

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Parks and Recreation Presents

FAMILY FUN FESTS

Columbia Parks and Recreation is continuing the themed Family Fun Fest in August! The **free** Fests are held from 6-8 p.m. at Flat Branch Park on the third Wednesday of each month through September. Entertainment for the entire family features music, special performances, art activities, hands-on activities, face painting and guaranteed fun for all ages.

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

Aug. 21—Around the World

Kids can “travel the globe” with dancing, games, music and more!



Annual Performance Report

City Manager Mike Matthes released the City’s first annual performance report to citizens and taxpayers in May. To read it online and view the city’s manager’s news conference, visit GoColumbiaMo.com and enter “state of city” in the search box.

The report highlights both progress made and additional work needed to achieve the primary goals set by the City Council.

The City is committed to:

- increasing citizen satisfaction levels by making it easier to get help and communicating in ways citizens prefer;
- adding local jobs to keep Columbia a great place to live and work;
- staying financially healthy by budgeting conservatively, saving money wherever possible and spending tax dollars in areas most important to citizens;
- better planning for growth, with more attention to the cost of physical development and to high-quality projects;
- improving quality of life in areas such as public safety, health, recreation, code compliance and cultural opportunities;
- continuously improving City utilities, streets and sidewalks; and
- hiring top talent, with emphasis on City employee job skills, customer service and recognition for high performance.

The report will be updated each year and included in the annually-published citizen’s handbook.

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 thermostats at 78 degrees or as high as possible while maintaining a 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.
- Use heat-producing appliances (clothes dryers, dishwashers, etc.) during the late evening or early morning.
- Plant deciduous shade trees on the south and west sides of your house to save up to 30 percent on your cooling costs.
- Schedule a tune-up for your cooling system by a qualified HVAC contractor.

Sign up for Columbia Water and Light's **free** energy audit to have a customized energy efficiency plan for your home or business.

ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
info@ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
874-7325

Web Did You Know?



Check out the free and simple online energy audit. This service provides specific energy efficiency tips for your home plus there's a great reference library for researching projects.

GoColumbiaMo.com, search for "online energy audit"

Test your produce safety savvy

Being healthy includes eating lots of fruits and vegetables, and summer is a great time to enjoy fresh, healthy produce. But beware—harmful bacteria can lurk on fruits and vegetables and make you and your family sick.

Do you have the know-how to make good choices when it comes to the safety of your produce? Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services offers this true/false quiz on your knowledge of safe produce.

Q. Precut fruits and vegetables (like pineapple and celery, for example) can be stored anywhere as long as it is sealed tightly.

A. FALSE - cut fruits and vegetables should be refrigerated or surrounded by ice.

Q. It's OK for fruits and veggies to touch raw meat, poultry and seafood in the fridge, as long as the temperature is at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

A. FALSE - keep your fruits and veggies separate because raw meat, poultry and seafood can spread harmful bacteria to ready-to-eat foods in the fridge. Throw away ready-to-eat produce that has touched raw meat, poultry or seafood.

Q. You should wash your hands for 20 seconds (sing "Happy Birthday" twice) with water and soap before and after preparing fresh produce.

A. TRUE

Q. It's important to remove visible dirt and wash fruits and vegetables, even the ones you peel, under running water just before eating, cutting or cooking.

A. TRUE

Q. It's OK to use the same cutting board for fresh produce and raw meat.

A. FALSE - you should use one cutting board for fresh produce and another one for raw meat, poultry or seafood.

Avoiding False Alarms

Researchers estimate that more than 94 percent of home security alarms are false

The resources required to respond to false alarms cost municipalities millions of dollars per year. Over the past two decades, home security systems have become an increasingly common feature in the United States. The added protection is a benefit many homeowners have found appealing. Responding to home security alarm activations is a task that most municipalities take very seriously, but due to the sheer volume of alarm calls, effectively responding has been difficult. This is particularly troubling because so many alarm activations are false alarms.

In response to the challenge of thousands of false alarms, municipalities across the nation have passed ordinances aimed at ensuring police officers and other resources are appropriately utilized. Some municipalities charge the home or business owners and require registration fees and/or permits which must be renewed on an annual basis. These ordinances have resulted in significantly fewer false alarms, which means police officers are able to spend more time on more urgent matters.

