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February 2016



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Columbia Values Diversity Award Winners

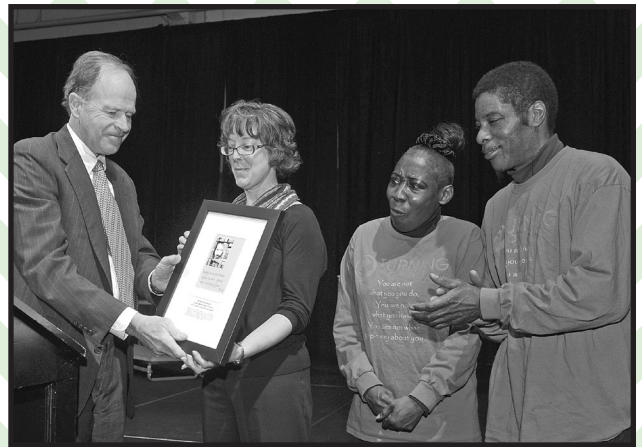
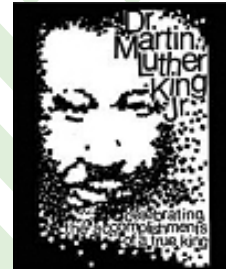
The 19th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Jan. 14. The awards are given to an individual/family and an organization/group that have made significant contributions promoting appreciation for diversity and cultural understanding in Columbia.

Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church was awarded the 2016 Diversity Award for groups.

Pastor Meg Hegemann began working in her position with Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church in 2010, and since then, the church has become very focused on service to the community. They have recognized that their neighborhood location offers the opportunity to help meet the needs of their neighbors and the Columbia community. The church facilitates many programs including Loaves and Fishes, an evening community-wide meal program; Turning Point, offering assistance to Columbia's homeless population; and a space for Room at the Inn winter shelter. The church also offers space for several recovery group programs. This small congregation has made social justice through action their mission, just as Martin Luther King, Jr., always preached.

The 2016 Diversity Award for an individual was presented to Barbra Horrell.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stated "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve...you only need a heart full of grace." Ms. Horrell dedicated her professional career with University of Missouri to minority student recruitment, which included work at the School of Medicine, College of Agriculture and the College of Veterinary Medicine. In retirement, Ms. Horrell has been immersed in several initiatives to promote racial and cultural equality in the community. She has a commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of Columbia, as shown by her involvement on the James T. Scott Monument Committee and the Sharp End Committee. Her selfless service to many other community programs exemplifies the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Mayor Bob McDavid presents the Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church the Diversity Award for groups.

Photo by Don Shrubshell, Columbia Daily Tribune



Barbra Horrell is presented the individual Diversity Award by Mayor Bob McDavid.

Complete Streets

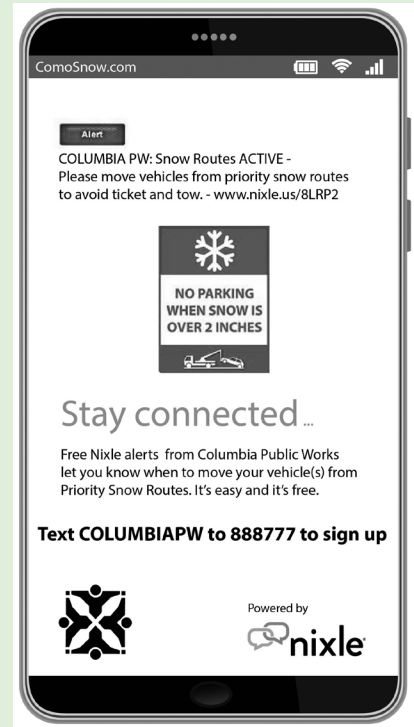


Complete Streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

Complete Streets allow for safe travel by those walking, cycling, driving automobiles, riding public transportation or delivering goods.

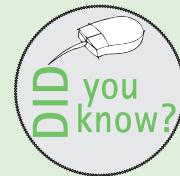
The City of Columbia street standards follow the basic tenants of Complete Streets requirements as set forth by nationally accepted design standards. As stated above, the goal of Complete Streets is to provide a transportation network accessible and usable by all modes of transportation.

