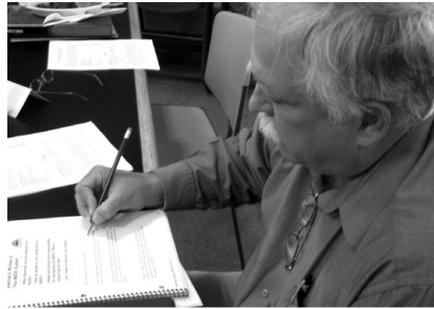


Building Operator Certification program

Alan Forbis of the Columbia Public Schools finishes his last class of the Building Operator Certification program. The program included nearly 80 hours of classroom and project work in energy-efficient building systems operation and maintenance. The Energy Center of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources provided the training with the support of Columbia Water & Light and AmerenUE.



Air Conditioning Efficiency Tips

Save money on your bills and still be comfortable in your house this summer!

- Maintain your heating and cooling system by replacing air filters at least four times a year.
- Set the thermostat no lower than 78 degrees and turn it up to 85 degrees when the house is unoccupied.
- Leave window shades that receive direct sunlight down during the day.
- Try to use the oven, dishwasher and other appliances that produce heat during the late evening and early morning.
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothes.
- Keep fireplace chimney dampers closed.
- Consider moving your extra refrigerator or freezer out of the garage to the basement, and your appliance won't have to work so hard to stay cool.
- Don't block vents and air returns with furniture, drapes or rugs.
- Clean dust and lint away from appliances (heating/cooling unit, refrigerators, hot water heaters, etc.) on a regular basis so the motors run more efficiently.

Sign up for Columbia Water and Light's FREE Energy Audit to have a customized energy efficiency plan for your home or business.

874-7325 or www.GoColumbiaMo.com



Imagine Columbia's Future Visioning Update

Since public discussions about a shared Vision for Columbia's future began in spring 2006, more than 450 people have contributed 1,500 "Big Ideas" at public meetings. Nearly 350 community volunteers have been working in 13 Citizen Topic Groups to address primary issues that emerged from the original "Big Ideas." The topic groups translated those issues into goals and strategies for Columbia's future.

At the "Exploring the Vision" public workshop on April 4, citizens evaluated each Citizen Topic Group goal and rated it on a scale of community importance. They also talked with representatives from each Topic Group and filled out comment cards for the goals and strategies.

Citizen Topic Groups continue their work to eventually prepare the vision plan. The public will have another opportunity to view the emerging Vision at the Community Choices workshop, which will be held sometime this summer or early fall.

Stay tuned! For more information, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com and click on "Imagine Columbia's Future."

Council action

The Council on April 2:

- Appropriated funds for a sanitary sewer cost-of-service study. The study will consist of reviewing current City practices for analysis, debt coverage calculations, cash reserve policy and rate design. The cost is \$20,000.
- Authorized an agreement with the Carrera Soccer Club for the 2007 "4Girls" Carrera Midwest Soccer Invitational. The \$15,000 in requested funds will be used for site fees and tournament awards. The event will be held over Labor Day (Sept. 1-2, 2007) weekend when Columbia hotels are normally at a lower occupancy. The Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates the tournament will generate 1,200 to 1,500 hotel room nights with a projected economic impact in excess of \$750,000.

The Council on April 16:

- Authorized an agreement with the curators of the University of Missouri regarding the Senior Games and the Show Me State Games. A \$15,000 cash sponsorship has been allocated from the Convention & Visitor's Bureau for support of the Show-Me State Games and a \$5,000 cash sponsorship from the Parks & Recreation budget for the Senior Games. In addition, the City provides facilities and other related services without cost.
- Accepted certain streets for public use and maintenance. One hundred fifty-four streets or segments of streets, totaling 20 miles, were constructed in Columbia subdivisions in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by the developer's engineers. These streets were inspected by city staff to assure specification compliance and have been accepted by the Public Works Department.

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.



Leave a legacy with a gift to Columbia Parks

Parks provide our city with green space, a location to play and a place to create memories with our family and friends. Columbia's park system is also a good place to leave a legacy. Whether through a Memorial or Heritage tree or bench, the gift of land, or a cash donation or gift for a park improvement, your contribution can make a lasting impact. To learn more about gifts to our park system, contact the Columbia Trust at 874-7504.

