



Severe Weather Awareness Week set for March 8 -12

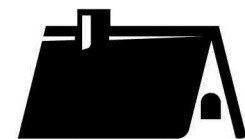
The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in conjunction with the State Emergency Management Agency and National Weather Service, will take part in the annual observance of "Severe Weather Awareness Week" March 8-12. The week is designed to heighten awareness about the threat that thunderstorms and severe weather can bring, and encourage businesses, schools and families to update their plans in the event of a tornado. Knowing what to do or where to go when severe weather threatens can be the difference between life and death.

In addition to preparing a plan for your family, students and business, the OEM recommends the purchase of an NOAA weather radio. Weather radios can be easily programmed for your specific area and can notify you of impending severe weather well in advance of the storms. Outdoor warning sirens are important, but they are not designed to be heard by people indoors.

As part of "Severe Weather Awareness Week", a statewide tornado drill is planned for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9. At that time, the OEM will activate storm warning sirens across the county. Schools, businesses, daycare centers, churches and government facilities are encouraged to conduct drills and examine their emergency plans. The OEM has a number of free publications available upon request to help prepare for a disaster. To inquire about the materials, call 874-7400 or log on to the OEM page of the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM.

How can Neighborhood Services help you?

The City's newest department, the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS), is getting off the ground in 2010. ONS staff is looking for ways to be of service to you! The ONS has a wide array of responsibilities, all with the common goal of supporting quality residential life for our city.



CITY OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE of NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

ONS is a resource for residents who have concerns about neighborhood issues, questions about rental property compliance, want to report graffiti or an unlicensed vehicle or are looking for ways to volunteer in city government.

The Neighborhood Services page on the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com includes more details about the programs and services of this new office. You'll also find an online reporting form and can sign up for a monthly e-mail newsletter. ONS staff members are also interested in attending and making presentations at neighborhood and community meetings.

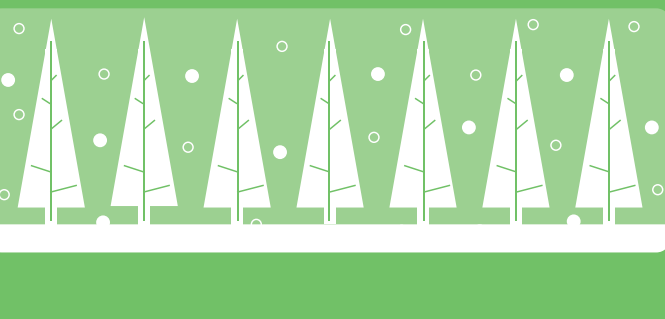
The ONS is housed at 3601 S. Providence Road. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached by phone at 817-5050. ONS is here to help you!

Winter events put Columbia in the spotlight

Even in the quiet winter months, Columbia is still bustling with activity. Columbia is proud to host three thrilling athletic events in February and March. The 4th annual Missouri Grand Prix returns to the Mizzou Aquatic Center in mid-February and features world-class and Olympic swimmers. Past participants include Olympic gold medalists Michael Phelps, Natalie Coughlin and Aaron Peirsol.

Columbia is also home to the Missouri State High School Activities Association's State Wrestling and Basketball Championships. Spanning three separate weekends in February and March, these events bring the best young athletes Missouri has to offer, as well as their families and fans to cheer them to victory right here in Columbia.

Fans will also be cheering as the True/False Film Festival kicks off its 7th year in Columbia. Downtown Columbia will be buzzing as some of the most impressive and innovative nonfiction films hit the screens. Not only does the festival bring in distinguished filmmakers to take part, but film lovers from across the nation make Columbia their home during True/False. Get your passes early and soak up this uniquely Columbia experience.



Volunteer of the Month—Carolyn Oates



The City of Columbia offers a variety of opportunities for volunteer work – the only difficulty may be choosing where to give one's time.

Just ask Carolyn Oates, a Columbia resident since 1963. Oates is currently involved in Columbia's First Night celebration, the Mayor's Challenge: Bike, Walk and Wheel Week, Adopt-A-Spot Beautification and was recently named to the Mayor's Council for Physical Fitness and Health.

Oates says that her enjoyment of the First Night festivities initially drew her to volunteering nine years ago. Since

then, she has served on the First Night Board, and as board president, coordinated venues and was responsible for logistics and supplies.

Her passion for biking led to her involvement in Bike, Walk and Wheel Week, which is an annual event emphasizing active transportation. Oates has been part of the week since 2003 and has served on the planning committee.

