

CITYSOURCE

Your source for city news and information

"Bike, Walk, Wheel: A Way of Life in Columbia"



The PedNet Coalition, and a partnership which includes the City of Columbia, the University of Missouri, and Columbia Public Schools, has received a \$200,000 grant to support "Bike, Walk, Wheel: A Way of Life in Columbia." The partnership developed the project to increase active living and encourage healthier lifestyles.

The new initiative is part of Active Living by Design (www.activelivingbydesign.com), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation established to create, enhance and promote environments that make it safe and convenient for people to be more physically active.

The project will promote walking and biking to school and work, and facilitate a youth physical activity self-challenge program that will include neighborhood improvement projects. These activities will provide an opportunity for Columbia's leaders to evaluate links among community design, transportation, land use, architecture, trails, parks and other issues that influence healthier lifestyles.

The need for such an initiative is clear. National statistics show that nearly one in four American adults is sedentary and the number of overweight children has doubled since 1980. Recent studies have also suggested that neighborhood design and a lack of options for transportation may contribute to obesity and inactivity.

For further information, contact the Columbia/Boone County Health Department at 874-6345.

Columbia Police Department

Traffic Unit Gets New Look!



WHEN REPRESENTATIVES from the Columbia Police Department attend community meetings, what is the most common complaint? The answer is almost always traffic problems or issues.

To address ongoing traffic issues, the Police Department has added two new motorcycles and a Traffic Unit Supervisor position staffed by Sgt. Tim Moriarity.

One of the motorcycles and equipment was donated by Jim and Billie Silvey. Chief Randy Boehm approved the motorcycle designation. The remaining motorcycle and officer salaries are funded with the department's budget.

Officer Shelley Jones, the first female motor officer in Columbia Police Department history, and Officer Jeff Forck were chosen for the new motorcycles. These are the first department motorcycles since the 1950s. The traffic unit now includes five officers and one supervisor.

The Traffic Unit is under the direction of East District Commander Capt. Zim Schwartze. For information, contact Sgt. Tim Moriarty at 874-7278.

Community Line – City information at your fingertips

Interested in employment opportunities with the city? Want to learn about the Police Department's Citizens On Patrol (COP) Program? Need information regarding services provided by the Health Department? All of this and more can be found by using the city's Community Line.

Community Line is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, automated telephone information system. By calling 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697) on a push-button telephone, users have access to more than 300 pre-recorded messages which provide information about the city.

After dialing the Community Line number, an introductory message will answer your call. You may either listen to the entire greeting and then enter the three digit number for the message you want, or wait for a listing of message categories.

For a free Community Line directory, call the Public Communications Office 874-7240 or 874-7220 or write to P.O. Box 6015, Columbia, MO 65205.

Utility assistance

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department administers a utility assistance program for Columbia and Boone County residents. The program provides one-time emergency assistance to low-income families with young children in the home and emergency assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

In order to be eligible for utility assistance, recipients must:
–Meet the specific requirements for the applicable program.
–Be a Boone County resident.
–Meet the income guidelines as applied by the Health Department.
–Have an emergency situation that requires assistance.

All applicants are carefully screened and counseled by social workers. Appropriate referrals are made to assist the applicant in preventing future emergencies. For more information, contact the Health Department at 874-7355.

Fire Department receives donation from State Farm



The Columbia Fire Department received \$1,000 from State Farm to purchase smoke detectors and carbon monoxide

detectors for low-income families. The donation was made in October in recognition of Fire Prevention Week and will purchase about 200 detectors.

The gift was made through the Share the Light program. Columbia residents can also participate in Share the Light by making a donation through their utility bill.

To learn more about gifts to the City of Columbia and Share the Light, call 874-7504.

Commission Vacancies

The City is accepting applications for the following commission. Applications and current vacancies are on the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the City Council page. Call 874-7208 for information and specific requirements.

Human Rights Commission: 2 vacancies.

Did You Know?

Stormwater Pollution

Did you know storm water pollution is one of the most significant sources of contamination in our nation's waters? To learn more, visit the Community Storm Water Project Web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Community Line

By dialing the city of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 553, you can learn about Christmas tree collection.

Council action

The Council on Oct. 6:

–Authorized an agreement with Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc. for repair and conservation of the Martin Luther King Memorial. Since mid-January, a citizens committee has raised funds for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Project. Through events, corporate and individual donations, and foundation grants, more than \$80,000 was raised. The restoration will occur in two phases.

–Appropriated State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) funds to purchase fire department equipment. The equipment, totaling \$134,319, will be used jointly with the Columbia Police Department and the Hazardous Device Disposal Team.

The Council on Oct. 20:

–Authorized irrigation and fairway turf improvements at L.A. Nickell Golf Course. The funding source is the city's designated loan fund and which be reimbursed annually from the Golf Course Improvement Fee (GCIF). The total amount is \$700,000. Golf fees will not increase as a result of these improvements.

The Council on Nov. 3:

–Authorized an agreement with First Night Columbia Inc. for support of the New Year's Eve celebration. This event provides an alcohol-free alternative to celebrate the new year. The City Council included an appropriation of \$8,000 in the city's fiscal year 2004 budget to help fund this event.

