

# CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



## Columbia Values Diversity Award Winners

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Jan. 15. 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.

**Columbia CROP Hunger Walk** was awarded the 2015 Diversity Award for groups. Since 1997, Columbians from many local faith organizations have joined together to overcome hunger through the annual Columbia CROP Hunger Walk. Seventy five percent of the funds raised by the annual event is distributed by the Church World Service, which since 1946 has carried out global hunger education and provided money for refugees, disaster relief and self-help projects in more than 80 countries. Twenty five percent of the funds raised stays here in Columbia and is distributed to local hunger-related agencies. Contributions to the Columbia CROP Hunger Walk since 2001 have gone to agencies such as Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen, Russell Chapel Food Pantry, The Latter House and Feed the Community Program hosted by Fifth Street Christian.

The 2015 Diversity Award for an individual was presented to **Robert Harrison Sr.** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve...you only need a heart full of grace." Harrison has dedicated his adult life to serving those who are oftentimes forgotten by society. Since 2003, he has worked with Reality House Program, a community corrections and treatment center, and in 2012 became the client services director. Through his personal journey, Harrison has become a leader in this community and contributes daily to the recovery of others by exemplifying Dr. King's diligence to foster individual dignity and understanding.



*Columbia CROP Hunger Walk representatives  
with Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Hoppe.*

*Robert Harrison Sr.  
with Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Hoppe.*

## White named new fire chief



City Manager Mike Matthes appointed Randy E. White as fire chief, effective Feb. 1, 2015. He replaces Fire Chief Charles P. Witt Jr., who retired Jan. 31.

A 16-year veteran of the Columbia Fire Department, White has served as deputy chief for more than three years.

"I am extremely honored to be chosen as Columbia's next fire chief," White said. "This city's excellent fire department is a direct reflection of the tremendous support given to us by our customers, the citizens of Columbia and of the service provided by the proud men and women of the Columbia Fire Department."

"Randy is exceptionally well-prepared to take our Fire service into the future," Matthes said. "He came of age in a department that values service, protection and integrity and he will build on the foundation laid by his predecessors and colleagues."

White's experience includes steady progression from firefighter to engineer, lieutenant, captain and deputy chief in the Columbia department. He is active in regional and local emergency response programs and in communicating with citizens. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Truman State University.

## Button named REDI president

In January, Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI) welcomed its new president, Stacey Button. REDI is a public/private partnership incorporated 26 years ago to coordinate the economic development activities of the City, Boone County, the University and the local business community. This helps avoid the cost of duplicate efforts, harnesses the power of collaboration as partners work together toward common goals and stretches taxpayers' dollars by supplementing them with private investments. The president of REDI is also director of Economic Development for the City of Columbia. Button has experience and expertise in business attraction, retention, entrepreneurship and collaboration and also has family roots in mid-Missouri.



## Become a Columbia Tourism Ambassador



Each year, tourism spending in Boone County numbers in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The sales tax generated from this spending helps repair roads, support public safety efforts and enhance overall quality of life. The more visitors welcomed to the area each year leads to more spending and a higher economic impact from tourism.

Become a *Columbia Tourism Ambassador* and you can help achieve the mission and embrace the belief that tourism is a vital industry in Columbia. A positive visitor experience is critical to increasing the number of visitors, how much they spend and, most importantly, their desire to come back.

This is a national certification program and participants will improve their knowledge of the region, craft answers to frequently asked visitor questions, interact with peers, share best practices and develop a better understanding of their role in increasing tourism. All attendees have required pre-reading prior to attending a four-hour classroom session followed by an open-book examination. When completed, participants will be Certified Tourism Ambassadors™ (CTA) and have the tools and knowledge to create a memorable visitor experience.

Sign up online at [CTANetwork.com](http://CTANetwork.com) or contact the Convention & Visitors Bureau at 875-1231.

