

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Department of Public Health and Human Services achieves accreditation

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal and territorial public health departments. PHHS is one of four local health agencies in the state of Missouri to have achieved national accreditation, and joins fewer than 200 of the approximately 3,000 health departments across the country to have achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011.

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

Strategic Plan – accreditation

A priority of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan is to have City departments become accredited. The City has already celebrated the success of several departments in achieving that goal. Here are the departments that have achieved accreditation and which entity they are accredited through—

- Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau was accredited in July 2015 by the Board of Directors for the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program
- Columbia Public Works Department, Community Development and Columbia Utilities were accredited in May 2016 by the American Public Works Association
- Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services was accredited in May 2016 by the Public Health Accreditation Board

Departments currently working on their accreditation—

- Columbia Police Department
- Columbia Fire Department

Parks and Recreation presents last Family Fun Fest of 2016

Columbia Parks and Recreation is partnering with the City's Office of Cultural Affairs to present the last Family Fun Fest of 2016. It will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on September 21 at Cosmo Park.

This month's theme is *Creative Kids* and is also sponsored by the Missouri Arts Council. The evening will feature hands-on kid friendly art activities, musical performances, theater and dance. All activities are FREE.

The Family Fun Fests have been sponsored by the Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8, Aetna and ParentLink.

Connecting [with] cops

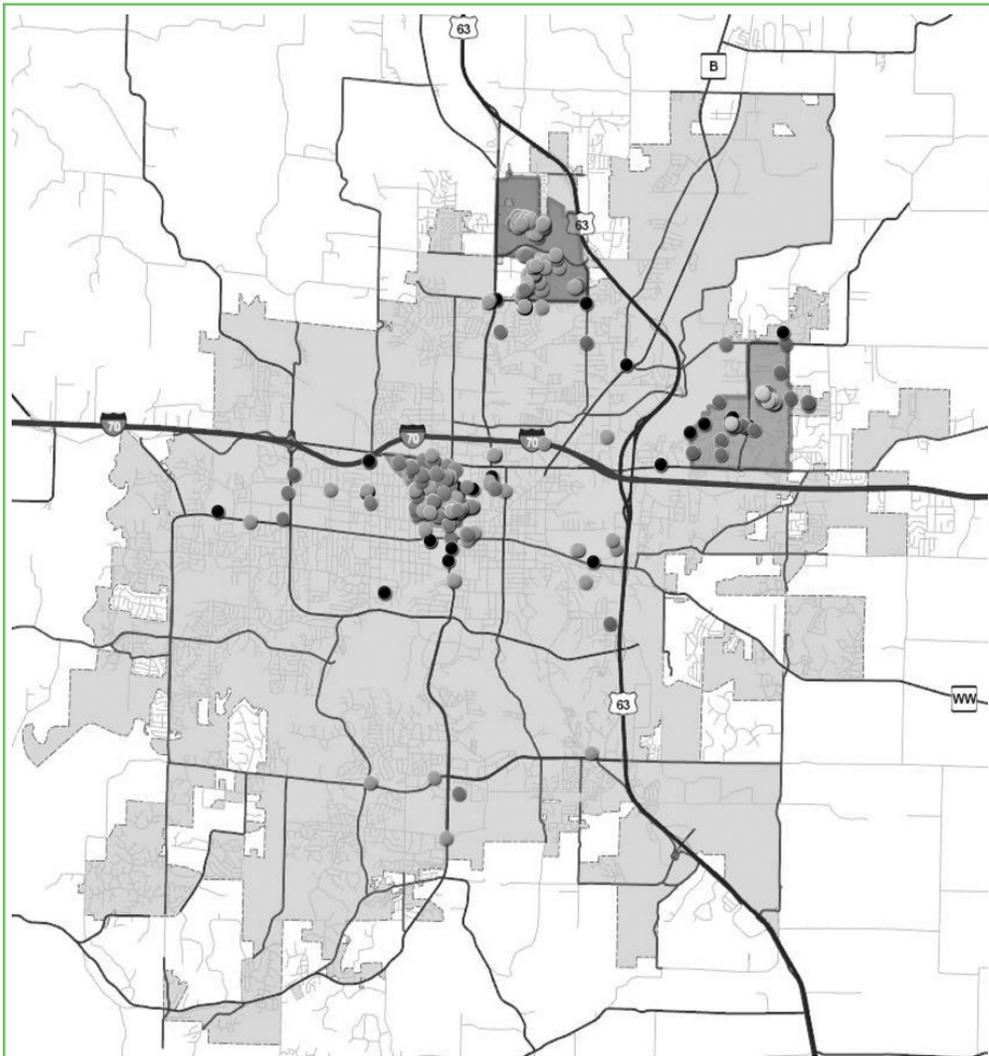
In March 2016 the Columbia Police Department's Community Outreach Unit (COU) was staffed with six officers and one sergeant. With two outreach officers stationed in each of the three Strategic Neighborhoods—Central, North and East—daily contacts were made with area residents. During the first three months of full formation, COU officers had interacted with nearly 1,100 residents in their strategic neighborhoods and nearly 500 residents outside of their strategic neighborhoods. Nearly 80 percent of these interactions were positive. Outreach officers have assisted individuals in setting up substance abuse treatment and mental health services, and built positive relationships through communication with citizens overall. The map below denotes where COU officers made contacts from April to June 2016.

