

Introducing the Columbia Vision Commission

The Columbia City Council has appointed nine citizens to the new Columbia Vision Commission (CVC). The CVC will help track and facilitate implementation of Columbia's vision plan. M. Dianne Drainer, Jan Weaver and Jeffrey Williams were appointed to five-year terms. Daniel Goldstein and Julio Lorio will serve four-year terms. Tracy Greever-Rice and Jay Lindner were appointed to three-year terms. Lorenzo Lawson and Philip Peters Jr. will serve two-year terms. For more information, visit the community visioning section on the City's Web site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com, or call (573) 874-7214.

The CVC may select up to five non-voting resource members to contribute expertise as needed to meet the following timeline.

March 31, 2009: Develop a framework for tracking implementation progress.

September 2009: Complete an implementation report and present implementation recommendations for FY 2010 and FY 2011.

December 2009: Issue first annual progress report.

December 2010: Issue annual progress report and present implementation recommendations for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

December 2011: Issue annual progress report.

December 2012: Issue progress report and present implementation recommendations for FY 2014 and FY 2015.

2014: Convene a community-wide dialogue to review the vision plan and assess implementation progress. This will continue in five-year increments.

Columbia Police Department Regional Training Facility



Pictured at Left:

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were (l-r): Sara Emily LeMone; Mac LeMone; Mike Martin, retired police captain; Sara LeMone; City Manager Bill Watkins; Interim Police Chief Tom Dresner; Mayor Pro-tem Chris Janku; John States, Little Dixie Construction; and Fourth Ward Councilman Jerry Wade. The single shovel with the ribbon honors the memory of Bob LeMone.

Thanks in part to a generous donation of 3+ acres from the late Bob LeMone, Little Dixie Construction Company, the City broke ground Dec. 22 at the future site of the Columbia Police Department (CPD) Regional Training Facility.

The facility, to be located at 5001 Meyer Industrial Drive, just south of the new Gans Creek Interchange on US 63, will not only be used for training Columbia's officers, but will offer host training from the CPD's state and nationally certified instructors.

"This project will bring our regional public safety partners into an even stronger partnership," said Mayor Pro-tem Chris Janku, who presided over the ceremony.

"The training facility is something we have wanted and needed for a long time," said Tom Dresner, interim police chief. "A place for training that we can call our own."

LeMone's wife, Sara, and their children Sara Emily and Mac were present for the ceremony.

Completion of this project, which is being constructed by Little Dixie Construction Company, is anticipated for fall 2009.

February 2009 Volunteers of the Month



(L-r): Jen, Laura, Ben and Madeline Micek work at a TreeKeepers project in Again Street Park.

Jen is also involved in Meals-on-Wheels, and the family regularly donates time to events like the Columbia Festival of the Arts and the Kids Duathlon.

"We love volunteering; it's such a wonderful way to stay involved," she said. "Columbia is a great city, and we love to help out."

The Miceks are the parents of Madeline, Laura and Abigail, ages 4, 2 and 1 month.

To learn about City volunteer programs, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

-Written by volunteer Sarah Madden

City Arts Funding

Each year the City supports local arts programming. In fiscal year 2009 more than \$95,000 will go to aid the programs and services of local arts agencies. Eligible projects focus on presentation of visual, performing and literary arts and related educational offerings. To qualify, arts organizations must have 501c3 nonprofit status. To learn more, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), (573) 874-6386, oca@GoColumbiaMo.com, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArts). Or meet with city staff on Jan. 29, the first day applications will be available, anytime 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the OCA in the City's Gentry Building, 1 S. Seventh Street.

Spending locally -- a sweet idea

Spending your money locally this month is an idea to fall in love with. Recent studies show up to three times as much money stays in the local economy when you purchase goods and services from locally-owned businesses. Local businesses often have higher local payrolls and benefits and often spend more of their revenues in nearby areas.

The following are a few ways you can show your affection this month and spend locally at the same time:

1. Take your sweetheart to a Valentine's Day dinner at one of Columbia's local restaurants. Fresh local ingredients take taste to a new level.
2. Find the perfect gift at a local gallery or shop in The District, where you can find everything from works of art to jewelry.
3. Win your loved one over with passes to the 6th annual True/False Film Festival starting Feb. 26. Taking in amazing films and keeping your money in Columbia, what could be sweeter?

Jen and Ben Micek have turned their passion for trees into a special family activity with their young girls.

The Miceks have been involved with the TreeKeepers program since 2006. Jen Micek says, "TreeKeepers is such a cool way to really get into the parks and find out how to identify trees, then properly plant and care for them."

