

Volunteer of the Month - Mahree Skala



Mahree Skala

While watching the tragic events of the Joplin tornado unfold, many of us looked for ways to help and opportunities to contribute. This month, the City honors volunteer Mahree Skala, whose service provides that and more.

Mahree joined the Medical Reserve Corps about six years ago when it was just beginning. Through monthly meetings, trainings and practice drills, MRC members help prepare the City to respond to disasters. They are also involved in fairs and health clinics.

When asked about her interest in the Columbia/Boone County MRC, Mahree said, "I have worked in public health most of my life. When I retired I thought [the MRC] would be a perfect place to use my training and experience."

The MRC provides an opportunity for those with or without medical backgrounds to serve in disaster preparation.

Mahree also contributes by organizing volunteers from the Columbia United Church of Christ each year for Cleanup Columbia, a citywide trash pickup. For the last several years, this group has picked up dozens of bags of trash along I-70 Drive Northwest.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

~ Written by volunteer Brittany Perrin

Save money on cooling costs

Use these air conditioning efficiency tips to save money on your bills and still be comfortable in your house this summer.

- Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or as high as possible while maintaining reasonable comfort level while you're home.
 - Set thermostats to 82 degrees when you're away from home or install a programmable thermostat to make the changes automatically.
 - Remove weeds, grass, bushes and other obstructions from around the outside condensing unit.
 - Replace the system's filter every three months or when dirty.
 - For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep shades closed during the day.
 - Wear loose-fitting clothes.
 - Keep the fireplace chimney dampers closed.
 - Plant deciduous shade trees on the south and west side of your house to keep your house cool.
 - Schedule a tune up for your cooling system by a qualified HVAC contractor.
- Sign up for Columbia Water & Light's FREE energy audit to have a customized energy efficiency plan for your home or business. Or, try our online energy audit from the comfort of your home.

ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
info@ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
874-7325

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline:

Aug. 5 at noon

- Board of Health
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Tax Increment Financing Commission

Application deadline:

Sept. 2 at noon

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

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.

Did you know?

Have you ever registered online for classes through Parks and Recreation? It's easy...just call 874-7460 to get your user name and password and you can start registration immediately!

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City of Columbia
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MAYOR
Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	Fred Schmidt
<i>Second Ward</i>	Jason Thornhill
<i>Third Ward</i>	Gary Kespohl
<i>Fourth Ward</i>	Daryl Dudley
<i>Fifth Ward</i>	Helen Anthony
<i>Sixth Ward</i>	Barbara Hoppe
<i>City Manager</i>	Mike Matthes



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CITYSOURCE

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

vol. 15 • No. 7 • July 2011



Your source for City news and information



COLUMBIA ENERGY CENTER POWERS THE FUTURE!



Columbia Water & Light Director Tad Johnsen looks on as City Manager Mike Matthes signs the final paperwork to acquire the Columbia Energy Center.



Mayor Bob McDavid speaks to the press about the benefits of local electric generation in Columbia.

As approved by voters in April, the City of Columbia took ownership of the Columbia Energy Center from Ameren Energy Marketing on June 1. Shown in the photos is the 144 megawatt natural gas fired electric generation facility that is located near the Columbia landfill. The Columbia Energy Center will add more local generation to the City's electric portfolio and can help back up intermittent renewable energy sources. The purchase of the facility will save the utility \$1 million annually and will not increase electric rates.

Home Performance with Energy Star

Cut your utility bills by 30 percent*
Be more comfortable!

Up to \$1,200 in rebates for energy efficiency improvements
Low-interest loans to help with financing

- Columbia Water & Light
- 874-7325
- ColumbiaPowerPartners.com

* The average utility bill savings of those completing the program is 30 percent.



Parks and Recreation presents Family Fun Fests

Don't miss Parks and Recreation's Family Fun Fests from 6-8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month through September. The free Fun Fests feature a new theme each month. Entertainment for the entire family will include music, special performances, art activities, bounce houses, hands-on activities, balloon animals, face painting and guaranteed fun for all ages.

The Family Fun Fests are sponsored by the Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8, EntPro Entertainment and Columbia Home.

AUGUST 17

Travel the globe with dancing, games, music and more! Find out what other children around the world do for fun. Visit the "Portrait of a Sister City" photo exhibit featuring Suncheon, South Korea, and enjoy a traditional Chinese dance performance hosted by Columbia Friends of China – sponsors of Columbia's sister city relationship with Laoshan District, Qingdao, China.

COMING UP:

Sept 21: Creative Kids

Neighborhood Watch Training

Please join Columbia Neighborhood Watch and the Columbia Police Department in keeping your neighborhood safe. Learn about the benefits of being a part of Neighborhood Watch.

