of a community. Sanders is a team leader for the Columbia Crawdads Stream Team, a citywide monthly cleanup event where volunteers meet every second Saturday to clean area streams. Everyone can participate!

Sanders came to the city with hands-on experience, including 20 years of volunteer work for Odessa's community recycling program and various litter pickup projects.

"Several years ago I learned first-hand that five or six determined volunteers can clean up trash over large areas if they simply get to work and keep on task," Sanders said.

Sanders was encouraged by a friend at church to volunteer for the City. He is thankful to be home in Columbia and is happy to volunteer. He believes volunteering is a great way to meet new people and make new friends.

"I learned any community can never have enough volunteers and volunteering has been good for me," he said.

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

Rental energy efficiency tips

Follow these tips to keep your utility bills from climbing too high.

- + Keep the thermostat setting at 78 degrees or higher in the summer and 68 degrees or lower during the winter. If you have a heat pump, avoid changing the thermostat temperature more than two degrees at a time during heating season unless you are going to be away for several days.
- + Contact your landlord about replacing the air conditioner/furnace filter four times a year or when it becomes dirty. Dirty filters keep the air from efficiently moving through the system.
- + Make sure all windows and storm windows are tightly closed during the heating and cooling season.
- + Don't block vents and radiators with furniture, curtains or rugs.
- + For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep the shades closed during summer days. In the winter, make sure the shades are open during the day and closed at night.
- + Close fireplace damper when not in use.
- + **More tips:** GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Conservation/r-searching.php

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

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

- Columbia Vision Commission
- Finance Advisory and Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement Board

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

Web Page Did You Know?

The Leisure Times activity guide is in easy-to-read digital format! Check it out online at GoColumbiaMo.com (**search Leisure Times**).



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Bob McDavid

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