If you live in one of the Strategic Plan neighborhoods and are interested in meeting your COU officers, email them at Police_Outreach@CoMo.gov.

Map shows where Community Outreach Unit have made contacts. (April-June 2016)



Community Outreach Unit



Budget breakdown – budget public comment

City Council will hold a work session on Saturday, August 20 to discuss the proposed budget previously presented by City Manager Mike Matthes to City Council in July. This session is open to the public but the public cannot provide comment during the session. There will be three (3) scheduled sessions for the public to provide feedback on the proposed budget on August 15, September 6 and September 19. September 19 is also the date the City Council is scheduled to vote on adopting the budget for the coming fiscal year. The City encourages citizens to get involved with this process.

CPD renovations

Several building renovations are scheduled to begin soon for the Columbia Police Department (CPD). The renovations will include security upgrades, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance improvements and renovation of building space and equipment replacement. The estimated cost for this project is \$795,000 and will be funded from CPD's Downtown Police Building Renovation Capital Improvement Project account.

The CPD headquarters was constructed in 1978 and was partially renovated in 1985, and again in the late 1990s. For several years, the building has housed Joint Communications. In April 2013 voters approved a three-eighths-cent sales tax to pay for a new building and operations for Joint Communications. They are expected to move out of the CPD building this fall and into an \$18 million Emergency Communication Center on Boone County Sheriff's Department campus at 2121 County Drive. This will open up Joint Communications' existing space at the police department and will be renovated to fit the needs of CPD.

City Council approved the renovations at the Council meeting on June 20. These improvements are separate from the North Municipal Center project that was approved by voters in August 2015. For more information on the renovations, visit CoMo.gov.

39th Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show

History will come to life at the 39th Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show at historic Nifong Park, 2900 E Nifong Blvd. Columbia Parks and Recreation will hold the festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 17 and 18. The Heritage Festival has no admission charge and offers entertainment and fun for all ages.

Visitors will experience living history by strolling through a replica Lewis and Clark outpost, cowboy camp and a lost arts area with traditional artisans. In addition, entertainers on three stages will be performing both days, including Festival favorites, the Haskell Indian Nations Dancers, along with a variety of traditional and roots music.

The Festival will also feature handmade crafts for sale, Fun for Young'uns Area with kids activities, hayrides, and tours of the Boone County Historical Museum, village and Maplewood Home. Ghost stories will be shared on the Maplewood Barn stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17.

The Heritage Festival is coordinated by Columbia Parks and Recreation and sponsored by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Columbia Daily Tribune, Boone County Historical Society, KFRU, KPLA 101.5, Missouri Life and the Missouri Arts Council.

Call 573-874-7460 for more information about the festival, or visit CoMo.gov.



Why are my summer utility bills high?

Columbia has not seen a prolonged, hot summer in a number of years. In June, temperatures were warmer and it was drier than we experienced for the last several years. This means that most customers have used more electricity so their air conditioner can combat the weather. Columbia Water & Light also saw a growth in water demand, mainly for irrigation, in June. Weather predictions for the rest of the summer are that the same weather pattern might continue due to La Niña.

If you would like to lower your electric and water usage, Columbia Water & Light has a number of programs that can help you. Look for free tips, low-cost projects and energy efficiency improvement incentives at ColumbiaPowerPartners.com, send an email to info@ColumbiaPowerPartners.com or call us at 573-874-2489.

New utility billing software

Utility Customer Service (UCS) is reaching the final stages of configuration and implementation for the new billing software. What that means is our "go live" date for the new software and billings statements will be within the next 90 days or less. Please keep in mind when the date is selected the UCS lobbies will be closed temporarily. UCS will make every effort to let customers know when those closures will occur. Letters will be mailed to customers around the time of the software conversion to explain all the detailed information that will be included in the new bills. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work through this billing software change.

Columbia Community Land Trust Initiative

The City of Columbia is considering the implementation of a community land trust (CLT) organization in Columbia. CLT's are community-based organizations whose missions include permanent stewardship of land for community benefit and perpetual preservation of the quality and affordability of housing on that land. The implementation of a CLT organization will enhance our community's ability to develop, protect and preserve long-term affordable housing in Columbia.

