

CITYSOURCE

Your source for city news and information

Bike, Walk & Wheel Week



5th Annual Mayor's Challenge Columbia, MO · May 6-13, 2006

physical activity into daily routines, and to identify safety issues that need to be addressed to make Columbia a more walkable, bikeable, wheelchair-friendly city.

Events for the week include:

- Saturday, May 6: Kickoff Celebration and MKT Trail Bike/Walk—Flat Branch Park
- Sunday, May 7: Cycle-Recycle—Columbia/Boone County Health Department
- Monday, May 8: Skate Party—Empire Roller Rink
- Tuesday, May 9: Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health Fitness Forum—Activity & Recreation Center
- Thursday, May 11: PedNet's Scavenger Hunt—Grill One 5
- Friday, May 12: Breakfast Station Day throughout Columbia
- Saturday, May 13: Final Celebration—Twin Lakes Park
- During this week only, "Your Bike is Your Ticket!" Individuals utilizing bike racks on Columbia Transit buses ride for free to any destination on the city bus routes (space available only, there is a maximum of two bikes per bus).

Check PedNet's website at www.pednet.org for specific details. Please plan to support this event and bike, walk or wheel yourself to your destinations throughout the week of May 6-13. If you have questions email Judy Knudson, Coordinator, at JudyKnudy@aol.com.

Memorial Day holiday

City offices will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made on 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.



Commercial Recycling

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Division offers commercial businesses recycling opportunities. The Solid Waste Division has a variety of container sizes ranging from 90 gallon carts to 33 cubic yard compactors. Materials that can be recycled through this program include cardboard, mixed fiber, glass, #1 and #2 plastic, aluminum, tin and steel cans, and office paper.

The Solid Waste Division also works with businesses through a waste audit to determine the best methods of recycling waste. For more information about commercial recycling services, call 874-6254 or visit the Public Works web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



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

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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

Fifth Ward
Laura Nausser

Sixth Ward
Brian Ash

City Manager
Bill Watkins

Council action

The Council on Feb. 6:

- Authorized construction of improvements to the Garth Nature Area. Proposed improvements include: site grading, trail construction, wetland construction, bench installation, interpretive signage and planting of trees and native plant materials. Total project cost is estimated at \$70,000 with funding through a \$42,000 Recreation Trails Program grant and \$28,000 in park sales tax monies.
- Authorized a service agreement with Columbia Public Schools for implementing activities associated with the Missouri Foundation for Health—Healthy and Active Communities Grant. Columbia Public Schools will use grant funds for food costs for teacher/parent meetings and materials/supplies for the cafeteria redesign project to promote healthy living. The service agreement, in the amount not to exceed \$1,023, will run through Nov. 30, 2006.

The Council on Feb. 20:

- Appropriated grant funds for the purchase of emergency radio equipment for the Fire Department. The \$141,286 grant required a 20 percent local match. The \$176,607 will be used to replace 52 aging portable two-way radios and two mobile radios, along with a computer and software to operate a fireground accountability safety system.
- Authorized an agreement with Boone County for public health services. This renews the ongoing agreement for the provision of public health services for residents living outside of the city limits. The contract for calendar year 2006 is \$954,664.

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.

Board and commission vacancies

The following Boards and Commissions have vacancies. To apply or for more information about qualifications, please go to the City's web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or contact the City Clerk's Office at 874-7208. Applications must be received by noon on the indicated deadline date.

Application deadline for the following is May 5
Disabilities Commission: four vacancies.
Environment & Energy Commission: two vacancies.
Housing Authority: one vacancy.
Board of Mechanical Examiners: two vacancies.
Parks & Recreation Commission: three vacancies.
Planning & Zoning Commission: two vacancies.
Board of Plumbing Examiners: two vacancies.

Application deadline for the following is June 2
Library Board of Trustees: three vacancies.
Water & Light Advisory Board: one vacancy.

Special Olympics

Trivia Night

Come test your knowledge and help raise money for a good cause at the annual Special Olympics Fundraising Trivia Night, 7 to 10 p.m. May 5 at the Columbia Cosmo Club, 1715 Burlington. Teams of eight will compete in 10 rounds of 10 questions that will challenge the genius in you. Cost to enter is \$120 per team or \$15 per individual.

