



Fireworks Safety: An Oxymoron

Bright lights and loud bangs in the night sky are all part of a traditional 4th of July celebration across our country. Ohh's and Ahh's are uttered when fireworks explode in the sky.

The sad fact is, in 1999, the latest year data is available, an estimated 24,200 fires involving fireworks were reported to fire departments. There was \$17.2 million in direct property damage as a result of these fires. Fireworks-related fires have typically caused at least \$15-\$20 million in property loss (not adjusted for inflation) each year in the past decade.

And the worst part is most fireworks-related

injuries do not involve fires that are reported to fire departments. In 1999, an estimated 55 civilians were injured in reported fires caused by fireworks, but fireworks-related injuries reported to hospital emergency rooms alone totaled 8,500 the same year.

The Columbia Fire Department reminds residents that the sale and discharge of fireworks in the City of Columbia is illegal. Fireworks, even sparklers, can be dangerous if not used according to manufacturers' instructions and safety guidelines.

To ensure your family's safety, attend a professional fireworks display in your community. In Columbia, watch for information on the, "Fire in the Sky" celebration returning to the university campus this year.

If you and your family plan to purchase consumer fireworks for use outside of the city limits of Columbia, purchase them from a reputable dealer and use them only after reading and understanding all of the safety guidelines. And remember to keep all fireworks out of the hands of children.

For more information on fireworks, visit the National Fire Protection Association at www.NFPA.org.

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 income. 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).



New Dances for Families and Teens at the ARC

Old Time Square Dances

Saturdays, June 26 & July 24
Open Traditional Jam Session: 5-7 pm
Dance: 7-9:30 p.m.
(Dance instruction available at 7 p.m.)
Tickets: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 7-17, children 6 ft under enter for free.

Teen Latin Dances

Fridays, June 18 & July 30
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$5 for high school age teens

All dances will be held at the ARC, located at 1701 W. Ash St. Each dance will start with the first half hour as an instruction period. Missouri old-time fiddlers will provide the music for the Square Dances and Steve Young will call and teach you all the steps you need to know. The Teen Latin Dances will have a live band and Julie Hayes will teach the teens great dances such as salsa, mambo, meringue, and cha-cha.

Come and enjoy the new dances offered by Columbia Parks and Recreation. Tickets are available at the door. Call 874-7460 for more information.

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.

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Community Line

Dial the city of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 448, to learn about home security while on vacation.

Commission vacancy

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

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission

Council Action

The Council on April 5:

- Authorized transit fixed route adjustments. Changes include a downtown orbiter route that cycles through the District and the MU campus area every 15 minutes; additions to the Red Route, including stops at HyVee grocery store, Fairview clinics, Moberly Area Community College and Crossroads Shopping Center; and a movie theater route that travels through the MU campus areas and between Hollywood and Forum 8 theaters.

Riders have requested a route that would take them to the movies and finally, they get their wish. The Theater Commuter Route runs Thursday and Friday evenings, and all day Saturdays. This bus doesn't go to Wabash station; riders transfer from the Red or Orange routes. They can also transfer from another new CT route: the Downtown Orbiter.

The Orbiter circles downtown Columbia, snakes through the MU campus and passes Columbia College to Wabash Station every 15 minutes during peak hours, and every 30 minutes during off hours. This bus serves University Hospital, the Memorial Union and the Boone Hospital and Clinics. Thanks to these changes, all other routes will run on schedule so riders should be at their stops a little early.

To learn the details, log on at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoBus), pick up a new schedule at Wabash Station, 126 N. 10th Street, or phone 874-7282.

Clarification: there is no direct city funding for the Memorial Day air show.

CITY SOURCE

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Your source for city news and information



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Health Department to Open at New Location in June 2004

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department will be relocating to 1005 West Worley Street (formerly occupied by Nowell's grocery store) beginning in June 2004. The renovated facility, named the Sanford-Kimpton Building, will provide new and improved features to better serve the community in the capacity of public health.

- Ample space for training and food handler's classes.
- Additional patient interview and exam rooms with increased privacy.
- A full service demonstration kitchen for educational opportunities on food safety, nutrition, and reducing obesity.
- On-site free public parking.
- Located on the city bus route.
- An updated lab facility to perform water sample and other tests.
- Improved working environment and work stations. This is the first component of meeting the city's office space needs until 2020.

