

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

vol. 15 • No. 12 • December 2011

# CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



## WINTER IN COLUMBIA

The average annual snowfall in Missouri is approximately 22 inches, however we all know how unpredictable weather can be. Columbia found that out last winter, topping the charts with a record snow total of 51 inches!

Of the 500 miles of streets of which City staff is responsible, 314 miles were designated as priority routes. That number put a strain on City resources, budget and staff. Starting this winter, priority roads are being reduced to 171 miles. Crews will concentrate initial efforts on a smaller number of priority streets when snow starts falling. This will enable crews to clear priority roads faster and allow better response in clearing residential streets.

The City's snow policy remains similar to past years, but much of the removal process is dependent on the type of precipitation, depth, temperature of air and pavement and timing of winter weather events. During large snow events, residential streets will not be plowed "curb to curb" to avoid blocking mailboxes and driveways with snowdrifts.

### FOR SNOW EVENTS WITH LESS THAN 4 INCHES OF SNOW—

- City crews will clear first and second priority streets to a safe and passable pavement, utilizing overtime if necessary.
- Crews will treat residential streets during regular working hours only.

### FOR SNOW EVENTS WITH MORE THAN 4 INCHES OF SNOW—

- City crews will clear first and second priority streets to a safe and passable pavement, utilizing overtime if necessary.
- Crews will treat residential streets utilizing overtime until streets are safe and passable.

### DEFINITIONS OF PRIORITY STREETS—

- **FIRST PRIORITY** streets are arterial and major city streets. (ex: Forum Boulevard, Vandiver)
- **SECOND PRIORITY** streets are other major, heavily traveled city collector streets, school and City bus routes, as well as streets abutting schools, hospitals and other critical areas. (ex: William Street)

Many state routes inside the city limits are maintained by the Missouri Department of Transportation (ex: Stadium, Providence and Business Loop). A complete list of MoDOT maintained streets is available at the link listed below.

### OTHER SNOW GUIDELINES—

**YOUR DRIVEWAY:** When you scoop snow from your driveway, keep it to the right side (as you are facing the street). This will help keep your driveway from being plowed shut when the plows come down your street.

**YOUR SIDEWALKS:** Citizens are required by ordinance to keep sidewalks adjoining their place of occupancy clear of snow and ice during the winter. Please be a good neighbor and business owner, and help remove snow and ice from City sidewalks. School children, delivery services and those with disabilities look to their neighbors and fellow Columbians to help provide clear and safe sidewalks. The Boone County Council on Aging can help the elderly with snow removal. They can also use more volunteers. Call (573) 443-1111.

**YOUR MAILBOX:** Residents are responsible for removing snow in front of mailboxes to ensure timely mail delivery.

**YOUR VEHICLES:** During snow events please do not park on the street. Parked cars are an obstacle to clearing the street and pose a hazard that plows must maneuver around. Your street will be plowed more thoroughly if there are fewer cars parked on the street. More winter information and the priority map can be viewed on the City's website at: <http://GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Streets/SnowandIceManagement.php>.

## Stay tuned this winter for Columbia Transit emergency weather schedule

During extreme weather conditions of heavy ice or snow Columbia Transit buses will operate on an emergency weather schedule. Routes will remain the same, but the times will change to allow for safer travel.

Twitter is a great way to get up-to-date weather advisories. Get short, timely messages right to your mobile device or via email by following Columbia Transit on [Twitter.com/Columbia\\_MO\\_Bus](https://twitter.com/Columbia_MO_Bus) or on Facebook.

Passengers can also listen to local radio or television stations for emergency weather information. Columbia Transit does not cancel service unless major city streets are completely impassable and/or deemed unsafe due to heavy snow or ice.

For more information regarding the emergency weather schedule, call Columbia Transit at 874-7282 or visit [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) (search GoBus).

