

CITYSOURCE

Your source for city news and information

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.



Give your paycheck a boost

Are you eligible for some tax credits? Check out the following to find out.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
Get up to a \$4,400 credit on your federal taxes if you qualify.

AGE

- Have a qualifying child and you are at least 25 but under 65?

INCOME

- More than one child and earn less than \$35,263 (\$37,263, married filing jointly)?
- One child and earned less than \$31,030 (\$33,030 for married filing jointly)?

- No children? To qualify you need to earn less than \$11,730 (\$13,730, married filing jointly).

If you answered "yes" to these questions, check your tax booklet for more details!

If you need assistance, contact the Central Missouri Community Action at 884-3640 to see if you qualify for assistance. You may also contact the American Association of Retired Persons Tax-Aide Program at 445-6914.

Missouri Tax Relief Credit

If you paid real estate taxes or rent last year you might qualify for a \$750 tax credit from the State of Missouri!

- 65 or older?
- 100% disabled?
- A U.S. veteran who is 100% disabled as a result of military service?
- Are you 60 or older and a surviving spouse receiving social security payments?

If you could answer "yes" to one of the questions above and your income is \$25,000 or less for a single person or \$27,000 or less for a married couple filing a combined return then you might be eligible!

See your Missouri tax booklet for more details. If you need assistance contact the Missouri Department of Revenue's Tax Assistance Center at 884-3814. Persons 55 and older who are home bound can also get assistance from the Boone County Council on Aging at 443-1111. Other contacts are the American Association of Retired Persons Tax-Aide Program at 445-6914 and the Missouri Department of Revenue-Property Tax Credit Claim Office at (573) 751-3505.

Need some money for energy efficiency improvements?

- 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
- change to a solar or high efficiency water heater

Don't wait to start saving money on your utility bills? Take advantage of Columbia Water & Light's low interest loans for energy saving improvements to your home or business.

Fixed, low-interest loans are available to electric customers with good credit histories. The interest rate is determined by a weekly index of tax-exempt notes. There aren't any prepayment penalties.

The Process

1. Arrange for a free energy audit. A loan application will be provided at the time of the audit. Complete the application and return it to Columbia Water and Light.
2. Upon approval of the loan application, complete the energy improvements and arrange for an inspection by Columbia Water and Light.
3. Once the completed work meets the utility's approval, an appointment is scheduled for signing the loan agreement.
4. The City of Columbia issues a check at the signing of the loan agreement papers. A Deed of Trust is required with each loan agreement and there is a recording fee.



A powerful community resource.

Columbia
Water
&
Light

874-7325

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Enter the word "GoLoan" in the GoWords box

Council action

The Council on December 5:

- Approved the Bethel Falls PUD Development Plan. The proposed development, located on the southeast corner of Bethel Church Road and Old Plank Road, would consist of 41 two-family structures and an existing single-family home.
- Authorized an agreement with the Boone County Historical Society to operate, maintain and improve the Maplewood Home and related structures located in Nifong Park. The agreement authorizes the city to pay the Society \$6,000 for interpretive programs and improvements to the buildings and grounds associated with the Maplewood site.

The Council on December 19:

- Confirmed the contract in the amount of \$173,305.70 with C.L. Richardson Construction Company for construction of sanitary sewers in Sewer District No. 150 (Mexico Gravel Road). Payment for this improvement will be from tax bills and sanitary sewer utility funds.
- Authorized replacement of a water main along Anthony Street, between Ann Street and William Street. This project will replace 450 feet of 4-inch cast iron water main with an 8-inch line. The work will improve reliability of service and enhance fire protection and domestic service. The estimated cost is \$75,000 to be paid from Water & Light funds.

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

Spring break vacation reminder

Spring is in the air and with the warming weather comes, for some Columbians, the annual Spring Break vacation. If you and your family are planning a trip out of town, remember these helpful tips to keep your property safe while you're out having fun.

- Keep your lights and a radio on a timer
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery
- Tell a trusted friend or neighbor that you will be gone and where you will be
- Make sure your doors and windows are closed and locked
- Make sure your locks are functioning and sturdy
- Ask the Columbia Police Department for a Watch in Passing

The Columbia Police Department's Community Services Unit can be contacted to schedule a residential security analysis of your home. The Community Services Unit would also suggest that you contact them to join a Neighborhood Watch group in your area.

If you would like your name added to the Teleminder database call 874-7606 and leave your name, address and phone number. The Teleminder is an automated phone system that can contact you when criminal activity is happening in your neighborhood. They will need your approval before adding you to the system.

Please have a safe and happy Spring Break.

Volunteer for a City board or commission

The City of Columbia's Boards and Commissions rely on voluntary service by citizens of Columbia. Each Board and Commission has specific prerequisites for membership.

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. The Web site also contains a listing of all Boards and Commissions and current members.

Community line

By dialing the city of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY users dial 874-7697), message 250, you can learn about Columbia Boone/County Health Department services.

