



OEM CHRONICLE

Boone County
Office of Emergency Management



DECEMBER RESOLVE TO BE READY

As we welcome the new year, it's the perfect time to set meaningful resolutions that protect and empower you and your loved ones. This year, why not resolve to be better prepared for disasters?

RESOLVE TO BE READY

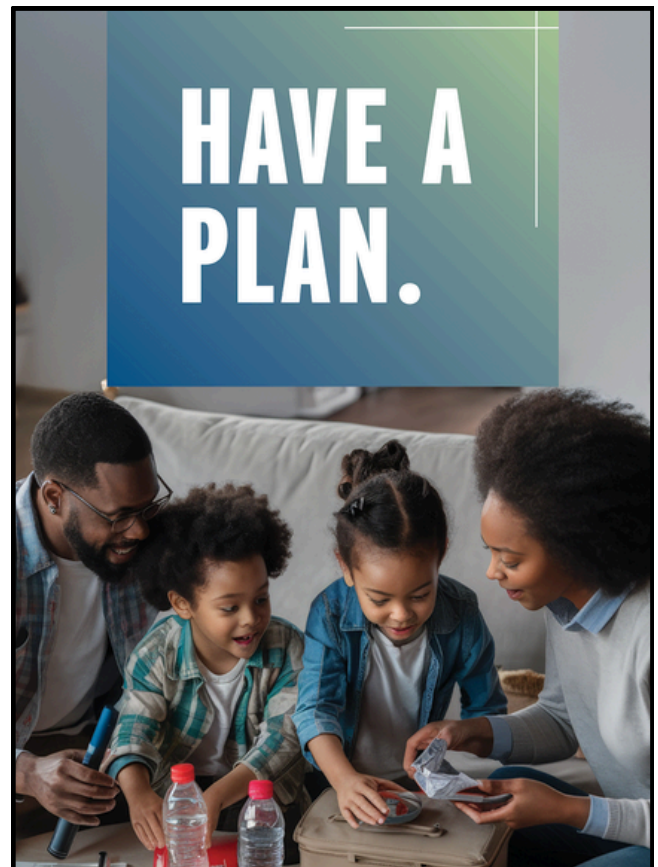
As we step into a new year, let's commit to a resolution that can make a difference for ourselves, our families, and our communities: being prepared for disasters. Here's how you can take action:

1. Stay Informed

Knowledge is power! Keep updated on potential hazards in your area. Sign up for [Smart 911](#), download weather apps, and familiarize yourself with evacuation routes and emergency procedures. Staying informed ensures you're ready when it matters most.

2. Be Prepared

Create a plan tailored to your household. Discuss how you'll communicate and where you'll meet during an emergency. Include considerations for pets, older family members, and those with specific needs. Share your plan with loved ones to ensure everyone is on the same page. Check out [Ready.gov/plan](#) on some templates to get you started!



RESOLVE TO BE READY

3. Build Your Emergency Kit

Assemble a disaster kit with essentials: water, non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, batteries, and important documents. Customize your kit to suit your family's unique needs, and don't forget supplies for pets!


Our office recommends to start small, especially if your family is on a tight budget. Make a plan for items you will need and try to stockpile a little every week. Check out [Ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit) for a supply list to get you started

4. Get Involved in Your Community


Join local preparedness groups or volunteer with local organizations whose mission is to help others. Building a connected community strengthens everyone's ability to respond to emergencies effectively. Together, we can support one another before, during, and after a disaster.

Our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a program where volunteers can support disaster preparedness activities and programs that occur across the county. Volunteers also learn the importance of family preparedness, basic search and rescue, incident management, and so much more. Visit our [website](#) to learn more!

EMERGENCY KIT



Start the new year prepared! Make sure your emergency kit is ready for whatever comes your way.

Ready 

BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Every month, we like to spotlight one of our local partners who work hard to make Boone County an amazing place to live, work, and recreate in. This month we'd like to recognize Jane Williams!

Please introduce yourself and your organization:

I'm Jane Williams, co-founder and executive director of Love Columbia, a local nonprofit organization that has served our community since 2008. Prior to establishing and leading Love Columbia, I worked as a professional social worker in Columbia for several decades, primarily serving in hospital, foster care, and supported living settings. I was also engaged in advocacy efforts including spearheading a wrongful conviction exoneration and organizing disaster relief.



What does your organization provide?

Love Columbia connects relationships and resources to love our neighbors forward. We come alongside anyone in Columbia who is struggling to provide for their basic needs or create a path to the life they want for themselves and their family.

Our services focus on improving finances, housing and employment and promoting social connectedness across the community. We provide coaching, classes, supportive services, strategic financial assistance, and material goods through The Love Seat furniture bank and resale store. We match the time, skills and resources of community volunteers and donors with the needs of their neighbors to promote the flourishing of us all.

BOONE COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

What are some challenges you face?

We have steadily expanded the scope of our services and the number of people we have served each year to better meet the needs of the community.

In 2024, we enrolled 2,844 adults in our programs and provided 4,362 coaching sessions. As many of the people we served were struggling to secure or maintain affordable housing, I would have to say our biggest challenge is the current housing shortage and rent prices that have steadily risen over the past five years. We partner with Boone County's Upward Mobility initiative to host an affordable housing coalition of community members seeking solutions and welcome anyone who wants to join the effort.

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

I love spending time with friends, listening to audible books and podcasts, enjoying local restaurants and worshipping with my church community. I try to see my two children and eight grandchildren as often as possible which means trips to Kansas City and Grand Rapids.