## Home Performance with Energy Star CUT YOUR UTILITY BILLS BY 30 PERCENT AND BE MORE COMFORTABLE

### What is it?

By upgrading your home to the recommended efficiency standards, you can live in an Energy Star qualified home. Columbia Water & Light works with local contractors to bring you a comprehensive approach to energy efficiency. The specially trained contractor will make recommendations that will work together to provide:

- Fewer drafts
- Consistent temperature distribution
- Better humidity control
- Proper ventilation
- Lower utility bills



### Rebates & Financing

Columbia Water & Light is offering qualified electric customers rebates up to \$1,200 for home improvements and up to \$1,600 for high-efficiency air conditioners. The low-interest loan program has also been expanded to help finance efficiency upgrades that might be suggested during a Home Performance evaluation.

874-7325 • [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com)

## Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day and Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The regular City Council meetings for those weeks will be held Tuesday, Jan. 3, and Tuesday, Jan. 17. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made Jan. 2 or Jan. 16 and will be delayed one day the remainder of those weeks. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have questions. City buses will run on an off-peak schedule Jan. 2 but will not run Jan. 16. Parking meters will not be enforced either of these days.

## Be prepared for winter!

February's blizzard is a reminder of how potent and dangerous winter weather can be, especially without proper preparation. The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) advises residents to prepare now for all winter may bring.

Ice storms, heavy snow and bitterly cold temperatures can greatly impact our region, causing hazards at home and on the road. OEM advises you to be prepared by having an emergency kit in your home and car.

Have enough basic supplies at home to last you and your family up to 72 hours. This includes water, non-perishable food, medical supplies, batteries and emergency heating supplies. Also, make sure you have an NOAA weather radio programmed for our area for the latest weather information. Have items in your car that will help you if you are stranded, such as a flashlight, windshield scraper, paper towels, extra clothes, matches and candles, booster cables, sand, chains, boots and blankets.

OEM has publications available addressing winter preparation. Copies are available by calling 874-7400 or by logging on to the City's website at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM).

### web DID YOU KNOW?



The Planning and Zoning Commission agendas and staff reports are posted online the Friday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/Commissions/PZ/PlanningandZoningCommissionAgendas2011.php](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/Commissions/PZ/PlanningandZoningCommissionAgendas2011.php).

## Operation Red Wreath

During the holiday season, the Columbia Fire Department is continuing the annual fire service tradition of Operation Red Wreath. In Columbia, the downtown fire station on Tenth Street will display a wreath adorned with red holiday lights from Dec. 1 through Jan. 2. The challenge to Columbia residents is to keep the lights red. Should a fire occur in Columbia during the holiday season; a bulb in the wreath will be changed from red to white. The purpose of this campaign is to remind everyone that the happiness of the holiday season can be forever changed in an instant by fire. Common sense and awareness of fire threats can help keep the wreath red.

## 2012 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 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.

A breakfast and live music will be followed by the presentation of the Columbia Values Diversity Awards and an original artistic program honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

## Community Development Department

In January 2012, the new Community Development Department will consolidate offices and move into one central location in the Daniel Boone Building side of City Hall. The Community Development Service Center on the third floor will provide citizens with a centralized location for rental licenses, code enforcement inquiries, building and site development, zoning and subdivisions. All phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same for staff coming into the new department.

The Office of Neighborhood Services will continue to operate out of 3601 S. Providence until Dec. 30. Building and Site Development staff will remain on the third floor of City Hall until the end of the year. In January, the majority of staff will be relocated to the fifth floor.

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



Make Some Noise!  
FIRST NIGHT® COLUMBIA  
IN THE DISTRICT

December 31, 2011  
Entertainment from  
7 p.m. to midnight

Ring in the New Year at mid-Missouri's premier celebration! Revelers will enjoy a spectacular variety of entertainment at 12 venues in downtown Columbia.

Young visitors can visit the "Create and Celebrate" area and participate in their own procession at 9:15 p.m. that will end with a fireworks display. At 11:30 p.m., the People's Procession will lead revelers to the finale at Courthouse Square with a countdown and fireworks at midnight.

