

Watkins Assumes City Manager Position



above: Bill Watkins speaks at a press conference during which Mayor Darwin Hindman announced his appointment as City Manager.

Bill Watkins will assume duties as the City of Columbia's 11th City Manager, replacing Ray Beck, whose last day as City Manager is January 6. Beck will retire February 1. Watkins' appointment is effective January 7, 2006.

Watkins served as Assistant City Manager from December 1995. Prior to his appointment as Assistant City Manager, he served in the dual position of Director of Economic Development for the City of Columbia and as Executive Vice President of Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), from July 1988–December 1995. From October 1985 to July 1988, Watkins served as Vice President, Economic Development Division, Springfield, Ohio, Chamber of Commerce. He served as City Manager of Wood River, Illinois, from October 1984–July 1985 and as City Manager of Newton Falls, Ohio, from April 1977–October 1984.

Watkins earned a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Missouri–Columbia in 1976 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Studies from the University of Missouri–Columbia in 1974. Watkins is married to Kathy and they have four children.

2007 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 2007. 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 8 at 3:30 p.m. in the Boone County Commission Chambers, 801 E. Walnut. The submission deadline is April 7, 2006. 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)

Citizens Academy

To read about the spring session of the Citizens Academy held by the Columbia Police Department's Community Services Unit go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com/police. The session begins in March and you can apply online. The Citizens Academy gives the participants a look into what it is like to become a police officer. For information or questions, contact Sgt. John White at 874-7606 or Officer Jesse Pitman at 874-7448.

Council Action

The Council on Nov. 7:

- Authorized an agreement with the Columbia School District for a playground improvement project at Shepard Elementary School. Since 1998, the City Council has authorized spending city funds for outdoor playground equipment located on public school grounds. The policy requires the school district to make the outdoor facilities available for public use when not being used for school activities. The \$15,000 in city funds will be matched with funds from the school district, PTA and private donations.
- Authorized an agreement with the Central Missouri Humane Society for animal control services. The city contracts annually with the Humane Society for office space, utilities, daytime reception and dispatch, kennel facilities and veterinary medical services. The 2006 contract amount is \$86,166.

The Council on Nov. 21:

- Authorized construction of a water main along Brown Station Road to Route B. This work includes installation of approximately 800 feet of 16-inch PVC water main, which will complete the loop from existing dead-end 8-inch main on Brown Station Road to the existing 16-inch main on Route B. Estimated cost is \$98,700. The work will improve reliability of service, enhance fire protection and domestic service, and provide for future growth within the area.
- Appropriated SEMA grant funds in the amount of \$5,239 for the purchase of electronic gate card readers at Columbia Regional Airport. This system is part of the Fiscal Year 2003 Missouri State Homeland Security Grant Program Part II.

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.

Snow Tagging

When snow and ice fall, the number of vehicle crashes or vehicles sliding off the roadway increases. Emergency resources such as fire, police, sheriff, and EMS are stretched thin.

Emergency responders often respond to the same event numerous times until the vehicles are removed.

To alleviate this problem, emergency responders in Columbia and Boone County will mark vehicles involved in crashes with yellow crime scene or fire scene tape. The tape will be affixed to the antenna or other conspicuous place.

When reporting vehicles off the road or on the shoulder, first look for the yellow tape prior to calling. If the yellow tape is present, no further action from emergency responders is needed. If in doubt or you do not see the tape please call 9-1-1 to report the vehicle.

If reporting a crash or vehicle off the roadway, be prepared to provide details to assist the emergency operator.

Your assistance will ensure that emergency providers respond to valid emergency calls, easing the workload. This provides efficient emergency response to true emergencies during a time of heavy call volume.

On the Web

By visiting the Public Communications page on the city's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com, you can view the city's press releases.

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.

Important Road Projects Dedicated



During December, the City of Columbia dedicated two road projects.

Green Meadows Road extension project—December 2

This project included construction of approximately 3,600 feet of new pavement to extend Green Meadows from Providence to Grindstone. The pavement is 43-feet wide with a center turn lane and landscaped islands. There also is a five-foot sidewalk and eight-foot pedway.

The contractor is Steve & Associates, Inc., of Fulton. The bid amount was \$1,478,758. Funds came from the MoDOT Surface Transportation Program, Grindstone Plaza Transportation Development District and County Road Tax Rebate Funds.

Blue Ridge Road—December 5

The Blue Ridge Road project, between Dove Drive and Range Line Street (State Route 763), was opened and dedicated on December 5.

J. C. Industries Inc. of Jefferson City, Mo., was the successful bidder on the project in the amount of \$1,197,182.55. Design engineering was provided by Engineering Surveys & Services Inc.

