



BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

**Winter 2021
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“You leave home to seek your fortune and when you get it, you go home and share it with your family.”

Antia Baker

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Columbia City



CityScene



The Christmas Waltz

By Mayor Ryan Daniel



Of all the holidays on the calendar, I find Christmas to be my favorite. While Mrs. Daniel isn't a huge fan of Christmas music, she does allow it to be played on the radio and in our house, only after Thanksgiving Dinner is finished. As for me, however, Christmas music starts playing in my car as soon as the last Jack-o-lantern is put away.

One of my favorite Christmas songs (and there are many) is *The Christmas Waltz*, sung by Frank Sinatra. The “three-quarter time” song speaks to the many sights and sounds that I personally love about the season. Interestingly, the word “Waltz” comes from the German word “Walzer” which means to roll or revolve. Merriam-Webster defines the word “Waltz” as (among other things) “to move or advance in a lively or conspicuous manner”. And Boy doesn't that sound like the holidays for many of us: Lively and Conspicuous!

During the Hustle and Bustle of this time, I want to encourage you to take some time and really enjoy this season. Spending time with family and friends, enjoying some seasonal treats, and, yes, putting on some light holiday tunes can provide some much-needed stress relief and relaxation. For some, however, this season may not be a festive one. Maybe you've lost a loved one or just had a really bad year and want to turn the page to 2022. I want to encourage you that in this season of hope and promise, brighter days still lay ahead.

It's so easy for us to get caught up in the “doing” of Christmas that when it's all over, we're left with wads of wrapping paper, burnt-out light bulbs, cookie crumbs, and a sense that somehow, we missed the whole season. So, I hereby give you permission, as Mayor, to be a few minutes late to family dinner, to sip that cup of peppermint mocha underneath a warm fuzzy blanket, to clear your calendar so you can sleep in on Saturday morning, and to sneak that reindeer cookie with the extra icing from your kid's stash. Most importantly, I hope you enjoy the holiday season and use it as a time of renewal. And as the songs says, “Merry Christmas, may your New Year's dreams come true!”

Until Next Time...



Citizen in the Spotlight



Tad Varga

By Theresa Green, Executive Secretary

Tad Varga has served on multiple boards and committees during his 26 years in Columbia City. Currently, Tad is a Columbia City Councilman and has served in this role for the last six years. He is also very involved with his church, Community of Hope, which is in downtown Columbia City. Varga is a Part-Owner and President of Three Birds Casual: a designer and manufacturer of Luxury Patio Furniture for Resorts, Hotels and Retailers. Three Birds Casual was started in Columbia City in 1999 and the business now has showrooms and dealers all over North America and in the Caribbean. Tad has been married to his wife, Kim Varga, for 27 years. They have 4 children together: Lucy and Sammy, who are attending Eagle Tech Academy, and Charlie and Telly who are currently attending Grace College. The Vargas love traveling and experiencing different cultures, both in the U.S. and internationally. Tad is partially color blind, so he doesn't really have a favorite color, but he is partial to blue and orange because he is a Chicago Bears fan. His favorite food is pizza and, following that theme, his most-liked quote is "There is no bad pizza...just better pizza."



Employment with the City of Columbia City

By Beth Igney, Human Resource Director



The City of Columbia City's Human Resources Department is responsible for ensuring staffing needs are being met according to local, state, and federal guidelines. In addition, the department coordinates, develops, and administers policies and procedures relating to employment and benefits for city employees. When reviewing salaries and benefit costs, the administration is always cognizant of taxpayer dollars in designing plans for employees while also trying to provide competitive benefits for its employees.

Columbia City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. No employment decisions concerning any term or condition of employment shall be based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, military/veteran status or other protected characteristics except where such criteria constitute a bona fide occupational requirement. The Human Resources Director is also the Employer's EEO Coordinator.

If you are interested in employment with the City of Columbia City, there are several ways to check which positions are available and how to apply for them. First, our website, columbiacity.net will have job opportunities listed under the "Community" link at the top of the web page under the "Employment Opportunities" link. If the Police, Fire, and Communication Departments are hiring, you can check their openings by clicking on their respective departments under the "Departments" link and following their instructions to their specific website. You can also check us out on social media. We do post most job openings in-house through a bid process so that our employees have an opportunity to bid on open positions also. Most openings are also listed in local newspapers.

Employment applications can be found on the "Community" link under "Career Opportunities" and on the "Human Resources Department" link under "Departments". When we have a job opening, we also have applications available at City Hall at the Utilities window or Dispatch window. If you have any questions regarding our application process, please feel free to contact me at 260-248-5109.

Upcoming Events

- Christmas Eve observed – December 23, 2021 – City Hall Closed
- Christmas observed – December 24, 2021 – City Hall Closed
- Fire Department Candy Give away – December 24, 2021 – City Hall 6-8pm
- New Year's Day observed - December 31, 2021 City Hall Closed
- Martin Luther King Day - January 17, 2022 - City Hall Closed
- Father Daughter Dance - February 4 & 5, 2022 - 4-H Grounds
(tickets on sale 1/3/2022 at the Park Office)
- President's Day - February 15, 2022 - City Hall Closed



The Process of Snow Removal

By Kelly Cearbaugh, Street/Sewer Superintendent



As the winter season approaches us again, we would like to inform our community of some snow removal procedures and ways you can help this year.

