www.CoMo.gov

September 2016

CitySource

Your source for City news and information

Share the Light to help the community

The City of Columbia is known for coming together to improve the quality of life for our neighbors. Columbia residents are known for their generosity, too. *Share the Light* is an opportunity for City of Columbia utility customers to contribute to City programs and projects that are above and beyond what we usually think of as essential City services. Your giving can help.

Share the Light donations are designated to one of six giving areas: community arts programming, community beautification, youth recreation scholarships, health and dental care, fire prevention and education, and crime prevention and education. Every penny you give goes directly to improve quality of life in our community in the area of your choice.

To give to *Share the Light* simply mark your choices on the flap of the *Share the Light* envelope that comes with your September utility bill. You can also donate at **CoMo.gov/trust/share-the-light/donation**, call 573-874-7380 and ask for Utility Customer Service, or visit us downtown at City Hall, 701 E. Broadway.

Specify if you'd like to make a one-time gift or give on a monthly basis, and the amount you wish to give. Your future utility bills will reflect the amount added for this purpose.

Let's give together to make Columbia an even more terrific place to live. If you have questions about *Share the Light*, call John Baker, City of Columbia Trust Administrator, at 573-817-5027. Thank you for your generosity.

Downtown's colorful addition of new traffic box art

The corner of 10th and Walnut streets is now a little more festive. In July, artist Madeleine LeMieux installed the latest piece of Traffic Box Art, making it the tenth traffic signal box to become a work of art in downtown Columbia. LeMieux's colorful design depicts the many aspects of daily life that make up the North Village Arts District. The goal of the Traffic Box Art program is to decrease instances of graffiti while contributing to the uniqueness of the downtown streetscape.

Tightening the budget belt in 2017

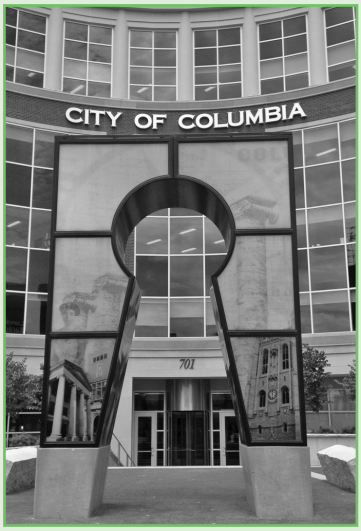
Mike Matthes

City Manager Mike Matthes presented the proposed fiscal year 2017 budget on July 22. While the nearly $441 million budget might seem like a hefty amount, it has been an austere year when it comes to bringing in sales tax, mainly caused by online shopping and sales. This means tightening the budget belt.

To tighten the belt, there will be no fleet replacement in fiscal year 2017, the 45-day hiring delay will continue, departments will have budget cuts and the debt on City Hall will be refinanced.

The budget was crafted with goals of living within our means while avoiding laying off any permanent employees which could affect services to citizens. The proposed budget includes a modest raise to most employees and includes funding to continue achieving Strategic Plan goals.

The 2017 fiscal year begins on October 1, 2016 and City Council has until then to decide to adopt the budget as proposed or to make changes.



To view the budget in its entirety or watch the video of Mr. Matthes at the budget press conference, visit **CoMo.gov** and search "FY 2017 budget."

We need YOUR opinions!

Columbia's Water Resource Plan

Should Columbia…Increase raw water supply and treatment capacity? Reclaim and reuse water? Manage demand for water? Implement more water conservation/efficiency measures? Capture stormwater for irrigation?

A Water Resource Plan is being developed to act as a guide to ensure a reliable, cost-effective water supply for the next 25 years and beyond. Through the long-term planning process, we can better prepare for potential challenges and evaluate alternatives to incorporate new strategies in our water system. The Integrated Water Resource Plan will consider a broader range of water management strategies including new opportunities for conservation, reuse, and reclamation.

We need your opinions!

Attend a meeting to learn more:

- Wednesday, October 19

Come & Go from from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

- Activity and Recreation Center (ARC), 1701 West Ash Street

Take the online survey

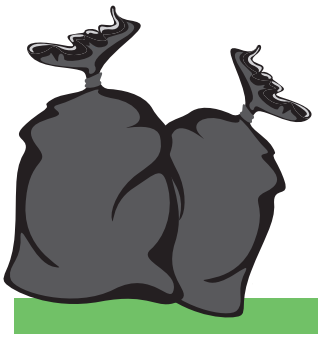
CoMoWater.org

Code Corner – trash & debris

Keeping our neighborhoods clean is important to the City of Columbia. The City considers accumulations of trash, debris and garbage as well as any accumulation of material that could harbor rats, mice or snakes to be a nuisance. Property owners where these violations are found may receive an abatement notice and if the issue is not resolved the City may abate the violation and tax bill the property.

