

Council Action

- The Council on Jan. 2:
- Authorized an agreement with Columbia Public Schools to provide a crosswalk guard at Grant Elementary School. Columbia Public Schools will reimburse the city’s Police Department \$3,500.
 - Authorized an agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the Community Pandemic Preparedness Planning Program. The Department of Health and Senior Services is providing \$43,124 to the city so the Health Department can continue planning and preparedness activities related to pandemic influenza. The contract period is Dec. 1, 2006, through Aug. 31, 2007.

- The Council on Jan. 16:
- Appropriated \$113,033 in grant funds from the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (PedNet Project) to hire temporary employees to assess, plan and coordinate bike lane and bike route striping and marking. Columbia is receiving approximately \$22 million in federal funds over a four-year period for the PedNet Project. The goal of the project, as mandated by federal legislation, is to “develop a network of...transportation facilities, including sidewalks, bicycle lanes and pedestrian bicycle trails” with the purpose of demonstrating how walking and bicycling can replace car trips.
 - Called a municipal election to elect Council member-at-large (mayor) and Council members for Ward 3 and Ward 4. Under the City Charter, a regular election for municipal officials is held every April.

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 Web at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the City Council page.

Cleanup Columbia will be April 14



Gather up your posse! The City of Columbia is having its annual trash roundup - Cleanup Columbia - on Saturday, April 14. Volunteers are invited to pick up trash at locations throughout the city in the morning and are invited to lunch at Twin Lakes Recreation Area.

Participating in Cleanup Columbia is easy and fun. Just get a group together and the city will help you identify a location, provide you with trash bags and send a trash truck to pick up your filled bags. Groups of any size and ages are welcome to participate.

This is the 11th year for the event. From 1997-2006, 10,704 volunteers have participated in Cleanup Columbia giving 19,802 hours to keep our town looking good!

Thanks to the generous sponsors who support the event and make it possible: APAC-Missouri, Inc., CenturyTel, the Sierra Club, KOMU TV 8, the Columbia Daily Tribune and 102.3 BXR. Support for the event comes from Columbia Public Works and the Golden K Kiwanis Club.

The deadline for registering for this year's event is Friday, April 6. To learn more or to get registered, contact the city’s Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499. Participants may also register online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

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.

City arts funding

Local arts organizations with 501c3 status are eligible to receive city funding to support visual, performing and literary arts programming and related educational offerings. Applications must be received by May 4, 5 p.m. For information about eligibility or for an application, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), 573-874-6386, The application form is available on the OCA’s Web page at (GoWord search: GoArtsFunding).

CITYSOURCE

www.GoColumbiaMo.com vol. 12 no. 4 April 2007

Your source for city news and information



Photo by: Lloyd Grotjan, Full Spectrum Photo
Mayor Darwin Hindman and City Manager Bill Watkins accept Columbia's "Creative Community" Award from Governor Matt Blunt and First Lady Melanie Blunt.

Columbia Named Missouri's First “CREATIVE COMMUNITY”

Columbia is the first city in the state to be named a “Creative Community” by the Missouri Arts Council. The award was presented to Mayor Darwin Hindman by Governor Matt Blunt as part of the annual Missouri Arts Awards held at the State Capitol Building Jefferson City on February 7.

Award guidelines state that a recipient is chosen because of “long-lasting and profoundly positive contributions...to promote economic growth by using the arts industry of Missouri” and further define that “growth of tourism” and the “impact on the cultural climate of the local community, region and state” are of primary consideration when selecting a community for the award.

Columbia’s nomination, submitted by the city’s Office of Cultural Affairs and Convention and Visitors Bureau, highlighted the active and diverse offerings of Columbia’s many arts organizations, as well as the city’s leadership in providing funding to local arts agencies and events, adopting a cultural plan and establishing a Percent for Art program.

In addition to the honor of being the first-named Creative Community in the state, street signs announcing the designation were presented to the city. Congratulations, Columbia!

Wabash Station Under Construction


The refurbishment projects at the Wabash Bus Station are well underway by Sircal Contracting, Inc. Sircal began in September 2006 by removing the Orr Street warehouse to turn that site into a parking lot and a permanent bus entrance from Orr Street. While the contractor is laying foundations for the passenger waiting canopy and new building addition, Columbia Transit has taken steps to assure customer safety. Dedicated parking lanes for the buses have been established and a “customer assistance” employee has been hired to assist passengers to their correct bus. The project is expected to be complete this summer.