CLTs make it possible for limited income households to own homes on land that is leased from the CLT through long-term (typically 99-year), renewable ground leases. Each CLT homeowner receives deed and title to his or her home and leases the land on which the home sits from the CLT. In exchange for financial assistance which enables them to purchase a home they would not otherwise be able to afford, CLT homeowners agree to limit the price at which they can sell their homes, so the home remains affordable to additional limited income households without requiring the investment of additional public or private subsidies to make the home affordable again.

Implementing a CLT organization in Columbia will protect City investments in affordable homeownership opportunities the following ways—

1. Homes will resale to income qualified buyers at affordable rates.
2. Homes developed with public/private subsidies will remain owner-occupied.
3. Eliminates the need to provide additional subsidies to future buyers.
4. Homes will be managed to maintain their quality and condition.
5. Protects neighborhoods from adverse impacts of foreclosure.
6. On-going support will be provided to lower income homebuyers to ensure successful homeownership.

Is your home hot? Are your electric bills high?

If you are spending the summer being uncomfortable in your own home, maybe it's time for a check-up. Columbia Water & Light can help you save energy, save money and keep your family cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR

- Up to \$1,200 in rebates for energy efficiency improvements
- Extra rebates are available for an air conditioner/heat pump

Low-interest loans will help with financing!

Columbia Water & Light
ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
573-874-7325



Conserve water this summer

When should I water my lawn?

- Water only if the soil needs it. Lawns are dry when footprints remain in the grass long after being made.
- Water in the early morning from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., avoiding windy conditions.
- Water less frequently; this will help plants develop a deep, healthy root system.

How much should I water?

- Lawns need no more than 1 1/2 inches of water per week, including both irrigation and rainfall.
- Use a rain gauge found at a local hardware store to accurately measure your irrigation levels.
- If puddles or runoff start to develop, you have overwatered. Try setting a timer as a reminder to turn off the sprinkler system.

Easy ways to conserve water outdoors

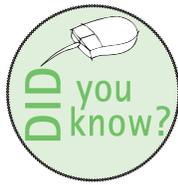
- Don't water your sidewalks and driveways. Adjust your sprinklers to cover only the lawn and plants.
- Mulch can help hold water and prevent weeds from growing.
- Leave grass a little longer to help prevent evaporation.
- Sweep leaves and grass cuttings rather than using a hose.

Sign Sweepers Volunteer Program

When you drive around Columbia you might notice signs that are placed in the median, taped to a utility pole or stop sign informing you about an upcoming sale or event. Did you know these signs are unlawful and can be removed?

A new volunteer program called Sign Sweepers has been started to proactively address these illegal signs. Volunteers are asked to spend a few hours each month removing unlawful signs from the City's right-of-way.

All signs collected are placed behind City Hall. We are looking for more volunteers to help in this effort. If you are interested in becoming a Sign Sweeper volunteer, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or Volunteer@CoMo.gov. Volunteers must participate in a background check and attend a one-hour training session.



Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes delivered the State of the City address on June 22 at City Hall. To view the video from the event or read the transcript of the speech, visit CoMo.gov/city-manager.



Back-to-School Vampire Energy

This month it's back to school, so here's a reminder to keep a tab on your electronic devices while the kids are away. Make it a habit to unplug all those gadgets like iPods, laptops and video game consoles when not in use, or try a 'smart' power strip. Even when turned off, many electronic devices will still consume power while they're plugged in. These "energy vampires" can account for 5-10 percent of your total household electricity bill.



ComoEnergyChallenge.com

Brought to you by the CoMo Energy Challenge.
Competing for \$5 million and change.

Multi-year Scott Boulevard Corridor project near completion

The Scott Boulevard Corridor, from West Boulevard to Route K, is currently on schedule to be completed by November or December 2016.

The Scott Boulevard Corridor project was designed to accommodate the rapid and continued growth in the west and southwest areas of Columbia. In 2009, the City explored the possibility of extending the Scott Boulevard Corridor to Interstate 70 and Route E just north of I-70. This phase of the project awaits federal and local funding.

The expansive project was divided into three major phases. In 2011, reconstruction and realignment of a portion of Scott Boulevard between West Broadway to just south of Gillespie Bridge Road, known as Phase I, was completed. Phase II, from Belleview Drive to Vawter School Road, was completed in August 2015.

The City is currently working to finish the final leg of Phase III, which was divided into three sections to minimize the length of road closures.