Another common issue is trash out early. Trash should be set to the curb no earlier than 4 p.m. the day before your scheduled trash day. A $50 charge can be assessed against properties where an early pickup is required.

If you have a nuisance to report to the City of Columbia, contact the Office of Neighborhood Services at 573-817-5050 or neighborhood@CoMo.gov.



Our Columbia Waters Plan

What are our priority waterways? How do you think we should use our existing assets and implement innovative solutions for our sewer and stormwater utilities in the future? What do you find most important? Quality of our streams? Street flooding? How do we protect our waterways and sewer infrastructure at an affordable cost?

Columbia's sewer and stormwater utilities need your thoughts on developing a roadmap for long-term infrastructure planning and Clean Water Act compliance. The Our Columbia Waters Plan is a community-driven infrastructure plan to improve human health, safety, water quality, economic vitality and environmental resources.

We need your opinions!

Attend a workshop to join in the discussion

- Wednesday, October 12 & Wednesday, October 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Activity and Recreation Center (ARC), 1701 West Ash Street
- Look for more information in October at CoMo.gov

#savingenergy2win Pledge

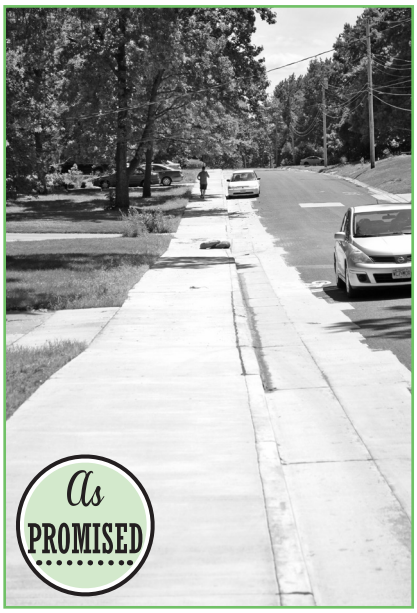
With the CoMo Energy Challenge finishing at the end of 2016, consider signing up for our **#savingenergy2win** pledge and helping with one last push to bring the $5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize to our community. During October and November, as part of the pledge, we'll be offering tips and activities to help your household save energy.

Take a picture of your efforts and share on twitter using **#savingenergy2win**, and you'll be registered to win a Nest smart thermostat for your home! Like us on Facebook or email James.Cole@CoMo.gov to learn more about this fall's pledge.

ComoEnergyChallenge.com

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

Progress As Promised...Manor Drive sidewalk, utility projects complete



Manor Drive

The City of Columbia coordinated a large improvement project for Manor Drive that included new sidewalks, a new water line and a storm pipe replacement over the summer. The initial new sidewalk plan was revised after feedback from the public. Approximately 2,500 feet of six-foot wide sidewalk was built on Manor drive as identified in the 2007 Sidewalk Master Plan, the 2011 Safe-Routes-to-School grant application, and the 2012 Sidewalk Master Plan, and ultimately funded through the 2012 Getabout Columbia federal grant award extension.

The sidewalk project, which was completed under budget, included speed bumps near the crosswalk and pavement bump outs to narrow the road and slow traffic. In an effort to reduce the construction impact to the neighborhood, 85 feet of 24-inch storm water pipes were replaced. Columbia Water & Light also upgraded the water main from a 6-inch pipe to an 8-inch pipe. The upgraded water line will increase the amount of water that can be delivered to the area for consumers and for firefighting purposes. The utility projects were funded by the respective utility rate payers. The City of Columbia appreciates the support of the neighbors during the construction period when traffic was restricted at times. The City will return to the area in the fall to lay sod along the sidewalk.

Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

October

12	Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Indian Hills Park, 6–8 p.m., FREE
15	Bear Creek Run Half Marathon, Bear Creek Trail, 8 a.m., Ages 10 and up, $48
16	Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day, Jay Dix Station Bike Skills Course, 2–4 p.m., ages 9–14, FREE
24	Almeta Crayton Memorial Toys for Columbia Youth Drive begins
26	Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Albert-Oakland Park, 6–8 p.m., FREE

Utility pole inspection

If you live near overhead electric lines, you might notice someone taking notes while wearing a neon yellow Columbia Water & Light vest and a hardhat. No need to worry, the workers from Lee's Inspection are contracted to take an inventory of 16,000 of the utility's poles.