A silent auction with items from the St. Louis Cardinals and local businesses will be available. Money raised will be spent on area athletes for training, uniforms, equipment and transportation to Special Olympics events.

This event is co-sponsored by Columbia Parks and Recreation and the Columbia Police Department. Call Brenda Douglas at 874-7691 or Stephanie Carter at 874-7312 to register your team.

Electric supply is top priority

From Bill Watkins, City Manager

Probably, the most important decisions facing Columbians in the upcoming months are currently being discussed right now—our future energy supply. Meeting the electric energy needs of Columbia's residents, businesses and institutions, is a top priority for the City Council and staff. Our economic viability and quality of life

depend upon a reliable and affordable power supply.

At City Source deadline, the Water & Light Department already had conducted one public presentation that provided details of Columbia's future electric supply options. There will be more public discussions over the next several months. This is the type of forward planning that benefits the city.

In the short-term, Council is considering placing an electric revenue bond (paid for by electric users only) proposal before the voters later this year. This proposal would be to meet the electric system's distribution needs (not power supply). A ballot issue authorizing bonds would require a slight rate increase over several years. Without a ballot issue, it is likely that rates would be much higher. The Council is trying to find a way to keep electric rates as low as possible, while providing electric customers with the quality they expect.

As this discussion continues, we encourage citizens to participate and help us determine the best options for dependable and affordable electric power. We ask for your participation and support. Please check our Web site for the latest information available on these topics or e-mail us at wlmail@GoColumbiaMo.com.

up commercial service to St Louis, as TransStates service closes down in June.

Continued commercial air passenger service out of Columbia Regional Airport has a tremendous economic impact on the mid-Missouri economy, and the City is committed to both filling the near-term need for service to St Louis and in seeking long term alternative service to a major mid-west hub.

Frerking new airport manager

Kathy Frerking assumed duties as the new manager of Columbia Regional Airport in March. Frerking has 25 years of experience with city operations and the Public Works Department and has worked closely with previous airport managers. Her experience with departmental budgets including the airport budget and her knowledge of FAA grant and airport capital project processes and procedures makes her the best choice for this position.

On the web

Find details on recycling events and programs, composting, and volunteer opportunities in Columbia's Wasteline Reduce, Reuse, Recycle e-newsletter now online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Community line

By dialing the city of Columbia's Community Line at 874-7650 (TTY 874-7697), message 673, you can learn about the CARE Gallery.



Columbia Regional Airport News

The "look" of air passenger service out of Columbia Regional airport will be changing this summer. On February 8 the City's American Connection provider of commercial air passenger service, TransStates Airline, informed the City that they would be discontinuing commercial passenger service to Columbia Regional Airport in June 2006.

The City immediately began working with the Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Regional Economic Development, Inc., to address the affects of the loss of commercial passenger air service. A Passenger Demand Analysis was developed with the goal of utilizing that data to seek additional direct service to a major airline hub in the mid-west—Chicago, Dallas, or other destinations. In the interim, the group is working with RegionsAir, another American Connection provider, to pick

Columbia Transit

Take your bike on the bus and you ride free on Columbia Transit during Bike, Walk and Wheel Week, May 6-13. Each bus carries two standard-sized bikes; bike racks are first come-first served. For bus schedules and instructions on using the bike racks, go to Transit's Web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoBikeandBus), or come by Wabash Station for a hands-on demonstration. Remember, May 6-May 13, Your Bike is Your Ticket!

Renovation of the Wabash Station is scheduled to start this summer. Builders will renovate the historical building and add an administrative annex to the south side, plus a covered walkway to shelter passengers from the weather. During construction, there may be times when parts of the Wabash Station are inaccessible or when passengers have to detour to meet their buses. Click on the Rider Alert web page for the latest construction news: www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoRiderAlert).

Shade Trees = Saving Money

Reduce your summer cooling costs by joining Columbia Water and Light's Tree Power program. We'll show you the best place for shade trees on your property to gain the most energy savings. Then, you will receive a coupon for a FREE six to eight-foot shade tree.

