

CITYSOURCE

Your source for city news and information

Local program salutes the people who help keep our roads safe

CHEERS TO THE DESIGNATED DRIVER

Columbia is responsible for the sixth most alcohol-related accidents in the state. The Columbia Police Department, Columbia Fire Department and the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control continue to push enforcement and educational efforts within the bar community in Columbia. These public safety agencies thank Project CHEERS and local bar owners for encouraging everyone to select a sober driver.

Designated drivers receive free soft drinks all night at participating bars and restaurants in Columbia as part of a statewide program to promote alcohol responsibility. All you have to do is ask. It's an incredible program many people do not know about, says Project CHEERS State Coordinator Breck Gamel. We've seen some dramatic decreases in drunk driving because of this program.

Project CHEERS has been linked to significant drops in drunken driving rates in Jefferson City and on the MU campus. Gamel would like to see this happen in Columbia as well. More than 50 local bars and restaurants participate in the program by providing free non-alcoholic drinks to any designated drivers at any part of the day. In return, Project CHEERS provides promotional items to thank participating establishments for their loyalty to the program.

Project CHEERS, has been sponsored by MU's Wellness Resource Center for the last 18 years with funding support from the MoDOT's Highway Safety Division.

For a list of participating Project CHEERS establishments and program information, visit their website at: <http://web.missouri.edu/~wrcwww/Cheers.htm>

Help Project CHEERS work in Columbia! Drink responsibly and choose a designated driver.

2006 Social Service Funding Proposal Forms Available

The Community Services Advisory Commission is requesting funding proposals for social services to be provided in Columbia and Boone County during calendar year 2006. Areas of funding emphasis include:

- Basic Needs And Emergency Services
- Youth Education And Employment Services
- Counseling And Rehabilitation Services
- Elderly And Disabled Services

An informational meeting will be held on February 2 at 3:30 p.m. in the Boone County Commission Chambers, 801 E. Walnut. The submission deadline is April 1. Proposal forms are available through the Office of Community Services, 874-7488 (v/tty) or on the Web at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoSocialServices).



Columbia Trust Private Giving Promotes Fire Safety & Education

The Columbia Fire Department has added fire safety and educational tools in the last few months, thanks to the generosity of businesses and individuals.

Last fall, the department purchased "Patches & Pumper," a robotic Dalmation and fire truck, to communicate fire safety information to young children. Patches & Pumper were purchased from donations by Sutphen Corporation (maker of fire apparatus), Missouri Employer's Mutual Insurance, and an anonymous donor through the New Century Fund.

The department will soon acquire a "Hazard House" to teach children about household safety risks. The house is made possible by the Stadium Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and the Share the Light program.

To find out more about ways to support the Columbia Fire Department, call the Columbia Trust at 874-7504.

Council Action

The Council on Nov. 1:

Amended Chapter 12A of the City Code to add a new article on detection and elimination of illicit storm water discharges. The ordinance is written in accordance with guidelines by the Environmental Protection Agency and is a requirement of the city's permit with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. It specifically defines permissible and impermissible discharges to the separate municipal storm sewer system and sets out certain building entry provisions for the director of Public Works to allow investigations of suspected illicit connections.

Accepted a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency—Department of Homeland Security to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus (air packs) for the Fire Department. The \$95,508 grant will help replace 40 non-compliant air packs.

The Council on Nov. 15:

Approved the Boys and Girls Town of Missouri O-P Development Plan. The property is located along the east side of Bearfield Road, south of Nifong Boulevard, and contains approximately 5.53 acres. The occupants would be at-risk kids ages 14–16.

Confirmed the contract, in the amount of \$4,789,783.41, with Emery Sapp & Sons Inc. for construction of improvements on East Broadway. Payment for this project will be made from funds to be received from the Missouri Department of Transportation pursuant to a roadway relinquishment agreement, Surface Transportation Program Enhancement funds and Capital Improvement funds.

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.



CITY SOURCE is published by the City of Columbia as a public service to the residents of Columbia, Missouri. The City of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, handicap, familial status, or sexual orientation.

City of Columbia
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 874-7111
www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Printed on recycled paper

Mayor Darwin Hindman

City Council Members:
First Ward Almeta Crayton

Second Ward Chris Janku

Third Ward Bob Hutton

Fourth Ward Jim Loveless

Fifth Ward John John

Sixth Ward Brian Ash

City Manager Raymond A. Beck

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 information and specific requirements.

