Become a TreeKeeper





If you like the outdoors and want to do something hands-on to help City parks, you might be interested in joining the TreeKeepers volunteer program.

TreeKeepers start by attending a class where they learn about trees, including identification, planting, pruning, insects, diseases and soils. The 2010 class will be held on Thursday, Jan. 28, from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesday, Feb. 2, from 6-9 p.m. at the ARC, 1701 West Ash.

Following the coursework, participants are asked to share 36 hours of service on City of Columbia tree projects held Saturday mornings.

Space in the course is limited. To enroll in TreeKeepers or find out more information, visit the City's Web site or contact the volunteer program at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Celebrating 60 Years: Parks and Recreation photo contest

The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a photo contest in celebration of the department's 60th anniversary. All photographers 18 years and older are invited to share their best original photos taken at any Columbia Parks and Recreation facility, event, sport, program or class.

The department is seeking high resolution photos that best represent the Parks and Recreation slogan - "Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs." There will be \$1,900 in prizes awarded! All photos submitted have the possibility of being used in Parks and Recreation publications and promotions with photographer acknowledgment.

The contest deadline is March 1, 2010. Contest rules and information can be found on the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department at 874-7460.

Did vou know?



Stay updated on events and activities offered by Parks and Recreation by subscribing to the department's e-Inewsletter. Log onto www.GoColumbiaMo.com/ParksandRec and type in your e-mail in the brown box on the right. You'll receive a monthly newsletter full of information about holiday events and fitness classes to help you keep your New Year's resolutions!

Trihalomethanes in water drop significantly

The latest compliance sample for total trihalometh anes in Columbia's water showed that the level has dropped to 37 micrograms per liter from 79 micro grams per liter last May. The maximum contaminant level set by the Environmental Protection Agency for total trihalomethanes is 80 micrograms per liter Columbia's water meets or exceeds the standards for drinking water set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Missouri Department of Natura Resources will continue to monitor the levels of to tal trihalomethanes with quarterly tests.

Over the years, the water distribution system has grown and it takes longer for the water to reach the furthest points of the system. This means there is more time for the chemical reaction betweer the organic material and the chlorine to form tri halomethanes. High levels of total trihalomethanes present health problems over a long period of time

After gaining approval from the Missouri Depart ment of Natural Resources and the Columbia City Council, Columbia Water & Light moved to the chlo ramine disinfection method last August. The chlora mine disinfection method slows the chemical reaction between the chlorine and the organic materia which causes the formation of total trihalomethanes

Research by the University of Missouri's Water Resources Research Center performed over the last year had suggested that using chloramine as a secondary disinfectant could lower th<u>e level of tr</u>i halomethanes by up to 50 percent. The chloramin disinfection method is a common technique use in many water systems for the last 90 years. First chlorine is added to the water to prevent bacte rial growth and prevent disease causing illnesses A small amount of ammonia is then added to the water which forms chloramine. The amount of ammonia added to the water is equivalent to six grain of table salt per gallon container.

Columbia Water & Light has hired an engineering firm to conduct a study of the Water Treatmen Plant. Other treatment methods that will lower the levels of total trihalomethanes will be researched New drinking water standards that might be imple mented by the Environmental Protection Agency in the future will also be studied. The study is expect ed to take six to nine months to complete and wil be submitted to the Columbia City Council for review

Volunteer of the Month—Richard Craighead



Many Columbians talk of busy schedules, but when you consider the time that Richard Craighead donates to various activities, you wonder if he has more hours in the day.

Craighead is the president of the Recreation Council at Paquin Towers, and in this position he works with the City of Columbia's Adapted Community Recreation Program, which provides recreation opportunities for Columbia-area residents with disabilities.

Craighead's involvement with the Adapted Community Recreation Program extends to a variety of City ac-

tivities. He volunteers for the outdoor movies held in the summer, the Santa hotline, "Lunch in the Park" at Douglass Park, the annual train show and cooking classes.

"Richard is willing to help with anything we ask and will participate in any activity we're offering," said Sarah Bowman, recreation specialist for Columbia Parks & Recreation. "He will even pay the way for other residents, if necessary, so that they can participate - that's how willing he is to help out. Richard has shown that volunteering is the best way to give back to the community."

Craighead has donated his time to the Adapted Community Recreation Program for 10 years.

