

CITYSOURCE

Your source for city news and information

"Let's Talk, Columbia!" 2005

Human Rights Commission Sponsors Annual Dialogue on Diversity, Race Relations and Community



"It was an incredible opportunity to share feelings about our uniqueness as individuals while finding how many ways we are similar. The openness and honesty displayed by participants was extraordinary. I was amazed that people who started the day as strangers could share so deeply."

—Sarah Perry, Facilitator and Prior Participant

Register now for the 2005 Annual Round of "Let's Talk, Columbia!" to be held the weekend of February 25–26, 2005. This thought-provoking program will engage citizens from diverse backgrounds in straight talk on hard issues. Many of these issues are at the heart of community concerns,—personal and national

identity, and current and historical relations among different groups of people.

"Let's Talk, Columbia!" provides a safe setting to share and listen to a variety of personal experiences and perspectives. Through a series of facilitated dialogue sessions, participants

explore their assumptions and deepen their understanding about diversity, race and community. Trained volunteer facilitators stimulate the process using a discussion guide and video entitled, "Toward a More Perfect Union In an Age of Diversity."

The program is free and open to everyone. Appropriate for mature teens and all adults. Interested participants should contact Nanette C.M. Ward, Program Coordinator at (573) 874-7488 (v/tty) or by email at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoStudy Circles).



Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

An Annual Celebration of the Life and Teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Register now for the 12th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration scheduled for January 13, 2005 from 7:00–8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. The Celebration brings people together from throughout our community to share

breakfast followed by a special program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the presentation of the annual "Columbia Values Diversity Awards."

An original theatrical program will be presented entitled, *The Promised Land . . . Harmony in Diversity*. Local artists will perform dance, music, and drama that will fill you with a renewed spirit of the strength we all draw from our diversity.

Register early to ensure your ticket to this inspiring community celebration. The cost is \$12/adult, \$10/child. Scholarships are available upon request.

Registration forms are available by calling 874-7488 (v/tty) or on the web at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com. Please call for more information or accommodations related to disability.

celebrate diversity

Holiday Schedules

New Year's Holiday

- City offices closed Friday, December 31.
- Residential refuse and blue bag collection will be made as normal. Landfill will be open.
- City buses operate until 6 p.m. on Friday, December 31, but will not operate on Saturday, January 1.

Martin Luther King Holiday

- City offices closed Monday, January 17.
- Residential refuse and blue bag collection delayed one day throughout the week.
- City buses will not operate on Monday, January 17

Council Action

The Council on Oct. 4:

- Amended Chapter 27 of the City Code as it relates to the CASH and HELP Programs. The amount of funds available through utility assistance for these programs was increased by 10 percent for fiscal year 2005, which began Oct. 1. The Health Department and Finance Department review available funds each year and make adjustments, if needed. The HELP Program assists families with children, while the CASH Program assists the elderly and disabled.

- Authorized a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (T.R.I.M.) II Grant. The \$9,982 grant will fund the planting of 82 trees at Stephens Lake Park and the installation of an educational sign. The city's match for the grant will be \$3,790.

The Council on Oct. 18:

- Established Sanitary Sewer District No. 148 along South Garth Avenue. The sewer district boundary encompasses 20 parcels on the east side of Garth Avenue, north of Stewart Road and south of Broadway. The construction cost estimate for this project is \$92,000.

- Authorized an agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for maternal child health care services. The funding, in the amount of \$56,898, enables the Columbia/Boone County Health Department to provide community-based maternal-child health services to citizens of Boone County.

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.

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 depending on the household. 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).

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.

City Arts Funding

Each year the city supports local arts programming. Funded projects focus on presentation of visual, performing and literary arts and related educational offerings. To qualify, arts organizations must have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. To learn more, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs, 874-6386 (TTY 874-7488), oca@GoColumbiaMo.com, or log onto www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArtsFunding).

Memorial Restoration Underway

Significant progress has been made in the restoration of Columbia's *Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial*. A test section of replacement materials has been installed which includes new clay tiles created by artist Barbara Grygutis. A new drainage system was added as well and will redirect water from the site. The test area will be observed for a year of seasons to determine that the new tiles and reconfigured mortar and grout systems are successful in the outdoor setting. Repairs are being coordinated by Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc. of California, Mo., whose expertise is caring for outdoor art. The project will take some time, in order to allow for observation and study of replacement material. Meanwhile, the Parks and Recreation Department is planning additional improvements to the site, including a shelter area and interpretive signage, as part of a Save America's Treasures federal grant. For more information, visit www.NewCenturyFund.org, or contact the city's Office of Cultural Affairs, 874-7512 (TTY 874-7488), oca@GoColumbiaMo.com.



