

### **Darwin A. Hindman-2009**

This is the title affectionately bestowed upon Mayor Darwin Hindman by the citizens of Columbia. During his tenure on the Columbia City Council he successfully led the efforts to pass sales tax issues in support of parks and recreation (Activity & Recreation Center, Stephens Lake Park and general parks acquisition and development). He is a tireless promoter of parks, health, fitness, recreation and conservation. Darwin has steadfastly supported many diverse causes over the years. He was the Founder and Chairperson of the KATY Trail Coalition, coordinating the successful statewide campaign to establish the 200+ mile long park featuring a walking/bicycling trail across Missouri. He was the Co-Chair of the Citizens Committee for Soil, Water and State Parks sales tax extension in 2006. Additional roles include President of the Missouri Rail Trails Foundation, Vice Chair of the Missouri State Parks Advisory Board, on the Board of Directors of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Chair for Friends of Three Creeks promoting the Missouri Conservation Department's acquisition of Three Creeks State Forest and he also worked as an advocate for the Missouri Conservation Sales Tax. In Columbia, Mr. Hindman established the Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health, and the Mayor's Bike, Walk or Wheel to Work Week. On a larger scale, he worked to secure a \$22 million dollar federal grant for Columbia to demonstrate the extent to which bicycling and walking can represent a major portion of the transportation solution within the community. Darwin Hindman has received numerous awards for his service, including the Missouri Bicycle Federation Distinguished Service Award, Governor's Fitness and Health Leadership Award, Missouri Park and Recreation Association's Public Official Achievement Award, Conservation Federation of Missouri Leadership Award, Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club Citizen Conservationist Award, and University of Missouri Alumni Achievement Award. Ed Stegner, retired Executive Director on the Missouri Conservation Federation, stated about his friend Darwin Hindman, "Just about anything that came up on conservation, he worked for it. He is very deserving of any award he can be given."