

Volunteer of the Month:
Karis Community Church



Rob Gaskin, right, with Karis Community Church provides instruction to a group of volunteers before graffiti cleanup downtown on Sept. 27, 2008.

The City of Columbia recognizes Karis Community Church as Volunteers of the Month for March. In the fall of 2007, Karis came to the City with an idea. Members were seeing an increasing amount of graffiti in central Columbia and wanted to do something about this issue.

In October 2007, Karis led the first graffiti removal cleanup day. Armed with buckets, rags, scrappers and removal solution, nearly 30 volunteers shared a Saturday morning to spruce up downtown. Since that project, the church has led two other work days and has invited community members to help. Residents can join in the effort to remove graffiti during Cleanup Columbia on Saturday, April 25.

Members of Karis are involved with many other service projects in the community, including support for residents of Paquin Tower, seniors served by the Boone County Council on Aging, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Rainbow House. The church has a strong interest in finding hands-on ways to make Columbia a better place.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Live Like Your Life Depends On It

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services is offering “Live Like Your Life Depends on It!,” a free chronic disease self-management program. The interactive class is open to the public and is designed for those with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis and asthma. The six-week class will be held at the ARC from 8:15 – 10:15 a.m. on Mondays, with classes beginning March 2 and ending April 6. The health department extends special thanks to the ARC for offering the facility.

The course will help people learn to deal with the stress, fear and anxiety associated with their disease, as well as how to manage medications and symptoms of the disease. Participants will learn more about eating well, communicating effectively, sleeping better and just enjoying life!

Course materials are provided by the health department at no cost. To learn more about Live Like Your Life Depends on It! or to register for the free workshop, please call Chris Coffman, MSN, R.N. at 874-7453.

Online Utility Services

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.

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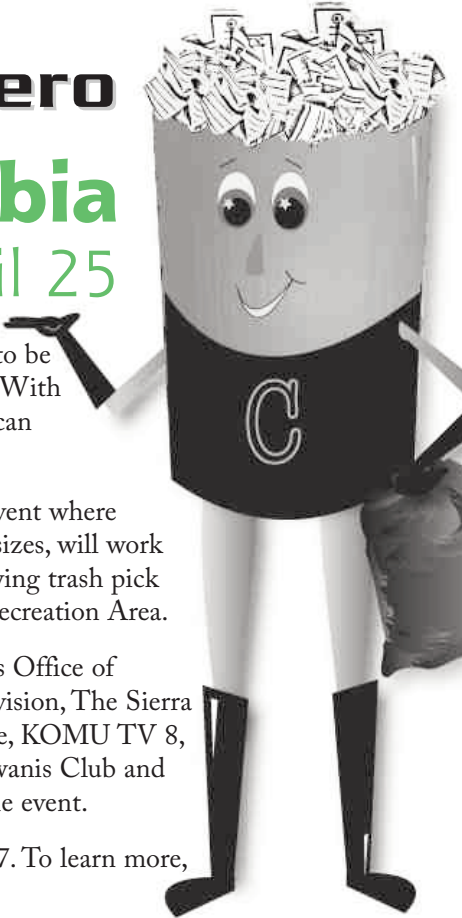
Be a Super Hero
Cleanup Columbia
is on April 25

Clover, this year's Cleanup Columbia mascot, invites you to be a super hero by participating in Cleanup Columbia 2009. With the power of an orange bag and a few hours of time, you can make a difference.

Cleanup Columbia is an annual city-wide trash pick up event where volunteers of all ages, individuals as well as groups of all sizes, will work throughout Columbia Saturday morning, April 25. Following trash pick up, lunch will be provided for volunteers at Twin Lakes Recreation Area.

Cleanup Columbia is organized by the City of Columbia's Office of Volunteer Services and sponsored by APAC-Missouri Division, The Sierra Club, Wal-Mart, 102.3 BXR, the Columbia Daily Tribune, KOMU TV 8, Mid-Missouri's CW and Century Tel. The Golden K Kiwanis Club and Columbia Public Works provide special assistance with the event.

The deadline to register for Cleanup Columbia is April 17. To learn more, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7499.



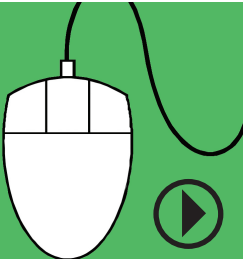
Neighborhood Response Team
will begin 2009 round of
inspections

The Neighborhood Response Team's (NRT) 2009 inspections of central city properties will begin Wednesday, March 4. Inspections will continue weekly until the fall.

For schedules, maps and annual reports, please visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call Bill Cantin, neighborhood response coordinator, at 874-7248.

City establishes graffiti hotline

The City now has a hotline for reporting graffiti! Please call 441-5485 to report any incidences. Limited assistance in removing graffiti and opportunities for volunteering to clean up graffiti on public property are available by contacting the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499.



Did You Know?

Learn how to accomplish your energy efficiency projects with Conservation Tips videos. The Columbia Channel has many episodes of the show available online. Topics range from weatherization to choosing the right compact fluorescent light bulb.

www.GoColumbiaMo.com • search word: Conservation Tips

Want to know the secret to a beautiful, healthy yard?

