

www.GoColumbiaMo.com

# CITYSOURCE

vol. 17 • No. 11 • November 2015



Your source for City news and information



## Determining electric transmission pole locations

Electric transmission lines are being added along Scott Boulevard, Vawter School Road, Nifong Boulevard and Grindstone Parkway to ensure electricity is reliably delivered to the community. This route was approved by the City Council in 2013. Work commenced in 2014, which included surveying the approved route, locating the existing utilities and testing the soil. Results of this work helped to determine preliminary transmission pole locations, which were announced at an open house in late September. The proposed locations of the structures can be viewed on the project website at **PoweringColumbia.com**. Go to the Map page, and click on "See Route Detail."

There were a number of factors that were taken into consideration before determining where the transmission poles would be located along the route. Those factors include: working around existing underground utilities, street intersection locations, existing easements, space/lengths between each pole, soil stability, location of buildings and future construction plans for along the route. Final transmission pole placement will be decided in 2016, and construction will begin in 2017.

These electric transmission lines and a new substation are being added to help meet federal reliability mandates required of Columbia Water & Light. Although the new lines are being installed on the south side of Columbia, the project will benefit all electric customers. Once the new substation and transmission lines are in place, the load on several of the existing Columbia substations will be reduced which improves system-wide reliability.

For questions or comments about this project, please fill out the form at **PoweringColumbia.com/contact/** or call 844-244-7870 to leave a message with your question, and a representative will get back to you as soon as possible.

## 'Tis the season for holiday travel

Whether leaving town for an extended holiday visit, or moving out of Columbia permanently, please update contact information (address and phone number) with Utility Customer Service (UCS). Many accounts go delinquent over the holiday season because UCS does not have correct mailing information. Customers leaving town for a month or more may also provide a temporary alternate mailing address, then go back to receiving bills at the service address when returning to Columbia. Go online to **GoColumbiaMo.com**, click "Utilities" and submit the form to update contact information, or call 573-874-7380. Go to this same link to register for online account access and bill payment to stay on top of the account while out of town. UCS would like to wish all our customers a safe, healthy, holiday season.

## Get a ride to the game



If you're headed to a Mizzou home football game this fall, check out the special COMO Connect bus service for game days. There are bus stops located around town and at your favorite parking and pre-game spots downtown. Rides are only \$1.50 each way before and after the game. Please visit **COMOconnect.org** for maps and schedules.

## Budget breakdown



In September, the Columbia City Council approved the fiscal year 2016 budget. The budget has expenditures of just under \$455 million and does not impose new taxes on residents. Each month we'll focus on different parts of the budget to show you how the money is being spent.

## Summertime spike in shots fired

It was a troubling feeling that may have become all too familiar this past summer as several reports of shots fired were heard throughout the City of Columbia. In June, July and August, the Columbia Police Department (CPD) responded to 129 shots fired calls—out of which 26 were confirmed and reports were taken. During the same span in 2014, there were 93 calls and 22 confirmed shot fired incidents.

Nationwide spikes in crime are often seen during the summer months. There are always a number of factors that come into play with any crime trend. CPD analyzes and tracks trends and patterns as they arise and responds with resources in an attempt to prevent future acts of violence from occurring. CPD's Street Crimes Unit conducted a saturation detail in July that resulted in 98 traffic stops and 35 arrests. These arrests included felony and misdemeanor warrants, some related to shots fired reports.

It's a team effort. To solve crimes, CPD officers need witness cooperation and anonymous tips to the CrimeStoppers line are always helpful. According to Columbia/Boone County CrimeStoppers, approximately 12 calls with anonymous tips pertaining to incidents with firearms were received during June, July and August. Let's continue to work together as a community to combat this crime. If you have any information on recent or past shots fired incidents, please contact the Columbia Police Department, or call CrimeStoppers at 573-875-TIPS to remain anonymous.

## Get your flu vaccine

It's that time of year again – if you are six months or older, stop by the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services for your annual flu vaccination. The flu vaccine is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the clinic, 1005 West Worley. The vaccine is free to children under 19 years old. For adults, the clinic can bill insurance or you can pay \$25. No appointment is needed; walk-ins are welcome.


