Appendix A

Inventory of Existing Efforts

The 2007 Vision Report (p. S-3) recommended that an "inventory of existing efforts" be included with this draft implementation report. Accordingly, this appendix lists recently completed, ongoing, or upcoming projects and events that are helping to advance visioning goals and strategies. These projects and events are arranged by topic in alphabetical order. Links are included throughout the list to help connect you to more information.

The 2007 Vision Report's recommendation to prepare this inventory in turn reflected two conclusions of that report (S-2):
➢ ". . . to make the most efficient use of funds, implementation of the vision should utilize and build upon existing structures and resources." and
➢ ". . . adjustments in specific action steps and strategies will necessarily be made as those strategies are integrated with other ongoing activities within the community, new information is obtained, and new people become involved."

In this report, the inventories are compiled from the contributions of many different entities. Some of these efforts are administered by the City. In others, members of the community have taken the lead. The list, while long, is only a snapshot, and there may be other organizations or groups who are working in ways that advance the vision who did not submit information. Inclusion of activities sponsored by organizations other than the City does not represent an endorsement of any group or organization and is provided for information purposes only.

All of the projects and events included in the inventory relate to one or more of the visioning goals listed in Section 2 of this report. During the public comment period some questioned the inclusion of activities or projects that were not specifically mentioned in the 2007 Vision Report. Inclusion of projects that advance the visioning is, however, consistent with the direction of the original visioning committee as set forth above. "Visioning" is not a brand. As was recognized throughout the 2007 Vision Report, implementation of the vision requires an ongoing city-wide collaborative process that constantly integrates and respects the many voices of the community.

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- ## Affordable Housing
  ✓ In February 2008, the Affordable Housing Policy Committee produced a report emphasizing four goals: (1) the need to purchase at least 300 housing units affordable to those between 50-85% of the median family income annually; (2) the need to provide direct subsidies to make at least an additional 400 units annually of rental housing, not occupied by students with other means of support, affordable to those below 30% of the median income; (3) the need to provide incentives and financing to make affordable an additional 400 units annually of housing for those below 60% of the median family income; (4) the need to provide incentives and regulatory relief that will result in the construction and/or conversion of 1,000 additional housing units available to the elderly, physically disabled, or others with special needs. For more information on recommendations and to find the full plan, see:
  http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/Commissions/AHPC/index.php

  ✓ The City's Planning and Development Department is now working on a 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan related to affordable housing. The consolidated plan will be the City's master plan for investment of CDBG and HOME funds, of which the City receives approximately $1.5 million annually. It is a U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department mandated document. Citizens have been asked to help the City establish new priorities for the investment of these funds in a series of public hearings and in a survey concluded in February 2009. An additional hearing on proposed goals, objectives, and strategies is planned in July 2009. For more information and to stay up to date, see:
  www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning

  ✓ On April 11, 2008 a private, nonprofit corporation called Community Housing Options (CHO) formed to expand the supply of affordable housing within the Columbia/Boone County area and to act as an advocate for those who need affordable and accessible housing. CHO is working with the City of Columbia to develop a site on City-owned property at Vandiver Drive and Oakland Gravel Road. The initial project of this partnership will be 8-10 units of affordable, accessible rental housing for persons with physical disabilities. The National Board of Realtors has granted $5,000 and the City has reserved $10,000 in seed money to CHO for pre-development costs. For more information, contact Homer Page, Chairman, at: silcnetwork@earthlink.net

- ## Airport
  ✓ Mesaba (dba Northwest Airlink) began providing commercial air service to Columbia on August 19, 2008 offering three flights daily through their Memphis hub. The new carrier has been successful in increasing passenger traffic to 2,095, 1990, and 2016 enplanements in the months of October, November, and December 2008, respectively. Previous commercial service at Columbia Regional Airport reported an average monthly enplanement for the last six months of service as 497. In December 2008, Columbia Regional Airport was listed in the Top 5 of 56 comparable markets.

✓ The Columbia Regional Airport recently launched a new website with flight information and a Master Plan update. Public meetings were scheduled for January, April, and June 2009, when the plan is slated for completion. Implementation will occur after Council and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approvals. For more information regarding the master plan update, see the website at: http://www.flymidmo.com/aboutairport.html.

▪ Arts and Culture

✓ Columbia's cultural plan, called "Creative Columbia", was last revised in 2005 and is scheduled for an update in 2010. The work to prepare a new plan has begun. Vision recommendations will be evaluated in the planning process. For more information about the City's cultural planning process, to obtain a copy of the current plan, or to get involved with the upcoming revision, contact the City's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA): 573-874-6386 or oca@GoColumbiaMo.com.

✓ The OCA supports all areas of the arts: visual art, sculpture, theatre, music, dance, literary arts, and film. The OCA produces a Gallery Guide, a Public Art Guide, a Festivals Guide, the bi-monthly Arts Express Newsletter, and is working on a Performing Arts Guide. It also maintains an online Artists Registry (http://www.ocaregistry.com/) to connect patrons with artists, arts organizations, and arts businesses.

✓ Columbia also has a Percent for Art program that provides funds for public art at eligible capital improvement project sites. Initiated in May 1997, Percent for Art allows for one percent of the cost of new City construction or renovation projects to be used for site-specific art. A Standing Committee on Public Art is appointed by the City Council to assist with this program.

✓ In FY 2008, the OCA awarded $95,000 to local arts organizations in its annual arts funding process. Additionally, $3,125 was awarded to arts groups for special projects via the OCA's quarterly funding opportunity called Small Requests. In FY 2009, more than $95,000 will go to aid the programs and services of local arts agencies.

✓ In 2008, the OCA received three grants from the Missouri Arts Council (MAC): a $28,525 Community Arts Program Grant that supports most OCA programs, especially targeted arts marketing and technical assistance to local arts organizations; a $5,100 Arts Education Grant for Percent for Art educational programming at a local school; and a $5,000 Capacity Building Grant to enhance technical assistance to local arts organizations with a consultant who addressed fund development. Other technical assistance to local arts groups and individuals included a business practices workshop for artists and an arts management workshop.

Inventory of Existing Efforts

✓ The OCA and the Commission on Cultural Affairs hold ARTSuccess workshops approximately 3-4 times a year. Other technical assistance programs include the Cultural Tourism Collaborative, one-on-one consultations and underwriting of consultants for board meetings or retreats.

✓ The Missouri Arts Council (MAC) will sponsor a statewide Arts Summit on Saturday, April 18, 2009 and OCA is a regional partner. Arts agency representatives, artists and arts volunteers convened in seven locations statewide, including Columbia, to connect on important issues facing the industry. Together, each site participated concurrently in an online presentation titled "Coping with Cutbacks: The Nonprofit Guide to Success When Times Are Tight."

✓ To increase public awareness and augment the marketing budgets and abilities of local arts groups, the OCA sponsors daily radio spots, monthly newspaper advertising for local arts organizations' events and activities, and maintains a list of active local arts organizations that offer programming throughout the year.

✓ Since 1992, the OCA has organized the Columbia Festival of the Arts. The Festival is being evaluated by the Commission on Cultural Affairs to determine whether or not it will continue in the future.

✓ For more information on the OCA plans and programs above, see:
www.GoColumbiaMo.com/arts

✓ Columbia has several other festivals, including: Art in the Park, Heritage Festival, the True/False Film Festival, the Roots n' Blues n' BBQ Festival, and more. Additionally, events like the quarterly Artrageous Fridays keep the public involved with art. For more information and a complete list of events, see:
http://www.discoverthedistrict.com/events.html.

✓ Founded in 2000, the C.A.R.E. Program (Career Awareness Related Experience), administered by Parks and Recreation, is a youth employment and education serving youth ages 14-18.

✓ The Parks and Recreation Department is working with the OCA on plans for an outdoor amphitheater in Stephens Lake Park. Construction on the amphitheater is slated to begin in the spring of 2009.

✓ The Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau has launched the Renaissance Club program to encourage businesses to purchase original art locally. Additionally, The Convention and Visitors Bureau recognizes outstanding outdoor art through the Image Awards program.

✓ The newly renovated Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts (http://www.motheatre.org/) and the recently relocated Columbia Art League

Gallery (http://cal.missouri.org/) are open and operational. The Ragtag Theater is open and operational at its new location (http://www.ragtagfilm.com/).

✓ A community-wide art project, "Women with Wings", gave area women an opportunity to create a collaborative art project. The end result will be unveiled at PS: Gallery in early April 2009. For more information, see: http://www.womenwithwingsproject.org.

✓ The University of Missouri supports public involvement in arts and culture in a number of ways. This includes the following:

- MU's Museum of Anthropology provides exhibits that convey the richness of Missouri's prehistory and the diversity of Native American cultures throughout the United States. Guided tours of museum exhibits and other public programs are available to area schools, community organizations, and other interested groups, as well as to the general public. For more information, see: http://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/.
- MU's Museum of Art and Archeology houses a comprehensive collection of permanent exhibition galleries containing objects from a wide range of cultures and also mounts a series of changing exhibitions over the course of the year. In addition to the Museum's galleries of original works, the Museum also hosts a collection of casts of major works. The Museum provides tours for all audiences from pre-schoolers to adults, tailoring tours to the needs of each audience. For more information, see: http://maa.missouri.edu/
- MU's Concert Series presents year-round performances by world-class artists. It also offers a community engagement program which brings together a broad range of area youth with distinguished artists to enhance the educational experience and make the performing arts accessible to youth at every economic level. For more information, see: http://www.concertseries.org/.
- MU's School of Music publishes a calendar of all performances for the year. For more information, see http://music.missouri.edu/calendar.html.
- MU's Art Department publishes a calendar of all exhibits scheduled throughout the year. For more information, see http://binghamgallery.missouri.edu/events.html.
- MU's Department of Theatre publishes a calendar of all performances for the year. For more information, see http://theatre.missouri.edu/academic-season.htm.
- MU's Film Studies Program maintains a list of local screenings, festivals, and film series can be viewed at http://filmstudies.missouri.edu/screenings.html.