On the Web

Are you planning a garden this spring? Want to have both a great lawn and clean streams? For information on free mulch days, compost sales, composting workshops, or great lawns and clean streams, visit the Public Works Web pages at www.GoColumbiaMo.com and key in search words "GoMulch," "GoComposting" or "GoStormwater."



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Mayor Darwin Hindman

City Council Members:
First Ward Almeta Crayton

Second Ward Chris Janku

Third Ward Bob Hutton

Fourth Ward Jim Loveless

City of Columbia
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 874-7111
www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Fifth Ward Laura Nauser

Sixth Ward Brian Ash



City Manager Bill Watkins

Officer Molly Bowden Boulevard dedicated

her service to the community. The memorial will be a lasting tribute to Molly's spirit, sacrifice and commitment by permanently recording and commemorating her last call for service.

Along with dedicating Officer Molly Bowden Boulevard the Columbia Police Department also has placed a roadside plaque at the location of Molly's shooting. The plaque is engraved with her likeness and it provides a synopsis of the events from January 10, 2005.

Molly Bowden was a 1996 graduate of Hickman High School. She received her bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia College in 2002. She worked for the University of Missouri Police Department before becoming a Columbia police officer. Molly was a three-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department before her death. The heartfelt response from the citizens of Columbia while Molly fought for her life will forever be ingrained in the Columbia Police Department. These memorials serve as an eternal symbol of the dedication to service and the ultimate price paid by one officer.

Inside this issue . . .

- Lawson, Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity Get Diversity Award
- Register for Camp Adventure
- Income Tax Tips
- Apply Now for C.A.R.E. Program

A year after her death, on February 10, the City of Columbia dedicated a section of Nifong Boulevard in honor of Officer Molly Bowden. Officer Bowden was shot and wounded after making a traffic stop near the intersection of Nifong and Forum Boulevards on January 10, 2005. Officer Bowden fought valiantly, but succumbed to her injuries one month later. Officer Bowden was the first Columbia police officer to be mortally wounded in the line of duty.

The section of Nifong Boulevard between Forum Boulevard and Bethel Road was re-named "Officer Molly Bowden Boulevard" as a permanent memorial to her for

Report shows substantial resources used in the city's First Ward/central city

A report submitted to the City Council in December shows that substantial city resources have been used in the City's First Ward/central city. The report was requested by the City Council and it includes details about expenditures and activities for the years 2001-2005 for city infrastructure, city services and amenities in the First Ward/central city. The report lists programs and projects by year, along with expenditures.

Some key points in the report are:

- Nineteen percent of total contracted public works expenditures from 2000-2005 were in the First Ward. Total city-wide expenditures were \$13.9 million. Expenditures for First Ward/central city were \$1.368 million for streets, \$1.004 million for storm drainage, \$323,257 for sidewalks and \$253,893 in miscellaneous expenditures.
- Operating expenses for Parks and Recreation averaged \$402,697 in the First Ward/central city from 2001-2005. Capital improvements for the First Ward/central city during that same period averaged \$165,296.
- An average of \$1.27 million in federal housing and community development funds have been spent annually in central city neighborhoods, an area that includes the First Ward.

The report can be viewed on the City's web site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com under announcements.

Lawson, Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity get diversity award

Rev. Lorenzo Lawson was named the winner of the individual award and Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity was the organizational winner of the 9th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. The awards were given at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration in January.

The awards are given to an individual/family and an organization/group who have made significant contributions in promoting appreciation for diversity and cultural understanding in Columbia.

Lawson was nominated by his employer, Linda Green, of the Boone County Community Partnership, where he is the executive director of the Youth Empowerment Program. The nomination emphasized his work with the Disaster Recovery Center following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He also was recognized for the work he does every day in our community through his church, Chosen Generation Ministries.

Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity had its first fundraiser in 1988, and in February 1989, a single mother and her three children moved into their new home, thanks to Habitat.

Habitat is best known for organizing volunteers to assist in building affordable homes for citizens who might not have the opportunity to be home owners without assistance.



Mayor Darwin Hindman presents the individual diversity award to Rev. Lorenzo Lawson (above) and the group award to Uel Blank (right), who represented Central Habitat for Humanity, at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration.



March volunteers of the month

By volunteer Isaac Larson

Volunteering is a family affair for (L to R) Kurt, Anne and Paul Heine. Over the past few years, the Heine family has donated its time and talents to a number of city programs, including

Park Patrol, Cleanup Columbia, First Night and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Their outstanding level of commitment stems from a deep affection for Columbia and a willingness to serve others.

"We really enjoy volunteering for the City of Columbia," says Anne. "It's so fun to be involved and so great to make our town a fun place to live. We also enjoy the family bonding time that these volunteer opportunities provide."

Besides all their other activities, Paul and Anne were among the first volunteers on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT volunteers are trained to assist the Columbia Fire Department during emergencies, such as natural disasters or search and rescue operations. Kurt has participated in Columbia's Youth in Action program, which allows kids ages 12-15 to volunteer. Heine family members have also served as volunteers during the Special Olympics.

