

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



SUPERSTORM SANDY

LINEMEN RESTORE POWER TO THOUSANDS ON EAST COAST

Crews faced 10 inches of snow in New Jersey while they were replacing broken poles.



Lineworker Kris Betz repairs a downed electric line to restore power to Cleveland, Ohio customers.



Lineworker Andrew Smith replaces electric lines in Ohio.



Anyone who has gone without electricity for days can easily see why Columbia Water & Light linemen were recognized as heroes by those they helped after Superstorm Sandy. Before the hurricane hit the East Coast, the linemen had already volunteered, packed their bags and were headed to Cleveland, Ohio. A week later they were fixing electric lines in Green Pond and Rockaway, N.J.

Many people assume that restoring electricity after a storm is as easy as flipping a switch, but the work can be extensive. When there are high-speed winds, falling tree branches can block roads and bring down electric lines. Linemen have to untangle downed power lines and replace poles and equipment that hold the lines before they can install the new electric lines. The job is tedious and extreme caution must be used since many of the lines are still energized.

Despite the inclement weather, the long days on duty and working on a different electric system that was ripped to shreds, these 13 men wanted to help others. Their families and co-workers breathed a sigh of relief when they safely returned home Nov. 14.



Events for the entire family

Columbia Parks and Recreation is offering several activities in honor of Black History Month in February. All activities are free. Call 874-7460 or check out www.GoColumbiaMo.com for more information.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FILM & DISCUSSION: "SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT"

- Thursday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.
- Armory Sports Center - 701 E. Ash

This film introduces younger generations to the forgotten heroes and untold stories from the rich African-American political history.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH VALENTINE'S DAY TALENT SHOW

- Thursday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.
- Douglass High School gym

Enjoy an evening of entertainment featuring singers, dancers, rappers, poets and more.

PANEL DISCUSSION: "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

- Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
- Armory Sports Center - 701 E. Ash

Join a discussion featuring a diverse panel regarding what the next four years of the Obama administration will bring. Time will be allowed for comments and questions.

GOSPEL EXPLOSION & SOUL FOOD DINNER MUSICAL CELEBRATION

- Sunday, Feb. 24, 3 p.m.
- St. Luke UMC - 204 E. Ash

Enjoy great gospel music from local and regional acts. Afterwards, there will be a soul food feast for all who attend.

Marked cars during winter weather

During severe winter storms, it is common to see cars that have slid off of the roadway. If yellow tape is visible on the highest point of the car (antenna or mirror), it has been checked by law enforcement, MoDOT or another agency. There is no need to report that car.

Ice Safety When is ice safe?

There is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature or whether or not it is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice and local climatic conditions.



*There is no such thing as
100 percent safe ice.*

SOME COLD FACTS ABOUT ICE...

- New ice is usually stronger than old ice.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly.
- Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous.
- The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.
- Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous.
- Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice.

For more information, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html.

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Do you know this is on the Web?

Community Development has an online form to report property maintenance and other violations. You can find the form at http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/community_development/neighborhoods/report_problems/index.php.



Neighborhood Services announces 2013 Neighborhood Leadership Program

The Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) is a four-session series on topics related to expanding your knowledge of Columbia city government and increasing your personal leadership skills to help you strengthen your neighborhood. Sessions will include a variety of local speakers, including elected officials, City staff and neighborhood leaders.

Sessions will be held Monday evenings from 6-8:30 p.m. The 2013 program is scheduled for Jan. 28, Feb. 25 and March 11. The fourth session will be a field trip to observe several successful neighborhood projects. If you are interested in participating, please contact Bill Cantin at 874-7248 or bpcantin@GoColumbiaMo.com.



City staff has completed a draft of Columbia Imagined, the City's new comprehensive plan. Upcoming public forums will offer residents opportunities to comment on the proposed document. Please review the plan on the City's website: GoColumbiaMo.com/community_development/planning. Staff anticipates learning your thoughts on this important guide for the City's future.



PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

FEBRUARY

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| 7 | Black History Month: African-American film and discussion, Armory Sports Center, 7 p.m., free |
| 14 | Black History Month Valentine's Day Talent Show, Douglass High School, 6:30 p.m., free |
| 19 | Black History Month: African American panel discussion, Armory Sports Center, 6:30 p.m., free |
| 24 | Boy/Girl Scout Day, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., pre-register, \$3 per child |
| 24 | Black History Month: Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner, St. Luke UMC, 3 p.m., free |

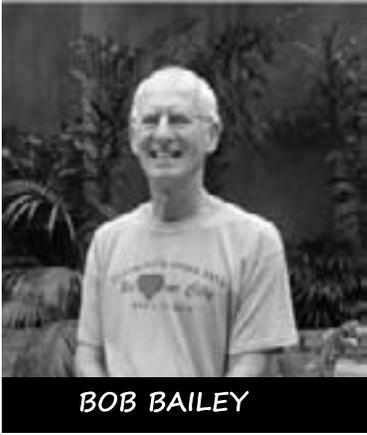
Homes for Computers returns

The City of Columbia, the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) and the Downtown Optimist Club are partnering again to provide used, surplus computers to low-income families as part of the Homes For Computers Program. **The computers will be given away to families who live in the City of Columbia, have school-aged children and meet the income requirements for VAC services.**

The Homes for Computers Program was approved by City Council in December 2003. The establishment of this program allows the City to invest in its most valuable resource, the children.

If you are interested in applying to receive a computer, please contact the Voluntary Action Center at 449-6959 during January. The computers will be given away Feb. 16 at the Downtown Optimist Club building.

January Volunteer of the Month: Bob Bailey



Bob Bailey, a former chemistry teacher, knew some of his self-worth came from helping others and doing something that mattered. When Bailey retired, he looked into volunteering.

For over four years, Bailey has kept Columbia's trees healthy as a TreeKeeper and Columbia's trails clean and safe as a park patroller. Park Patrol volunteers are extra eyes and ears on the trail. They help

with situations, pass information along and monitor the trails.

Bailey admits he chose volunteer opportunities that mirrored his pre-retirement interests: TreeKeepers for his enjoyment of gardening and the environment and Park Patrol for his joy of biking. Formerly, as coordinator of the Environmental Club at Rock Bridge, Bailey participated in highway cleanups and planted trees around the school. Now he participates in Cleanup Columbia and TreeKeepers. He and his wife have cycled across the U.S. Now he bikes Columbia's trails as a Park Patrol volunteer.

"It allows me to do two things at once," Bailey said. "You feel like you are part of a larger group. At the end of the day you feel better about yourself because you've done something for others."

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

-Written by volunteer Theresa Nelson



A reminder about the City's Rental Unit Conservation Law

The City of Columbia enforces the Rental Unit Conservation Law that requires all owners, operators or agents of residential rental property to register with the City and ensure that the property meets several codes, including property maintenance. There are currently more than 24,700 units and 9,200 buildings registered as rental properties with the City. The purpose of registering rental properties is to make sure they meet basic code requirements to ensure a healthy and safe environment for both residents and neighbors. The Office of Neighborhood Services

(ONS) in the Community Development Department enforces the Rental Unit Conservation Law. Visit ONS staff on the third floor of City Hall or call 817-5050.



Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: Feb. 8 at 5 p.m.

- Commission on Human Rights
- Public Transportation Advisory Commission
- University of Missouri Extension Council of Boone County

Applications and information about 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.

Refrigerator Rebate

Do you want money to get rid of your extra refrigerator?

Columbia Water & Light is thinking about offering a rebate for recycling your second refrigerator. What do you think?

Please visit—

tinyurl.com/refrigeratorrebate

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City of Columbia

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MAYOR

Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <i>First Ward</i> | Fred Schmidt |
| <i>Second Ward</i> | Michael Trapp |
| <i>Third Ward</i> | Gary Kespohl |
| <i>Fourth Ward</i> | Daryl Dudley |
| <i>Fifth Ward</i> | Vacant |
| <i>Sixth Ward</i> | Barbara Hoppe |
| <i>City Manager</i> | Mike Matthes |



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