

CITYSOURCE

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November 2016



Your source for City news and information



Report a crime online



It's not 911, but it's convenient. The Columbia Police Department (CPD) offers Online Crime Reporting for certain non-emergency crimes. Citizens can use their computer or smart phone and within a few minutes report a crime that does not require a police officer to respond. Crimes included in the Online Reporting System are: stealing, vandalism, bicycle harassment, suspicious activity, accident report, disabled parking violation, shoplifting and graffiti. The service is open to any citizen

who had a crime occur within the city limits of Columbia and the crime circumstances meet the requirements for online reporting.

"We urge citizens to request an officer any time information is available for an officer to follow. Typically, crimes most appropriate for online reporting have little to no suspect information and offer no available leads for an officer to investigate," said Bryana Larimer, CPD public information officer.

Although these crimes may not require an officer to take the report, the information is extremely valuable to CPD and helps them identify "hot spots" of criminal activity and better allocate resources to solve and deter crime.

Last year, the Columbia Police Department received over 76,000 calls for service. With an authorized force of 165 officers, each officer responded to over 463 calls each. Call volumes continue to go up with Columbia's growing population.

"With the current call volume, these calls may hold for a long period of time," said Larimer.

Long wait times deter some people from reporting crimes. Larimer reminds citizens reporting this information to CPD is valuable to their crime fighting efforts.

"The Online Reporting System allows citizens to make a report at their convenience while still receiving information necessary to make insurance and other claims," she said.

Citizens are not permitted to report a crime online that occurred to someone else unless the citizen is a guardian of the victim or representative of a business and reporting a crime that occurred at that business. All information that is entered into the Online Reporting System must be as complete as possible to ensure timely processing.

Larimer reminds citizens this service is NOT an alternative to reporting emergencies. If you are experiencing an emergency, you must contact 911. The Online Reporting System can be found at CoMo.gov/Police, or by using the code below.



Almeta Crayton Memorial Toys for Columbia Youth Drive



Donations will be accepted at the Armory Sports Center or the downtown Parks and Recreation office.



Thank you for helping a child in need this holiday season.

Please help area children this holiday season. While you are out shopping, consider picking up an extra gift for a needy child for Parks and Recreation's annual toy drive. Toys can be dropped off at the Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash or the downtown Parks and Recreation office, 1 S. Seventh St.

Toys and monetary donations will be accepted through Dec. 9. Cash, checks or credit cards are accepted. A letter of receipt for tax purposes will be provided for your generosity. Please call 573-874-7460 for more information.

Progress as Promised—New pedestrian bridge provides safe crossing of Forum Boulevard, Hinkson Creek

Thanks to the newly constructed Forum Pedestrian Bridge, there is now a safer and more scenic passage across Hinkson Creek and one of Columbia's busiest roads.

The Forum Pedestrian Bridge Project connects the MKT Trail and Forum Nature Area to the new pedestrian bridge and takes users under Forum Boulevard via a newly paved trail.

"We're proud of this project," said Public Works Director David Nichols. "We believe this bridge and the connecting trails we've built here will benefit the safety and fitness of Columbia residents for decades to come."

The new bridge, which meets standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act, was situated so as not to interfere with future improvements to Forum Boulevard. Bike lane enhancements have also been added on the shoulder of Forum as well as a southbound left-turn lane for vehicles entering Wilson's Fitness.

The originally announced opening for the Forum Pedestrian Bridge and Trail Project was winter 2016, but the project was finished ahead of schedule. Lehman Construction was the contractor for the project, with an estimated investment total of \$1.6 million, paid for by a Federal Non-Motorized Transportation Grant.



Curious about water quality?

Columbia's water complies with water quality standards and is tested more frequently and thoroughly than is required by law. The well water is monitored for any possibility of contamination and over 4,000 tests are run each year on samples at the Water Treatment Plant and from 41 locations throughout Columbia. A letter from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources verifies the community's water meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

An annual water quality report or Consumer Confidence Report required by the Environmental Protection Agency is published each spring. This report along with water testing results is available online or can be sent to anyone who requests a copy. When reviewing the water testing results, the majority of items tested for are undetected in Columbia's water.