## Street Talk

By the end of 2015, the City of Columbia will have completed 11 of the 13 major roadway improvement projects approved by voters in 2005 as part of the ¼-cent capital improvement sales tax extension. The remaining two projects (in **bold** below) will be under construction in 2015. The projects include:

- Scott Boulevard Phase I from Rollins to Gillespie Bridge Road
- Scott Boulevard Phase II from Bellview to Vawter School Road
- **Scott Boulevard Phase III from Vawter School to State Route KK**
- Rolling Hills Road from Route WW to Richland Road
- Clark Lane from Ballenger to St. Charles Road
- Brown School Road from Range Line Street to Providence Road
- Mexico Gravel Road from Route PP to Hinkson Creek Road
- Vandiver Drive from US Highway 63 to Mexico Gravel Road
- Louisville Drive from Smith Drive to White Ash Drive
- Maguire Boulevard from Stadium Boulevard to Emily Drive
- Gans Road and the US Highway 63 overpass at Discovery Parkway
- **Providence Road safety enhancements between Rollins Street and Stadium Boulevard**

To continue to fund major roadway improvements and new roadways, the City will likely ask voters to approve an extension of the 2005 ¼-cent capital improvement sales tax, possibly in August. Should the City Council authorize the ballot issue, a clear list of proposed projects will be presented beforehand for voters to review.



"We appreciate your patience while we complete these projects. The improvements have upgraded our roadways and utility infrastructure, thus making travel in Columbia better," said Public Works Director John Glascock. "We look forward to working with you on future projects."

## City of Columbia wins competitive award to help with parking

Columbia's work to make downtown a more walkable, attractive destination has helped the city win a national, competitive award for technical assistance to develop solutions for parking issues.

Smart Growth America, a national nonprofit that advocates for better cities, towns and neighborhoods, announced that Columbia is among 14 winning communities that will receive a free technical assistance workshop in 2015. Through the program, Columbia will receive hands-on assistance from national experts on smart growth parking audits.

"Downtown parking has become an increasingly important issue in recent years," said Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas who, along with colleagues Michael Trapp (Ward 2) and Barbara Hoppe (Ward 6), helped City staff develop Columbia's proposal. "We were chosen by Smart Growth America in a very competitive process because of our engagement on alternative transportation solutions. I am now looking forward to bringing stakeholders together to learn about modern approaches to parking management and multimodalism and developing a consensus for policies that support a safe, accessible and economically-vibrant downtown District."

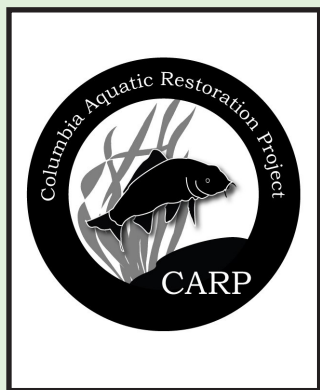
For additional information, visit [smartgrowthamerica.org](http://smartgrowthamerica.org) or contact City Management Fellow Leah Christian at [lcchrist@GoColumbia-Mo.com](mailto:lcchrist@GoColumbia-Mo.com) or 441-5515.

## Park & Ride

Did you know that the City offers a convenient Park and Ride program for downtown Columbia that's perfect for employees, shoppers, students or residents of the District? Customers simply purchase any downtown parking permit and automatically receive a free unlimited City bus pass to easily jump on the downtown route or any COMO Connect bus route throughout the city and get where they need to go without the hassle of moving your car or feeding a meter. If you're downtown frequently, it's the best way to save money on parking and not waste time circling the block hoping to find a spot right on Broadway. Covered parking spots are still available in the heart of downtown so contact the Public Works Department today at 874-6368 and discover the new affordable way to shop, work, eat and play in the District.



## CARP Volunteer Program begins in March



The City of Columbia is looking for volunteers who are interested in working in parks, caring for the environment and enjoying an occasional splash in a lake or stream. If that describes you, then you may want to participate in C.A.R.P.

The Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project – C.A.R.P. – was created by the Parks & Recreation Department to involve volunteers

in implementing an aquatic plant and shoreline management plan.

The 2015 C.A.R.P. class will be held Tuesday evenings March 10, March 17 and March 31 at the ARC, 1701 West Ash. Classes include information on aquatic plants and insects, stormwater management and lake ecology. In return, volunteers are asked to share 18 hours of service on projects in city parks held Saturday mornings.