What's one thing on your bucket list?

I've never had a bucket list. I try to live each day to the fullest and stick to my "Stay Fascinated" life motto which keeps me curious and enthusiastic. After losing my eyesight 12 years ago, travel lost much of its appeal. I now find people much more interesting than places. There are so many amazing people to get to know every day!

Thanks so much for the work you do – what else should our readers know about you and your organization?

Our favorite thing is to match the time, skills and resources of people who want to help with the needs, hopes and dreams of their neighbors. Love Columbia provides the structure and opportunity for everyone in our community to give and receive meaningful and strategic help. Every day, we see one person's contribution– whether it is what they enjoy doing or an unneeded item they have – change the life of a neighbor And add joy to their own life as they give. We would love to get to know you and find a perfect spot for you on our team.



TRAINING & EXERCISE

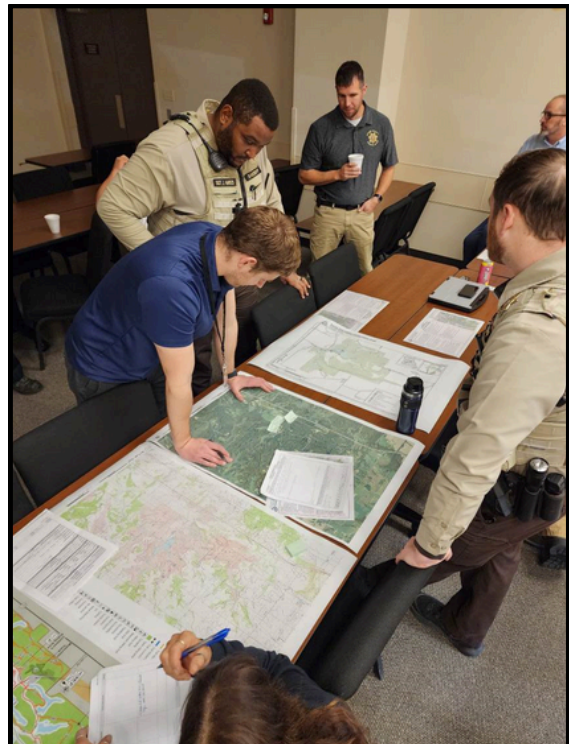
In December, our office hosted Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) where partners from around the County were involved in.

The IPPW gives community partners a space identify and set preparedness priorities that our office should work towards accomplishing over the next few years.

This year we had multiple partners ranging from response partners, to public works, and city government.

Although the workshop has concluded, we are constantly looking for feedback and ways to improve. You can participate in our [poll](#) and list what priorities are important to you.

Our office also facilitated a Search and Rescue Tabletop Exercise, where participants discussed strategy and tactics for a simulated operation. Personnel from the Boone County Sheriff's Office, Civil Air Patrol, Boone County Fire Protection District, and the Community Emergency Response Team all participated and made this exercise a huge success!



Both Photos: Members from BCSO, BCFPD, CERT, and CAP participating the in the Search and Rescue Tabletop Exercise

STAFF UPDATES

Our office thanks you for your commitment to preparedness and building resilience in our community over the past year. Looking forward to 2025 you can expect a new newsletter format and schedule. 2025 will feature 4 Chronicles that will be released at the end of every quarter (March, June, September, and December). Stay Tuned!

Matt Brown, Training & Exercise Specialist

This month, Matt drove our office vehicle in the Ashland Holiday Parade, facilitated a Tabletop exercise for the Sheriff's office for search and rescue, attended a Staging Area Manager course, and hosted our yearly Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop that partners across the County were involved in.

Chris Kelley, Director

Chris attended an Enhanced Sports and Special Events Incident Management course in Texas, and attended the quarterly Emergency Management meeting for our region.

Della Luster, Administrative Coordinator

Della built active shooter kits with Bart. She also reconciled our purchasing cards and made sure that everyone in the office got paid!

Chris Lewin, Mitigation & Recovery Specialist

This month, Chris continued to develop the Boone County Disaster Recovery Plan, assisting with the County's Mitigation Plan.

Jake Waller, Deputy Director

This month, Jake attended a 16-hour course on Mass Care Operations, developed a Continuity of Operations plan for our office, completed our 2025 - 2029 Strategic plan, and the 2024 Annual Report.

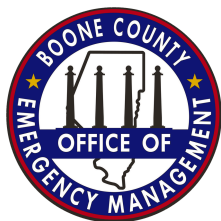
Bart Messer, Administrative Assistant

Bart worked on building active assailant kits with Della. He also answered phone calls to the ECC, updated our EOC computers, checked the OEM vehicles biweekly, and paid the bills.

ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE

The Boone County Office of Emergency Management OEM Chronicle contains preparedness information to help those who live, work, and visit Boone County become better prepared for emergencies.

If you have any suggestions about content to add to the Chronicle, please don't hesitate to reach out by emailing EM@boonecountymo.org.



Come join almost 7,000 of your friends and neighbors and follow our socials. We are: [@BooneCountyOEM](https://www.instagram.com/BooneCountyOEM)



For weather information, monthly giveaways and preparedness tips please visit: [@boonecountyready](https://www.instagram.com/boonecountyready)

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Preparedness Notifications:

Text READY to 67283 to opt-in to non-emergency preparedness messaging.



(573) 554-7900



2145 E County Drive Columbia, MO 65202