

Improvements for the Columbia Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The City Council has authorized an ordinance calling for a \$77 million bond election in the City of Columbia to be placed on the April 8 ballot.

Proceeds from the proposed bond election would fund improvements/repairs to the City's wastewater treatment facility and the sanitary sewer collection system. The proposed wastewater treatment facility improvements will address plant reliability, regulatory requirements, rehabilitating the aging treatment facility, implementing process enhancements, improving biosolid processing and reducing odor.

The proposed collection system improvements include private common collector sewer elimination, sewer main and manhole rehabilitation, inflow and infiltration reduction, economic development sewer extensions & 100-acre point sewer extension projects.

For more information about the City's sewer system, visit the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search: GoSanitarySewer).



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 ages 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.

Camp Adventure 2008

Sign up for Parks and Recreation's Camp Adventure! The annual summer day camp for kids will be held in two-week sessions starting in June at the Riechmann Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park.

Campers will learn outdoor living skills and enjoy nature. Activities will include archery, fishing, canoeing, outdoor games, arts and crafts, swimming and field trips.

Any child who has completed kindergarten through seventh grade is welcome to participate. Registration for Camp Adventure will begin at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2, at the ARC, Meeting Room A. The cost for Camp Adventure is \$205 per child per session. These sessions fill quickly so register early. No phone registrations can be taken for this program. For more information, call 874-7460.

Festival artists needed!

Visual, performing and literary artists are needed for the 17th annual Columbia Festival of the Arts, Sept. 27-28. Information and application forms are available on the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search word: arts). 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 City's Web site or contact the Office of Cultural Affairs: 874-6387, festival@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Time to get involved

The City is accepting applications for the following boards and commissions. 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. Application deadline for the following is noon, April 4.

- Board of Adjustment
- Airport Advisory Board
- Planning & Zoning Commission



Did you know?

Registration for spring and summer activities at Parks and Recreation starts April 2! Did you know that you can register for classes online? Visit the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com, click on the "Register for Activities" box at the top of the page, and follow the step-by-step instructions.

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Your source for City news and information



Cleanup Columbia, scheduled for April 12, is one of our City's largest one-day volunteer activities. Picking up litter is a great way to help the environment and make our City look better while working alongside hundreds of other volunteers.

Calling all collectors!

Interested in starting a collection? Here's your chance! Help Cleanup Columbia by starting your own litter collection on Saturday, April 12.

Cleanup Columbia is an annual City-wide trash pick up event. Volunteers will pick up litter throughout Columbia in the morning; lunch will be provided for them at Twin Lakes Recreation Area following the trash pick up.

Cleanup Columbia is organized by the City of Columbia's Office of Volunteer Services and sponsored by APAC-Missouri Division, the Columbia Daily Tribune, KOMU TV 8, Mid-Missouri's CW, 102.3 BXR, CenturyTel, The Sierra Club and Wal-Mart. The Golden K Kiwanis Club and Columbia Public Works provide special assistance with the event.

The deadline to register for Cleanup Columbia is April 4. To learn more, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7499.



Columbians value active lifestyle



Do Columbians value a healthy, active lifestyle? A recent survey says yes.

Conducted by Philips & Associates Inc., of St. Louis, the survey indicated more than 45 percent of Columbians think it's important to find ways to incorporate alternate modes of transportation—travel other than in cars—into their lives. Whether it's by bike or by foot, Columbians have shown they understand the benefits a program like GetAbout Columbia can bring to our community. More than 85 percent of those surveyed said they consider health, exercise and recreation the most important reasons for using alternative modes of transportation.