City of Columbia Solid Waste Division

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
1313 Lakeview
Open first and third Saturdays through November, 9am to 1pm
874-6291

Compost for Sale
City Compost Facility
5700 Peabody Rd.
Every Wednesday 1-5pm
474-9145



Fourth of July holiday

City offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made that day and will be delayed for one day throughout 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.

Board and Commission openings

The City is accepting applications for the following boards and commissions. Applications and current vacancies are on the City's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com on the City Council page. Call 874-7208 for information and specific requirements.

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission
- Building Construction Codes Commission
- Board of Electrical Examiners



CITY SOURCE is published by the City of Columbia as a public service to the residents of Columbia, Missouri. The City of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, handicap, familial status, or sexual orientation.

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City Council Members:
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Second Ward
Chris Janku

Third Ward
Karl Skala

Fourth Ward
Jerry Wade

Fifth Ward
Laura Nauser

Sixth Ward
Barbara Hoppe

City Manager
Bill Watkins

CITYSOURCE

www.GoColumbiaMo.com vol. 12 no. 7 July 2007

Your source for City news and information

Columbia Water & Light nationally recognized for reliability



(above) Columbia Water & Light Chief Engineer Mike Schmitz (center) accepts the RP3 award from Mike Hyland (left) and Paul Allen (right) during the American Public Power Association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in Atlanta, Georgia.

"The RP3 designation represents a concerted effort on the utility's behalf to exemplify the highest standards of utility operations," said Paul Allen, from Nashville, Tenn., who is the chair of the RP3 Review Panel. "The utility and the community should be very proud of this achievement."

The RP3 recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, training and system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

"We're thrilled to be recognized as a national RP3 designee," said Dan Dasho, director of Columbia Water and Light. "Reliable electricity is important to our community so it is one of our highest priorities. We look forward to continuing to find ways to improve our operations and service to the community."

This is the second year that the RP3 award has been offered. APPA is the national organization representing more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community and state-owned electric utilities.



Voter wishes accomplished...

New water line installed
(above) Columbia Water & Light employees tie in a second 36-inch water transmission line off of Scott Boulevard. The project required an 8,000-pound line stop be placed on the existing water main to keep water from flowing through the pipe. Completing this 2003 bond issue project will enable the treatment plant to pump up to 32 million gallons of water a day to the Columbia system.

Renewable energy

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 26 for the new landfill gas electric generating system in Jefferson City. Columbia Water & Light will receive enough energy from the plant to power over 2,000 homes. The energy will help Columbia Water & Light surpass the renewable energy standard passed by voters in 2004. For more information, see the Renewable Energy Report at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Health Department offers smoking cessation service

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department is launching a service to help prevent citizens from lighting another cigarette. This is a result of a \$300,000 grant awarded to the Health Department by the Missouri Foundation for Health based in St. Louis. Boone County residents who want to quit smoking now have a program that includes counseling and patches at no cost.

- Tobacco use costs not only lives but state funds.
- The adult smoking rate in Boone County is about 26 percent, and Missouri ranks among the highest in the nation.
- Almost 10,000 Missourians die from tobacco-related diseases yearly.
- Missouri spends almost \$2 billion annually to treat smoking-related illnesses; \$512 million went to Medicaid in 2005.
- According to the Department of Health and Senior Services, secondhand smoke causes an average of 1,150 deaths in Missouri annually.

“This grant provides an excellent opportunity to start a service that can have a profound effect on peoples’ lives,” said Stephanie Browning, Health Department director. “Helping our citizens quit smoking will have a great impact on our chronic disease burden in the county. One of our primary areas of concentration is chronic disease prevention and control.”

Several factors have increased the demand for smoking cessation programs in Columbia and Boone County. A City ordinance that took effect in January mandates there be no smoking on work sites, including restaurants, bars and entertainment venues. Many businesses are now restricting smoking even in parking areas. Previously, there have been no consistent low-cost smoking cessation opportunities.