To learn about City volunteer programs, call 874-7499 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Written by volunteer Sarah G. Madden

January holiday schedule

City offices will be closed Friday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day and Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The regular City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 19, beginning at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 701 E. Broadway. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made these days and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have guestions. Also, city buses will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced.

Tree Recycling



Columbia Public Works will collect whole Christmas trees beginning Dec. 26 through the end of January. They should be placed curbside on your reqular refuse collection day. After January, the trees must be cut into four-foot lengths and bundled.

Trees can also be dropped off at the City's mulch sites at Capen Park or Parkside Drive. Some of the trees will be used as cover for wildlife and fisheries habitats

For more information, call the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291.

Youth 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 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.Go-ColumbiaMo.com.

Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the Health Insurance Appeals Board, Application deadline is noon, Jan. 8. 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 and requirements.

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CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

First Ward Paul Sturtz Jason Thornhill Second Ward Third Ward Fourth Ward Fifth Ward Sixth Ward City Manager



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CITY Solumbia Mo.com CITY SOLUTION 12 CONTROLED TO THE SOLUTION OF THE POWER P Your source for City news and information HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

More renewable energy for Columbia

Governor Jay Nixon dedicated an innovative, new renewable energy project in Jefferson City, Mo., on Oct. 19. The project supplies landfill gas energy to Columbia and the waste heat from the engines is used by the nearby Jefferson City Correctional Center.

"This project creates a clean, reliable and consistent source of energy from a naturally occurring by-product of our landfills," Governor Nixon said. "I commend this

66 This project with a consistent. clean, green source of energy. **?**

innovative partnership for the benefits it will bring our economy, environment and communities."

provides Columbia This renewable energy project, developed through a partnership between Republic Services, Ameresco, Columbia Water & Light and the State of Missouri, was recently featured at the White House in a meeting hosted by Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and Energy Mayor Darwin Hindman Secretary Steven Chu. The project was highlighted for its contribution to creating jobs while helping expand

the development of clean, renewable domestic energy.

The project uses the gas created when organic material naturally decomposes at the Jefferson City landfill to create electricity. Columbia Water & Light purchases the 3.2 megawatts of green power which provides enough electricity to meet the needs of nearly 2,000 customers. It also reduces greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to planting 31,000 acres of trees and removing almost 28,000 vehicles each year from Missouri roads.

"For Columbia Water & Light and the City of Columbia, purchasing the power from this project helps us comply with the City's renewable portfolio standard by providing two percent of our electric portfolio," said Mayor Darwin Hindman. "This project provides Columbia with a consistent, clean, green source of energy."

Additionally, Ameresco captures the waste heat generated from the engines to provide steam and hot water for two state-owned correctional centers. Greenhouse gas emissions reductions from using the waste heat to offset natural gas in the boilers are equivalent to heating 1,500 homes, planting 1,300 acres of trees and removing almost 1,000 vehicles each year from Missouri roads.

To review the 2009 Columbia Renewable Energy Report, please go to GoColumbia-Mo.com or call 874-7325 to request a copy.



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(left to right) Cutting the ribbon to dedicate the Jefferson City landfill gas to energy plant are Fred Farrand - VP, Northeast Energy Systems, Darwin Hindman – mayor of Columbia, Jay Nixon – governor of Missouri, George Lombardi, director - Department of Corrections, George Sakellaris, CEO – Ameresco, Kevin Walbridge, senior VP, Midwest Region - Republic Services, Mike Schmitz, interim director - Columbia Water & Light.



Partners of the landfill gas to energy plant, along with the mayor and governor, gather in October for a dedication. The facility is located near the Jefferson City Correctional Center.







Columbia's snow removal policy

The snow removal process is dependent on the type of precipitation, depth, temperature of air and pavement and timing of winter weather events. There are approximately 500 miles of streets covered by City crews; some streets in the city limits are maintained by Boone County or the state of Missouri.

For snow events with less than 4 inches of snow

- City crews will clear first, second and critical streets to a safe and passable pavement, utilizing overtime, if necessary.
- Crews will treat residential streets during regular working hours only.

For snow events with more than 4 inches of snow

- City crews will clear first, second and critical streets to a safe and passable pavement, utilizing overtime, if necessary.
- Crews will treat residential streets utilizing overtime until streets are safe and passable.

