

Volunteer of the Month — Dina Charlton



January’s Volunteer of the Month, Dina Charlton, not only stands out for donating her time but also for the enthusiasm and passion she brings to her many positions with Special Olympics as a sports coordinator, coach, chaperone and office volunteer. Charlton started volunteering at a single-day Special Olympics event that led to new opportunities to donate her talents and service for Columbia.

“I decided to try something I thought would interest me. I quickly realized I wasn’t satisfied with volunteering for just single-day events. I wanted to pursue more opportunities to help out with Special Olympics,” Charlton said. When asked what advice she would give future volunteers, Charlton suggested “trying things out until you find what you love.”

Charlton loves volunteering and the athletes and volunteer coordinators appreciate having her around.

“The athletes have blossomed and excelled under her guidance,” said supervisor Jody Cook. “The teacher in her is ever-present; everyone around her grows from her involvement and dedication. She brings life, fun and learning to all she touches.”

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com).

—Written by volunteer Brittany Perrin

Top Three Reasons Why January is a Great Month to Get the Flu Vaccine

- 1. People who have been vaccinated are less likely to get the flu. Flu cases usually peak in February, and it takes about two weeks after being vaccinated for a person to be protected. Being vaccinated now means your body will have built up protection before the season peaks.
- 2. If you’re age 18 or under, or if you receive Medicaid or Medicare, it’s FREE!
- 3. The health department offers friendly nurses and convenient walk-in services with no appointment needed. Stop by the clinic (located at 1005 West Worley) Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Those ages 19 and over who do not receive Medicare or Medicaid will be charged \$25. For more information, please call 874-7356.

City Arts Funding

Each year the City supports local arts programming. In fiscal year 2011, \$99,000 is being provided to local arts agencies in support of visual, performing and literary arts projects and related educational offerings. As a result, citizens and visitors have access to numerous exhibitions, concerts, classes, workshops and special events.

To qualify to receive City arts funding, arts organizations must have 501c3 status. The application deadline for fiscal year 2012 is May 2, 2011. To learn more, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs, 874-6386, [oca@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:oca@GoColumbiaMo.com) or access guidelines at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) (search: GoArts-Funding).

Web Did you Know?

What does public health do? It’s more than flu shots and restaurant inspections! Visit the Public Health and Human Services home page of the City website to watch a short video and learn more!



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Volunteers had a busy year making Columbia parks more beautiful. Want to help? Volunteer!



Volunteer in Columbia parks

You can make a difference in Columbia’s parks by volunteering for the following:

**TREE KEEPERS**  
TreeKeepers is a three-session class teaching participants many aspects of tree care and management. Following the course, volunteers are asked to share 36 hours on tree projects in our parks. The 2011 class will be held the evenings of Feb. 22 and Feb. 24 and Saturday morning Feb. 26.

**COLUMBIA AQUATIC RESTORATION PROJECT (CARP)**  
The Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project (CARP) is a three-session class providing information on aquatic ecology. Participants are asked to share 18 hours of service on projects in streams, lakes and rain gardens located in Columbia’s parks. The next CARP class will be held on Monday evenings: Feb. 28, March 7 and March 14.

In both TreeKeepers and CARP, volunteers work directly with City staff during organized group projects held on Saturday mornings. Classes for both are held at the ARC. To learn more about the 2011 TreeKeepers and CARP classes and to register, contact the City’s Volunteer Programs at 874-7499, [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com) or visit the City’s website at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com). Space in both programs is limited.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Black History Month Activities

Columbia Parks and Recreation is offering several activities in honor of Black History Month in February. Call 874-7460 or check out [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) for information.

### COLUMBIA BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT:

Organizations, schools, agencies, etc., please call for reservations. Groups can view a presentation on site or at their location for free, weekdays in February. Call Bill at 874-6379.

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN FILM & DISCUSSION:

“The Underground Railroad”

- Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.
- Armory Sports Center - 701 E. Ash

### ANNUAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

“African American Health Concerns and Health Care Responsibilities”

- Tuesday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Join a panel discussion featuring health care professionals, health insurance carriers and activists on the merits and disadvantages of the new national health care plan.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH TALENT SHOW

- Thursday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m.
- Douglass High School Gym

This free event, open to the public, is the first of its kind, featuring singers, dancers, rappers and more.