The project consisted of the construction of 41-foot-wide asphaltic cement concrete pavement with concrete curb and gutters, storm drainage piping, an 8-foot-wide pedway, a 5-foot-wide sidewalk, landscape center islands and other incidental work.

Funding for the project is by MoDOT Surface Transportation Program Funds (\$877,600), County Road Tax Rebate Funds (\$171,400) and adjacent property owners (\$48,000).

While the roadway is open to public traffic, work still continues to complete the project.

above: Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held in December to dedicate the completion of recent road projects in Columbia.



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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 Laura Nauser

Sixth Ward Brian Ash

City Manager Raymond A. Beck

Events Planned to Commemorate **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Hip-Hop & Freestyle Night: This family friendly event will be held at Douglass High School Gym from 7-9 p.m. on February 9. A DJ will be provided, as well as an open microphone, to allow the public to show off their freestyle skills!

African-Americans in Films: A movie will be shown at 7 p.m. on February 16 at the Armory Sports Center, followed by a discussion. Watch for more details on www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner – Musical Celebration: Come early to get a seat and enjoy numerous gospel acts and a traditional African-American meal. Activities will start at 3 p.m. on February 26 at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 204 E. Ash.

Columbia Parks and Recreation is planning a series of events to honor Black History Month in February. All activities are free to the public. For more information, call 874-7460:

Columbia Black History Exhibit: The exhibit will be open at the Armory Sports Center (701 E. Ash) from February 1-28. It will feature Columbia's African-American history from 1865 to the present, including people, events and the history of the Douglass School. Visitors can drop by to see the exhibit between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

874-7111 City Hall Switchboard
 874-7650 Community Line
 874-7697 TTY Users
 Pre-Recorded Information 24 Hours / Day
 874-7282 Bus System & Information
 874-7325 Energy Conservation
 874-7460 Parks And Recreation
 874-7663 Recreation Hotline/Cancellations

911 Police Emergency
 874-7652 Officer Voice Mail & General Information
 442-6131 Non Emergency
 442-6132
 874-7405 Columbia Police Programs/Crime Prevention
 874-7525 East District Commander
 874-7523 West District Commander

874-7229 Prosecutor—City
 874-6291 Recycling Information
 874-6291 Roll-Off Service
 874-7663 Recreation Hot Line
 874-6291 Solid Waste Collection
 874-6289 Street Maintenance
 874-6292 Street Sign Maintenance
 874-7230 Traffic & Parking Violations

Utilities
 874-7380 Account Information
 874-7380 Water & Light Turn On & Off
 445-9426 Sanitary Sewer Emergencies—24 Hours
 874-6289 Storm Sewer Maintenance
 875-2555 Power Emergencies—24 Hours
 875-2555 Water Emergencies—24 Hours

874-7499 Volunteer Services
 874-7339 Weeds & Health Complaints Hotline



February Volunteer of the Month By Isaac Larson

If you've spent time on Columbia's extensive trail system, then you have probably seen

David Kubiak. To date, David has logged more than 450 hours on the trails as a Park Patroller.

Park Patrollers are trained volunteers who assist with ensuring the safety of trail users. Clad in brightly-colored uniforms and equipped with cellular phones, Park Patrollers help deter crime by providing a visible presence on the trail. They also report potential safety hazards (such as washed out trail sections and damaged signs) to the Parks and Recreation Department.

David has shown a high level of dedication during his time with the Park Patrol. Earlier this year, he used his training as a Registered Nurse to organize and teach a CPR course for city volunteers.

"I thought the best way to ensure support for the parks would be to help make them safer for everybody," says David. "The Park Patrol is a good way to achieve that end. Our trails are a beautiful testament to the city's commitment to its citizens."

The City of Columbia thanks David for volunteering as a Park Patroller.

For more information on how you can volunteer with the City of Columbia, call us on 874-7499 or e-mail: volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com or visit our Web site at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

City Arts Funding

Each year the city supports local arts programming. In fiscal year 2006 more than \$78,000 has been awarded to local arts agencies. Eligible 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, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArts). Or meet with city staff on January 26, anytime 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., in the board room of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 300 S. Providence.

Short Days Drive Up Lighting Costs

During the winter everyone depends on lighting more, so why not invest in some bulbs that will save you money? Compact fluorescents use up to 75 percent less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Columbia Water and Light customers are urged to switch to compact fluorescent bulbs in their home's five most frequently used light fixtures. In the average home, the most frequently used fixtures are in the living room, kitchen, dining room, the bathroom and outdoor lighting. By making this change, a household can save more than \$60 a year in energy costs. There are many new styles of compact fluorescents to accommodate almost any light fixture in your home. In addition, Compact Fluorescents are now offered in different color temperatures, which mean you can still have the warm glow of an incandescent bulb.



