$\underbrace{ \text{Columbia Mo.com} }_{\text{Www.GoColumbia Mo.com}} \underbrace{ \text{SOUTR}_{\text{Vol. 17. No. 9. October 2014} }_{\text{Vol. 17. No. 9. O$



Your source for City news and information





Commemorative Poster 2014

The 2014 City of Columbia commemorative poster has been unveiled! Each year, an artist's work is selected to communicate the vitality and beauty of mid-Missouri and the significance of the arts. This year's poster features a fiber artwork titled "Cooper's Landing" by Deb Roberts.

"This is the first fiber piece to be used in the commemorative poster, and its details speak to mid-Missouri," says a member of the poster selection committee. "It is bucolic, fun and whimsical – an unusual mix in one piece of art." Posters can be purchased for \$15 at Deck the Walls in Columbia Mall or at the Office of Cultural Affairs, 300 S. Providence. All proceeds support City-sponsored arts programs and services.

CNG fueling station dedicated

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel became available to consumers in mid-Missouri after the dedication and grand opening of the first CNG station in the central part of the state Aug. 26. The City of Columbia and Clean Energy partnered to construct the CNG station at 1901 Lake Ridgeway Road in north-central Columbia near Vandiver and US Highway 63. The station has two CNG pumps for City of Columbia fleet vehicles and one pump for private sector vehicles. Dart Transit and Hogan Transportation have already begun using the CNG station.

CNG is an abundant, domestic fuel which burns cleaner than other fossil fuels to create lower emissions, is currently substantially cheaper than gasoline or diesel fuel and is known to lower engine maintenance costs.

The City of Columbia has several CNG-fueled vehicles, including solid waste collection trucks, paratransit vehicles and utility pickup trucks. Additional CNG vehicles will join the fleet soon, including COMO Connect buses. The city will not convert its entire fleet to CNG, yet use CNG in addition to gasoline, diesel and hybrid-electric vehicles.



City of Columbia and Clean Energy partnered to construct the first CNG fueling station in mid-Missouri at 1900 Lake Ridgeway Road. The station opened Aug. 26.

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

An Annual Celebration of the Life and Teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Columbia Values Diversity Student Writings Program

The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Planning Committee is seeking student writings that reflect the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as his legacy is honored during the annual celebration of his life and teachings. This year's theme is "Harmonious Voices in a Diverse Community." Students grades 4-12 are invited to submit an original essay, poem, song or rap that includes the reasons they believe the community is rich in diversity.

The deadline for submitting an entry is Friday, Nov. 14, 2014. Selected entries will be chosen by an independent selection committee for publication in the 2015 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration student writings booklet, which will be distributed to more than 1,000 people at the annual community celebration Jan. 15, 2015, and published on the celebration website.

Submission information and guidelines are available through:

Columbia Public Schools teachers and principals grades 4-12

or

City of Columbia's Office of Cultural Affairs: Phone: (573) 874-6386

Email: OCA@GoColumbiaMo.com

Web: GoColumbiaMo.com (Search: Diversity Celebration)

Columbia Values Diversity Awards

Help celebrate diversity in the community by nominating an individual, family, organization or group for the 18th annual Columbia Values Diversity awards. This is a great way to show appreciation for those who have had a significant impact promoting diversity and cultural understanding!

These awards will be presented at the 22nd annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Jan. 15, recognizing people whose work exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by fostering individual dignity, racial equality, understanding, peacemaking and solving problems through non-violence. Two awards will be presented: one individual/family award and one organization/group award. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 28, 2014. Nomination forms are available by calling the Office of Cultural Affairs at 874-6386 or on the Web at *GoColumbiaMo.com* (search: Diversity Celebration).

Document your skills; earn more money

Looking for a job? Want a better job? Get employers' attention with a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Earn the certificate by taking three 1-hour tests that cover workplace skills. Depending on your score, you can earn a platinum, gold, silver or bronze level certificate. The certificate shows employers that you have the skills to perform or learn certain jobs. Earning a higher level certificate increases the number and level of jobs employers will hire you to do. Higher level jobs pay more money, increasing your earning potential for your lifetime.

