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CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Message from the Chief of Police

Dear Community Members,

The Columbia Police Department is committed to making Columbia a safer, more viable community for our residents and visitors.

As of June 2015, the city has been afflicted with over a 45 percent increase in residential and commercial burglaries. These burglaries have affected residents and business owners in all areas of Columbia. Out of 385 reported burglaries as of June, 161 incidents have included no forced entry—unlocked doors, windows, and garages. Throughout the last two months our department has focused resources on burglary suppression. Two detectives within the Criminal Investigations Division have been reassigned to all open burglary cases. These detectives are working with patrol officers in their assigned beats to collect information from neighborhoods regarding suspicious circumstances or people in the area. We have utilized our message board in “hotspot” areas to remind citizens to take proper precautions, including locking all doors and windows to vehicles and residences. Additionally, crime alerts and prevention tips have been posted to our web/social media sites.

Our efforts, combined with excellent information from neighbors reporting suspicious activity, have yielded several arrests and a large amount of recovered property in connection to the burglaries. Moving forward we will engage our department volunteers to contact neighborhood residents and provide burglary prevention material. We will continue working with the University of Missouri Police Department in efforts of educating new students in safety and crime prevention.

To further our mission of partnering with the community to solve problems, we remind you that YOU are an extension of our eyes and ears in this community. CPD has limited resources and we rely heavily on our residents to be the first line of defense in crime prevention. If you notice any suspicious activity or people in your neighborhood, report it. Working together, we can deter this crime and grow closer to having a city in which every resident, in every neighborhood, can feel safe and secure.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Burton

Chief of Police



Customer appreciation at the bus stop

Public transit riders will have at least 50 reasons to ride the city bus in September. There are free rides on all fixed city bus routes through September to celebrate the system’s 50-year anniversary. COMO Connect is also showing their appreciation for 50 years of the community’s support by hosting 50 customer appreciation events at 50 bus stops around town.

Key locations and high traffic areas will be selected for customer appreciation events. Transit staff members might be handing out free coffee to customers on their way to work. Or, there might be some surprise street-side entertainment on an unexpected afternoon as customers make their way through town. The freebies and fun will pop up at bus stops all across town and your best chance to join the celebration is at a bus stop near you and riding COMO Connect during September. Check out **COMOconnect.org** for more info.





Evaluating a new street maintenance sealer

Each year, Columbia Public Works seals an average of 25 miles of Columbia streets. The standard sealing method is known as chip and seal. A layer of liquid sealer and bonder is sprayed followed by the application of small rock chips. By sealing the roadway, the life expectancy is extended and major maintenance is reduced.

This year, Columbia Public Works will be evaluating the Onyx sealing product. Onyx is a mixture of liquid asphalt, fine aggregates, recycled products and bonding agents. It is applied using a truck which sprays the product onto the road surface. Onyx seals the road in one step to protect the road and minimize future maintenance treatments.

Onyx is roughly the same cost as the chip and seal process, it helps increase traction and the product maintains a very dark color which can provide significant contrast to the yellow and white lane marking paint.

Will Onyx replace chip and seal? Maybe. We will be evaluating the product over the next couple of years to ensure it provides equal or better value, durability, and sealing protection.



Thank you voters!

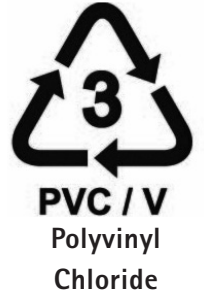
The City of Columbia appreciates the community's renewal of the quarter-cent sales tax. Projects that were approved for funding include streets, sidewalks, fire trucks, service centers and rehabilitation of city owned facilities.

Expanded plastics recycling

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 around town.

This month, we'll focus on # 3 plastic containers. Common examples of # 3 plastic containers include window cleaner, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles and cooking oil bottles.

3 plastics are commonly recycled into decks, paneling, mud flaps, roadway gutters, flooring, cables, speed bumps and mats.



Donate to Share the Light

Share the Light improves the quality of life in our community. The program provides additional funds for projects that are above and beyond basic services of city government. Donations can be made to six areas: public art, community beautification, youth recreation scholarships, public health, fire protection and crime prevention. All gifts made through the program are tax-deductible.

To donate to Share the Light, use the tear off form on your utility bill return envelope, sign up at GoColumbiaMo.com (search "share the light") or by calling 573-874-7380.

Website: did you know?

From the comfort of your own home, you can evaluate the efficiency of your house with Columbia Water & Light's online energy audit. If your house needs upgrades, take advantage of our rebates and low-interest loans.

columbiapowerpartners.com/free-energy-audit/online-audit/



STD testing

Stay healthy! You can take control and prevent future sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Get tested today! Testing is available at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, 1005 W. Worley in Columbia, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Testing is \$20 for Boone County residents and \$40 for those from outside Boone County. Extended hours are available Tuesdays until 7 p.m. for the same low price. For more information or to set up a specific appointment time, call (573) 874-7356.

