

Council action

The Council on November 6, 2006:

- Authorized a wind generation energy purchase and transmission service agreement with Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. In November 2004, voters passed an ordinance requiring the City to purchase certain levels of renewable energy beginning with two percent of energy requirements in 2008.
- Authorized an agreement with the Central Missouri Humane Society for animal control services. The city contracts annually with the Humane Society for office space, utilities, daytime reception and dispatch, kennel facilities and veterinary medical services. The 2007 contract amount is \$91,250.

The Council on November 20, 2006:

- Authorized an agreement with the Columbia School District for playground improvement projects at Mill Creek, Blue Ridge, Ridgeway and Russell elementary schools. Since 1998, the city has assisted with funding of outdoor play equipment located on school grounds up to \$15,000 per school. The city's funding source comes from the Park Sales Tax and will be matched with funds from the school district, PTA and private donations.
- Authorized a memorandum of understanding with the Boone County Fire Protection District (BCFPD) relating to the handling of explosive or incendiary devices. The Columbia Fire Department and Columbia Police Department had previously used federal grant funds to jointly form a Hazardous Device Unit. Similarly, the BCFPD formed an Explosives Ordinance Disposal Team. The memorandum of understanding establishes a cooperative relationship and provides a basis for meeting guidelines in order to be included in the FBI's training exercises and informational updates.

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 Web at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the City Council page.

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.



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New squad formed

The Columbia Police Department has started a new squad to help combat problems during early morning hours. Acting on complaints from residents in the Central Columbia area that criminals were becoming more active after 3 a.m. when the Fourth Squad leaves the streets, the Columbia Police have a new a two-man squad that will work primarily during the morning.

The two officers, Tim Giger and Jon Logan, will be assigned to Central Columbia and they will concentrate on "pro-active" foot patrol and bike patrol. Both officers have extensive experience with the police department. Officer Giger is a 10-year veteran, who has worked primarily in Central Columbia, and has been a detective in the Major Crimes Unit. Officer Logan is an eight-year veteran, who also has worked in Central Columbia as well as being a member of the Community Action Team.

Although their schedule is not permanent, they will be working after 3 a.m. and before the dayshift officers began their day at 6:30 a.m. Both officers have started their new shift and are excited to get out and make a difference in the community.



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❖ Your source for city news and information ❖

Columbia tree trimmers help restore power in St. Louis

Thousands of St. Louis area residents were left without power when a severe winter storm in December damaged many trees. To help remove debris, Columbia Water and Light sent three tree trimming crews. The utility has a contract with Asplundh Tree Expert Company for seven crews to trim trees along electric lines throughout the year in Columbia. Although power was restored after a week, the Columbia tree trimmers stayed in St. Louis for another week to help with clean up efforts.

During ice storms, tree branches can be damaged and in turn cause power outages or downed lines. Columbia Water and Light budgets \$1 million annually to trim trees along overhead power lines. Trimming trees on a three-year cycle helps the reliability of the electric system, and it keeps the amount needing to be trimmed to a minimum. Gary Maiden, Services Superintendent, started the routine tree trimming program for the City in the early 1980s. He said, "By routinely trimming trees in Columbia, we have seen a lot less outages than we used to. We appreciate the cooperation of Columbians. We would rather not have to trim trees, but it helps keep the lights on, especially during ice storms or high winds."

For nine consecutive years Columbia Water and Light has received the Tree Line USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The program honors utilities for responsible tree trimming practices and programs to promote appropriate planting near utility lines. Proper planting techniques are encouraged throughout the year by Water and Light employees. The utility also provides free shade trees through its Tree Power program.



For Columbians experiencing problems with large trees growing near their electric lines, Columbia Water and Light offers the Trade-A-Tree program. The utility will remove the tree and provide a replacement tree for qualifying residents. The trees offered in this program are small-growing ornamental trees that will not need to be trimmed if planted near overhead power lines.

For a listing of replacement trees and shrubs under this program, go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-6205 to see if you qualify for the Trade-A-Tree program.

When the power goes out, don't spend extra time on the phone trying to report the outage.

Take a minute today to fill out the return envelope flap with your correct phone numbers.

That way, when you are reporting a service problem, Columbia Water

and Light's automated reporting system can efficiently handle your call.

Having correct contact information also helps the utility make any necessary follow-up calls to you.

When there are problems with the electric system, Columbia Water

and Light makes every effort to restore your power as soon as possible.

If you experience an outage, please call Water and Light at

875-2555. Customer reports during an outage help our crews trouble

shoot problems and get the lights back on.



Why do we need your correct phone number?

Web did you know?

The CASH and HELP programs help the elderly, disabled and low income families with children pay their utility bills. Help your neighbors by donating to one or both utility assistance programs online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the Finance Department page.



FREE energy audit

Columbia Water & Light offers a FREE Energy Audit Program to help you find ways to conserve energy around your home. To find out if you qualify, call 874-7325.

Signs of progress at Columbia Transit

During the renovation of Wabash Station, arriving buses will line up in random order along the north side of the parking lot behind the station. To lessen passengers' confusion as they search for their buses, Columbia Transit has purchased new electronic destination signs for the fixed-route buses. Luminator's Horizon Full LED front and side signs replace worn-out cloth signs on 15 fixed-route buses. The new signs will be more reliable than the old, which tended to tear and jam.

Find up-to-date information on bus lineup and passenger boarding at Wabash station on Community Line (#717), on the Columbia Transit Web site www.GoColumbiaMo.com and at the station, 874-7282. Columbia Transit appreciates your patience during the station's renovation.



February volunteer of the month

by volunteer Nancy Summers

Tom Masters (above) is a dedicated Park Patrol volunteer where he serves as extra eyes and ears for suspicious activity and maintenance issues. Park Patrol is a community-policing tool for the City's trail and park system.

