

CITYSOURCE

 Your source for City news and information 



December Volunteer of the Month The Downtown Optimist Club



Rick McKernan shows a family the computer they received through the "Homes for Computers" program.

The Downtown Optimist Club was selected as Volunteer of the Month because of their work over the last three years with the "Homes for Computers" program. The program is a joint effort between the City of Columbia, the Voluntary Action Center and the Downtown Optimists. Club members clean and test surplus City computers, assist families in the use of the

computers and provide their facility to store and distribute them. Each year, more than 30 families who meet eligibility requirements receive a computer.

Rick McKernan, past president says, "The Optimist Club is a microcosm of the community as a whole. The people in Columbia care and play an active role with the kids in our community. Some do it in a hands-on way and others help by supporting our tree and nut sales at holiday time."

The Downtown Optimist Club has raised funds for Columbia youth since 1936. Proceeds from Christmas tree and nuts sales are used for activities, programs and scholarships. For information about City volunteer opportunities, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7499. ~ Written by volunteer Donna Lester

Flu vaccinations available

Have you gotten your flu vaccination yet? The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services is offering flu vaccinations on a walk-in basis at the health department clinic, 1005 W. Worley.

While vaccination is the best way to prevent contracting the flu, remember to avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay home from school or work when you're sick, cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and wash your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer.

For more information on the flu vaccine, visit the city's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Heritage to be focus of Vision display during First Night - Columbia

As we honor the past year, and look toward the future, a Vision Connecting Event will be held in conjunction with First Night - Columbia. Vision goals and community actions to celebrate Columbia's heritage will be the feature of a Vision display Dec. 31, 5:30 - 7 p.m. in Stamper Commons. Visit the community visioning page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

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

MAYOR
Darwin Hindman

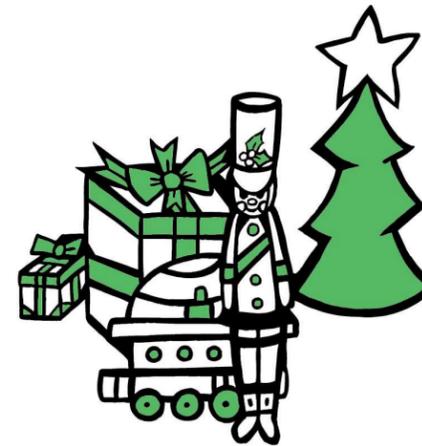
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



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Help provide holiday toys for Columbia's youth



Columbia Parks and Recreation is teaming up with the Neighborhood Resource Center for the annual Toys for Columbia's Youth toy drive.

While shopping this holiday season, please pick up an extra toy for a low-income boy or girl. Toys can be dropped off at the Armory Sports Center

(701 E. Ash) or the downtown Parks and Recreation office (#1 South Seventh Street).

Monetary donations are also being accepted at the Parks and Recreation office, in the form of cash, check or Visa or MasterCard. Donors will receive a letter of acknowledgement for tax deduction purposes. The monetary donations will be used to buy additional toys.

In 2007, more than 230 children were served by the program; each received at least three toys. This year, donations will be accepted until Dec. 19.

For more information about being a donor or a recipient, please call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.

did you know?

Information regarding road closures and conditions is accessible at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (home page under Public Safety).

Check on closures throughout Boone County and road conditions across Missouri (and beyond). Avoid delays and travel safely!

Help your neighbors in need Donate to utility assistance

CASH and HELP

Everyone feels the pinch of increased prices but people with low or fixed incomes are hit harder. Can you imagine choosing between buying food and paying your utility bill? You can help by filling out the contribution slip on this month's utility bill return envelope for the CASH and HELP programs. These programs were established to help seniors, the disabled and families with children pay their utility bills.

Both programs have had additional requests over the last year and some requests for assistance have not been met. By giving a little extra, you can help someone in our community.

More than \$40,000 raised at Columbia Police Foundation auction



The Columbia Police Foundation held its first auction to raise money for a firearms training simulator. Through the help of volunteers, the organization raised more than \$40,000 to purchase the equipment. The simulator will be housed at the new Columbia Police Department training center to help officers improve their firearms skills.

The Police Department would like to thank the local businesses and citizens who donated items for the auction and the following people who donated time and efforts to make the auction a success: Chris Egbert, Mike Lynch, Rusty Antel, Jackie Schupe, Tom Clements, Nancy Witt, Bryan Liebhart, Jeanette Symmonds, Gary Tatlow, Kara Buckner and John Worden.

Super Saver Loans

Get a low-interest loan from Columbia Water and Light and make energy saving improvements to your home.

- upgrade to a more energy efficient cooling and heating system
- replace a window air conditioner with a central unit
- install a heat pump
- add insulation

874-7325
GoColumbiaMo.com

'Use Less Stuff'

While holiday shopping this year, follow these tips to help decrease waste during the annual "Use Less Stuff" campaign, Nov. 20-Jan. 1:

- Take your own shopping bags.
- Consolidate purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.
- Consolidate shopping trips to save fuel.
- Buy rechargeable batteries for toys and other items that are used frequently.

For additional tips, check the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search UseLessStuff) or call the Solid Waste Division at (573) 874-6271.

Nominees sought for Lang Volunteer Award

In 2009, the City of Columbia and the New Century Fund will recognize an outstanding volunteer for his/her contribution to city government with the first Howard B. Lang Jr. Award for outstanding volunteer service. Included with the award is a \$1,000 cash prize. The award was made possible by Leo Hill, a past city manager who worked with Howard Lang when he served as mayor of Columbia. Hill wished to honor Lang for his service to the City through this award.