TRAINING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- Aug. 23, 7-8 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 2513 N. Stadium Blvd.
- Sept. 19, 7-8 p.m., Fairview Elementary, 909 S. Fairview Rd.
- Oct. 26, 7-8 p.m., The Links Apartment Community, 5000 Clark Lane

For more information, visit www.ColumbiaNeighborhoodWatch.org.

Tourism-oriented Policing

Individuals representing several components of Columbia came together May 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn for a one-day seminar on tourism-oriented policing cosponsored by the Columbia Police Department and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Chief Jaime Ayala of the Arlington, Texas, Police Department was the presenter for the seminar.

Despite the title of tourism-oriented policing, the seminar was of interest to any individual or business having regular contact with large numbers of visitors to the community. Chief Ayala defined a visitor as any person who has traveled outside the area where they normally reside, work or are familiar with, and noted that a person who lives just a few miles outside Columbia could be considered a visitor. Additionally, he highlighted the important role that tourism plays in the local economy by sharing some economic statistics with the group: Missouri travelers spent \$168.97 per person per trip in 2010, tourism-related spending in Boone County totaled in excess of \$314 million, and more than one million people take day trips to Columbia each year.

Columbia citizens have the opportunity to be good tourism ambassadors by providing a friendly, welcoming presence to visitors.

Adopt-A-Spot volunteers brighten Columbia

Columbia has more than 90 landscaped beds around the city maintained by volunteers through the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Program. The volunteers who care for these beds brighten the day of hundreds of residents and visitors who drive, bike or walk past.

Volunteers agree to maintain their spot by weeding, mulching, watering and planting annual flowers and bulbs. The City has some resources to support adopters in their efforts and can help with the expense of installing new beds. Adopters agree to care for the bed for four years.

There are currently several beds in need of adopters. You may be just the person to provide the care and attention one needs! Adopters are recognized with a sign and can be individuals, families, businesses, faith groups or civic organizations.

To learn more about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the City's Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbia-Mo.com.



International friendship continues to bloom



The cherry blossom has been a symbol of friendship between Japan and the United States since 1912, when the mayor of Tokyo donated 3,000 cherry trees to Washington, D.C. On May 16, community members helped the City rededicate a cherry grove at Cosmopolitan Recreation Area. The cherry grove was established in 1995 with funds donated by Columbia's sister city, Hakusan, Japan.

Students helped plant a new cherry tree in memory of Mayor Mitsuo Kado, who passed away last fall. In 2008, the students joined Mayor Kado in planting a Dogwood near Hakusan City Hall to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship. The students, all juniors and seniors now, were the last class to participate in the Columbia – Hakusan exchange program, which went "on recess" in 2009.

Columbia Imagined

A Comprehensive Plan for a Sustainable Community
<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/ComprehensivePlan-TaskForceCommittee.php>

The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Comprehensive Plan Task Force are preparing a new comprehensive plan for the City of Columbia.

What is a comprehensive plan?

A general plan with goals, objectives and policies, as well as maps and graphics that provide a common reference for citizens and decision makers on the desired future growth and development of the city.

Each phase of the planning process builds on the previous phase. Your input will define the plan, as you help select the information about Columbia's heritage, values and development that is most relevant; identify and frame issues; shape the goals, objectives and policies; and identify strategies for how we reach our goals.

How do I stay informed & involved?

Visit the plan website; follow the plan on Facebook; sign up for the Listserv; attend meetings, speak and fill out comment sheets in person or online; visit community centers and involve others in citywide dialogue with your circle of friends, family and associates.

For more information:

- Contact the Department of Planning & Development
- E-mail planning@GoColumbiaMo.com
- 874-7239

Elements of Columbia Imagined

- 1.) Sustainable/livable communities
- 2.) Accessibility, mobility and connectivity
- 3.) Economic development
- 4.) Environmental management
- 5.) Infrastructure
- 6.) Intergovernmental cooperation
- 7.) Land use and growth management

Parks & Recreation CALENDAR

Register online!

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Call 874-7460 for more information.

AUGUST 2011

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| 7 | Lake of the Woods Pool closes for summer |
| 12 | Outdoor Movies in the Park, Tangled, Flat Branch Park, 8:30 p.m., \$2 per person, ages 8 and under are free |
| 13 | NFL Punt, Pass and Kick, Cosmo Park Football Field #4, 9:30 a.m. check-in, free |
| 14 | Little Mates Cove, Douglass Family Aquatic Center closes for season |
| 18 | Family Fun Fest: Around the World, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., free |
| 19 | Teen Garage Band Bash, parking garage at Sixth and Cherry, 7-10 p.m., \$2 per person |

SEPTEMBER 2011

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| 5 | Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center closes for summer |
| 6 | Pooch Plunge, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 6-7:30 p.m., \$4 per dog, must pre-register |
| 17-18 | 34th Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show, Nifong Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free |
| 21 | Family Fun Fest: Creative Kids, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., free |

Labor Day holiday

City offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day. The regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 6. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made Sept. 5 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.