As a Park Patrol volunteer, Masters also helps with National Trails Day and youth soccer at Cosmo Park. He enjoys telling his experiences to new Park Patrol members and works hard, accruing 326 hours this year. Masters enjoys meeting new people on the trails and talking to them about the future of Columbia's parks and trails.

Masters says, "The most serious thing that happened while on the trail was when I witnessed a three-vehicle wreck on Creasy Springs and one of the drivers was badly hurt. I called 911 and got emergency people to the crash site as soon as possible."

Masters also serves as an Ambassador with First Night each New Year's Eve. He says, "First Night is fun to work. I get to see entertainers perform and fireworks!"

The City of Columbia thanks Tom for his dedication to our community. To learn more about volunteering, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Events planned to commemorate Black History Month

Columbia Parks and Recreation is planning a series of events to honor Black History Month in February. All activities are free. For more information, call 874-7460.

Columbia Black History Exhibit: The exhibit will be open at the Armory Sports Center (701 E. Ash) from February 5-23. Visitors can drop by to see the exhibit between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

Hip-Hop & Freestyle Night: This family friendly event will be held at Douglass High School Gym from 7-9 p.m. on February 8. A DJ will be provided as well as an open microphone to allow the public to show off their freestyle skills!

African-Americans in Films: A movie will be shown at 7 p.m. on February 14 at the Armory Sports Center, followed by a discussion. Watch for more details on www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner—Musical Celebration: Come early to get a seat and enjoy numerous gospel acts and a traditional African-American meal. Activities will start at 3 p.m. on February 25 at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 204 E. Ash.

A Show-Me Yards workshop



Green Lawns / Blue Waters: Have Both... the Smart Way!

Want to save time and money on yard care that's environmentally friendly? Want to have a great lawn plus get answers to your yard-care problems? Did you know homeowners use 10 times more chemicals per acre on lawns than farmers use on crops? 90% of U.S. streams sampled contained pesticide residue. Did any of that come from your yard?

This 3-session workshop will include:

- Moles, Fungus & Crabgrass: Solving Basic Problems
- Adding Nutrients & Minerals Without adding Chemicals
- Why Consider Native Plants?
- Healthy Soil — Healthy Grass & Gardens
- How & Why to Build a Rain Garden
- Resisting the Urge to Spray: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Bugs
- Equipment & Techniques for Your Best Lawn Yet

This is a 3-week session: Wednesdays at the ARC February 7th, 14th & 21st, 6:30-9 p.m.

Questions or to register: 874-7616 or email mmenezes@GoColumbiaMo.com

Free & open to the public
Registration required

New preschool programs

Columbia Parks and Recreation is offering several new fun activities for preschoolers this winter! Children ages 3-6 are invited to participate. Each activity costs \$5, and you must pre-register by calling 874-7460 or online at www.GoColumbiamo.com (GoWord: GoRecreationRegistration).

Braille Fun
10 a.m., Tuesday, January 16
ARC, 1701 W. Ash

Mini Carnival
10 a.m., Thursday, February 1
Parkade Center

Valentine Party
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 13
Parkade Center

Mardi Gras Celebration
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 20
ARC, 1701 W. Ash

CALENDAR

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

February

- 5-23 **Black History Month Exhibit**, Armory Sports Center, Free
- 8 **Hip Hop and Freestyle Night**, 7-9 p.m., Douglass High School Gym, Free
- 9 **Singles Mixer**, Riechmann Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park, 8-11 p.m., \$7
- 11 **Scout's Honor**, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., \$3 per child, pre-register
- 13 **Swim lessons begin**, Session II, Hickman Pool
- 14 **African-Americans in Films**, Armory Sports Center, 7 p.m., Free
- 16 **OAK/50+ Valentine Dance**, Parkade Center (east side), 601 Bus Loop 70W, 7-10 p.m., \$3
- 17 **Train Show**, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Free
- 25 **Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner**, St. Luke United Methodist Church, 3 p.m., Free



Community line

By dialing the City of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 553, you can learn about Christmas tree collection.

701 East Broadway www.GoColumbiaMo.com

City of Columbia

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 874-7111 | City Hall Switchboard |
| 874-7650 | Community Line |
| 874-7697 | TTY Users |
| | Pre-Recorded Information 24 Hours / Day |
| 874-7282 | Bus System & Information |
| 874-7325 | Energy Conservation |
| 874-7460 | Parks And Recreation |
| 874-7663 | Recreation Hotline/Cancellations |
| 911 | Police Emergency |
| 874-7652 | Officer Voice Mail & General Information |
| 442-6131 | Non-Emergency |
| 442-6132 | |
| 874-7405 | Columbia Police Programs/Crime Prevention |
| 874-7525 | East District Commander |
| 874-7523 | West District Commander |
| 874-7229 | Prosecutor—City |
| 874-6291 | Recycling Information |
| 874-6291 | Roll-Off Service |
| 874-7663 | Recreation Hot Line |
| 874-6291 | Solid Waste Collection |
| 874-6289 | Street Maintenance |
| 874-6292 | Street Sign Maintenance |
| 874-7230 | Traffic & Parking Violations |
| | Utilities |
| 874-7380 | Account Information |
| 874-7380 | Water & Light Turn On & Off |
| 445-9426 | Sanitary Sewer Emergencies—24 Hours |
| 874-6289 | Storm Sewer Maintenance |
| 875-2555 | Power Emergencies—24 Hours |
| 875-2555 | Water Emergencies—24 Hours |
| 874-7499 | Volunteer Services |
| 874-7339 | Weeds & Health Complaints Hotline |