Nominees may take on any volunteer role that benefits the City: a board, commission or task force member, elected official or volunteer with any of Columbia's city departments. The recipient will be chosen based on impact, initiative and length of service. Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 9, 2009.

Application forms and other details will be posted on the City's Web site. Learn more by contacting the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499.



Join the TreeKeepers 2009 class

Nominations sought for Columbia Values Diversity Awards

Help celebrate diversity in our community by nominating an individual, family, organization or group for the 12th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. Show your appreciation for those who have had a significant impact promoting diversity and cultural understanding.

These awards will be presented at the 16th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 15, recognizing people whose work exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by fostering individual dignity, racial equality, understanding, peacemaking and solving problems through non-violence.

One individual/family award and one organization/group award will be presented.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Nov. 28. Nomination forms are available by calling the Office of Community Services at (573) 874-7488 (v) or 874-7356 (tty) or on the Web at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoDiversityCelebration).



NEW DAILY SERVICE WITH NORTHWEST AIRLINES

Easy connect to places like Washington DC, Dallas/Fort Worth, Atlanta, New York, Las Vegas and many more destinations.

Just one ticket is all you need. Book your ticket from Columbia to your final destination.

Visit the airport Web site at FlyMidMo.com to make your reservations now.

If you like the outdoors and want to do something hands-on to help city parks, you might be interested in the TreeKeepers volunteer program.

TreeKeepers attend a class where they learn about trees, including identification, planting, pruning, insects, diseases and soils. The 2009 class will be held: Thursday, Jan. 22, from 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 24, from 8 a.m. to noon; and Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 6-8 p.m. Following the coursework, participants are asked to share 36 hours of service on City tree projects held Saturday mornings.

To enroll in TreeKeepers or find out more, visit the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499.

Holiday Food Safety

In the United States, 325,000 people are hospitalized with food borne illness each year. Those most vulnerable are children, seniors and those who have an illness that affects their immune system. The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services reminds citizens of the following basic food safety rules for a healthy holiday season:

Clean	Wash hands and food-contact surfaces often. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto cutting boards, knives, sponges and countertops.
Separate	Don't cross-contaminate - keep raw meats, poultry and seafood away from other foods that are ready-to-eat.
Cook	Cook to proper temperatures.
Chill	Cool leftovers quickly. Cold temperatures keep most harmful bacteria from growing and multiplying.

Columbia recognized by 'America In Bloom'



Columbia received a four-bloom rating, on a scale of five, at the 2008 America In Bloom Symposium held in Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 2-4. America In Bloom is a national program that evaluates participant communities in eight areas including environmental efforts, community involvement, landscaped areas and urban forestry.

Columbia received special recognition in the community involvement area for the many ways volunteers can participate in city activities, as well as the staff who are dedicated to working with them. Each year, volunteers give the city about 40,000 hours of service.

In June, Columbia was visited by two America In Bloom judges who reviewed the community and met with more than 100 community members. Columbia's high rating in the program is an endorsement of the efforts made by the community to improve appearance, environment and overall quality of life.

To learn more about Columbia's participation in the America In Bloom program, visit the Volunteer Services page on the city's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Drive-By Art

Beginning in 2009, the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) will implement new public art programming to address traffic signal boxes in the downtown area. Building on the success of a pilot project at Ninth Street and Broadway painted by local artist David Spear in September 2007, one or two additional boxes will be addressed in the downtown area in 2009.

The projects will include an artist's honorarium and a budget for materials. Local artists interested in getting involved should provide the OCA with complete contact information (name, mailing address and zip code, and email address); reach the OCA at oca@GoColumbiaMo.com or (573) 874-6386.



Before it was painted by local artist David Spear in 2007, the traffic box at Ninth Street and Broadway was regularly vandalized with graffiti. Photos reprinted by permission from David Spear.

First Night® Columbia

It's Time for '09
in The District & Stephens College
Dec. 31, 2008 • Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Ring in the new year at mid-Missouri's premier celebration that marks the passage of time through the arts! Revelers will enjoy more than 60 performances, dancing, activities and art for all ages at 15 venues in downtown Columbia and Stephens College. A 5K run begins at 4 p.m.

Young revelers can visit the "Create and Celebrate" area and participate in their own procession at 9:15 p.m. that 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 countdown and spectacular fireworks at midnight.

Admission buttons purchased prior to the event are \$8 for those 8 years and older and will be \$10 at the door. Buttons will be available Dec. 12 at the Columbia Parks and Recreation office at #1 South 7th Street, the ARC, Streetside Records and Gerbes supermarkets. Volunteers receive free admission (874-7499). Call 874-7460 or visit <http://firstnight.missouri.org> for information.

First Night Columbia is sponsored by KPLA 101.5 & KFRU 1400 Radio, City of Columbia, Columbia Convention and Visitor's Tourism Development Program, Columbia Daily Tribune, KOMU-TV8 & CW, Missouri Arts Council (a state agency) and Stephens College.

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.

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.



PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

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

• December •

December 6

City Kwanzaa Celebration, Douglass High School gym, 2-5 p.m., free

December 6

Santa Hotline, children ages 3-10 can call the North Pole 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. only at 874-7473 or 874-6335

December 10

New Leisure Times is published

December 22

Holiday Sights and Lights Tour, meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 p.m. or 7:45-9 p.m., \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under, pre-register

December 31

Boone Hospital First Night 5K Run/Walk, Flat Branch Park, 4 p.m.

December 31

First Night 2009, The District and Stephens College, 6:30 p.m.-midnight, admission button is \$8 for ages 8 and over, \$10 at the door

(cut along line)

Christmas Holiday

City offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made that day 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.