

Council Action

The Council on September 6:

- Authorized acquisition of easements for construction of the EP-3 Trunk Sewer Project. The property rights necessary to construct the proposed sewer line include six permanent sanitary sewer easements, six temporary construction easements and two temporary access easements. Estimated cost of the project is \$280,000.
- Authorized a tax collection agreement with Boone County. The agreement provides that the county will bill and collect property taxes on behalf of the city, the Columbia Library District and the Columbia Special Business District. The county will withhold one and five-eighths percent of the amount collected as compensation for its services.

The Council on September 19:

- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget. The total budget is \$280,884,000, which is a 1.4 percent increase.
- Accepted a \$149,850 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources relating to the development of Flat Branch Park Phase II. The required matching funds will come from the park sales tax fund. Total estimated development costs for this phase of the park is \$898,789.
- Authorized an agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the Regional Public Health Emergency Planning and Preparedness Program. The agreement provides \$197,344 in funding for regional emergency preparedness activities related specifically to public health needs.

This is just a brief look at the Council's actions. Complete minutes are available at the City Clerk's Office, 701 E. Broadway, the Columbia Public Library or on the Internet at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the City Council page.

NRT Completes 2005 Survey

The Neighborhood Response Team has completed its 2005 round of property inspections in Columbia's older neighborhoods. These regularly scheduled inspections occur annually from April to November in designated central city and other neighborhoods. Only those violations observed from the public right-of-way, such as weeds, peeling paint, unlicensed vehicles, etc. are noted. In the case of an owner-occupied home with visible code violations, homeowners are contacted and offered city assistance, while rental properties receive a courtesy letter listing observed deficiencies that are entered into the rental compliance system if not improved in a timely matter.

NRT assessed over 1,800 properties in central and northeast City neighborhoods, with 80% of housing found to be in compliance with city codes. The remaining 20% of housing received at least one notice of violation, though the majority of these violations were minor and many of the property owners quickly repaired the cited deficiencies.

For more information, please contact Bill Cantin, Neighborhood Specialist, at 874-7248 or bpccantin@gocolumbiamo.com.

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

An Annual Community Celebration of the Life and Teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 13th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration is scheduled for January 12 from 7-8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. The Celebration brings people together from throughout our community to share breakfast, followed by a special program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the presentation of the annual "Columbia Values Diversity Awards."

Community performances of music, prose and an original multi-media theatrical/interpretive dance program will be presented that will challenge and inspire you while celebrating the strength of diversity in our community. This is a perfect opportunity for families to celebrate diversity together.

Early pre-registration is required. The cost is \$12/adult, \$10/child which includes breakfast. A limited number of scholarships will be available upon request.

Registration forms will be mailed the week of November 14 and are available by calling the Office of Community Services at 874-7488 (v/tty) or on the web at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com

The celebration is designed to be accessible to all. Please call 874-7488 (v/tty) to request a registration form or for accommodations related to disability.



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Second Ward
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Third Ward
Bob Hutton

Fourth Ward
Jim Loveless

Fifth Ward
Laura Nauser

Sixth Ward
Brian Ash

City Manager
Raymond A. Beck

CITYSOURCE

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Your source for city news and information



Columbia and its citizens responded to the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita disasters in several ways. The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management took the lead in organizing local resources. After it became apparent that there would be affected citizens in the Columbia area, the office coordinated the opening of a Disaster Recovery Center that was staffed by community organizations and volunteers.

The Columbia Fire Department dispatched Lieutenant Bruce Britt and Firefighter Brian Wattenbarger to assist FEMA in recovery efforts.

COLUMBIA



in Columbia through your gift.

