



BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

Winter 2016-2017 Volume 2, Issue 3

“When life gives you 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1,000 reasons to smile”
- Unknown -

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Columbia City

CityScene

Investing in Community

By: Mayor Ryan L. Daniel

We have arrived into the Christmas Season where we get the opportunity to spend lots of money, time, and energy to show people we love (or are forced to love) that we actually do care about them. We go out of our way to show hospitality, to put on a smile, and to make small talk with people that we rarely get to see. We buy gifts for people who may be half-way around the world, purely to show that we still love them.

As we go through this gauntlet of Christmas Parties, Holiday exchanges, and Office Celebrations, I want to challenge you that as you start to shop for the multitude of gifts you will purchase, consider showing our community that you love it, as well, by investing in our community. Consider browsing the businesses and shops throughout our community and buy local. Before taking the 30 minute trip to the East, take a look through our commercial district and our downtown to see what kind of Christmas specials they have to offer.

Investing in our community is not solely focused on financial purchases, however. The way in which you invest your time and energy can make a substantial impact on the lives of your neighbors and friends. Consider finding someone who doesn't have a family to go to and invite them over for a meal.

Invest your time helping at a food pantry or at the annual Community Christmas celebration. No matter what you do, make time to invest in others.

Community Events

- 12/10/16 - Santa & Sleigh Rides**
Miner Real Estate
4pm-7pm
- 12/17/16 – Holiday Pops Concert**
First Church of God
7:00pm (Tickets Needed)
- 12/2/2016 & 12/3/2016 – Community Christmas**
Courthouse Square
6pm-8pm
- 12/23/16 - City Hall Closed**
(Christmas Eve Observed)
- 12/24/16 – Christmas Eve**
- 12/25/16- Christmas Day**
- 12/26/16 - City Hall Closed**
(Christmas Day Observed)
- 12/30/16 - City Hall Closed**
(New Year's Eve Observed)
- 12/31/16 – New Year's Eve**
- 1/1/17 – New Year's Day**
- 1/2/17- City Hall Closed**
(New Year's Day Observed)
- 1/16/17- Martin Luther King Day**
(City Hall Closed)
- 2/3/17 & 2/4/2017 – Father/Daughter Dance**
4H Community Building
6pm-10pm
- 2/20/17- President's Day**
(City Hall Closed)

WINTER TRAVELING AND HOLIDAY TIPS



By: Police Chief Anthony Hively

The leaves are changing and the temperature is dropping, both reminders that winter is on its way. Now is the time to prepare and avoid misfortunes during the holiday season. Each year during the holidays, thefts, burglaries, and vehicle collisions tend to increase. Below are a few tips to keep your holiday joyful and safe:

SHOPPING

- Park in well-lit areas, lock your car doors and place merchandise in your trunk because thieves window-shop too.
- Deter pick pocketing and purse thefts by keeping your items close to you.
- Limit the amount of cash you carry by using checks or credit cards. Use ATM's wisely.
- Keep list of all credit cards with contact numbers to assist in quickly canceling them if they are lost or stolen.
- Be observant of your surroundings and alert store security or managers if you suspect someone is following you.
- Shop with friends or relatives to avoid being a target – there is safety in numbers.

TRAVELING

- Allow enough time for travel during days of inclement weather and avoid traveling during snow emergencies.
- Use travel routes you are familiar with and avoid shortcuts through unsafe areas.
- Carry necessary equipment in vehicle: blanket, flashlight, jumper cables, cell phone, charger, cat litter, and shovel.
- Slow down when road conditions are poor and maintain a safe distance behind the vehicle in front of you.

HOME

- Secure doors and windows at all times.
- Keep gifts out of view from the outside of your home by closing blinds and curtains.
- Use exterior lighting to illuminate doors, driveway, and other low visibility areas of concern.
- Limit package deliveries to your home by altering delivery location or make arrangements for pick-up.
- Be cautious of strangers at your door in in your neighborhood.

