

Conserve to Keep Electric Rates Low

During hot summer afternoons, you can help Columbia Water and Light keep costs low by conserving electricity. Peak electrical demand occurs during the hottest days of summer when electric consumption is critically high. In order for Water and Light to avoid purchasing additional electricity at this time when electrical prices are at their highest, we try to reduce demand to keep rates low. If demand isn't reduced, it can add millions of dollars to Columbia's electric costs.

Here are a few things you can do to help conserve in hot weather:

- Set the thermostat no lower than 78 degrees and turn it up a few degrees when the house is unoccupied.
- Barbecue or prepare a cool meal to avoid heating up the kitchen.
- Leave window shades that receive direct sunlight down during the day.
- Check and change the air conditioning/furnace filter as needed.
- Keep fireplace chimney dampers closed.
- Postpone doing laundry, using dehumidifiers and dishwashers, and taking showers (for those with electric water heaters) until after 8 p.m.



replace a window air conditioner with a central unit - add insulation - install a heat pump

High energy bills getting you down?

Get a low interest loan from Columbia Water and Light and you can easily make energy saving improvements to your home. The first step in getting a loan is to arrange for an energy audit. A loan application will be provided after the audit.

874-7325
www.GoColumbiaMo.com, enter the word "loans" in the search box

Utility Bill Emergency 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:

1. Meet the specific requirements for the applicable program.
2. Be a Boone County resident.
3. Meet the income guidelines as applied by the Health Department.
4. Have an emergency situation which necessitates assistance.

All applicants are carefully screened and counseled by social workers. Appropriate referrals are made to assist the applicant in preventing future emergencies.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Program, contact the City of Columbia Water and Light Department at 874-7380, Boone Electric at 449-4181, or complete and sign the annual donation card included in your bill. One-hundred percent of contributions go directly to utility bill payments for persons in need.

For more information, contact the Health Department at 874-7355.

What's a Water Surcharge?

When the weather heats up, so does Columbia's water use. Summer water demand is about twice as much as it is throughout the rest of the year, which puts a strain on the water facilities. In 1990, the City Council enacted a surcharge to send a price signal for people to conserve. Those who dramatically increase water use in the summer help pay for expansion of our water facilities that are needed to keep up with peak demand.

The summer surcharge is applied to a customer's account when summer water use exceeds 120 percent of winter water use. The summer months are considered to be June 1 through September 30. Winter water use is based on an average of consumption during the billing periods of January, February and March.

During the winter months, the most frequently occurring use, for a residential customer is 5 CCF's or 3,740 gallons per month. There are 748 gallons in one CCF. A summer surcharge would go into effect for this customer when they use 120 percent more than they did in the winter months or 6 CCF's. If this was a residential household, inside the city limits, the customer would be charged \$1.395 for the first 6 CCF's and \$1.953 for any additional CCF's they used. If this customer used 8 CCF's during a summer month, he/she would pay approximately \$3.91 extra in surcharges.

Council Action

May 5:

- Authorized an agreement with Dana Corporation for backup generator service. The unit can run as a peaking unit on the city system giving the city credits on the interconnected systems. The installed cost is estimated at \$325,000.

May 19:

- Amended agreement with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for immunization services. The contract gives financial reimbursement to the Health Department to improve immunization status of children under 2. The amendment extends the original contract to Dec. 31, 2003. The maximum amount of additional funds available is \$18,100 based on the number of children who complete all immunizations.

June 2:

- Accepting and appropriating donated funds for the "Let's Talk, Columbia!" Community Study Circles Program. Boone Hospital Center donated \$200. The Islamic Center of Central Missouri and Mail and More each donated \$100.
- Authorized an agreement with Jeffrey L. Bruce and Company to create a master plan for preservation and development of Eighth Street. The city's share of the \$70,000 master plan is \$18,500 with the balance having been raised through donations by other Eighth Street property owners.

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.

Citizen Survey Results Available

Results of a citizen survey were presented to the City Council at its May 19 meeting. The survey was conducted by ETC Institute, a marketing research firm that specializes in the administration of community-based surveys for local governmental organizations.