To learn more about Share the Light, call the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7504

Community Responds to Hurricane Disasters



They did not serve in firefighting roles. Also, the Water and Light Department dispatched nine electric line workers and several trucks for a week to Lafayette and Abbeville, LA, to help restore power to areas devastated by Hurricane Rita. **Above, left:** Line Superintendent Greg Sublett repairs broken electric lines. **Above, right:** A Lafayette Utility Systems staff member consults with Columbia Water and Light lineworkers Andy Caskey, Frank Martin and Tim Wilson about the Lafayette electric system. Also on the crew were Kevin Thornton, Kris Betz, Derrick Gallatin, Josh Koch, and Josh Langhammer.

Thanks for Sharing the Light

In the city's 2005 fiscal year, ending September 30, local citizens and businesses donated over \$18,800 to Share the Light. Share the Light encourages residents to donate to six special funds through their utility bill.

Donations to the program have funded youth dental education programs, maintenance for public art, and recreation scholarships for youth from low-income households. Thanks to all who have made a difference

Help Your Neighbors

For Columbians who had a hard time covering their bills before, this winter could be especially difficult. State assistance program funding has been cut and utility costs are rising. Help your fellow Columbians stay warm this winter by filling out the contribution slip on this month's utility bill return envelope for the CASH and HELP program. These programs were established to help seniors, the disabled and families with children pay their utility bills. CASH (Citizens Assisting Seniors and Handicapped) and HELP (Heat Energy and Light Program) applicants are carefully screened by a social worker before being given assistance.

By giving a little extra, to one or both programs, you can help someone in our community a great deal.

Community Line

By dialing the city of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 285, you can learn about senior citizen recreation programs.

On the Web

The Planning and Development Department offers programs to assist eligible homeowners in certain neighborhoods with home repairs. Visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com and go to Neighborhood and Housing Programs for more information.



Catch First Night® Fever!

In The District & Stephens College Campus
December 31
Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m.

Ring in the New Year at this unique public celebration that marks the passage of time through the arts. More than 60 performances, activities and art

will be featured at 13 locations in downtown Columbia.

Event-goers will travel from one location to the next enjoying great entertainment such as jazz, dueling pianos, western swing, dancing (old-time, Irish, Cajun, swing and Flamenco), rock, children's performers, bluegrass, storytelling, rhythm & blues, spoken word, fiddling, theatre, magic, Japanese puppetry and Taiko drumming. A venue is planned just for teens!

Make a mask, crown or noisemaker at the Children's Art Area, participate in the 5K Run/Walk (at 4 p.m.), carry a giant puppet or balloon in the Procession, or take a carriage ride through downtown Columbia.

A Children's Procession at 9:15 p.m. will end with a fireworks display. At 11:30 p.m., the People's Procession will lead revelers to the finale at Courthouse Square with entertainment, a pyroball countdown and spectacular fireworks at midnight.

Admission buttons are \$7 for those seven and older. Buttons can be purchased at the Columbia Parks and Recreation office at 1 S 7th, the ARC, Streetside Records and Gerbes Supermarkets. Buy your button early! Call 874-7460 or visit firstnight.missouri.org for information.

First Night relies on the help of over 100 volunteers! Volunteers sell admission buttons and merchandise, serve as ushers, help in the Children's Art Area and help as ambassadors. Shifts are 2 hours and 15 minutes. Volunteers receive complimentary admissions. To volunteer, call the city's Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or e-mail volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com. First Night is sponsored by Boone Electric Cooperative Foundation, Boone Hospital Center, 102.3 BXR & KFRU 1400 Radio, City of Columbia, Columbia Convention and Visitor's Tourism Development Fund, Columbia Daily Tribune, Missouri Arts Council, Stephens College and KOMU-TV8 & WB5.