As we prepare ourselves for the holidays and shopping season, so too are the criminals. Keep this holiday safe by not making yourself or your home a target. Simple steps in preparation can save you the misfortune from becoming a statistic. Have a safe and happy holiday!



Citizen Spotlight on:

Brad Minear



By: Theresa Green,
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Brad Minear is a well-known resident of the community. It seems as if we have all had an interaction with Brad for one reason or another, mostly when one is buying or selling a home. Those that know him, know he's a friendly realtor who made purchasing or selling a house pleasant. Columbia City is where Brad's hometown and is where he and his wife Miranda have chosen to raise their family. Brad and Miranda have four children: Evyn (age 11), Brooke (age 8), Garret (age 6), and Maddex (age 3).

As Brad grew up, he loved his hometown but, he and his high school sweetheart (now wife) wanted to branch out. They moved to Fort Myers, Florida where they started their own landscaping business. After about a year, the hustle and the bustle of a big city was not all that they thought it ought to be. So he and his wife packed up and moved back to Columbia City. Brad stated that the big city life was just not for them. He explained that Columbia City was the perfect choice to live, work, and to raise a family, due to the friendly small town atmosphere and low crime rates.

Brad first started working as an assistant to his Mother in law, Norah Ferrell. That is when he realized his calling was real estate. He wished to provide good honest service to the people of the Columbia City. He then took a leap and started his own real estate business that we all know as Minear Real Estate. Brad's advice to others who want to start a business is: "You cannot be afraid to work. Do what others won't. You must be willing to work crazy hours to give customers what they want." Brad's personal favorite quote that he lives by is "Do to others that you would want done to yourself."

Water 101 during Winter

By: Mike Shoda
Superintendent, Water Department

As the winter of 2016 quickly approaches, temperatures will begin to fall below freezing. For homeowners, this is a critical time to maintain your home plumbing. The fallout of broken pipes, due to freezing, can cost a citizen hundreds of dollars in repair costs, and more money in lost water. What can a homeowner do? Insulate. Not only will it save you money on potential repairs, but also give you peace of mind. You can also insulate your water heater with a special water heater blanket sold at most hardware stores, and insulate pipes after the water heater as well. The hot water will stay hot longer, and you will not have to let your water run nearly as long to warm up where it is needed inside your home. Sometimes it may be necessary to let your sink drip through the night, or any other extremely cold temperature times. A few cents of water running can also save a call to your local repairman. While we all hope this is an easy winter, we have to prepare like it will not be. Spending a few dollars this fall, can save you big money down the road.

Did you know?



Santa Claus was originally known as Santa Fe, but when it applied for a Postal Office, the United States Post Office told town leaders to pick another name. Santa Claus has been a home to Holiday World, an amusement theme park, and Santa's Candy Castle. Here tourists can enjoy concerts, water rides, and roller coasters. They also can see the jolly man in a red suit all year round. All this time we thought he lived in the North Pole! (But possibly Santa can be in two places at once, since he is Santa after all!)





This fall, the Columbia City Youth Council painted two concrete balls into a Softball and a Baseball. Take a look next time you are at Morsches Park!

Meetings to Remember

1st Mondays of Each Month, 7pm
WC Government Center
Columbia City Plan Commission

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Board of Works and Safety

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
City Council Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Each Month, Noon
City Hall – Council Chambers
CC Redevelopment Commission

3rd Monday of Each Month, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Park Board

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Housing Authority

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5:30pm
City Hall – Conference Room
Columbia City Tree Board
Proper notice will be given for any changes to meeting dates and times



Recycling Announcement:

Whitley Environmental and the Whitley County Solid Waste Management District are announcing changes for the Recycling collection days and routes for most of Whitley County. All collection days within the Columbia City Limits will be effected. The changes are effective January 2, 2017. Please review the map below or visit – www.recyclewhitley.com additional information will follow on the containers as well as the yearly mailer. Please remember that all Recycling containers need to be placed curbside by 5am of your collection day.