✓ Stephens College hosts numerous performances that are open to the public, has an art gallery, and an active film studies program. For more information and the most recent events, see: http://www.stephens.edu/campuslife/arts/.

✓ Columbia College annually hosts the nationally acclaimed art show, "Paper In Particular" and is also how to the Jane Froman singers. For more information, see: http://www.ccis.edu/departments/arts/paperinparticular/.

· **Community**

✓ The City's Office of Volunteer Services helps build connections throughout Columbia. Each year, thousands of volunteers give around 40,000 hours of their time. Fiscal Year 2008 drew 43,323 hours of volunteer services. There are opportunities for people of all skills and ages, families, individuals, and groups to help in the community. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer.

✓ A community-wide celebration known as "First Night" is held each year. First Night Columbia 2009 was held downtown on December 31, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Entertainment included more than 60 performances plus activities and art at 15 venues in Downtown Columbia. This year free tickets were made available through the Voluntary Action Center to those who wanted them but were unable to afford them. For more information, see: http://firstnight.missouri.org/.

✓ The community-wide 2009 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration was held on January 15, 2009. Each year, the celebration brings people together from throughout the community to share breakfast and a special program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

✓ In November 2008, the City Council recommended that staff proceed with full coverage installation of wireless internet in Flat Branch and also to create wireless hotspots at Riechmann Pavilion, Gordon Shelter, and the upcoming amphitheater in Stephens Park.

✓ In 2008, City staff researched the establishment of a community foundation. In July, a memo was sent to council. Discussions on this topic continue in 2009 and staff are working on the next steps to start a community foundation.

✓ The Department of Parks and Recreation offers numerous programs throughout the community. These programs are most easily accessed through their tri-annual "Leisure Times" and a new email newsletter that keeps the community informed of all of the department's events and programs. For the most current issue, watch the City Channel or see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/ParksandRec/Activities_and_Programs/Leisure_Times/

✓ The Boone County Council on Aging is in the process of identifying 20 more homes in Columbia's first ward to work on this spring. To Volunteer for this program or recommend a home, call Kortney Sebben at (573) 443-1111.

✓ Each of the Columbia Housing Authority's public housing developments has its own tenant association. These groups exist to give residents the opportunity to play an active role in creating a positive living environment and a chance to participate in all aspects of the Housing Authority's overall mission and operation. For more information, contact Crystal Hampton at 443-2556, ext. 1270 or email champton@columbiaha.com.

✓ Columbia was recently rated "four blooms" out of five in the America in Bloom Symposium. The judges spent two days assessing things like tidiness, landscaped areas, floral displays, and heritage preservation. The report produced by these judges offers descriptions of what we have been doing well and where we need improvement in community appearance. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/America_in_Bloom/index.php.

✓ See also: *Arts,* above and *Heritage, Social Services,* and *Youth*, below.

▪ Downtown

✓ The formation of the Downtown Leadership Council (DLC) fulfilled a strategy from the vision and action plan. The Downtown Columbia Leadership Council is charged with: (1) developing and recommending to the City Council proposed boundaries of an expanded downtown development concept plan and study area; (2) assessing current assets and additional opportunities within the expanded study area that would assist in the area's redevelopment; (3) advising City staff and consultants on preparation of a blight/conservation study and preparation of a Missouri Downtown and Rural Economic Stimulus Act (MODESA) application; (4) developing for City Council consideration a strategic plan for the area and an underlying concept plan, similar to the plan prepared for the downtown area by Sasaki Associates; (5) recommending to the City Council possible development guidelines and physical attributes for downtown Columbia, and; (6) working on other projects requested by the City Council.

✓ Since its appointment in May 2008, the DLC has used the Sasaki plan as a base for defining an expanded downtown study area. It has recommended boundaries for an extended area and is in the process of indicating which areas in this expanded area should be prioritized as opportunity zones for catalytic projects. The DLC is preparing a progress report on its activities for presentation to the City Council in April 2009. Several maps related to the DLC's work are available online along with more information. See: http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Council/Commissions/DLC/index.php.

✓ The Columbia Special Business District recently rolled out a new downtown economic development website at: http://www.BusinessinTheDistrict.com.

✓ The City of Columbia established a Tax Increment Financing Commission for holding public hearings, considering proposals, and making recommendations to the City Council regarding the use of public funding in redevelopment plans and projects in the downtown area. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Council/Commissions/taxincremt.php.

✓ In October, the City Council held public hearings regarding a proposed mixed-use downtown parking facility at Fifth and Walnut streets. The proposed facility features an eight- or nine-story structure with an underground lot for the Police Department, street level office space, and 661 upper level parking spaces. It is estimated that the building will cost $15 million to be paid through City parking revenues.

▪ Economic Development

✓ Consistent with the vision, the efforts of Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) have been refocused into a greater partnership with the University of Missouri (MU). REDI is a nonprofit, public/private partnership which is staffed by the City's Department of Economic Development. REDI is financed through investments by the City of Columbia, Boone County, the University of Missouri, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and approximately 95 businesses and associations in the region. Its focus is on attracting businesses that provide skilled, higher paying jobs and that would otherwise contribute to the community's quality of life. See www.columbiaredi.com

✓ MU has been actively promoting regional economic development through commercialization of its technology research and affiliation with research and technology parks. One of these research parks – Discovery Ridge Research Park – is located in Columbia. ABC Labs moved into a 90,000 square foot facility at Discovery Ridge in April 2008. Another tenant moving into Discovery Ridge was the Research Animals Diagnostic Labs (RADL), which is the second largest such lab in the country. For more information on the University's contributions to economic development http://economicdevelopment.missouri.edu/index.php.

✓ The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has selected MU's eMINTS National Center to manage the Missouri Virtual School Program. Housing this program on MU's campus will provide approximately 50 new teaching jobs, office support, and administrative positions.

✓ MU is pursuing the construction of a $40 million radioisotope production facility near the Research Reactor along South Providence. This facility would provide 25-30 full-time positions at the reactor and would make MU the only domestic producer of molybdenum-99, the isotope used to create technetium-99, a

substance used in medical scans for cancer, heart disease, and bone and tissue illnesses.

✓ MU has also recently opened its Life Science Business Incubator at Monsanto Place. This incubator "hatches" to Discovery Ridge. The incubator has functional status as a department of the University. This means that tenant companies in the incubator have easy access to the resources at MU. For more information, see: http://muincubator.com/index.html.

✓ The Business Development Program (BDP) through the University of Missouri Extension is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs reach their goals through individualized business management consultation and educational experiences. The BDP provides tools, resources, networks and expertise. For more information, see: http://extension.missouri.edu/planofwork/business.htm.

✓ Boone County's Industrial Development Authority provided $50,000 in IDA funds to REDI. This grant allowed REDI to free up other funds to be used in its Flexible Incentive program. This program is targeted at creating high-quality job opportunities within Boone County. Incentive funds are expected to be used for job training, retraining, site preparation, or facility start-up costs. In the last year these funds were helpful in attracting three new entities to the Columbia region. One such entity is the Media Convergence Group which is relocating from the Silicon Valley area of California. The IDA also provided another $50,000 to the Missouri Innovation Center which operates the incubator.

✓ REDI also facilitated the creation of a new nonprofit, public-private organization, the Columbia Area Jobs Foundation. Certification of the foundation's nonprofit status was received from the IRS in December 2008. The foundation is currently working to develop sites that meet the shovel-ready criteria preferred by developers in today's economic development climate, while keeping them competitively priced.

✓ In October, the Missouri Department of Economic Development announced the Certified Sites Program to provide shovel-ready sites throughout the state. REDI has been working with a developer to obtain certification for one local site under this program. The site will be considered for annexation to the City and establishment of industrial zoning in April 2009. For more information, see: http://www.ded.mo.gov/BDT/topnavpages/Research%20Toolbox/Missouri%20Certified%20Sites%20Program.aspx.

✓ For small businesses, REDI recently published its Small Business Resource Guide for 2009. This guide can be found at www.columbiaredi.com. Small entrepreneurs can also obtain individualized business management consultation and educational resources through the Business Development Program located within the University of Missouri Extension. For more info, see: http://extension.missouri.edu/planofwork/business.htm

✓ REDI's 2008 Annual Report provides additional information on the Columbia economy and ongoing economic development efforts and is available at www.columbiaredi.com.

✓ REDI has joined forces with the Kansas City Development Council (KCADC) in the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor. The corridor, stretching from Columbia, Missouri to Manhattan, Kansas is the largest concentration of animal health resources in the world.

✓ PetScreen, Ltd., an animal health company from Nottingham, England, chose Columbia as its US headquarters. The University resources combined with the business incubator helped PetScreen choose Columbia over sites in North Carolina and New York.

✓ Several other regional entities are also working on economic development. The Missouri CORE (Connecting Our Regional Economies) Partnership was formed in 2008. This Partnership includes 12 counties in mid-Missouri, including Boone County. Its purpose is to enhance the economic vitality of communities throughout the region through a regional cooperative effort. CORE hosted a Mid-Missouri Economic Summit on August 22 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City which included updates of activity in all 12 CORE counties. For more information, see: http://missouricore.com/

✓ CORE is the regional affiliate of the Missouri Partnership, a statewide, nonprofit economic development organization created in 2007 out of a project initiated by the Department of Economic Development. The Partnership's website includes workforce data, a business climate comparison tool, and a site selection tool for areas throughout the state. For more information, see: http://www.missouripartnership.com/.

✓ The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission (Boone, Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Howard, and Moniteau Counties) is a multi-county planning and policy agency that can receive federal funds. It partners with the federal Economic Development Administration and is the likely recipient for funds that may be provided through any federal economic stimulus package. In 2008 the planning commission received a grant of $50,000 directed at continuing work on a comprehensive economic development strategy. The commission's website is: http://www.mmrpc.org.