A unique feature of the facility is site-specific public art, commissioned through the city's Percent for Art program. Kansas City artist Hugh Merrill was selected for the project and will install his work in the coming months. For more information about Percent for Art, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs, 874-7512, oca@GoColumbiaMo.com.

When all renovations are completed the building will have nearly 50,000 square feet of space. The Columbia/Boone County Health Department and the Family Health Center will be housed in the new facility. Funding for the Columbia/Boone County Health Department costs is shared by the city and the county. Funding for the Family Health Center is provided by the county. Please look for more information on the grand opening of the new health department facility in the coming months. The health department invites the public to come and learn about the services available to the community. For more information call the Columbia/Boone County Health Department at 874-7356.

The Street Division is operating a new Schwarze A4000 compact Air sweeper. Service will allow additional cleaning of approximately 28 miles of bicycle lanes/routes every three weeks. The city budget included \$79,755 to purchase the sweeper. For more information, contact the Street Division at 874-6289.



National APWA Re-Accreditation of Columbia Public Works

The Columbia Public Works Department has been re-accredited by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The Department was first accredited in February 2001 and at that time was the 5th agency in North America to achieve national accreditation. There are currently only 15 accredited agencies and Columbia is still the only agency in Missouri to be nationally accredited.

The accreditation is based on meeting national standards for management practices for all of the department's areas of responsibility. Due to the broad range of services provided by Columbia, there were more than 450 individual management practices applicable to this department. These practices include employee training, safety programs, emergency response plans, operation performance measurements, public communication and outreach, project planning and monitoring as

In July of 1993 the Missouri river reached record high flood levels. Highways and railroads throughout the region were shut down, but the Columbia Water Treatment Plant stayed afloat. Through teamwork and dedication, employees and volunteers built the "Great Wall of McBaine" out of plastic-covered concrete barriers and sandbags. Their 24 hours of non-stop labor was not in vain: though the plant was an island in the midst of raging waters, it continued to pump water to Columbia throughout the duration of the flood.

1904-2004



Share the Light

"Share the Light" is a unique program that allows City of Columbia utility customers to donate funds to a number of

programs through their utility bill. Participants can decide if they want to make a one-time contribution, or if they would like to donate each month when they pay for their utilities.

Since Share the Light began in August 2001, nearly \$40,000 has been raised for city programs including public art, community beautification, youth recreation scholarships, youth dental care, crime prevention and fire prevention and education.

To learn more about Share the Light, call the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7504.

Summer Youth Volunteering Programs

For kids who have some extra time on their hands this summer, volunteering can be a great way to keep busy, have fun, and build skills for the future. The Office of Volunteer Services has some great ways for kids to volunteer.

Youth In Action, a summer program for kids 12-15 years old, is an organized, supervised program that allows youth to volunteer throughout the summer. A variety of projects are scheduled and youth can select as many, or as few, volunteer activities to participate in as they wish.

Kids who would rather schedule their own volunteer activities may be

How can you stay cool, conserve resources and help out your pocketbook during a hot Columbia summer? It's easy, just follow these tips:

Set the thermostat no lower than 78 degrees and turn it up a few degrees when the house is unoccupied.

Leave window shades that receive direct sunlight down during the day.

Keep fireplace chimney dampers closed.

Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothes.

Try to use the oven, dishwasher and other appliances that produce heat during the late evening and early morning.

Create a **C O O L** Room

Do you spend most of your time in one room of your home? You might want to consider creating a cool oasis in that room.

Close vents in rooms that are not being used on a regular basis and close the door or install a temporary curtain in the doorway.

If you are using a window AC unit, make sure the window panes around the unit are properly sealed. That way hot, outside air cannot enter the room.

Circulate air in your cool room with a fan.

Light bulbs can create heat. Light only the area where you are working, not the whole room. Consider replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents.

