

CITYSOURCE

Your source for city news and information



Remember to Vote

Please exercise your right to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2, 2004.

Utility 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 through two programs. The Heat, Energy and Light Program (HELP) provides assistance to low-income families with young children in the home. The Citizens Assisting Seniors and the Handicapped (CASH) program provides emergency assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

In order to be eligible for utility assistance, recipients must:

- meet the specific requirements for the applicable HELP or CASH program,
- be a Boone County resident,
- meet the income guidelines as applied by the Health Department—150 percent or less of the federal poverty level, and
- have an emergency situation which necessitates assistance.

All applicants are carefully screened and counseled by social services specialists. Appropriate referrals are made to assist the applicant in preventing future emergencies. For more information, contact the Health Department at 874-7355.

You can make a contribution to the HELP and CASH programs through a utility check off on your City of Columbia utility bill.



Community is "StormReady"

The Columbia community, along with the County of Boone, was recently granted "StormReady" status based on its ability to provide severe weather information to citizens at any time. There currently are at least 776 StormReady sites in 47 states.

StormReady criteria includes: communication, National Weather Service information reception,

hydrometeorological monitoring, local warning dissemination, community preparedness and administrative.

This designation confirms that the Office of Emergency Management is meeting the standards required for warning and notification and is prepared to communicate timely information to the community when needed. There is a system in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week to alert citizens to severe weather situations.

According to information on the StormReady web site, "Americans live in the most severe weather-prone country on Earth. Each year, Americans cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 2,500 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, as well as an average of six deadly hurricanes. Potentially deadly weather impacts every American. StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education, and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives."

Columbia Trust — Share the Light



The Share the Light program allows utility customers to donate to six areas of city programming via their utility bill, either through a one-time donation or by ongoing, monthly contributions. Since the program started three years ago, Columbia residents have generously given over \$46,000.

Residents can sign up to participate in Share the Light online. Visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com, type in GoCVS and scroll down to Share the Light. Donations to the program are tax deductible.



Use Less Stuff

From Thanksgiving Day to New Year's Day, folks would be astounded at the amount of holiday trash created. Mark your calendar for "USE LESS

STUFF DAY" on Thursday, November 18, to remind you and your family of the need to conserve resources and fight waste.

For example, buy rechargeable batteries, wrap the kids gifts in the Sunday comics, put your Christmas lights on a timer, and buy camera film in rolls of 36 instead of 12. Using less stuff will save you energy and money and reduce the trash destined for the landfill! For additional tips or more information about this campaign, call 874-6271 or visit the Public Works Department web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Garth Avenue

The construction of the new Garth Avenue bridge has been completed. The contractor, Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., of Columbia, is now working on storm drainage associated with the contract. The anticipated completion for the entire project is expected to be early November 2004.

Council Action

The Council on Aug. 16:

- Amended Chapter 17 of the City Code as it pertains to hunting in city parks; established an archery deer hunting program. In 2003, the Columbia Police Department had 49 reports of deer/vehicle collisions. This legislation extends limited bow hunting to four city properties (Grindstone Nature Area, the sanitary landfill, the sewer utility property along Perche Creek at Strawn Road and a portion of Twin Lakes Recreation Area) as an initial step to address the urban deer situation in Columbia.
- Accepted and appropriated funds for the purchase of fire prevention education equipment. Three donors contributed \$9,900 for the Columbia Fire Department to purchase "Patches & Pumper," a robotic device that will be used in fire prevention education focused on young children.
- Authorized an agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the purchase of influenza vaccines. This contract, which shall not exceed \$7,266, allows the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide limited funding to local health departments for purchase of the influenza/pneumococcal vaccine. The contract period runs from July 1, 2004, until April 30, 2005.

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.

Draft Consolidated Community Development Plan Completed

An initial draft of the City's five year Consolidated Community Development Plan was approved by the Community Development Commission on July 28th and is recommended to the Council for consideration. Topics covered include affordable housing, housing for the homeless and supportive services, public improvements, community facilities, community services, job training and creation, and economic opportunities for lower income persons. The Plan contains a description of the City's needs, goals, objectives, and measurable results for the five-year period beginning in 2005 and ending in 2009.

The Council is expected to review the draft Plan during September and will set a public hearing in October to invite additional public comments on the Plan. A public comment period on the draft Plan will begin in the middle of September and will run until the middle of October. A draft copy of the Plan will be available at the public library, at the offices of the City Department of Planning and Development, or on the City's web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com during the public comment period. The City will not accept public comments on previous versions of the Plan. For additional information, please contact Tom Lata at the Department of Planning and Development at 874-7239 or tglatata@GoColumbiaMo.com.



Community Line

Dial the city of Columbia's Community

Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697),

message 490, to learn about emergency

and bio-terrorism preparedness.

