

Water Main Breaks

WHY DO WATER MAINS BREAK?

Mother Nature can be a utility's worst enemy. Water lines are especially vulnerable to breaking in our region due to the clay soil shifting. The incidence of water main breaks is usually tied to extreme temperatures and/or moisture. Old and new lines alike can break if the soil in an area moves a lot or if the line comes in contact with a rock that has moved near a water main. In 2010, Columbia has had several large water transmission lines break, but the overall occurrence of water main breaks has not changed since last year.

When a water main break occurs, crews use valves to isolate the break. Once this is accomplished, water can be fed from a different direction to the affected areas since the water distribution system is a series of interconnected pipes. Usually, this enables the majority of customers to have water service restored while crews fix the broken line.

“The Missouri Department of Natural Resources requires water utilities to call a precautionary boil advisory when water pressure drops under 20 psi during a water main break.”

The Columbia Water & Light Engineering Division reviews the water distribution system to see which areas need water main upgrades. Due to the expense of replacing water mains, voters are asked to approve the utility borrowing money through bonds to finance these projects. Using bonds is a cost effective way of paying for these projects and future customers also help pay for the improvements. Part of the 2008 bond issue included upgrading water lines for schools in the central city and the East Campus neighborhood. Plans are underway to add large water transmission pipes to the northeast side of Columbia.

WHY IS A BOIL ADVISORY OR BOIL ORDER CALLED?

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources requires water utilities to call a precautionary boil advisory when water pressure drops under 20 psi during a water main break. There is a higher chance of pressure dropping this low when a large water transmission line breaks, generally lines larger than 8 inches. To put this in perspective, a line serving a residential customer is usually 1 inch.

When the pressure drops during a water main break there is concern about backflow into the water distribution system. For instance, if a customer has a connected hose lying in a bucket, low water pressure could cause the liquid in the bucket to be sucked into the water distribution system. Backflow can cause contamination of the water system, so it is recommended that the utility call a precautionary boil advisory. Once the utility has two clean test results, generally after 48 hours, the advisory can be lifted.

A boil order is issued by a utility when there is a known contamination of the water system. Ending the boil order is dependant on what the contamination is and how quickly clean water in the system can be guaranteed.

Questions about water main breaks or boil advisories?
wmail@GoColumbiaMo.com
874-6229

Get contacted in an emergency!

What phone number do you have listed on your utility account? Is it correct?

Please update your contact information on your utility account so you can be notified of an emergency with your electric or water service.

ONLINE FORM:
www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/
Forms/accountupdate.php
or call 874-7380

Free Online Energy Audit

Save money and energy when you partner with Columbia Water & Light. Check out the free and simple online energy audit. The audit provides specific tips for your home plus there's a great reference library for researching projects. This free service will help you save money on your electric bills.

You and Columbia Water & Light—a
Powerful Partnership



Visit the new Columbia Water & Light
website at:

ColumbiaPowerPartners.com



Volunteer of the Month—Progressive Missionary Baptist Church members



For those who volunteer, the call to service may be civic or the desire to find a meaningful hobby. For members of the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, volunteer work for the City of Columbia is part of the church's mission.

The church's volunteer work for the City is just a small piece of its ongoing efforts to serve the community. In addition to hosting a soup kitchen, an annual clothing drive and preparing boxed lunches for the needy, the church also focuses on beautifying the neighborhood and city at large.

Since 2001, a core group of about six members have participated in the Adopt-A-Spot Litter Control Program. Member Essie Redmon says it was around that time that her congregation started taking notice of the broken windows and trash around the church. They decided to take small steps to improve the quality and safety of the community.

The church also added an Adopt-A-Spot Beautification bed on the nearby corner of Banks and Dean. They have participated in this program since 2008. In addition, the church participates in the annual Cleanup Columbia and recently hosted the "Unite for Healthy Neighborhoods" conference. The conference focused on physical activity and locally grown foods especially in central Columbia.

For Redmon, the motivation for volunteering is simple: "For us, volunteering is about giving back to those who are in need."

To learn about City volunteer programs, call 874-7499 or visit
www.GoColumbiaMo.com. — Submitted by volunteer Sarah Madden

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 or 75 percent depending on the household. Scholarships can be used for recreational classes and programs, outdoor pool passes and ARC memberships.

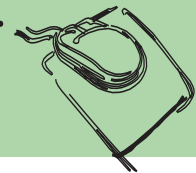
For more information, call 874-7460. Application forms can be obtained at
www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

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.



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CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



33rd Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show

Parks and Recreation invites the public to take a step back in time at the 33rd Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show at historic Nifong Park. The festival, to be held Sept. 18-19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., offers entertainment for all ages.

Attendees will enjoy music and dancing on three stages. Featured entertainers include the Haskell Indian Nations Dancers; Joan Wells, women's champion trick roper; Professor Farquar's Medicine Man Show; 3 Trails West Band; and "Two Crows" Mountain Man, along with a variety of music, including bluegrass, folk, German, Cajun and the annual Fiddlers' Competition.