Anytime we get a 3" of snow or more, the Street Department will pile snow in the downtown area to help with business parking. The piles will usually be hauled away with in three days of the event. We will also plow alleys when we get 3 inches or more of snow, after the streets have been cleared. For after-hour snow events, the Police Department will contact us when they feel it is necessary for us to come in and plow.

Snow in cul-de-sacs will be plowed to the center of the cul-de-sacs on heavier snow events until all the streets are cleared, the snow will then be removed from the center and piled behind the curbs.

Removing your vehicles and trash containers from the streets and cul-de-sacs would be helpful before or during snow events. This will allow us to plow up next to the curbs or the edge of the streets. Also, please do not shovel or blow snow directly into the streets from sidewalks or driveways. We, as a department, strive to keep our community safe during the winter Season. Thank you for your help in making this a safe snow-removal season.

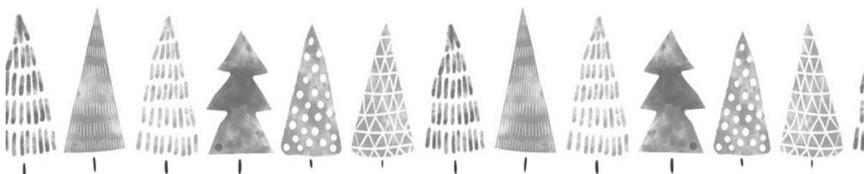
What's new in Columbia City?

By Chip Hill, Community Development Director

The City has a lot of exciting things happening. If you haven't heard, Surf Broadband Solutions are working to get high-speed, fiberoptic internet available throughout the City.



This will bring fast, reliable internet service to everyone within the city limits. Some additional big news is that Starbucks has purchased land next to CVS. They will have inside-seating available and drive-thru service. Columbia City seems to have a lot of coffee lovers so we will now have four great options – Brewha downtown, Starbucks at Kroger, Dunkin Donuts, and this new Starbucks location. Finally, our new Aldi's store will be opening soon! Although construction is running a little behind schedule, the new store will be a fantastic addition to our community.



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 Tuesday of Each Month, 5pm

City Hall – Council Chambers

Columbia City Housing Authority

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5:30pm

City Hall – Police Training Room

Columbia City Tree Board

4th Monday of Each Month, 6pm

City Hall – Council Chambers

Columbia City Park Board

Proper notice will be given for any changes to meeting dates and times



Electrical Safety Tips for the Holidays

By Shawn Lickey, Electric Superintendent

The holiday season is nearly here!

While it's certainly the best time of the year to spend quality time with family and friends, it's also important that you think about keeping your friends and family safe around all the electricity you'll likely be using. Here are a few essential electrical safety tips to consider for the holidays.



1. Before you use any electrical decorations, you should inspect them for damage. Look for damaged sockets, cracked sockets, loose connections, and bare/loose wires. All of these things could cause a fire or a serious shock.

2. Once you've confirmed that all your electrical decorations aren't damaged, when putting up the displays, be sure to follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that came with the electrical decorations. Be sure to use the extension cords with the right amperage rating to match the amperage needs of your electrical products.

3. When you're installing outdoor decorations, you should be very careful to decorate away from any power lines. You and your equipment should be at least 10 feet from any power lines.

4. Don't overload your home's electrical outlets. Every year, many homeowners end up overloading the electrical outlets in their home because they go overboard when it comes to decorating. Faulty wires and overloaded electrical outlets are the most common causes of fire during the holidays. You should only plug a single, high-wattage appliance into every outlet. This will help you prevent overloading the outlets in your home.

5. You should never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights. Connecting more than three strings can cause a fire or trip circuit breakers. You may think about buying LED lights, which are cooler than incandescent lights and use less energy. Be sure that the spotlights that you use to illuminate decorations are far from flammable items, protected from weather, and are well-ventilated. Make sure that you always unplug your decorations before you replace the fuses or bulbs. Turn off the outdoor and indoor electrical decorations before you go to sleep or leave home.

6. Be sure that any electrical decorations and extension cords were made to be useable outdoors. Keep all light strings and extension cords away from water and snow. You should plug outdoor decorations and electric lights into circuits protected by circuit interrupters and buy portable outdoor GFCIs, if the circuits aren't GFCI protected.

Does your child want to write a letter to Santa? They can! It must be received by December 20th in order for Santa to have enough time to reply! Mail to:

Santa Claus
P.O. Box 1
Santa Claus, IN 47579



Holidays, Family, Food, and Trash

By Executive Secretary Theresa Green

The holidays are meant for relaxation, family time, and food. It is that time of year to remind residents to continue putting their trash out on time. It seems like when we miss a week, the trash suddenly quadruples and you don't know what to do with it. With the Holidays around the corner, it is especially important to get your trash out on time. With family gatherings, it seems everyone has an excess amount of trash, so please remember to put it out by 5am on your scheduled pick-up day! This will ensure it gets dumped to avoid your bin overflowing (It will not get dumped if the lid is not closed). However, if you do need to get rid of more trash than your bin will hold, come on down and visit the friendly utility gals at City Hall and purchase some specially-marked trash bags for \$1. One last thing, Christmas trees will be picked up on the second week of January. They must be out by Monday January 11th, 2021 with everything removed (e.g. ornaments, lights, garland, etc.).

