

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Diversity Award winners



above — Mayor Bob McDavid congratulates those representing the Center for Multicultural Research, Training and Consultation after presenting them with the 2011 Columbia Values Diversity Award for groups.



above — Rev. Dick Blount reacts as Mayor McDavid presents him with the Columbia Values Diversity Award.

Photos by Parker Eshelman, Columbia Daily Tribune

The 14th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Jan. 13. The awards are given to an individual/family and an organization/group that have made significant contributions in promoting appreciation for diversity and cultural understanding in Columbia.

The organizational award went to Center for Multicultural Research, Training, and Consultation, an organization that strives to prevent prejudice and increase multicultural awareness, knowledge and skills on the MU campus and in the community. The center's work targets children and educators with the goal of dismantling prejudice and discrimination at an early age in order to prevent future inequality at the systematic level.

Rev. C. Richard "Dick" Blount, whose contributions to the issues of social justice and civil rights span over the last 50 years, was presented the individual award. Rev. Blount's work has included interfaith peacemaking efforts to reduce racial tensions during America's civil rights movement, implementing the anti-poverty Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program in Missouri and promoting acceptance and understanding of homosexuality and equality based on sexual orientation.

Volunteer of the Month—Jim Schepers



Jim Schepers

The New Year is already in full swing, but it's not too late to add volunteering to your resolutions list. February Volunteer of the Month Jim Schepers has a warning, though, "once you start volunteering, it becomes addictive."

For Schepers, the addiction to volunteering began when he became a charter member of the Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project (C.A.R.P.). As a C.A.R.P. volunteer, he assists in aquatic park management and maintenance for ponds, streams, lakes and rain

gardens. When Schepers learned of the new project several years ago, he decided it was right down his alley. As an avid water fowl hunter, Schepers had an interest in aquatic restoration. He also enjoys learning new preservation techniques.

Schepers' passion and talents have not gone unnoticed. "Jim's enthusiasm and humor add so much to the events. His hard work and fun nature keep everyone he works with excited about the work they are involved in," said Jen Courtney, horticulturist and supervisor for C.A.R.P. "His efforts really are having a positive influence on water quality in the Columbia area."

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

~ Written by volunteer Brittany Perrin

Show your pets some love

February is often thought of as the month of love, but did you know there are actually two February holidays relating to that subject? The first, of course, is Valentine's Day. The second is National Spay Day (Feb. 22). What better way to say "I love you" to your pet than by spaying (or neutering)? Spaying and neutering can protect from cancer, unwanted pregnancies and other health complications.

The Central Missouri Humane Society (CMHS) offers low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to low-income families in mid-Missouri. Animal Control officers at the Columbia/Boone County department of Public Health and Human Services offer free spay/neuter vouchers for those who qualify.

For more information on either of these services, call the CMHS at 443-7387 or Animal Control at 449-1888. Do your part to truly make February the month of love.



Web 'Did You Know'. . .

The City Channel has been providing award-winning news coverage for more than 15 years. The station broadcasts City meetings and original programming featuring government services and activities. View stories online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Solar One Help grow solar energy in Columbia!



Going out for a cup of coffee can cost at least \$3. Why not invest in solar energy instead? For only \$3.35 a month you can develop a local, renewable energy resource.

Columbia Water & Light started Solar One in 2008 to develop local solar projects. Solar One is a "utility within a utility." The monthly Solar One subscription fees pay for the extra cost of these solar projects in Columbia. There are new solar systems in Columbia and there are a limited amount of new Solar One spots available.

Solar One costs \$3.35 a month for a 100 kilowatt hour block of energy. Columbia Water & Light electric customers can purchase up to nine blocks of Solar One power. When you sign up for the program, the Solar One subscription charges will be added as a line item on your monthly utility bill. You will still pay the normal rate for the electricity you use.

Solar One energy is generated through solar systems located on Columbia businesses. Columbia's commercial buildings have large rooftops with good solar exposure. Solar One energy is being generated at Quaker Oats and Bright City Lights. These commercial customers realize the environmental benefit of generating solar energy and want to make a difference in the community.

Businesses can also take advantage of federal tax incentives for installing solar panels that are not available to the utility. Columbia Water & Light purchases the solar energy from these businesses through a power purchase agreement. In addition to the two local businesses contributing to Solar One, Columbia Water & Light has a solar demonstration site located at Bernadette Drive that provides more solar energy for the program.

The development of solar energy could increase in 2011. The Columbia City Council approved a lease agreement for more local solar projects in December. The cost of the solar energy is competitive with current City power resources. As these new solar projects develop, the future of the Solar One program will be evaluated by the Water & Light Advisory Board and the City Council.

Solar One sign-up

You will need to enter your account numbers to sign up for Solar One, so have your City of Columbia utility bill handy or call 874-7380. If you are already participating in Solar One, you do not need to renew your subscription.

Online form: GoColumbiaMo.com

874-7325

Questions: wmail@GoColumbiaMo.com



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John William “Blind” Boone Home renovations continue

The two-story Victorian house at 10 North Fourth Street has stood quietly for more than 100 years. It was once home to one of the world’s most famous musicians, John W. “Blind” Boone. In his lifetime, Boone overcame blindness, poverty and discrimination to become an amazing composer and concert pianist. Along with Scott Joplin and James Scott, Boone made up Missouri’s “Big Three,” the most influential musicians in the state known as the home of ragtime, the precursor of jazz.