Visitors can experience "living history" by strolling through a replica Lewis & Clark outpost, an 1859 town and a lost arts area with traditional artisans. A large contemporary handmade craft area will also be featured.

From 8-9:30 p.m. on Sept. 18, the Mid-Missouri Organization of Storytellers will sponsor ghost stories. The Heritage Festival will also feature numerous children's activities in the Fun for Young'uns Area.

The Heritage Festival is coordinated by Columbia Parks and Recreation and sponsored by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Columbia Daily Tribune, KFRU and KPLA 101.5.

Call 874-7460 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com for more information about the festival or for craft booth space.

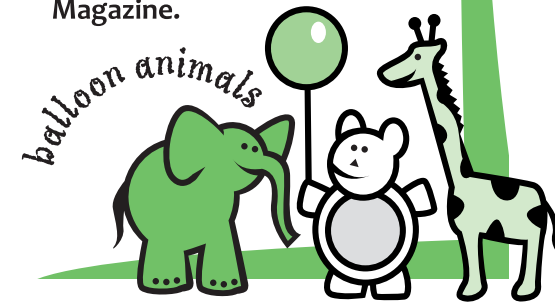
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Parks and Recreation presents the year's final Family Fun Fest

The Family Fun Fest series is coming to an end for 2010. Columbia Parks and Recreation has presented a free Family Fun Fest event at Flat Branch Park on the third Wednesday of each month. The final Fun Fest, to be held from 6-8 p.m. Sept. 15, is sponsored by the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, the Missouri Arts Council and the Columbia Daily Tribune with the theme *Creative Kids*.

Kids will enjoy participatory art activities and kid-friendly performances of music, dance and theater. Entertainment for the entire family will also feature bounce houses, balloon animals, face painting and guaranteed fun for all ages.

The Family Fun Fests have been sponsored by the Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8 and Home & Lifestyle Magazine.

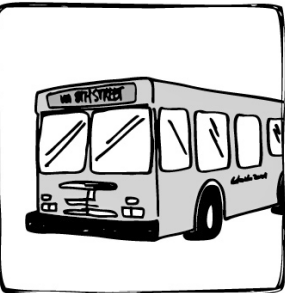


It's a great time to try walking or biking to work



Incorporate an active commute to work in your schedule this month through the following:

Walking or biking – One or both of these active commuting options will leave you feeling energized and ready to tackle the day. Bring a change of clothes and keep travel-size toiletries in your desk to freshen up when you arrive at work.



Part of the way still counts – Live too far from work to walk or bike the whole way? No problem. Park your car somewhere along your route and walk or bike the rest of the way. Parking is free at all Columbia public parks.



Combo-commuting – When you combine the Columbia Transit bus with a walk or bike ride, you have access to destinations all around town. All City buses have bike racks. Visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com for bus schedules and routes.

Share a one-way ride – Make one leg of your journey an active one. Find a friend or neighbor who works nearby and catch a ride. Then walk or bike home. Take turns being the driver one day, and the walker or bicyclist the next.



Citizens Academy

The Columbia Police Department is taking applications for its Citizens Academy. The Citizens Academy is open to individuals 18 and over. However, due to class size restrictions, preference will be given to applicants who are 21 and over.

This session's classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights (Sept. 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30) from 6-10 p.m. Topics include Training and Recruitment, Internal Affairs, Patrol Operations, Traffic, K-9 Operations, the Mounted Unit, Use of Force, TASER, SWAT, Crisis Negotiations, Crisis Intervention, Narcotics Investigations, Legal Issues, Investigations, the Bait Car Program, Domestic Violence Investigation and Scenario-based Training.

The Citizens Academy is free of charge. Apply online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Police. For more information, contact Officer Jessie Haden at 874-7448 or jfh@GoColumbiaMo.com.

GetAbout Columbia office will close

As the federal non-motorized pilot program comes to a close, so does the GetAbout Columbia office located at 101 N. 7th Street. The pilot office is scheduled to close Aug. 30.

In 2006, Columbia was selected as one of four communities in the nation to participate in the Federal Highway Administration's Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot program. Columbia's designation as a pilot city came with \$22 million in federal funds over a four-year period to help build infrastructure and establish national standards for public awareness and willingness to use active modes of transportation.

Even though the pilot office is closing, City staff will continue working on projects yet to be completed. Several capital projects are scheduled for construction throughout 2010 and 2011. Ted Curtis, program manager, will move back to the Public Works Department at City Hall. The phone number for the non-motorized program will change to 874-7250 on Aug. 30.

Taking care of our parks

The Parks and Recreation Department has various park projects underway to keep Columbia parks in good condition. As parks writer Anne Schwartz points out in Gotham Gazette, "...when parks are well-maintained, attractive and accessible, the economic boost they provide — in increased real estate values, tourism dollars, jobs and tax revenues — far outweighs the cost of upkeep."