National Telecommunicators Week (April 8 – 14)

During the second week of April, public safety agencies nationwide recognize and honor the role played by telecommunicators, dispatchers, communications operators – ALL those who use telephones, radios, computers and technical skill to assist citizens in need and provide support to law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services and other governmental field personnel.

Look for the banner in front of Columbia/Boone County Public Safety Joint Communications commemorating this event. Inside the facility, local police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and others will be expressing their appreciation to the valued behind-the-scenes operators who dispatched 256,352 calls in 2006 (encompassing emergency and non-emergency 911 calls, wireline, wireless and VOIP).

Members of the community are encouraged to stop by and meet PSJC’s Operator of the Year (named by a vote of his or her peers) or send a note to the PSJC team and let them know you’re glad they’re at your service.



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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
Barbara Hoppe

City Manager
Bill Watkins

PedNet Making Progress

Plans are well underway for Columbia's PedNet Project: Connecting Columbia, the new Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program funded by the federal government. The goal of the project is to encourage residents to drive less by making significant improvements to the city for easier and safer walking and biking. Ted Curtis, Bike/Ped Program manager for the City of Columbia, has hired temporary staff to assist with this major project. Staff began working with GIS mapping software to identify suggestions and areas of concerns received from citizens. The first step in implementation is to identify areas that are ready for bike lanes to be painted. In January, workers began riding city streets to review each planned bike lane. The project plans to start painting bike lanes as early as this summer. One of the goals is to make it safer for bikers and pedestrians and show the public how cars and bikes can coexist safely by sharing the road. Another objective of the project is to learn what Columbia routes are the most traveled by bicycle and how people choose their route. Citizens are invited to email comments and suggestions to the bike route team at clflaker@gocolumbiamo.com or call 573-874-7250.



Archery is just one of many activities offered at Camp Adventure.

Camp Adventure 2007

The sign-up period for Camp Adventure 2007 is right around the corner! Columbia Parks and Recreation's annual summer day camp will be held in two-week sessions starting in June at the Riechmann Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park.

Any child who has completed kindergarten through seventh grade is welcome to participate and learn more about the world of nature and the great outdoors! Campers will participate in activities such as archery, fishing, canoeing, outdoor games, arts and crafts, swimming, field trips and much more.

Registration for Camp Adventure will begin at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4, at the ARC, Meeting Room A. The cost for Camp Adventure will be \$190 per child per session. These sessions fill quickly so be sure to register early. No phone registrations can be taken for this particular program.

For more information, call 874-7460.

Residential Services Coming in April!

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility reopens April 7. Residents can take their household cleaners, paints, solvents, pesticides and lawn care chemicals to 1313 Lakeview (west of the Municipal Power Plant off the Business Loop). The facility is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays, April through November. A list of items accepted at this facility is available at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Dates for curbside bag deliveries are April 2-6 for yard waste bags, April 9-13 for black trash bags and April 16-20 for blue recycling bags. Watch for your bags on your regular scheduled refuse day.

On April 7 and April 28, visit the Capen Park mulch site for a "Free Mulch Giveaway". An on-site loader will assist you between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., while supplies last.

Plan to attend a spring compost workshop on April 28 at 10 a.m. Learn to compost grass cuttings, weeds and leaves. Workshops are held at the Capen Park Compost Demonstration site and they are free!

Compost is on sale at the city's Compost Facility, 5700 Peabody Road, on Wednesday afternoons, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on these Saturdays, April 14 and April 21, 8 a.m. to noon.

Questions? Call 874-6291 or visit the Web at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoRefuse).

Borrow money to save energy

Columbia Water and Light offers low-interest loans for energy efficient improvements to your home or business. Many upgrades are also eligible for federal tax credits.

- upgrade to a more energy efficient cooling and heating system
- replace a window air conditioner with a central unit
- install a heat pump
- add insulation
- install a solar water heater

Want a free shade tree?

If you are an electric customer you might be eligible for a free 6-10 foot shade tree when you sign up for the Tree Power program. Columbia Water and Light offers this program to help you conserve energy. Well-placed shade trees can save you 30 percent on your electric bill.

There is a limit of one free tree per electric meter.

Sign up for our conservation programs today!
Call, 874-7325.

April Volunteer of the Month

By volunteer Nancy Summers.

Edward Kaiser is an exceptional activist for the environment; this month we acknowledge his outstanding work with the “Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program”.

