

# CITYSOURCE

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June 2016



Your source for City news and information



## Lead in the water

**Columbia's water system**—Columbia's water comes from an aquifer in McBaine, Mo., not the Missouri River, and is a very clean source for drinking water. The water meets or exceeds any drinking water standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is responsible for enforcing the federal water quality standards.

**Lead In Columbia's water supply**—Over 30 years ago, Columbia Water & Light started removing lead pipes in Columbia's water system. The pH level of Columbia's water is 8.33 which means it is more basic and less acidic. More acidic water can leech lead from pipes.

Fifty water distribution samples from customers' buildings are checked for lead every three years. One customer sample exceeded the lead action level and was notified. The measurements ranged from undetected to 36.3 micrograms per liter. Compliance is determined by the 90th percentile, which was 2.63. The Action Level set by the EPA is 15 micrograms per liter.

**Lead in customers' plumbing**—Columbia Water & Light's system, in most instances, ends at the customers' meters. Pipes from the meter to the building and any interior pipes are private property. If a person has an older building where there are lead pipes or lead might have been used in soldering two pipes together, the customer could have higher levels of lead than the water supplied by Columbia Water & Light. If a person wants to check lead levels at their building, there are several labs in the area that do lead testing for water. As a public entity, Columbia Water & Light cannot endorse any private lab to do the lead testing.

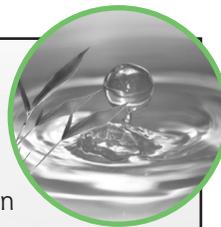
For more information about Columbia's water, see the Water Quality Report or the complete listing of water quality results. The information for the previous year is posted each spring at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) (search "water quality" or "water testing") or call 573-874-2489 to have a copy mailed to you.

## Summer changes to water disinfection

During the summer months, the Department of Natural Resources recommends Columbia Water & Light switch from the chloramine (chlorine plus ammonia) to the chlorine disinfection process. Switching to chlorine reduces nitrification caused by the chloramine disinfection method.

Customers might notice more of a chlorine taste and smell until the fall when the disinfection method is changed back to chloramine disinfection. Customers who are sensitive to the chlorine taste can fill a pitcher with water and wait for several hours to drink it. Activated carbon filters will also reduce the chlorine taste. Customers using filters are urged to replace filters as recommended by the manufacturer to reduce the risk of harmful microorganisms forming.

There are many types of disinfection processes that can be used for water. Each has their own pros and cons. Some methods can be very costly and don't guarantee that the water will continue to be safe all the way from the treatment plant to the customer's faucet. The chlorine/chloramine disinfection methods are the best way to make sure the water stays disinfected through the entire water system.



## City of Columbia's Fourth of July Fire in the Sky



Celebrate the Fourth of July at the City of Columbia's 64th Annual Fire in the Sky event. Free activities and entertainment will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Music and children's activities will take place at Flat Branch Park at Fourth and Cherry streets and the entertainment main stage will be at MU's Peace Park on Elm between Sixth and Eighth streets. Fireworks will begin at 9:15 p.m. and will be launched from the top of the parking garage at Sixth and Cherry. They will be choreographed to music simulcast on KBXR 102.3.

Food trucks will be available and parking will be free downtown and on the University campus. Attendees should bring a blanket or lawn chairs; alcohol and fireworks are not allowed.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 573-874-7460 or visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov).

*Presented by Columbia Insurance Group and KOMU 8*

*Sponsored by KBXR 102.3, KFRU 1400, Convention & Visitors Bureau and Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club*

*Coordinated by Columbia Parks and Recreation*

## Connecting [with] Cops



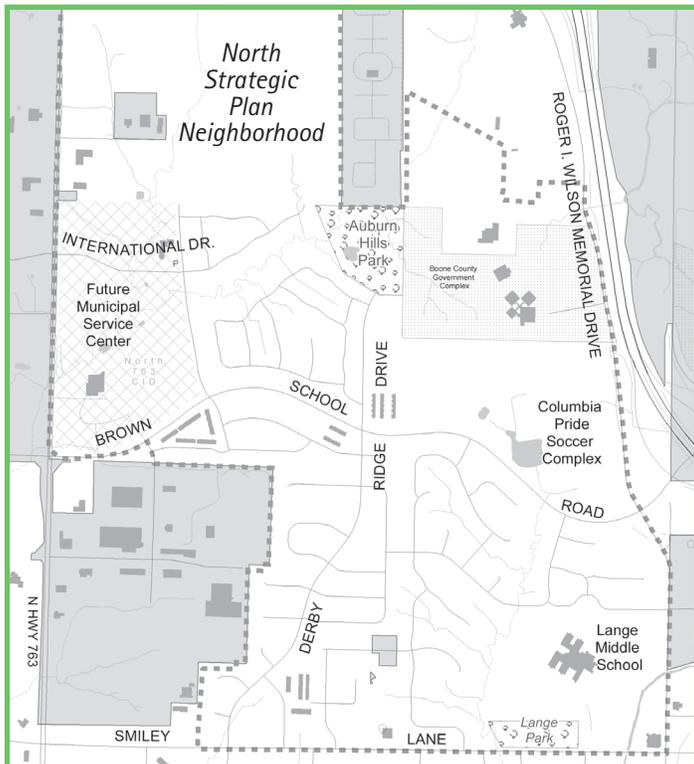
Officers Scott Lenger (left) and Tony Parker are assigned to the Strategic Plan's north focus neighborhood in CPD's Community Outreach Unit.