The Office of Volunteer Services wishes to thank Paul, Anne and Kurt for all their hard work. Your commitment has helped make Columbia a wonderful place to live. For more volunteer opportunities call 874-7499 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



New Century Fund receives donations to support Pascagoula

Nearly \$3,000 has been donated to help the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi. In December, the Columbia City Council voted to formally adopt Pascagoula and assist them in recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

On December 21, Mayor Hindman accepted checks for \$724 from the Buck-A-Person Program, organized by University of Missouri Communications students and \$2,000 from architect firm Simon Oswald Associates.

Those interested in donating to this project can contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7504.

Columbia Channel videos available online

The Columbia Channel, the government access channel on cable television, has started loading videos online through a free service to evaluate the public's interest. Videos about the City of Columbia's services and programs are now available on the Internet at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

After researching alternatives for posting Columbia Channel broadcasts online, staff determined that the best solution was to use a free online video service. This service will allow the city to provide videos online without using City bandwidth and disk space. Staff will track usage statistics and continue to monitor the service to determine how it can be improved.

To keep download times manageable, the city offers only short videos that are produced by the Columbia Channel staff. Public meetings that are broadcasted on cable television are not offered at this time due to the length of the programs.

The City of Columbia encourages people to comment on this new service by e-mailing TCCmail@GoColumbiaMo.com or by calling 874-7325.



MediaCom channel 13

Charter Communications channel 2



Lawn and garden chemicals

Greening Up! Planning your lawn and garden?

When it rains, lawn chemicals may wash off into nearby streams. For a healthy, beautiful yard with minimum effects on water quality, consider these ideas:

- **Proper mowing at 3-4 inches high** (or the highest setting on your mower) results in 80 percent fewer weeds and thicker turf that doesn't require chemical inputs.
- **Consider having a "good enough" lawn...** when making lawn care decisions. It doesn't have to look perfect to be healthy and meet the needs of your family.
- **Use mole traps or borrow a good dog for mole control.** Using insecticide for grubs is totally ineffective for mole control.
- **Don't bag your grass clippings.** They can contribute much of the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium your lawn needs.
- **Clover is your yard's friend!** Instead of treating to prevent it, think of clover as free fertilizer. It can provide up to 30 percent of a lawn's yearly nitrogen requirement.

C.A.R.E. Program application deadline approaching



Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 have until April 1 to submit their applications for summer employment through the C.A.R.E. (Career Awareness Related Experience) program.

C.A.R.E. is an at-risk youth employment and education program administered by Columbia Parks and Recreation. Youth must either live in the Columbia city limits and/or attend Columbia public schools to participate in the eight-week program. Other criteria include:

- Applicant must submit application by April 1 and must be 14 by June 1.
- Applicant must attend scheduled interview(s) and pre-employment orientation.
- Preference given to youth residing in low-income families, however, youth may be considered at-risk for factors other than economic reasons.
- Preference given to youth earning passing grades at the time of hiring. Free after-school tutoring is available to youth not meeting grade requirements.

About 170 youth completed the C.A.R.E. program in 2005. They were placed in private and public sector jobs ranging from clerical positions to those in retail and restaurants.

Applications are available at public schools and at the C.A.R.E. office at 800 N. Providence Road, Ste. 200.

For more information, call the C.A.R.E. office at 874-6300.

above: C.A.R.E. participants are placed in a wide variety of jobs, including some clerical positions.

Festival artists needed!

Visual, performing and literary artists are needed for the 15th annual Columbia Festival of the Arts, September 23-24. Information and application forms are available on the Office of Cultural Affairs' (OCA) Web site, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArtsFestival).

Applications are also being accepted for the 2006 Commemorative Poster for the Festival. For more information or an application, contact the OCA: 874-6387, (TTY 874-7488), festival@GoColumbiaMo.com.



Registration for Camp Adventure, a children's summer day camp, will open at 7 a.m. on April 5 at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC). Children who have completed kindergarten up to seventh grade are eligible. The cost for Camp Adventure is \$190 per child, per two-week session.

At Camp Adventure, children learn about outdoor living skills, nature and environmental awareness. This year, the camp will have a new home at Riechmann Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park. An open house for Camp Adventure at the new site will be held from 12-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 18. The open house is free and will offer kids the opportunity to participate in some of the activities that will be offered at Camp Adventure.

For more information on Camp Adventure, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460 or the ARC at 874-7700.

above: Crafts are among the many activities offered at Camp Adventure.

Columbia Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

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

March

- **1-31 Women's Month Exhibit**, Armory Sports Center, Open Weekdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Free
- **16 Black Women in Film: Diary of a Mad Black Woman** in Armory Sports Center, 6:30 p.m., Free
- **17 50+/OAK St. Patrick Dance**, Parkade Center (east side), 7-10 p.m., \$3
- **23 Precious Moments Award Night**, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free
- **24 50+/OAK Game Night**, Parkade Center (east side), 6-9 p.m., Free
- **27-31 Spring Break Week**, activities at the Armory Sports Center, Free

Register for

Camp Adventure