More than 70 Boone County employers have committed to recognizing the NCRC. Tests are scheduled 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Fridays. The test is free when you register at *jobs.mo.gov*. For more information, contact the Missouri Career Center at 1500 Vandiver Dr., Suite 115, or 441-6361.

Thanksgiving Holiday

City offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made that day and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have ques-

tions. City buses will not operate, the landfill will be closed and parking meters will not be enforced Nov. 27.





Street Talk

Audible pedestrian crossing signals coming to Columbia intersections in 2015

The City of Columbia Public Works Department -- Engineering Division employees, the council-appointed Disabilities Commission and the Tiger Council for the Blind have discussed the addition of audible crossing signals for many years. In 2015, as part of a broader safety enhancement project to install crosswalks and pedestrian countdown timers at College Avenue and Broadway, the audible indicators will be installed as part of the work.

While audible pedestrian crossing signals have been around for many years, it was not until the past few years that the technology has advanced to meet more needs of people who are

visually impaired.

The cost of the project is \$70,000. Eleven additional intersections were identified by the Disabilities Commission for installation of audible pedestrian crossing equipment. In 2015, the City hopes to complete three additional audible pedestrian crossing projects at the intersections of Providence and Stewart Road, Providence and Business Loop 70 and Old Highway 63 and Broadway. Additional projects will be designed and installed as funding allows.

Columbia Flag Design Contest

Columbia has so much to offer! Picturesque parks, a thriving downtown, an abundance of cultural opportunities and the list goes on. The one thing it lacks is an official city flag.

Now is your chance to help make history. The City of Columbia is holding a Columbia flag design contest. This is your opportunity to create a lasting symbol for the city that captures the history, beauty and uniqueness of the community. The contest is open to everyone, from amateurs to professional graphic designers. Winners will be honored during a special flag-raising ceremony planned for the spring. The submission deadline is Nov. 14, 2014. Guidelines are available by calling the Office of Cultural Affairs at 874-6386 or on the Web at *GoColumbiaMo.com/Arts*.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 5-11

Help sound the alarm that working smoke alarms save lives
A working smoke alarm can help you and your family escape



a deadly home fire. It can also help save the lives of firefighters who would otherwise have to risk their lives by searching a burning home for residents. A working smoke alarm continuously scans the air for smoke, 24 hours a day,

seven days a week. It never sleeps.

Did you know that many people don't test their smoke alarms as often as they should? When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. You need working smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Test yours every month!

Solid Waste offers curbside collection tips

Columbia refuse collectors offer the following tips to ensure your trash and recycling collection goes smoothly.

- Don't place your trash or recycling out before 4 p.m. the day prior to your scheduled collection.
- Have your trash and recycling out before 7 a.m. the day of your scheduled collection.
- Make sure bags, both trash and recycling, do not weigh more than 50 pounds.
- Make sure all of your trash is contained within a bag. Loose trash will not be picked up.
- Separate your trash and recycling bags/bins/boxes. Separate trucks collect trash and recycling. Mixing the two in piles slows down the collection crew and could lead to collection errors.
- Make sure you properly separate your recycling materials plastics (#1 and #2), glass, aluminum and steel in the blue bag; fiber (cardboard, newsprint, magazines) in a bin, paper sack or cardboard box.

The City's refuse and recycling collectors work hard year-round and in extreme weather to keep Columbia clean. Your help is appreciated. If you have questions, check *GoColumbiaMo.com* or call 874-6291.



Public Power Week • October 5-11, 2014

The citizens of Columbia started their own utility in 1904 so they would have a safe, reliable, low-cost source for water and electricity. The benefit of a municipally-owned utility is that it is run by the citizens of Columbia through the City Council and operated by your friends and neighbors. Rates are established by the cost to serve each customer, not to return a profit to shareholders.

Register utility accounts online

Utility Customer Service (UCS) welcomes new residents and students to Columbia! At this time of year, many people are opening utility accounts for the first time. You can register utility accounts online for 24-hour access to account information. Once the account is registered, customers are able to view and print bills, pay bills and check consumption history.

More than one email address may be linked to an account, so roommates may also register for online access. It's important to keep accounts current to avoid late fees and possible shutoffs for nonpayment. Online access means customers can check account status and due dates from anywhere at any time.