Definitions of priority streets

- Critical streets have terrain that requires urgent attention during a winter weather event, which include streets that have major hills, dangerous intersections and blind curve areas. (ex: Lynnwood Drive).
- First Priority streets are arterial and major city streets. (ex: Green Meadows Road, Vandiver)
- Second Priority streets are other major, heavily traveled city collector streets, school and city bus routes, as well as streets abutting schools, hospitals and other critical areas. (ex: Derby Ridge Drive)

The complete Snow Removal Priority Map can be viewed on the City's Web site at: www.GoGolumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Streets.

Volunteers needed to shovel snow for seniors

Seniors in the community will soon need snow shoveling assistance. For years, the Boone County Council on Aging (BCCA) has paired volunteers with local seniors to provide service that helps them remain independent and live with dignity in the community.

Prompt snow removal for some seniors ensures meals can be delivered and in-home services can be provided. The removal of snow also allows seniors to safely travel from home to medical appointments.

This year, BCCA needs more volunteers to assist seniors with snow shoveling. When it snows, volunteers shovel a path up sidewalks and porches. The BCCA strives to pair each volunteer with a senior in their area. If you are a senior who needs assistance or a volunteer willing to help with snow shoveling, please call BCCA at 443-1111 or e-mail bcca03@ centurytel.net.

Winter weather advisories from Columbia Transit

During extreme weather conditions (heavy ice or snow), Columbia Transit buses will operate on an emergency weather schedule. Passengers are advised to listen to local radio stations KBIA, KCLR, KFRU and KPLA or watch television stations KOMU, KMIZ and KRCG for emergency information. Passengers should allow more travel time for their trip. Columbia Transit does not cancel service unless major city streets are completely impassable and/or deemed unsafe due to very heavy snow or ice.

For more information regarding the emergency weather schedule, please call Columbia Transit at 874-7282 or visit the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search GoBus). Follow Columbia Transit on Twitter and receive updates for service disruptions throughout the City. Sign up for a Twitter account and start following http://twitter.com/Columbia_MO_Bus.

THE FLU

ooking for flu information? Visit www.FightTheFluMO. com (http://www.fighttheimo.com/) for clinic dates/ sters, fact sheets

Be prepared for winter weather

have items such as blankets and food, which will help you if you are stranded.

able by contacting OEM at 874-7400 or by logging on to the OEM page of the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM.

Winter energy efficiency tips

- Set the thermostat at 68 degrees and lower the setting a few degrees at night or when the home is unoccupied. Consider installing a programmable thermostat.
- Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets.
- Open window shades that receive direct sunlight during the day and close the shades at night
- Keep fireplace chimney dampers closed when not using the fireplace.
- Don't block radiators and vents with furniture, drapes or rugs.
- Maintain your heating and cooling system by replacing air filters often and doing regular maintenance.

Sign up for a *free* energy audit at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7325.

MKT Trail bridges scheduled for replacement

pedestrians, as well as reopened use for emergency vehicles and service equipment needed to maintain the trail corridor.

pleted and the trail reopened in time for its busy spring season.

trail bridge renovations and/or replacements will be dependent on the public's continued support of the Park Sales Tax.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 874-7460 or check www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Introducing the City's Office of Neighborhood Services

volunteers. Existing staff from six City departments have come together to staff this new office.

volunteer program.

Jan. 1, 2010. To contact the office, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7504.



- Columbia residents know winter weather is just around the corner. The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) advises residents to be prepared for the upcoming winter. Ice storms, heavy snow and bitterly cold temperatures have greatly impacted Missouri in recent years, bringing extended power outages and forcing people from their homes. That's why it's important to prepare now.
- OEM Director Zim Schwartze advises everyone to be prepared in their homes and in their vehicles. In your home, you need to have enough basic supplies to last your family up to 72 hours. That includes medicine, food, water, batteries, blankets and cash. In your car, you need to
- The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management has publications available addressing winter preparation. Copies are avail-