✓ The regional planning commission provides technical assistance such as local comprehensive planning, economic development, community development, mapping services, and grant aid to other organizations in the area. For example, the commission partnered with the Missouri Regional Cuisines Project in a program to improve area wine and food marketing and tie it with its culture of origin. For more information, see "The Current" at: http://www.mmrpc.org.

✓ See also *Airport* and *Downtown*, above and *Education* and *Jobs and Jobs Training*, below.

▪ Education

✓ Facilities: A third high school building is in the design stage and construction has begun on a new elementary school building. For the most recent updates, see: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/newschools/.

✓ The Columbia Public Schools Great Expectations and the Achievement Gap task forces have been combined. Their goals are to raise academic achievement for all, close the achievement gap, and provide data for program evaluation. For more information, see: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/osi/greatexpectations.html.

✓ Facilities: Plans for a new Regional Catholic High School are also underway. For the latest announcements, see: http://regionalcatholichighschool.org/.

✓ The school district meets with City and County government officials on a regular basis. These meetings are open to the public and notice is posted by the City at least 24 hours in advance. Meetings of the board are also broadcast on Channel 16, the district's cable access channel, and are posted on The District's website: www.columbia.k12.mo.us/ch16/index.php.

✓ The Board of Education welcomes involvement from the community. You can sign up to be a volunteer in the public schools, become involved in the Partners for Education program or sign up to participate in a school district committee or task force. For more information on being a volunteer, see: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/pie/pie/volunteers.htm. For more information on becoming a Partner in Education, see: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/pie/pie/about.htm. For more information on becoming a committee volunteer, see: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/volun.php.

✓ The Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services Department runs Puertas a Salud, a pre/postnatal program targeted at Latino immigrant families which provides support and education including referrals to the Women, Infants, and Children feeding program; healthcare providers; parenting resources (i.e. Parents as Teachers); early education programs; and other resources.

✓ Prenatal case management services are provided by Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services staff to residents of Boone County. Services focus on linking women and families with prenatal care, health insurance, and other resources such as WIC, safety products (car seats, cribs, etc.). Referrals are also made to parenting resources (i.e. Parents as Teachers) and early education programs.

- ✓ Lutheran Family and Children's Services Resource Parents Program is funded by the City through the Office of Community Services. In FY2008, $45,000 was provided as support for pregnant and parenting teens including case management, basic needs, and mental health services. Referrals are also made to WIC, healthcare providers, Parents as Teachers, early education programs, and other resources.

- ✓ Heart of Missouri United Way just started its Imagination Library program that distributes one book per month, for a child's first five years, to children born in Boone County with Boone County addresses. This program is supported with private donations, gifts, and grants.

- ✓ First Chance for Children's Listo Summer School completed its trial run this summer. The three-week summer school taught English to 16 Latino children about to enter kindergarten. The classes ran from 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m. five days a week and included a field trip to the public library. Attendance was free and transportation was provided.

- ✓ Starting in December 2008, First Chance for Children will provide every mother who delivers at the two Columbia hospitals with a canvas Baby Bag that contains books to read to her new baby, safety outlet covers, diapers, and a notebook called "All About Baby" that tells her about local resources for new mothers and their babies. The staff member who delivers each Baby Bag also helps mothers enroll in community programs, like WIC, Parents as Teachers, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and the Daniel Boone Regional Library, including its Play-as-Learning Bags. Low income mothers are also encouraged to enroll in the Home Visit and Safe CRIBS programs. Those programs are funded by the Missouri Department of Social Services, the Boone County Community Partnership, and the Children's Trust Fund.

- ✓ First Chance for Children's Lend & Learn Toy Libraries provide a safe location in which young children and their parents can play with toys that develop their motor and cognitive skills. The toys can be enjoyed at the library or borrowed for free. The toy libraries also provide opportunities for parents to link with other parents, both during regular hours and at group events.

- ✓ First Chance for Children's eight-week "Baby U" classes are modeled after the "Baby College" run by the Harlem Children's Zone. The course meets weekly for eight weeks, offering low-income mothers a series of parent-and-child classes on child development and sound parenting skills. These sessions also provide an opportunity to introduce the families to other community service agencies. The class will be offered in Columbia and Centralia during the 2008-09 school year.

- ✓ First Chance for Children partners with ten minority barber shops and beauty shops to provide educational materials and opportunities. Each shop is provided with a basket of books suitable for children from birth to third grade. First Chance

also gives raffle tickets to every parent, friend, and relative who reads to a child while they wait for their turns. The baskets contain a mixture of classic children's books and books likely to resonate with minority children. The child's name is placed in a raffle to win books, YouZeum passes, ARC passes, and various other incentives for reading books and completing a reading log.

✓ First Chance for Children is also implementing a three-year $2.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop preschools that excel in teaching language and literacy skills to at-risk children.

✓ Jefferson Farms and Gardens, one of the nation's premier educational farms located at 4800 New Haven Road, began holding regular public events in 2008 and plans to continue doing so in 2009. For updates and more information, see: http://www.jeffersonfarm.org.

✓ The Mizzou Botanic Garden is a living museum of thousands of plants, open year round and free to the public. An educational self-guided tour map is available. For more information, see: http://gardens.missouri.edu/.

✓ In November 2008, the MU School of Veterinary Medicine opened its Regional Biocontainment Laboratory. This is 1 of 13 such labs in the U.S. and conducts research on bioterrorism pathogens. The facility will allow scientists to provide state-of-the-art training to graduate and postdoctoral students, scientists, and laboratory animal medicine veterinarians. For more information, see: http://www.rbl.missouri.edu/.

✓ The Missourian Watchword is helping to educate citizens by providing a framework for information and feedback on the visioning process. For more information, see: (http://thewatchword.wordpress.com/). The Missourian is also helping to develop a comprehensive on-line community calendar, an explicit visioning goal.

✓ Several community volunteers have created a new community portal to continue the visioning conversation. To become a part, register now at: http://www.ColumbiaVisioning.com.

✓ The Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA) conducts projects focusing on important public policy issues and supports the Department of Elementary and secondary Education's data warehouse of key educational indicators. For information about current projects, see: http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/projects

✓ See also: *Environment, Social Services,* and *Library,* below.

- **Energy Efficiency**

✓ Columbia Water and Light has released a draft Integrated Resource Plan. It evaluates efficiency measures and lists new electric resource options. For the full report, see: http://GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/index.php.

✓ Columbia Water and Light has numerous energy efficiency programs: free energy audits, free shade trees, efficiency rebates, low-interest loans for energy efficiency improvements, assistance for homes that are Energy Star qualified, Solar One, rebates and loans for solar projects, net-metering agreements, and an annual compact fluorescent bulb rebate program. There are also programs available for business customers.

✓ For more information about Columbia Water and Light programs, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Home_Performance/homeperformance.php (links for this program on the left-hand side of the page) http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Conservation/newhomeNRGstar.php http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Home/solarsystems.php http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Conservation/rebateprograms.php http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Conservation/loans.php http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Electric/SolarOne.php

✓ Water and Light has recently started the online Energy Depot to help community members better understand and manage home energy use and costs. For more information and the online tools, see: http://www.energydepot.com/hometown5/index.asp?KEY=62.

✓ The Missouri Industrial Assessment Center offers free energy audits of eligible businesses. For more information, see: http://iac.missouri.edu.

✓ In 2004, Columbia residents approved a local renewable energy standard that requires increasing amounts of renewable energy to be provided through the City utility every year. For the full report on renewable energy, see: http://gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Documents/2009RenewReport.pdf

✓ Wabash Station has been remodeled to meet LEED standards.

✓ An "Eco Schoolhouse" designed to meet LEED standards was constructed at Grant Elementary. This project was only made possible by substantial in-kind donations from several area businesses and more than $200,000 in contributions from the community. The Eco Schoolhouse will generate its own energy with renewable resources, capture and use all rainwater on-site, and serve as a teaching tool for students, teachers, and the community. For more information and to see a preview for an upcoming documentary on the schoolhouse, see: http://ecoschoolhouse.com/.

✓ The new City Hall complex is under construction and has been designed to achieve a silver level of LEED certification. For more information about the phases of construction of the building, the renovation of the Daniel Boone Building that currently houses City offices, and for pictures of the process, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/City_Hall_Renovations/index.php.

✓ The City's Department of Information Services is implementing a City-wide document imaging system that will reduce waste and increase efficiency.

✓ The Columbia Public Schools staff attended the Building Operator Certification Program which is sponsored by Water and Light and focuses on building energy efficiency topics. For more information on this program, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/WaterandLight/Business/buildingoperatorscertif icateprogram.php.

✓ MU Campus Facilities offers tips, posters, brochures, and more about saving energy. For more information and free downloads, see: http://www.cf.missouri.edu.

✓ In the Fall of 2009, students from the University of Missouri – Columbia and the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla) are teaming up to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon. Students will compete to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house. This is the fourth time that the Missouri University of Science and Technology has been selected to compete in this event, one of only two such schools. For more information on this project, see: http://solarhouse.mst.edu. For more information on the Solar Decathlon, see: http://www.solardecathlon.org/about.html.

✓ See also: *Environment,* below.

- **Environment**
✓ The City Manager's office is partnering with MU to produce a Natural Resources Inventory and make that available to the public online. The inventory began with a flight over the area using infrared imaging technology. Besides high-color quality imagery of the City's planning area, the project will include an analysis of vegetation composition and health, allowing for baseline evaluations of development impacts and identification of open space acquisition or protection targets. A public presentation of the progress on the NRI and its potential future use was held at the ARC on October 13, 2008.

✓ Boone County, in cooperation with MU's Department of Geography, is identifying and mapping areas of historic significance, such as gravesites in the county. County regulations already require developers to identify areas of historic significance when they plat for land development. This mapping resource is only

available for internal use at this time. The MU Department of Geography and the county GIS staff were important resources in this effort.

✓ As part of its legislative package in the past two legislative sessions, Boone County has pursued legislation that would authorize counties to adopt a sales tax to fund purchases of easements for farmland and natural land preservation.

