

CITY SOURCE

Your source for City news and information



City volunteer hours up in 2008

Volunteers shared 43,323 hours of service in the City's 2008 fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2007, through Sept. 30, 2008. Based on the national value of an hour of volunteer service - \$19.51, this time is worth more than \$845,000, an increase of 8 percent from the previous year. The Office of Volunteer Services estimates that more than 6,000 individuals volunteered for the City last year.

Volunteers play a valuable role in nearly every City department. Citizens who volunteer get a hands-on opportunity to make a difference and provide services that make local government more efficient. Volunteers can be found helping with festival and special events, planting trees in parks, picking up litter, keeping the streets and parks safe, working with youth and beautifying streets.

Also, during the City's 2008 fiscal year, the mayor and City Council gave 1,430 hours in meetings and work sessions. Members of 58 City boards, commissions, committees and task forces shared 3,949 hours of service. Many thanks to the elected officials and dozens of board and commission members who advise City Council and work on special community issues and projects.

There are opportunities for nearly everyone to volunteer with the City of Columbia. To learn more, visit Volunteer Services on the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7499.

-  1: TreeKeeper volunteers and neighbors re-gravel a trail at Westwinds Park.
-  2: Volunteers work with city staff to plant trees and shrubs near Twin Lakes.
-  3: Volunteers help with craft activities at the 31st annual Heritage Festival.

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 16th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15, from 7-8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. Preregistration is required; the deadline is 5 p.m., Jan. 9.

The cost is \$13 per person and \$11 for children under 12. Scholarships are available upon request. Call the Office of Community Services at 874-7488 (V) or 874-7356 (TTY) for registration information. A registration form is also available on the City's Web site at GoColumbiaMo.com.

The theme of this year's celebration is, "Columbia Values Diversity: This We Believe." A breakfast and live music will be followed by the presentation of the 12th annual 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. Call 874-7488 (V) or 874-7356 (TTY) for more information or accommodations related to disability.

Did You Know?

Find out how to obtain a permit for a home or business alarm system at GoColumbiaMo.com on the Public Safety Joint Communications page. Information available includes reporting requirements, false alarm fees and how to register your alarm system online.

Trihalomethane level in Columbia's water drops

Columbia's August compliance sample for total trihalomethanes from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has dropped substantially from previous samples. The level of total trihalomethanes was 38.6 micrograms per liter which brought the running annual average to 76.8 micrograms per liter. The maximum contaminant level is 80 micrograms per liter.

Trihalomethanes are a by-product of the water disinfection process. They are formed when chlorine breaks down organic material in the water. Trihalomethanes do not present an immediate danger. According to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency, there are health risks when a person is exposed to high levels over a period of 70 years.

Explanations as to why the levels of total trihalomethanes dropped significantly are difficult. The formation of total trihalomethanes is a complex chemical reaction that happens over time. There must be more research at the water treatment plant and the water distribution system to determine the situation with Columbia's water. The University of Missouri's Water Resources Research Center has been consulted and will begin weekly testing at the Prathersville compliance sample site. More data should help make more concrete assumptions.

Columbia Water & Light is continuing to research the addition of ammonia to the water to slow the formation potential of trihalomethanes. Projects to help the flow of water in the Columbia distribution system are also being pursued. Due to previous samples of water showing elevated levels of total trihalomethanes, the City must continue to look for ways to keep the levels well below the maximum contaminant level on a permanent basis.



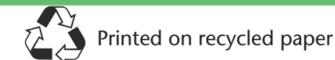
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City of Columbia
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(573) 874-7111 • www.GoColumbiaMo.com

MAYOR
Darwin Hindman

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- First Ward Paul Sturtz
- Second Ward Chris Janku
- Third Ward Karl Skala
- Fourth Ward Jerry Wade
- Fifth Ward Laura Nauser
- Sixth Ward Barbara Hoppe
- City Manager Bill Watkins



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 450 miles of streets covered by city crews. Some streets in the city limits are maintained by Boone County or the state of Missouri. This policy was adopted by the Columbia City Council in November 2007.