This is just a brief look at the Council's actions. Complete minutes are available at the City Clerk's Office, 701 E. Broadway, the Columbia Public Library or on the Internet at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the City Council page.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

City offices will be closed on the following holidays:

–Thursday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day

–Thursday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day

–Monday, Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be collected on these holidays and will be delayed one day for the remainder of each week. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have questions.

Also, City buses will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced.



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Fourth WardJim Loveless
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DON'T MISS IT! First Night Columbia

2003 New Year's Eve Celebration

A Community Celebration. Music, Dance, Storytelling, Theatre, Art, Fireworks, Children's Activities, 5K Run/Walk. Over 60 performances at 12 locations in Downtown Columbia. Fun for the entire family – even a special venue for teens!

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., children's procession at 8:45 p.m., fireworks at midnight.

Admission buttons on sale at Parks and Recreation, Streetside Records, and Gerbes Supermarkets. \$7 admission, ages 6 and under free. For information or to volunteer call 874-7460 or visit firstnight.missouri.org.

Voters approve revenue bonds

The City of Columbia thanks the voters for supporting the Columbia Sewer and Water Revenue Bond issues, Propositions 1 and 2, in the November 4 election. Your approval will help to continue responsible stewardship of vital resources.

Snow shoveling assistance

The Boone County Council on Aging is coordinating this year's snow-shoveling campaign for senior citizens. Call 443-1111 or visit bcca.missouri.org. Priority is given to low-income seniors age 55 and older who do not have financial resources to pay for snow removal and who do not have family or friends to assist.



Columbia Values Diversity celebration

An Annual Celebration of the Life and Teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Register now for the 11th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration scheduled for January 15 from 7 – 8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. The Celebration brings people together from throughout our community to share breakfast followed by a special program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the presentation of the annual "Columbia Values Diversity Awards."

An original theatrical program of music and drama will be presented that will challenge and inspire you while celebrating the strength of diversity in our community.

Early pre-registration is required and strongly encouraged. The cost is \$12/adult, \$10/child. A limited number of scholarships are available upon request.

Registration forms are available by calling 874-7488 (v/tty) or on the Web at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com. Please call 874-7488 (v/tty) for more information or accommodations related to disability.



ARC celebrates first birthday!

The Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) celebrates its first birthday on December 16. Since opening, the ARC has become the community center envisioned by the project planners. Among the many success stories are: numerous individual stories of improved personal health, homework tutoring programs, programs for at-risk youth, many community meetings, a youth recreational scholarship program, providing a safe haven for youth, and countless hours of recreational enjoyment.

The ARC has met its goal of self-sufficiency, and during its first 9 1/2 months of operation, it tracked over 208,000 visitations to the fee portion of the center, not counting meeting rooms and recreational classes. There are presently 4,435 memberships representing over 8,500 members.

If you have not already, please stop by the ARC, located at 1701 W. Ash St., for a tour. You can gain admission to the ARC through a daily fee or receive a discount with the purchase of 20 passes or an annual membership. Easy payment plans are available. For more information, visit the City's web site at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com. Type "GoARC" at the GoWords search prompt.

Winter Registration

Sign up for swimming lessons, trips for those 50 years and better, classes, sports programs, and more. The winter issue of the Leisure Times activity guide is available at the Parks and Recreation office, 1 South 7th St. or online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com. Goward: GoLeisureTimes. Call 874-7460 for more information.

JANUARY

- Youth Baseball and Softball registration open until Feb 15 deadline.
- 2 Private tournament reservation at either golf course begins
- 5-9 Winter Volleyball Advanced Registration for returning teams
- 6 Recruitment of CARE program trainees begins
- 12 Swim lessons begin, Hickman Winter Session I (register by 1/8)
- 12-16 Winter Volleyball Open Registration for new teams
- 16 50+ Snowflake Dance, Parkade Center east side, 601 Bus Loop 70W, 7- 10 p.m., \$3
- 17 Swim lessons, ARC, Winter Session I (register by 1/15)
- 19 "School's Out" One Day Camp, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., ARC, call 874-7460 to register
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Celebration, 6:45 p.m. candlelight processional from Douglass Gym to 2nd Baptist Church, 7 p.m. commemorative program. Call 874-6378.

Youth Recreation Scholarships

Columbia Parks and Recreation offers scholarships for youth through the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program. Scholarships can be used for the ARC and other Parks and Recreation programs. Call 874-7460 for more information or find the application form on-line at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the Parks and Recreation page.

January Volunteer of the Month



TERESA KIGHT BEGAN volunteer duties in 2001 as a Park Patroller. "I walk a lot for exercise and enjoy spending time on the trails and parks. Being a Park Patrol volunteer is perfect for me," says Kight. By 2002, Kight's physical fitness interest naturally led her to volunteer for the Mayor's Bike, Walk, Wheel Week. "Volunteers in Columbia accomplish a lot," said Kight, "and while not everyone notices, we all benefit in some way. I feel like I am making a difference in my community."