TREE POWER **ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS ONLY**
www.GoColumbiaMo.com
 874-7325

Green Lawns/Blue Waters: A Show-Me Yards Field Day

Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Environmentally friendly ways to a healthy yard

Are you interested in having the best possible yard for your home while also protecting the environment? Check out the Show-Me Yards Field Day ...nine locations will be open for you to view innovative new yard care ideas that promote a healthy environment. Just stop by any of the locations and pick up the self-guided brochure and map on the day of the event, or download it at www.GoColumbiaMo.com. Brochures will also be available at Columbia City Hall Lobby, Superior Gardens, HyVee Garden Center, the ARC and Total Environments starting May 12.

Featuring SHOW-ME YARDS Field Day Sites:

- Wet Rain Garden.....208 Anderson
- Dry Rain Garden/Organic Lawn.....408 S. Garth
- Organic Lawn.....401 S. Greenwood
- Lawn Minimizing.....6 E. Stewart
- Organic Lawn & Garden.....Shelter Gardens, 1817 W. Broadway
- Maximizing Your Equipment Demo.....Shelter Gardens Parking Lot, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Native Plant Makeover.....1516 Windsor Avenue
- Native Plant Makeover.....3016 Meghann Drive
- Watershed-Friendly Lawn Demo.....Upper Parking Lot Entrance to Rock Bridge State Park
- Native Plant Garden.....Lawn and garden at Hickem Cabin

Professionals will be stationed at many of the sites to answer your "how to" questions. For questions, call 874-7616.

Summer hours – don't be caught snoozing!

Summer hours for residential refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will begin May 30 at 7 a.m., one hour earlier. The new hours will be in effect through September 8. All waste must be curbside by 7 a.m. the day of collection or no earlier than 4 p.m. the day before collection.

Remember Memorial Day is May 29, a city observed holiday. Collection of refuse, recycling and yard waste will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

Save with solar water heaters

Columbia Water and Light now offers low interest loans to cover the costs of a new solar water heater.

Solar water heating is a simple, efficient, and affordable technology that provides hot water and saves on energy bills. Water or non-toxic antifreeze solution travels through dark colored pipes that are located in direct sunlight. The sun heats the water in the pipes. Once heated, the water is stored in an insulated tank until needed.

An average family of four needs two 4' x 8' collector panels connected to an 80 gallon storage tank. Upfront costs vary widely and depend on the type of system installed. Typical costs range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for a standard home installation. Exact price quotes can only be obtained from the installer.

Payback time is a measure of how long it takes for the energy savings to repay the cost of the solar water heater. For example, a family of four spends \$455 per year for hot water. The family installs a \$4,500 solar water heating system that reduces their annual water heating bills by 65 percent. It will take 15 years for the system to pay for itself. Adding in the federal tax credit of 30% cuts the system cost to \$3,150. This will reduce your payback to 10 1/2 years.

For more detailed information about a low interest loan, call Columbia Water and Light Administration at 874-7325.



West Nile Virus... what you need to know

Eliminate mosquito breeding areas

- Turn over or remove containers in your yard where rainwater collects.
- Empty birdbaths once a week.
- Remove old tires from your yard.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens.
- Eliminate standing water on flat roofs, boats, and tarps.

Protection

- Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing.
- Use insect repellent products with no more than 20-30% DEET for adults, and less than 10% for children.

Contact the Columbia/Boone County Health Department if you own or know of an area in the city/county where there is standing water or you notice a large number of mosquitoes. Notifying the health department will allow environmental health staff to visit these areas and provide assistance with eliminating the breeding grounds. Call the 24-hour concern and complaint hotline to report a problem area at 874-7339.



above: (from left) Gail Bank and Pat Daugherty of the Columbia Golden K Kiwanis.

helping distribute bags and gloves to volunteers before the event.

If you were part of Cleanup Columbia on April 8, you saw firsthand one of the many ways in which the Golden K Kiwanis serve our community. Many Golden K members are also Columbia Police Volunteers, improving public safety in our community.

"Golden K members eagerly sign up to serve lunch on Cleanup Columbia day as one way to serve the community during the year," said Roger Mitchell, Golden K Community Service Committee member.

Since the club began in 1985, Golden K Kiwanians have shared hundreds of hours reading to children at day care centers, helping at the food bank, picking up litter, and raising funds for local charities. Golden K was the recipient of the 2005 Group HERO Award presented each year to outstanding community volunteers.

The City of Columbia expresses its gratitude for this fine group of volunteers.

For more information on how you, your family, business or organization can become involved, see our website at: www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7499.