The goal of security system owners should be to minimize false alarms. Officers responding to false alarm calls are not free to proactively deliver other police services to the neighborhoods where they are assigned. Reducing responses to false alarms will result in better service and increased protection for home security system owners.

Since false alarms are so prevalent, and the resources necessary to respond so expensive, the response time from police officers is not always ideal. If false alarms are minimized, police officers will be able to respond more quickly to an actual break-in. To find out more about the most common causes of false alarms and ways you can reduce false alarms visit the Columbia Police Department web page at GoColumbiaMo.com/Police/Crime/crimepreventionpage.php.



PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

August

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| 1 | Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series: "Table for Five," 7-9 p.m., FREE |
| 9 | Movies in the Park, "Escape from Planet Earth," Flat Branch Park, 8:30 p.m., \$2 per person, 8 and under FREE |
| 10 | NFL Punt, Pass and Kick, Cosmo Park football field #4, 9:30 a.m. check-in, FREE |
| 14 | New Leisure Times activity guide available |
| 16 | Teen Garage Band Bash, Sixth and Cherry parking garage, 7-9 p.m., \$2 |
| 21 | Family Fun Fest: Around the World, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE |

Code Corner: Weeds

Chapter 11 of City Code defines weeds as all vegetation, other than commonly known and recognized trees, decorative shrubs and ornamental grasses, which has attained a height of 12 inches or more and poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac, at any height or stage of maturity. The City can abate weeds in instances when the property owner is not in compliance.

Each month the Office of Neighborhood Services will share a City Code related to quality of life for residential areas. If you have a question or see a problem in your neighborhood, call 817-5050.





Tara & Joshua Green

July Volunteers of the Month

Joshua and Tara Green, who met on a mission trip, were both raised in families that helped others. “My parents never turned anyone away who needed help,” Joshua explained. “You share what you have.”

This spirit of helping the community and contributing to those around them is what

the couple is passing on to their boys: Carter, 5, and Micah, 2.

“We are trying to instill a sense of community in the boys, help them not be so egocentric and see that the world is bigger than themselves,” Joshua said.

Joshua and Tara have been volunteering for the City since moving to Columbia in 2005. This includes Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Columbia Festival of the Arts, Heritage Festival, Cleanup Columbia, Family Fun Fests, Show Me State Games and church mission and volunteer work.

Joshua, a teacher at CORE, also got his students volunteering. Together, they care for an Adopt A Spot at Nifong and Bethel, clean up Cosmo-Bethel Park and help twice a week at the Food Pantry. “They take pride in contributing to their community and making a positive impact,” he said.

“People say I don’t want to give up my weekends or time off, but volunteering usually takes an hour or two,” Tara noted. “It’s showing up and filling a need.”

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

Written by volunteer Theresa Nelson

Sign Ordinance

Business owners, did you know the City has a sign ordinance? Save your business time and money! Before you display or install a sign at your business location, make sure it complies with the City’s sign ordinance.

Owners of signs that violate the ordinance are subject to prosecution and possible fines. For more details, and to ensure compliance, refer to Chapter 23 of the City’s Code of Ordinances and the sign ordinance FAQs page at GoColumbiaMo.com.

Enter “Chapter 23” in the search box in the upper right-hand corner of the page to review the ordinance. To view the sign ordinance FAQs navigate to the Community Development Department home page and click on “Building and Site Development.” Citizens are also encouraged to contact or stop by the service center on the third floor of City Hall (874-7474) for additional information.

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: Aug. 2 at 5 p.m.

- Board of Health
- Historic Preservation Commission

Application deadline: Sept. 6 at 5 p.m.

- City of Columbia New Century Fund Inc. Board
- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Personnel Advisory Board

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk’s Office. Call 874-7208 for information.

\$50 to \$1,600 Rebate

HIGH EFFICIENCY AIR CONDITIONER/HEAT PUMP REBATE

For Columbia Water & Light electric customers purchasing a qualified unit.

ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
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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> | Michael Trapp |
| <i>Third Ward</i> | Karl Skala |
| <i>Fourth Ward</i> | Ian Thomas |
| <i>Fifth Ward</i> | Laura Nauser |
| <i>Sixth Ward</i> | Barbara Hoppe |
| <i>City Manager</i> | Mike Matthes |



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