Attend a City workshop this spring and learn how to compost...for FREE! Compost workshops will be held Tuesday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, May 23 and June 13, at 10 a.m. at the Capen Park compost demonstration site, located off Rock Quarry Road.

The City also has compost for sale at the compost facility, 5700 Peabody Road, Wednesdays 1- 5 p.m. and some Saturdays. A loader is on site to assist. Compost is sold only in bulk quantities, \$12 plus tax per cubic yard with a minimum fee of \$12 plus tax.

For a complete calendar of upcoming compost sales and workshops, call the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291, or check the City calendar online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



Molly Bowden Memorial Blood Drive held



The Columbia Police Department, the University of Missouri Police Department, the Columbia Fire Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Office and the Community Blood Center of Kansas City (local office and donor center in Jefferson City) co-sponsored a blood drive in honor of the fourth anniversary of Columbia Police Officer Molly Bowden's ultimate sacrifice. Officer Bowden was shot in the line of duty Jan. 10, 2005, and died from her injuries Feb. 10, 2005.

The Officer Molly Bowden Memorial Blood Drive was a big success! The Columbia community donated 256 units of blood Jan. 9 at the Grace Bible Church. The Columbia Police Department wants to thank all who donated and the media who helped cover the event.

Coming soon! Waterfalls at Stephens Lake Park

Columbia Parks and Recreation is nearing completion of the construction of two waterfalls located just north of the lake at Stephens Lake Park. Both waterfalls pump water from the deep part of the lake to the top of the hill where it cascades down through the pools and boulders. The process oxygenates the water and filters it through native plants, improving the water quality of the lake while providing a beautiful feature for park users.

The waterfalls are part of the arboretum feature of the park master plan, which went through extensive public input and was approved by City Council in 2002. The Parks and Recreation Department secured two donations to finance the waterfalls -- \$50,000 from the Mary Nall Trust in memory of Russ and Mary Grant Nall for the large waterfall and \$10,000 from Ed Petersheim for the small waterfall. Plaques acknowledging the donors will be placed in the park.

The waterfalls are scheduled for completion this spring.

National Telecommunications Week (April 12-18)

Since 1991, during the second full week of April, public safety agencies nationwide have recognized the pivotal role played by dispatchers, communications operators and radio control personnel - all who use telephones, radios, computers and technical skills to provide support to law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services and other governmental field personnel.

The Columbia/Boone County Public Safety Joint Communications (PSJC) Center celebrates National Telecommunications Week by recognizing its communications operators' outstanding performance. In April, a banner will be displayed in front of the center on Seventh Street to commemorate Telecommunications Week while PSJC user agency representatives (including local police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, citizens and governmental representatives) stop in to express appreciation and recognize the 42 employees at Joint Communications.

On average, a person calls for emergency assistance at least twice during a lifetime. Help you can count on, every day, at any hour, is a blessing to acknowledge -- especially April 12-18. Members of the community are encouraged to stop in and tell the folks at PSJC you're glad they're here, truly serving as the FIRST responders.



Tree Power

Become a natural resource...
plant a tree and save energy this summer.

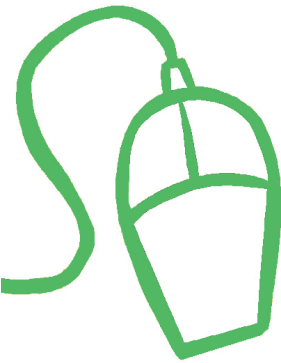
Sign up for Columbia Water and Light's Tree Power program and we'll show you the best spot for your free shade tree! Then sit back and watch your energy savings grow.

Electric Customers call 874-7325 or sign up at www.GoColumbiaMo.com

“ Well placed shade trees around your home can reduce your summer cooling costs by **30%.** ”

Free online energy audit

Get ready to save money on your utility bill! Columbia Water & Light has a free energy audit on the City's Web site at GoColumbiaMo.com. Log in to have your City of Columbia information automatically entered into the audit. You will also need your natural gas billing history for a complete picture of your energy use.



Take the online energy audit and find many energy saving projects that cost little to no money to implement. Columbia Water & Light offers free onsite visits, as well.

Save Energy
Save Money
Save the Environment

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 www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Try budget billing!

Sign up for the City's budget billing program and make the same payment every month! To qualify, you must have lived at your current residence longer than 12 months for your monthly payment to be calculated. Every March, your account will be reviewed to see if you have overpaid or underpaid and adjustments will be made accordingly.

To sign up for budget billing, use the tear-off flap of your return envelope or call 874-7380. Please note that enrollment for budget billing is only held in March.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

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

March 8 - 12
3 on 3 Women's Basketball Tournament, Douglass H.S. Gym, \$25 per team

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

March 20
Last day to submit a CARE application

March 20
OAK (Older American Klub) Spring Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., \$3

March 21
Train show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free

◀ (cut along line)

The City is accepting applications for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Adjustment
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Airport Advisory Board
- Planning & Zoning Commission

Application deadline is noon, April 3. Applications and current vacancies are available online at GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information and requirements.