Admission buttons will be available Dec. 1 for \$8. Those 7 and under will be admitted free, and those purchasing a button ahead of time will be entered into a drawing for prizes. Admission will be \$10 at the door. For more information, visit <http://www.firstnightcolumbia.org>.

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

## Help prevent burglaries during the holiday break

The Columbia Police Department reminds residents to prepare during extended absences over the holiday break. Those who leave for vacation are at an increased risk of burglary.

Take these simple steps to ensure your residence is secure prior to leaving for an extended period.

- Leave ample exterior/interior lights on, or use timers.
- Arrange for pickup of mail, newspapers and packages.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure.
- Disable automatic garage doors.
- Take expensive items with you (laptops, cameras, etc.).
- Give the residence the appearance that someone is home.

Be watchful in your neighborhood and notify police immediately of any suspicious activity, vehicles or persons. Descriptions, license plate numbers and last location observed are important details for responding officers and investigators.

The Police Department will deploy additional resources during this time to help deter and detect burglaries. Various methods include the use of uniformed and plainclothes personnel, marked and unmarked police vehicles and additional targeted neighborhood patrols in areas identified as higher potential targets.

With the help of citizens, the Police Department can have continued success combating burglaries in Columbia.

## Become a TreeKeeper!



Residents who have an interest in the environment, like to work outside and want a hands-on way to volunteer in City parks may want to become a TreeKeeper. TreeKeepers is a Columbia Parks & Recreation volunteer program.

TreeKeepers attend a class where they learn about trees, including identification, planting, pruning, insects, diseases and soils. The 2012 class will

be held at the ARC, 1701 W. Ash, from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, and Thursday, Feb. 23, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 25. Following the coursework, participants are asked to share 36 hours of service on City tree projects held on Saturday mornings.

Space in the course is limited. To enroll in TreeKeepers or find out more, visit the City's website or contact the City's Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Howard B. Lang, Jr. Award

Know a deserving volunteer? Nominate him/her for the Howard B. Lang Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the City of Columbia.

Nominees may be an elected official, member of City a board or commission, other City volunteer, or one who leads an effort that benefits the City. The recipient will receive \$1,000 (which may be designated to a project, program or charity of his/her choice) and an engraved plaque.

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.

For more information, contact Trust Specialist John Baker at 817-5027, [jdbaker@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:jdbaker@GoColumbiaMo.com).



## Share the Light

Columbia residents are known for their generosity. Share the Light is an opportunity for City of Columbia utility customers to contribute to City programs and projects that are above and beyond essential City services.

Share the Light donations are designated to one of six areas: public art, community beautification, youth recreation scholarships, health and dental care, fire prevention and education and crime prevention and education. Every penny you give goes directly to improve the quality of life in our community in your chosen area.

If you don't have the Share the Light sign-up flap from your September utility bill, email your giving intention to [ucs@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:ucs@GoColumbiaMo.com) (you must include your name, address and account number) or contact Water and Light at 874-7380, 701 E. Broadway. Specify if you'd like to make a one-time gift or on a monthly basis and the amount you wish to give. Your future utility bills will reflect the amount added for this purpose.

## Holiday Food Safety

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that, in the United States, about 46 million people become sick with a foodborne illness each year. Considering that number, wouldn't safe food be a nice gift to give this holiday season? The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services reminds citizens of the following basic food safety rules:

**CLEAN: Wash hands and food-contact surfaces often. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto 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: Cook to proper temperatures. If you're in charge of the turkey or ham this year, remember that a whole turkey must reach 165° F, fresh (raw) ham must reach 160° F and precooked ham must be reheated to 140° F.**

**CHILL: Cool leftovers quickly. Foods should not sit at room temperature for more than two hours. Cold temperatures keep most harmful bacteria from growing and multiplying.**

Those most vulnerable to foodborne illnesses are children, seniors and those who have an illness that affects their immune system. No one wants to spend the holidays suffering from a foodborne illness, so follow these basic food safety rules for a healthy and fun holiday season. For more information, please visit [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov).

## PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

### JANUARY

3	Registration starts for adult winter volleyball
9	CARE summer program applications available
16	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Walk and Celebration, Walk at Douglass H.S. at 6:30 p.m., proceed to St. Paul AMC
21	Swimming lessons start at the ARC
24	Swimming lessons start at Hickman Pool

## Columbia Imagined - A Comprehensive Plan for a Sustainable Community

### Phase II - 'Who are we?' UPDATE

In November and December, the Columbia Imagined team held meetings in each of the six wards to discuss Columbia's existing conditions, or "Who Are We?" These meetings were held to allow the community access to view and respond to the City on the seven theme areas. If you were unable to attend a meeting in your area, this information is available online at [http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/Comprehensive\\_Plan/index.php](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/Comprehensive_Plan/index.php).

If you are interested in having a meeting presented to your organization, group, committee or neighborhood association, a "Community Resource Kit" is available for pick up or you may request to have a presentation made. For details, contact the Community Development Department at 874-7239 or email [planning@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:planning@GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Celebration planned for MLK holiday

The City's annual Candlelight Walk and memorial celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held Jan. 16. The Candlelight Walk will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Douglass High School and proceed to the Memorial Celebration at St. Paul AMC, 501 Park, where a service will be held. The event is free and open to all. Call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460 for more information.

## Volunteer of the Month- Cheryl Hardy



For many Columbia citizens, a leisurely bike ride through the park is a break from everyday life. For December volunteer of the month Cheryl Hardy, that leisurely bike ride is another way to serve the community. Hardy is a dedicated cyclist who is familiar with the trails and parks in Columbia. She has been a great source of information regarding trail quality and conditions.

Over the past 10 years, Hardy has used her knowledge of the City and her love for the environment to make a difference volunteering for programs such as the Hinkson Clean Sweep, TreeKeepers and Cleanup Columbia.

David Dittmer, Columbia Parks and Recreation forester, says, "Volunteers like Cheryl, who dedicate significant amounts of their free time for the betterment of the community, play a huge role in building a progressive city which aims to make the quality of life better for all its citizens. Quality parks and trails and healthy aquatic systems all help make Columbia a great place to live, and Cheryl has been an active part of all these things."

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



Cheryl Hardy makes a difference as a valuable City of Columbia volunteer.

## C.A.R.E. applications available in January

Applications for next summer's Career Awareness Related Experience (C.A.R.E.) program will be available Jan. 9 at local junior high and high schools, the C.A.R.E. office (701 East Ash St.), the Youth Empowerment Zone (1204 Rogers St., Suite 101) and online at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com/ParksandRec](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/ParksandRec).

Completed applications can be returned to the applicant's school guidance office or the C.A.R.E. office. Applications cannot be submitted electronically. The application deadline is Friday, Feb. 17, at 5 p.m. Call C.A.R.E. for details at 874-6300.

## Marked cars during winter weather

During severe winter storms, it is common to see cars that have slid off of the roadway. If yellow tape is visible on the highest point of the car (antenna or mirror), it has been checked by law enforcement, MoDOT or another agency. There is no need to report that car.



## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the Commission on Human Rights and the Public Transportation Advisory Commission. Application deadline is Feb. 3 at noon. 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.

## Report streetlight problems

Help keep Columbia's streetlights shining when they should. If you notice a light on during the day or one out at night, please report it.

Online streetlight problem reporting form: [GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Forms/stlightout.php](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Forms/stlightout.php)

874-6202

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

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

City of Columbia  
701 E. Broadway • Columbia, MO 65201  
(573) 874-7111 • [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com)

**MAYOR**  
Bob McDavid

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

First Ward	Fred Schmidt
Second Ward	Jason Thornhill
Third Ward	Gary Kespohl
Fourth Ward	Daryl Dudley
Fifth Ward	Helen Anthony
Sixth Ward	Barbara Hoppe
City Manager	Mike Matthes



Printed on recycled paper