

One of the driving forces in forming a publicly owned utility in Columbia was water quality. A typhoid epidemic that hit New York in 1902 made Columbians question the water being supplied to them from the Hinkson Creek. After voters approved financing in 1904, work began on digging deep wells near Moore's Lake, located near the present-day power plant on Business Loop 70 East.



Federal Dollars for Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

Columbia's Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Restoration Project will receive \$99,000 from the "Save America's Treasures" program, a federal effort of the Department of the Interior. Only one other site in Missouri was selected to receive this support this year. Senator Kit Bond was instrumental in securing the funding which will be added to the more than \$95,000 already donated by Columbia residents, businesses and municipal government. With the original goal of \$100,000 far exceeded, additional improvements to the site will be possible. An endowment for future maintenance of the Memorial will be established as well. Repairs will take some time, but work is expected to be complete sometime in 2005. For more information, visit www.NewCenturyFund.org, or call the city's Office of Cultural Affairs, 874-7512 (TTY 874-7488).

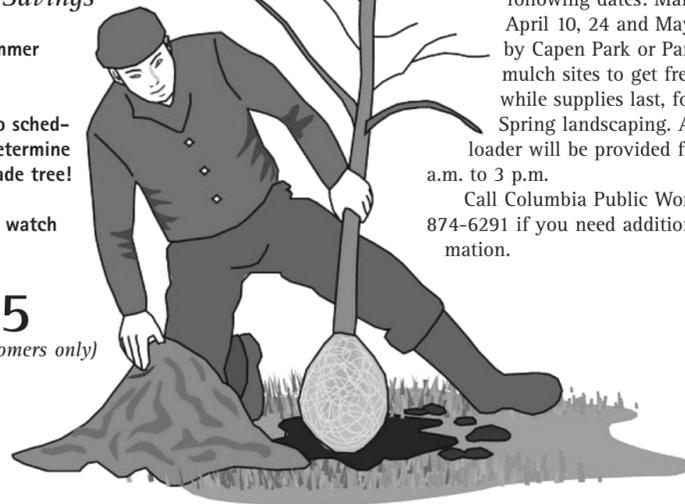
Columbia Transit At Your Service...

At Columbia Transit, our goal is to consistently provide our customers with safe, reliable, timely, and courteous transportation service from one point to another. Drivers, as well as office staff personnel, are available to help meet our customer's needs and provide the absolute best service possible in every area of operations. Hours of operation run as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 6:25 a.m. through 6:20 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 6:25 a.m. through 10:20 p.m.; Saturday, 9:45 a.m. through 10:20 p.m.; with no routes in service on Sundays.

In order to satisfy the needs of our customers with disabilities, we also offer a para transit service. This service provides curb-to-curb transportation for individuals with disabilities who meet both the ADA requirements, as well as apply and qualify for para transit eligibility. Rides are scheduled on a space-available basis with hours of operation being the same as Columbia Transit's fixed route hours.

Free Mulch For Your Spring Landscaping!

Columbia Public Works is offering *free* mulch on the following dates: March 13, April 10, 24 and May 8. Come by Capen Park or Parkside mulch sites to get free mulch, while supplies last, for your Spring landscaping. An on-site loader will be provided from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Columbia Public Works at 874-6291 if you need additional information.



Tree Power Plant Now for Energy Savings

How would you like to reduce your summer cooling costs by 30%?

Contact Columbia Water and Light to schedule a *free* landscape audit and determine where you should plant your *free* shade tree!

Then all you have to do is sit back and watch your savings grow.

Call 874-7325
(electric customers only)

www.GoColumbiaMo.com,
search for "GoTreePower"

Council Action

The Council on Dec. 1:

- Accepted a grant from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Medical Reserve Corps Demonstration Project. This project will enable the Health Department to recruit and train medical and health volunteers to assist during public health emergencies and develop volunteer personnel to assist in day-to-day public health programs.
- Appropriated funds to purchase a video camera surveillance system as part of the Missouri State Homeland Security Grant Program. The surveillance system will be used at the Grissum Building. The appropriation of \$4,000 will be reimbursed through the State Emergency Management Agency once the system has been purchased.

