

reation Center cuts down their time just about every year.

"Competition for gym time is tough," Coonce said. "The schools are gracious enough to let us use their gyms, but they still need to accommodate their own school teams and other events like PTA meetings and such."

The organization serves 800 to 1,000 kids, including at-risk and low-income youth, and will continue to grow as it

Market facility.

The basketball association's plan includes eight basketball courts, office space, storage, rest rooms and a concession area that totals 62,500 square feet — just short of the 73,000-square-foot Activity and Recreation Center itself.

If the city accepts its proposal, the basketball association would build the

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stories



ICH HONIG/Missourian  
n Thursday.

# Alley rehab proponents urge action

Plan calls for removal of alleyway bins for a 60-day trial period.

By JOHN HENDEL

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While most people pass by alleys without a second thought, Columbia business owners and city officials have spent hours wondering what to do about alleys downtown.

John Ott, owner of the Tiger Hotel and other businesses downtown, wants to develop alleys. He's commissioned architects and plans on adding patios and back doors for his alleyways. Only one problem stands in the way of this idyllic, alley-bound paradise: trash, and specifically, the Dumpsters designed to hold it.

"We'd open up those alleys

for galleries and some other shops," Ott said. "We'd get some nice sunlight back there if we opened it up. I could see a lot of interest in that space."

The Columbia Special Business District, at its Oct. 10 meeting, approved a motion calling for a 60-day trial period in which the six Dumpsters in the area between Ninth and Tenth streets and Broadway and Cherry Street would be removed, pending approval of two-thirds of the business owners in the affected blocks.

Ott said he believes business owners can take their trash to compactors in adjacent alleys without difficulty, and he has amassed signatures in support of this motion from some area owners.

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# Gender a nonissue for Boone politicos

Pelosi's performance is more important, both sides say.

By KIRBY MOORE

observers said Pelosi's gender will make no difference in her performance as speaker, but still view her pending election as socially significant.

"This shows that we are now



He said Democrats have high expectations for her as speaker and living up to those expecta-

the House, I would be making certain that I would not be the last."

# Trash: Private alleys problematic for bins

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"It's been going really well," Ott said. "Everyone I've talked to has been supportive of the concept."

The greatest potential, Ott said, is between Eighth and Tenth streets because of the amount of retailers in the area.

Richard Wieman, Columbia solid waste utility manager, said that in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Dumpsters were "shoulder to shoulder in some of the primary alleys."

Officials changed this by "using (trash) compactors to consolidate the trash and make it more pedestrian friendly," Wieman said.

While compactors require electrical power and sometimes may smell, as most trash does, Wieman said compactors also lower the cost of waste removal and reduce 100 cubic yards of trash into only 25 cubic yards. In the late 1990s, the city installed seven trash compactors downtown, and a 2002 Solid Waste District newsletter announced that seven more compactors would replace 42 Dumpsters. Since then, however, no new compactors have been added and two have been removed.

"That hasn't been very progressive, in my mind," Wieman said.

The Special Business District planned for compactors to occupy the privately owned alleys running north and south rather than the public east-west alleys. But arranging for compactors in private alleys has proved problematic, such as in the case of the alley next to Harpo's off of Cherry Street.

Ray Powell owned the west side of the alley and allowed a compactor there without payment from September 1994 to August 2004, according to an Aug. 17 memo from the city

manager, when Powell requested it be removed.

The memo said there are presently "six Dumpsters servicing customers within the block south of Broadway, north of Cherry, east of Tenth Street and west of Ninth Street" and suggested that City Council approve an ordinance to "acquire land to install and operate a refuse compactor ... by negotiation or, if necessary, by condemnation."

Arnie Fagan, owner of Cool Stuff, said he thinks alley development would give businesses more options, but he wants the alleys to be consistently clean and well-lit first. He expressed reservations about a motion that would force business owners to take their trash to adjacent alleys' Dumpsters and compactors.

"Right now my compactor's filthy," Fagan said about the compactor between Eighth and Ninth streets. "Just adding more trash to our compactor and alley — that makes me a little worried. I don't see how it will get any cleaner with more volume."

Tim Teddy, the city's director of planning and development, said trash and utilitarian uses could be an obstacle to enhancing alleys, but remembers examples of multipurpose alleys from his home state of Illinois and some older Chicago suburbs. He described alleys luring in pedestrians with decorated, "gateway" signs and arches.

"I've seen examples where the conditions are conducive for this," Teddy said. "What you see is cities that have alleys not only for service access. For example, you might even find pocket gardens or merchant display areas. Think of what you can do given the space."