- Section one of Phase III, from Leighton Drive to State Route KK, was completed ahead of schedule on April 26, 2016.
- Section two, from just south of the Vawter School Road roundabout to just north of Sawgrass Drive and Stone Grove Court, is on schedule to be finished in August or September. This section included major reconstruction of Mill Creek Bridge to ensure the safety of heavy traffic anticipated on the bridge.
- Section three, from Stone Grove Court to Leighton Drive, is scheduled to be completed by November or December.

Once Phase III is finished, the funded Scott Boulevard Corridor projects will be complete. Updates on the projects are available at ScottBv.com and CoMo.gov.

Save with the window air conditioner exchange

(for income qualified customers)

Below are the eligibility requirements for the Window Air Conditioner Exchange program:

- Be a current Columbia Water & Light electric customer
- Have an older, less efficient and/or broken window unit to exchange
- Have an annual income of less than 200 percent of the poverty level
- Participants in 2015 are not eligible for the exchange this year

Please call before bringing your older unit in to confirm eligibility and availability!

Through September 8 (while supplies last)

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

You must bring in the following items to participate:

- Proof of your current physical Boone County address (IDs or leases will not be accepted)
- Identification for everyone at your address (originals...no copies)
- Proof of all income for everyone at your address (including food stamps and TANF)
- Current utility bill for your address
- An older, inefficient window air conditioner to exchange

Voluntary Action Center

573-874-2273

403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia, Missouri



Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

September

1	Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Teen Band Night, 7 p.m., FREE
5	Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center closes for summer
6	Pooch Plunge, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$4 per dog, must pre-register
9	Movies in the Park: Star Wars: The Force Awakens (PG-13), Cosmo Park, FREE
14	Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Downtown Optimist Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE
17-18	39th Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show, Nifong Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., FREE
21	Family Fun Fest: Creative Kids, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE
28	Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Auburn Hills Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE

Code Corner – sidewalk maintenance

As summer wears on, grass and vegetation creeps over sidewalks and into the right of way. Maintenance of the sidewalk in front of or adjacent to a property is the responsibility of the owner, operator, or person in control, such as a tenant. Sidewalk should be "clear and free from rubbish, filth, refuse, dirt, snow, ice and from any and all obstructions." Trees and tree limbs should also be cut back so they don't interfere with the passage of motor vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians using the right-of-way. Thanks for doing your part to keep sidewalks clear.

The Office of Neighborhood Services is here to support quality residential life. If we can help, please contact us at 573-817-5050 or at CoMo.gov.



August volunteer of the month – Sonia Antequera

The City of Columbia believes in celebrating volunteers. There are few volunteers like Sonia Antequera. A retired physical education teacher from La Paz, Bolivia, Antequera's contributions to the City of Columbia's volunteer programs are exceptional. When she is not assisting in the office, she can be found teaching children at the annual Earth Day celebration, sorting paint for hazardous waste disposal and numerous other tasks. Antequera is passionate about volunteering and feels that "being a volunteer is a great opportunity [for me to give] back to the town what it is giving to me."

Antequera leaps with boundless energy from one project to another, giving every task her full attention, effort and passion. Her Spanish language skills and unique ability to communicate with everyone have also made her an extraordinary asset. And, she has only been in Columbia for five months visiting her son.

Her return to Bolivia this fall will leave Columbia with a hole. She will be sorely missed. However, it's clear that La Paz will benefit greatly upon her return. For the past 20 years, Antequera has coached and refereed wheelchair basketball for disabled men and women.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit our website at CoMo.gov, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or email volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Written by volunteer Elizabeth Miller.



Sonia Antequera

Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline September 2 at 5 p.m.

- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Personnel Advisory Board

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at CoMo.gov or at the City Clerk's office. Call 573-874-7208 for more information.

Keeping utility accounts current

During hot weather, it is especially important to keep current with utility bills. Per city ordinance found in Chapter 27-21 (h), the City of Columbia may shut off delinquent accounts when the temperature is above thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit and below ninety (90) degrees Fahrenheit. Disconnections are based on actual temperatures, not forecasts, so when the actual temperature is below 90 degrees, services may be shut off. If your account is past due, please call 573-874-7380 or visit the Utility Customer Service office at 701 E. Broadway. If the account is eligible for a payment agreement, these are easily done.



Columbia HPC Architectural Salvage Sale

Interested in owning a piece of Columbia's history? Working on your own historic home? Come out to see what your HPC has been saving from demolished structures.

Questions?

Please contact Rusty Palmer at Rusty.Palmer@CoMo.gov or 573-874-7394



Columbia Historic Preservation Commission

Where—
Rock Quarry Park Storage Barn

Location—
2002 Grindstone Parkway

Dates—
September 10 & 11

Time—
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The City does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, familial status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

City of Columbia
701 E. Broadway • Columbia, MO 65201
573-874-7111 • CoMo.gov

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Brian Treece

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Second Ward

Third Ward

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Sixth Ward

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