Visit GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Utilities/ and select the link for Online Account Access and Bill Payment. For additional customer convenience, UCS now offers extended phone line hours from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. at 874-7380.

WARNING: utility payment scam

There has been a utility payment scam in Columbia this year. The caller asks for the customer to purchase a gift card to use as payment for an overdue bill to avoid disconnection. A City of Columbia representative will not ask for any payments over the phone. Customers can pay bills in person, at *GoColumbiaMo. com* or by calling the automated phone payment service at 874-7694. Customers should not make payments for utilities any other way, even if the caller ID says the call is from the City of Columbia. If you receive a utility scam call, report it to the Columbia Police Department by calling 874-7652.

Get your flu vaccine

It's that time of year again – if you are six months or older, stop by the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services for your annual flu vaccination. Flu vaccine is available 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday at the clinic, 1005 West Worley. No appointment is needed; walk-ins are welcome. Learn more at: http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/fluclinicschedule.php. For flu updates and more check us out on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept and on Twitter at @ CoMo_HealthDept.

Problems making ends meet?

Free energy saving upgrades for income-qualified customers

Columbia Water & Light electric customers can make their homes more energy efficient through the Central Missouri Community Action. The service is FREE for income-qualified customers! This program helps families in need save money on their energy bills so it can be used on other pressing family needs.

Do you qualify?

- 1. Total income cannot exceed the 200 percent federal poverty income level
- 2. Must be a Columbia Water & Light electric customer
- Own your home or have your landlord* agree to participate
- * Landlords: Partial funding is available for rental units with income-qualified tenants. This program will pay for 50 percent of the upgrade for single-family homes and 30 percent for each multi-family unit.

Household Size	Income
1	\$23,340
2	\$31,460
3	\$39,580
4	\$47,700
5	\$55,820
6	\$63,940
7	\$72,060
8	\$80,180

What is covered?

As funding allows, you might qualify for these FREE* upgrades:

- Energy efficiency assessment (determines which upgrades are needed)
- Insulation (attic, wall, rim joist, ductwork and either crawlspace or floor over unconditioned spaces)
- Air & ductwork sealing

Additional funding from other funding sources might be available for other energy efficiency improvements.

How do I apply?

Contact the Central Missouri Community Action at 443-8706, ext. 1958, or mary-mantei@showmeaction.org.

Homeless Youth Awareness Month Dodge Ball Tournament

Columbia Parks and Recreation is teaming up with the Rainbow House to host a dodgeball tournament in recognition of Homeless Youth Awareness Month. The event will be held at 1 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Armory Sports Center. Proceeds from the event will go toward the Rainbow House.

Deadline to register a team for the tournament is Nov. 6. Participants must be at least 14 years old. Cost is \$50 per team; flights will be held in competitive and recreational categories. Prizes will be awarded for first place, as well as Best Team Name and Most

Creative Uniforms. There will also be "Minute to Win It" games and door prizes.

For more information about registration, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460 or the Rainbow House at 446-6600.



Drug Terminator purchased to encourage proper drug disposal

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) purchased a "Drug Terminator" for use by the Columbia Police Department. The "Terminator" is a mobile incinerator for the disposal of illicit drugs to be used in conjunction with the Medication Drop Box program to encourage proper disposal of unused medication to reduce the misuse of prescription drugs in the community.

The implementation of the "Drug Terminator" provides the City of Columbia with a potential solution to several issues currently facing the community. The new product will allow for a reduction in the number of drugs put down drains and the number of drugs appearing as waste in landfills, therefore positively impacting the safety of the water supply and the Solid Waste Division.

In addition to the impact on various environmental sectors, the purchase of the incinerator correlates directly to a community-identified strategic issue surrounding risky behaviors and the reduction of substance use in the community.