Logo artwork by Dennis Murphy



Columbia Regional Airport is a full-service commercial and general aviation airport serving

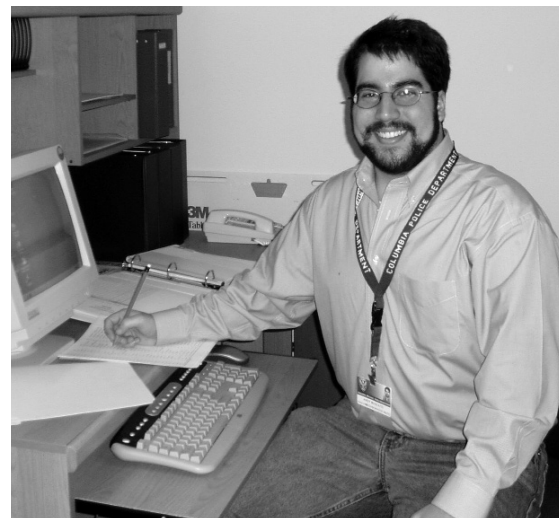
all of mid-Missouri and located 12 miles south of I-70 on US 63. For information on airport services, call 874-7508 or see the City of Columbia website.

City Holiday Schedule

City offices will be closed Monday, December 26, in observance of Christmas Day and Monday, January 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

Residential refuse and blue bag collection will not be made and the landfill will be closed on December 26 and January 2.

City buses will not operate on December 26 and January 2.



Volunteer of the Month

By Volunteer
Isaac Larson

In order for Columbia's police officers to do their job effectively, they need the support of citizens. This partnership, known as *community policing*,

would not be possible without help of volunteers like Andy Muscato, who works with the Columbia Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program.

Neighborhood Watch helps prevent crime by working with police officers to identify problem areas within a neighborhood. Andy's duties include calling other volunteers to compile reports of crime, updating the Police Department's database, and assisting in a study of local laws pertaining to underage drinking.

Andy says volunteering has given him a new perspective on what police officers do. "It's a lot more humanistic than most people think," he says. "There is a communication that takes place between the Police Department and the public that is vital for the community."

The City of Columbia thanks Andy for his work with Neighborhood Watch. His efforts have helped make our city a safer place to live.

For more information about volunteer opportunities call the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or visit our website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com

How much are you paying for gas?

Columbia Transit charges only 50 cents one-way. That's \$5 a week to go to and from work. Can you drive to work for less?

Now you can find out! Use our Commute Calculator (based on the AAA 2004 annual "Your Driving Costs" study) to see how much your daily commute costs you. Log onto our web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoBus) and click on the Cost of Driving Calculator link.

Students, remember that you can ride for 25 cents with your student ID. Visit our web site to find a route that will work for you!

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 percent 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 then typing in GoYes at the GoWord prompt.

Parks and Recreation Winter Registration

The winter Leisure Times activity guide will be available December 14 in the Columbia Daily Tribune; at the Parks and Recreation office, 1 South 7th Street; at the ARC; at Daniel Boone Regional Library; and online at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Register online!
www.GoColumbiaMo.com
(GoWord: GoRecreationRegistration). Call 874-7460 for more information.

December

- 2 Holiday Concert, Parkade Center, 1 pm, Free
- 2 Santa's Drop and Shop, ARC, 4-9:30 pm, \$25 first child, \$20 additional child, pre-register at 874-7460
- 3 City Kwanzaa Celebration, Douglass High School Gym, 2 pm, Free
- 3 Holiday Visit to Maplewood, Nifong Park, 1-4 pm, \$5, pre-register at 443-8936
- 9 Visit with Santa, Paquin Tower, call 874-7473 for group times
- 10 Santa Hotline, Children ages 3-10 can be connected to the North Pole by calling 874-7473 or 874-6335 from 9 am-6 pm
- 14 Registration begins for winter classes and activities
- 16 50+/OAK Holiday Dance, Parkade Center (east side), 7-10 pm, \$3
- 21 Holiday Lights and Sights Tour, Meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 pm or 7:45-9 pm, \$5 adults, \$3 children 12 and under, pre-register
- 30 50+/OAK New Year's Eve Donation Dance, Parkade Center (east side), 7-10 pm
- 31 First Night 2006, Downtown Columbia, 6:30 pm to midnight (5K Run 4 pm), \$7 for ages 7 and over