The Council on Dec. 15:

- Authorized a right-of-use permit with the curators of the University of Missouri for the construction, operation and maintenance of a pedestrian/bicycle trail. This agreement will grant the city the right to construct, operate and maintain a pedestrian/bicycle trail connecting the proposed Flat Branch Park Phase II Project to the MKT Trail.
- Established "Homes For Computers" program. Previously, the city has contracted with the University of Missouri - Surplus Property Division to dispose of its surplus computer equipment. The Voluntary Action Center has agreed to assist the city in establishing requirements for residents to receive one of these surplus computers at no charge. For Fiscal Year 2004, the city expects to have between 50 and 75 computers that could be donated for this program.

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.

Super Saver Loan

Need to make energy saving improvements to your home but short on cash? Consider a Super Saver Loan from Columbia Water and Light. www.GoColumbiaMo.com search for "GoLoan".

Community Line

By dialing the city of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 176, you can learn about employment opportunities with the city.



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MayorDarwin Hindman

City Council Members:

First WardAlmeta Crayton
Second WardChris Janku
Third WardBob Hutton
Fourth WardJim Loveless
Fifth WardJohn John
Sixth WardBrian Ash
City ManagerRaymond A. Beck

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CITYSOURCE

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Your source for city news and information

Nobody likes paying bills, but Utility Customer Service can make it easier...

Make the Same Payment Every Month

Want to avoid seasonally high utility bills? Sign up for the City of Columbia's budget billing program and you can make the same payment every month! To join the program, you must have resided at your current residence for a minimum of 12 months. We'll use your billing history to calculate the average so we can figure your monthly payment. Every March, we'll review your account to see if you have overpaid or underpaid and make adjustments accordingly.

Utility Customer Service will be signing customers up for budget billing in March. You will receive your first budget bill in April. If you are interested in trying budget billing, call or e-mail the utility customer service.

Avoid Writing Checks

Automate your utility payments and you won't have to worry about remembering due dates and buying stamps! You will receive a monthly statement and the payment will be deducted from your checking account 20 days later. That gives you plenty of time to review the statement and call the utility customer service office if you have any questions. You can sign up for the automatic bill payment service with any participating bank, savings and loan, or credit union account. Download a form from the Web site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com, and mail it in with a canceled check, or call our office to sign up for the automatic bill payment service.

Can't Meet the Deadline?

Once you receive your monthly City of Columbia utility bill, you have 20 days to pay it. If you get your bill and know that you are going to be short of funds, call the Utility Customer Service office *immediately*. A representative can work out an arrangement with you to avoid having your utilities disconnected. If you wait until the account is overdue and you are scheduled to be disconnected, establishing payment options on the phone is not always possible.

City of Columbia Utility Customer Service

874-7380
725 E. Broadway (northwest corner of 8th Street and Broadway)
hours: 8a.m. to 5p.m. Monday through Friday
E-mail: UCS@GoColumbiaMo.com
Web Site: www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Priority Projects for 2003 Water Bond Issue

Columbia Water and Light is moving forward with projects approved by voters in the 2003 bond election.

Water Treatment Plant Addition.

Design work is nearing completion and the project will be ready for bids in early 2004.

Second 36-inch Transmission Main to the City.

Route planning is underway. Several options will be proposed to the City Council during public hearings in 2004.

Northeast Elevated Pressure Zone. The Hillsdale Pumping Station site has been purchased. Staff is proceeding with requests for proposals for engineering consultants to design the project and prepare plans and specifications for bidding.

Paint Shepard Elevated Water Tower.

Staff is proposing to move forward with this project later this year.

Upgrade Water System Computer Controls.

This work will proceed in conjunction with the bids for the water plant expansion and the electric system controls.

Distribution System Upgrades. Annual priorities are set for replacing and upgrading old water mains, upgrading services, hydrants, valves, etc.



Government Access
Providing citizens with information about government activities and services.

Charter Communications Channel ... 2
Mediacom Channel ... 13

Complete up-to-date scheduling information available on the web at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com

CITY HOUR

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|---|---|
| <p>Top of the hour — <i>City Scope</i> Learn about the latest city projects and services.</p> <p>:15 past the hour — <i>Leisure Times</i> Highlights recreational fun in Columbia.</p> <p>:30 past the hour — <i>City Employment</i> Job listings with the City of Columbia.</p> | <p>:40 past the hour — <i>City Meetings</i> Listing of this week's scheduled meetings.</p> <p>:50 past the hour — <i>Community Calendar</i> Upcoming cultural events in Columbia.</p> <p>:55 past the hour — <i>Conservation Tips</i> with Energy Management Specialist, David Mars.</p> |
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March Volunteers of the Month

by volunteer Sara Rechtin



Diane and David O'Hagan are March's Volunteers of the Month for their participation in the Columbia Hospitality Corps. The program is designed to promote local events, businesses, and activities to travelers by greeting them and answering questions. Hospitality Corps volunteers staff the Lake of the Woods Visitors Center every day.

