

CITY SOURCE



Your source for City news and information



CoMo Energy Challenge

Happy new year! Have you made your resolution? How about a resolution to save energy? Columbia is competing for the Georgetown University Energy Prize—a 2-year competition among 52 cities nationwide to see who can reduce the most residential energy use. The winning city will receive \$5 million for community energy efficiency projects!

Based out of the Office of Sustainability, the CoMo Energy Challenge is Columbia's campaign for the GU Energy Prize. The office needs your help to save energy, make your home or apartment more energy efficient and tell your friends how they can save. To join the CoMo Energy Challenge, like the Facebook (facebook.com/CoMoEnergyChallenge) page and comment that you've joined. Then start saving energy at home! Follow on Twitter @CoMoChallenge or check out the website comoenergychallenge.com for tips on how to become more energy efficient and competition updates.

In an effort to win the \$5 million prize, the City is partnering with local utilities and community groups who already help residents save energy and money. If your business or group is interested in partnering with the CoMo Energy Challenge, email comochallenge@gocolumbiamo.com.

Make your home or apartment more energy efficient and tell your friends how they can save.

\$5 million
Georgetown University Energy Prize

Facebook

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Twitter

[@CoMoChallenge](https://twitter.com/CoMoChallenge)

Web

comoenergychallenge.com



Black History Month Activities

Columbia Parks and Recreation is offering several activities in honor of Black History Month in February. All activities are FREE. Call 874-7460 or check out GoColumbiaMo.com for more information.

African-American Film & Discussion: "12 Years a Slave"

- Thursday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
- Armory Sports Center - 701 E. Ash

Black History Month Talent Show

- Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
- Douglass High School Gym

Panel Discussion

- Thursday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
- Armory Sports Center - 701 E. Ash

Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner Musical Celebration

- Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m.
- St. Luke UMC – 204 E. Ash

Come enjoy great gospel music from local and regional acts. Afterwards, there will be a soul food feast for all who attend. This is a FREE event.

Traffic Box Art at 10th and Cherry

The corner of Tenth and Cherry streets is now a little more festive. In November, artist Peggy Guest completed painting the latest piece of Traffic Box Art, making it the seventh traffic signal box to become a work of art in downtown Columbia.

Guest's design, titled "Celebrate The District," includes the many different kinds of culinary delights found in The District and captures the downtown architecture. The goal of the Traffic Box Art program is to decrease instances of graffiti while contributing to the uniqueness of the downtown streetscape.



New jet service at Columbia Regional Airport

Columbia Regional Airport (COU) and American Airlines are pleased to announce that the new CRJ-700, 65-passenger jet service is coming to COU! The new aircraft have both first-class and main-cabin seating, more passenger amenities and are more fuel efficient. Service on the new jets begins with both daily Chicago flights Jan. 6. On Feb. 12, both flights to Dallas/Fort Worth will begin using the upgraded aircraft. Learn more at AA.com or FlyCOU.com.

TreeKeepers 2015



TreeKeeper volunteers have been making a difference in Columbia's parks for more than 15 years. They assist the forestry staff in planting, pruning and mulching trees and removing invasive plants. The program is also a wonderful way for residents to gain tree knowledge for personal enjoyment.

The 2015 TreeKeeper class will be held at the ARC, 1701 W. Ash: Tuesday evening, Feb. 17; Thursday evening, Feb. 19; and Saturday morning, Feb. 21. The class will review tree identification, diseases and insects, and pruning and planting techniques. Following the class, participants are asked to share 36 hours of service on tree projects in parks.

To learn more about TreeKeepers and to register for the 2015 class, call 874-7499 or email volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Youth Ride Free on City Bus

Whether going to school, basketball practice or the movies, customers 18 and under can now ride the city bus for free. Columbia's bus system, COMO Connect, was redesigned in August 2014 and is now better connected to Columbia's four public high schools and their surrounding neighborhoods to allow students and parents better access to the schools. Battle, Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools even have city bus routes color coordinated to their school colors to make things easier.

