

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Volunteer of the Month — Janet Hammen



Janet Hammen

Many of Columbia's standout volunteers have something in common. Once they start volunteering for the City, they just can't get enough! This is definitely the story for March Volunteer of the Month, Janet Hammen, who has been volunteering for the City more than 10 years. When asked what keeps her coming back, she says it's all about the people.

"The best part about volunteering for the City of Columbia is the people you get to meet and work with and the relationships you build over

time," Hammen said.

Hammen has volunteered for Columbia in several capacities, one being her participation in the East Campus Neighborhood Association. She has also spent countless hours helping staff members sift through boxes of rental records and digitalizing the documents for future use.

There is no doubt that City employees appreciate Hammen as much as she appreciates them.

"We appreciate the work Janet has done to communicate with the City on issues important to her neighborhood, as well as the many hours she spends working in our office," said Office of Neighborhood Services Manager Leigh Britt.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

~ Written by volunteer Brittany Perrin

Try budget billing

Sign up for the City's budget billing program and you can make the same payment every month. To qualify, you need to have lived at your current residence for more than 12 months so your monthly payment may be calculated. Several times a year, the City will review your account to see if you have overpaid or underpaid and will make adjustments accordingly.

Signing up for budget billing:

- Wait for your March utility bill to arrive.
- Fill out the tear-off flap of your return envelope or call us.

Enrollment is only offered during the March billing cycle. You will have around 20 days to sign up after receiving your March bill.



Utility Customer Service
874-7380

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: April 8 at noon

- Board of Adjustment
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Planning and Zoning Commission

Application deadline: May 6 at noon

- Airport Advisory Board
- Housing Authority
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Board of Plumbing Examiners
- Environment and Energy Commission
- Disabilities Commission
- Board of Mechanical Examiners

Applications and current vacancies for City boards and commissions are available online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information.



Cleanup Columbia will be April 9

The 15th annual Cleanup Columbia, a citywide trash pickup event, will be held Saturday, April 9. During Cleanup Columbia, volunteers work throughout the city picking up litter along city streets, in parks, on trails and in streams.

Cleanup Columbia is a wonderful activity for volunteers of all ages. Individuals or groups of all sizes are welcome to participate. The City of Columbia will provide bags and gloves, assist you in finding a cleanup location and arrange for the filled bags to be picked up after the event.

To register for Cleanup Columbia, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call the City of Columbia Volunteer Programs at 874-7499.

Free Mulch

Do you need mulch for landscaping and gardening? Free mulch is available to Columbia residents at the Capen Park mulch site located off Rock Quarry Road or at Parkside Drive located off Creasy Springs Road. The mulch sites are open between dawn and dusk. There is no guarantee that staff will be available to assist with loading.

You can also drop off residential leaves, grass clippings, brush and limbs up to 10 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter at either of these locations. (No commercial material is permitted.) Please remove bags, containers and ties, and dispose of them properly.

For more details, contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291, or go online to view the City calendar at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

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Bob McDavid

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Second Ward	Jason Thornhill
Third Ward	Gary Kespohl
Fourth Ward	Daryl Dudley
Fifth Ward	Laura Nauser
Sixth Ward	Barbara Hoppe
City Manager	Bill Watkins



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Did you know?

You don't need a pocketful of change to park in downtown Columbia. The EZ Park Card is a prepaid card you can use in meters and garages. You only pay for the time you park and you can request a refund (from the same meter) if you don't stay in that spot as long as you had planned. Cards can be purchased at City Hall, Boone County Government Center, MU's Turner Parking Garage or at any of the three Cherry Street garages.



Parks and Recreation plans Easter events

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt: Kids are invited to bring flashlights and baskets to this third annual event. It will be held April 15 at the Riechmann Pavilion, Stephens Lake Park. Price is \$7 per child; pre-registration is required. Hunts will be organized by age: 7:30 p.m. for ages 3-5; 7:45 p.m. for ages 6-7; and 8 p.m. for ages 8-10. Call 874-7460 to register or for more information.

Easter "Egg"stravaganza: Bring your children (ages 12 and under) for a fun candy-filled Easter egg hunt! Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the free event from 12-1:30 p.m. on April 23 at Douglass Park. There will be three separate hunts designated by age. Kids will enjoy other activities such as coloring, face painting and several games. The hunt will begin at 12:45 p.m.

Earth Hour 2011

Join your fellow Columbians in turning off lights and non-essential electricity in homes and buildings from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, as part of Earth Hour - a symbolic "wave of darkness" encircling the globe.