✓ The Metro Greenbelt/Trail Plan reflects an organized effort to preserve open space along the city's major creek corridors. A number of trails are in the planning stage in the Bear Creek and Hinkson Creek greenbelt corridors. For more information and to see the plan, go to: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/Plans/Trails/index.php.

✓ The City of Columbia, Boone County, and the Missouri Department of Transportation have released a draft of the East Columbia Environmental Impact Statement. For more information, see: http://www.eastcolumbiaeis.com/.

✓ The Missouri Watershed Information Network is working to build a greater degree of cooperation and coordination among projects and provides a first point of access for information regarding water in Missouri. For more information, see: http://www.mowin.org.

✓ Boone County has sponsored a study of the Bonne Femme watershed located between Columbia and Ashland. The resulting watershed plan, which includes a number of goals and strategies for natural resource protection, for this area has been adopted by Boone County, the City of Columbia, and the City of Ashland. For more information, see: http://www.cavewatershed.org/.

✓ As part of the City's MS4 EPA permit to implement storm water treatment, the City conducts ongoing public education campaigns on the best practices to maintain clear streams.

✓ The City's Environment and Energy Commission is studying land disturbance policy as well as tree preservation and urban forest management issues.

✓ The County is currently developing storm water regulations that will help protect the environment of the county. A stream buffer ordinance that will help improve water quality as land is developed is ready to be adopted.

✓ The Boone County Commission has obtained funding to study the Hinkson Creek watershed and determine best management practices for landowners in the environmentally sensitive area. The three-year study is funded by a $501,483 grant from the Department of Natural Resources and an in-kind match from the county of $200,599.

✓ The Boone County Regional Sewer District has been making progress in eliminating waste water discharge points around the county by connecting a number of systems to municipal sanitary sewers and consolidating other subdivisions. The citizens recently authorized a bond issue that will allow the Regional Sewer District to consolidate even more systems.

✓ On December 10, 2008, the City transitioned to a voucher system for the distribution of trash and recycling bags. This will save an estimated $262,000 annually for ratepayers. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Solidwaste/BagVoucherDistributionSystem.php.

✓ The Parks and Recreation Department was recently awarded a grant from the Mid-Missouri Solid Waste Management District for a seasonal beverage container recycling project, which includes the purchase of 60 recycling containers. The project will increase the recycling effort at parks and recreation facilities.

✓ The budget for FY 2009 includes funds for the function of Sustainability Director. City staff made a presentation of recommendations for defining this function on November 17, 2008. Discussions as to how to define and fill this function are ongoing.

✓ The City's Public Works Department runs several volunteer-based programs that teach community members of all ages to reduce, recycle, and reuse. For more information on this and other programs and to volunteer with Public Works, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Solidwaste/Volunteer/index.php.

✓ The Parks and Recreation Department has constructed four demonstration rain gardens in recently developed parks: Stephens Lake Park, Flat Branch Park, and Louisville Park. All four gardens include an interpretive sign explaining the benefits of rain gardens in filtering storm water runoff.

✓ There are clubs at both high schools where interested teens can get involved with environmental issues. For more information on clubs at Rock Bridge, see: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/rbhs/activities/clubs.htm. For more information on clubs at Hickman, see: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/hhs/HHS%20Web/Activities/index.html.

✓ The Columbia Climate Change Coalition (CCCC) has organized to raise awareness and build collective action regarding environmental issues. The City of Columbia, at the CCCC's request, participated in Earth Hour, a voluntary international effort to reduce the use of artificial lighting and lower the planet's carbon footprint. Water and Light estimates that the City of Columbia reduced its electric load by 1.72 MW, enough energy to power 70 homes. For information and for events sponsored by the CCCC, see: www.ColumbiaClimateChangeCoalition.org

✓ Sustain Mizzou is a student organization that is committed to creating a sustainable way of life at MU through public education and local action regarding the environment. For more information, see: http://students.missouri.edu/~sustainmizzou

✓ See also: *Education* and *Energy Efficiency,* above.

▪ Governance

✓ Columbia Citizen Handbook: In May 2008 the City released a revised citizen handbook that describes the City, commonly used services, and ways to gain access to these services. If you would like a hardcopy, email the Public Communication Office (pc@GoColumbiaMo.com). The guide can also be downloaded at: http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Public_Comm/index.php.

✓ The City of Columbia hosted a Community Education and Awareness Fair on October 18, 2008 to provide all citizens additional information about local government from City Council members, City department heads and City staff. A second fair is planned for May 6, 2009 that will include a Neighborhood Congress and office hours with members of City Council.

✓ The City has recently updated its website to make it easier to navigate and the webmaster is currently working on implementing a single web form through which all problems can be reported. Additionally, new web forms that streamline interactions with City government are being added all the time. Before you walk in, check e-services to see if you can complete your task online: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/.

✓ In late 2008, The Public Communications Department was awarded funds to cover the start-up costs associated with streaming City Council meetings over the web.

✓ The Columbia Vision Commission Ordinance was approved by City Council on October 6, 2008 and revised on January 5, 2009. Members were appointed to this commission on December 15, 2008. This commission will track visioning progress and report to the community every two years. Under this ordinance, the visioning commission will also coordinate with other boards and commissions to promote the efficient utilization of resources and increase public engagement and dialogue. For more information, see: https://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Council/Commissions/vision.php.

✓ The City has recently implemented an online calendar that lists all public events and meetings. To see the calendar, go to: www.gocolumbimo.com/webcal

✓ The Mayor and Council requested that boards and commissions submit annual work schedules or programs to Council and has begun to review the limitations of

service and work loads among boards and commissions, the roles of boards and commissions, and the relationship between Council, boards, and commissions.

✓ The Department of Information Services is implementing a City-wide document imaging system that will reduce waste and increase efficiency.

✓ The City and County have been working collaboratively on a number of projects which include the following:

- o Geographic Information Systems consortium agreements; mapping function with City, County and Boone Electric sharing costs equally.
- o Property taxes collected by county for City.
- o Some City business licenses also enforced at county level.
- o County generally certifies issue-related and Council candidacy petitions for the City.
- o City and County information technology directors meet monthly.
- o City and County bid on purchases together through Mid-Missouri Public Purchasing Cooperative.
- o CATSO: Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization Coordinating and Technical Committees. Meets quarterly to plan transportation in the Columbia metro area.
- o Joint maintenance and snow removal. Joint public works meetings with City and County.
- o Share similar inspection protocols regarding publicly owned buildings and property. City allows County permitting and inspecting of County buildings inside City; County allows City permitting and inspecting of City buildings in county area (i.e. airport).
- o Joint communications: 911 system (cooperation among City, County, and other municipalities in Boone County); Public Safety Joint Communications developed Emergency Management Plan; Local Emergency Planning Committee; joint monthly meeting with Emergency Management Director; joint City-County evacuation routes.
- o Health and Human Services Department: joint construction and operation of Sanford-Kimpton building; intergovernmental cooperative effort with public health departments (sewer and lagoon inspections, health issues, food inspections, vaccinations); animal control; platted subdivisions in county; vicious dog licensing management for County; monthly meetings.
- o Avenue of the Columns, improvement of 8th Street and courthouse square.
- o Sheriff and Corrections: (joint agreement) transport prisoners from County Sheriff's Department to jail; (joint agreement) housing inmates with municipal charges; Ex Parte, probate notices,

evictions, warrants, and returns served by County Sheriff; positive working conditions; civil process papers, and other issues.

- o The County Commission and the City Manager meet monthly to discuss issues of common concern. The County Commission also meets with a variety of departments and Columbia Public Schools on a less regular basis to discuss issues of common concern.
- o Additional Joint Efforts: protocols regarding fire and law response for governmental buildings downtown, City facilities, and out in county; effects of storm water and annexation; planning and zoning, land use and long range planning; joint discussion regarding ballot issues.

✓ On March 17, 2009, the City and the Boone County Fire Protection District (BCFD) entered into a new, five year cooperative agreement. This agreement will cost the City approximately half as much as the previous agreement and makes the city responsible for primary fire services within the city limits, including future annexations. The model for the agreement is "automatic aid" where both Chiefs determine which stations from both the City and BCFPD will respond to each location under various scenarios. These response scenarios are flexible and are to be reviewed at least twice a year. The City will always respond to calls within the City, but in some cases may not be the first on the scene.

✓ Boone County reports that its planning and zoning commission periodically meets with the planning and zoning commissions of smaller communities in an open meeting format that allows interaction and discussion of common problems.

✓ MU Extension's Community Development Program has the mission of fostering meaningful public participation and inclusion, enhancing local leadership and decision-making capacity, and helping communities achieve the goals and results they establish for themselves by engaging these Missouri communities in learning, organizing, and acting in ways that empower local people to influence the future of their community through democratic means. For more information, see http://extension.missouri.edu/planofwork/community.htm.

✓ See Also: *Economic Development*, above

· Health

✓ The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services provides essential public health services including immunizations and treatment of communicable diseases, and prevention programs. Social services staff provide a wide variety of health-related social service programs including: emergency oral pain relief, optical, medical supplies/DME, medication assistance, and in-home services (homemaker/personal care/respite). For more information on the Department of Public Health and Human Services see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/index.php.

Inventory of Existing Efforts

✓ Other entities also provide some health services. The Family Health Center, a federal qualified health center, provides medical and dental care to the uninsured and the underinsured in a multi-county region. Due to high demand and inadequate funding, would-be patients can experience a wait of up to three years for dental care. They currently have no wait for medical appointments.

✓ Family Health Center, Boone County Health Dept and Ellis Fischel (University of Missouri) participate in Show Me Healthy Women program that provides free mammograms, breast exams and pap/pelvic exams to low-income and under-insured women. Also, the local Komen organization raises money they donate for various activities related to breast cancer in the local area, such as free mammograms.

✓ In the fall of 2008, University of Missouri medical students opened "Medzou", a new volunteer-staffed medical clinic targeted toward the uninsured and underinsured. The clinic offers free primary care to patients referred by the Family Health Center and is open every Thursday from 5-9p.m. It is located in the Central Missouri Community Action Center at 400 Wilkes Blvd.