The purpose of the citizen survey was to gather input from residents about city services and priorities for the community. It was conducted as part of the city's ongoing strategic planning process.

Some key results include:

- Overall, residents are pleased with their city and the way it is being governed and managed.
- Columbia fared well in comparison to other cities surveyed by ETC Institute.
- The city rated in the top 25 percent of 30 consultant selected comparable cities in Parks and Recreation, city communications and overall quality of customer services.
- Citizens feel safe in Columbia.
- Two-thirds of the city's residents use blue bags.
- Overall, Columbia residents are pleased with the quality of life.
- Areas for improvement include management of traffic congestion in the city and maintenance of city streets.
- 78 percent are satisfied with the overall quality of police protection, only 7 percent dissatisfied and 15 percent neutral.
- Over half felt the city's economic development efforts should be much or somewhat greater over the next five years, 25 percent thought they should stay about the same, 3 percent thought they should be reduced.
- The City is working on enhancements including street improvements which will be part of the Capital Improvement Plan discussions at the Council retreat.

The complete survey tabulation is available on the City's Internet site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com. Also, a copy is available for viewing at the Columbia Regional Library.



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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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Your source for city news and information

Volunteer Opportunities in Homeland Security

The City of Columbia Office of Volunteer Services has started a Citizen Corps program, an umbrella program for four volunteer opportunities:

Neighborhood Watch: This is one of the oldest volunteer opportunities.

Residents keep an eye out for crime through over 450 groups coordinated by the Columbia Police Department.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): CERT is a new program from the Columbia Fire Department that trains citizens in emergency preparedness and basic response techniques. Classes are being held this summer.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS): The Columbia Police Department has a variety of volunteer opportunities including Citizens on Patrol, TeleServe, Cadets, and Reserve Officers.

Medical Reserve Corps: Volunteers with and without medical training can assist the Columbia/Boone County Health Department with health outreach clinics, the Strategic National Stockpile, and other public health programs.

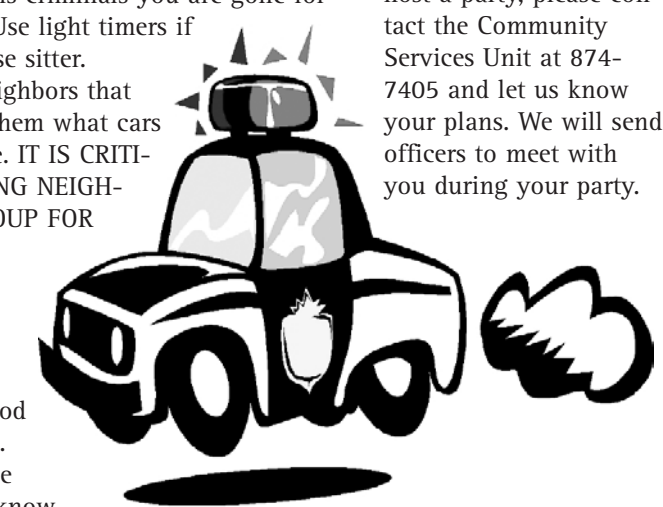
To learn more about becoming a Citizen Corps volunteer, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or e-mail volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

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Summer Vacation Safety

Hitting the road for summer vacation is as much American as apple pie and baseball. What could be worse than having the best summer vacation ever then returning home to discover that criminals have broken into your home and taken all your valuables. Make the decision to prevent this from happening to you and your family. For a home security inspection or more information on crime prevention education contact the Community Services Unit at 874-7405. Following are tips to make your summer vacation crime free.

- Have a friend house sit or visit your house regularly. This must be someone you trust without reservation. Have them feed your pets and change items such as the shades and interior lighting.
- Make every attempt not to have your exterior lights on all the time. This tells criminals you are gone for a long period of time. Use light timers if you do not have a house sitter.
- Tell your immediate neighbors that you will be gone. Tell them what cars to expect at your house. IT IS CRITICAL TO HAVE A STRONG NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP FOR THIS VERY REASON!!
- Stop all newspaper and mail delivery or have someone pick them up for you.
- Make sure you have good door and window locks.
- Call the Columbia Police Department and let us know you will be gone. This is called a Watch In Passing.
- If possible, keep the garage door shut when loading your car with luggage to avoid advertising that you are going on vacation.
- Don't leave information on your answering machine or voice mail that you are gone on vacation.