Kaiser says, "Volunteering for the City of Columbia ranging from service on the City Council down to the smallest task is a pleasurable way to give back and thank the City for all that it does for its citizens. Those of us volunteering in the program urge all people to use less oil and other chemicals in their homes and businesses. The program is held at the workers west of the power plant from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays from April through October. The sign-up line is usually short."

Public Works volunteer program assistant Christine Gardener says, “Ed is a very upbeat person and always ready to share a joke and encourage laughter from someone visiting us with their load of materials. He has never met a person he doesn’t consider a friend. He is a wonderful advocate for the environment.”

We extend our thanks to Ed Kaiser for his generosity and time.

Public Hearings for the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act

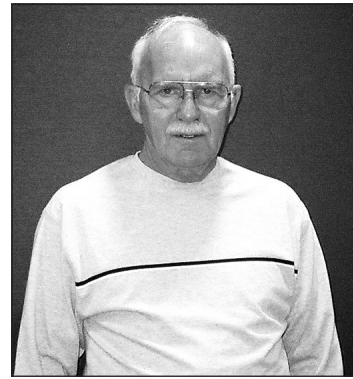
The City of Columbia will hold the following hearings to receive staff recommendations, receive evidence and take public comments as to whether federal rate-making standards for Columbia Water and Light should be adopted or implemented. The following hearings will be held in the City Council Chambers, at 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, Missouri.

- Tuesday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m., City Council Chambers
Fuel Sources pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 2621 (d)(12)
Fossil Fuel Generation Efficiency pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 2621 (d)(13)
 - Tuesday, April 24, at 5:30 p.m., City Council Chambers
Time Based Metering and Communications pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 2621 (d)(14)
- A schedule of the matters to be considered at the hearing will be developed by the presiding officer prior to the commencement of the hearings. During the hearing, city staff will give its report and testimony will be taken concerning the standards.

Persons desiring to make limited appearances for the purpose of presenting oral or written statements may do so at the start of the hearing. Written comments on a topic will be accepted for two weeks after the public hearing. Comments can be mailed to John Conway, Chairman of the Columbia Water and Light Advisory Board, whose address is P.O. Box 6015, Columbia, Missouri, 65205.

Cleaning Columbia's Streets

The Street Division sweeps City of Columbia streets with curb and gutters on a six-week schedule and roadways with bike lanes/bike routes on a three-week schedule. To see when your street will be cleaned, view the schedule and map on our Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search: GoStreetSweeping) or contact the Street Division at 573-874-6289.



ABOVE: April Volunteer of the Month Edward Kaiser.

Festival Artists Needed!

Visual, performing and literary artists are needed for the 16th annual Columbia Festival of the Arts, September 29-30. Information and application forms are available on the Office of Cultural Affairs' (OCA) Web site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord search: GoArtsFestival). Missouri artists interested in submitting art for the Festival's official Commemorative Poster are also being sought. For more information or an application, visit the OCA Web site or contact the OCA: 874-6387, festival@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway will be
April 28

TreeKeeper volunteers will hold their annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway on Saturday, April 28, beginning at 9 a.m. at Bass Pro. Citizens can receive two trees of different species. The event will last until all trees have been distributed.

Tree species included in the giveaway include Redbud, Dogwood, Tulip Poplar, Blackgum, Swamp White Oak, Short Leaf Pine and Loblolly Pine.

Questions about the giveaway and the TreeKeepers program can be directed to the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

April

- Columbia Parks & Recreation**
C A L E N D A R

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

April

 - 3 Swim lessons begin, Session III, Hickman Pool
 - 4 Easter Egg Hunt, Paquin Tower, 9 a.m., call 874-7473 for reservations
 - 5 Tons of Trucks, Rainbow Softball Center at Cosmo Park, 4-7 p.m., Free
 - 7 Swim lessons begin, Session II, ARC
 - 7 Breakfast with Peter Cottontail, ARC, 9:30-10:30 a.m., \$3.50 per person, pre-register
 - 7 Easter EGGstravaganza, Douglass Park, 11 a.m., Free
 - 13 Singles Mixer, Riechmann Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park, 8-11 p.m., \$7
 - 14 Kite Flying Contest, Douglass Park, 12-2 p.m., Free
 - 20 OAK/50+ Spring Dance, Parkade Center (east side), 601 Bus Loop 70W, 7-10 p.m., \$3
 - 22 Earth Day, Peace Park-Downtown Columbia, noon-7 p.m., Free