

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Bike, Walk & Wheel Week is May 14–21



The 10th annual Mayor's Challenge: Bike, Walk & Wheel Week, set for May 14-21, is designed to encourage all Columbians to use active modes of transportation – like walking or biking – to get to work, school and around town.

Activities include: Family Fun Fest, Walk to School activities, Breakfast Station Day and Trails Day. Throughout the week, there will be bicycle education and recreation opportunities for kids and the young at heart. Beginning cyclists will have the opportunity to attend "learn-to-ride" classes, while experienced cyclists will enjoy MKT/KATY trail rides.

Bike, Walk & Wheel Week is for everyone. So, take your bike out of the garage or put on your walking shoes. Ride your bike to run an errand, walk up the street to visit a friend or make an active commute to work.

You can organize your family, school group or church to participate. More information is available at www.pednet.org or by calling (573) 823-5503. Online registration – a personal pledge to add more cycling or walking to your weekly routine – will be available after April 15. It's easy, it's fun and when you bike or walk, you help make Columbia a happier, healthier place.

NRT gears up for another round of inspections

The Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) will begin assessments of residential properties in Columbia's central city neighborhoods in March. Only those violations that can be seen from the public right of way will be noted, such as peeling paint, broken windows, trash in the yard, etc. Properties with significant violations will be asked by the City's Office of Neighborhood Services to be brought into compliance or face possible prosecution. The City of Columbia has several assistance programs available for lower-income home owners to bring their properties into compliance. For more information, please contact Bill Cantin with the Office of Neighborhood Services, 874-7248 or bpcantin@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Summer Youth Volunteering

Looking for a way to solve summer boredom for teens? Volunteering provides an opportunity to have fun and make a difference for Columbia at the same time.

Columbia youth 12-15 years-old can make good use of their extra time this summer by participating in Youth In Action. Sponsored by the City's Volunteer Programs, Youth In Action allows kids to participate in a wide variety of supervised, structured projects at events and with agencies throughout the community. Youth In Action projects begin when school is out.

Another great resource is the Directory of Summer Youth Opportunities, a listing of opportunities with City departments and community agencies for young people.

To apply for Youth In Action or access the directory, call 874-7499 or visit the City's Volunteer Programs page of the City's website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

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MAYOR
Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	Paul Sturtz
<i>Second Ward</i>	Jason Thornhill
<i>Third Ward</i>	Gary Kespohl
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<i>Fifth Ward</i>	Laura Nauser
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Volunteers of the Month— Monica Frank and Telisa Anderson



Monica Frank



Telisa Anderson (as Mr. Bag-It)

Those who have spent time living in mid-Missouri know how inconsistent the weather can be. While the unpredictable weather may hinder some of our daily activities and events, it has yet to faze April Volunteers of the Month.

Come rain or shine Monica Frank and Telisa Anderson volunteer two Saturdays a month for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program. Whether welcoming citizens who are bringing materials to the event, passing out reference materials or answering questions, they are always smiling and are a joy to be around.

"These enthusiastic ladies help increase overall awareness of Columbia's recycling program and are appreciated for their friendliness and willingness to help," says Andrea Shelton, who coordinates volunteers for the Public Works Solid Waste Division.

Ready to help out whenever they are needed, these women have also stepped up to fill additional roles, such as leading the 2010 fall HHW student volunteers and serving as recycling mascot Mr. Bag-It at area events. Frank and Anderson are examples of how dedicated volunteers can really make a difference in Columbia.

City offices closed for Memorial Day

City offices will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made this day and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have questions. City buses will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced on the holiday.

Did You Know?

You can save money and energy with Columbia Water & Light's free online energy audit. The audit provides specific tips for your home, plus there is a great reference library for researching projects.

GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Conservation/OnlineEnergyAudit.php



Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: May 6 at noon

- Airport Advisory Board
- Housing Authority
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Board of Plumbing Examiners
- Environment & Energy Commission
- Disabilities Commission
- Board of Mechanical Examiners

Application deadline: June 3 at noon

- Columbia Library District Board
- Storm Water Advisory Commission
- Water & Light Advisory Board
- Cultural Affairs Standing Committee on Public Art

Applications and current vacancies for City boards and commissions are available online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information.

Family Fun Fests

Family Fun Fests are back this spring and summer! Columbia Parks and Recreation will present a Family Fun Fest event at Flat Branch Park from 6-8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month through September.

The free Fun Fests feature a new theme each month. Entertainment for the entire family will include music, special performances, art activities, bounce houses, hands-on activities, balloon animals, face painting and guaranteed fun for all ages.

The Family Fun Fests are sponsored by the Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8, EntPro Entertainment and Home & Lifestyle Magazine.

May 18: Fitness is Fun

Celebrate Bike, Walk and Wheel Week and learn about ways to get fit! Join us for fun demonstrations and hands-on activities. Learn many ways to enjoy exercise and fitness from a variety of organizations and departments.

