

# CITY SOURCE



Your source for City news and information



## Bus Shelter Design Project

CoMET/PedNet and MU Architectural Studies have partnered with the City to propose designs for ecological bus shelters. Students in the Sustainable Technologies class worked in teams to develop seven designs. The students' designs met several criteria outlined by Columbia Transit, the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Cultural Affairs: ADA accessible, sustainable, modular, economical, vandal resistant, ease of maintenance, storage for bicycles and components allowing for public art. Public input was gathered in June, and winning designs were selected in the "People's Favorite" and "Jury Award" categories. To learn more about the bus shelter design project, see [CoMoConnect.org](http://CoMoConnect.org).



Your Public Transit Connection



The new COMO Connect brand was revealed June 3 during a ribbon cutting in front of the MU Student Center.



## New COMO Connect bus routes will launch Aug. 4

Public transportation is about to change in Columbia, Mo. The City of Columbia has been working hard on a year-long project to overhaul and improve the City's bus line, Columbia Transit, and is flipping the switch to a whole new system Monday, Aug. 4.

The new transit system will completely replace the current Columbia Transit bus stops and routes that are tied to the downtown bus station with a new network of COMO Connect bus routes, stops and connection points throughout the city. To help customers with the transition, the new system will start limited service in mid-July so customers can try the new routes before the switchover; the full system will go live Aug. 4 when the old system is discontinued.

The COMO Connect system will also include the new COMO Connect brand and logo, as well as launching a new transit website at [COMOconnect.org](http://COMOconnect.org).

Curious about local public transportation and want to give it a try? **All customers can ride the new COMO Connect bus routes for free in August, so visit the website today for more information and find out how you can take advantage of public transportation.**



## Street Talk—Pavement Preservation

Last month's column focused on the process used by the Public Works Department to rate the conditions of roadways and determine street maintenance priorities. As much as possible, Public Works wants to maintain pavements in good condition, at a relatively low cost, rather than allowing them to deteriorate where costly rehabilitation or reconstruction becomes necessary. Pavement preservation is a set of planned actions done on structurally-sound pavements to extend their life.

Surveys indicate that roadway maintenance is the top concern of Columbia residents. Public Works currently maintains 515 centerline miles of Columbia streets, and that number grows each year.

**The City's pavement preservation program consists primarily of—  
1½-inch cold milling and asphalt overlay  
asphalt overlay without milling • chip sealing • crack sealing**

Mill and overlay projects are typically completed by a private contractor, while asphalt overlay-only, chip sealing and crack sealing operations are generally performed by Public Works Street Division crews.

In 2014, the Public Works Street Division plans to seal or resurface about 27 centerline miles of pavements at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million as part of the pavement preservation program. Portions of Broadway and Keene Street, totaling about 1.2 centerline miles, will be resurfaced using other funds.

In addition to pavement preservation, the Street Division is busy with many other street maintenance activities throughout the year, such as repairing potholes, replacing deteriorated concrete slabs and curbs, refreshing the pavement markings, street cleaning, mowing in rights of way, street sign replacement and snow and ice removal.

This summer, as you navigate through work areas, please be patient, slow down, watch for workers in and around roadways and take alternate routes when possible. These workers are prolonging the life of Columbia pavements, which we all rely on for safe and efficient transportation.

More information about pavement preservation projects will be posted at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com). Type **"Street Maintenance"** in the search box.

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## Lang Award winner announced

Kee Groshong is the recipient of the sixth annual Howard B. Lang Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the City of Columbia. He was recognized at the City's Volunteer Appreciation Reception May 8 at the Boone County Historical Museum and Galleries. Mayor Bob McDavid presented the award.

Groshong has spent many hours volunteering for commissions, boards and committees to help improve life for Columbia citizens. Perhaps his largest and most broad-reaching work was while he was a University of Missouri vice-chancellor. In that role, both in private and public settings, he promoted a positive partnership between the City and the University for their mutual benefit.