Whether dressed in their best dress uniform or flaunting their bright green and purple tutus at the Derby Ridge Elementary School Dragon Dash 5k in April, Officer Scott Lenger and Officer Tony Parker are always putting smiles on the faces of residents in the north Strategic Plan neighborhood.

Lenger and Parker have a combined service of over eight years with the Columbia Police Department and bring vast knowledge to the Community Outreach Unit (COU). Along with spending several hours per shift befriending students in the north neighborhood schools, Lenger and Parker work diligently to organize neighborhood improvement projects including April's clean-up of the Auburn Hills neighborhood and this month's North Neighborhood Barbecue.

"[There is] nothing more satisfying than seeing this community come together for one common goal," Parker said.

To keep up with what events are coming up in the North Neighborhood, you can follow Lenger and Parker on Twitter at @CPDScottCoMo and @CPDTonyCoMo, or you can visit the Columbia Police Department website at [CoMo.gov/Police](http://CoMo.gov/Police).



## Strategic Plan—Contact Center

As part of the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, the Contact Center was developed to eventually provide citizens with a one-call resolution for City services. The Contact Center began taking calls for Solid Waste in April 2014, and has since added phone numbers for Public Works and part of City Utilities. As part of the Operational Excellence strategic priority in the current 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, the City will increase the percentage of citizens who know who to contact for City services by 6 percent by 2019 with the public launch of the Contact Center telephone number by 2018 and the development of a citywide communication plan. Please call 573-874-2489 to reach the Contact Center for Public Works and City Utilities services.

## Operation Clean Streets visits Indian Hills

The City's third Operation Clean Streets event visited the Indian Hills neighborhood and park on Friday, April 22. Fifty City employees along with a handful of resident volunteers worked to clean along the streets and sidewalks, remove vegetation in the right of way, install street signs and pick up litter. Participants also worked in Indian Hills Park on painting projects and mulching the disc golf course.

Operation Clean Streets has been held in the spring and fall to allow City staff to have a special work day on City streets. The Indian Hills area was selected as it is in the City's east Strategic Plan focus neighborhood.



## Save Energy While Staying Cool!

As the summer temperatures increase, consider keeping your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting to 78°F (26°C) only when you are at home and need cooling. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature, and a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting by about 4 degrees with no reduction in comfort.



[ComoEnergyChallenge.com](http://ComoEnergyChallenge.com)

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

## New utility billing software

Utility Customer Service (UCS) continues to work on implementing the new billing software. UCS did not feel the software was ready to go live in May and a future date has yet to be determined. UCS anticipates mid-summer depending on system functionality. When a firm date for the conversion is determined information will be released to the public. When the date is set to go live the Utility Customer Service lobbies will be closed temporarily. Every effort will be made to let customers know of those closures. The majority of meter reading cycle changes have been completed so please check to see if you have a new bill due date. UCS still plans to mail letters to each customer prior to the software conversion. Again, UCS thanks you in advance for your continued patience as we work through this billing software change.

## Cleanup Columbia a success

The City's single largest volunteer event was held on Saturday, April 9 with the annual Cleanup Columbia, a city-wide trash pickup event. Volunteer Programs staff, who organized the event, report that 1,419 volunteers picked up litter in more than 130 locations, logging 2,631 hours of service and picking up 1,622 bags of trash.

Many thanks to event sponsors: Columbia Daily Tribune, 102.3 BXR, KFRU AM 1400, KOMU TV 8, the Mid-Missouri CW, Landmark Bank and Sonshine Graphics. City of Columbia Utilities—Solid Waste and Columbia Parks and Recreation provided special assistance.