For snow events with less than 4 inches 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 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.

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 GoColumbiaMo.com on the Public Works page.**

Volunteers needed to shovel snow for seniors

Winter is here and that means seniors will need help shoveling snow. For years, the Boone County Council on Aging (BCCA) has paired volunteers with local seniors to provide service to help 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 volunteers 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 (573) 443-1111.



Columbia Fire Station No. 7 Construction Update

In November 2005, voters approved an extension to the 1/4 cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax to fund fire service capital improvement projects and the continued apparatus replacement program. Part of the capital improvement package was a plan to replace the existing Fire Station No. 7 due to structural issues and to move the location of the fire station to provide better coverage and response times.

Construction of the new fire station, located at 400 Green Meadows Way, has continued to progress, despite being slowed slightly by rainy weather this year. While the original opening date was scheduled for late November 2008, the contractor and the City have now set a mid-January 2009 target date to occupy the new station.

The Percent for Art project was approved by the council-appointed Standing Committee on Public Art. The project, "Gratitude", was approved by the committee in late October and the work is expected to be completed and installed this spring.



To view weekly construction updates and view photos of the construction, visit GoColumbiaMo.com.

Christmas Tree Recycling



Columbia Public Works will collect whole Christmas trees, free of tinsel, plastic, ornaments and tree stands, beginning Dec. 26 through the end of January. The trees should be placed curbside on your regular refuse collection day. After January, they must be cut into 4-foot lengths and bundled.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the Capen Park mulch site or the Parkside mulch site. Some of the trees will be used as cover for wildlife and fishery habitats.

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



Trying to be healthy through the holidays can be challenging, but it isn't impossible. Through awareness and planning, there are many ways you can maintain a healthy diet while enjoying the food and festivities. The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services encourages you to follow these tips to ensure a happy, healthy holiday season:

- 1** Move a little more: When you head out for holiday shopping, park a little farther away from the door, take the stairs instead of the elevator or make an extra lap around the mall before heading home.
- 2** Review your cooking methods: Instead of frying, grill your food. If you're roasting, use a low-calorie spray oil.
- 3** Invest in lower fat ingredients for cooking: If you're preparing a big dinner, use half-fat ingredients when possible. It's often difficult to tell the difference where taste and flavor are concerned. By simply swapping regular ingredients for their half-fat alternatives, you can make a big cutback on fat and calorie consumption.
- 4** Eat regularly: If you're going to a big event, don't starve yourself all day in anticipation. Then you'll arrive feeling ravenous and eat everything in sight. Instead, have some low-fat, healthy snacks throughout the day.
- 5** Be wary of sugary foods: Rich, sugary foods will make you crave yet more rich and sugary foods. Avoid the nasty cycle by trying a taste, not a whole helping.

January Holiday Schedule

City offices will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day and Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made on these holidays and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have questions. Also, city buses will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced.

Neighborhood Leadership Program to begin this spring

Do you serve as a leader in your neighborhood or have an interest in helping your neighborhood work together to address common concerns? You may be interested in the Neighborhood Leadership Program designed by the City of Columbia to assist those who serve as leaders in their neighborhood associations.

The program will include six sessions, sharing information on how to navigate local government and understand the development process. The series will also include topics related to personal development as a leader, including understanding your personality style and how to communicate with others. Participants will get new ideas for their neighborhood and network with others in the community who face similar challenges. The content of the series should be helpful to those with years of experience as well as those just getting started in neighborhood efforts.

Sessions are tentatively set for six Tuesday evenings from mid-February through the end of April. Space is limited and there is a \$25 registration fee; scholarships are available. To learn more and to register, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7504 or volunteer@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 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 GoColumbiaMo.com.