National Night Out is August 5

Columbia Neighborhood Watch, in cooperation with the Columbia Police Department, will host National Night Out on August 5.

This is an opportunity for local neighborhoods to organize block or neighborhood parties to show criminals that they are united in protecting their neighborhoods. If you plan to host a party, please contact the Community Services Unit at 874-7405 and let us know your plans. We will send officers to meet with you during your party.

Mid-Missouri VOAD

Non-profit, religious and government organizations in and around Columbia have come together to form the Mid-Missouri VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). The VOAD will be activated in time of emergency.

The purpose of the VOAD is to evaluate resources in the community related to volunteer management, donations collection and warehousing, and emergency sheltering that are available in times of emergency. The VOAD will allow member groups to coordinate with each other and local emergency management officials.

If your organization would like to be a part of the Mid-Missouri VOAD, or you would like to learn more, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499.

Festival Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the 26th Annual Heritage Festival, September 21-22, and the Columbia Festival of the Arts, September 28-29. Work an hour, a day, or the entire weekend – booth sitting for an artist, assisting with children’s art activities, helping at an information booth, or distributing surveys. Call the Parks and Recreation Department, 874-7460 (TTY 874-6395) or the Office of Cultural Affairs, 874-6386 (TTY 874-7488) for more information.



August Volunteer of the Month

August Volunteer of the Month Emma Teuten knows a lot about hazardous waste. Teuten, who earned her PhD in chemistry at MU, has volunteered for the City’s Public Works Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for one and a half years. To help allay homesickness for London, England, and to further her knowledge, she volunteered at more than half of the HHW days during her volunteer interest.

Deeply concerned about the environment and the effects of chemicals in our world, Teuten’s easygoing manner helped to bridge a fuller understanding of Public Works bywords....reduce, reuse and recycle. In addition, Teuten volunteered at many festivals and events to spread the word about reducing waste.

Teuten has gone on to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute for postdoctoral work as she studies the effects of man-made chemicals on the world’s water supply. The City of Columbia thanks Emma for contributions during her stay in Columbia.

New Convention & Visitors Bureau Volunteer Program

Do you like to talk to people? Do you love Columbia? If you answered yes, there is a new opportunity to interact with visitors and talk about the community you call home.

The Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau is starting a new program this summer using volunteers at the Lake of the Woods Visitors Center. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to assist with greeting visitors at the Columbia Regional Airport.

To more volunteer information, call 874-7504.

Columbia Parks and Recreation CALENDAR

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

AUGUST

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 8 | 50+ Jam Session, Parkade Community Center, 7 p.m. |
| 10 | Family Night at Douglass Family Aquatic Center, 7:15-8:15 p.m., \$1 each |
| 10 | Douglass Family Aquatic Center and Lake of the Woods Pool, last day open |
| 13 | Fall program registration begins. (Look for the fall issue of the Leisure Times activity guide in today’s Tribune.) |
| 15 | Teen Night at Oakland Family Aquatic Center 8:30-10:30 p.m., \$1 per person |
| 15 | 50+ Late Summer Dance, Parkade Community Center, 7 p.m. |
| 22 | Oakland Family Aquatic Center, last weekday to swim |
| 22 | Pirates’ Landing, last day open |
| 23-24 | Three-Person Scramble, L.A. Nickell & Lake of the Woods Golf Courses |
| 23-24, 30-31 & Sept. 1 | Oakland Family Aquatic Center open 12-6 p.m. |

Register now for Fall Adult Volleyball

Sign up now for OAK Tours 50+ Trips.

Visit the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque in October or enjoy a Branson Christmas in November. Trips are designed for active persons 50 and over. Call 442-5353 for information.

Aquatic Facilities August Hours

Lake of the Woods Pool:

M-F 12-5:30 p.m., Sat/Sun 12-6 p.m.