Utilizing these design standards, our community enjoys the benefits of multimodal transportation options for all age groups. When developers design new roadways, or roadways undergo major maintenance, every effort is made to adhere to Complete Streets standards. You can learn more about those standards on our website at **GoColumbiaMo.com** and type "Complete Streets" in the search box.



Nixle

Visit Nixle's website to sign up for other updates including weather and motorist alerts.



Web did you know

Learn about and read the 2016-2019 strategic plan by visiting **GoColumbiaMo.com/strategic-plan.**

The Road Ahead for City Buses

- Do you use Columbia's roads and walkways to get to work?
- Do you think public transportation is an important resource in our community?
- Are you interested in the City's changing landscape?

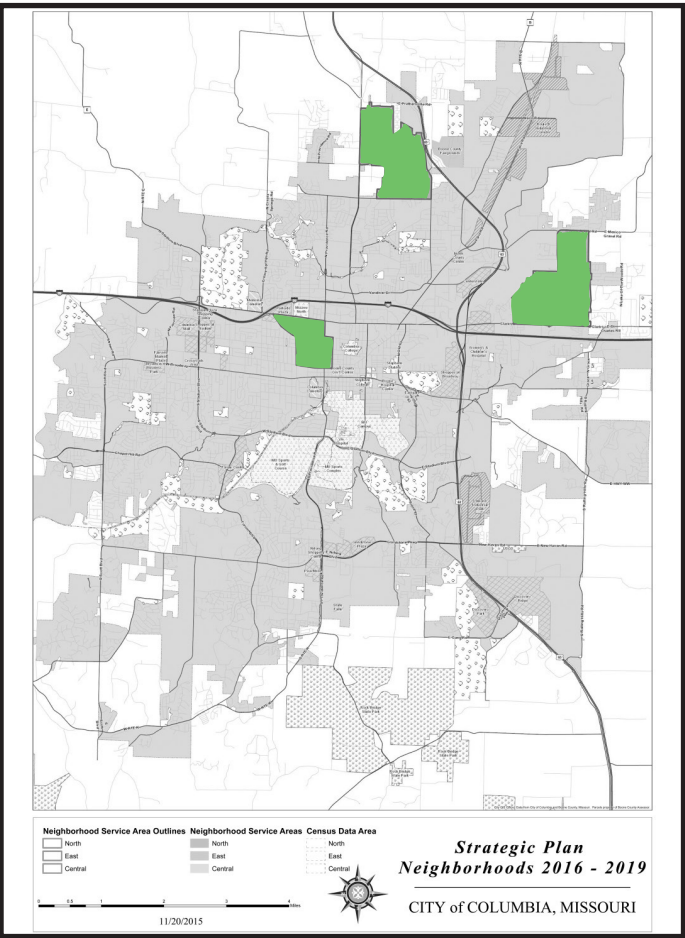
If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, we want you to join us this spring in a discussion on Columbia's public transit system and the future of transportation in our community.

Columbia's public transit system has undergone some major changes in the last few years as the City works towards providing a more modern and efficient service for the community. With a recent name change in 2014 (COMO Connect) and brand new routes to fit Columbia's changing landscape, the City is starting its next phase of improvement and asking the community about long term plans for the system. Whether you currently ride the bus, drive a personal vehicle, or rely only on your own two feet or wheels to get around town, we want to hear your voice.

Find upcoming dates and events near you at **COMOconnect.org** and be part of Columbia's future.



Additional down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers



The City of Columbia will be offering special down payment assistance in the City’s new strategic plan areas of focus. The additional assistance is an expansion of the existing Homeownership Assistance Program. The three areas of focus are a result of the City’s 2016-2019 strategic plan and are identified as areas to invest additional City resources.