Sadly, the home fell into serious disrepair and required rescuing by the City of Columbia with the assistance of the John William Boone Heritage Foundation. The exterior has been restored. The Blind Boone Community Center Board is now moving forward with interior improvements, which will include a front room that reflects the period in which Boone lived and worked. In the middle “sensory” room, visitors can listen to Boone’s music, and through a series of activities, experience what a loss of sight or hearing would be like. A tribute garden and center for documenting oral histories will complete the project.

Boone lived an extraordinary life inside and outside Columbia. He never forgot his beginnings and later became a much beloved philanthropist who donated much of his money to local African-American churches and schools.

Try budget billing

Sign up for the City’s budget billing program and you can make the same payment every month. To qualify, you need to have lived at your current residence for more than 12 months, so your monthly payment may be calculated. Several times a year, the City will review your account to see if you have overpaid or underpaid and will make adjustments accordingly.

- Signing up for budget billing:**
- Wait for your March utility bill to arrive.
 - Fill out the tear-off flap of your return envelope or call Utility Customer Service at 874-7380.

Enrollment is only offered during the March billing cycle. You will have around 20 days to sign up after receiving your March bill.

Columbia surpasses renewable energy goals

Columbia has a renewable energy standard that requires increasing amounts of renewable energy.

The ordinance states that 2 percent of the electric supply be provided by renewable resources in 2008 and it grows to 15 percent in 2023. Columbia Water & Light has reached the renewable energy goal for 2013 and had 5 percent of the electric supply from renewable energy in 2010.

In February, the draft of the 2011 Renewable Energy Report will be available online or by request. It will be reviewed by City boards and commissions and approved by the City Council before the report is finalized.

February is Heart Month

About every 25 seconds, someone in America will experience a heart-related medical emergency. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the U.S. Risk factors for heart disease include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, tobacco use and secondhand smoke.

A healthy diet and lifestyle are the best weapons you have to fight heart disease. Many people make it harder than it is. It is important to remember that it is the overall pattern of the choices you make that counts. As you make daily food choices, base your eating pattern on these recommendations:

- Choose lean meats and poultry without skin and prepare them without added saturated and trans fat.
- Select fat-free, 1 percent fat and low-fat dairy products.
- Cut back on foods high in dietary cholesterol. Aim to eat less than 300 mg of cholesterol each day.
- Cut back on beverages and foods with added sugars.
- Choose and prepare foods with little or no salt. Aim to eat less than 2,300 mg of sodium per day.
- If you drink alcohol, drink in moderation. That means no more than one drink per day if you’re a woman and two drinks per day if you’re a man.
- Keep an eye on your portion sizes.

Physical activity in your daily life is an important step to preventing heart disease. You can take a few simple steps at home, at work and at play to increase the amount of physical activity in your life. For more information on the prevention of heart disease, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/> or call the health department at 874-7356.

Online 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.

Questions? Call customer service at 874-7380.

Call for Art: 2011 Commemorative Poster

Each year the City’s Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) produces an annual commemorative poster to communicate the vitality and beauty of mid-Missouri and the significance of the arts.

The official poster is unveiled at an exciting get-together of arts enthusiasts in August and is available for purchase year-round with proceeds supporting city-funded arts activities and arts education efforts.

An award of \$1,000 is presented to the artist for the right to reproduce artwork for the poster. Missouri artists are eligible to apply, and work in all media is considered.

For more information or an application, visit the OCA’s page of the City’s website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search word: Arts) or contact the OCA, 573-874-6387, oca@GoColumbiaMo.com. The post-mark deadline for applications is March 25.

Severe Weather Awareness Week March 7—11, 2011

Although we are still in the midst of winter, spring and the possibility of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are just around the corner. Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 7—11, 2011. During the week, the Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and National Weather Service (NWS), encourage everyone to review their preparation and plans for the event of a tornado.

One of the best ways to prepare is to purchase an NOAA weather radio. Weather radios give residents advance warning of impending severe weather and can be programmed for specific areas. While outdoor warning sirens alert residents who are outside, weather radios can alert those who are indoors where sirens may not be heard.

The annual statewide tornado drill is planned for Tuesday, March 8, at 1:30 p.m. The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management will activate the county’s storm warning sirens. Schools, businesses, day-care centers, churches and government facilities are strongly encouraged to conduct drills and examine their emergency plans. Knowing what to do before, during and after a severe weather event can mean the difference between life and death.

For more information about Severe Weather Awareness Week, or to order free disaster preparation publications, contact the Office of Emergency Management or log on to the OEM page of the City’s website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM.

Parks and Recreation summer registration starts March 2

Get a jump on registration for summer camps, swimming lessons and other activities offered by Parks and Recreation! The department’s activity guide, the *Leisure Times*, will come out on March 2. The guide will contain information on summer activities, the Family Fun Fests, Outdoor Movies at Flat Branch Parks, pool information and much more!

Leisure Times will be mailed and will also be available at the Parks and Recreation office, 1 South 7th Street; at the ARC, the Columbia Public Library; and online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR	
Register online! www.GoColumbiaMo.com Call 874-7460 for more information.	
MARCH 2011	
2	Spring/Summer Leisure Times available
7-10	3 on 3 Women’s Basketball Tournament, Douglass High School, \$30 per team
17	Precious Moments/Women’s Recognition Awards, Armory Sports Center, 6:30 p.m., free
19	Hobo Joe Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free



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