Students just need to show a student ID card to ride for free or get a free ID card from customer service if they are home-schooled. With the bus system now running until 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, the City hopes the free transportation and better routes near the schools will help students get to class and after-school activities more easily.

Does Water & Light have your correct phone number?

When the power goes out, don't spend extra time on the phone trying to report it. Make sure you have the correct phone number listed on your utility account. Then when you report a service problem, Columbia Water & Light's automated reporting system can efficiently handle your call. Having correct contact information also helps the utility make any necessary follow-up calls to you.

When there are problems with the electric system, Columbia Water & Light makes every effort to restore your power as soon as possible. If you experience an outage, please call Water & Light at 875-2555. Customer reports during an outage help Water & Light crews troubleshoot problems.

Update utility account information

- GoColumbiaMo.com
- 874-7380

Utility Customer Service News

Policy Change—Effective Jan. 1, 2015, Utility Customer Service (UCS) will no longer process requests for new service over the phone. This policy change was made to ensure the security and integrity of customer accounts. New customers may set up service online at GoColumbiaMo.com or in person at 701 East Broadway. To apply online, select the green "Utilities" box from the home page, then select "New Residential Accounts" and complete the online application. Customers who wish to transfer or terminate service may go online, visit the Customer Service office or call 874-7380.

Online Services—UCS offers several online services for customer convenience. The first step is registering the account. Visit the City's website at GoColumbiaMo.com. From the home page, select the green box for "Utilities," then select "Online Account Access and Bill Payment." Once the account is registered, customers may check the status of their accounts, monitor consumption history and access payment history. They can view and print PDF copies of their bills and can pay bills online. Registering the account online means no matter where customers are—on vacation, out of town on business or in between residences—they have 24-hour access to account information and can keep their accounts in good standing.

Customer Satisfaction Survey—To improve customer service and better meet customer needs, UCS is currently working on a customer satisfaction survey. Look for it soon online or in the UCS office and take the time to fill it out.

Transmission project timeline adjusted

Reliable electricity is essential for Columbians. It is necessary for heating and cooling homes, keeping food fresh and powering businesses. Reliability is so important that there are federal reliability standards that must be met. To meet these guidelines, Columbia Water & Light is adding transmission lines and a substation to the electrical system. It is a time-consuming project.

The most critical upgrades that include the lines running from the existing Perche Creek and Grindstone substations into the new Mill Creek substation will take place first and are expected to be complete in about five years. Work on transmission lines running to the McBaine substation has been postponed until the other lines have been completed.

Survey work is being conducted along the transmission line route on Grindstone Expressway, Nifong and Scott Boulevard. This will help determine the placement of the poles and electric lines. From there, the process of easement acquisition will occur. In the meantime, financing of the project will be secured. While Columbia Water & Light staff members were developing the timeline for the project, it was determined that the transmission line running from the new Millcreek substation on Peach Court, along Providence Road to McBaine, could not be completed within five years. This section is not as critical as the other parts of the project so it will not be funded at this time.

Reliability and electrical upgrades

The substations and transmission lines throughout Columbia work like a buddy system and help reliably distribute electricity at any given point in time anywhere in Columbia. A utility can't achieve one without the other. Columbia Water & Light continuously monitors and upgrades the electrical distribution system throughout the City, and adding a substation and transmission lines in the southern part of Columbia enhances the reliability for the entire system for years to come.

Dan Clark, engineering supervisor for Columbia Water & Light, summed up the opportunity. "The real improvement in delivering reliable electricity for all Columbians will come when the City builds a planned substation and transmission lines in south Columbia. These critical upgrades will free up space at the other substations that supply power to other parts of the City."

While personal electrical use and needs continue to change, improved substations and transmission lines will be the permanent solution in reliably delivering electricity to meet those needs.