TreeKeepers receive extensive training in field and course work. In exchange, they agree to donate 36 hours to the City in various projects.

The Miceks each aim to donate about 20 hours per year. Jen said that she and Ben usually take turns on projects and try to bring along one of their daughters. Madeline, their 4-year-old, already loves to dig holes.

CITYSOURCE

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

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Your source for City news and information



Are you a natural resource?

There's an energy source that's free, renewable and available right now. It's you, if you are saving energy! Make Columbia Water & Light your resource and you can have an Energy Star home with the Home Performance program. Plus, you can receive rebates and low-interest loans to help finance your energy efficiency projects.

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 system
- ✓ Upgrading lighting and appliances
- ✓ Installing Energy Star windows or doors

What are the benefits?

Your home will have:

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

Pictures:

- 1 Blower door test determining air tightness
- 2 Uninsulated duct
- 3 Air leakage in a can light



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. You can also receive a low-interest loan to help finance your efficiency upgrades.

Contact us for a list of Home Performance contractors.

874-7325
www.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 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.

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MAYOR
Darwin Hindman

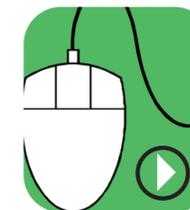
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	Paul Sturtz
<i>Second Ward</i>	Chris Janku
<i>Third Ward</i>	Karl Skala
<i>Fourth Ward</i>	Jerry Wade
<i>Fifth Ward</i>	Laura Nauser
<i>Sixth Ward</i>	Barbara Hoppe
<i>City Manager</i>	Bill Watkins



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Did You Know?



Curious about how much energy you are using? Sign up for online access to your utility account and view your consumption history. Look for the links for online payments and have your utility bill handy the first time you sign up. www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Utilities/online-utilities.php





The health department is concerned about the health of our citizens, as well as that of our furry friends. Winter weather requires some extra attention to keep pets safe and warm. Follow these tips to ensure your companion stays healthy this winter:

1. Regularly check your pet's water to make sure it's not frozen.
2. Provide a dry space for your pet. A doghouse will work perfectly.
3. Bang loudly on the hood of your vehicle before you start the engine. Cats like to get up in the engine of a vehicle where it is warm. Bang loudly to give these animals a chance to escape.
4. Make sure your pet is wearing ID tags and/or is microchipped.

As always, if you think someone isn't providing adequate care for a pet, please contact Animal Control at 449-1888.

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 www.GoColumbiaMo.com for more 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.

Discussion about President Barack Obama

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m., free Armory Sports Center. Come share your feelings about this historic event in black and American history.

Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner Musical Celebration

Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. St. Luke UMC. Come enjoy great gospel music from local and regional acts. Afterwards, there will be a soul food feast for all who attend.

February is American Heart Month

Hearts abound in February. On cards, on stuffed animals and on the endless pieces of candy that show up at home, work and school. But the heart you should be most concerned about is your own. February is American Heart Month, a good time to review the major risk factors associated with heart disease:

1. Smoking. Cigarette smokers are two-to-three times more likely to die from coronary heart disease than nonsmokers.
2. High blood pressure and high cholesterol. Studies have shown that lowering high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure can reduce the risk of developing heart disease.
3. Diabetes. Two out of three people with diabetes die from heart disease and stroke.
4. Overweight. Remember, you are what you eat. Better food habits can help you reduce your risk for heart attack.
5. Physically inactive. Nearly 40 percent of the population ages 18 and older do not participate in any physical activity.
6. Family history of heart disease. Brush up on your family history.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both women and men in the United States. But it's never too late to take control of your heart health. The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services has many resources available if you're interested in improving your health. Please visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call (573) 874-7355.

Trihalomethane research points towards changing treatment process

To see a copy of the recent research update, please visit

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Water/TrihalomethaneInformation.php>

Although recent testing has shown the levels of total trihalomethanes in Columbia's water are below the maximum contaminant level set by the Environmental Protection Agency, research continues on the issue. The second quarter report by the University of Missouri's Water Resources Research Center shows that 67 percent of the trihalomethanes form before the water hits the distribution system. The center has analyzed nearly 800 water samples from the wells, the treatment plant and the distribution system to help Columbia Water & Light's quest to substantially lower the level of trihalomethanes.

Of recent samples taken by the Water Resources Research Center, the average level of trihalomethanes was 77 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The November compliance sample results from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources show the level at 70 ug/L with the running annual average at 71.2 ug/L. The Environmental Protection Agency sets the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes at 80 ug/L. In April 2008, Columbia received a violation for being over the maximum contaminant level.

