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May 2017



Your source for City news and information



You Have Options **Reporting sexual assault**

The Columbia Police Department has begun implementing a new program focused on removing or reducing barriers victims have when reporting sexual assaults. The program, known as *You Have Options*, is a nationwide approach in which participating law enforcement agencies recognize the need for a victim-centered and offender-focused response to sexual violence.

Law enforcement agencies participating in the *You Have Options* program transform the criminal justice response to sexual violence by focusing on increasing the number of victims who report their assault to law enforcement and thoroughly investigating identified sexual offenders for serial perpetration. By addressing the barriers victims face when reporting sexual assault, and thereby increasing the number of sexual assault reports, the *You Have Options* program provides investigators with information they would otherwise never have received.

You Have Options allows the victim to have control over how much or little information is provided when reporting a sexual assault. When a victim is given the ability to control certain aspects of a sexual assault investigation—such as who is contacted and if an arrest is made—law enforcement and the person who was assaulted both benefit. Victims provide investigators with more accurate information, are more willing to identify their assailant and participate more fully in the investigative and judicial process. Victims are provided with the time they need to make a decision that is right for them, independent of the needs of the criminal justice system, and are more likely to report a positive experience with law enforcement regardless of the judicial outcome.

With You Have Options, the victims:

- Control the location, time and date of the initial report
- Have three reporting options: information only, partial investigation, and complete investigation
- Set the pace of the interview
- Can end an interview at any time without having to provide a reason
- Can remain anonymous or have a third party give information and still make a report
- Can have a support person or advocate accompany them during reporting and the criminal investigation
- Are not pressured to participate in the criminal investigation

The process to reach full implementation of the program has multiple steps and could take the department up to 18 months. For more information on *You Have Options*, visit ReportingOptions.org.

Prescription drug monitoring program

Substance abuse, including prescription drugs, is a problem in our city, county and state. Between 2010 and 2014, emergency room discharges for opioid diagnosis in Boone County increased 113.6 percent compared to the state of Missouri at 19.9 percent. Hospital discharges for opioid diagnosis also increased 46.7 percent in that same five year period as compared to 25.1 percent in Missouri statewide. Substance abuse was also cited as a major issue by our residents during focus groups and community surveys that were part of the 2013 Columbia/Boone County Community Health Assessment.

On March 6, the Columbia City Council passed two ordinances that allowed the City to join the St. Louis County Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). It monitors the prescribing and dispensing of schedule II-IV controlled substances (e.g., narcotics) to assist in the identification and prevention of prescription drug misuse and abuse.

The goals are to:

1. Improve controlled substance prescribing by providing critical information regarding a patient's controlled substance prescription history.
2. Inform health care providers by identifying patients at high-risk who would benefit from early interventions.
3. Reduce the number of people who misuse, abuse or overdose while making sure patients have access to safe, effective treatment.

The City of Columbia now joins at least 14 Missouri jurisdictions outside of St. Louis County, that share use of the St. Louis County PDMP. It is important to note that the state of Missouri is the only state in the U.S. that does not have a comprehensive statewide PDMP.

Street Talk: Columbia Public Works receives Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award



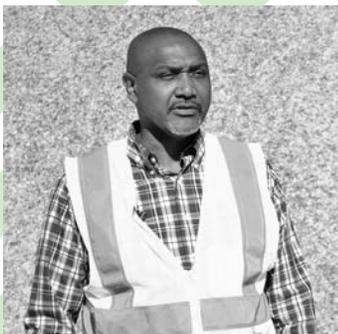
The Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award was presented to Columbia Public Works by the American Public Works Association (APWA) at the North American Snow Conference in April. "In severe weather, our workers are often on the scene before emergency responders," Street Division Superintendent Sam Thomas said. "Whether it's clearing a tree from the street for an ambulance or making sure a fire engine can traverse a snow-covered road, public works staff is on-call 24-7. We're often the first responders in and the last responders out."

The award promotes excellence in the management and administration of snow and ice operations that minimize environmental impacts.

"We're proud of the Public Works men and women. From the plow drivers and dispatchers; to all of our communicators, support staff and supervisors; to the inspectors, planners and engineers—winter storm response in our community is a team effort," Public Works Director, David Nichols, said.

Public Works Week

In celebration of Public Works Week, May 21-27, the City would like to recognize all of the hardworking men and women who are responsible for: street, bridge and sidewalk maintenance, capital improvement projects, servicing City vehicles and facilities, providing parking services and enforcement, traffic engineering, the City's bus and paratransit services; and responding to severe weather road hazards and winter weather.