There is a website where Columbians can learn more about the Columbia Transmission Line Project with the goal of delivering reliable electricity for all Columbia Water & Light customers. Go to PoweringColumbia.com.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

February

5	Black History Month: African-American film and discussion, 12 Years a Slave, Armory Sports Center, 7 p.m., FREE
12	Black History Month Talent Show, Douglass High School, 7 p.m., FREE
19	Black History Month: African American panel discussion, Armory Sports Center, 7 p.m., FREE
22	Black History Month: Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner, St. Luke UMC, 3 p.m., FREE



Cut your utility bills and be more comfortable!

up to \$1,200 in rebates for energy efficiency improvements

low-interest loans to help with financing

- Columbia Water & Light
- ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
- info@ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
- 874-7325





The Anderson Family

Volunteers of the Month

The Anderson Family

Kattie Anderson and her sons, 5-year-old Joseph and 2-year-old Joshua, understand what it means to help in the community. Anderson and her boys worked in the WIC community garden weekly during the growing season—turning the soil, planting seeds and transplants, pulling weeds and watering. They also helped prepare the garden for the winter season. Their hard work helped triple the garden’s production, and more than 350 pounds of produce was donated to others.

Community members are given their own plot in the community garden to raise fruits and vegetables. In addition, the garden is home to many educational classes, and the produce grown is donated to WIC families.

Anderson’s desire to learn about gardening led to her interest in volunteering for the City, and she thought it was also the perfect hands-on work to do with her children while providing them a lifelong lesson.

“It was also an opportunity to get to know others in the community,” Anderson said. “And I’m excited that the produce benefited so many families.”

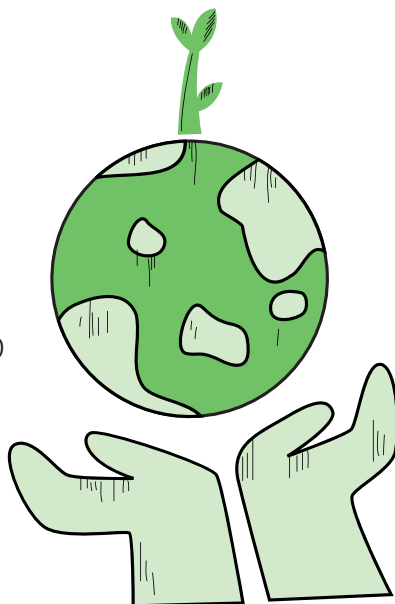
Become a Recycling Ambassador

Concerned about the environment? Enjoy talking to people? Interested in educating other citizens about waste reduction issues in Columbia? The City of Columbia Volunteer Program is starting a new initiative: Recycling Ambassadors!

Recycling Ambassador volunteers will respond to questions and concerns about recycling and solid waste programs, distribute information to the public during festivals and participate in education events, all while encouraging the spirit of volunteerism in the city.

Training will be provided and tailored to include communication techniques, local waste reduction and prevention topics, proper recycling techniques and other waste disposal options such as e-waste and household hazardous waste. Field trips to the Material Recovery Facility, landfill, bioreactor and compost facility will also be included.

Friendly and helpful volunteers are needed. Help make Columbia the greenest city in Missouri! The next training is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 7. Contact Andrea Shelton at 874-6271 or amshelto@gocolumbiamo.com.



Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

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

- Commission on Human Rights
- Public Transit Advisory Commission
- University of Missouri Extension Council of Boone County

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

Did You Know?

The City’s Volunteer Program started using a new volunteer software in 2014 called Volgistics. Through this system, volunteers can self-register, self-schedule and self-report service hours, making volunteering easier than ever! Details about the City’s many volunteer opportunities and staff contacts are also available. To access this system, visit GoColumbiaMo.com/Volunteer.



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City of Columbia
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(573) 874-7111 • www.GoColumbiaMo.com

MAYOR
Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>First Ward</i> | Ginny Chadwick |
| <i>Second Ward</i> | Michael Trapp |
| <i>Third Ward</i> | Karl Skala |
| <i>Fourth Ward</i> | Ian Thomas |
| <i>Fifth Ward</i> | Laura Nauser |
| <i>Sixth Ward</i> | Barbara Hoppe |
| <i>City Manager</i> | Mike Matthes |



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