They will note any problems, what is attached to the poles and ensure the pole numbers match the information in the City's Geographic Information System. The work will continue into the winter months. This is part of an on-going maintenance program funded by the electric utility to ensure the electric system remains reliable for our customers.

Businesses get a leg up on the competition with efficiency

Over 300 Columbia businesses are getting paid to be more energy efficient. A great way to save money is Columbia Water & Light's commercial lighting rebate program. The utility pays a business $300 for every kilowatt of electricity it reduces when replacing old lights with more efficient ones. Businesses win with lower utility bills and their products look better. When a company wants to protect its bottom line, new efficient lighting can make a big difference.

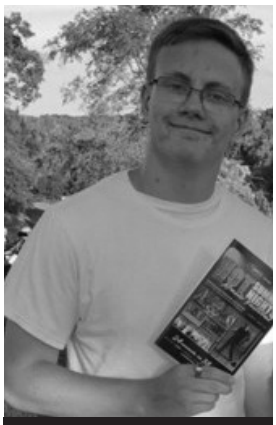
The lighting rebate is only one of Columbia Water & Light's energy efficiency programs but it has huge returns. More than 11.7 million kilowatt hours have been saved by businesses who have installed energy efficient lighting. The savings is equivalent to the power used in one year by around 1,000 homes. To visualize the savings, it's equivalent to removing more than 94,000 sixty watt light bulbs from our city. The greenhouse gases emission savings from companies not using 11.7 million kilowatt hours is equivalent to removing almost 20 million miles driven by an average passenger car.

Columbia Water & Light encourages energy efficiency through rebates and low-interest loans because it helps our community. Since 2007, commercial electric customers have spent $4.1 million in lighting projects which helps our local economy. On average, the utility's lighting rebate program can slash the project cost by up to half and reduce the payback period, on average, from 3.5 years to 2.8 years. Energy efficiency programs like this one reduce wasted electricity which helps keep the utility's costs in check. This helps keep electric rates low.

Need help with your company's energy efficiency projects?

Columbia Water & Light
ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
info@ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
573-874-7325

September Volunteer of the Month—Aaron Hill



Aaron Hill

Since moving to Columbia three years ago, Aaron Hill has been a familiar face with Youth in Action. Youth in Action is a summer volunteer program for youth ages 12-15. From May to July, volunteers like Hill spend their time at various service projects around Columbia. When asked why he wanted to join Youth in Action, Hill said "I really wanted to learn more about the community, and I always enjoy helping people."

This past summer Hill spent over 40 hours volunteering for various projects including: packing food at the Food Bank, assisting at the Missouri Symphony Society, cleaning up our streams and parks and so much more.

When Hill was not volunteering for Youth in Action, he spent his time helping others at his church. While this is Hill's last year with Youth in Action, he does plan to continue to serve his community because he believes it is important to give back. Volunteers like Hill are an inspiration to us all and help make Columbia such a great place to live.

To learn more about volunteering with the City, visit our website or contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Pokémon know

Who would have thought capturing virtual creatures could create such a commotion? Since the release of Pokémon Go, a cell phone app in which players use their phones to capture virtual creatures that appear to be hovering in their immediate vicinity in the real world, several concerns have been reported to law enforcement agencies nationwide, raising questions about the safety of the game.

Among some of the reports Columbia Police officers have fielded are concerns of youth out all hours of the day "taking photos" of residents' homes, creating fear of being the next victim of a burglary. In Pokémon Go, players must use Poké Balls to catch creatures and requires players to point their camera directly at the virtual object to capture it. Poké Balls are found at PokéStops, which are usually located in public places such as parks, libraries and landmarks. Additional concerns include players trespassing on private property and/or after hours.

The Columbia Police Department would like to remind Pokémon Go players of tips and etiquette while playing the game—

1) Do not trespass while playing. Be conscientious of private property and/or business hours. All of Columbia's City parks and trails close at 11 p.m., except Cosmo Park which closes at midnight.
2) Avoid suspicious locations.
3) Be aware of your surroundings, especially when walking around outside.
4) Do not play while you are driving.
5) Be respectful. Cemeteries and memorials are not appropriate places to try to "catch 'em all."

Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline October 7 at 5 p.m.

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

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at **CoMo.gov** or at the City Clerk's office. Call 573-874-7208 for more information.

DID you know?

Web did you know?

The City Channel produces videos about recent projects and happenings in the City. To view the videos visit CoMo.gov/tcc or like their Facebook page: facebook.com/CityChannelColumbiaMo/.

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 • CoMo.gov

Mayor
Brian Treece

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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