The O'Hagans have been volunteering at the visitors center for over a year. As Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and overseer of the Hospitality Corps, Lorah Steiner says, "The O' Hagans provide leadership, training, and encouragement to our volunteers. The Hospitality Corps has blossomed under their direction."

Diane O'Hagan says she and her husband got involved in the Hospitality Corps because they like to travel and use other communities' visitors centers. She enjoys promoting Columbia to travelers and explaining everything the city has to offer. "It feels good saying positive things about the community. We just love Columbia," she says.

The Visitors Center, besides welcoming travelers and providing information about Columbia's amenities, has also become a popular stop for local residents. The dedication of the O'Hagans and Hospitality Corps volunteers help make Columbia a more tourist-friendly community.

To learn more about City of Columbia volunteer opportunities, call 874-7499 or email: volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com

Thank You Public Works Volunteers

The Public Works Department would like to send a special "THANK YOU" to the many volunteers who work together to improve our environment. Your volunteerism has enhanced our community. Your efforts in recycling and waste reduction have reduced Columbia's waste line. Whether you work a few hours a month or more, we truly appreciate you!

If you haven't joined the Public Works Volunteer Team, please call 874-6271 for information. We have many volunteer opportunities to offer, and you can choose the one that's best for you! To learn more, visit our Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Kudos to Ridgeway Neighborhood Association!

Ridgeway Neighborhood Association has started weekly litter cleanups in its neighborhood. Each week, a litter cleanup is done on a street within the neighborhood and continues until all the streets have been cleaned. Flyers are distributed to neighbors living on the targeted street so they are aware of the litter cleanup in advance. Frequently, the people living on that street join in the cleanup. What a wonderful way to visit with your neighbors while keeping your neighborhood free of litter!

If you would like to obtain information about starting a litter cleanup in your neighborhood, call the Public Works Volunteer Program at 874-6271 or send an email to pw-volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com. Additional information about Adopt A Spot litter cleanups is available on the Public Works Volunteer Program Web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Introducing... Online Registration for Recreation Programs

The Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is proud to announce the availability of online registration for classes and activities. WebTrac, the City's first interactive online payment service, allows users to register for most recreation classes and programs, pay Parks and Recreation fees, and review account information . . . anywhere, anytime. A convenient search feature makes it easy to select an age-appropriate activity for you or your family. You can also search for that perfect recreational activity by days of the week or by groupings (pre-school, youth, teen, adult, seniors, etc.).

Registration is only a few clicks away. Visit our Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com and type "recreationregistration" in the Go search feature or click on Parks & Recreation. You will need to complete the on-line household information one time. Once your application has been approved, you will receive a User Name and a Password. This will allow you to browse the variety of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department programs. You can register and pay for the activities when it is most convenient for you. There will be no lines to wait in and no busy telephone signals. Registration has never been easier! Call 874-7460, M-F, 8a.m. to 5p.m., for information.

Spring and Summer Registration

Registration for spring and summer programs, including Camp Adventure, begins on April 7. Look for your copy of the Leisure Times activity guide in the April 7 *Columbia Daily Tribune*, at the library, at the Parks and Recreation office at 1 S. 7th Street or online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoLeisureTimes). Call 874-7460 for more information.

Summer Employment

Are you looking for a great summer job for your teen? Columbia Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for summer employment. We are looking for enthusiastic and responsible individuals who have the required skills or are willing to learn. Training is available. Job opportunities include: life-guards, swim instructors, cashiers, concession workers, umpires, camp staff (director, assistant director, counselors), and park maintenance. Teens must be at least 15 years old. Youths 10 years and older can volunteer to assist with swim instruction. Call 874-7235 for more information or pick up a job application at Human Resources, 1 S. 7th Street, or online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoJobs).

Your Gift Can Help the Youth Enrichment Service

Through the Youth Enrichment Service (YES), the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department provides scholarships, based on financial need, to help youth access the ARC, take swimming lessons, and participate in other activities that are fee-based.

Your donation to YES will make a difference to a young person in our community. Gifts to YES are tax-deductible.

To learn more about the Columbia Trust and other ways to support your community, call 874-7504. Donations can be mailed to the Columbia Trust, P.O. Box 6015, Columbia, MO 65205.