The new service provides four counseling sessions and free nicotine patches to anyone who is not pregnant, nursing or under 18 years old. The introductory counseling offers time with a trained professional who can assist with problems related to quitting, provide tips on avoiding “triggers” and suggest ways to deal with situations that cause a cigarette craving.

The grant focuses on educating several groups about hazards of smoking and secondhand smoke, including 4,000 people who attend Food Handler Classes yearly, regular clients of the Health Department, City of Columbia and Boone County employees and those ready to set a quit date.

For more information on how to quit smoking, please contact the Columbia/Boone County Health Department at (573) 874-7356.

July 2007 volunteer of the month

Darlene Londeree



The smile of our July Volunteer of the Month, Darlene Londeree (right), naturally lights up a room when she walks through the door... and walking through the door to volunteer is something Londeree does often.

A City of Columbia volunteer since 1998, Londeree patrols Columbia parks and trails as a Park Patroller, has helped serve lunch to hundreds of Cleanup Columbia volunteers after the citywide spring cleanup, and volunteers in May for the annual Mayor's Bike, Walk, Wheel Challenge, a program designed to encourage citizens to commute under their own power.

“I appreciate the many things our community has to offer, and volunteering is the way I give back,” Londeree said.

Londeree has also been an active Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteer, who reads to school children through the America Reads program, for nine years. She also volunteers for the Show-Me Games and the Missouri Symphony.

Call the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or visit our Web site at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer for volunteer opportunities today!

Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound

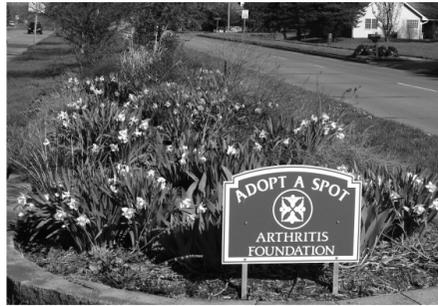
Columbia Parks and Recreation is teaming up with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, MU Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction, the Department of Health and Social Services, Columbia Second Chance, and the Central Missouri Humane Society to offer a program called Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound.

The program allows participants to get exercise while walking a friendly, adoptable shelter dog from the Humane Society on the Bear Creek Trail.

Sessions are held on Saturdays, with the next two scheduled for June 16–July 7 and July 14–August 4. There are three time slots available at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.; choose one or all three.

The cost is \$10 per session. Those who participate in the program will receive a T-shirt and be given the option to participate in a study of the benefits of dog walking. Leashes and treats provided...just bring your walking shoes!

Register for Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound by calling Parks and Recreation at 874-7460 or online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



Neighborhood Response Team helps to improve Columbia

The City of Columbia’s Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) has begun another round of property inspections. Increased emphasis will be placed this year on addressing chronic property nuisances where owners have not responded to previous requests for compliance with the City’s property maintenance code.

Comprised of staff from the Health, Police, Public Works and Public Communications departments, the NRT seeks to improve the living conditions of city residents by addressing property nuisance issues. Routine inspections are conducted annually in a priority area comprised mainly of Columbia’s central city, but action is taken city-wide as circumstances require. Only what can be observed from the public right-of-way, such as roof deterioration, peeling paint, debris in yard, etc., is noted. If a property is found with conditions that do not meet City property maintenance codes, the owner is asked to take corrective action. The City has several programs in place to assist eligible homeowners in financial need to bring their properties back into code, including housing rehabilitation and code deficiency abatement. The NRT partners with the Planning Department in referring individuals to these programs.

For more information, please contact: Bill Cantin, M.P.A. Neighborhood Response Specialist P.O. Box 6015 Columbia, MO 65205 (573) 874-7248 Fax: (573) 442-8828 bpccantin@GoColumbiaMo.com

http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Public_Comm/

Adopt-A-Spots add color to Columbia

You’ve seen them. You may have even slowed down to read their signs or admired the beautiful flowers they contain. Thousands of residents and visitors enjoy them every day – they demonstrate community pride!

We’re talking about Columbia’s 78 Adopt-A-Spot beautification projects found throughout Columbia at street intersections and in medians. Each is cared for by volunteers who work hard mulching, weeding, watering and planting their beds. Caring for an Adopt-A-Spot is hard, but rewarding. Volunteers can clearly see the fruits of their labor for all to enjoy.