- MKT Trail bridges #12 and #13 will be replaced this winter. These bridges are located on the western end of the trail between Twin Lakes Recreation Area and Scott Boulevard. The 100+ year-old bridges have timber supports that have deteriorated over time, compromising their structural integrity. Due to this, they have been closed to vehicle traffic the past several years. Replacement of these bridges will provide continued safe use by
- A portion of the trail will be closed during the construction, which was planned for the winter months to minimize the impact to trail users. Detour signs will be posted on the trail and on the Parks and Recreation's page of the City's Web site. It is anticipated that the construction will be com-
- The budget for the project is \$507,000, funded by the Park Sales Tax and a Recreational Trails Program grant. Funding availability for future major
- The City of Columbia created a new department the Office of Neighborhood Services as part of the City's 2010 fiscal year budget. Neighborhood Services brings staff and resources together to better address code enforcement issues, strengthen neighborhoods and team those efforts with
- Neighborhood Services will have a variety of responsibilities, including enforcing rental housing compliance, code enforcement in cooperation with Health and Public Works, the Neighborhood Response Team, the City's neighborhood recognition program, graffiti abatement and the City's
- The office aims to be a resource for citizens who are concerned about code violations in their neighborhoods and who want to partner with the City to make their neighborhoods stronger. Staff in Neighborhood Services will work toward having strong and viable neighborhood leadership in all areas of the community, a clean and healthy environment and safe housing for residents, readily accessible resources from local government to assist residents, a relationship with citizens that is positive and works toward solutions and a variety of valuable giving and volunteer opportunities.
- The Office of Neighborhood Services will be housed in the old Fire Station 7, 3601 South Providence Road, and should be open for business around

Holiday sharing

Each year, Columbia police officers reach into their pockets to share with students who attend West Boulevard Elementary School. The Columbia Police Department partners with the school through Columbia Public Schools'"Partners in Education" program.

As the holiday season approaches, officers and other police department personnel begin a holiday sharing fund. Money collected is pooled toward a shopping list for certain students, identified through school personnel by age and gender only.

Police department personnel purchases items for the students, wraps them and then delivers them to the school. Each student chosen receives clothing items, and if there's enough money raised, books, games or other appropriate toys.

Help wanted: local artists need apply

Upcoming public art commissions for the interior of Columbia's new City Hall will be open to local artists only. To be notified of project specifics, visual artists residing in Boone County should contact the City's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) and provide full contact information: name, mailing address, zip code, phone number and e-mail address.

Reach the OCA by e-mail, fax or phone: oca@GoColumbiaMo.com, 874-7681 (fax), 874-6386 (phone). For more information about the City's public art programming, go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search: arts).

'Use Less Stuff' holiday campaign

The City of Columbia offers the following holiday shopping tips to avoid waste during the annual "Use Less Stuff" campaign:

- Take your own shopping bags.
- Consolidate your purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.
- Consolidate your shopping trips to save fuel.
- Buy rechargeable batteries for toys and other items that are used frequently.

For more tips on avoiding waste this holiday season, visit the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search UseLessStuff) or call the Solid Waste Division at 874-6271.

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 17th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, from 7 - 8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. Pre-registration is required; the deadline is 5 p.m., Jan. 8. Cost is \$13 per person. Scholarships are available upon request.

The theme of this year's celebration is, "Everyone Counts!" A breakfast and live music will be followed by the presentation of the 13th annua Columbia Values Diversity Awards. The highlight of the event will be an original artistic program honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The celebration is designed to be accessible to all. Please call the Division of Human Services at 874-7488 (V) or 874-7356 (TTY) for more informatio or accommodations related to disability. A registration form also is avail able on the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Register online! www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Call 874-7460 for information

January 4 **Registration starts for adult winter volleyball**

January 12 OAK (Older American Klub) My Fair Lady Singa-Long, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 2 p.m., free

January 15 OAK (Older American Klub) Snowflake Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., \$3

> January 16 Swimming lessons begin at the ARC

> > January 18

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Candle Light Walk and Memorial Celebration, Walk at Douglass HS at 6:30 p.m. leading to memorial at St. Paul AMC

January 19 CARE program summer applications available

January 22 OAK (Older American Klub) National Pie Day. Stephens Lake Activity Center, 1 p.m., free

January 29 OAK (Older American Klub) Fifth Friday Free Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., free

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Happy New U!

The Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health is hosting Columbia's second annual "Happy New U" fitness event at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) on Friday, Jan. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Columbia's fitness experts will conduct mini-workouts and demonstrations to show the variety of exercise options available in Columbia. The goal of this event is to help Columbians get a jump start on New Year's resolutions, get moving and to stay moving longer by connecting them with local fitness options and professionals that will be the best match for them. Kid-friendly activities will also be available. Everyone should come dressed and ready to move!

For more information, visit www.GoColumbiaMo. com and search: Go fitness



Save the environment