Rain barrels on sale

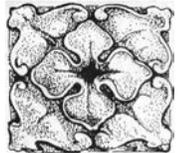
Once again, the City of Columbia is partnering with Rain Water Solutions to provide citizens the opportunity to purchase a complete rain barrel kit at a greatly reduced price. Rain barrel orders began May 1 and will be accepted through June 4.

Visit the website at comorainbarrel.com to watch a video, learn more and order a rain barrel. All orders must be placed via the website. Pick up will be June 9.

Installing a rain barrel is a great way to keep grass green and gardens growing while saving money. Designed to capture runoff from a home's roof, owners no longer have to watch this precious commodity flow away. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater for future uses around the house and when used to water landscaping, can improve the health of gardens, lawns and trees.

City of Columbia Historic Preservation Commission news

The Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC) mission includes fostering civic pride in the aesthetics and cultural accomplishments of the past and encouraging preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of structures, areas and neighborhoods. With this mission in mind, the HPC has several upcoming events which need volunteer energy to make them successful:



- 1) Cornerstones of Columbia, cosponsored by Central Bank of Boone County
- 2) Architectural Salvage Sales
- 3) Salvage Operations
- 4) Salvage Donation Days

All dates and times are currently to be determined. For updates, visit the [HPC Facebook page \(@ColumbiaHPC\)](#), or email cityofcolumbiahpc@gmail.com.

Strategic Plan North Neighborhood leaders select priority projects

As part of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, three neighborhoods were identified—North, East and Central. The North Neighborhood held four meetings at Derby Ridge Elementary School in which they discussed priority projects for their neighborhood.

They agreed to focus their efforts on a community center and a neighborhood watch program. North Neighborhood leaders were determined at these meetings and will sustain progress in their neighborhood with coordinated training and technical assistance for neighborhood action teams. Future meetings will focus on how to build a plan for how to affect change in the North Neighborhood to move these projects forward.

Learn more about the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan by visiting CoMo.gov/Strategic-Plan.

Tire, Electronic, & Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3
FROM 9 A.M.—1 P.M.**

**University of Missouri Hearnes Center
Parking Lot SG4/AN
(South of football stadium)**

HHW Fees

No charge for all HHW items. Visit mmswmd.org for a list of accepted items

Tire Fees

- \$2.00 per car tire (24" or smaller) and \$10.00 per truck or tractor tire (over 24")
- There will be a charge on every tire (cash or checks accepted)
- There is a 50 tire limit, no exceptions.
- Anything over the limit will not be accepted

E-waste & Appliance Fees

- \$10 for each CRT monitor/TV, console, DLP and rear projection TV's.
- No charge for any and all other appliance and electronic items, including flat screen televisions.
- All electric and battery operated items will be accepted.
- Households and farms only—No commercial disposal

Explore outdoors at Family Fun Fest



Learn about the great outdoors at Columbia Parks and Recreation's next Family Fun Fest. The free event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 21 at Cosmo Park.

A variety of organizations and local experts will offer interactive activities related to Missouri birds, fish, parks, camping and much more.

Family Fun Fests are held on the third Wednesday of each month. Each event features music, live performances, art activities, hands-on learning, face painting and balloon art.

The Family Fun Fest series is sponsored by the **Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8, ParentLink and Tigers Community Credit Union.**

New face in Community Outreach Unit

The Columbia Police Department welcomes a new face to the Community Outreach Unit. Officer Andria Heese is now part of the two-person team assigned to the Central Strategic Plan Neighborhood. She will work alongside Officer Justin Anthony to build positive relationships with residents of the area. Officer Heese joins the unit after serving in the Downtown Unit for one year.

"I've always had a big heart for serving people [and] serving the community and I felt like this was the best job I could do," Heese said.

To contact Officer Heese, or any officer in COU, e-mail Police_Outreach@CoMo.gov. Follow her on Twitter at [@CPDAndriaCoMo](https://twitter.com/CPDAndriaCoMo).



CoMo Rummage Sale

Let Columbia Parks and Recreation help with your spring cleaning. Clean up your clutter and bring it to the first CoMo Rummage Sale at Cosmo Park. The sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on June 10. Set-up begins at 6:30 a.m.