The Office of Volunteer Services can find a spot for you to care for, too. To learn more, call 874-7499 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Never place waste in a storm drain or along a stream bank

Summer brings lawn and yard maintenance which can produce large amounts of yard waste. Sometimes homeowners mistakenly place lawn clippings and/or brush along stream banks or small waterways, thinking it might help stabilize the banks.

In fact, yard waste and grass clippings smother the naturally occurring vegetation that helps keep stream banks from eroding. It is actually a violation of City ordinance to place yard waste into a storm drain or any waterway, no matter how small the stream or open channel.

Consider leaving the grass clippings on the lawn, where they contribute back some of the nitrogen needed for healthy grass. Mow over leaves in the fall. If you choose to bag your lawn clippings or other yard debris, it must either be composted, set curbside in a clear yard waste bag or taken to the mulch sites at Capen Park (south of Stadium, off Rock Quarry Road) or Parkside Drive (north of Memorial Park Cemetery, off Creasy Springs Road).

For information, call 874-6291 or check the Web site at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Solidwaste/landfill.html#mulch.

PedNet Project Works Begins

Things are well underway for the The PedNet Project: Connecting Columbia. Funding has been approved for enhancements to eight major intersections throughout Columbia to make them more pedestrian- and bicycle- friendly while maintaining traffic efficiency. The design of these intersections is being completed by HDR Inc., Kansas City. Crews worked throughout the spring and summer surveying these areas with anticipation of beginning work as early as this fall. Vangel Marketing Communications of Columbia was awarded the promotions and education contract and will work with the PedNet Coalition, Alta Consultants and other team members. This team will implement promotion, public involvement, education, encouragement, street marking and mapping projects, with events kicking off this fall when schools resume. Classes already underway this summer include Family Beginner Bike Rides and Confident City Cycling. As a part of the program, valet bicycle parking is also available during the Twilight Festivals at Flat Branch Park. Staff members are working with the Columbia Special Business District and the Parking Division to improve downtown bicycle parking. They will also work with retail and other businesses for additional bicycle parking. Plans are to open a PedNet Project Office in the downtown area by late summer where citizens will find kiosks, maps and other project information. To learn more about The PedNet Project, contact Ted Curtis at 573-874-7649 or ctcurtis@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 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.

Fireworks

The Police Department reminds citizens that discharging fireworks within the Columbia city limits is illegal. Violators are subject to an arrest and fine. Please have a safe and happy July Fourth but leave the fireworks to the professionals. If you have questions, contact the Community Services Unit at 874-7606.



ABC's Fire in the Sky 2007

Enjoy the 56th Annual Fire in the Sky celebration at the University of Missouri’s Memorial Stadium! ABC 17’s Fire in the Sky will be held on Wednesday, July 4. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. with performances by the Norm Ruebling Band at 7 p.m. and the Hilary Scott Band at 8 p.m. The Missouri Symphony will perform at 9 p.m. Fireworks will begin at 9:30 and will be accompanied by the Missouri Symphony.

The celebration is free, and concessions will be available. Please do not bring any fireworks to the stadium. For more information, call 874-7460 or visit www.fireinthesky.tv.

(left) Children of all ages enjoy the fireworks at Fire in the Sky.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

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

July

- 4 **Special Swim Hours** at Oakland Family Aquatic Center, Douglas Family Aquatic Center and Pirates' Landing, 12–5 p.m.
- 4 **ABC 17 Fire in the Sky**, Memorial Stadium, Gate open at 6:30 p.m., free
- 6 **Outdoor Cinema at Flat Branch Park**, Charlotte's Web, 9 p.m., \$3 per person, children 6 and under are free
- 13 **Whiff and Giggle golf**, L.A. Nickell Golf Course, 5 p.m. shotgun start
- 13 **Teen Night at Oakland Family Aquatic Center**, 8:30–10:30 p.m., \$1 per person
- 20 **OAK/50+ Red, White and Blue Dance**, Riechmann Indoor Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park, 7–10 p.m., \$3
- 20 **Paquin Music Festival**, Paquin Tower, 9–11:30 a.m., free
- 20–22 **Show-Me State Games**
- 27–29 **Show-Me State Games**