The Wild Ones, and Julie Barry, help plant and maintain the Capen Park compost demonstration site.

January Volunteers of the Month

by volunteer Amy Coble

This month's dedicated volunteers are The Wild Ones (Mid-MO Chapter), a local native plant garden club; and Julie Barry, a Columbia resident.

In addition to the many other volunteer projects these volunteers perform in the community, they are being honored for their work at the Public Works compost demonstration site. Their work at the site involves planting and maintaining the garden beds and other areas around the compost bins.

The Mid-MO Wild Ones' mission is to educate the community about biodiversity and environmentally sound practices. Current president, Lesa Beamer, said, "Working at the compost site is a great project, a combination of demonstrative landscaping and composting."

Barry, an individual volunteer, has been helping at the site for 2.5 years. She spends time there at least once a week in the summer and more in the fall. When asked how she likes her current volunteering experience, she emphatically says "I love it!"

Columbia thanks The Wild Ones and Julie for their hard work and dedication.

For more information about volunteer opportunities visit our web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or email volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

COLUMBIA



Columbia Trust

The Columbia Trust is a charitable donation program sponsored by the City of Columbia to elevate the quality of life in our community. By giving to the Columbia Trust, citizens can help ensure Columbia will remain "the quality city" it is into the future.

The City of Columbia welcomes donations of real estate, life insurance, cash, securities or planned gifts. Gifts to the Columbia Trust can be unrestricted, given for a specific project as determined by the donor, as a memorial gift, or anonymously.

Your gift could be used to improve a park, purchase equipment for our Police and Fire Departments, or beautify an intersection. There are many ways to help improve our city.

For more information on the Columbia Trust, call 874-7504.

Conserve Columbia!

Columbia Water and Light encourages you to conserve resources and save money this winter.

During Cold Weather

Open window shades that receive direct sunlight during the day, close shades at night.

Set the thermostat at 68 degrees and lower the setting a few degrees at night, or when home is unoccupied.

Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets.

Keep fireplace chimney dampers closed when not using the fireplace.

Don't block radiators and vents (including cold air returns) with furniture, drapes or rugs.

Wrap your water heater that is located in an unheated area with an insulation jacket.

Maintain Electrical Equipment

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, water heaters, etc.) on a regular basis so the motors run more efficiently.

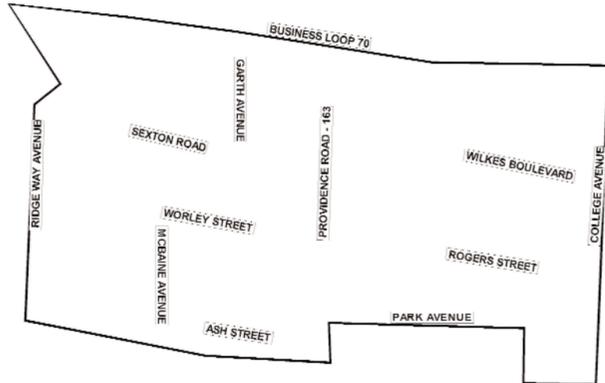
Seal Up Your Home

Insulate! Check the attic, outside walls or next to unheated areas, floors above unheated areas, foundation walls.

Install storm windows and doors or use plastic sheeting.

Weatherstrip and caulk! Check for drafts around windows, door frames, foundation cracks, electrical outlets, etc.

Still have questions?
Call today for a FREE Energy Audit
874-7325
www.GoColumbiaMo.Com (GoWord "GoAudit")



NRT Survey Area 2004

NRT Completes 2004 Survey

The Neighborhood Response Team has completed another round of property inspections in Columbia's older neighborhoods. Only those violations observed from the public right-of-way, such as weeds, peeling paint, unlicensed vehicles, etc. were noted. As in the past, homeowners were contacted and offered city assistance, and rental properties received a courtesy letter listing observed deficiencies that were entered into the rental compliance system. With the exception of severely deteriorated housing, property owners were not cited with violations under the City's property maintenance code. NRT assessed 1769 properties in central and northeast City neighborhoods, with 85% of housing found to be in compliance with city codes. The remaining 15% of housing (approximately 265 structures) received at least one notice of violation, though the majority of these violations were minor and many of the property owners are working on repairing the cited deficiencies.