✓ Prevention programs which can reduce both short- and long-term health costs are a focus of the health department and other entities working on health issues in the community. Initiatives focused on chronic disease prevention and enhancing health literacy are of particular importance given low funding levels for health services. Missouri ranks 47th in the nation in state per capita public health funding, and its funding is the lowest of any of the contiguous states. Health literacy is defined as the "degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions." Low health literacy has been estimated by the Missouri Foundation for Health to cost Boone County $128.9 million a year.

✓ As part of the Department of Public Health and Human Services' principal focus on disease prevention and health promotion, it has staff participating in 37 state coalitions, work groups and other efforts with this focus. As part of visioning implementation, the Department of Public Health and Human Services hosted a film and dialogue series on health issues in the fall of 2008, and in December 2008 it hosted a community workshop titled "Change Starts Here" focused on chronic disease prevention and the role of community members.

✓ The chronic diseases most affecting Boone County are tobacco-related cancer and heart disease, and growing rates of obesity are also an area of focus. Many of the Department of Public Health and Human Services' programs are accordingly focused on these areas. One purpose of the Columbia Smoking Ordinance is to protect the public from exposure to and the discomfort from secondhand smoke. The ordinance prohibits smoking in commercial establishments with some exemptions. Since the passage of the smoking ordinance more than 1450 people have sought help from the health department for smoking cessation. Survey data

indicates that the smoking rate for Boone County dropped from 26% in 2003 to 18% by the latter part of 2007.

✓ Enforcement activities indicate that compliance with laws on selling tobacco and alcohol to minors is about 50%. In November 2008 the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission made a proposal to the City Council to increase fines for noncompliance and use those funds to fund more enforcement of underage smoking and drinking laws.

✓ Several community efforts focus on diabetes prevention. Department of Public Health and Human Services staff is currently preparing a program for diabetes prevention education and screening targeting the African-American and Latino communities through local churches in central Columbia. The department will monitor outcomes of the program and, if staff resources become available, will consider expansion at some later date. The scope of the plan will be limited as the department will have to carry out the plan with no additional staff or funding resources.

✓ The Family Health Center also participates in a federal Diabetes Collaborative for their patients. The purpose of the collaborative is to improve the quality of care using an evidence-based program of diabetes management. For more information and to volunteer, contact Kerry Lewis at: klewis@fhcmo.org.

✓ The University of Missouri Extension also has a community education and outreach program focused on diabetes. In Fall, 2008 MU Extension held a training for a new dialogue-based community curriculum based on "diabetes conversation maps". Their training was attended by members of the Extension staff, University Hospitals and Clinics, and community representatives.

✓ "Stay Strong, Stay Healthy" is a nine-week strength training program designed to help middle-aged and older adults improve their strength, flexibility, and balance. To learn more, see: http://missourifamilies.org/sssh/.

✓ A community organization, Centro Latino, recently received a grant to train community educators on health prevention issues.

✓ Additional efforts focus generally on promoting a healthy lifestyle. The Department of Public Health and Human Services is part of a strong network of programs which focus on health promotion at an early age by helping young children and their families to improve nutrition and increase physical activity. Others in this network include PedNet, MU Extension, Columbia Public Schools, Family Health Center, and Central Missouri Community Action Agency.

✓ To promote sound nutrition, the Department of Public Health and Human Services offers healthy cooking classes that are taped and shown throughout each month on the City Channel. The Department of Public Health and Human

Services also provides funding for "Lunch in the Park," a summer food program at Douglass Park that concentrates on assuring that all children have access to healthy foods during the summer.

✓ The University of Missouri Extension also offers educational materials and various cooking courses and programs aimed at improving nutrition and promoting healthy lifestyles. The Human Environmental Sciences program, beginning with the basics—food, clothing, shelter, finances, family and community— concentrates on providing scientific solutions for contemporary challenges in human lives. For more information, see: http://extension.missouri.edu/planofwork/hes.htm.

✓ The MU Extension Healthy Lifestyle Initiative is working to create healthy communities that support the availability of healthy, affordable, locally-produced food and safe, accessible physical activity. The focus of this initiative is on promoting lifelong health by making the healthy choice the easy choice. For more information, see: http://extension.missouri.edu/healthylife/

✓ The YouZeum, another community resource, opened at Fifth and Cherry streets on April 31, 2008. The mission of the YouZeum is to improve personal, family and community health by reaching a large, diverse audience with an engaging approach to health education. For more information, see: http://www.youzeum.org/.

✓ "GetAbout Columbia" regularly issues fliers and conducts programs that encourage daily exercise and non-motorized transportation and teaches people safety in biking and walking the city. For more information and the latest programs, see: http://www.getaboutcolumbia.com/.

✓ In addition to the above, a group of health-related organizations from around the state have formed the Live Well Message Alliance. The Alliance has formed a public awareness campaign urging Missourians to "Live Like Your Life Depends On It". For more information, see: http://www.lifedependsonit.com.

✓ Beginning March 2, 2009, The Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services offered the interactive, self-management program, "Live Like Your Life Depends On It", as a free six-week class that was open to the public. The class was designed for those with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis and asthma. From March 4th to April 17th, the Department of Health and Human Services conducted an online survey that asked Boone County residents for information about diet and physical activity.

✓ Data relating to health issues is gathered and evaluated on an ongoing basis. The Department of Public Health and Human Services conducts a comprehensive community health assessment every three years (with new data uploaded annually

if available). The last assessment was updated January 2008 and the next comprehensive review has already begun. More information can be found at: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/Documents/BooneCountyCommunityAssessment-revisedJan2008.pdf.

✓ The Boone County Indicators website provides a snapshot of important health and human service indicators that are monitored on an annual basis. The next update is due in February 2009. See: http://www.booneindicators.org/.

✓ The Department of Public Health and Human Services is developing and will be using a web-based data management technology known as "Community Issues Management" (CIM). CIM provides a data-based platform for framing, managing, and identifying actions to take on complex issues. It also can serve as a platform for issue framing and enhance public dialogue. To look at the CIM system, see: http://www.cim-network.org.

✓ In FY 2009 the City and County will purchase $108,000 in community mental healthy services via contracts with Phoenix Programs and the Family Counseling Center.

✓ The Boone County Board of Mental Health completed a comprehensive community needs assessment in 2004. More information can be found at: http://www.showmeboone.com/MentalHealthBoard/Mental%20Health%20Board%203_23.pdf.

✓ See also *Education* above.

▪ Heritage
✓ On November 3, 2008, the Columbia City Council authorized a comprehensive agreement with the Boone County Historical Society that would double the size of Boone Junction History Village south of town. This agreement appropriates $40,000 from the Convention and Visitor's Bureau Tourism Development Program for the addition of three new historic structures – the Shotgun House, the Ryland House, and the Lustron House. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Council/Bills/2008/nov3bills/R243-08.pdf.

✓ First Night Columbia 2009 had an event emphasizing the ongoing project to preserve the J.W. "Blind" Boone home. The mission of the restoration project is as follows: "To the greatest extent possible, restore the home as it was during the time John W. "Blind" Boone and his wife were in residence. To provide through audio, visual, and print displays, an interpretation of the African American experience in Columbia from its founding to present day." For a video about the home, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Blind_Boone_Home/index.php.

✓ The historic Shotgun House, once located at the corner of Garth and Worley streets, was moved to the Boone Junction Historic Village on March 12, 2009 The Shotgun House was one of Columbia's first notable historic properties.

✓ Jefferson Farms and Gardens, located at 4800 New Haven Road, has displays and programs related to our agricultural heritage. For updates and more information, see: http://www.jeffersonfarm.org.

✓ The State Historical Society of Missouri, currently located on the east side of MU's Ellis Library, is the leading research facility for the study of Missouri's heritage and a leader in programming designed to share heritage with the public. Through educational settings (such as the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, genealogy workshops, and others) as well as through the performing arts (such as MoHiP Theater), the Society brings Missouri history to the state's citizens and gives Missourians the tools they need to uncover history in their own lives. For more information, see: http://shs.umsystem.edu

✓ The University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscript Collection is a joint collection of the University of Missouri and the State Historical Society of Missouri which supports the research needs of University faculty and students, Missouri residents, and the general public by collecting, preserving, and making available to them various primary source materials documenting the history of the university, the state, and the region. For more information, see: http://whmc.umsystem.edu/.

✓ The State Historical Society has announced a need to expand and find a new site. Public reports have indicated that it may relocate to another city if it is unable to expand its current facilities or find a location within Columbia that will allow for expansion. The City has begun discussions with the Society to identify a suitable site in Columbia.

✓ See also *Community* above.

▪ Jobs and Job Training
✓ For FY2008 the City and County purchased $43,350 in employment training services through the Office of Community Services.

✓ The Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis collaborates with the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) to provide an interactive career exploration tool combining occupation projections, education and training information, industry projections, and skills data, including WorkKeys®. For more information, see: http://apps.oseda.missouri.edu/MOWorkKeys/

✓ The Columbia Area Career Center offers many resources for jobs and job training. For more information, see: http://career-center.org/index.cfm.

✓ For FY2008 the City and County will purchase $43,350 in employment training services through the Office of Community Services.

✓ See also *Economic Development*, above.

▪ Library

✓ In 2008, the Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL) Board of Trustees initiated a strategic planning process. Comprised of community, library board and staff representatives, the DBRL Planning Team adopted a highly participatory and transparent planning process for library services from 2010-2017. The process began by gathering input from four sources: 1) community members–input gathered at public drop-in sessions and through postcards and web site comments 2) staff and administration meetings 3) economic and demographic reports from the cities of Fulton, Hallsville and Columbia, and from Boone and Callaway counties and 4) community leaders– one-on-one meetings were held with school board superintendents, chamber presidents and county and city government officials representing all of our service areas.

✓ The DBRL has developed an eight-year strategic plan that focuses on three key areas of emphasis. The first addresses expansion and enhancement of services– library patrons are asking for more materials, longer open hours, more access to computers and greater web site capabilities, among other things. The second key area of focus in this strategic plan involves community awareness. Third, the board plans to address improvements needed to enhance the library's organizational effectiveness. The board will review the structure of the city and county library districts and work on increasing its efficiency and effectiveness.

✓ The DBRL Planning Team presented its recommendations to the full DBRL board during its March 2009 meeting and the board is expected to accept the plan at the April 16 meeting. Next, staff will develop annual action plans and implementation steps to achieve the strategic and service goals. To view the vision, mission and values, or to comment on the plan, please visit www.dbrl.org/strategicplan.

✓ Crews are working to improve traffic and pedestrian flows around the library. Three new self checkout machines have been installed and the library is now open seven days a week. For more information on the strategic planning process and what the library is currently doing, email strategicplan@dbrl.org, call (573)443-3161, or see: http://www.dbrl.org/strategic-planning.

▪ Neighborhoods

✓ The Neighborhoods Section of the Metro 2020 plan contains specific principles for good neighborhood design that were discussed in the final vision report. These principles and the recommendations from the vision and action plan will be reviewed and evaluated in the process of developing the new comprehensive

planning and development code (see Planning and Development below). For more information, contact Tim Teddy at: ttteddy@GoColumbiaMo.com.

✓ The City Council recognizes neighborhood associations which are entitled to special notice of proposed City actions that could affect their property. There are about 70 associations in Columbia at this writing. The Department of Planning and Development is exploring the possibility of hosting a "congress" of neighborhood associations. A survey has been conducted and the department will host a discussion of neighborhood participation in planning as a part of a May 2009 "Keys to the City" event. If interested, contact: ttteddy@GoColumbiaMo.com.

✓ The Office of Volunteer Services is working with a committee of community members and City staff to develop a six-session Neighborhood Leadership Program aimed at building capacity in neighborhood associations. Topics in the program will include how to navigate local government, information on the development process and ideas for grassroots efforts in neighborhoods. The program is tentatively scheduled to run from mid-February through the end of April 2009. If interested, contact: LCNUTTER@GoColumbiaMO.com.

✓ The City's Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) helps property owners improve or remove homes and commercial buildings that don't meet City health and building codes. Each year, a team of staff members from several City departments survey more than 3,500 properties.

✓ Citizens may call the City's graffiti hotline to report graffiti on public and private property. Public agencies, private property owners and volunteer groups all work to remove these marks in a timely manner.

✓ In 2004 the City adopted ordinances that require all new streets to have sidewalks on both sides. In the 2005 transportation ballot, the City identified $3,375,000 in sidewalk repair, improvement, and expansion funding for a ten-year period. The City has covered the broad brush strokes of its bike and pedestrian network in its Sidewalk Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan but the local street walk and bike routes are not inventoried. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission would work with citizens to create detailed inventories of sidewalk and bikeway gaps and sidewalks in substandard condition that could be used as a planning resource. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/index.php.

✓ See also *Planning and Development*, below.

- **Parks and Recreation**
✓ The City of Columbia has many opportunities where citizens can work in City parks. These include TreeKeepers, CARP (Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project), Park Patrol, Cleanup Columbia, Adopt-a-Spot, and monitoring bluebird

boxes. New classes have been scheduled for Treekeepers. For more information, see: www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer

✓ A Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed in 2002. The plan was intended to be a ten-year plan and it recommends neighborhood parks be developed within a half-mile of all residential neighborhoods. A new or updated plan will be needed by the year 2012 and additional resources (financial, volunteers, etc) will be critical to realizing the goals of the master plan. For more information see http://www/GoColumbiaMo.com/ParksandRec/Master_Plan/.

✓ The Parks and Recreation Department regularly works in cooperation with GetAbout Columbia in developing trail plans and with Boone County in developing trails and parks, for example, the MKT trail. Parks and Recreation also publishes "Leisure Times" three times a year to keep the community involved in all of the department's events and programs.

✓ In 2007 the Parks and Recreation Department secured a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance Grant for an educational project to manage the invasive plant threat of ornamental pear trees. The campaign was entitled, "Stop the Spread!", and included a demonstration tree planting and educational sign at Louisville park, development and distribution of brochures and posters, press releases, and newspaper ads.

✓ The Parks and Recreation Department teams up with 12 local nature and environmental organizations to host an annual Trailside Expo in honor of Trails Day that features educational topics relevant to preserving the natural environment of Columbia's parks and trails.

✓ The Parks and Recreation Department has a Natural Resources Division that includes the Horticulture and Forestry Programs with policies in place that include an emphasis on sustainable native plantings. Landscape and forestry programs currently contribute significantly to community aesthetics.

✓ A ballot issue approving a 1/8 cent park sales tax was approved by Columbia voters in November 2005. This sales tax will provide approximately $12 million over a five-year period for the acquisition of land and the development and renovation of park and recreation facilities to improve the City's park system. This tax expires at the end of March 2011, unless approved again.

✓ During 2008 the City of Columbia secured long term growth with the addition of the 320 acre Crane property, officially named the Gans Creek Recreation Area. Combined with the 140 acre A. Perry Philips Park, these two tracts satisfy the City's need for a southeast regional park with a long range plan of being the southeast equivalent of the existing and heavily used Cosmo Park. As funded in the 2005 Park Sales Tax, $250,000 has been budgeted for Phase I development of the Philips Park. Using these funds as a match, a $157,500 grant from the

Missouri Department of Conservation was secured to construct an entrance road, parking lot, boat ramp, floating fishing dock, restrooms and lighting. Construction is scheduled to start in summer 2009.

✓ In December 2008, Parks and Recreation released its list of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) accomplishments for 2008. These projects are funded through the park sales tax. In 2008, the City added Longview and Louisville, two new neighborhood parks, on existing city property. The city added four tennis courts at Cosmo-Bethel, restrooms at various trail access points, and water spraygrounds at Stephens Lake and Flat Branch Parks. Additionally, some older facilities were replaced over the last year; including: the 25 –plus-year-old restroom at Kiwanis Park, two 30-plus-year-old restrooms in Cosmo Park, a new restroom and new shelter to replace existing structures at Cosmo-Bethel Park, and the aging wooden shelters at Grindstone Nature Area and Parkade Neighborhood Park. These projects have been substantially completed. As approved by the voters, the department is under construction on five neighborhood parks including Auburn Hills, Eastport, Smiley Lane, Cascades, and Grasslands and will begin renovations to Douglass Baseball Field and improvements to the Douglass Pool.

✓ The MU campus is also a botanic garden. This living museum of thousands of plants is open year round and free to the public and an educational self guided tour map is available. For more information, see: http://gardens.missouri.edu/.

✓ See also *Community* and *Environment,* above

▪ Planning and Development

✓ The City has initiated a growth management planning process intended to lead to a new comprehensive planning and development code that will guide future development and establish continuity and consistency with the visioning process. This will include consideration of a form-based code model.

✓ This comprehensive planning process is expected to take three years. This will include preparing an interim plan which will be a compilation of all existing and relevant comprehensive development plans and policies into a single document.

✓ Citizen input will be integral to creating this comprehensive plan. For more information on this process and form-based zoning, contact Tim Teddy: ttteddy@GoColumbiaMo.com.

✓ The County and the City of Columbia are engaged in a joint planning process through joint sub-area plan meetings of the County and City planning and zoning commissions. Note that the County is limited by state law in its authority to empower a city/county planning commission. The first sub-area plan near the site of the new high school is nearing completion as of this writing.

Inventory of Existing Efforts

✓ In May 2008 the City Council reviewed the 2006 Process and Procedures Stakeholders report from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council then directed Planning and Zoning and staff to implement these recommendations. These changes are expected to be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2009.

✓ In December 2008 City Council approved a new Community Improvement District East of Missouri Highway 763 and north of Brown School Road. This is similar to a transportation development district in that small, local sales taxes will be paying for broader infrastructure improvements.

✓ On April 1st The Public Works Department held a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of Maguire Boulevard on Wednesday. The project will consist on new street pavement and two bridges from the existing Maguire Boulevard northward to Stadium Boulevard and the expected completion date is spring 2010. Public Works also held an informal open house on March 31st to discuss the scope, design, and scheduling for this project and two other ongoing projects at Rollins Road North and Discovery Parkway.

✓ In April 2007 the City initiated a new electrical connection fee system. In this system, Water and Light provides the materials and the property developer is responsible for making the connection to existing City electrical services. For the ordinance, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Council/Final_Ordinances/Series_108/228;.html

✓ In March 2008 the City adopted a new sewer extension policy. The policy decreases the extent of the City's construction of trunk sewer lines from the 80-acre to the 100-acre point in the watershed and establishes a scoring matrix for the rating of trunk sewer extension requests. For the ordinance, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Council/Final_Ordinances/Series_109/128;.html.

✓ City officials have launched an annual review of local public construction projects for the next ten years. Citizens are invited to view the plan to learn more about streets, sidewalks, utilities and other projects being considered. For more information and to see the plan, go to: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Services/Financial_Reports/cip-planning.php.

✓ The City and the County have conducted joint planning exercises while working to develop the site plan and future zoning for the area in which the new high school will be located.

✓ The County Planning and Zoning Commission and the County Commission have reviewed proposed changes of zoning in agricultural areas. Their policy has been to encourage development inside the municipal limits of the various communities.

✓ Boone County has continued to make improvements to county roads. The road improvement sales tax was recently extended for another ten years.

✓ On October 20, 2008 City Council approved a rezoning application for cottage housing. This rezoning will allow for a single lot to contain multiple units, increasing density on the property.

- **Safety**

✓ The City brought five candidates for police chief to the city for interview and community meetings on January 12 and 13, 2009. The public was invited to meet with the candidates at informal roundtable sessions at the Activities and Recreation Center. The City has appointed Ken Burton, the former chief of Haltom City, Texas to the position. He begins work March 30, 2009.

✓ As of July 28, 2008 the Columbia Police Department (CPD) implemented a new "Street Crimes Unit" with the primary mission of arresting career criminals and performing "hot spot" enforcement activities.

✓ As of January 2008 CPD initiated a bait car program to catch car thieves. Since the beginning of the program the City has seen a significant reduction in auto thefts. As of November 2008 there had been a 35% reduction in auto thefts compared to past yearly averages. A local business donated $28,000 to fund this program. About $15,000 of this money was spent on equipment and about $7,500 on the necessary training and the outfitting of the cars.

✓ CPD was awarded more than $85,000 through the 2009 STOP Violence Against Women Act Grant Program. The money will be used to provide support to victims and to assist with prosecution of offenders.

✓ The CPD has created a new Professional Standards Unit, effective February 1, 2009. This has completely reorganized the process for handling internal and external complaints by creating an independent Internal Affairs unit. There is also a new set of complaint and compliment procedures. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Police/index.php.

✓ On June 26, 2008 the Council-appointed Citizen Police Oversight Committee recommended that some form of civilian oversight be established in regards to the CPD. The City Council has directed staff to develop draft legislation for a Citizen Review Board which could review decisions made by the Professional Standards Unit.

✓ The CPD's Community Services Unit offers programs on crime prevention education, public relations, and the general support of Special Operations and the Patrol Division. If you would like the Community Services Unit to design a

program for your group or to help you with security concerns, contact Sgt. Lloyd Simons at 874-7405, 874-7606, or email him at lsimons@GoColumbiaMo.com.

✓ Columbia Public Schools school resource officers are provided through the Columbia Police Department. Additional funding is needed to maintain these officers in the schools after the 2008-2009 school year.

✓ CPD has implemented a number of innovative techniques for traffic enforcement, including a dedicated traffic unit and radar trailers. Over 60 volunteers, working through the Community Services Unit and largely drawn from the Police Academy, support the CPD in a variety of ways, including offering help with traffic enforcement.

✓ The CPD recently released a set of burglary prevention tips. For more information, see: http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Police/burglary_prevention_tips.php

✓ On December 22, 2008 the City held a ribbon-cutting and groundbreaking ceremony for the new CPD Regional Training Facility at 5001 Meyer Industrial Boulevard.

✓ CPD offers intruder training to teachers each summer, works collaboratively with the City/County disaster task force, and has a number of safety protocols in place including the use of several communication tools to reach its school community.

✓ The County Sheriff's department has begun regular patrols around the fringes of the City of Columbia where most of their calls are concentrated.

✓ Plans for two new fire stations are being implemented. Fire Station 7 at 400 Green Meadows Circle was placed in service on March 9, 2009, replacing the previous station at 3601 S. Providence. The Fire Station number 9 held a groundbreaking ceremony on March 4, 2009. The City will continue to plan for new fire stations and personnel to keep up with growth. For more information, see: http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Fire/newfirestations.php.

✓ The City is working toward a career ladder for paramedics and toward accreditation of the Fire Department. The fire protection services of Columbia, as rated by an insurance industry advisory company, have improved from Class 3 to Class 2. Class 1 is the highest possible rating.

✓ The City has increased the maximum fine for a violation of the business license ordinance from $100 to $1,000.

✓ Public Safety Joint Communications (PSJC) is currently upgrading its existing text-based Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to a graphical system. PSJC is also in the process of upgrading the existing county-wide public safety radio infrastructure.

- ✓ PSJC maintains a regional road closing website in cooperation with Boone County government. This covers Boone County and all of its municipalities. For the website, see: http://www.showmeboone.com/OEM/closures.htm.

- ✓ PSJC maintains a regional road inventory and direction website in cooperation with Boone County. For the website, see: http://www.showmeboone.com/BCContentsFrame.ASP?DEPT=PB&PAGEFN=/PB/OfficialRoadNames/QueryRoadNames.asp.

- ✓ PSJC makes a real-time view of dispatched fire and medical calls available to the public. For this view, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PSJC/Services/911/911dispatch/.

- ✓ PSJC assists in maintaining a street center line and address Geographic Information System for residences in Boone County. To view this through the Boone County Assessor's website, see: http://www.showmeboone.com/BCContentsFrame.Asp?DEPT=GIS&PAGEFN=/GIS/viewers/viewersall.asp.

- ✓ PSJC is currently in the process of implementing the Police and Fire Priority Dispatch System to complement the existing Medical Priority Dispatch System. This system is a nationally recognized standard of structured call-taking and dispatch best practice. To learn more, see: http://www.emergencydispatch.org/index.php?a=home&b=bodytext.

- ✓ PSJC provides public education through its website, presentations at the Police Citizen's Academy, and occasional spots on the City Channel. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PSJC/Services/911/index.php.

- ✓ PSJC provides guided tours of the 9-1-1 center to the public. These may be arranged by calling the administrative offices during business hors at 874-7400.

- ✓ Local police, fire, and ambulance scanner frequencies are available on the PSJC website at: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PSJC/Services/area_scannner_frequencies.php.

- ✓ PSJC welcomes feedback from citizens who have dialed 9-1-1. Tell them about your experience at: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/phpQ/fillsurvey.php?sid=109.

- ✓ The Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) maintains an Emergency Operations Plan and a website with information on disaster preparedness. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM/.

✓ The City of Columbia/Boone County (through the OEM) is recognized by the National Weather Service as a Storm Ready Community. Further information about the NWS Storm Ready Program can be found at: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/.

✓ OEM sponsors a National Weather Service Storm Spotters class that occurs in late winter and early spring of each year. This is open to the public; further information may be obtained by calling (573)874-7400.

✓ Outdoor Warning Sirens are activated by PSJC through the OEM. To learn more about the siren system, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/EM/Disaster_Preparedness/sirens.php.

✓ The City of Columbia has installed four surveillance cameras at the corner of Ninth Street and Broadway as a demo for a larger project to monitor and deter downtown crime. The streaming video is being evaluated by Assistant City Manager Tony St. Romaine and Tim Thomason of the Columbia Police Department's Community Service Unit.

✓ The Columbia Police Department and the Park Ranger were dispatched 1,524 times to park locations during FY-2008. This was a 9% increase over FY-07. The Park Ranger, working the days and shifts that are busiest with park users, responded to 25% of calls to park locations.

- **Social Services**

✓ In FY2008 The City of Columbia and the County of Boone will purchase $995,573 in contracted social services with local services agencies. This annual funding process is conducted by the Boone County Community Services Advisory Commission and staffed by the Office of Community Services (OCS).

✓ Although the City and County have conducted needs assessments and program evaluations of locally funded programs for two decades, during the last two years the OCS staff has made significant improvements to the training and evaluation process. For example, in the past, agencies were evaluated only every five years. City staff was able to secure, for the first time, funding from the United Way in order to evaluate all agencies funded by the City, County, and/or the United Way each year. Also, individualized training is now provided annually to each funded agency. A timeline for completing services was also established in order to provide more structure for the evaluator, funders, and agencies. All of this was accomplished at no additional cost to the County or the City. In addition to this training and evaluation partnership with the United Way, the City and County are partnering with the United Way in providing training and evaluation services for early childhood learning programs funded by the County and the United Way.

✓ Each year the City of Columbia, through the Office of Community Services, submits an Emergency Shelter Grant application to the State of Missouri,

Department of Social Services for funding to provide emergency shelter services to the homeless as well as services designed to prevent homelessness.

✓ The Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) has a public housing Resident Services Coordinator who refers residents to area social service agencies and follow up, works with case management, and helps with crisis intervention. CHA has two on-site food pantries (200 Boone Dr. and 1109 Elleta Blvd.) that may be utilized once a week by public housing residents and Section 8 tenants. The CHA's Independent Living Program creates collaborative partnerships to provide supportive services to help elderly and disabled public housing residents live independently as long as possible and to prevent premature and unnecessary institutionalization. For more information, contact Crystal Hampton at 443-2556, ext. 1270 or email champton@columbiaha.com.

✓ CHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) enables public housing and Section 8 families to become self-reliant, resourceful, and economically independent. For more information, contact Cornellia Williams at 443-2556, ext. 1279 or cwilliams@columbiaha.com (public housing) or April Woodall at 443-2556, ext 1257 or awoodall@columbiaha.com (Section 8).

✓ The Section 8 Homeownership Program allows Section 8 participants to apply their Section 8 rental assistance towards the purchase of a home, instead of using their housing subsidy to help pay rent. This program allows first-time homeowners to use their housing assistance to pay a portion of their mortgage. For more information, contact April Woodall at 443-2556, ext 1257 or awoodall@columbiaha.com.

✓ The Opportunities For Families Program promotes long-term economic self-sufficiency by providing public housing residents with employment skills training; computer skills building; a four-to-one matched savings account program for homeownership, micro enterprise, or continuing education; onsite computer labs with internet access; a diverse array of supportive services; childcare and transportation assistance. For more information, contact Lolita Lucas at 443-2556, ext. 1257 or lolital@columbiaha.com.

✓ The Money Smart program is a series of financial education classes designed to teach participants money management skills. Money Smart is also a full-fledged homeownership educational and counseling program. Its ultimate goals are self-sufficiency and homeownership. For more information, contact Cornellia Williams at 443-2556, ext. 1279 or cwilliams@columbiaha.com or April Woodall at 443-2556, ext 1257 or awoodall@columbiaha.com.

✓ Safe Cribs. First Chance for Children's Safe CRIBS program provides safe cribs for low-income families who lack safe sleeping accommodations for their babies. The cribs are accompanied by a Baby Bag that includes home safety items like a smoke detector and tub thermometer. The initial delivery visit is followed by five

additional home visits that focus on child abuse and prevention and then turn to child development.

✓ Home Visits. First Chance for Children's home visit program for stay-at-home parents provides low-income parents with home visits to help them learn more about child development. Initial visits work on the creation of a healthy and strong mother-child relationship, using Dr. Terry Brazelton's Touchpoints approach. Later visits emphasize early literacy skills, drawing on the highly-regarded Baby Talk curriculum.

✓ There are numerous local charities that offer social services to the public and many in the community who contribute to support them. These include: the Voluntary Action Center (http://www.vacmo.org/), Heart of Missouri United Way (http://www.uwheartmo.org/), Rainbow House (http://www.rainbowhousecolumbia.org/), Boone County Community Partnership (http://www.boonecountypartnership.com), Love Inc (helping families in need get furniture, loveincofcolumbia@centurytel.net), The Intersection, the CASH and HELP programs, Salvation Army, Food Bank, and more.

✓ The Boone County Basic Needs Coalition assists the citizens of Columbia and Boone County in meeting their basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, and transportation. The coalition works to bring together providers of basic needs to exchange information, determine any unmet needs, find solutions to those needs by mobilizing community resources, and evaluate progress toward meeting the Coalition's goals. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/CommunityServices/Commissions/BNC/index.php.

✓ The United Way and The Missouri Foundation for Health operate 2-1-1. By dialing 2-1-1, residents can gain easy and confidential access to help 24 hours a day. For more information, to help with 2-1-1, or to register your organization with 2-1-1, see http://www.211missouri.org/ or call 2-1-1.

✓ See also *Education* and *Health* above, and *Youth* below.

▪ Transportation

✓ CATSO, the federally mandated Municipal Transportation Planning Organization, has created a plan titled the "CATSO 2030 Long-Range Transportation Plan". The area-wide major roadway plan carries the commitment of both City and County and recommends strategies to promote walking and cycling. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/2030TransportationPlan.php.

✓ CATSO has three other plans available through its website listed below. The Transportation Improvement Program is a four-year schedule of all planned improvements. The Unified Planning Work Program is the annual work program

of the Metropolitan Planning Organization that details activities, tasks, and studies to be carried out. The Public Participation Plan outlines a policy for integrating citizen participation throughout the planning process. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Planning/Commissions/CATSO/index.php.

✓ In 2007 the City completed a Transit Master Plan that projects transit investments ten years into the future. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Transportation/.

✓ In the 2005 transportation ballot, the City identified $80,000,000 in funding for a ten-year period. These funds are being used to identify routes and corridors for all modes of travel, preserve rights of way, and improve existing intersections to enhance safety and improve capacity. For example, the City is currently working with the county on Gans Road and Rolling Hills. The City is also working with MoDOT and the County on the Stadium Boulevard extension.

✓ A number of road projects are highlighted in the Columbia Capital Improvement Plan. About 81% of the $55.6 million requested for general government projects for the next two years is dedicated to ten major street improvement projects like improving the area where Burnham Road and East Rollins Street intersect with Providence Road, extending Maguire Boulevard to Stadium Boulevard (including building two bridges over the north and south forks of Grindstone Creek), and expanding Scott Boulevard. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Services/Financial_Reports/index.php.

✓ A $22 million dollar grant was acquired by the City in 2006 to promote and develop a non-motorized transportation system. This grant is administered by the GetAbout Columbia program in the Public Works Department. The GetAbout Columbia Working Infrastructure Plan also contains designs to promote walking. For more information, see: http://www.getaboutcolumbia.com/about/view/2/About+Us%3A+What%27s+The+Plan.html.

✓ The County formed an advisory group with representatives from the governments of the cities, towns, and villages of Boone County, the chambers of commerce and citizens from various parts of the county in order to look at the road and bridge needs of the county. This group began meeting in 2007 to evaluate infrastructure needs and look at funding sources. As a first class county without a charter, Boone County is limited in its ability to generate revenues to those revenue sources provided by state law. Major county revenue sources are local option sales taxes and property taxes. Increases in these taxes require voter approval.

✓ PedNet runs several classes and educational programs intended to promote travel by foot and bicycle. To learn more about these programs and to get involved with the PedNet Coalition, see: http://www.pednet.org.

✓ In October 2008 the Columbia City Council approved a funding agreement using contributions from three special tax districts in the Columbia Mall area. The project will expand the north end of Stadium Boulevard from four lanes to six and improve access to Stadium between Broadway and Interstate 70 to alleviate congestion in the area.

✓ For FY2008 the City and County will purchase $28,000 in transportation services for the elderly and/or disabled through the Office of Community Services.

✓ The Missouri Department of Transportation, in partnership with the City of Columbia, MU, and the private sector, completed the Gans Creek interchange off US 63 in late October 2008. This interchange is crucial for the success of the Discovery Ridge Research Park, which is described under Economic Development above, as it improves accessibility.

✓ Bus route changes to accommodate more passengers on more popular routes are ongoing. For more information on bus routes, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Transportation/index.php.

✓ The Boone County Community Partnership's Mid-Missouri Transportation Alliance operates a web site to assist citizens and visitors in accessing transportation resources. The Transportation Alliance has released the "Boone County Coordinated Transportation Study" and has developed a proposal for the "Mid-Missouri Transportation Pilot Project". For more information, see: http://www.boonecountypartnership.com.

▪ Youth

✓ For the last several years the Office of Volunteer Services and the Voluntary Action Center have cooperated to produce a Directory of Summer Youth Volunteering. Some of these are applicable year round. The directory is available through the City's website at: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer/Youth/youthdir.php.

✓ A new website, "Welcome to Our World" gives youth and teens a chance to tell their stories through print, audio, video and photography. Those that join can choose teen issues, local, food, movies, music, politics, cartoonists, sports, fashion, celebrities, places to go and more. The website was originally initiated through Parks and Recreation's Community Recreation division. For more information, call 673-6869, email wow573@gmail.com, or see http://wowcolumbia.nexo.com/.

✓ Plant the Promise is a new drug and alcohol awareness project involving Columbia's youth. Youth Community Coalition and the Office of Volunteer Services helped to plant 1,300 tulips around the community to symbolize the youth's promise to be drug- and alcohol-free.

Inventory of Existing Efforts

- ✓ Columbia Public Schools launched the U-Matter campaign in September 2009. The campaign targets middle school age children. This social norming program is designed to educate students regarding drug and alcohol use to reinforce the fact that most kids aren't using drugs and alcohol.

- ✓ The Department of Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of recreation programs for youth. Programs are offered in the areas of sports, aquatics, golf, life enrichment classes, community recreation, after school activities, the ARC, summer day camps, and adaptive recreation. Parks and Recreation also offers the Career Awareness and Related Experience (CARE) program to provide job training and work related experience to Columbia's disadvantaged youth. The Department presented a report titled "At Risk Youth Prevention Activities Follow-up Report" to the City Council on February 11, 2008. For more information, see: http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com/ParksandRec/Activities_and_Programs/

- ✓ The Department of 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 to 75% depending on the household. Scholarships can be used for recreational classes and programs, outdoor pool passes and ARC memberships. For more information, call (573)874-7460. Application forms can be obtained at http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/ARC/scholarships.php.

- ✓ A report titled "A Change in Direction on Family and Youth Issues for the City of Columbia, Missouri", by Ward 5 Council Representative Laura Nauser, was presented to City council April 21, 2008. This report provides a range of data and other information relevant to youth issues.

- ✓ The Moving Ahead Program is a community-based youth program centered in and around the J.W. "Blind" Boone Community Center (301 N. Providence Rd.), in the Downtown Family Site. The Moving Ahead Program is a community-based program designed to keep high-risk children and youth free of substance abuse and criminal involvement. It seeks to build resiliency in youths, strengthen families, and make neighborhoods safer for children and their families. The weekly schedule for Moving Ahead is as follows. Monday to Thursday: 3:45 to 4:30 p.m., Free Play or some type of Movement Activities; 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., Homework, Reading, and Snack; 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Structured Alternative Activities and Open Computer Lab. Fridays: 3:45 to 4:30 p.m., Free Play or some type of Movement Activities; 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., Structured Alternative Activities and open Computer Lab; 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Structured Alternative Activities and Open Computer Lab. If you have questions or would like to volunteer with the Housing Authority, contact Ron Schmidt at 443-2556, ext 1112 or email him at rschmidt@ColumbiaHA.com.

✓ Founded in 2000, the C.A.R.E. Program (Career Awareness Related Experience), administered by Parks and Recreation, is a youth employment and education serving youth ages 14-18.

✓ For FY2008 the City and County will purchase $303,240 in children/youth services through the Office of Community Services.

✓ Non-profit Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) will receive between $63,000 and $88,000 in preliminary funding from a grant administered by the City of Columbia in order to build a homeless youth shelter. The proposed site is at 1004 N. 7th Street.

✓ There are numerous local charities that offer youth services, including, the Youth Empowerment Zone (http://www.youthempowermentzone.org/about.aspx), Voluntary Action Center (http://www.vacmo.org/), Heart of Missouri United Way (http://www.uwheartmo.org/), Rainbow House (http://www.rainbowhousecolumbia.org/), The Intersection, the CASH and HELP programs, and more.

✓ Urban Empowerment Church, an outreach ministry, along with Mama Bessie's Cleaners, organized a Back-To-School event in Douglass Park on August 31, 2008 that was geared toward encouraging participation in school as a method of self-empowerment and community improvement.

✓ "Kids Count Missouri", a partnership among the University of Missouri's Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, the Children's Trust Funds, and Citizens for Missouri's Children, provides an annual report on the status of children in Missouri counties. For data on Boone County see: http://mcdc2.missouri.edu/pub/webrepts/kidscnt/outcomes_facts/29019.html.

✓ The Youth Community Coalition, also known as YC² has been coordinating and sponsoring a range of programs for at-risk youth throughout Columbia. YC² initially organized in 2003 as the Youth Prevention Policy Board to oversee Title II and Title V Funding from the State of Missouri and originally focused on meeting needs specific to the at-risk youth in public housing. CHALIS (CHA Low Income Services) is the fiscal agent for YC². YC² has more recently been working with a range of community partners to help youth in the community.

✓ See also: *Arts, Education, Safety, Social Services* and *Parks* above