

CITYSOURCE

Your source for city news and information

Severe weather awareness week

The National Weather Service and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) have declared the week of March 12-16, 2007 as Severe Weather Awareness Week for Missouri. During this week the Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management encourages citizens to focus on disaster preparedness.

Having a safety plan when severe weather comes can make all the difference in protecting life and property. The Annual Missouri Severe Weather drill will be held Tuesday March 13, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. This is an ideal time for citizens to practice their severe weather plan and update their disaster preparedness kits. For more information on Severe Weather Week and the severe weather drill contact the Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management.

874-7788

Have an idea or concern? Call the City Manager's Direct Line



Help during a disaster

When disaster strikes, people want to help! The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management has plans in place to coordinate not only the emergency response and recovery, but the assistance responses as well.

A portion of the Emergency Plan deals with Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). These groups are widespread throughout our community and include organizations such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, CERT and Medical Reserve Corps.

Yet, unaffiliated people, such as yourself, or your organization, want to help too. You will respond in great numbers. People will come from both near and far to help. This influx of well intentioned groups and individuals are anticipated, but can cause a "disaster" within a disaster if they are not managed properly.

The Joint Information Center (JIC) at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will publish and promote telephone numbers and media releases for people, groups and organizations to let them know how to make contact, where to meet, and what is required. If you want to help with physical labor, donation of goods or money, or provide services, the best answer, if you're not affiliated with an organization, is to wait and listen. The news media will communicate to the public the need for help and share details on how you can help. Be patient; this can, in many ways, provide the most help. If you are able to identify needs that are not being met, follow the same process for sharing that information as outlined above.

Council Action

The Council on December 4:

- Authorized agreements with local organizations to fund human rights education programs. As part of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, the Human Rights Commission budgeted \$5,230 to enhance human rights activities in the community. The purpose of this funding is to provide financial support for local organizations engaged in programming that promotes cultural understanding, human rights education and the reduction/elimination of discriminatory practices.
- Accepted the donation of eight laptop computers from the Missouri Department of Public Safety - Department of Defense to be used by the Police Department's school resource officers. These computers will be used for presentations in schools to include the DARE Program.

The Council on December 18:

- Accepted a grant from the State Emergency Management Agency for the Citizen Corps Program. This is an annual grant in the amount of \$4,000. The Citizen Corps involves training and sustenance of groups such as the Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch and Citizen Emergency Response Teams.
- Authorizing a right-of-use permit with The Curators of the University of Missouri to allow construction, improvement, operation and maintenance of median islands and curb bulbouts within portions of the Hitt Street, Ninth Street and Conley Avenue rights-of-way. These improvements function as a replacement to the existing closed campus barriers at approximately the same locations.

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.

Roll-off and Commercial Waste Service

Need a dumpster? We can help you. Whether your job is big or small, the Public Works Department has a wide selection of containers to meet your needs. Take advantage of this service for one day or one year, if you need to. The Public Works Department offers competitive rates and experienced drivers. To learn more about the City's roll-off and commercial waste services, visit the Solid Waste Division web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoRefuse).

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. Please have a safe and happy Spring Break.

COLT: Columbia's short line railroad

In the early 80's, Columbia was going to lose rail service when the Norfolk Southern decided to abandon the line running from Centralia. The City of Columbia wanted to retain local companies that depended on rail service so the line was purchased in 1987. Since that time, the COLT railroad has tripled the number of rail car deliveries.

COLT offers reliable, energy-efficient, cost-competitive transportation service to any location in mid-Missouri. For customers not directly on the rail line, shipments can be delivered through Alternative Distribution Systems (ADS). This international company has a transload facility located on the north side of Columbia. ADS can load/unload all types of rail cars, provide warehousing, and many other services, including 'just in time' delivery through their company fleet.

PedNet Promotes Healthy Living

Known as "The PedNet Project: Connecting Columbia," this new initiative is designed to make Columbia more healthy, livable, and environmentally sustainable by encouraging walking and bicycling as everyday transportation.