Current plans are to survey the entire NRT area on an annual basis, with continued focus on working with property owners on voluntary compliance with property maintenance code issues. For more information, please contact Bill Cantin, Neighborhood Specialist, at 874-7248 or bpccantin@gocolumbiamo.com.

Did You Know?

Community Line

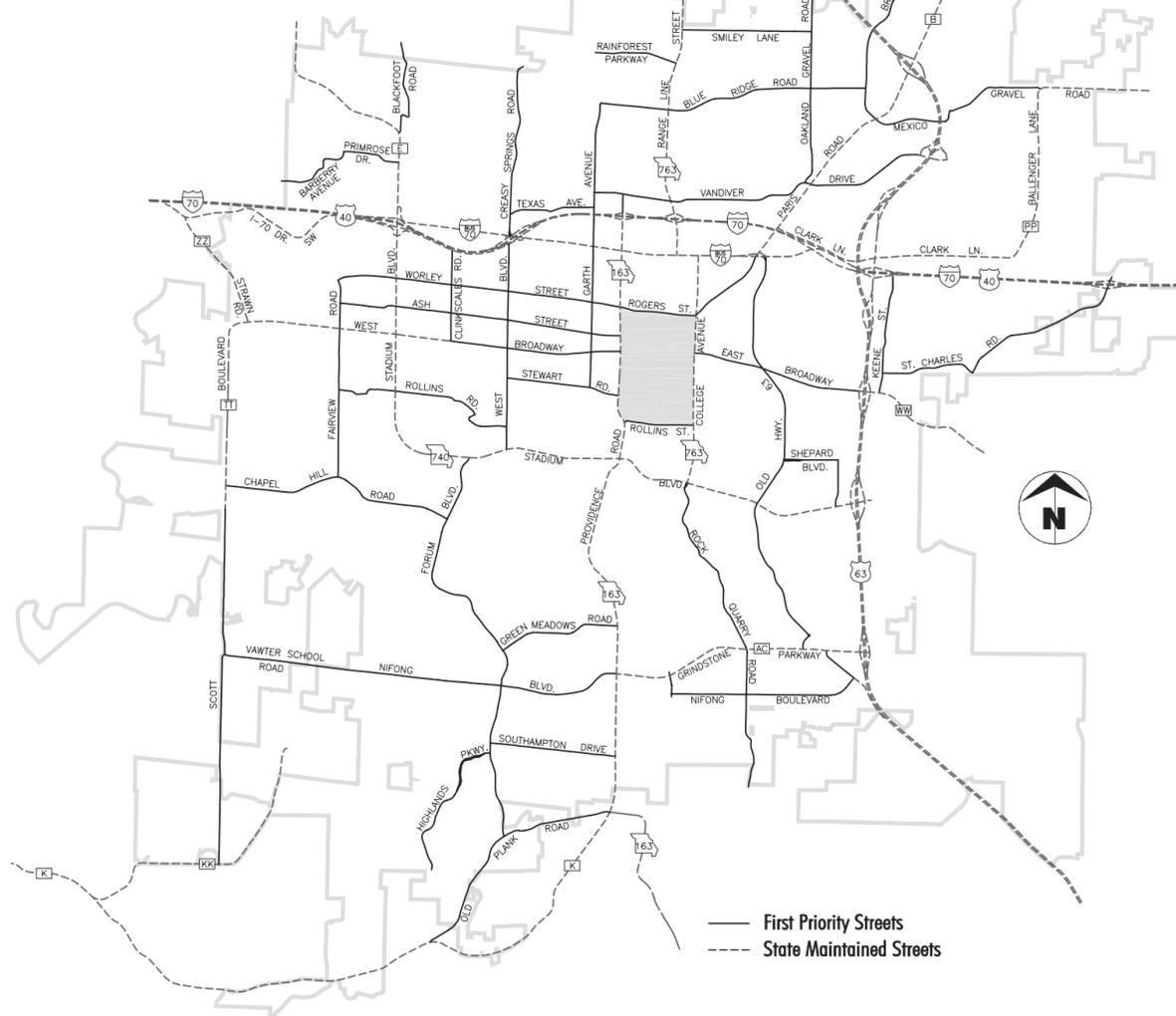
By dialing the city of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 176, you can learn about employment opportunities with the city.