Douglass Family Aquatic Center:

1-7 p.m. Daily

Pirates’ Landing-Little Mates Cove:

Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun 12-6 p.m.

Pirates’ Landing-Lake: 12-6 p.m. Daily

Oakland Family Aquatic Center:

M-F 12-8 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,

Sun 12-6 p.m.

Call the swim hotline at 874-7663 for information or call 874-7460, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pursuant to our Columbia City Charter, as City Manager, I am presenting my annual report of “Programs and Priorities” sometimes referred to as the State of the City. This includes Programs and Priorities, State of the City, strategies, Citizen Survey, and accomplishments.

Our City remains strong and I believe it can grow stronger yet. By working together in partnerships, we can make Columbia the best it can be.

Columbia has a hard-working volunteer Mayor and City Council, appointed Boards, Commissions and Task Forces all working together with a dedicated, highly trained professional staff to achieve the goals our City residents desire as approved by Council. As City Manager, my highest priority continues to be helping lead our city in meeting those goals and fulfilling our commitment to our residents. In short, we are all working together to continue making Columbia one of the best cities in our nation to live, work, retire, raise a family, and conduct business.

Columbia is a “full service” City providing a comprehensive package of services our residents desire, with an annual budget of about \$222 million and 1,110 permanent full time employees. In addition to the more typical local government services, Columbia provides utilities such as water, electric, wastewater, solid waste, and stormwater management. Columbia also provides a total transportation system including an airport, bus system, short line railroad, vehicle, and pedestrian facilities whose objective is to meet the needs of all residents.

Columbia’s population, currently about 87,000, continues to grow at an annual rate between 1 to 2 percent. Our present geographic area is over 55 square miles. Last year, voters turned down an annexation plan to add an additional 8.7 square miles; however, approximately 3/4 square mile was voluntarily annexed through 18 applications approved by the Council.

Our City remains fiscally sound as evidenced by our excellent bond rating and the low interest rates charged to our City. During a recent bond sale, our rate was the lowest experienced by our

State of the City Programs and Priorities

By Raymond A. Beck, City Manager

financial advisor. Our major revenue sources include sales tax, payments in lieu of tax from our utilities, gross receipts tax, property tax, user fees, and other lesser sources. Several major resources can be substantially affected by our economy, weather conditions and the ever increasing use of the internet which avoids payment of local sales tax even though delivery of these purchases utilize our streets and services. The City of Columbia continues to receive the “Distinguished Budget Presentation Award” and the “Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting” through the Government Finance Officers Association.

Columbia relies heavily on sales tax rather than property taxes to finance its projects and services. Since our City provides services to a regional area, it is felt sales tax is an equitable revenue source receiving sales tax from a regional area. The rate of increase of sales tax revenues has decreased while there have been increasing demands from other government agencies for new use of that tax. The County Commission recently proposed a new law enforcement sales tax, which was approved by the voters. However, voters did not approve a recent MoDOT transportation ballot issue that included a sales tax. The recently completed Citizen Survey shows continued residents’ support for the use of sales tax for capital improvement projects and Parks and Recreation programs.

Other City resources include donations of time and funds through the Share the Light Program, our innovative City Trust, a Utility Check-Off pro-

gram, the New Century Fund and the many volunteers who support our City. This past year, our Volunteer Services office logged nearly 40,000 volunteer hours valued at over \$660,000, and donations of almost \$348,000 to the City which all enhanced the quality of our life. An increased emphasis on grants has shown some early success and continues to be a staff priority. We want to again thank those individuals, agencies, congressmen and legislators for the support they have given our city. Columbia continues to have a relatively strong local economy with a very low unemployment rate. We are a regional center for employment, education, health care, shopping, social services, entertainment, recreation, cultural and a number of major events. Some major events include the Show Me State Games, the largest in the country; Memorial Day Weekend which brings thousands of visitors to our City; high school tournaments; major University sporting events. The Mid-Missouri Mavericks played their first professional baseball game in the history of our city on May 23. Our city’s economic base has received a boost with the expansion of CARFAX, Inc. and the start-up of Gates Rubber.

A more detailed listing of accomplishments, and programs and priorities follow. The full report is available on the City’s web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com and at the Columbia Regional Library.