Income eligible, first-time homebuyers may qualify for 10 percent of the home’s sale price, up to \$10,000. To qualify, households must be income eligible, the home must be within a strategic plan area of focus, and the home must meet minimum property maintenance standards. Funding will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. Current household income limits are as seen below:

Household Size	Income
1 person	\$40,600
2 persons	\$46,400
3 persons	\$52,200
4 persons	\$58,000
5 persons	\$62,650
6 persons	\$67,300
7 persons	\$71,950
8 persons	\$76,600

For more information, contact Randy Cole at 573-874-6321 or rcole@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Pet Assistance Available

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services wants to help citizens get their pets spayed or neutered. A partnership between the Central Missouri Humane Society and the Animal Control Division provides a limited number of vouchers available to help residents get their dog or cat spayed or neutered at no charge. You must be a Columbia or Boone County resident. If you meet any of the eligibility requirements below please call the division of Animal Control at 573-449-1888 or Central Missouri Humane Society at 573-443-3893.

To qualify for a pet spay/neuter voucher have proof of enrollment in one of the following eligible programs or fit into the income guidelines listed:

- Missouri EBT Card (Food Stamps)
- MO Healthnet (Medicaid)
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
- Temporary Medicaid for Pregnant Women
- LIHEAP (Low Income Utility Assistance)
- Temporary or Permanent Disability
- Social Security & Social Security disability

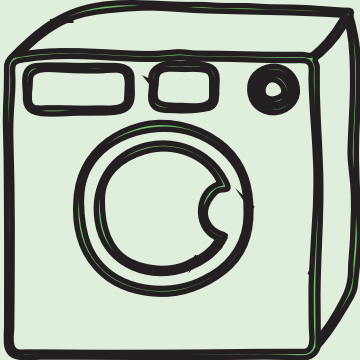
TANF

Income Eligible

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,665	\$1,722	\$430
2	\$28,704	\$2,392	\$598
3	\$36,144	\$3,012	\$753
4	\$43,584	\$3,632	\$908
5	\$51,012	\$4,251	\$1,062

Dirty laundry?

Believe it or not, running your washing machine with cold water will get your clothes just as clean, without draining your wallet. (Dirty cloth diapers still need to wash in hot water, though!) Since about 75 percent of the energy consumed while running a washing machine is used to heat the water, the average household opting for cold can help you save over \$40 annually – and eliminate as much as 350 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions! Save even more by combining all colors of clothes to do fewer loads.



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

Inflow and Infiltration



For a number of years, the City of Columbia has discussed and implemented means to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) in the sanitary sewer system. I&I occurs when groundwater, stormwater or water from sump pumps enters the sanitary sewer system and exceeds the capacity design of the sewer line. When this happens, sewage can back up into homes, businesses and overflow from manholes.

Studies have been conducted to identify watersheds and basins within those watersheds where I&I is most severe. Once sources of I&I are identified by various means, mitigation efforts are then conducted to reduce I&I within that basin. In one basin, we have been able to reduce I&I by over 49 percent.

This winter and spring, our consultant, TREKK Design Group, LLC, will conduct I&I studies within basins in the County House and Flat Branch watersheds. Once the studies are complete, a mitigation plan will be developed to reduce the I&I issues within those basins.

It will take a number of years to study and complete mitigation efforts related to I&I in Columbia. As promised, we continue to make progress with our efforts and investment in infrastructure improvements to reduce I&I to the greatest extent possible. To learn more, visit our website at **GoColumbiaMo.com** and type "I&I" in the search bar.

Budget Billing

Utility customers may already know that March is normally the enrollment month for the Budget Billing program. However, this year the City will be implementing new billing software. While current Budget Billing customers will automatically renew, Utility Customer Service will delay new Budget Billing enrollments until the new software implementation is complete. The new enrollment month has yet to be determined.

To qualify for Budget Billing, customers must have a full 12-month history at the address and be current in payments.

Budget Billing enables customers to pay the same dollar amount each month. This amount is determined by using the last 12 months of bills and dividing the total by 11. Throughout the year the budgeted amount can be higher or lower than the actual bill. Customers should always pay the Budget Billing amount, not the actual bill amount.