Parks & Recreation Winter Registration

The winter Leisure Times activity guide will be available Wednesday, Dec. 10, in the Columbia Daily Tribune; at the Parks and Recreation office, at the ARC, at Daniel Boone Regional Library; and online at GoColumbiaMo.com. The guide will feature winter fitness classes, life enrichment classes and special events. Online registration is available for Parks and Recreation life enrichment and fitness classes! Go to GoColumbiaMo.com, click on Parks and Recreation, then click on online registration.



Stay Connected,
it's simple.

Free Online Energy Audit

Columbia Water & Light now offers a free energy audit on the City's Web site at GoColumbiaMo.com. Gather your old bills before you get started so you can fill in your consumption history. There are many energy saving projects that cost little to no money to implement. The utility still offers onsite visits as well. Both of these programs are a great tool to save energy, money and the environment.

Have monthly health tips delivered to your inbox

Sign up for online delivery of Health Matters, a monthly newsletter from the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services. Full of tips for healthy living, health department news and yummy recipes, Health Matters is your resource for healthy living. Sign up today at GoColumbiaMo.com (select Web mail).

Online Utility Services, No Waiting!

Already a customer? You can check your account, pay your bill or even e-mail a question. No access to a computer, no problem. You can still access your account, check your balance and due date and even pay your bill. Just call 874-7694. First-time users will need to have their social security number on file at Utility Customer Service, know their account number and set up a pin. Call customer service at 874-7380.

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Already a customer? You can check your account, pay your bill or even e-mail a question. No access to a computer, no problem. You can still access your account, check your balance and due date and even pay your bill. Just call 874-7694. First-time users will need to have their social security number on file at Utility Customer Service, know their account number and set up a pin. Call customer service at 874-7380.



Help the environment and save on your utility costs this winter:

- 1** 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.
- 2** Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets.
- 3** Open window shades that receive direct sunlight during the day and close the shades at night.
- 4** Keep fireplace chimney dampers closed when not using the fireplace.
- 5** Don't block radiators and vents with furniture, drapes or rugs.
- 6** Maintain your heating and cooling system by replacing air filters often and doing regular maintenance.



Interested in more tips? Sign up for a FREE energy audit at GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7325.

Register your bike for free

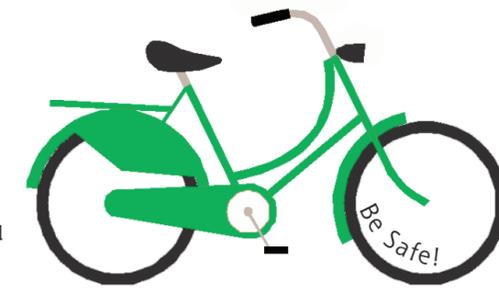
Did you know the City of Columbia requires people living within city limits to register their bikes (Ord. 14-494)? This important data helps trace your bike if it is lost or stolen. In addition, police officers use registration numbers to identify riders and find family members in the event of a medical emergency or crash. Registration is free.

Visit any Columbia fire station to register

Bring your bike into one of Columbia's eight fire stations between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily to register. After filling out a short form, you'll receive a registration decal for your bike and you'll be ready to roll. Call (573) 874-7391 for more information.

Fire Station Locations

- 201 Orr St.
- 1212 W. Worley St.
- 1000 Ashland Road
- 2300 Oakland Gravel Road
- 1400 Ballenger Lane
- 3112 Chapel Hill Road
- 3601 South Providence Road
- 2301 East Nifong Blvd.



PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

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

• January •

January 5
Registration starts for adult winter volleyball

January 6
Session I of swim lessons begins, Hickman Pool

January 13
OAK (Older American Klub) National Pie Day, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 1 p.m., free, must preregister

January 15
OAK (Older American Klub) Movie Sing-Along, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 1 p.m., free, must preregister

January 17
Session II of swim lessons begins, ARC

January 17
OAK (Older American Klub) Snowflake Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 1-4 p.m., \$3

January 19
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Celebration, site to be announced, 7 p.m.



cut along line