For more information visit CoMo.gov and search for "DNRwater," "water quality" or "water testing."

Budget Breakdown: Funding the Transportation Capital Plan

Sales taxes, in the form of the transportation sales tax and capital improvement sales tax, make up a substantial amount of funding for the City's Transportation Capital Plan. The transportation sales tax is a one-half cent permanent sales tax used for street construction and maintenance needs as well as subsidies and capital needs for the airport and bus system. The one-fourth cent capital improvement sales tax is a temporary tax used to fund streets, sidewalks and public safety needs. In August 2015, voters approved the extension of the sales tax to expire in December 2025.

Optional Parkmobile app available on downtown street parking meters

Everyone parking on a downtown street may now use the Parkmobile smartphone app. Just look for the green Parkmobile label on the meter.



The green labels have directions on how to use the optional app along with a zone number. Otherwise, the meters function the same as they do currently, allowing customers the choice of paying by coin, EZ Park Card, the app or credit card, depending

on the particular meter.

"If you choose to use the app, there are a number of very useful benefits," said Drew Brooks, who oversees transit and parking operations for the City. "But we also believe it's important to allow parkers to pay in traditional ways, such as by coin or card."

First-time users of the app will need to download it for free from parkmobile.com. That is followed by a one-time registration process requiring the user to enter their license plate number and other information.

Instructional videos, maps and more information about Parkmobile options and services are available at CoMo.gov.

"SolSmart Gold" Award for advancing solar energy growth

As a SolSmart Gold designee, Columbia received national recognition for adopting programs and practices that make it faster, easier and cheaper to go solar. A SolSmart designation is a signal that the community is "open for solar business," helping to attract solar industry investment and generate economic development and local jobs.

Turn Down Your Heat to \$ave—and sleep better!

This winter consider setting your heat 8 degrees lower while you're sleeping. For each 8-hour block of time you do this, you'll avoid emitting 154 lbs. of carbon dioxide and potentially save \$70 over the course of winter. Studies also show that this is also a great way to improve your sleep, since the optimal temperature for our nighttime rest is around 60-66 degrees F.



ComoEnergyChallenge.com

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



Columbia's Historic Preservation Commission is taking nominations for the 2017 City's Most Notable Properties. The deadline for submission is Nov. 25, 2016.

Properties need to be at least 50 years old, located within the City of Columbia corporate limits, and have architectural or historical characteristics which contribute to our City's social and/or aesthetic resources. The properties may be endangered, derelict, recently restored, or nicely maintained. They may be a private home, public or private workplace or any other space, public or private. They may be modest or grand, hidden away or in public view.

Once applications have been received, the Historic Preservation Commission evaluates the nominations and selects a diverse set of properties which they believe best represent the above qualities.

Submission materials can be downloaded by using the link on the City of Columbia's homepage at CoMo.gov/community-development/planning/historic-preservation/ or by calling the City Planning Department at 573-874-7394.

We appreciate your patience

The Utility Customer Service division would like to thank customers for their patience and understanding during the conversion to new billing software. There have been several issues resulting from the conversion that have caused questions, resulting in high call volume and long hold times. These issues are being addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. Columbia Utilities will offer budget billing enrollment within the next few months and the electronic billing module will be in place again in 2017. Again, thank you for being patient.

There is an online explanation of the new billing detail on the website at CoMo.gov, search for "understanding your utility bill."

Donate to utility assistance

CASH and HELP

There are many Columbians who have to make difficult financial decisions each month. It's not an easy choice to decide between buying food and paying a utility bill. You can help people in our community by filling out the contribution slip on this month's utility bill return envelope for the **CASH** and **HELP** programs or fill out the online form. These programs were established to help seniors, the disabled and families with children pay their utility bills.

To donate: 573-874-7380 or CoMo.gov.