Fire Department Event Encourages Fire Safety on Campus

The third annual FIRE FACTOR event was held in September on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. FIRE FACTOR is dedicated exclusively to raising college students' awareness of fire prevention. Organizers of the event, the Columbia Fire Department, MU Student Life, and Environmental Health and Safety, all hope that students had a great time while learning about fire safety. The event included Columbia College, Stephens College and MU students. Attendance was estimated at more than 2,500 students.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about and actually use a fire extinguisher to control a small fire. Souvenir photographs were taken of students while they rode in the bucket of a Columbia Fire Department Ladder Truck. There was a demonstration of a Thermal Imaging Camera being used to locate people in the dark. Fire safety videos were

shown while others played a fire prevention computer game that was designed by an MU student. At the Fire Challenge booth, for a few minutes some students became firefighters when they donned heavy fire gear, pulled hoses, swung a sledge hammer and dragged a weighted dummy to safety. Pizza and soda were served and commemorative T-shirts and drinking cups were distributed while supplies lasted. All of the activities were fun but the ultimate goal was to teach college students how to remain safe from fire.

For more information on the FIRE FACTOR or future events, contact Lt. Debbie Sorrell of the Columbia Fire Department at 874-7569.

Columbia Values Diversity Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 8th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards.

Please help us celebrate diversity in our community by nominating an individual, family, organization or group for the 8th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. This is a wonderful way to show your appreciation for those who have championed diversity and cultural understanding in our community!

These awards will be presented by Mayor Darwin Hindman at the 12th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on January 13, 2005. These awards provide recognition for those whose efforts in our community exemplify the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by fostering individual dignity, racial equality, understanding, peacemaking, and solving problems through non-violence.

Two awards will be presented:

- One individual/family award, and
- One organization/group award.

The deadline for nominations is December 3. Nomination forms are available by calling the Office of Community Services at 874-7488 (v/tty) or on the web at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoDiversityCelebration) Please call for accommodations related to disability.



PLANT A TREE THIS FALL AND SAVE!

Save up to 30% on your cooling costs by strategically planting trees to protect your home from the sizzling summer sun. You'll want to plant trees and tall shrubs to shade the west facing walls, windows and the southwest corner of the home during summer afternoons.

If you are an *electric* customer of Columbia Water and Light, you can get some advice on energy efficient landscaping and get a FREE shade tree by signing up for the Tree Power Program.

sign up online: www.GoColumbiaMo.com, GoWord "GoTreePower" or call 874-7325

Time to Conserve Columbia!

Fall is the perfect time to work on some energy saving projects around the house. Insulate! Check the attic, outside walls or next to unheated areas, floors above unheated areas, foundation walls. Water and Light recommends R-38 (about 12 inches) in ceilings and R-19 (about 6 inches) in floors over unheated spaces.

- Insulate ducts where they run through cold areas.
- Install storm windows and doors or use plastic sheeting.
- Weatherstrip and caulk! Check for drafts around windows, door frames, foundation cracks, electrical outlets, etc.
- Maintain your heating and cooling system by replacing air filters often and doing regular maintenance.
- Clean dust and lint away from appliances (heating/cooling unit, refrigerators, hot water heaters, etc.) on a regular basis so the motors run more efficiently.

Columbia Water and Light offers FREE energy audits at www.GoColumbiaMo.com Go Word "GoAudit" or call 874-7325.

Save the Date for Your Flu Shot

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department is working to keep residents protected from the flu. During the 2003-04 flu season, more than 600 cases were reported in Boone County. The health department anticipates another high demand for the flu vaccination this season. Flu shots will be administered during an organized 12 hour event. The one-day event is designed to make the vaccination process a convenient, low-cost and time saving experience for the public. The new health department facility offers ample free parking, a central location on the city bus route, and an expanded waiting area.

When and where will the health department give flu shots?

- Thursday, November 4 from 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Sanford-Kimpton building, 1005 W. Worley (new health department location)

How much will it cost?

- Immunizations will be given at no charge to Medicare and Medicaid recipients. A valid Medicare or Medicaid card must be presented at the time of service.
- The fee for all other residents will be \$10 a person.

Will other services be available that day?

- All walk-in services, TB testing, and WIC services will be suspended on November 4.

What vaccinations will be offered?

- Flu shot (6 months +)
- Pneumococcal (pneumonia)

For more information call the Columbia/Boone County Health Department Division of Nursing and Social Services at 874-7356.



Storm Drains and Household Hazardous Waste

Not sure how to dispose of that old paint, used cooking oil, or all those autumn leaves? Don't even think of pouring them in the gutter! They will

be washed down the street into a storm drain leading directly into the nearest stream. It is a violation of Missouri law "to cause pollution to any waters of the state."

To safely dispose of the old paint, pesticides, and other household hazardous waste products you may have taking up space at home, why not take them to the Columbia Household Hazardous Waste Facility open this season through November 20th. This collection facility located at 1313 Lakeview Avenue is open the first and third Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April through November. Visit our web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoHouseholdHazWaste) to view the many new items now accepted at the HHW Collection facility such as batteries, cell phones, PDAs, to name a few. The great news is, leaves and yard waste clippings can be taken to drop-off sites at the Parkside Drive and Capen Park mulch sites. If you have additional questions, call 874-6291.