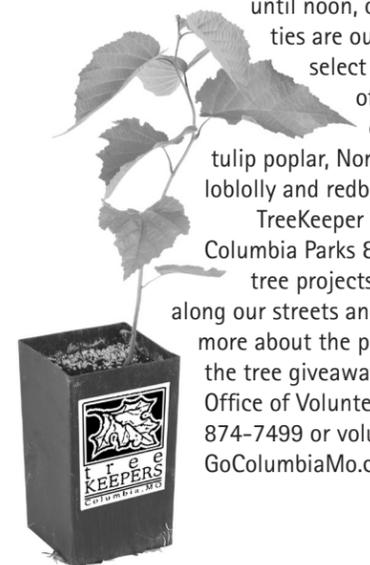
GetAbout Columbia's projects include improvements and additions to the existing walking and biking infrastructure. Columbians can expect more opportunities to experience the benefits of an active lifestyle—education, encouragement and support programs are available for everyone. Whether it's a quick walk to your lunch destination, a short bike ride to the store or a weekend journey on the trail with your family, GetAbout Columbia is for you. For more information about GetAbout Columbia, visit the Web site www.getaboutcolumbia.com, stop by the office at 101 North Seventh Street or call (573) 442-7189.

Arbor Day Tree Give Away

Join TreeKeeper volunteers at their annual tree giveaway in celebration of National Arbor Day April 26 at the ARC parking lot, 1701 West Ash St., from 9 a.m.

until noon, or when quantities are out. The public can select from six types of saplings: bald cypress, pin oak, tulip poplar, Norway spruce, pitch loblolly and redbud.

TreeKeeper volunteers assist Columbia Parks & Recreation on tree projects in City parks and along our streets and trails. To learn more about the program and the tree giveaway, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.



Renewable Energy Report



Columbia will receive energy from wind and two biogas projects in 2008. With these projects, the utility will accomplish the 2013 renewable energy target of 5 percent by the end of 2008. Other solar energy projects in Columbia have also been initiated which will increase the amount of Columbia's renewable energy in the future.

Columbia started receiving wind power from turbines near King City, Mo., on Sept. 5. Columbia is scheduled to purchase one-ninth of the electric output from the Bluegrass Ridge Wind Farm from Associated Electric Cooperative. At the maximum output, Columbia Water & Light could receive up to 6.3 megawatts. The amount of wind energy Columbia receives is variable, depending on the amount of wind. Over a year, the wind power contract is predicted to furnish approximately 2 percent of Columbia's electric retail sales.

The Columbia Biogas Energy Plant is expected to start delivering electricity to the Columbia system in the first quarter of 2008. This project will use the gas created from decomposing waste at the landfill to generate 2.1 megawatts of renewable energy. This will supply approximately 1.5 percent of Columbia's energy use per year. The electric production is expected to grow to as much as 2.5 percent of Columbia's energy portfolio over the next 5-10 years.

Columbia Water & Light signed a power purchase agreement with Ameresco for 3.2 megawatts of energy from a biogas plant at the Jefferson City landfill. The estimated annual electric production of 25,000 megawatt hours represents approximately 2 percent of Columbia Water & Light's annual energy sales.

Columbia Water & Light received approval from the Columbia City Council on a new program called Solar One. The goal of this project is to produce 1 percent of Columbia's electric portfolio from solar power in the year 2023. The utility will form power purchase agreements with entities that have a 5-kilowatt (or higher) photovoltaic system. Electric customers who sign up for the Solar One program would have an additional charge on their monthly utility bill to pay for the higher cost of the solar energy. This program is under development and more details will be available later this year.

View the full Renewable Energy Report online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

A Tick in your step

Spring weather invites many citizens to spend time outdoors. In recent years, the Columbia/Boone County Health Department has seen an increase in tick-borne diseases.

You can protect yourself by avoiding tick bites and knowing the symptoms of tick-borne diseases. If you have been bitten and experience a sudden fever, headache, rash, sore muscles or nausea, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

You can protect yourself from these diseases by:



- Avoiding tick-prone areas - walk in the center of trails to avoid overhanging grass and bush.
- Repelling ticks- correctly apply a repellent that contains 20 percent or more DEET.
- Performing tick checks- remove ticks, using tweezers, from your clothes before going inside. Make sure you check your children and pets too.

For more information, please visit us on the internet at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Volunteer of the month

Written by Lauren Kilberg
volunteer

The City of Columbia recognizes Frank La Mantia as April's volunteer of the month for his service to the Columbia Parks and Recreation and Adaptive Sports and Recreation programs.