Other examples of his volunteer service include: giving time and energy to Regional Economic Development Inc.; serving as chair of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of the Daniel Boone Regional Library Foundation and chair of the Missouri Credit Union board; serving on the board of Job Point; and his present service on the City of Columbia Railroad Advisory Board and the Community Foundation of Central Missouri Board of Directors. Groshong represented Columbia as a delegate to its sister city of Kutaisi, (former Republic of) Georgia. Most recently Groshong was the chair of the committee to pass a bond issue to help fund upgrades to the Columbia sewer system.

One of Groshong's nominators wrote, "A strong commitment to improving the life of the community is deeply embedded in the DNA of Kee Groshong. He seeks to make a real difference in all the work he undertakes on behalf of the City and the citizens of Missouri." A second added, "Over the past 40 plus years, Kee has been a mentor to me in how one serves a community. His leadership and passion for Columbia, Missouri, has been truly amazing."

## Which way would you rather spend your money?



Combined Utilities Statement	
Billing Date: 02-09-2014 Billing No.: 20795468 7 162	
	Amount
Present Reading: 88429 KWH	
Previous Reading: 87329 KWH	
Usage: 1100 KWH	\$117.33
Present Reading: 79 CCF	
Previous Reading: 69 CCF	
Usage: 10 CCF	\$37.75
	\$11.67
	\$4.16
	\$28.23
	\$15.42

If spending money on utility bills is not your first choice, then Columbia Water & Light can help.

**ColumbiaPowerPartners.com**  
**info@ColumbiaPowerPartners.com**  
**573-874-7325**

Lower your bills with the **Home Performance with Energy Star program**. Columbia Water & Light rebates and low-interest loans can help finance your energy efficiency improvements.

## Protect your home and family from mosquitos

April showers bring May flowers – and mosquitos! The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services wants to keep you and your family safe this summer!

Since mosquitos can develop in any standing water present for more than five days, it is important to take steps to get rid of all standing water and trash or debris early on.

### Some spots where water tends to collect are:

- tree stumps and hollowed trees
- pool covers
- hot tubs
- bird baths
- ponds
- wheelbarrows
- toys

### Poor maintenance of your home can also cause problems such as:

- clogged rain gutters, storm drains and downspouts
- discarded tires and other junk in the yard
- a flat roof without adequate drainage
- a leaky faucet outside of the home
- a poorly-maintained rain barrel

You can also prevent mosquito bites by wearing insect repellent with DEET throughout the summer season. For more information on mosquito safety, visit [GoColumbiaMo.com/Health](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Health).

## Annual Performance Report

City Manager Mike Matthes released the City's annual performance report to citizens and taxpayers in May. To read it online and view the city manager's news conference, visit [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com) and enter "state of city" in the search box.

The report highlights both progress made and additional work needed to achieve the primary goals set by the City Council.

### The City is committed to:

- increasing citizen satisfaction levels by making it easier to get help and communicating in ways citizens prefer;
- adding local jobs to keep Columbia a great place to live and work;
- staying financially healthy by budgeting conservatively, saving money wherever possible and spending tax dollars in areas most important to citizens;
- better planning for growth, with more attention to the cost of physical development and to high-quality projects;
- improving quality of life in areas such as public safety, health, recreation, code compliance and cultural opportunities;
- continuously improving City utilities, streets and sidewalks; and
- hiring top talent, with emphasis on City employee job skills, customer service and recognition for high performance.

The report is updated each year and included in the annually-published citizen handbook.





## Parks and Recreation presents Family Fun Fests

Columbia Parks and Recreation is hosting the next Family Fun Fest from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 20 at Flat Branch Park. Fun Fests are held the third Wednesday of the month from May through September. Entertainment for the entire family features music, live performances, art activities, hands-on learning, face painting and balloon art. Family Fun Fests are sponsored by the Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8 and Rockin' Rents.