- Human Rights Commission (3 vacancies)

The Human Rights Commission formulates and carries out educational programs designed to minimize or eliminate discriminatory practices, receives and investigates complaints alleging any discriminatory practices, mediates to resolve incidences of alleged discriminatory practices, endeavors to eliminate discriminatory practices, cooperates with other organizations to discourage discrimination, encourages fair treatment of all persons, advises the City Council on human rights issues, holds public hearings on the state of human rights and relations, sponsors workshops and programs to improve human relations, and presents informational programs on human rights. Minimum qualifications for the seven-member commission include a demonstrated strong commitment to human rights and a belief in the principles of equal opportunity. Length of terms is three years, with openings occurring in March.

Community Line

By dialing Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 553, you can learn about Christmas tree collection.

On the Web...

By visiting the Public Works Department Web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoPublicWorks), you can view the Public Works Calendar of Events. You'll find dates for free mulch giveaways, compost sales, bag deliveries, holidays, and many other events.

TreeKeepers Class Begins on February 22

The ninth annual TreeKeepers class, sponsored by the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department and the Office of Volunteer Services, begins on Tuesday, February 22. The TreeKeepers program includes six class sessions on all areas of tree care and management. Participants are required to volunteer 36 hours of service on city tree projects.

TreeKeepers classes will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on six consecutive Tuesday evenings at the Parks Management Center, 1507 Business Loop 70 West. Instructors include staff with the Missouri Department of Conservation and City of Columbia and faculty from the University of Missouri.

The TreeKeepers program started in 1997 to allow the public an opportunity for hands-on involvement in local tree projects. Since then, over 150 people have participated in the program sharing nearly 6,000 hours of service with the city.

To learn more about TreeKeepers, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or visit us online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

The Public Works Department sends a special "Thank You" to the many volunteers who work together to improve our environment. Your efforts in recycling, composting, classroom presentations, festival activities, waste reduction and environmental clean up programs have enhanced our community. Whether you work a few hours a month or more, we truly appreciate you! If you haven't joined the Public Works Volunteer Team, please call 874-6271 for information. We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities, and you can choose the one that's best for you! To learn more, visit our Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoPublicWorks).



TreeKeeper volunteers Eric LaPointe and Lindsey Moppin plant a seedling at the city's tree nursery near Cosmo Park in April 2004. TreeKeepers assist the city forester on a number of tree projects in Columbia's parks and along our trails and streets.

Try Budget Billing!

Want to avoid seasonally high utility bills? Sign up for the City of Columbia's budget billing program and you can make the same payment every month! All you need to join the program is to have lived at your current residence for longer than 12 months. We'll use your billing history to calculate the average so we can figure your monthly payment. Every March, we'll review your account to see if you have overpaid or underpaid and make adjustments accordingly.

Utility Customer Service will be signing customers up for budget billing in March. You will receive your first budget bill in April. If you are interested in trying budget billing, either call or send the Utility Customer Service office an e-mail.

City of Columbia Utility Customer Service
874-7380
725 E. Broadway (northwest corner of 8th Street and Broadway)
E-Mail: UCS@GoColumbiaMo.com
Web Site: www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Let's Talk, Columbia! 2005

Annual Community Dialogue on Diversity,
Race Relations and Community
February 26 & 27



Start the New Year off right with a resolution to join in an engaging conversation about diversity in our community. LET'S TALK, COLUMBIA! is a thought-provoking program that brings together citizens from diverse backgrounds for straight talk and community conversation that are often at the heart of many community concerns.

LET'S TALK, COLUMBIA! provides a safe opportunity for everyone to share personal experiences and perspectives through a series of facilitated dialogue sessions. In the process, participants engage in exploring their assumptions and beliefs about diversity, race and community. Trained volunteer facilitators guide the discussion using a discussion guide and video entitled, "Toward a More Perfect Union in an Age of Diversity."

The program will be held on the weekend of February 26 & 27 and is free and open to all adults and mature teens. Interested participants should contact Nanette C.M. Ward, program coordinator, at 874-7488 (v/tty) or by e-mail at: HRC@GoColumbiaMo.com for more information. The registration deadline is February 1.

For more information or to register on-line, go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoStudyCircles).

Interested but not sure? Find out more at:

What IS a Study Circle?—A Taste of Let's Talk, Columbia! 2005

Thursday, January 27, 2005

6–8:45 p.m.

Columbia Public Library Friends Room

City Arts Funding

Each year the city supports local arts programming. In fiscal year 2005, more than \$76,000 was awarded to local arts agencies. Eligible projects must focus on presentation of visual, performing and literary arts and related educational offerings. To qualify, arts organizations must have 501c3 nonprofit status. To learn more, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs, 874-6386 (874-7488), oca@GoColumbiaMo.com, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArts).