Sponsored by the ARC (Activity and Recreation Center)

Coming Up:

- June 15: Explore Outdoors
- July 20: Summer Fun
- Aug 17: Around the World



Outdoor Movies in the Park

Columbia Parks and Recreation will hold another season of Outdoor Movies in the Park in 2011! All movies will be shown at Flat Branch Park on a giant inflatable screen and resemble a drive-in without cars. Bring your blanket or low lawn chair and head out for a night of entertainment under the stars. The movies are shown the second Friday of the month (except for May) through September.

SCHEDULED MOVIES ARE:

- Friday, May 6, 8:30 p.m. — Megamind (PG)
- Friday June 10, 9 p.m. — Yogi Bear (PG)
- Friday, July 8, 9 p.m. — An American Tail (PG)

UPCOMING DATES, CHECK GOCOLUMBIAMO.COM FOR TITLES:

- Friday, Aug. 12, 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 9, 8 p.m.

There are no rain dates. Pre-show entertainment and activities begin one hour prior to the movie start time. Concessions are available. Movie admission is \$2 per person; children 8 and under are free.

The Outdoor Movies in the Park series is sponsored by Columbia Parks and Recreation and KPLA 101.5.



Searching for an energy-efficient rental



Investigating utility details before you sign the lease can help you avoid wasting money on utility bills in an inefficient rental. Rental housing involves many types of charges including electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, trash, Internet access and possibly television service. Some of these items may be included in the rent. However, utilities — electricity and natural gas — are often extra costs that add to your monthly bills. In certain situations these costs can be significant.

If you will be paying for energy costs, contact the appropriate utility provider(s) for an estimated idea of your future monthly expenses. They can tell you what the high and low bills ran for that address over the past year. Assuming that your lifestyle would be similar to the previous tenant, you should be able to estimate what your yearly expenses will be. Before calling the utility, be prepared with the exact address of the rental property for which you're inquiring.

A major energy decision is whether to rent an apartment or a house. Heating and cooling represent the largest portion of your utility costs. Ask how old the heating and cooling system is and check on its efficiency rating. Apartments are typically smaller, which means less space to heat and cool, and they share walls, ceilings and floors with neighbors, which also reduces costs. Houses have exposed walls and attics, as well as basements or crawlspaces that leak heat. With few exceptions, utility costs are generally higher for houses than apartments.

Location, especially for apartments in multi-unit structures, is important. Ground floor units tend to be cooler year-round while top floor apartments tend to be warmer. Windows with a southern exposure to the sun will allow your apartment to collect natural heat in winter. A west facing set of windows, however, can really "heat up" your summer air-conditioning bills!

Heat can flow out of your rental unit in winter and into it in summer. How fast it flows depends on two factors: how much insulation there is in the walls, ceiling and floor; and how much air leakage the structure has. While insulation can be difficult to check on your own, you can ask the prospective landlord about it. Visually inspect doors and windows for any obvious gaps and see how tightly they close. Not only do air leaks waste energy, they can also lower your comfort factor.

By taking a little time now, you can save a great deal with your next lease. Call the City of Columbia Utility Customer Service office at 874-7380 or inquire by e-mail at UCS@GoColumbiaMo.com for utility bill history of your prospective new home. The City of Columbia is the service provider for electricity, water, sewer and trash. Ameren Missouri is the natural gas provider.

Columbia's Rental Regulations

For more than 30 years, the City of Columbia has had a rental conservation law requiring all residential rental properties to meet code to ensure the health and safety of the occupants. The City's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) carries out this law and has more than 23,000 rental units registered.

Property owners must apply for a rental certificate of compliance. The process includes paying a fee, having gas appliances inspected and agreeing to have the unit inspected by the City.

Tenants have the right to rent a unit that complies with City code and has a current certificate of compliance. To verify this, the tenants may ask their landlord, or inquire with ONS. If there are maintenance issues with the property the landlord is not addressing, the tenant may file a complaint with ONS and allow a City building inspector to view the problem. If a violation is found, the inspector can require the property owner to make the necessary repairs.

To learn more about the City's rental regulations, contact the Office of Neighborhood Services at 817-5050 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



Try Transit Thursday! Thursday, May 19



Here's your opportunity to try Columbia Transit for FREE. On Thursday, May 19, Columbia Transit will offer free transportation to everyone... anywhere Columbia Transit goes. It's one day only, so don't miss it.

This is also a great opportunity for a field trip to give children the opportunity to learn about public transportation. Go online to www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search: Go Bus) to check the bus schedule or stop by the Wabash Station at 126 North 10th St.

Fishing derby planned for park dedication

Join us for a "reel" fun morning at the fishing derby at Philips Lake on Saturday, May 21. The derby is being held for the public to celebrate the dedication and grand opening of Philips Park (5050 Bristol Lake Parkway).

9-9:30 a.m. — Registration and Check-In

9:30 a.m. — Dedication Ceremony

Fishing Derby — immediately following the dedication, ending at 11:30 a.m.