Space is limited for the C.A.R.P. class. To register or learn more, contact the City's Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com).

## Get your flu vaccine!



You still have time! If you are aged 6 months or older, stop by the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services for your annual flu vaccination. Vaccine is available from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Friday at 1005

West Worley. No appointment is needed; walk-ins are welcome.

Thanks to generous support from University of Missouri Women and Children's Hospital and the David B. Lichtenstein Foundation, free seasonal flu vaccine (injectable and FluMist®) to all children ages 6 months through 18 years is available. For adults ages 19 and older, cost of the injectable vaccine is \$25. FluMist® is also \$25 and can be given to healthy, non-pregnant people ages 2-49 years. The department accepts cash, checks and a variety of insurance plans.

Learn more at: <http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/flu-clinicschedule.php>.

## Finding An Energy-Efficient Rental

Investigating energy efficiency details before you sign a lease can help you control costs and be more comfortable.

### UTILITY DATA

Investigate the historical electric and water usage of the rental unit at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com). If the unit has natural gas heating, contact Ameren Missouri. Previous billing data will give you a general idea of the costs involved.

### HEATING AND COOLING

Heating and cooling your home is the biggest part of your utility expenses. Since apartments share walls, ceilings and floors with neighbors, they can have cheaper utilities. Does the heating and cooling system look clean and well-maintained? The newer the system, the more efficient it usually is. Who changes the filters every three months? Is there a programmable thermostat?

### WATER HEATERS

Water heating is normally the second highest utility expense after heating and cooling. Water heater efficiency is influenced by the age, insulation, temperature setting and location of the unit. Where is the water heater located? If it is in an unconditioned space, like a garage, or if it is an older unit, ask your landlord to add an insulated jacket. Is the water heater or any of the faucets leaking? If so, make sure these are fixed before signing a lease.

### KEEPING THE OUTSIDE AIR OUTSIDE

Homes that are well-insulated and have no air leaks use less energy. Walk around the home to see if you feel strong drafts or notice any holes or gaps around the doors and windows. Air leaks should be fixed by the landlord before you sign the lease. Are the windows double-paned or if they are single-paned, are the storm windows in good condition?

More information: [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com), search for **"renters guide"**

## Is your home COLD?

If you are spending the winter uncomfortable in your own home, maybe it's time for a checkup. 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  
874-7325



## PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

### March

1	Boy/Girl Scout Day, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., pre-register, \$3 per child
4	Spring/Summer Leisure Times available
21	Annual Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., FREE

## Police Department announces YouTube channel

The Columbia Police Department is excited to announce the launch of its new YouTube channel! The channel, Columbia Missouri Police Department, features videos containing press release information, crime alerts, updates and safety and prevention tips. The channel was launched with content in January and provides the public another way to stay informed about the community and CPD.

"With having three television news stations, multiple radio stations, three newspapers and student reporters, we were searching for ways to streamline information released in breaking cases," says Sergeant Robert Dochler with the Public Relations Unit. "The YouTube channel allows us this opportunity."

The YouTube channel comes as an addition to the already utilized Twitter and Facebook sites. To access the channel, go to YouTube.com and search Columbia Missouri Police Department; you can then see a list of all videos posted. If there are topics you would like to see more information on, please submit your video ideas to Public Relations Unit at [policepio@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:policepio@gocolumbiamo.com) and CPD will do its best to accommodate.

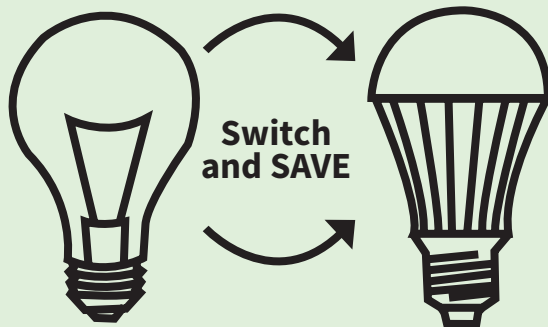
## Electric Outage Information

[outageviewer.gocolumbiamo.com](http://outageviewer.gocolumbiamo.com)

When the lights go out and you are curious if an electric outage has been reported, check out the online outage map to find out exactly where there are reported outages in the city and if crews have been assigned to repair them. 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 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 crews while they are working so they can focus on safely solving the problem.

## Switch to LED light bulbs



If every home in the US replaced one standard bulb with an ENERGY STAR bulb, we could save enough energy to light 2 million homes for a year.

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

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

## Code Corner

The aesthetics ordinance found in Chapter 11 of City Code prohibits owners or occupants to have certain items outside their residence for longer than 48 hours that can be viewed from the public right of way. Enforcement of this ordinance helps keep neighborhoods looking neat and tidy and reduces the risk of pest harborage. Prohibited items include appliances, bedding, boxes, cardboard, furniture manufactured for indoor use only, motor vehicle parts, pallets, tire rims and tires.

To report code enforcement issues, contact Neighborhood Services at 817-5050.

## Volunteer of the Month

### Betsy Peters

In the past year, Betsy Peters has played an integral role in improving the cleanliness of the East Campus neighborhood. As a landlord, Peters has been a valuable resource in connecting the neighborhood with opportunities to improve and clean the area.

"Rather than complaining about the trash or the deteriorating sidewalks, it seemed a better use of my time to get involved," Peters said.

Last fall, Peters helped lead monthly cleanups in the neighborhood. During the student move-out period, she assisted the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) in deciding where to place dumpsters and encouraged other landlords to donate to cover the cost of the bins, as well as making a significant contribution herself.

Bill Cantin, ONS neighborhood communications coordinator, calls Peters' impact significant and says her direct, no-nonsense attitude makes her a great asset.

"Not only does this help ONS further its mission to improve the safety and livability of Columbia's neighborhoods, but it also has a direct impact on the interaction of residents of the East Campus neighborhood amongst themselves," he said.

To learn more about volunteering with the City, contact Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or visit [GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer).

Written by volunteer Abby Holman



Betsy Peters

## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

*Application deadline: April 3 at 5 p.m.*

- Airport Advisory Board
- Board of Adjustment
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Planning and Zoning Commission

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

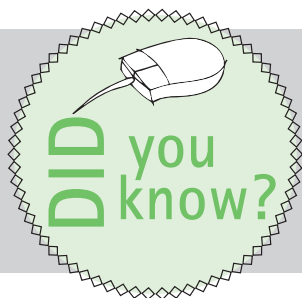
## 2014 Infrastructure Report

Infrastructures are a network of systems. They can be the roads or trails you use for transportation. They can be the wires that bring you electricity. The 2013-2015 City of Columbia Strategic Plan requires an annual infrastructure report be developed. The City of Columbia Infrastructure Report for 2014 is now available on the City's website at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com). The 2014 report includes improvements, highlights and expected projects for 2015.

## UCS Customer Survey

Utility Customer Service (UCS) strives to provide the best customer service possible and is seeking your feedback on ways to improve overall customer satisfaction. Efforts were started late last year by providing additional information through advertising and highlighting the services available to you online. Many changes have taken place over the last year to streamline processes internally to provide better service to customers. UCS has extended its phone hours from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and will continue to work on making improvements to the phone system to minimize customer wait times.

UCS seeks customer feedback regarding improvements that are important to you. Please complete the online survey at [GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Utilities/survey.php](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Finance/Utilities/survey.php). If you do not have access to the survey online, please pick up a paper copy at City Hall, 701 East Broadway, or call 874-7380 to have one mailed to you. Drop boxes will be available for completed surveys at the City Hall reception desk, cashier's office and both sides of UCS.



**Take off with Columbia Regional Airport. American Airlines will introduce new 65 passenger jet aircraft for all daily flights in 2015. Learn more at [FlyCOU.com](http://FlyCOU.com).**

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 • [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com)

### MAYOR

Bob McDavid

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	<b>vacant</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>Barbara Hoppe</b>
<i>City Manager</i>	<b>Mike Matthes</b>



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