In the spring of 2002 she joined the TreeKeeper program. After graduation, Kight fulfilled her required 36 hours of volunteer time in that program and underwent training to adopt a Parks and Recreation trail section. "I love working outside," said Kight, "and have always wanted to improve my knowledge of trees. TreeKeepers is a perfect fit for those interests."

We extend our thanks to Teresa for her volunteer spirit. To find out more about volunteer opportunities call 874-7499 or visit our Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

City Council appoints City Clerk, Municipal Judge

The City Council appointed Sheela Amin as the City Clerk, effective October 27. The City Clerk's duties include maintaining the city's official records, arranging meetings and conferences for the City Council, working with the public, and responding to requests for information. The City Clerk also prepares a portion of the council agenda, reads votes during City Council meetings, maintains a journal for City Council meeting proceedings and records minutes.

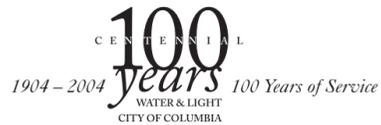
The City Council appointed Robert Aulgur as Municipal Judge, effective October 27. Aulgur had previously served as Acting Municipal Judge and as an Associate Judge. Municipal Court is a division of the Circuit Court of Boone County, 13th Judicial Circuit. Municipal Court cases involve alleged violations of City of Columbia laws.

TreeKeepers program begins February 3

Columbia residents are invited to participate in the seventh annual TreeKeepers program. TreeKeepers is a volunteer program that includes six courses addressing all areas of tree management including identification, pruning, disease, insects, planning and planting and soil issues. Since the TreeKeepers program began in 1998, 128 volunteers have participated, giving nearly 5,000 hours of time to city tree projects. Each participant is requested to give 36 hours of volunteer time to City of Columbia tree projects. Projects are organized by the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department and take place in parks and along trails and streets.

The first TreeKeepers class will be held on February 3 and will be held on Tuesday evenings through March 9. Classes are 6-8:30 p.m. at City Hall, 701 E. Broadway.

To learn more about TreeKeepers, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or visit us on the Web at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



In 1892, a fire destroyed Academic Hall at the University of Missouri. State Legislators informed Columbia that the University would be moved if an adequate water supply for fighting fires was not insured. The threat of losing the University prompted a group of citizens to form the Columbia Water and Light Company, a privately funded precursor to our publicly owned utility.



Water and Light director retires

WATER AND LIGHT Director Richard Malon has announced that, after 24 years of service, he will retire Jan. 9. He leaves us with a strong utility that meets our needs on a daily basis.

When Malon came to Columbia from Illinois in August 1979, he took on the responsibility of managing a utility that served about 19,000 water and electric customers. Since that time, not only has Columbia's population increased, but so has the abundance of electrical appliances that we use day-to-day. To keep up with increased demand, the utility has made major system improvements: substations have been added, the power plant has been rehabilitated, and conservation plans have been implemented, all under the direction of Malon. He also helped broker such favorable rates on wholesale power purchases that electric rates have not risen in 20 years and were lowered in 1999.

Under Malon's direction, the water utility has weathered adversity and seen system-wide improvements as it has expanded to meet the needs of a growing community. In 1993, though it was a small island surrounded by raging flood waters, the Water Treatment Plant remained operational. Columbia now serves surrounding



Richard Malon, Columbia Water and Light Director, 1979 - 2004

rural areas and has been upgraded so that all 38,000 of its water customers have a pure source of water.

Malon's role as the Director of Water and Light is not as straightforward as it once was. His department took over operations of the city-owned COLT railroad in 1987. Columbia Water and Light also manages the government access channel for the City of Columbia. As Malon's service to Columbia comes to an end, he leaves us with a trusted source for affordable electricity and high quality water with many value-added services. The City of Columbia salutes Richard Malon for a job well done.

Biodiesel

Since October 1, the City of Columbia has been using a 20 percent blend of biodiesel. Biodiesel is a blend of 20 percent soy oil and 80 percent standard diesel fuel.

This blend, commonly referred to as B20, has several advantages over standard diesel fuel. First, it offers significant clean air benefits. Second, it is a renewable source, reducing our dependence on oil imports and increasing the demand for soybeans grown in Missouri. Third, no special equipment modifications are required. Finally, it adds to the lubrication characteristics of the fuel, which can reduce equipment maintenance costs.

Currently, the cost of B20 is about 20 cents more per gallon than standard diesel. However, as the use of B20 increases, the cost is expected to decrease. There is also legislation pending that would offer tax incentives to use the fuel, which may further reduce the cost.



Save money and help the environment

Columbia Water and Light encourages the efficient use of water and electricity because it can make a big difference for all of us. For you, the immediate benefit is lower costs. For the community, it means more resources and a cleaner environment for years to come. Many conservation techniques are easy do-it-yourself projects that we'll be happy to show you during a FREE energy audit of your home. Sign up by visiting our Web site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com and type in "GoAudit" or call 874-7325.

Looking for other great conservation ideas? Tune in to Conservation Tips on the Columbia Channel at 5 minutes before the hour, several times daily on Mediacom channel 13 and Charter channel 2.