Deferred balance is printed on the bottom of the monthly bill and shows your account balance for the year. This deferred balance reflects the difference between actual bill totals and the Budget Billing amount total, and it will vary from month to month. Once a year, there is a settle-up month to bring the account current. If a customer has a deferred credit balance, the account will be credited for that amount. If the deferred balance is a deficit (owing) amount, customers pay the actual amount due on the bill to bring the account to zero. The City tries to audit Budget Billing customers three times throughout the year to make adjustments as appropriate to customer accounts. For more information about Budget Billing, visit the City's website: **GoColumbiaMo.com**.



The City of Columbia has two programs in March that provide residents knowledge about our natural resources and provide hands-on service projects in our parks.

The Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project (CARP) class will be held on Tuesday evenings – March 15 and 22. CARP teaches participants about aquatic ecology and vegetation management. Volunteers work on projects along streams, ponds and rain gardens in our parks on weekend mornings.

The 2016 TreeKeepers program will be a one-day academy format on Saturday, March 19. During the TreeKeepers Academy, volunteers will learn about tree identification, pruning and planting and commit to assisting on tree projects in our parks on Saturday mornings.

Both programs will be held at the Parks Management Center, 1507 Business Loop 70 W. To learn more or register, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Trade A Tree

Avoid electrical problems due to trees

If your property has trees growing into power lines, it's likely that you will experience 'blinks' in your service or even a possible power failure during a storm. Why not trade the problematic tree for a free, small growing ornamental tree?

Sign up for the Trade A Tree program and we will inspect your trees growing near the City's main electric distribution lines. If the tree on your property qualifies for the program, Columbia Water & Light will remove the problematic tree. You can then select a small growing tree or bush to be planted in your yard.

Sign up:

GoColumbiaMo.com (search for Trade A Tree)

573-874-6205

CPD increases patrol units during peak times

Starting later this month, you may notice an increase in police presence on the road. The Columbia Police Department will be nearly doubling the amount of patrol officers on shift during peak call times. The change will take place on Feb. 28 and comes after the Department hired Matrix Consulting Group to evaluate the efficiency and productivity of the Patrol Division.



The changes that will be made include: the addition of a "power shift," recommended by Matrix, who will work Wednesday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. These days and hours were determined to have the highest volume of calls for service. The remaining patrol officers will continue to work 12-hour shifts, and shift changes have been pushed forward by two hours. Specific officers will be assigned to different shifts to handle traffic incidents under the Patrol Division. These officers will also be available for calls for service when needed.

The study included a department-wide survey and multiple individual interviews between Matrix and CPD staff. A key area of consideration in the study was community trends and emerging service areas. The report provided to the Department by Matrix noted that the population growth of the City directly translates to an increased workload for patrol. The combination of population growth and current financial limitation to obtain additional resources led the Department to complete the study and make schedule changes focused on maximizing proactivity in the Patrol Division.

Command staff collected input from the patrol officers and supervisors prior to making the schedule changes. The cost of the study was \$48,000 and was paid for through asset forfeiture and budget funds. It has been over 20 years since the Department has invested money towards a study advising of the best way to deploy CPD resources based on all the data available. CPD is committed to providing the best level of service possible to the citizens of the City of Columbia.

A full copy of the report from Matrix can be found on our website at GoColumbiaMo.com/Police.

Power Outages and Restoration Process

Unfortunately there are times when high winds, ice, squirrels, birds, etc., can cause interruptions with our electric system. When problems occur, Columbia Water & Light makes every effort to restore your power as soon as possible.

What should I do when my power goes out? Call 573-875-2555. Any detailed information you can supply to the utility about the outage is very beneficial in the troubleshooting process. You can see if the outage has been reported by viewing our online outage map.

How long will it take to restore my power? Columbia Water & Light sends crews out as soon as possible to fix electric system problems. The time of the repair depends on the problem. Many times it is as easy as replacing a fuse, other times an entire line must be replaced. Crews often have to search for the cause of an outage and will continue working on a problem until it is resolved. Please do not disturb the crews while they are working so they can focus on safely solving the problem.

