

CITYSOURCE

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March 2016



Your source for City news and information



Cleanup Columbia scheduled for Saturday, April 9

Columbia's 20th annual city-wide litter pickup event, Cleanup Columbia, will be held Saturday, April 9. Volunteers are invited to help pick up trash all over town — along streets and trails and in parks and streams. Cleanup Columbia is a great service activity for individuals of all ages and abilities and groups of all sizes. Each year, more than 1,500 volunteers participate.

City staff will match volunteers to a cleanup location and will provide bags, gloves and safety equipment. T-shirts will be provided while supplies last. Cleanup will be held throughout the morning of April 9 and volunteers can set their own start time.

To register, visit GoColumbiaMo.com and search "Cleanup Columbia" or call Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499.



Columbia receives budget award for 20th consecutive year

For the 20th consecutive year, the City of Columbia has received an award for the budget that represents significant achievement. In January, the City was presented with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

"I'm profoundly proud of our team, lead so well by Budget Officer Laura Peveler and Finance Director John Blattel. This is a rare and gratifying achievement," City Manager Mike Matthes said.

According to GFOA, the award "reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting".

"This award is affirmation from an independent source that the City's budget is transparent and conforms to professional standards," Finance Director John Blattel said.

There are four guidelines that are used to assess an entity's budget: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Budget documents are evaluated separately by three reviewers who are GFOA professional staff or have experience in public sector budgeting. To receive the award, the budget documents must be collectively rated by the reviewers as "proficient" in all categories as well as the fourteen mandatory criteria within the four categories.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award was first given out in 1984. To be considered for the award, budget documents are accepted from any state and local government entity. 1,491 entities were given the award for budgets that began in 2014.



Grindstone Creek Trail Development

The construction of the 1.75-mile Grindstone Creek Trail has been completed and is open for trail users. This new concrete trail routes from Grindstone Nature Area under Old Hwy. 63 through Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area. The trail generally follows Grindstone Creek to the confluence of the north and south forks, and then angles north to Maguire Boulevard. At Grindstone Nature Area, it connects to the Hinkson Creek Trail, which makes up part of the southern portion of the proposed 30-mile trail loop around the city.

Grindstone Creek Trail connects an estimated 3,000 employees in the industrial area off of Maguire Boulevard and 5,000 surrounding residents to the Columbia Trail System. Because of the scenery surrounding the creek and rock bluffs, Grindstone Creek Trail provides one of the loveliest routes in the trail system.

This trail development was funded by the voter-approved Park Sales Tax.

Affordable Housing Symposium success



More than 130 people attended the City of Columbia's Affordable Housing Symposium on Dec. 3 and 4, including a broad range of individuals and organizations. The event served as a forum to educate and share information regarding current and future affordable housing needs in Columbia.

The three main objectives of the symposium were:

1. Educate community leaders and a diverse group of key stakeholders on current affordable housing needs and current approaches to creating and funding more affordable housing.
2. Engage community leaders to help us define the problem, causes, impact and solutions to affordable housing in Columbia and begin mapping a plan to address the need.
3. Identify actionable steps for moving forward to address the need for more affordable housing.

Participants generated a prioritized list of approaches to address affordable housing in Columbia that serves as the foundation to an action plan.

The top five priorities are:

1. Create a housing trust fund.
2. Intentional affordable housing City Council policy (incentives for builders/developers).
3. Creating incentives and removing disincentives.
4. Create a Director of Affordable Housing at the City of Columbia.
5. City Council adopts a resolution stating affordable housing as a community priority and a basic human right.

The City is beginning work on the number one need identified by determining the feasibility of forming a local Community Land Trust organization, and developing a strategic plan for operations. The City will be seeking additional community input during the process. A Community Land Trust will serve as the foundation for ensuring that additional affordable housing tools and investments used by the City will be protected for the future.

To learn more about the symposium, visit GoColumbiaMo.com and search 'affordable housing'.