During Earth Hour 2010, Water & Light estimates Columbia reduced its electric load by 1.58 megawatts - the equivalent of 62 homes going without electricity for a day. Mayor Bob McDavid has signed a proclamation endorsing Columbia's support of Earth Hour (<http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Sustainability/>) and encourages all Columbians to turn off artificial lighting during that period, reducing the need for electric power generation and its associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Some quick tips for reducing your electrical load:

- Turn off lights and appliances when they are not being utilized.
- Close vents in rooms that are not being used on a regular basis and close the door.
- Run full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.
- In the winter, open window shades that receive direct sunlight during the day and close shades at night.
- Also in the winter, set the thermostat at 68 degrees and lower the setting a few degrees at night, or when your home is unoccupied.
- Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets.
- Keep fireplace chimney dampers closed when not using the fireplace.

For more information on Earth Hour events in Columbia and reducing your energy consumption visit GoColumbiaMo.com and search for "Earth Hour." Don't forget that Earth Day is April 22. Columbia's Earth Day celebration will be April 17 (rain date May 1).

Household hazardous waste facility opens in April with new hours

Hazardous waste products cannot be picked up curbside, and you should **never** put them in storm drains. The City's household hazardous waste facility provides a safe way to dispose of oil, paint, cleaning products, antifreeze and other unwanted chemicals. The facility, located at 1313 Lakeview, is open the first and third Saturdays of April through November, 8 a.m. to noon. It is for residential use only; commercial waste is not accepted. For more information, contact the Public Works Solid Waste Division at 874-6291.

Thunderstorms, tornadoes and floods: Prepare now for unpredictable spring weather

Springtime is known for melting snow, the Easter Bunny and emerging flowers. It's also a time for significant and sometimes severe weather changes. Days filled with sun and gentle breezes can suddenly become cloudy, bringing thunderstorms and possibly tornadoes or flooding. Mark Twain once said, "In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of four and 20 hours."

Thunderstorms – when warm, moist air collides with cool, dry air causes most of the severe spring weather.

Because spring weather is so unpredictable, many people are unprepared. Advanced preparation can save lives and reduce the risk of injury when severe weather strikes. To best prepare your household for severe spring weather, consider having on hand:

- A battery-operated flashlight, a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio and extra batteries for both.
- An emergency evacuation plan, including a map of the home and, for each type of severe weather emergency, routes to safety from each room.
- **A list of important personal information, including:**
 - telephone numbers of neighbors, family and friends
 - insurance and property information
 - telephone numbers of utility companies
 - medical information
- **A first-aid kit, including:**
 - prescription medication
 - hydrogen peroxide
 - antibiotic ointment
 - over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin and diarrhea medicine
 - bandages and dressings for injuries

- A 3–5 day supply of bottled water and nonperishable food
- Personal hygiene items
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- An emergency kit in your car

Teach everyone in your household what to do if severe weather strikes. Tell them where to seek appropriate shelter as soon as they are aware of an approaching storm. Practice an emergency plan for each type of severe weather. Show family members where the emergency supplies are stored and make sure they know how to turn off the water, gas and electricity in the home.

Emergency preparedness advice is available from your local health department. Contact the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services at 874-7632 for more information.

Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Register online!

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Call 874-7460 for more information.

APRIL 2011

- 15 Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, Riechmann Pavilion, times vary by age, \$7, must pre-register
- 15 OAK (Older American Klub) Spring Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., \$3
- 17 Earth Day, Peace Park, 12-7 p.m., free
- 20 Family Fun Fest: Teen Fest, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., free
- 23 Egg Hunt "EGG"stravaganza, Douglass Park, 12-1:30 p.m., free
- 29 OAK (Older American Klub) 5th Friday Free Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., free
- 30 Teen Dance Party, Stephens Lake Park Amphitheatre, 8-11 p.m., free

MAY 2011

- 6 Movies in the Park: Megamind, Flat Branch Park, 8:30 p.m., \$1 per person, 12 and under free

Energy Efficiency Tips on Facebook

Tired of high utility bills? Not sure where to start being energy efficient? Check out Columbia Water & Light: Powerful Partnership on Facebook! If you "like" us, you will get posts a few times a week with tips on how to be more efficient. It is also a great resource for projects. The information is divided between low-cost tips and things that require more of an investment. Also, there are links to our Conservation Tips videos on YouTube. Our page is open to the public, so you don't have to sign up for Facebook to access it.