Money can grow on trees

Did you know 3 properly placed, mature shade trees can save up to 30% of your home cooling costs? Plant yours soon!

comoenergychallenge.com

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



Electric customers: get a free shade tree through Tree Power GoColumbiaMo.com • 573-874-7325

Downtown Parking Audit Community Forum

Learn more & provide feedback

- Tuesday, September 22, 2015
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- City Council Chambers
- 701 E. Broadway

Columbia's work to make downtown economically viable, walkable and attractive was recognized by Smart Growth America. This national nonprofit organization advocates for better cities, towns and neighborhoods. They granted the City of Columbia a technical assistance workshop to receive hands-on assistance from national experts on smart growth parking solutions.

In August, volunteers and city staff members performed a parking audit to measure parking utilization and turnover in downtown and nearby neighborhoods. The results of the audit will be presented and discussed at the September 22 forum. The public is encouraged to attend and provide feedback. The feedback will be considered during a staff and stakeholder workshop to analyze audit results and make recommendations for the future of parking in central Columbia.

For additional information, visit GoColumbiaMo.com/PublicWorks/Parking/index.php or contact City Management Fellow Leah Christian at lcchrist@gocolumbiamo.com or 573-441-5515.

Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 874-7460 for more information.

October

4	Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day, Jay Dix Station, Bike Skills Course, 2-4 pm, ages 9-14, FREE
17	Bear Creek Run Half Marathon, Bear Creek Trail, 8 am, Ages 10 and up, \$40
20	Holiday Toy Drive begins
31	Spooktacular, TBA

Code Corner – clean your gutters

Cleaning out your gutters can be a chore. However, one of the most damaging things for your home is a full gutter. Cleaning your gutters prevents water from damaging your home. Full gutters are unattractive and may also lead to water damaging your soffit, fascia, the interior of your structure and the gutter itself.

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handles violations of the property maintenance code. If you have an issue where ONS can help, please call 573-817-5050.

College Avenue pedestrian safety project



Construction of the College Avenue median barrier for pedestrian safety. The base is a faux limestone design to tie it into University of Missouri buildings on the west side of campus. A black picket fence will top the faux stone wall.

The College Avenue Safety Enhancement project, between University Avenue and Rollins Street, is nearing completion. The project consists of a median barrier in the center of College, with two pedestrian crossing points controlled by signals. Motorists turning left from College onto Rosemary Lane and Wilson Avenue or left-hand turns from Rosemary and Wilson onto College will no longer be permitted.

The two pedestrian crossings will be regulated by H.A.W.K. (High-intensity Activated crossWalK beacon) signals. Pedestrians depress a "Push to Walk" sensor and will see a standard pedestrian crossing signal indicating when it is safe to cross the road. Upon activation, motorists will see a flashing yellow light which means prepare to stop. Two solid red lights will then appear instructing motorists to stop and yield to pedestrians. The two solid red lights will then begin to flash indicating to motorists that if the crosswalk is clear, motorist can proceed with caution. The signal will then go dark meaning motorist can resume normal travel. Visit our website, MakeTheCaseProject.com to learn more.

Volunteer of the Month—John Whiteford

If you have gotten a little too hot at a Mizzou football game, you may have already met CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) team member John Whiteford. John has served on the CERT Team for two years. This group is often used to assist firefighters at events such as fairs and sporting events.

CERT's goal is to better prepare citizens for the early stages of disaster, as emergency personnel usually aren't present. John and the people he works with act as the first line of defense for the public.

Not only does John work at the events, but he also spends time coordinating the volunteers that have signed up, ensuring that they are prepared for their assignments.

In addition to his volunteer work, John works as a lead dispatcher at Columbia Ready Mix.

To learn more about volunteering with the City, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or visit the City's website.

Written by volunteer Abby Holman

*"I enjoy
serving the
public."
John says.*

Fire safety reminders

When the weather turns cold most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces and heaters to keep warm. There's nothing quite as cozy as a fire, but it presents some safety hazards. Keep these tips in mind.

Service your furnace

Before the cold autumn and winter weather sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service your furnace. A specialist should inspect the furnace to make sure everything is in working order and that there are no leaks.

Use fireplaces safely

Keep that fire in its proper place by using a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Never leave a burning fire unattended and make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed.

Use caution with space heaters

If your space heater requires venting, make sure you have vented it to the outdoors. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home; only use space heaters that are approved for this purpose. Always allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters.

Renovations completed at Fairview Park

Columbia Parks and Recreation recently completed improvements at Fairview Park (1001 Fairview Road). The changes include a new playground, replacement of the park shelter and new walkways. The project also included the addition of a 20-car parking lot and walkway at neighboring Fairview Elementary School. The City of Columbia and Columbia Public Schools have an operating agreement that allows shared use of the lot, with the school district taking responsibility for its maintenance and upkeep.

Fairview Park renovations were funded by the Park Sales Tax and completed due to the age of the shelter, lack of playground and lack of parking on the west side of the park. All the capital projects on the Parks and Recreation 2010 ballot list have either been completed or are nearing completion.



The before and after photos show the refurbished shelter.

Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: October 9 at 5 p.m.

- Board of Adjustment
- Citizens Police Review Board
- Columbia Community Development Commission
- Commission on Cultural Affairs
- Substance Abuse Advisory Commission

Application deadline: Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

- Columbia Vision Commission
- Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health
- Personnel Advisory Board

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

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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