On the Web

Did you know that you can register for Parks & Recreation classes online? Go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com, enter the GoWord: GoRecreationRegistration and follow the step-by-step instructions. Registration has never been easier!

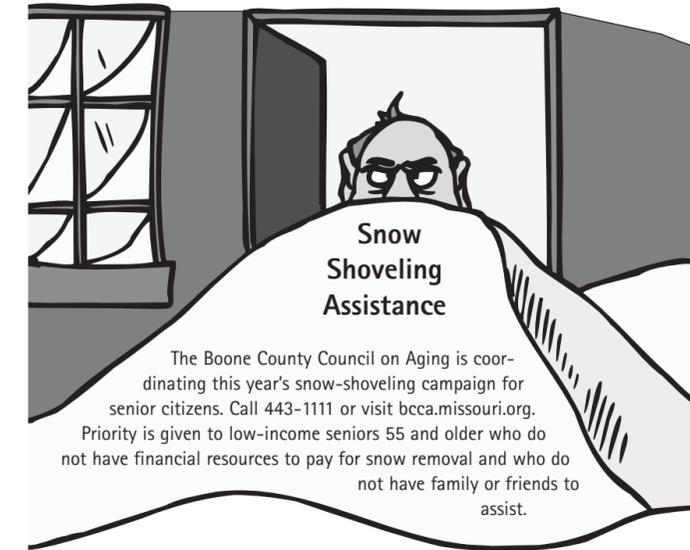
City of Columbia Snow Removal Priorities

Street Division: 874-6289 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
 Please leave a voice mail message detailing the situation, your name, address and telephone number when calling after hours in a non-emergency situation or when phone lines are busy. Your call will be returned. After Hours Emergency: 442-6131. www.GoColumbiaMo.com



City of Columbia, Missouri
 Department of Public Works

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI SNOW ROUTE MAP



The Boone County Council on Aging is coordinating this year's snow-shoveling campaign for senior citizens. Call 443-1111 or visit bcca.missouri.org. Priority is given to low-income seniors 55 and older who do not have financial resources to pay for snow removal and who do not have family or friends to assist.

Don't miss it!



First Night Columbia 2004 New Year's Eve Celebration

Ring in the New Year at the tenth anniversary of First Night. Music, Dance, Storytelling, Theatre, Art, Fireworks, Children's Activities, 5K Run/Walk. Over 60 performances at 12 locations in Downtown Columbia. Fun for the entire family—even a special venue for teens!

Doors open at 6 pm, children's procession at 9:15 pm, fireworks at midnight.

Admission buttons on sale beginning December 17 at Parks and Recreation, Streetside Records, and Gerbes Supermarkets, \$7 admission, ages 6 and under free. For information or to volunteer call 874-7460 or visit first-night.missouri.org. Volunteers receive free admission.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Winter Registration
 Sign up for swimming lessons, classes, sports programs, trips for those 50 years and better, and more. The winter issue of the Leisure Times activity guide is available at the Parks and Recreation office, 1 South 7th St. or online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoLeisureTimes). Call 874-7460 for more information.

January

- Youth Baseball and Softball registration open until Feb 15 deadline**
- 3 Private tournament reservation at either golf course begins**
- 4 C.A.R.E. applications available** at local schools and the C.A.R.E Office
- 10-14 Winter Volleyball Advanced Registration** for returning teams
- 10 Swim lessons begin, Hickman Winter Session I** (register by Jan 7)
- 15 Swim lessons begin, ARC Winter Session I** (register by Jan 13)
- 17 "School's Out" One-Day Camp**, 8 am-5 pm, ARC, registration required
- 17 Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance & Candle Light March** (Begins at Douglass Gym 6:30 pm, St. Paul AME—Host church, 7 pm)
- 17-21 Winter Volleyball Open Registration** for new teams
- 18 C.A.R.E. interviews begin**
- 21 50+ Snowflake Dance**, Parkade Center east side, 601 Bus Loop 70W, 7-10 pm, \$3

Student Semester Passes on Sale for Columbia Transit

Students: Forty-five dollars buys you a full semester's transportation on Columbia Transit buses. Student Semester Passes go on sale in January and are good through the end of the semester in May. Call 874-7282 for details or visit our Web site: www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoBus).