Greetings,

We passed our first anniversary at Hillcrest Community Center and are truly beginning to settle in. With that said, there are a few housekeeping matters to address. We needed a permanent departure point for our motorcoach departures. While the Waters house at the top of Hillcrest seemed ideal with lots of parking, the facility still needs remodeling and not all the coaches are cleared to come up Hillcrest Dr. Last year, we used the Cosmo Park location and comments were favorable. For those reasons, we now will be using the Cosmo Park/Rainbow parking lot off Schwabe Ln as our permanent departure for our 50+ Tour trips by chartered motorcoach. There is plenty of parking and easy access for everyone. And the restrooms are open Apr 15-Oct 15.

We used White Knight’s Temsa 30 passenger coaches most of 2014. There were a number of comfort complaints throughout the year. In order to address that issue and make the ride a more comfortable one with more leg room, we will now be requesting the larger Prevost and VanHool coaches. This will mean you will be seeing a slight increase in trip prices as “comfort does have a price”.

There are still a couple of short, 3 and 4 day overnight trips for 2015 that still need tweaking. Watch for their announcement at a future date.

We will be working towards an email version of our newsletter. We may be contacting you to make sure you want to be included and verify the correct address. At present, you can see an electronic version online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com, search Senior/50+. 
The New Theatre in Overland Park, KS is a favorite of ours. Our morning begins with an 8am departure. Our comfort stop at Independence Center gives us a chance to stretch our legs before arriving for the buffet lunch and show at the New Theatre Restaurant in Overland Park, KS. After the matinee, we are greeted by members of the cast before returning home. We are known to make a stop at exit 101 in Boonville at Russell Stover if time allows. Our return to Columbia is usually 6:30-7pm. A fun and relaxing day! It will charge you up for the rest of your week!

New Theatre Trips

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After a Million Dollar Makeover, the re-opening will feature the first show ever presented at The New Theatre Restaurant in 1992, Forever Plaid. This internationally acclaimed musical revue tells the story of four young, eager, male singers who in 1950 meet their demise in a bus crash on the way to their first big concert. Every evening they return from Heaven to posthumously fulfill their dreams, to perform the concert that never was. Featuring great hits such as Sixteen Tons, Catch a Falling Star, Matilda, Moments to Remember, Chain Gang, Heart and Soul, and Three Coins in a Fountain. **Wednesday, April 8, 2015**  **$80**

Our previous production sold out before it opened... Hairspray is the most requested “return engagement” in New Theatre’s history. On Broadway it won eight Tony awards and was hailed by the New York Times as “the best musical of the decade”. Set in the 1960’s, Hairspray is the story of a “pleasantly plump” mother & her teenage daughter both full figured and ready to fight for what’s right! **Wednesday, May 27, 2015**  **$80**

In this hit Broadway musical, Wednesday Addams, princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart, “normal” young man (and her parents know very little about him). Finally, Wednesday confides in her father that she wants to marry her “normal” guy. Fearing her mother’s disapproval she begs her father to keep her secret. Can Gomez hide the truth from Morticia? A difficult task once Morticia invites the boyfriend’s parents to dinner. **Wednesday, August 12, 2015**  **$80**
Spring Surprise Trip

Mon, April 13, 2015 $85
Lv 8am/Rtn 8pm (Depart Cosmo Park /off Schwabe Ln)

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride! We’ve a long drive ahead of us chasing Spring. Dress comfortably for the day with some walking in mind. Weather cooperating, you’ll be spending time in the sunshine! It will be a great day to remember and savor the season—Spring is here!

The price includes motorcoach transportation, lunch, sightseeing, all taxes and gratuities.

Major League Baseball

Columbia Parks and Recreation has requested major league tickets from both the St Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals for the 2015 baseball season. The cost of the trip is for transportation to the game.

If you are interested in being notified when tickets arrive and we have game dates confirmed, please leave your telephone number at the Hillcrest Community Center Front Desk, 874-7475.
Treat yourself to a decadent 3 days and 2 nights in Bentonville, AR. Doesn’t seem a likely place for that? Oh contrare! Our overnight accommodations are at 21c Museum Hotel, between the downtown Bentonville square and the trailhead of the Art Trail to Crystal Bridges Museum. Their bed linens are so special they are sold in the gift shop. You’ll be able to dine in The Hive Restaurant and absorb art all around you exclusively by 21st century artists. Our last visit was in 2013 as the hotel opened. We are excited to return to see our green penguin friends who turn up all over the hotel and bring a smile to our faces. This truly is a top 10 rated deluxe boutique hotel!

The reason for the trip is a visit to the Crystal Bridges Museum. Alice Walton, daughter of Wal-Mart founder, Sam Walton, spearheaded the development of the museum at this unique location. Architect Moshe Safdie, fashioned the museum to fit into the landscape in a series of pavilions and creek-fed ponds. The museum opened on Nov 11, 2011 with its permanent collection of American art from the Colonial era to contemporary work. The special ticketed exhibit we will see is called, Van Gogh to Rathko, consisting of 76 artworks by 73 influential artists including Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O’Keeffe, Salvador Dali, Frida Kahlo, Andy Warhol and Mark Rathko, tracing the story of avant-garde art from late nineteenth-century Modernism through Abstract Expressionism by Henri de Toulouse-Latrec, Vincent van Gogh, and Paul Gauguin, which inspired artists on both sides of the Atlantic, as can be seen in later works throughout the exhibition which considers ideas that contributed to the development of art movements such as Cubism, Surrealism, Pop Art, and Minimalism.

Another highlight of our trip will occur on the day of our arrival in Bentonville when we visit the Museum of Native American History. You will glimpse what life was like for America's first inhabitants as you “Walk Through America's Past”. The museum is divided into five different time periods that will guide you through the constant changing lives of the Native Americans, as seen through their artifacts. The displays feature relics that date from over 14,000 years old to historic times. This is a “Must See” museum!

**Tuesday**, our travel day, will include our visit to the Museum of Native American History, dinner at Fred’s Hickory Inn (said to be a favorite of Sam Walton), and settle us in the hotel for the next two nights. **Wednesday**, the Crystal Bridges Museum hours are 11am-9pm. You can walk the ½ mile Art Trail or coach there. You can plan to spend the entire time there, eating at the cafeteria or Eleven Restaurant. The coach will travel between the hotel and museum several times during the day and evening so you can pace your time between museum and hotel/downtown Bentonville for relaxation, exploring, dining. We know everyone enjoys a museum such as this in a most personal way. **Thursday**, leisurely morning. Hotel check-out is 11am/Museum opens at 11am. Our timed entrance to the Van Gogh/Rathko Exhibit is this morning. You will want to take a last visit to the Gift Shop and have lunch on your own before our 2pm departure with an expected return to Columbia before dark.
**WWI Museum and Lidia’s in Kansas City**

**Wed, Jul 15, 2015**
Lv 9am/Rtn 7pm (Depart Cosmo Park off Schwabe Ln)

$80

Our day begins with a ride into Kansas City for lunch at Lidia’s, the restaurant founded by renowned chef, Lidia Bastianich. She hosts a PBS cooking show, Lidia’s Italy, where she showcases food, wine, recipes from Italy and cooked in America. This is only 1 of 7 restaurants she operates in New York City (5) and Pittsburgh. We will be greeted, seated and served family style. Our servers treat us as valued guests in their restaurant. After our meal, we will barely cross the street for an afternoon in The National World War I Museum and Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, a memorial to those who served in World War I. Fundraising began in Oct 1919 and the Liberty Memorial was dedicated on Nov 11, 1926. A major renovation and expansion of the facility opened in 2006. In 2014 US legislation recognized this as the National World War I Museum and Memorial of the United States. The museum consists of permanent exhibits as well as changing exhibits. Keep in mind, to reach the top of the Liberty Tower you take an elevator and climb the last 45 steps. There is always something new to see and learn about this period in our world’s history one hundred years ago.

**(OPTION: If you prefer lunch at Lidia’s followed by free time at Crown Center instead of the museum visit, please ask when booking.)**

Price includes motorcoach transportation, lunch at Lidia’s, museum entrance, all taxes & gratuities.

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**Powell Gardens Goes Loco-Lego**

**Wed, June 10, 2015**
Lv 8am/Rtn 6pm (Depart Cosmo Park off Schwabe Ln)

$60

Powell Gardens (in Kingsville, MO, 30 miles east of Kansas City) is hosting a second Lego exhibition this summer. We always enjoy a visit to the Perennial Garden, the Water Garden, the Chapel and the Visitor Center and Barn. Tucked amongst the plants this summer, incredible animals and shapes made of Legos will enchant you as you stroll.

- Lunch will be on your own. You can enjoy a snack or full meal at your leisure in Cafe Thyme. We will also be stopping for dessert in Higginsville at the Red Shanty.

- There will be a considerable amount of walking if you intend to see all the Lego sculptures. (You will still enjoy the trip if you choose to stay close to the Visitor Center and restrict your walking). If you have grandchildren who tolerate sitting still for long rides and are Lego crazy this might be a perfect trip to share with them. (Ask about the child rate.) There is no organized tour. You can walk and look at your leisure.

- Meals and snacks are on your own.

Trip price includes motorcoach transportation, Powell Gardens entrance fee, and all taxes and gratuities.
**Your Motorcoach Survival Kit:**

Traveling on a restroom equipped motor coach is very comfortable and convenient. However, we have observed our members boarding with a number of items that seem to make their trip more pleasant. If we have missed a creature comfort or two, let us know so we can add it to the list…

- **PILLOW** (for back or neck support)
- **EXTRA PAIR OF SHOES** (comfort #1)
- **SWEATER** or **JACKET** (The coach can be too cold in summer or winter.)
- **EXTRA MEDICATION**
- **SUNGLASSES** – summer or winter
- **ENTERTAINMENT** (book, Nook, Kindle, IPad, IPod, puzzles, crosswords, playing cards, needlework, ear plugs)
- **HAT** for sun/wind,
- **GLOVES** (in winter)
- **UMBRELLA** (sunny days can turn wet)
- **WATER** - hydration is so important
- **CAMERA, BATTERIES, CHARGER**
- **BINOCULARS**

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**Time to join or renew your Membership?**

2015 memberships are still available. The prices remain the same and a combo-membership for both travel and activities is also in effect. The combo membership will include you in the 50+ Explorer trips around town in our Parks & Rec bus. The following chart shows the details. Call us to check your membership status if you have any questions…441-5525.

**Parks and Recreation Memberships**

Payment can be made in person at the front desk or by mail with check payable to **Columbia Parks and Rec.**

The combo membership will include you in the 50+ Explorer trips around town in our Parks & Rec bus. The following chart shows the details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Membership</th>
<th>HCC</th>
<th>50+ Tours</th>
<th>HCC &amp; 50+ Tours Combo</th>
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<td>$20</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$35</td>
<td>$60</td>
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## One Day Trips

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<th>DATE</th>
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<th>DEP. TIME</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<td>HAIRSPRAY – (NTH)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>APR 15, 2015</td>
<td>$80</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
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<td>WWI MUSEUM + LIDIA’S</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>JUN 15, 2015</td>
<td>$80</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED AUG 12, 2015</td>
<td>THE ADDAMS FAMILY – (NTH)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>JUL 1, 2015</td>
<td>$80</td>
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## Overnight/Long Distance Trips

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**NOTE:** Most trips require a minimum of 25-30 participants. If you’re interested in a trip, please let us know as soon as possible. This may avoid having to cancel a trip without enough participants.