### GOSPEL EXPLOSION & SOUL FOOD DINNER MUSICAL CELEBRATION

- Sunday, Feb. 27, 3 p.m.
- St. Luke UMC – 204 E Ash

Come and enjoy lots of great gospel music from local and regional acts. Afterwards there will be a soul food feast for all who attend.

## City seeks public communication partnerships

Changes in the way people communicate bring new challenges and opportunities to staying connected and informed. With that in mind, the City Council sets aside a small pool of funding from video service provider fees to help finance projects that expand or enhance communication among citizens and City officials on issues of importance to the community.

The funds are available to not-for-profit, public or non-commercial organizations through a competitive process guided by the Council-appointed Public Communications Resource Advisory Committee.

Past projects opened new lines of communication on matters such as juvenile crime awareness and prevention, disability issues, the local impact of domestic violence and sexual assault, early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and other timely and important topics.

Project funding, ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000, is available to the following types of eligible applicants: 1) single not-for-profit entities, government agencies or educational institutions; 2) a partnership of public communication-type entities; or 3) partnerships of a single public communications entity and other related entities such as schools, social service agencies, libraries, museums, etc.

The funds must be used to procure communication services that target residents of Columbia. Applicants must provide a 25 percent minimum cash match of the funding request and projects must occur between Oct. 1, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2012.

Beginning Jan. 31, 2010, applications will be available on the City’s web site, [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com), and at the City Manager’s Office, 2nd floor, City Hall, 701 E. Broadway. A workshop for potential applicants will be held at 4 p.m., Feb. 24, 2010, City Hall Conference Room 1A.

Applications are due April 18, 2010. For more information, contact the City Manager’s Office at (573) 874-7214 or e-mail Assistant City Manager Paula Hertwig Hopkins at [PHHOPKIN@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:PHHOPKIN@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 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 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](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Traffic Box Art



Before it was painted by local artist Kate Gray in 2010, the traffic box at Tenth Street and Broadway was regularly vandalized with graffiti. — Photo reprinted by permission from Kate Gray and the OCA.

## Check for water leaks

How much water do you use? Check your bill each month to make sure you don’t have any water leaks. Water use is recorded in hundred cubic feet (CCF). There are 748 gallons in a CCF. Most adults use around 3 CCF each month. By keeping an eye on how much water you use, you can identify leaks.

### TOILETS

If you hear the water in your toilet running long after you flush, you could be wasting hundreds of gallons a day. Take off the toilet tank lid and flush. Check the overflow pipe. If water is spilling over the top, then the arm needs to be adjusted so the valve shuts the water off sooner. To check for leaks around the stopper, put a few drops of food coloring in the reservoir tank. Don’t flush for one hour. If the color shows up in the toilet bowl, the stopper at the bottom of the tank needs to be replaced.

### LEAKING FAUCETS

A slow leak in a faucet can waste 15-20 gallons of water a day. The majority of leaks are due to worn out washers. Turn off the water supply and replace the washer. If the faucet is still leaking, consult a do-it-yourself manual available at most hardware stores or at the library.

### OTHER AREAS

Water leaks can also occur around water heaters, softeners, pipes or other appliances that use water. Leaks can also occur in the water line that serves your home. If you notice water pooling on your property or at your water meter, contact the Water Division at 874-6229 or fill out a form online at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Report streetlight problems

Help us keep Columbia’s streetlights shining when they should. If you notice a light on during the day or one out at night, please report it to us at 874-6202.

Online street light problem reporting form: [GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Forms/stlightout.php](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Forms/stlightout.php)

## Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Register online!

[www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com)

Call 874-7460 for more information.

### FEBRUARY 2011

9	Black History Month: African-American film and discussion, “The Underground Railroad,” Armory Sports Center, 6:30 p.m., free
13	Boy/Girl Scout Day, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., pre-register, \$3 per child
15	Black History Month discussion: African-American Health Concerns and Health Care Responsibilities, Armory Sports Center, 6:30 p.m., free
15	Registration starts for adult summer softball and adult winter volleyball
17	Black History Month Talent Show, Douglass H.S. Gym, 6:30 p.m., free
27	Black History Month: Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner, St. Luke AMC, 3 p.m., free button is \$8 for ages 8 and over, \$10 at the door

## Boards and Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

- University of Missouri Extension Council of Boone County
- C.A.R.E. Advisory Board
- Human Rights Commission
- Public Transportation Advisory Commission

The application deadline is noon, Feb. 4. Applications and current vacancies for City boards and commissions are available online at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) or at the City Clerk’s Office. Call 874-7208 for information.