Current projects include the renovation of the accessible raised planter beds at Paquin Park, replacement of two 100-year-old bridges on the MKT Trail, replacement of deteriorating wooden benches in various parks and replacement of the old fitness stations in Albert-Oakland Park. The ball field was recently renovated at Douglass Park and most of the interior sidewalks have been replaced. Renovation of the ball fields at American Legion Park is currently underway.

Improvements to park roads and parking lots are scheduled over the next few months. Watch for detour signs and lot closings at the ARC and Cosmo, Rock Quarry, Stephens Lake and Albert-Oakland parks to facilitate the asphalt work. Park users are encouraged to check the asphalt schedule on the Parks and Recreation page of the City's website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com. The Parks and Recreation Department invests about \$160,000 of Parks Sales Tax annually to maintain park roads and parking lots.

According to Park Services Manager Mike Griggs, "The feedback we get from our citizens emphasizes the importance of taking care of what we have. We take that seriously and have dedicated a sizable portion of the Park Sales Tax for that purpose. Taking care of our parks is a top priority for the Parks and Recreation Department as well-maintained parks increase home property values and contribute to the quality of life in our community."

Waste is hazardous to your household

Did you know Columbia has a household hazardous waste program to dispose of chemicals? Pouring chemicals down the drain, dumping them on the ground or putting them in the trash is dangerous and harmful to the environment. The City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility is open to area residents for safe disposal of hazardous waste at no charge.

It offers a way to dispose of unwanted oil, paint, cleaning products, antifreeze, florescent bulbs, batteries and other household chemicals. Since 1991, the facility has provided a sustainable solution to keep over 1,110 tons of chemicals out of the landfill and streams.

The facility is located at 1313 Lakeview, one block west of the City power plant, just off Business Loop 70. It is open the first & third Saturdays, April through November, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 or go online to www.GoColumbiaMo.com (search: HHW). You can do your part to keep these chemicals from getting into the waste stream and polluting the environment.



Youth Academy

The Columbia Police Department held its annual summer Youth Academy July 19-23 for teens enrolled in grades 8-12. Teens interested in law enforcement signed up to learn firsthand how officers do their jobs. Students learned about crime scene investigation, the K9 Unit and the Investigative Division.

"So many young people only know what they watch on television, when it comes to how police officers do their jobs," said Public Information Officer Jessie Haden. "The Youth Academy allows us the opportunity to educate young people about their local emergency service agencies."



Labor Day holiday

City offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day. The regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 7.



Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made Sept. 6 and will be delayed 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.

Back to School = Immunizations

It's back to school time! The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services reminds parents that immunization rules for children enrolled in Missouri schools were revised in November 2009. The revisions affect minimum immunization requirements for children enrolled in Missouri public, private and parochial schools, day cares, preschools or nursery schools. Changes for school-aged children are summarized below. For day care, preschool and nursery school changes, please contact the health department at 874-7356.

Immunization requirements can be confusing. Health department nurses are expertly trained and happy to answer questions about vaccines and the diseases they can prevent. Complete rule changes are available from the health department. A summary of the changes for school children (effective beginning the 2010-2011 school year) include:

- Second dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for all children entering kindergarten. Exceptions are made for children who have had a documented case of varicella (chickenpox), but a physician must provide a statement as proof the child had the disease. For children enrolled in grades 1-5, only one dose of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine is required.
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine will be required for all incoming eighth grade students if the child has completed the recommended childhood DTaP/DTP vaccination series and has not received a Td booster within the past two years. For those enrolled in grades 9-12, public health nurses can make recommendations for parents to ensure they are up-to-date.

Proper immunizations are essential to public health. Many of the diseases that severely affected children 50 years ago are now rare, thanks in part to vaccines, the health professionals who offer them and the parents who responsibly vaccinate their children.

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- New Century Fund
- Personnel Advisory Board
- Internet Citizens Advisory Group

Application deadline is noon, Sept. 3. Applications and current vacancies for City boards and commissions are available online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Register online!
www.GoColumbiaMo.com
Call 874-7460 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 2010

6	Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center closes for season
7	Pooch Plunge, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 6-7:30 p.m., \$4 per dog, preregister
10	U.S. Cellular Movies in the Park, Cars, Flat Branch Park, 8:30 p.m., \$1 per person, 12 and under free
15	Family Fun Fest: <i>Creative Kids</i> , Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., free
17	Older American Klub (OAK) Fall Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., \$3 per person
18-19	33rd Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show, Nifong Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free

Web Did You Know?



The Climate Action Map demonstrates what Columbia is doing to reduce its climate impact. Action at the local level is imperative if we

want to reduce the human impact on our climate.

To see (and add to) what's happening in Columbia, visit: http://gocolumbiamo.com/Sustainability/Climate_Action/.