As a master gardener, Oates spearheaded an effort to partner master gardeners with volunteers in the Adopt-A-Spot program to provide mentoring and educational support. She also coordinated the adoption of a bed at Broadway and Old 63 with her employer, Missouri Cancer Associates.

"Columbia is such a great place to live. It offers so many educational and cultural opportunities," Oates said. "I feel blessed to live here."

To learn about City Volunteer Programs, call 874-7499 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

– Submitted by volunteer Sarah Madden

Parks and Recreation summer registration starts March 3

Parks and Recreation's summer activity guide, the *Leisure Times*, will come out a little early in 2010. The guide will be out March 3 and will contain information on summer swimming, Camp Adventure, events, summer sports, movies in the park and much more!

Leisure Times will be available at the Parks and Recreation office (1 South 7th Street), at the ARC, at the Columbia Public Library and online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.



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 ages 3 to 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.GoColumbiaMo.com.

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Darwin Hindman

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Your source for City news and information



Diversity Award Winners

right: Centro Latino Executive Director Eduardo Crespi and Mayor Darwin Hindman



below: (L-R) Dolores Clark, Bill Clark and Mayor Darwin Hindman



The 13th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Jan. 14. The awards are given to an individual/family and an organization/group that have made significant contributions in promoting appreciation for diversity and cultural understanding in Columbia.

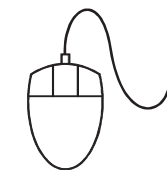
The organizational award went to **Centro Latino**, an organization that strives to increase cultural appreciation and foster a respectful environment throughout Columbia. The Centro Latino empowers families to navigate health, education and cultural resources, helping bridge linguistic and cultural differences for the betterment of the people served and for the good of the community as a whole.

Bill and Dolores Clark, whose contribution to promoting racial harmony in Columbia predates Dr. King's leadership of the civil rights movement, were presented the family award. The Clarks' dedication to serving the community is evidenced by an astounding body of volunteer work, a significant amount focused on at-risk youth. In addition, Bill's columns in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* have introduced generations of readers to Columbians who have made significant contributions to the dynamics of our community, but in some cases have long been forgotten.

Did you know?

Entertaining out-of-town guests? Visit the Convention and Visitors Bureau online calendar of events at www.VisitColumbiaMo.com to plan their stay.

A new feature also allows you to submit your own tourism related event to the calendar. Eligible events should be open to the public and should appeal to visitors from outside the Columbia area. For more information, call 875-1231.



The remainder of the flights will still utilize the Saab 340. For more information about flying from Columbia Regional Airport, log onto the airport's Web site at www.FlyMidMo.com or call 573-874-7508.



The 2010 CARP Volunteer Program begins March 1



• **The City of Columbia is looking for volunteers interested in working in our parks, caring for our environment and enjoying an occasional splash in a lake or stream.** If that describes you, then you may want to participate in the Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project (C.A.R.P.).

C.A.R.P. was created by the Parks & Recreation Department to involve volunteers in implementing an aquatic plant and shoreline management plan.

The 2010 program will begin with classes on Mondays March 1, March 8 and March 15 from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at the ARC, 1701 West Ash. Classes include information on aquatic plants and insects, storm water management and lake ecology. In return, volunteers are asked to share 18 hours on projects in City parks held on Saturday mornings.

Space is limited for the C.A.R.P. class. To register or learn more, contact the City's Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.



Annual Train Show coming March 20

All aboard! Don't miss the 33rd annual Train Show at Paquin Tower, 1201 Paquin St., March 20 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visitors will see a wide variety of displays involving trains and the early days of transportation, as well as movies and photographs on rail travel.

Attendees should park in the University parking garage on University Avenue. The Train Show is sponsored by Mid-Mo Railfans and Columbia Parks and Recreation. Admission is free. Please call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460 for more information.

Good for you, good for the community



Get ready to get about town by bike because it's good for you and the community! Get active, get out on your bike and learn the best ways to stay safe by participating in one of GetAbout Columbia's bicycle education classes. When you learn how to do it safely, it's good for the community too.

Bike Skills 101 Classes

If you want to ride your bike more, it's best to start with the basics. These introductory classes include one 3-hour session, and meet at the GetAbout Columbia office, 101 N. Seventh St.

- March 10 from 6 - 9 p.m.
- March 24 from 6 - 9 p.m.

Confident City Cycling Class

Thinking of commuting by bike? Confidence is key. March classes include three 3-hour sessions or one 9-hour session and will meet at the Stephens Lake Activities Center, 2311 E. Walnut St.

- March 1, March 3 and March 5 from 6 - 9 p.m.
- March 15, March 17 and March 19 from 6 - 9 p.m.
- March 20 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

To register, call the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 874-7460 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com to register online. To see more bike education class dates, visit www.getaboutcolumbia.com or call the GetAbout Columbia office at 442-7189, ext. 28.