Learn more at: [GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/fluclinicschedule.php](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/fluclinicschedule.php). For flu updates and more check us out on Facebook at [facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept](http://facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept) and on Twitter at [@CoMo\\_HealthDept](https://twitter.com/CoMo_HealthDept).

### Size Matters

Did you know a six-inch pan on an eight-inch burner will waste more than 40 percent of the energy?

*Match the size of the pan to the size of the heating element when cooking to save energy.*

[comoenergychallenge.com](http://comoenergychallenge.com)  
Brought to you by the CoMo Energy Challenge. Competing for \$5 million and change.



## Expanded plastics recycling



**PP**  
**Polypropylene**

Columbia Public Works now accepts #1 through #7 plastic containers in our recycling stream. You can now place more plastics in your blue bag for curbside pickup or in the bins at the drop off locations across town.

This month, we'll focus on # 5 plastic containers. Common examples of # 5 plastic containers include: Some yogurt containers, syrup bottles, ketchup bottles, caps and medicine (pill) bottles.

# 5 plastics are commonly recycled into: signal signs, battery cables, brooms, brushes, auto battery cases, ice scrapers, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, bins, pallets and cafeteria trays.

## Affordable Housing Symposium

Affordable housing often tops the list of issues important for our community. The City of Columbia will be hosting an Affordable Housing Symposium event on the afternoon and evening of Dec. 3 and the morning of Dec. 4 at City Hall, 701 E. Broadway. The event will provide a forum for education, information sharing and discussion of current and future affordable housing needs. Innovative approaches to addressing affordable housing will also be discussed.

The event will feature local speakers providing presentations on current needs, energy efficiency, universal design, construction costs, poverty, financing and more. The event will include keynote presentations from experts on innovative affordable housing efforts. Keynote speakers include the Mayor of Missoula, Montana John Engen, Rick Wishcamper of Rocky Mountain Development Group and the City of Boulder, Colorado's Inclusionary Housing Program Manager, Michelle Allen. The event will also include opportunities for input to help shape the future of affordable housing efforts in Columbia. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important event.

## 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.

There are many times when CASH and HELP assistance programs run out of funding on the first week of the month. By giving a little extra, to one or both programs, you can help someone in our community a great deal.

- 573-874-7380
- [GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Forms/cash-help.php](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Forms/cash-help.php)

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

## Street Talk – Onyx Sealer



Columbia Public Works is evaluating Onyx, a roadway sealer designed to extend the life of roadways before they require major maintenance.

Onyx was applied to several miles of Columbia's roads late this summer and early fall. The application begins with crews using blowers to clear small debris from the road surface. A three-person crew then applies Onyx with a hand wand to the edges of the roadway. The crews use a blocker-board to keep overspray off lawns, curbs and gutters. A few minutes later, an application truck applies Onyx to a single lane. It takes about 20 minutes for Onyx to cure. After the first lane cures, Onyx is applied to the second lane.

Onyx is roughly the same cost as the current chip and seal method. It helps increase traction, and the product maintains a very dark color which can provide significant contrast to the yellow and white lane marking paints when used.

If the product performs as it has for other agencies like Boone County Resource Management and MoDOT, residents are likely to see an increased use of the product in the future, meaning we may be able to invest more resources into maintaining important roadway infrastructure.

## College Avenue Safety Enhancement Project



The College Avenue Safety Enhancement Project was completed on schedule on Aug. 21 as promised. Despite a wet start on May 18, which lasted through a good portion of July, the contractor and the project managers were able to keep the project moving forward with no delays. The project was completed on-time and on-budget.

The College Avenue Safety Enhancement project goal is to make a portion of College Avenue between University Avenue and Rollins Street safer for both pedestrians and motorists. The first mid-block crossings in Columbia using a High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon (HAWK) signal will allow us to evaluate the use of HAWK signals at other mid-block pedestrian crossings. Learn more about the project at [MakeTheCaseProject.com](http://MakeTheCaseProject.com).

## Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

### December

5	Santa Hotline, children ages 3-7 call 573-874-7473 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
5	City Kwanzaa Celebration, Douglass High School, 2-5 p.m., FREE
12	It's a Wonderful Ride: Holiday Lights Bicycle Tour, Meet at Lucky's, 111 S. Providence, 6 p.m., FREE
18	Holiday Lights and Sights Tour, Meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 or 7:45-9 p.m., \$7.50 per person, must pre-register
31	Columbia Eve Fest 5K Run/Walk, Flat Branch Park, 4 p.m.
31	Columbia Eve Fest: A New Year's Eve Celebration, The District, 7 p.m. to midnight, admission button is \$6 for ages 7 and over, \$8 at the door

## Code Corner: sidewalk snow removal

When it snows, having a clear sidewalk can be very helpful to those who may be walking to school, 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.

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



## Volunteer of the Month—Alexis Collins

One of the best ways to volunteer is to do what you do best, and for Alexis Collins, that is dance. Alexis serves as the Sho Me Sho Stopper Hip Hop dance teacher for the Armory Sports and Community Center, choreographing moves for the boys and girls to perform at events and for friends and family. The class is offered through Columbia Parks & Recreation.



"I saw this as an opportunity to give back to a community that had once embraced me as a child, by going there to teach children what I do best," Alexis said. "This is by far one of the best decisions that I have made."

Alexis approaches her job as an outlet for the students she teaches, allowing them to express themselves and their emotions. She said if a student had a low day, this openness gives them a support group that can encourage and help the students grow.

"There is no better feeling than that of giving back to your community," Alexis said. "Their excitement when they get to learn new choreography, their smiles, their laughter and even their stubbornness makes me want to keep coming back. They are the most intelligent and hilarious group of children. I feel a sense of fulfillment when we huddle up at the end of each class, knowing that they took something different away each class. They have changed my life."

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit our website, call 573-874-7499 or email [volunteer@GoColumbiaMO.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMO.com).

*Written by volunteer Abby Holman*

## Holiday toys for Columbia's youth

Please help area children this holiday season. When you are out shopping, please pick 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 South Seventh Street.

Toys and monetary donations will also be accepted through Dec. 11. 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.

## New membership for 50+ program

Columbia Parks and Recreation 50+ Programs & Tours and Osher Lifelong Learning are partnering to offer a membership rate that includes both programs. A "Taste of Osher and Parks and Rec" membership costs \$40.

Classes and activities are held at the Water-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area in the Hillcrest Community Center and Moss Buildings at 1907 Hillcrest Drive. Check Parks and Recreation's Leisure Times activity guide at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com)

### Search:

"Senior/50+" or the Osher course catalog at [extension.missouri.edu/osher](http://extension.missouri.edu/osher). Contact the Hillcrest Front Desk for more information at 573-874-7475.

## Neighborhood best practices: block parties

Columbia's Ridgeway Neighborhood is an active and vibrant part of the fabric of Columbia, and on Sept. 6 the community came together to celebrate. Neighbor Leslie Rigdon worked with the Ridgeway Neighborhood Association, the Downtown Optimist Club and Karis Church, among many other agencies, on holding a block party in the 200 block of West Forest Avenue. Ridgeway Neighborhood Association treasurer Pat Kelley said, "We've been organizing events in the Ridgeway Neighborhood for almost 20 years but we have never closed off a block to traffic and had an event that was just about fun and doing something for neighborhood kids. Leslie had a wonderful idea for a unique event."

This gathering is a shining example for other neighborhoods to follow—getting out of the house and simply spending fun quality time with our neighbors is a great way to build stronger social bonds in our community. If you are interested in holding a block party in your neighborhood and need assistance, please contact us at [bpcantin@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:bpcantin@gocolumbiamo.com) or 573-874-7248 and we will be happy to work with you.

## Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

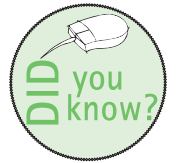
*Application deadline: Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.*

- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement Board

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

## Web did you know?

You can track COMO Connect city buses in real time with live route maps and an estimated time of arrival for any bus stop. View online at [COMOconnect.org](http://COMOconnect.org) or download the free COMO Connect app for your mobile device.



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](http://GoColumbiaMo.com)

**MAYOR**  
Bob McDavid

## 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>



Printed on recycled paper