The price of \$40 includes two parking spaces for your sales items and advertising through Parks and Recreation sources. Tables and chairs not included, please bring your own. Space is limited, so call 573-874-7460 to reserve your spot.



Pools Open for the Summer!

Columbia Parks and Recreation is preparing to open City pools for 2017. Daily admission fees at Columbia's pools for this summer are \$1.25 for patrons 2 and older at Douglass; \$1.75 for ages 2-15 and \$3.00 for ages 16 and up at Lake of the Woods and Little Mates Cove; and \$2.75 for ages 2-15 and \$4.00 for ages 16 and up at Albert-Oakland. Season passes and coupon books are available for purchase at the ARC, 1701 W Ash.

The City is still looking for lifeguards this summer. Candidates must be at least 15 years of age. A Starguard Lifeguard Training session will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 31, June 1 and June 2 at Hickman Pool. The training is free for those who are employed by Parks and Recreation and \$130 for other participants.

To register for lifeguard training or for more information about aquatics, check CoMo.gov or call Parks and Recreation at 573-874-7460. Outdoor facility hours are below:



Location	May	June/July	August	September
Douglass Family Aquatic Center	Closed	Open for season June 2 M,W,F 1-7 p.m. T, Th, Su 12-5 p.m. Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m.	M,W,F 1-7 p.m. Tu, Th, Su 12-5 p.m. Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Last day Aug. 6	Closed for the season
Lake of the Woods Pool	Closed	Open for season June 2 M,W,F 1-7 p.m. T, Th, Su 12-5 p.m. Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m.	M,W,F 1-7 p.m. Tu, Th, Su 12-5 p.m. Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Last day Aug. 6	Closed for the season
Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center	Open May 27, 28, 29 12-5 p.m. Open May 30, 31 12-7 p.m.	M-F 12-7 p.m. Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Su 12 p.m.-5 p.m. 	M-F 12-7 p.m. Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Su 12-5 p.m. Last weekday Aug. 11 Open Aug. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 12-5 p.m. Closed Aug. 14-18, 21-25, 28-31	Closed Sept. 1 Open Sept. 2, 3, 4 12-5 p.m. After Labor Day, Closed for season
Little Mates Cove at Twin Lakes	Closed	Open for season June 2 M,W,F, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. T, Th, Su 12-5 p.m. Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m.	M,W,F, Sa 11 a.m.-5 p.m. T, Th 1-7 p.m. Su 12-5 p.m. Last day Aug 6	Closed for the season

Spring is a perfect time to plant a tree

Spring is here and now is a perfect time to plant a tree. Trees provide so many benefits and can be the foundation of a home's landscaping. Trees planted in the right spot on your property can reduce cooling costs by up to 30 percent in the summer. That's why Columbia Water & Light is offering a free tree to all its electric customers.

Sign up for the Tree Power program and a representative will come to your house to recommend the best shade tree and show you the best place to plant. You will then receive a coupon for a FREE tree.

Proper planting is the most important part of the process. The hole should be two times the width of the root ball and a shallow hole is preferred over too deep. It is important to not plant large growing trees under power lines or too close to houses. When in doubt, seek out a local Certified Arborist to assist with species recommendations.

The University of Missouri has an excellent resource at <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6850>. The best time to plant a tree was yesterday, the next best time is today. Happy digging.

573-874-7325 • CoMo.gov

(search for "tree power")

Limit one tree per electric meter.



Flat Branch Sewer Relief Project update

Finishing ahead of schedule, the first two phases of the Flat Branch Sewer Relief Project (FBSR) are now complete. In June 2016, the sewer utility began work to address aging infrastructure, overflows during heavy rains and the capacity needs for the upper Flat Branch watershed. Previously, these areas were using clay pipes, some dating back to the early 1900s, which were cracked and leaky.

The natural wear and tear on these pipes over time made the improvements necessary to reduce incidence of leaks and overflows, cut down on maintenance efforts and better support the needs of the community. In an effort to minimize the inconvenience to citizens, the contractor, Sterling Excavation, LLC, used a "trenchless" technique when crossing high-traffic areas including Providence and Stewart Road.

With these sewer upgrades complete, restoration projects have begun along the affected areas. The next phase of improvements takes place along Elm Street from Fourth Street to Hitt Street and up Sixth Street and is anticipated to begin late this spring. We appreciate your patience during these projects.