Parks and Recreation plans second Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt



Kids are invited to bring flashlights and baskets to the 2nd annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt! Parks and Recreation will team with Mizzou's Parks, Recreation and Tourism students to bring the community this event that will help fund other family-oriented events throughout the year.

The hunt will be held March 25 at Riechmann Pavilion, Stephens Lake Park. Preregistration is required and must be made by March 19. The price is \$7 per child. Prizes will be available as well!

The hunts will be separated and organized by age. Check-in times are as follows: children ages 3-5 at 7:15 p.m.; children ages 6-7 at 7:30 p.m.; and children ages 8-10 at 7:45 p.m. Parents must accompany their children.

Call Columbia Parks & Recreation at 874-7460 to register or visit the Parks & Recreation page of the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



Get ready to save money on your utility bill!

Check out Columbia Water & Light's **FREE** energy audit on the City's Web site at GoColumbiaMo.com (search words "online energy audit"). You can log in to have your City of Columbia information automatically entered into the audit. You will need your natural gas billing history for a complete picture of your energy use and ways to save. You can also research energy efficiency topics with the online library. There are many energy saving projects that cost little to no money to implement. The utility still offers free onsite visits as well. Both of these programs are a great tool to save energy, save money and the save the environment.

Online Utility Services, NO Waiting!

GoColumbiaMo.com is the fastest, most convenient way to start new service, terminate your service or transfer your service to a new location.

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. Questions? Call customer service at 874-7380.

Home Performance with Energy Star

*Cut your energy bills by 30 percent**

What is it?

By upgrading your home to the recommended efficiency standards, you can live in an Energy Star qualified home. Columbia Water & Light works with local contractors to bring you a comprehensive approach to energy efficiency. The specially trained contractor will make recommendations that will work together to provide:

- Fewer drafts
- Consistent temperature distribution
- Better humidity control
- Proper ventilation
- Lower utility bills

Common Recommendations

Your Home Performance contractor will develop a specific plan for your home after a detailed analysis. Some commonly recommended efficiency improvements include:

- Sealing air leaks and adding insulation
- Sealing ductwork
- Improving heating and cooling systems
- Upgrading lighting and appliances
- Installing Energy Star windows or doors



Rebates & Financing

Columbia Water & Light is offering qualified electric customers rebates up to \$1,000 for home improvements and up to \$1,600 for high-efficiency air conditioners. The low-interest loan program has also been expanded to help finance efficiency upgrades that might be suggested during a Home Performance evaluation.

Contact us for a list of Home Performance contractors.

874-7325

www.GoColumbiaMo.com



**Since Columbia Water & Light started the Home Performance with Energy Star program in 2008, the average energy savings for a household has been 30 percent.*

Columbia Transit to offer Wi-Fi pilot project

Columbia Transit is offering a trial period for Wi-Fi access on two City buses through March. Wi-Fi will be available on buses number 1969 and number 1970, which are typically used on the 102 Blue and 103 Green routes.

Results from the test period will be used to determine if this is a viable service that should be continued. Guidelines for use will be posted on the buses that have this Wi-Fi service. Questions should be directed to Columbia Transit at 874-7282.

PARKS & RECREATION

CALENDAR

Register online!
www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Call 874-7460 for information.

March 8 -11
3 on 3 Women's Basketball Tournament,
Douglass HS Gym, \$30 per team

March 13
Scout's Honor, Hickman Pool, 1 - 3 p.m.,
\$3 per child

March 18
Precious Moments / Women's Recognition
Awards, Armory, 6:30 p.m., free

March 19
OAK (Older American Klub) Spring Dance,
Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7 - 10 p.m., \$3

March 20
Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., free

March 25
Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, Riechmann Pavilion
at Stephens Lake Park, Times vary by age,
\$7 per child

cut along line

Call for Art: 2010 commemorative poster

Each year the City's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) produces an annual commemorative poster. The poster communicates the vitality and beauty of mid-Missouri and the significance of the arts.

The official poster is unveiled at an exciting get-together of arts enthusiasts in August and is available for purchase year-round with proceeds supporting City-funded arts activities and arts education efforts. An award of \$1,000 is presented to the artist for the right to reproduce artwork for the poster. Missouri artists are eligible to apply, and work in all media is considered.

For more information or an application, visit the OCA page of the City's Web site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search word: Arts) or contact the OCA, 573-874-6387, oca@GoColumbiaMo.com. The postmark deadline for applications is April 9, 2010.