### Aug. 20: Around the World

"Travel the globe" with dancing, games, music and more.

### Sept 17: Creative Kids

## Save on air conditioning bills

Use these air conditioning efficiency tips to save money on your bills and be more comfortable in your home this summer.

- Set thermostats at 78 degrees or as high as possible while maintaining reasonable comfort level while you're home.
- Change the air conditioning/furnace filter every three months.
- For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep shades closed during the day.
- Avoid heating the kitchen during the hottest part of the day. Grill outside, use the microwave or prepare a cool meal.
- Use heat-producing appliances (clothes dryers, dish washers, etc.) during the late evening or early morning.
- Make sure all storm windows and fireplace chimney dampers are closed.
- Don't block air conditioner or air return vents with furniture, rugs or curtains.
- Remove weeds, grass, bushes and other obstructions from around the outside condensing unit.
- Schedule a tune-up for your cooling system by a qualified HVAC contractor.



## Irrigation: save water, save money

### When should I water my lawn?

- Water only if the soil needs it. Lawns are dry when footprints remain in the grass long after being made.
- Water in the early morning from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., avoiding windy conditions.
- Water more infrequently; this will help plants develop a deep, healthy root system.

### How much should I water?

- Lawns need no more than 1½ inches of water per week, including both irrigation and rainfall.
- Use a rain gauge to accurately measure your irrigation levels.
- If puddles or runoff start to develop, you have overwatered. Try setting a timer as a reminder to turn off the sprinkler system.

### Easy ways to conserve water outdoors

- Don't water your sidewalks and drive ways! Adjust your sprinklers to cover only the lawn and plants.
- Mulch can help hold water and prevent weeds from growing.
- Leave grass a little longer to help prevent evaporation.
- Sweep leaves and grass cuttings rather than using a hose.



## Take advantage of website services during higher call volume times

Summer is here! In addition to higher temperatures and longer days, Utility Customer Service (UCS) is experiencing higher than normal call volume as students move out, move in or change locations. The result: longer waits on hold for customers. There are a number of services available on the City's website at [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com) that may eliminate the need to call UCS. Customers may request new service, transfer services to a new address or terminate existing services by filling out an online form. Customers may also review payment options, sign up for automatic bill payment from a checking account and update contact information from the website. Using the website allows for non-traditional business-hour access to UCS. Thanks for helping reduce UCS call volume by taking advantage of the website.

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## Summer Fire Safety

Summertime brings cookouts, Fourth of July and other outdoor activities. The men and women of the Columbia Fire Department hope you enjoy this summer, but remember it's also a time of year that presents risks for fires and injuries. Follow these tips to help make your summer safe and enjoyable:

- Don't wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to a lit fire. The flame can flash back into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Inspect the area around your barbecue or campfire. You don't want to grill or light a campfire near other flammable materials, including dry grass or overhanging branches.
- Dispose of hot coals properly – douse them with plenty of water and stir them to ensure the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Allow your tractor or lawn mower to cool down outside before storing in a shed or garage.
- Keep your mower clean of lawn debris. Dried grass near a heated area may cause a fire.
- Install and test smoke alarms in your garage and storage areas.
- Keep gas and fuel containers stored in well-ventilated outdoor storage areas.

For more safety tips and information on how to contact the Columbia Fire Department, please visit [GoColumbiaMo.com/Fire/](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Fire/).

## PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

### August

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>7</b>  | Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series: Unsigned Artists Showcase, 7 p.m., FREE              |
| <b>8</b>  | Movies in the Park, "Despicable Me 2," Flat Branch Park, 8:30 p.m., \$2 per person, 8 and under FREE |
| <b>9</b>  | NFL Punt, Pass and Kick, Cosmo Park Football Field #4, 9 a.m. check-in, FREE                         |
| <b>10</b> | DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 3-8 p.m., FREE  |
| <b>13</b> | New Leisure Times available  |
| <b>16</b> | Coolin' Down With the Blues, Douglass Park, 3-8 p.m., FREE   |
| <b>20</b> | Family Fun Fest: Around the World, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE                                  |

## Solar Energy Rebates & Loans

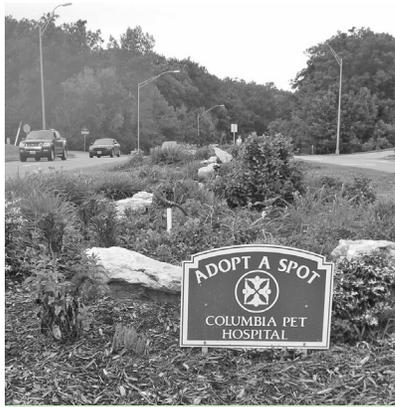
Power from the sun is more affordable than ever. Of course, there are still the up-front costs to consider. But you are in luck! Columbia Water & Light has solar energy rebates and low-interest loans.

You can earn \$500 for each kilowatt of solar you install. Plus, Columbia Water & Light will help with financing. Go to [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) for more information about solar rebates and loans for Columbia Water & Light electric customers.

## Web Did You Know?

The City Channel is the City of Columbia's government access television station. View the station's award-winning video segments at [Go-ColumbiaMo.com/TCC](http://Go-ColumbiaMo.com/TCC) and on YouTube, [columbiacitychannel](http://columbiacitychannel).





*Columbia Pet Hospital*

## Volunteer of the Month

### Columbia Pet Hospital

When Caryn Fenton, business manager and landscape and groundskeeper for Columbia Pet Hospital, began admiring the Adopt-a-Spots around Columbia, she decided to participate in the program. Eleven years later, Fenton is still taking care of the Forum spots, often with help from another Columbia Pet Hospital employee. Currently, the help is from Austin White, practice manager for the clinic.

“He always does it with a big smile and

no complaints,” Fenton says.

The care and many hours that Fenton volunteers to maintain the two spots are noticed.

“Hundreds of people drive or walk down Forum Boulevard every day,” Leigh Britt, Neighborhood Services manager says. “The care Caryn and the Columbia Pet Hospital volunteers give to their Adopt-a-Spots brightens the day for those who pass by.”

Fenton enjoys the challenge. “It has been really nice doing something I enjoy so much and sharing it with the community.”

To get involved with the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Program or find other ways to volunteer, contact Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or visit [GoColumbiaMo.com](http://GoColumbiaMo.com).

*Written by Theresa Nelson, Volunteer*

## Protect yourself against handyman scams

The Columbia Police Department often sees an increase in handyman scams during spring and summer. Before you hire a handyman, ask for references and check them out. Protect yourself by making sure the handyman is insured and has a City of Columbia business license. Check with the Better Business Bureau at 886-8965 about prior complaints.

Scammers often solicit driveway repairs, power washing, deck cleaning/staining and want payment up-front or before the work is completed. Always make a written contract with the handyman detailing the work, the price and when the work should be completed. Make sure the contract stipulates that any extra work the handyman recommends must be approved in writing by you before it is begun.

Be wary of high-pressure sales tactics or a deal that must be made immediately. Make sure you have complete business information, not just a business card with the person’s name. If you are in doubt, contact a competitor and get a second opinion.

If you believe you have been a victim or a target of a scam, please call the Police Department to report it at 874-7652 or 442-6131. Reporting allows the Police Department to follow up and help prevent other people from being victimized. For more crime prevention tips, visit the Police Department’s page of the City’s website at [GoColumbiaMo.com/Police](http://GoColumbiaMo.com/Police).

## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

*Application deadline: Aug. 8 at 5 p.m.*

- Board of Health
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Tax Increment Financing Commission

*Application deadline: Sept. 5 at 5 p.m.*

- City of Columbia New Century Fund Inc. Board
- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Personnel Advisory Board

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.

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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>Ginny Chadwick</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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