La Mantia spent the past 11 months volunteering as coach of the Special Olympics Bocce team. Bocce is often considered the second most popular participatory sport in America, and focuses on reflex, judgment and teamwork.

Bocce is in La Mantia's blood. His father was a professional player in Italy, where La Mantia lived until moving to the United States at age 11. He has been an active Bocce athlete since he was 3 years old.

When asked why he decided to coach, La Mantia said, "The passion I have for Bocce and the excitement of passing my knowledge and experience of the sport to others."

According to Special Olympics supervisor Jody Crane, "Frank's expertise and passion for the game would be hard to match."

As a result of his coaching dedication, team members Harry Besleme and Bob Stephens represented Columbia Parks and Recreation and the Special Olympics Missouri Team USA at the Special Olympics World Games in China last October and earned two gold medals.

"You can tell that they were confident, they had pride, self-esteem, learned the strategy of the game and most of all they had fun," said La Mantia.

When he isn't busy coaching, La Mantia runs a computer consultant company, and he and his wife own a catering and decoration business. La Mantia will continue coaching Bocce this spring.

To learn more about the City's volunteer program, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



Frank La Mantia, center, is honored for his dedication as a bocce coach for the Columbia's Parks & Recreation Department's Special Olympics program.

Tree Power

Free shade tree for electric customers!

Tree Power promotes energy conservation through energy-efficient landscaping. When you sign up for the program, a Columbia Water and Light representative will visit your property and suggest the best places for shade trees. You will receive a packet with the planting diagram and a coupon for a FREE 6-10 foot shade tree.

Sign up online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7325. There is a limit of one tree per electric meter.



Columbia Regional Airport News

Air Midwest has filed a notice indicating its intent to discontinue scheduled subsidized Essential Air Service (EAS) to Columbia Regional Airport, effective April 20, 2008. The airline also submitted similar notices of termination from 10 other markets nationwide. Columbia's two-year agreement with that company was scheduled to expire in October 2008.

What does this mean for Columbia?

The Department of Transportation will issue an order prohibiting suspension of service, which will require the airline to continue service until a replacement carrier is found, and will request proposals for replacement service under the EAS program. The City will continue to recruit stable, suitable air carriers for this region. City officials are talking with the USDOT about options, and will work to keep Air Midwest serving this region as long as it is a viable company.

What if I have a flight scheduled after April 20, 2008?

Contact US Airways directly at 1-800-428-4322 to check on the status of your reservations or contact the Columbia Regional Airport information line at (573) 874-7508 if you need additional information.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

- Register online! www.GoColumbiaMo.com
- Call 874-7460 for more information.

April

- 1 Session IV of swim lessons begins, ARC
- 2 Spring/Summer Leisure Times is published
- 3 Tons of Trucks, Rainbow Softball Center parking lot at Cosmo Park, 4-7 p.m., free
- 5 Kite Flying Day, Douglass Park Ballfield, 12-2 p.m., free
- 5 Scout's Honor, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., \$3 per child
- 20 Earth Day, Peace Park, 12-7 p.m., free (Rain date: April 27)

Severe weather safety

The National Weather Service and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) have declared March 10-14 Severe Weather Awareness Week, which will include a statewide tornado drill held at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11.

The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management will activate the warning siren system for this exercise. In the event of an actual disaster, specific information would be obtained from local broadcast media.

Everyone (e.g., schools, businesses, families) should have a basic knowledge of severe weather safety and have a plan in place. Knowing what to do or where to go when severe weather threatens can mean the difference between life and death.

This is a good time for residents to practice their severe weather safety plans.

- Create an emergency plan and discuss it with family members.
- Prepare a disaster supplies kit.
- Assemble drinking water, food and supplies, battery-powered radio, flashlights, etc.
- Locate hazards in your home. In an emergency, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break, or cause a fire is a potential hazard.
- Know what to do and where to go if you have to evacuate.
- Prepare an emergency car kit.
- Prepare a fire safety plan.

More information about Severe Weather Week is available on various Web sites, such as http://gocolumbiamo.com/EM/Natural_Disasters/severe_weather.php or <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dvn/?n=swaw>.