(Above) MU students Joanna Shrewsbury and David Cook mulch a median bed in Broadfield Road as part of "Step Forward Day."

(Above right) Bill Crum, a volunteer with the Columbia Public Works Department, is honored as November Volunteer of the Month.

(Right) Ernie & Norma Falloon and Loretta Wilkinson celebrate the first anniversary of the Columbia Hospitality Corps. These three combined for nearly 700 hours of volunteer service to the program in its first year.



Let's Volunteer, Columbia!

Volunteer for a City Board or Commission

The City of Columbia's Boards and Commissions rely on voluntary service by citizens of Columbia. Each Board and Commission has specific prerequisites for membership.

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. The web site also contains a listing of all Boards and Commissions and current members.

November Volunteer of the Month

by Debra Hardin

Bill Crum, a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Aide, has been a city Public Works volunteer since 1996. Crum greets and answers questions for citizens about hazardous waste and recycling when they participate in the HHW days held on eight Saturdays annually.

Crum retired in 1996 after working for 34.5 years with the City of Columbia. Though he is involved with other volunteer organizations he finds time to help keep our city a safe and healthful place in which to live because he believes protecting the environment is important.

Crum has never met a stranger, as they say, but rather friends he has not yet met. "I like to talk to and interact with people," says Crum, who also officiated regional high school basketball for 32 years, "I'm a people person."

Visit the city website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com for the next Household Hazardous Waste day and other volunteer opportunities. When you bring your HHW, stop and get to know Public Works' friendly volunteer greeter, Bill Crum. He'll have you coming back again and again!

100 years
WATER & LIGHT
CITY OF COLUMBIA

Columbia Water & Light began November 1987 as operators of the newly acquired short line railroad. The Norfolk & Western railroad had no longer been able to operate the rail line from Centralia at a profit and had filed to abandon the line. With no private operators coming forward, the City of Columbia bought the rail line in order to ensure rail service for Columbia industries and bring in cost-effective, low-sulfur coal for the power plant.

1904-2004

Festival
Thank
You

Heritage Festival

The 27th Annual Heritage Festival, coordinated by Columbia's Parks & Recreation Department, was held September 18-19 at the historic Nifong Park. Parks & Recreation wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the following for their support: Columbia Daily Tribune;

Walter's Boone County Historical Society & Museum and staff; Mid-Missouri Organization of Storytellers; Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Development Fund; the individuals participating in the 1859 town, the Lewis & Clark camp, and the cowboy camp; the Metro Rotary Club; and the many artisans, vendors, volunteers, and others who make the festival possible. We look forward to the 28th year!

Columbia Festival of the Arts

September 25-26 marked the 13th annual Columbia Festival of the Arts, the signature event of the city's Office of Cultural Affairs. The event could not take place without the hard work of many volunteers and the generosity of many sponsors. Thanks to all, especially: Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Boone County National Bank, the Callaway Bank, CenturyTel, Columbia Daily Tribune, Commerce Bank, Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dave Griggs' Flooring America, Days Inn and Travelodge, Deck the Walls, First National Bank, Heartland Arts Fund, KBIA 91.3, KOMU-TV8 and the WB5, McDonald's, MFA Oil, Mid-America Arts Alliance, the Missouri Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

A Cultural Plan for the Future

The city's cultural plan, called *Creative Columbia*, was developed in 1993 to guide the newly established Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) in implementing programs and services.

In 2005, the OCA will finalize a revision of *Creative Columbia* in an effort to keep the plan current and connected to community needs. Public input is essential to the process. Provide your take on Columbia's art and culture by completing one or more of the surveys at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArts).

For more information or a hard copy of the survey(s) contact the OCA: 874-6386 (TTY 874-7488), oca@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Register online! www.GoColumbiaMo.com
(GoWord: GoRecreationRegistration)
or call 874-7460

November

- 5 **Family Swim**, Hickman Pool, 6:30-9:30 p.m., 1 year and under: Free, 2-15 years: \$2, 16-adult: \$3.25
- 6 **Boy Scout/Girl Scout Swim Day**, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., call 974-7460 to register
- 13 **"Fowl Shooting" Contest**, throw free throws for a turkey! Armory Sports & Recreation Center, 1-3 p.m., all ages
- 13 **Family Swim**, Hickman Pool, 2-5 p.m., 1 year and under: Free, 2-15 years: \$2, 16-adult: \$3.25
- 19 **50+ November Dance**, Parkade Center east side, 601 Business Loop 70 W, 7-10 p.m., \$3
- 25 **ARC Closed**

Twilight Fees at Lake of the Woods and L.A. Nickell Golf Courses through March 31.

After 2 p.m.:

Monday-Thursday, \$11
Friday-Sunday, \$14

Holiday Schedule

City offices will be closed Thursday, November 25, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Residential refuse and blue bag collection will be delayed for the remainder of the week. Also, the landfill will be closed. City buses will not operate and parking meters will not be enforced.

Normal City operations will resume the day after Thanksgiving.