The City Council will be reviewing the detailed Programs and Priorities report, making adjustments as they feel appropriate as we work toward preparing our 2004 annual budget. I want to

thank the City Council, staff and all those who have provided information used in preparing this annual report.

SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIES

1. Provide for comprehensive planning/implementation.
2. Maintain and strengthen our central city.
3. Plan for orderly growth of our city.
4. Continue to provide and maintain infrastructure on a timely basis.
5. Continue to deliver services and programs in a timely cost effective manner.
6. Provide sufficient community resources to carry out programs and priorities.
7. Proactive two-way communication with our residents adn with community partners.

PROGRAMS AND PRIORITIES

(Not listed in priority order)

- Increase resources for traffic management and street maintenance program
- Renovation of the City/County Sanford-Kimpton Health Facility
- Expansion and rehabilitation of municipal office space in downtown Columbia
- Prepare for a revenue bond ballot issue for the expansion of the city’s water plant and system
- Prepare for a revenue bond ballot issue for wastewater improvements
- Finalize purchase agreement for additional power for electric utility with consideration for purchase of some green power
- Develop finance plan for future transportation projects. Consider extending present 1/4 percent capital improvement sales tax and other sources.
- City/State Roadway projects: (projects in italics are funded)
 - *East Broadway from Old 63 to US 63*
 - *US 63/I-70 Interchange Improvements*
 - Stadium Blvd. from US 63 to I-70 (Lake of the Woods)
 - 763 widening northward to US 63
 - Scott Blvd. (State/County/City project)
- I-70 Interchange Improvements between Stadium and Perche Creek and Connecting Roadways
- US 63 Gans Road Interchange and

Connecting Roadways

- Work with MoDOT on I-70 alternatives
- City street projects in development: (projects in italics are funded)
 - *Green Meadows Road extension (Providence to Route AC)*
 - *Garth Avenue extension northward (Thurman to Bluebridge Road - 2 projects)*
 - *Rollins Road (Colonial Gardens to Rothwell Heights)*
 - *Blue Ridge Road Garth to 763*
 - *Forum Blvd., continued south to Old Plank Road*
 - *Roger Wilson Drive (partially funded)*
 - *South Hampton, extend north to AC*
 - Brown School Road connection from US 763 to US 63,
 - Lemone Blvd. extension northward to Stadium Blvd. extended
 - Chapel Hill Road, Scott Boulevard to Gillespie Bridge Road
 - Mexico Gravel Road - Vandiver Interchange to Route PP
- Continue to recruit quality businesses/industry and work with other partners toward office and technology park
- Emergency Preparedness/Homeland Security
- Council adoption of updated street, sidewalk and pedway standards
- Implement EPA Storm water Phase II Permit Requirements
- Purchase property for future fire stations
- Complete the rail terminal project which will handle containers for mid-Missouri
- Renovation and expansion of Historical Wabash Station
- Renovation of the Blind Boone House
- Restore and upgrade the MLK Jr. Memorial
- Continue budgeting \$800,000 plus for city social service funding
- Continue development of the Stephens Lake Park
- Initiate construction of two new softball fields at Antimi Youth Baseball Complex
- Develop finance plan for future Park/Recreation purposes. Consider extension of present 1/8 percent

parks sales tax for that purpose.

- Continue to promote volunteer opportunities within the city and gifts to our city trust fund and “Share the Light”
- Continue to pursue grant funding
- Update and adopt master plan for wastewater collection and treatment
- Promote development of city from inside outward to reduce infrastructure costs and cost of providing services
- Continue joint planning of the urban fringe area
- Complete master plan for undergrounding utilities
- Business Loop 70 Improvements
- Construct a stormwater detention basin in Meredith Branch drainage area
- Continue to promote/update City’s web page and e-government services by implementing on-line utility billing option, on-line registration for Parks/Rec. programs, online building permits and other interactive applications
- Continue implementation of West Nile Virus prevention and control program
- Complete and implement Convention and Visitor’s Bureau Master Plan Revision
- Market composted material from landfill site
- Assure competitive wages and benefits for city employees