**Cleanup Columbia 2017 will be held April 8.** To learn more, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).

**POWER UP  
TO  
CLEAN UP!**



Pictures courtesy of Willie Jones

## Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

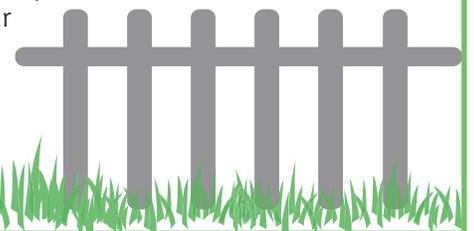
### July

4	Fire in the Sky, Flat Branch Park/The District, Entertainment at 6:30, Fireworks after 9 p.m., FREE
4	Special swim hours at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, Douglass Family Aquatic Center, Lake of the Woods Pool and Little Mates Cove, 12-5 p.m.
7	Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Community Band, 7 p.m., FREE
8	Movies in the Park, Lego Movie, Cosmo Park, 9 p.m., FREE
9	SPLAT! Junior Obstacle Course Mud Run, Gans Creek Recreation Area, times vary according to wave, \$25, must pre-register
10	National Teddy Bear Picnic Day, Douglass Park, 4-6 p.m., Free, space limited
16	DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-8 p.m., FREE
17	Lawn Chair Concert Series: Douglass Park, 4 p.m., FREE
20	Family Fun Fest: Fitness is Fun, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE
22-24	Show Me State Games
29-31	Show Me State Games
30	DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-8 p.m., FREE

## Code Corner—fencing

Robert Frost shared with us, "Good fences make good neighbors." Good fences are also required by the City's Property Maintenance Code. There isn't a requirement to get a building permit to construct a fence, however, fences are considered an accessory structure that "shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair." Fences should also not be constructed in the right of way and not cause a sight obstruction for traffic.

Contact the Office of Neighborhood Services at 573-817-5050 or [neighborhood@CoMo.gov](mailto:neighborhood@CoMo.gov) if you have a question or concern about a code issue in your neighborhood.



## June Volunteers of the Month—Gary & Linda Shillito



Gary & Linda Shillito

After retiring to Columbia in 2010, Gary and Linda Shillito have done anything but slow down. The couple volunteers for a plethora of organizations, including: Tree

Keepers, Adopt-a-Spot, the Missouri Honeysuckle Removal Project, Room at the Inn, Saturdays for Seniors, Loaves and Fishes, The Wardrobe and the Women's Auxiliary of the Salvation Army.

"We feel it is a privilege to give back to our adopted community through volunteer activities," the couple said.

Volunteering in a wide range of organizations gives the Shillitos personal satisfaction, and a way to build community connections and fulfill community needs.

In their spare time, the couple actively maintains a home garden with a waterfall, koi pond, stream bed and rain gardens but is always ready to drop the tools and spend time with their six grandchildren.

To learn more about volunteering with the City, visit our website or contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).

*Written by volunteer Abby Holman*



## Race and Equity Forum

On Tuesday, May 3 around 100 community members attended a Race and Equity Forum hosted by the City of Columbia and community partners. Carla London of Columbia Public Schools presented on how perceptions can impact interactions between teachers, students and parents. This was followed by a poverty exercise meant to demonstrate the tough financial decisions Columbia families make every day. Adrian Clifton, president of Worley St. Roundtable, commented on the creation of the organization and their work with the school system. To find more detailed information about this event and future events, visit the city calendar at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov).

## Fair Housing and Lending Seminar

The 2016 Fair Housing and Lending Seminar was hosted at City Hall on April 8 with a crowd of about 70 people from the community. During the event, Second Ward Councilman Michael Trapp presented a proclamation declaring April 2016 Fair Housing Month.

Topics included state and federal fair housing and lending laws, service animals, affordable housing, best practice tips, and implicit bias and its effects on fair housing and lending.

The event also included a programs fair which allowed participants to meet with representatives of different housing, neighborhood, energy efficiency and sustainability programs.

This free annual seminar supports the City's strategic priority of social equity by providing fair housing and lending education to allow all people access to fair housing which will strengthen our neighborhoods and allow all families to thrive.

The event was sponsored by City of Columbia Human Rights Commission, the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, the Columbia Housing Authority and the Columbia Apartment Association.



## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

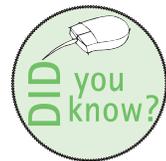
*Application deadline July 8 at 5 p.m.*

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission
- Board of Electrical Examiners
- Building Construction Codes Commission

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) or at the City Clerk's office. Call 573-874-7208 for more information.

## Web did you know?

Interested in working for the City? See seasonal, temporary, part-time and full-time jobs that are available at the City by going to [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) and clicking on the blue "Jobs" button.



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](http://CoMo.gov)

**MAYOR**  
**Brian Treece**

## CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



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