The formation of total trihalomethanes is a complex chemical reaction that happens over time. Water samples were taken by the Water Resources Research Center at eight different locations in the distribution system. The data shows that the trihalomethanes form quickly after the chlorine is added at the plant. They continue to form in the distribution system but at a slower rate. To effectively lower the amount of trihalomethanes, a different approach to treating the water must be pursued.

Columbia Water & Light has been working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to add ammonia in the treatment process to slow the formation potential of total trihalomethanes. With City Council approval, the system could be in place by late spring or summer. The estimated cost of adding ammonia to the water treatment process is \$200,000. This money will come from the Columbia Water & Light reserve fund. Long-term water treatment solutions can be studied during a water treatment plant study conducted by an outside firm.



ARC offers new kids activities

This winter, the ARC (Activity and Recreation Center) is planning two new events for kids! Both will take place at the ARC's indoor track and will cost \$5 for ARC annual members and just \$8 for non-members. Call the ARC for more information (874-7700) or sign up at the ARC front desk.

Kids Poker Run is for ages 3-6. It will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 21. Kids will cruise the ARC track on a Big Wheel, tricycle or other pedal-powered vehicle and receive a playing card for every lap. A poker hand is built after every mile or seven laps. Kids can create as many hands as they wish in the allotted time. Prizes will be given to the top poker hands, but nobody walks away empty handed. All equipment must be clean and approved by event staff before entering the track surface. No bicycles please!

Youth Poker Run is for kids ages 7-17 and will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on March 7. This will be a foot race for fun and prizes where participants will receive a playing card after each lap. A poker hand is built after every mile or 7 laps. Youth can create as many hands as they wish in the allotted time. Prizes will be given to the top poker hands. Staff will keep track of laps and poker hands. Participants must run a minimum of one mile to be entered into the prizes.

**On-line 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. Call customer service at 874-7380.

Severe Weather Week

The National Weather Service and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) have declared March 9-13 Severe Weather Awareness Week, which will include a statewide tornado drill held at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10.

The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management will activate the warning siren system for this exercise. In the event of an actual disaster, specific information would be obtained from local broadcast media.

Everyone (e.g., schools, businesses, families) should have basic knowledge of severe weather safety and a plan in place. Knowing what to do or where to go when severe weather threatens can mean the difference between life and death.

This is a good time for all residents to practice their severe weather safety plans. Prepare now for a sudden emergency. Some steps to take are:

- ✓ Create an emergency plan and discuss it with family members.
- ✓ Prepare a disaster supplies kit.
- ✓ Assemble drinking water, food and supplies (battery-powered radio, flashlights, etc.).
- ✓ Locate hazards in your home. In an emergency, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a potential hazard.
- ✓ Know what to do and where to go if you have to evacuate.
- ✓ Prepare an emergency car kit. Prepare a fire safety plan.

More information about Severe Weather Week is available on various Web sites, such as http://GoColumbiaMo.com/EM/Natural_Disasters/severe_weather.php or <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dvn/?n=swaw>.

Columbia Regional Airport listed in Mesaba's Top 5



Columbia Regional Airport ranked a spot on Mesaba's Top 5 list. Mesaba (dba Northwest AirlinK) began providing commercial air service to Columbia on Aug. 19, offering three flights daily through its Memphis hub. Columbia Regional Airport is now listed in the top 5 of 56 comparable markets.

Other cities listed in the Top 5 include: Toledo, Ohio; Mosinee, Wis; Marquette, Mich.; and

Aberdeen, S.D. Of those cities, Columbia has the highest loads, with over 70 percent load factors for October, November and December 2008. Enplanements (the number of people boarding at Columbia Regional Airport) were listed as follows: October, 2,095 passengers; November, 1,990 passengers; and December, 2,016 passengers. Previous commercial service at Columbia Regional Airport reported an average monthly enplanement for the last six months of service as 497.

Northwest Airlines reports a completion factor for the year at 98.4 percent and the station's on-time performance at 83.6 percent for service at Columbia Regional Airport.

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.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

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

February 1
Registration begins for
Douglass Baseball leagues

February 9
Advanced registration begins
for adult summer softball

February 10
Session III of swim lessons
begins, Hickman Pool

February 11
President Obama discussion,
Armory Sports Center,
6:30 p.m., free

February 16
Open registration begins for
adult summer softball

February 16
Registration begins for
adult summer volleyball

February 20
OAK (Older American Klub)
Romantic movie, Stephens Lake
Activity Center, 1 p.m.

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

February 23
Gospel Explosion and Soul Food
Dinner, St. Luke UMC, 3 p.m., free

February 28
Scout's Honor, Hickman Pool,
1-3 p.m., \$3 per child

 (cut along line)