Donations to the program are tax deductible. All money donated to the program goes to help those in need.

Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

December

3	Santa Hotline, children ages 3-7 please call 573-874-7473 only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
3	City Kwanzaa Celebration, Progressive Missionary Baptist Community Building, 2-5 p.m., FREE
16	Holiday Lights and Sights Tour, Meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 p.m. or 7:45-9 p.m., \$7.50 per person, must pre-register
18	It's a Wonderful Ride: Holiday Lights Bicycle Tour, Meet at Lucky's, 111 S. Providence, 5:30 p.m., FREE

Code Corner: sidewalk snow removal



When it snows, having a clear sidewalk can be very helpful to those who may be traveling to school or work or delivering mail or meals. It is the responsibility of property owners and occupants to keep sidewalks clear. Section 302.3 of the International Property Maintenance Code says that all sidewalks, walkways.... shall be...maintained free from hazardous conditions. Chapter 24 of City Ordinance requires property owners or occupants to keep sidewalks, "clear and free from rubbish, filth, refuse, dirt, snow, ice and from any and all obstructions and dangerous agencies of every kind and description whatsoever."

Seniors and those with disabilities who need assistance with snow removal and volunteers who want to assist can contact Services for Independent Living at 573-874-1646 or email Chrissie Fouts, volunteer coordinator, at cfouts@silcolumbia.org. There is an income qualification to receive services.

Thank you for keeping our sidewalks clean for the benefit of all Columbia residents who use them.

Volunteer of the Month—The Mission Continues



The Mission Continues

empower veterans and community organizations to work together for sustainable and transformational community change across the United States. Since its founding in 2007, more than 1,700 veteran fellows have participated in volunteer work in more than 49 states. The Mission Continues has also had a noticeable impact in Columbia.

Since 2012, The Mission Continues and its local affiliate, the Columbia 1st Service Platoon, have worked with the City of Columbia and local organizations on numerous service projects. Results to date include restoring Nifong Park, working with veterans at the Truman VA Hospital, improving the Nora Stewart Early Learning Center and more.

As the mission continues for our veterans, whose help we value greatly, we are reminded of the importance of citizen engagement. To all of you that make Columbia better—thank you.

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

Written by volunteer Elizabeth Miller.

Change your clocks, change your batteries

As residents turn their clocks back one hour for daylight saving time, the Columbia Fire Department reminds residents to change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends testing smoke alarms monthly and replacing batteries annually, preferably on a designated date.

"The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are sleeping. Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half," said Columbia Fire Department Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal Brad Fraizer.

In addition to changing smoke alarm batteries, the Columbia Fire Department also recommends:

- Replacing the entire alarm if it is more than 10 years old or doesn't work properly when tested.
- Installing smoke alarms on every level of the home, both inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- Installing both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor alarms, which detect slow, smoldering fires, as well as fast, flaming fires.
- Interconnecting smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Dusting or vacuuming smoke alarms when changing the batteries.

By taking simple steps, chances of surviving a fire improve greatly. For more information on fire and life safety, to request

a program for your group or organization, or to schedule a fire safety visit please call 573-874-7556 or email Fire@CoMo.gov.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

Report street light outages

If you notice a street light on during the day or one out at night, please report it to us.

ONLINE FORM: CoMo.gov, search for "street light outage" or call 573-874-7325.

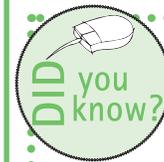
Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.

- Finance Advisory and Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement 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.



Web did you know?

Visit CoMo.gov and click on "Report problems" on the left to report a plethora of issues including damaged or missing signs, potholes, discrimination, property maintenance and more.

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

MAYOR
Brian Treece

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	Clyde Ruffin
<i>Second Ward</i>	Michael Trapp
<i>Third Ward</i>	Karl Skala
<i>Fourth Ward</i>	Ian Thomas
<i>Fifth Ward</i>	Laura Nauser
<i>Sixth Ward</i>	Betsy Peters
<i>City Manager</i>	Mike Matthes



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