In 2005, the City of Columbia was one of four communities in the country selected to participate in the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. As a result, Columbia will receive \$22 million over four years to develop a network of bicycle lanes, routes, and trails that connect with transit stations, schools, residences, businesses, and recreation areas. Also included in the plans are new sidewalks and pedways in critical locations and extensive promotion and education programs. This project offers a unique opportunity for Columbia to make significant improvements for easier and safer walking and biking in Columbia.

"Our objective is to see a significant modal shift from trips by auto, to trips by bicycling and walking" said Program Manager Ted Curtis.

Outreach to the public includes public forums and meetings held by an active Citizens Advisory Committee. Committee members are participating in community workshops, assisting in the development of the project, soliciting feedback from their respective constituencies, and presenting a recommended schedule of projects and programs to be funded for consideration. A draft master plan of the project will be submitted to the City Council for review in early 2007.

To learn more about The PedNet Project, see our website at or contact Ted Curtis at 874-7649.

How to report a pothole, missing traffic sign or storm drainage problem

Did you know you can request services electronically or complete an online form to report problems such as a pothole, a missing traffic sign, or a storm drainage problem? Online reporting forms are found at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search: GoReportProblems). Of course, you can always send an email to streets@GoColumbiaMo.com or call the Street Division at 573-874-6289 with any other questions you may have.

Columbia Regional Airport



Daily round-trip flights to Kansas City & St. Louis \$59 one-way fare Free Parking!

Using Columbia Regional Airport is easy....make reservations by:

- Calling US Airways at 1-800-428-4322
- Visiting their website at www.usairways.com
- Contacting an authorized travel agency
- Using Internet travel sites such as Travelocity, Expedia or Orbitz. Use Columbia as your departing and/or returning airport (code COU)

573-874-7508 www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Airport



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Printed on recycled paper

Mayor Darwin Hindman

City Council Members:
First Ward Almeta Crayton

Second Ward Chris Janku

Third Ward Bob Hutton

Fourth Ward Jim Loveless

Fifth Ward Laura Nauser

Sixth Ward Brian Ash

City Manager Bill Watkins

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 Fire, Rescue, or Medical Emergency
 874-7391 Fire Administration
 874-7450 Fire Dept. Shift Commander—24 Hours
 874-7355 Health Department
 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

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.

Columbia to surpass renewable energy mandate

Three renewable energy projects will enable Columbia to meet the goals of the renewable energy ordinance passed by voters in 2004 earlier than required. Columbia Water and Light is required to purchase 2% of its energy generated from renewable resources by 2008, 5% by 2013, 10% by 2018, and 15% by 2023. A combination of energy produced from wind and biogas will bring Columbia's renewable portfolio up to 5% of the power supply by 2008.

Columbia Water and Light has signed an agreement to purchase the energy output of three wind turbines from Missouri's first wind farm in King City. This contract should deliver up to 22,000 Megawatt Hours in one year which equates to 2% of Columbia's electric demand. Two landfill gas projects will furnish another 3% of the energy package. The projects at the Columbia landfill and in Jefferson City both use methane gas that is created during the decomposition process to create electricity. These three projects will fall within the 3% cost margin of current power supply contracts which is required by the ordinance.

For more details, see the 2007 Renewable Energy Report at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7325 to request a copy.

CARP volunteer program begins March 5



Columbia Parks & Recreation, the City's Office of Volunteer Services, and the Public Works Stormwater Outreach Program are teaming up for a new volunteer program called CARP: Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project. CARP will consist of three classes held the evenings of March 5, 12, and 19 at City Hall followed by projects on Saturday mornings on water bodies in city parks.

CARP is a volunteer program designed to support Columbia Parks & Recreation in implementing an aquatic plant and shoreline management plan. The goal of the project is to train volunteers to assist in aquatic plant management and maintenance for the growing number of park ponds, retention basins, rain gardens, and lakes. Class topics include lake ecology, storm water management, rain gardens, and aquatic plants and insects. Projects will be installing and maintaining aquatic plants at Stephens Lake Park, Phillips Lake, and other water bodies in city parks. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 18 hours of service as a CARP volunteer.

To learn more about CARP or register to participate, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Columbians are changing the world one light bulb at a time

Over 10,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs were distributed to area residents this fall through a Columbia Water and Light annual rebate program. The "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign encourages people to use compact fluorescent light bulbs in frequently used light fixtures. Compact fluorescent bulbs use up to 66 percent less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. By replacing the five most frequently used light bulbs in a home; a person can save more than \$60 a year in energy costs.

Columbia Water and Light has had growing participation in the annual compact fluorescent light bulb rebate program. In 2005, there were 6,000 bulbs distributed through the program. Due to the high demand, Water and Light increased the number of bulbs available for rebates in 2006 to 10,025. Participation exceeded expectations and 10,124 bulbs were sold in 2006. Columbia Water and Light will offer the rebate program again in 2007 from October through December.



March volunteer of the month

By Volunteer Nancy Summers

Avis Kopcha (left) has volunteered for the Columbia/Boone County Health Department for about five years. Kopcha helps with the Teen Pregnancy Prevention committee, which investigates the best

practice programs to reduce teen pregnancy. She helps develop ads for parents about the importance of talking to their children about sex and its consequences for teens.

Kopcha tracks teenage pregnancy and related issues and tries to provide good health information about the sexual choices teens make. Avis says, "The key word is choices. We worry that not enough teens make informed and supported choices. I wanted to see if I could help before instead of always after."

"The obstacles," she says "are mostly about time and interest from the public as most of us want someone else to do the hard stuff, or we hope we'll be lucky and our kids will somehow escape the adverse consequences of early or uninformed sexual experience. Consequently, the programs are not as well attended as they warrant."

"Avis never hesitates to offer her help," says Maureen Coy, Social Services Specialist. "She sees the big picture with this difficult and sensitive topic."

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, call 874-7499 or e-mail volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.



Leave a legacy

You can leave a legacy in your community by considering gift opportunities to the City of Columbia through the Columbia Trust.

Your gift of cash or bequest can support a wide variety of community efforts, including parks, trails, public buildings, beautification projects and equipment for fire and police. You can make a lasting difference on the future of our city.

Professionals who work with planned giving can assist you with options, or call the Columbia Trust at 874-7504 to learn more.

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!

The American Association of Retired Persons Tax-Aide Program provides assistance to qualified persons. Please call 445-6914 to see if you qualify.

Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim

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 homebound) 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.

New Gallery Guide available

Columbia has a guide to galleries and museums! Expect to find a wide array of art at the locations listed in the guide . . . painting, photography, ceramics, fiber work, sculpture, jewelry, glass, metal and more, made by local, regional and international artists. While the retail galleries highlighted sell the works displayed, museums do not, but will often house a gift shop with unique art related items. The Guide also lists Columbia restaurants that regularly exhibit art as well as locations of historical murals and online art resources. Get a copy of the free guide at the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), 300 S. Providence; the lobby of the Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway; or at the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), 1 S. 7th Street. E-mail oca@GoColumbiaMo.com or call 573-874-6386 to have a copy sent to you. The Gallery Guide is a collaboration of the CVB, OCA and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

Festival Artists Needed!

Visual, performing and literary artists are needed for the 16th annual Columbia Festival of the Arts, September 29-30. Information and application forms are available on the Office of Cultural Affairs' (OCA) website, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArtsFestival). Missouri artists interested in submitting art for the Festival's official Commemorative Poster are also being sought. For more information or an application, visit the OCA website or contact the OCA: 874-6387, festival@GoColumbiaMo.com.

City Arts Funding

Each year the city supports local arts programming. In fiscal year 2007 more than \$80,000 has been awarded to 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, 573-874-6386, oca@GoColumbiaMo.com, www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArts).

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.

Columbia Parks & Recreation
CALENDAR

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

March

- 5-30 Women's History Month Exhibit, Armory Sports Center, Free
- 15 Black Women in Film, Armory, 6:30 p.m., Free
- 16 OAK/50+ St. Patrick Dance, Parkade Center (east side), 601 Bus Loop 70W, 7-10 p.m., \$3
- 25 Precious Moments/Women's Award Recognition, Armory, 6 p.m., Free

Summer jobs for youth

Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 have until March 31 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 Columbia city limits and/or attend Columbia public schools to participate in the eight-week program. Other criteria include:

- Applicant must submit application by March 31 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.

Youth who completed the C.A.R.E. program in 2006 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.