Youth Recreation Scholarships

Columbia Parks and Recreation offers scholarships for youth through the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program. Financial assistance is available for City of Columbia youth ages 3-17 who meet the income/household criteria established by the USDA's free/reduced lunch program. Financial assistance is available in the amounts of either 50 percent or 75 percent depending on the household. Scholarships can be used for recreational classes and programs, outdoor pool passes, and ARC memberships. Call 874-7460 for more information. Find application forms at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoYes).

Columbia Parks and Recreation CALENDAR

Visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com and click on Parks and Recreation, or call 874-7460 to register.

MARCH

- 1 **Women's History Exhibit**, daily through March 31, 3-8 p.m., Armory Sports Center
- 5 **50+ Potluck & Bingo**, 11:30 a.m., Parkade Center
- 11 **Precious Moments Award Night**, 6-7 p.m., Armory Sports Center
- 13 **Swim lessons begin**, ARC Winter Session II (register by 3/11)
- 17 **School's Out! Open Swim!** Extended recreational swim hours, ARC Water Zone, 12-9 p.m.
- 18 **Black Women in Film**, 6:30-9 p.m., Armory Sports Center
- 19 **50+ Monthly Dance**, 7-10 p.m., Parkade Center, \$3
- 22-26 **School's Out! Open Swim!** Extended recreational swim hours, ARC Water Zone, 12-9 p.m.
- 29 **Swim lessons begin**, Hickman Winter Session III (register by 3/25)

Columbia/Boone County Health Department

Emergency Response Preparations

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department is actively planning for response in the event of a mass public health emergency or a terrorist event including biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Public health responses may include: enhanced surveillance, epidemiological investigation, isolation and quarantine of contagious patients, mass prophylaxis and assistance with mass patient care.

The Health Department has taken preparatory steps for mass prophylaxis by planning for the distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

Preparations include: selecting points of dispensing, recruiting more than 200 medical and non-medical volunteers, and assessing the local inventory of available pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.

The Health Department is also working to enhance communications within the health care community by implementing the Health Alert Network. Local physicians, pharmacists, veterinarians, food service facilities, morticians, and funeral homes are being entered into a database that provides for mass communications in a public health emergency.

Health Department personnel have received updated training in many aspects of emergency response including, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, incident management, and smallpox vaccinations.

Recent additions to the staff include a Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, responsible for recruiting and training medical volunteers, and a Public Information Specialist.

For more information, contact Chris Smith, Regional Bioterrorism Response Planner, at 874-6401.

Give Your Paycheck a Boost!

Are you eligible for some tax credits? Take a little time to check and you could have some extra money in your pocket.



Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Did you know that you might get up to a \$4,240 credit on your federal taxes if you qualify?

AGE

- You must have a qualifying child, and be at least 25 but under 65.

INCOME

- Do you have more than one child? To qualify you need to earn less than \$33,692 (\$34,692 for married filing jointly).
- Do you have one child? To qualify you need to earn less than \$29,666 (\$30,666 for married filing jointly).
- No children? To qualify you need to earn less than \$11,230 (\$12,230 for married filing jointly).

If you answered 'yes' to these questions, then it's time to check your tax booklet for more details!

If you need assistance, contact the Central Missouri Counties Human Development Corporation at 884-3640 to see if you qualify for assistance. You may also contact the American Association of Retired Persons Tax-Aide Program at 447-4030.

Board Vacancies

The City is accepting applications for the following Boards. 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.

- Board of Adjustment (1 vacancy)
- Airport Advisory Board (2 vacancies)

Missouri Tax Relief Credit

If you paid real estate taxes or rent last year you might qualify for a \$750 tax credit from the State of Missouri!

- Are you 65 or older?
- Under 65 and 100% disabled?
- A U.S. veteran who is 100% disabled as a result of military service?
- Are you 60 or older and a surviving spouse receiving social security payments?

If you could answer 'yes' to one of the questions above and your income is \$25,000 or less for a single person or \$27,000 or less for a married couple filing a combined return then you could get a Missouri Tax Relief Credit!

See your Missouri tax booklet for more details. If you need assistance contact the Missouri Department of Revenue's Tax Assistance Center at 884-6851. Persons 55 and older can also get assistance from the Boone County Council on Aging at 443-1111. Other contacts are the American Association of Retired Persons Tax-Aide Program at 447-4030 and the Missouri Department of Revenue - Property Tax Credit Claim Office at (573) 751-3505.