New detailed utility bills coming this spring

Columbia utility customers can expect to see changes in the next few months as the City converts to a new billing system. The projected "go live" date for the new software is tentatively scheduled for May 2016. Utility bills will have a new look, be simpler to understand and contain additional information for the customer. For example, one of the new features will be graphs showing the previous year's utility usage. Utility Customer Service will be mailing out additional information to customers about the new bill.

Utility Customer Service

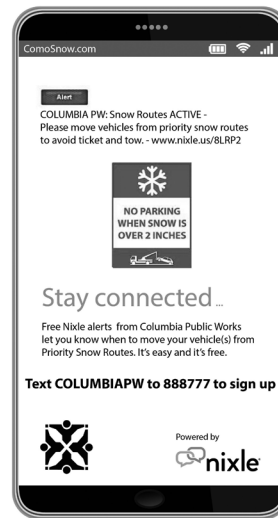
- 573-874-7380
- 573-443-0633 (TTY)

Nixle



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

Free Nixle alerts from Columbia Public Works let you know when to move your vehicle(s) from Priority Snow Routes. It's easy and it's free.



Celebrate Earth Hour 2016!

Earth Hour 2016 will be held on Saturday, March 19, between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. Each year, the event takes place worldwide towards the end of March, and it encourages individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol for their commitment to the planet. Be part of the global movement while helping with our CoMo Energy Challenge goal of reducing local energy use.



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ComoEnergyChallenge.com

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

Neighborhood best practices: Nextdoor

In this social media age, there are multiple ways for neighbors to stay connected: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are just the start. Another useful, and completely secure, way for neighbors to communicate online is Nextdoor. According to their website, Nextdoor is "the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community." At its most basic, Nextdoor is an online Neighborhood Watch, a way for neighbors to stay connected and to report any strange goings-on in the neighborhood. You can also schedule events, form groups on certain topics (cleanup planning committee, create a pool of teenagers interested in doing odd jobs around the neighborhood, etc.) or set up a neighborhood classifieds section.

Registering is easy and free. Just go to nextdoor.com to sign up. If there is already a Nextdoor group for your neighborhood, the neighborhood lead will be contacted to approve your registration. If there is no Nextdoor group, you will be invited to create one. Again, this system is secure, and only residents of your neighborhood can be members of the Nextdoor group.

The future of transit

Transportation is an important issue in our community that affects all of us. You may have noticed that Columbia's public transit system experienced many changes in the last few years to provide a more modern and efficient service for the community, but we still have a ways to go. Now we are starting our next phase of long-term planning for the system, and we want the public's help to shape the short and long-term plans for public transit in Columbia.

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



City Council puts transmission project on hold

After a special, second public hearing on Jan. 19 the Columbia City Council voted 4-3 against continuing work on transmission lines along the previously approved Option A route. Work on the Option A route has stopped and the Columbia Electric Transmission Line Project has been postponed until further direction from City Council.

At the public hearing, City Council requested that Columbia Water & Light (CW&L) answer several questions about the project before any decisions are made. Future meetings will be scheduled on how to move the transmission line project forward in order to meet the city's electrical needs and federal requirements.

To date, CW&L has encumbered \$7.3 million for the project including substation land, 161 kilovolt substation equipment and engineering work such as surveying, soil studies, utility locating, pole design and preliminary pole placement. Some of the money spent on the project could be recovered but changing route options could result in budget changes.

The need for a new substation and new transmission lines in Columbia was identified in 2007 during an electric reliability assessment. Following the public hearing in 2013, the City Council voted to approve Option A. Line design and procurement for the previously approved route began in 2014. At an open house in September 2015, some concerns were raised by people who lived or worked along route Option A. In November 2015, City Council voted to hold another public hearing and work along the route was put on hold at that time.

Look for more updates on City Council action for this project on GoColumbiaMo.com.

Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

April

2	Kite Flying Day, Douglass Park, 12-2 p.m., FREE
16	Yappy Hour, Twin Lakes Recreation Area Dog Park, 3-6 p.m., Call to pre-register and for pricing, 573-874-7460
16	Youth Introduction to Track and Field, Hickman High School, 9 a.m. check-in, \$5, must pre-register
23	MLB Pitch, Hit and Run, Location TBD, 9:30 a.m. check-in, FREE
27	Tons of Trucks, Target parking lot at Columbia Mall, 4-7 p.m., FREE

Renewable energy conference

The 11th annual Advancing Renewables in the Midwest conference is being held at the University of Missouri on April 11 and 12. Speakers from across the nation will address issues surrounding programs, policies and projects that are at the forefront of renewable energy.