Who gets their power restored first? During times of multiple power outages in Columbia, repairs to electric transmission and main distribution line feeders are repaired before feeder lines to individual customers. By prioritizing restoration efforts, the utility can restore power to a greater number of people first.

Electric outage information: OutageViewer.GoColumbiaMo.com

The lights go out and you are curious to know if someone has reported an electric outage yet. Check out our online outage map and find out exactly where there are reported outages in the city and if a crew has been assigned to repair it. The information is updated every 10 minutes so if you are away from home, you can see if service has been restored.

Columbia Water & Light sends crews out as soon as possible to fix electric system problems. The complex nature of outages makes estimating the length of the outage very difficult. The crews will continue working on a problem until it is resolved. Don't be surprised if you see a lineman walking around or driving slowly down your street. Crews often have to search for the cause of an outage and look for other problems before energizing a line. Please do not disturb the crews while they are working so they can focus on safely solving the problem.

Parks & Recreation
Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

March

12	Blue Thunder Track Registration Day, Armory Sports Center, 2-5 p.m.
19	Annual Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., FREE
26	Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza, Douglass Park, 12-1:15 p.m., FREE

Code Corner—Occupancy Limitations

Columbia's zoning laws, found in Chapter 29 of City Ordinances, place limits on the number of people who can occupy a housing unit based on the definition of family. Essentially, not more than three unrelated people can live together in property located in R-1 zoning and not more than four can live together in other zoning districts. Over occupancy can be an issue when single family homes turn to rental properties and more people live there than our ordinance allows, causing additional traffic, trash, noise and safety issues. For more information on the City's enforcement of over occupancy, contact Neighborhood Services at 573-817-5050.

February volunteer of the month — Val DeBrunce

The City's Volunteer Programs give opportunities to Columbians to build community and connect citizens to service opportunities. Val DeBrunce has volunteered as a Recycling Ambassador for over a year and was a charter volunteer for the program. He has reached out to the Downtown Community Improvement District to educate businesses and their employees about recycling practices. Val has visited over 80 businesses in an effort to increase material diverted from the landfill, even following up with each to ensure everyone in the line of communication knows what to do. He will soon begin outreach to residential property owners, managers and residents to continue his impact.

A retired salesman, Val's knack for building relationships with others has made it easy for people to jump on board with recycling efforts, investing time and energy to the greater good of the community. Val also serves on the Citizens Police Review Board.

"Recycling is the right thing to do," Val said. "Recycling Ambassadors are responsible for communicating City goals to both businesses and residents. It gets back to the awareness issue. There is a very high percentage of people that don't know the changes the City is undertaking in order to make recycling easier."

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Written by volunteer Abby Holman



Val DeBrunce

If your home cold?

If you're spending the winter 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 warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Home Performance with Energy Star

- Up to \$1,200 in rebates for energy efficiency improvements
- Low-interest loans to help with financing

Columbia Water & Light



ColumbiaPowerPartners.com

New drop-off recycling center

Columbia Utilities Solid Waste Division announces the opening of a new drop-off recycling center located at 3601 S. Providence Road, just north of Gerbes Supermarket on the west outer road.

The drop-off recycling center accepts fiber material (paper and cardboard), rigid plastic containers labeled with the recycling symbol 1-7 and aluminum and steel containers. Please, do not place trash in the recycling containers or on the ground at the recycling centers.

The drop-off recycling center is located at the former site of Columbia Fire Station 7, which was relocated to the corner of Bethel and Green Meadows Circle in 2008.

Demand for drop-off recycling centers has increased and the recycling center on State Farm Parkway at Nifong was often overused resulting in crews continuously having to clean up loose materials left when recycling containers overflowed. The new drop-off recycling center is expected to take some of the strain off of the State Farm Parkway location and provide additional recycling opportunities to citizens.

The new facility is surrounded by an attractive concrete stone wall topped with fencing to help contain loose materials. A sidewalk was added along the property frontage and landscaping will be added in the spring of 2016.

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 • GoColumbiaMo.com

MAYOR

Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



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