Show-Me Yards

Want to save time and money on yard care?

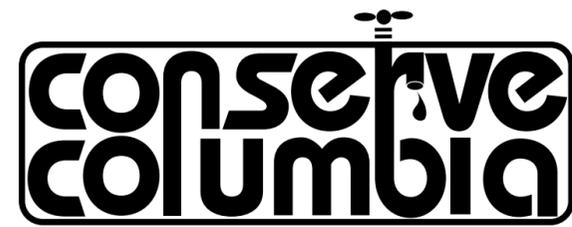
Did you know homeowners use more chemicals per acre on lawns than farmers use on crops?

Want to have both a great lawn and clean streams, plus get answers to your yard-care problems?

Come to the Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods Workshop held at the City's Activity and Recreation Center (ARC), 1701 West Ash, February 15, 22 and March 1, from 7-8:30 p.m. Plan to attend all three meetings and you will learn:

- How a Show-Me Yard saves you money
- The basics of a healthy lawn
- How & why to build a rain garden
- Techniques for the best lawn
- Why consider native plants
- What about commercial lawn care
- Adding nutrients without adding chemicals
- Resisting the urge to spray: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Bugs
- A Saturday field trip to Shelter Gardens highlighting environmentally-friendly changes to Columbia's best-loved garden.

To register call 817-6447 or e-mail mona.menezes@GoColumbiaMo.com. Partners include: The Lawn Company, Atkins Tree and Turf, City of Columbia Public Works, Boone County Public Works, University of Missouri-Extension, Hinkson Creek Restoration Project, Mid-America Green Industry Council, Creative Surroundings.



A powerful community resource.

You CAN Lower Your Utility Bills

Insulate!

Weatherstrip!

Caulk!

Change your furnace filter often!



Columbia Trust

Sam's Club has provided a \$3,000 donation for the Community Recreation within the Parks & Recreation Department to purchase uniforms for the Blue Thunder Track Program.

The Blue Thunder Track Program is organized by Community Recreation for low-income and at-risk boys and girls ages 3-14 years. Practice is held once or twice a week in the spring and summer months at the Hickman High School track.

The City of Columbia New Century Fund, Inc. received the donation from Sam's on behalf of the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department. The new uniforms will be worn by the participants in spring 2006. Thank you, Sam's Club!

Thank You

to the

Public

Works

Volunteers!

Every year since 1994, Public Works volunteers have been working to help Columbia citizens REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE. Why? Because they recognize the importance of a clean and healthy environment to the quality of all our lives and are willing to spend their valuable time in a variety of volunteer capacities in order to ensure Columbia remains the special place it is. Their efforts are more than just picking up litter; teaching composting techniques, assisting at household hazardous waste collection days, or other myriad tasks they take on... their efforts are about building community, sharing, encouraging, and providing an example for all of us to follow. The Public Works Department celebrates their efforts in 2005 and thanks them for the time they spend in bettering all our lives!

Columbia Transit

Columbia Transit keeps city bus passengers up to date with the latest detours, route changes and holiday hours. Visit Columbia Transit Web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoRiderAlert).



Youth Recreation Scholarships

Columbia Parks and Recreation offers youth financial assistance scholarships for Columbia residents through the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program. The program is open to those between 3 and 17 who meet the income/household criteria established by the USDA's free and 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.

For more information, call 874-7460. Application forms can be obtained at www.GoColumbiaMo.com then typing in GoYes at the GoWord prompt.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Register online! www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoRecreationRegistration)
 Call 874-7460 for more information.

February

- 1-28 **Black History Month Exhibit**, Armory Sports Center, Open Weekdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Free
- 9 **Hip-Hop and Freestyle Night**, Douglass High School Gym, 7-9 p.m., Free
- 11 **Boy/Girl Scout Day**, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., \$2.50 per child, pre-register
- 13 **Swim lessons begin**, Session II, Hickman Pool
- 13-17 **Advanced registration for adult summer softball**, returning teams
- 16 **African-Americans in Films**, Armory Sports Center, 7 p.m., Free
- 17 **50+/OAK Sweetheart Dance**, Parkade Center (east side), 7-10 p.m., \$3
- 18 **Train Show**, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Free
- 20 **Registration begins for adult summer volleyball**
- 20 **Registration begins for adult kickball**
- 20-24 **Open registration for adult summer softball**, new teams
- 26 **Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner/Musical Celebration**, St. Luke United Methodist Church, 3 p.m., Free