May volunteers of the month

The Golden K Kiwanis, our May Volunteers of the Month, have been an integral part of Cleanup Columbia for the past nine years. Their duties include serving lunch to several hundred volunteers and

Park Patrol volunteers are extra eyes and ears



The Park Patrol program is reaching a milestone this year. Created in 1997 to increase safety along the MKT trail with the help of volunteers, the Park Patrol will begin its 10th year in mid-May.

Park Patrol volunteers can be found in the city's many trails and parks. Volunteers are trained to look for suspicious activity and know when and how to call for emergency assistance. They also report trail and park maintenance issues and serve as friendly faces for other users.

Park Patrollers also have the use of cell phones to call 911 when needed. US Cellular has supported the program through phones, air time, and other assistance since it began.

There is always a need for more Park Patrol volunteers. Volunteering is fun and easy because it can be done while enjoying the outdoors. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, agree to a criminal background check, and participate in training.

To get involved, contact the City's Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or learn more at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

EZ Park Cards

Coins are no longer your only option to pay for parking in the District. Now, all you need is the EZ Park Card in your wallet.

EZ Park Cards are reusable debit cards, making it easy to pay for metered parking. Pull out this light weight card containing an electronic chip, insert into the meter, your time is paid, and place back in your wallet. Another great feature of the EZ Park Card is when you return to the parking meter, you can insert the EZ Park Card back into the meter and it will credit the unused time back onto the EZ Park Card.

The EZ Park cards may be obtained from EZ Park Card machines located in the City Utilities building at 725 E. Broadway, the Special Business District on S. Tenth, and also on MU campus at Memorial Union on Hitt. EZ Park Cards may be purchased in person on the 3rd floor of City Hall, 701 E. Broadway. These cards are not disposable, but may be recharged at the locations listed above as well as the parking machines in all three Cherry Street garages. The EZ Park Card utilizes current technology to make parking easy, efficient and everyone's dream – EZ Park. For more information please call 874-XXXX or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoParking).

City arts funding

Local arts organizations with 501(c)3 status are eligible to receive city funding to support visual, performing and literary arts programming and related educational offerings. Applications must be received by May 5 at 5 p.m. For information about eligibility or for an application, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) at 874-6386. The application form is available on the OCA's web page at GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoArtsFunding).

Heritage Festival call for crafters

The 29th Annual Heritage Festival will be held September 16 & 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the historic Nifong Park, Hwy 63 S. at the AC exit. Craft booth spaces are available in the large contemporary craft area. Artisans and tradesmen dressed in period attire are needed to demonstrate and sell 19th century crafts in the traditional area. For more information or for an exhibitor application, call 874-7460 or go to www.GoColumbiaMo.com (GoWord: GoHeritageFestival).

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.

May

- 5 **Special Olympics Trivia Night (Benefit)**, Columbia Cosmo Club, 7-10 pm., \$120 for team of 8 or \$15 per individual
- 5 **Outdoor Cinema at Flat Branch Park, Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit**, 8:30 p.m., \$3 per person, children 6 and under free
- 6 **Pepsi Pitch Hit and Run**, Oakland Park Ball Fields, Register 8:30 am, Free
- 6-13 **Mayor's Challenge Bike, Walk and Wheel Week**
- 12 **Whiff and Giggie Golf**, L.A. Nickell, 5 p.m. shotgun start
- 19 **50+/OAK Dance**, Parkade Center (east side), 7-10 p.m., \$3
- 20 **Kids Bicycle Safety Challenge**, State Farm Regional Office (4700 South Providence), 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Free
- 20-21 **Three-person golf scramble**, L.A. Nickell and Lake of the Woods courses
- 24-26 **Special Olympics Summer State Games**, University of Missouri, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 27 Opening day for Oakland Family Aquatic Center

Save 3% on summer cooling bills

Join the Load Management program and you will be helping Columbia Water and Light control peak electric costs during the summer. When you sign up for Load Management, a radio controlled switch is put on your outside air conditioning unit. The switch allows Water and Light to control the amount of electricity being demanded during hot afternoons by rotating the number of air conditioners running at one time. As a customer, you shouldn't notice any difference in how cool your house is, just a 3% savings on your summer bill.

Sign up today!
 874-7325
GoColumbiaMo.com
 type in "GoLoadManagement"

Have an idea or concern? Call the City Manager's Direct Line **874-7788**