**BE
CODE
AND
SAVE
ENERGY
TOO!**

Xeriscaping and Rain Gardens

If you are planning to do some landscaping around your house this year, consider xeriscaping or adding a rain garden. Xeriscaping is landscaping your entire lawn so there is no need for mowing, fertilizing, pesticides or watering. Using native plant species helps eliminate the need for much, if any, watering or fertilizing because the plants are accustomed to our climate and conditions. This helps cut down water usage and pollutants running off your lawn and into our local streams as well as adding beauty to your home and neighborhood.

Rain gardens are small botanical areas around your home that can catch and hold rain water for 3-5 days so it can be absorbed into the ground and not run off into storm drains and flood streams. Use native plants that are water tolerant but can also withstand our summer draughts. One way to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff from your property is to divert your downspouts to your lawn instead of your driveway . . . or better yet, to your new rain garden!

For more information on using native plants, contact Nadia Navarrete of the Native Plant Society at 234-2088 or 289-2018 or by email at navarrete@missouri.edu. For more information on stormwater reduction around your home, contact the Community Stormwater Project at 884-3242 or visit our website at

<http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com> and type in the go word: GoStormwater.



Heritage Festival Call for Artisans & Crafters

The 27th Annual Heritage Festival will be held September 18 & 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the historic Nifong Park, Hwy 63 S. at the AC exit.

Artisans and tradesmen, dressed in period attire, are needed to demonstrate and sell 19th century crafts. A contemporary craft area will also be featured. For more information or for an exhibitor application, call 874-7460 or go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoHeritageFestival).

above: A weaver in the 19th-century artisan and tradesman area at the Heritage Festival in historic Nifong park. (Beth Giese photo)



above: Line Supervisor Vic Winn operates switch gear at the water treatment plant during a generator test. (Connie Kacprwicz photo)

New Generators Increase Reliability of Water System

Without electricity, water systems can't treat and pump water to their customers. That's why contingency planning has always been an important task for Columbia Water and Light. With the recent addition of two 2,000 kilowatt back-up generators at the water treatment plant, the reliability of water service in the Columbia area has increased greatly. The generators can handle the power needs at the plant and the well fields. As an added bonus, they can also be run as an additional power source for the Columbia electric system during peak electric use.

The City of Columbia recognizes Evan Karl as the July Volunteer of the Month. Karl, a Columbia Police Department Cadet, helps police with public safety at community events. Cadets participate in events such as parades, the air show, Show-Me State Games, children's safety and bicycle safety events. Along with volunteer duties, the program promotes good citizenship and responsibility. Cadets collectively contributed over 530 volunteer hours to the City of Columbia in 2003.

Karl, a junior at Rock Bridge High School, has been with the cadet program for four years after he became interested in a law enforcement career. Karl has contributed more than 115 volunteer hours. "Interacting with police officers and being part of the police department is my favorite part of being a Police Cadet," said Karl.

The City of Columbia congratulates Evan and thanks him and all the cadets for their service to the community.

Visit our City of Columbia website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com, or call 874-7499, to find out how you can become a city volunteer.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Register online! www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoRecreationRegistration)

July

- 4 Special Swim hours at all facilities, 12-5 pm, there will be no lessons held
- 4 Fire in the Sky, 4th of July fireworks celebration, MU Football Stadium, entertainment, 7 p.m., fireworks, 9 p.m.
- 11 Annual Park Day, Douglass Park, 1-8 pm
- 15 Family Night, Douglass Family Aquatic Center, 7:15-8:15 pm, \$1
- 16 Teen Night, Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 8:30-10:30 pm, ages 11-15, \$1
- 16-18 Show-Me State Games
- 24 Old Time Square Dance, ARC, Jam Session: 5-7 pm, Dance: 7-9:30 p.m.
- 27-28 Coca-Cola Junior Championship, L.A. Nickell Golf Course
- 23-25 Show-Me State Games
- 30 Latin Dances for Teens, ARC, 7-9 pm
- 30-8/1 Show-Me State Games

Holiday Schedules

City offices will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be collected on July 5 and will be delayed one day for the remainder of the 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.

On the Web

By visiting the Office of Volumbeer Services page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com you can find a list of current volunteer opportunities and also apply to become a volunteer. Current volunteers use the site as a tool for reporting and scheduling.