The conference is hosted by Columbia Water & Light, the University of Missouri Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences College and the Missouri Department of Economic Development—Division of Energy.

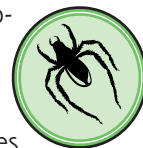
For more information about the conference please go to AdvancingRenewables.org.

Code Corner—infestations

Dealing with pest infestations are never pleasant. When there is an infestation, especially in multi-family housing, there are questions of who is responsible.

The International Property Maintenance Code states that, "All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent infestation." In buildings with multiple dwelling units, the owner shall be responsible for extermination in the public or shared areas of the structure and exterior property. If an infestation is caused by failure of an occupant to prevent the infestation, the occupant is responsible for extermination.

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) inspects rental property and handles code enforcement cases with a focus on residential areas. If ONS can help you, please call us at 573-817-5050.



March Volunteer of the Month—Mike Trial



Mike Trial

Since May of 2014, Mike Trial has provided assistance with prairie management at Bonnie View Park, where his impact has been strongly felt. Along with managing the land, Mike has designed educational signage for park patrons to understand the value and significance of native plants and why it's important to promote their use in our community.

"His impact has been most strongly felt at Bonnie View Park," Supervisor Brett O'Brien said. "His efforts has helped us encourage native plants and minimized invasive exotic species in the prairie area".

Challenges such as weather, invasive plants and site conditions didn't stop Mike from persevering to continue the preservation of Bonnie View Prairie Loop Trail. His personable and friendly nature has helped recruit and bring volunteers together to help the Parks and Recreation Department complete projects like this.

To learn more about how you can volunteer with the City of Columbia, visit the City's website or contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Written by volunteer Abby Holman



Bonnie View Prairie Circle seeding (Jan. 31, 2016)

Fair Housing and Lending Seminar

Come celebrate fair housing month at the City's Fair Housing and Lending Seminar. This free public event features experts who will talk about fair housing laws, service animals, complaint investigations, affordable housing and implicit bias. There will also be an opportunity to meet with City staff and learn about programs the City offers for improving housing and homeownership, increasing energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, and strengthening neighborhoods. The seminar is on Friday, April 8 at City Hall, 701 E. Broadway. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:15 a.m., and the program starts at 9 a.m. For more information and to register, visit GoColumbiaMo.com and search "Fair Housing."

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household Hazardous Waste Collection opens April 2 and continues the first and third Saturdays from April through November. It's open from 8 a.m. to noon at the Grissum Building, 1313 Lakeview. Drop off unwanted paint, household cleaners, motor oil, batteries and much more for safe disposal. Volunteers are instrumental in the success of this program and assist by greeting the public, directing traffic and stirring paint. To learn more or get involved call 573-874-2489 or email volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Composting Workshops

Composting is the solution for grass clippings, weeds and leaves produced in yards during the growing season. Composting is nature's way of recycling organics to keep them out of the landfill while creating a usable product. Columbia's Volunteer Programs, in cooperation with Public Works, offers compost workshops. Obtain the knowledge to start composting at home. Workshops are offered April 24, May 17, July 27 and Sept. 7 and are approximately one hour in length. For more details and to register, visit the City's online calendar at GoColumbiaMo.com. If you are experienced and passionate about composting and want to share your knowledge with others, we would love to add you as a compost program volunteer. For more information call 573-874-6271 or email volunteer@gocolumbia-mo.com.



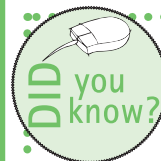
Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline April 8 at 5 p.m.

- Board of Adjustment
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Liquor License Review Board
- Planning and Zoning Commission

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



Web did you know?

To learn more about the City's budget and general fund, visit GoColumbiaMo.com and search "Budget 102".

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
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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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