Individuals, groups and organizations working in dance, literary arts, music, theater and visual art are eligible for the city's online Artists' Registry. Check it out at www.OCAregistry.com, or on the city's web site: www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoArts). If you, your group or organization wants to be included, call 874-6386, 7488tty, or e-mail oca@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Columbia Transit

Columbia Transit's Downtown Orbiter connects Columbia College, Boone Hospital, the MU campus, University Hospital, Truman Veterans Hospital and downtown Columbia. Now through June, it's easier than ever to make a connection with the Orbiter.

Ride the Orbiter and receive an "I've made Connections!" button. Then wear it on the third Thursday of the month beginning in February for a free ride on the Orbiter.

Find out how other riders use the Orbiter. Look for stories from Orbiter passengers on our Web site. Riding the Orbiter means no parking hassles and no traffic stress.

Make it easy on yourself. Make a connection!

1: CERT volunteers assist with parking lot logistics.



2: Residents line up early to receive some of the limited flu vaccine available this year.



A shortage of the flu vaccine available for distribution in the United States was announced in early October 2004. The nation's anticipated supply was decreased by nearly half because of a production problem.

In response to the shortage, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defined specific groups of individuals as being at high-risk for death or hospitalization from the flu. The Health Department worked with local and federal entities to assess the high-risk population needs in the Columbia/Boone County area. Locally, flu vaccine was provided for all nursing home residents in Boone County and more than 3,000 doses were administered at clinics held by the Health Department during November and December 2004. Local hospitals and healthcare providers collaborated to assure the available supply would reach as many high risk residents as possible.

The Health Department reminds everyone that simple hygiene techniques such as washing your hands frequently (or using a hand sanitizer), coughing/sneezing into a tissue or your upper arm instead of your hands, and avoiding school and work when you are sick, can help prevent the spread of flu.

Health Department Responds to Flu Vaccine Shortage



3: Public Health Nurse Sarah Hall fills syringes with flu vaccine.

4: Flu shot recipients pay for their vaccination and forms are reviewed to ensure information is correct.



February Volunteer of the Month

by volunteer Amy Coble

This month's volunteer is Roxie Grant, who was nominated by 50+ Ceramics, a local Parks & Recreation program that exists for community members over the age of 50. The program serves as a unique way to socialize with peers and caters to all skill levels, from novice to expert. Classes are offered during the day and evenings.

Mrs. Grant began her volunteer experience with the City of Columbia in 1995 to get out of her home and help others. After a few years of working with crafts at Oak Towers, Roxie was asked to help with the Ceramics Program at Parkade. Although she did not have a lot of experience with ceramics she faced the challenge with a willingness to learn and help others. After seven years, Roxie is often called the "mother" of the program and said, "I enjoy ceramics a lot and love helping other people."

Columbia thanks Roxie Grant for her hard work and dedication. For more information about volunteer opportunities, visit our Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or email volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.



Roxie Grant working on a project.



Youth Recreation Scholarships

Columbia Parks and Recreation offers youth scholarships through the Youth enrichment Services (YES) program. Financial assistance is available for Columbia residents ages 3–17 who meet the income/household criteria established by the USDA's free/reduced lunch program. Financial assistance is available for 50 percent or 75 percent pending on the household. Scholarships can be used for recreation classes and programs, outdoor pool passes and ARC memberships. Call 874-60 for more information. Find application forms at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: Yes).

Columbia Parks & Recreation
CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information or go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com

February

Youth Baseball and Softball registration open until Feb 15 deadline
Registration forms available at the Parks and Recreation office at 1 S. 7th Street

February is Black History Month

1–28 Columbia Black History Exhibit, Armory Sports Center

1 Black History Exhibit, daily through February 28, Armory Sports Center

10 Hip Hop Jamm Session, Douglass High School Gym, 7–9 p.m.

12 Kid's Day Activities, Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, UMC

14 Adult Spring Training League Softball Registration begins until filled

14–18 Summer Softball Advanced Registration for returning teams

14 Swim lessons begin, Hickman Winter Session II (register by Feb 10)

17 African Americans in Film, Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash St., 7 p.m.

18 50+ Sweetheart Dance, Parkade Center east side, 601 Bus Loop 70W, 7–10 p.m., \$3

19 Annual Train Show, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Paquin Tower, 1201 Paquin St., Free

21 Summer Volleyball and Kickball League Registration begins until filled

21–25 Summer Softball Open Registration for new teams

25 Mid-Missouri Poetry Festival, Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, UMC, 7 p.m.

29 Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner, St. Luke United Methodist Church, 3 p.m.