The Department of Conservation is partnering with Parks and Recreation on the derby. Bring your pole and bait or some will be available. Categories will be divided by age: 10 and under and 11 and over. Prizes will be awarded.

Registration is required. Pre-register at Parks and Recreation (#1 South 7th) or the ARC (1701 W. Ash). Or, register just before the event between 9 and 9:30 a.m. that day. Participants between the ages of 16 and 64 must present a valid Missouri fishing license.

The fishing amenities at Philips Park were made possible by funding support from a \$157,500 Community Assistance Program grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation and \$250,000 in Park Sales Tax.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.

Spring is here and it's time to start mowing

When spring hits, it seems our lawns need to be cut every time we turn around. Do our waterways a favor by keeping your grass clippings out of the street. Otherwise, these clippings will be washed into the storm sewers and deposited into lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands, adding excess stored nutrients to our waters. This results in increased algae growth, reduced water clarity, and in extreme cases, fish kills from reduced dissolved oxygen levels.

Disposing of grass clippings or leaves in the street or other portions of the storm water drainage system can also create flooding and water quality and safety issues. When the system becomes blocked with grass clippings and leaves it creates a flooding potential that could result in property damage. Disposing of grass clippings and leaves in the street can also reduce traction between vehicles and the roadway.

If you fertilize your lawn, keep the fertilizer off of paved surfaces. Rain can wash the fertilizer into our streams. Choose fertilizer with low phosphorus values since many Boone County soils are naturally high in phosphorus.

Learn more about the City's storm water management program and individual practices that can help protect our water resources by visiting the City's website at GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/StormWater.

Protect your home and family from mosquitoes

Did you know the Environmental Health Division of the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services operates a mosquito control program? Each year, the health department monitors cases of mosquito-borne illness, offers free mosquito dunks to Boone County residents and treats public areas to prevent disease caused by mosquitoes. Spring is an excellent time to start thinking about ways to protect your home and family from the annoying and potentially dangerous effects of mosquitoes.

It's an unappealing thought, but female mosquitoes spend their winters in sheltered areas, then emerge in spring looking for a meal of blood so they can lay their eggs. "Larvaciding", the biological method of controlling mosquito populations, usually begins in May. Larvacide contains bacteria — which are harmless to humans and animals — that is eaten by mosquito larvae and prevents them from developing into adult mosquitoes. Because mosquitoes breed only in stagnant water (water that does not flow), larvacide should be applied to standing water areas such as bird baths, tree holes, ponds, etc. If you suspect a mosquito breeding site in your area, contact the health department at 874-7346. If the suspected site is in a public area, it can be treated with larvacide.

If the area is located on your property, the health department can provide you with free larvacide, called mosquito dunks. The health department recommends that you check around your home for mosquito breeding sites, which can include, but are not limited to:

- Gutters that hold water (these are common mosquito breeding sites)
- Any container that can hold water (such as tires, bird baths, pool covers or flower pots)
- Ponds or other areas where water is stagnant

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Division at 874-7346 or visit http://gocolumbiamo.com/Health/Environmental_Health/West_Nile/. (capitalized letters must be capitalized in your browser's address bar)

Save money with Tree Power

Trees planted in the right place on your property can greatly reduce your cooling costs in the summer. That's why Columbia Water & Light is offering a free tree to electric customers!

Sign up and a representative will come to your house to show you the best place for your shade tree. You will then receive a coupon for a free tree.

874-7325
Sign up on the Web!
ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
(limit one tree per electric meter)



PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

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

MAY 2011

14	MLB Pitch, Hit and Run, Albert-Oakland Park, 9:30 a.m., free
14	Kids Bike Safety Event, Shelter Insurance, 10 a.m.-noon, free
14-15	Heritage Weekend, Douglass Park, 3-8 p.m., free
14-21	Mayor's Challenge: Bike, Walk and Wheel Week
18	Family Fun Fest: Fitness is Fun, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., free
20	OAK (Older American Klub) May Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., \$3
20	Whiff and Giggle Couples Golf, L.A. Nickell, 5 p.m. shotgun start, \$40 per couple
21	Trails 5K/10K Run, Walk and Bike, MKT Stadium access, 9-10 a.m., free
21	Philips Park Dedication/Fishing Derby, Philips Park, 9:30 a.m., free
28	Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center opens

JUNE 2011

4	Lake of the Woods, Little Mates Cove at Pirates' Landing, Douglass Family Aquatic Center open
4	"Reel" Time with Kids fishing clinic, Bass Pro Shop's Sportsman's Center, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free
4-5	Art in the Park, Stephens Lake Park, free
5	DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 3-8 p.m., free
9	Teen Videology Dance Party, Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater, 8-10:30 p.m., \$3
10	Movies in the Park, Yogi Bear, Flat Branch Park, 9 p.m., \$2 per person, 8 and under free