The public is encouraged to utilize the medication drop box in the lobby of the Columbia Police Department to dispose of any unwanted, expired or leftover prescription medications. The following items are not accepted in the drop box:

Needles (sharps) Thermometers Blood or infectious waste Hydrogen peroxide Aerosol cans Inhalers

For more information regarding the use of the incinerator, contact the Police Department at 874-7424. For more information regarding the purchase of the incinerator, please contact PHHS at 874-7632.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

November

- Bikes and Trees: Capturing the Perfect Fall Photo, Meet at MKT Trail-Stadium Blvd. access, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., FREE
- 2 Cruise the Creeks, MKT Trail, meet at Flat Branch Park gazebo, 2 p.m., FREE
- 12 New Leisure Times is published
- Homeless Youth Awareness Month Dodgeball Tournament, Armory Sports Center, 1 p.m., \$50 per team

Game Day Transportation: Solved

Avoid the hassle of parking and traffic this football season by taking advantage of the COMO Connect football bus routes on game day. Catch one of two downtown routes that travel by many favorite pre-game destinations and parking garages, or choose one of the many routes that pick up customers from hotels and restaurants around town. Plus, catch a ride back after the game. Find maps and schedules at *comoconnect.org*.

Adopt a rain garden!

The City's Volunteer Program and the Public Works Stormwater Education Program are partnering on a new volunteer program to allow residents to adopt a rain garden. Volunteers (individuals, families, groups or businesses) will be asked to help maintain a rain garden by removing invasive plants, picking up litter, installing new plants and mulching edges. Commitments are two years, and volunteers should plan to share a minimum of 8-10 hours per year on at least three days. The initial rain gardens available for adoption are along the South Providence Pedway between Green Meadows and Southampton. To learn more, call 874-6271 or visit *GoColumbiaMo.com*.

Report streelight outages

If you notice a light on during the day or one out at night, please report it.

Online form: GoColumbiaMo.com/ CMS/WebForms/form.php?formid=191

874-7325

Volunteer of the Month Matt Dube

Matt Dube, who has taught American literature and creative writing at William Woods the past 8 years, is the volunteer leader of Reflections Poetry Society, a forum for adults and teens to share their writing with others and get feedback.

Reflections Poetry Society meets from 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Armory. Anyone can attend and share their poetry, fiction or nonfiction.



Dube, who usually writes short stories but is now working on a mystery novel, was looking for a volunteer opportunity when the Reflections Poetry Society needed new leadership four years ago. He had been a regular participant in the group.

"I get to interact about something I am passionate about," Dube said. "It's a great way to use my skills and interests in a way that is not job related."

Leading the workshops and assisting others with their writing also enhances Dube's creative writing skills.

"It encourages me to write for a different audience, share my work and finish projects," he said.

To learn more about volunteering with the City, call Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or visit *GoColumbiaMo.com*.

Written by volunteer Theresa Nelson

Columbia Citizens Police Review Board

The Citizens Police Review Board consists of eight Columbia residents who are registered voters, selected by the City Council. The ninth member, with the same qualifications, is a one-year appointee from the City's Human Rights Commission. All members serve without compensation.

A citizen who believes that he or she has been treated unfairly by Columbia police can file a complaint directly with the Columbia Police Department (CPD). Forms are available at the Columbia Public Library, Police Department and on the City's website (under police). The citizen may also file the complaint with the city clerk.

Within seven days, the citizen will be advised by the police that the complaint has been received. The CPD Internal Affairs Unit will then conduct an investigation of the complaint. The chief of police will advise the citizen and the officer of his decision. If the citizen or officer disagrees, they may appeal to the Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB) by writing to the city clerk. This written notice must be received by the city clerk within 21 days after the notice of the chief of police's decision. The CPRB will examine the case and render its decision to the chief of police, who can then accept or reject it. Should the citizen disagree with the CPRB and/or the chief of police's decisions, he or she may appeal to the city manager.

If a citizen requires assistance processing a complaint, the CPRB has advocates available. Contact the CPRB through City Hall at 874-7223. For more information on the CPRB and the CPD's complaint process, visit *GoColum-biaMo.com*.

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: Nov. 7 at 5 p.m.

 Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health

Application deadline: Dec. 5 at 5 p.m.

- Columbia Vision Commission
- Finance Advisory and Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement 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.

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City of Columbia
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(573) 874-7111 • www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Mayor Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

First Ward
Second Ward
Third Ward
Fourth Ward
Fifth Ward
Sixth Ward
City Manager

Ginny Chadwick Michael Trapp Karl Skala Ian Thomas Laura Nauser Barbara Hoppe Mike Matthes



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