City Flags available for purchase

The public can purchase the new City of Columbia flag at the Office of Cultural Affairs, located in the Walton Building at 300 S. Providence Road. In May 2016, City Council approved a resolution to accept the design by Jon Sheltmire as the new, official flag for the City. Sheltmire's design represents Columbia being at a crossroads in the center of the state of Missouri, and it incorporates the existing City logo to represent Columbia's diverse, close-knit community. The featured colors in the design, blue and green, symbolize Columbia's many distinctive rivers, creeks, and lakes as well as the city's woodlands, trails, parks and heritage of nature conservation. For more information about the flag, visit CoMo.gov/arts.



Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

June

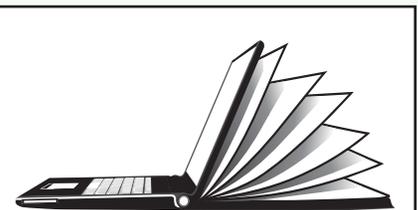
2	Douglass Family Aquatic Center, Little Mates Cove, Lake of the Woods Pool open for season
3	National Trails Day, Find the Golden Hiking Boot
3	Hominy Creek Trail Ride, meet at Old 63 parking lot at Stephens Lake Park, 2:30-4:30 p.m., FREE
3	Shred Fest Skateboarding Event, Columbia Skate Park at Cosmo Park, 4-7 p.m., FREE
3-4	Art in the Park, Stephens Lake Park, FREE
8	Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Missouri Symphony Society, 7 p.m., FREE
9	Movies in the Park, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Cosmo Park, 8:45 p.m., FREE
10	CoMo Rummage Sale, Cosmo Park, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., \$40 for booth space
10-11	Francis Hagan Match Play Championship, Lake of the Woods Golf Course
16-18	Show Me State Games
17-18	Francis Hagan Match Play Championship, Lake of the Woods Golf Course
21	Family Fun Fest: Explore Outdoors, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE

GovQA: NEW online portal for open records requests

The City of Columbia is committed to transparency and handling open records requests in a timely and efficient manner. A new software tool powered by GovQA® will assist records custodians in receiving, processing, tracking and reporting records request submitted to the City. This same tool will also streamline the process for those requesting records.

To submit a records request, simply visit CoMo.gov and click the "Records Request" link on the right blue column. It is preferred that requesters use the records request portal, although records requests can also be made via mail, email, phone call or in person.

The City hopes this is a useful tool that improves efficiency and timeliness in handling records requests. Citizens can provide feedback via email at pc@CoMo.gov.



NEW Online Portal

< Records request >

Volunteer of the Month—Alexis McCoy

In 2016, Alexis McCoy began volunteering with the City of Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department. In eight short months she has made quite an impact on the special events team. From helping with events to engaging the public, Alexis makes it all look easy.

Alexis' great attitude and consistent desire to go above and beyond have made pulling off large events much easier.

"Volunteering has given me a very unique outlet to create lasting friendships, enhance my skill-set and grow. There are no two events that are ever alike, and because of this I never cease to learn something new, connect with others or have fun doing what I love," she said.

We are grateful to all of our volunteers, including Alexis, who have made a difference at these and other events.

"Alexis has volunteered at several Parks and Recreation events in the past year and she has provided outstanding support. She always has a smile on her face, treats everyone around her with kindness and respect and works hard at the task she is assigned. I am always happy to see her name on the volunteer list knowing she will bring something positive to the event," Stacey Kulik, Alexis' supervisor, said.

Thank you, Alexis!

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

Written by volunteer Elizabeth Miller.



Summer youth volunteering

Volunteering is a wonderful way for young people to give back to their community, benefit from new skills and experiences, make new friends and build character. Combine that with extra time in the summer, volunteering can be a winning experience.

Columbia youth 12-15 years old can make good use of their extra time this summer by participating in *Youth In Action*. Organized by the City's Volunteer Programs, *Youth In Action* allows kids to participate in a wide variety of supervised, structured projects at events and with agencies throughout the community. Projects are usually scheduled for two to four hours and are held at a variety of times to accommodate busy schedules. *Youth In Action* projects begin as soon as school is out and run through August. There is no cost to participate.

Volunteer Programs has also published the directory of summer youth volunteering that includes several nonprofit organizations where young people can volunteer.

To apply for *Youth In Action* or review the directory, call 573-874-7499 or visit the City's Volunteer Programs website at CoMo.gov.

Code Corner—Weeds

Spring is here! The grass is growing and hopefully lawns are being mowed. In case they are not, the City enforces a weed ordinance to address vegetation that has attained a height of 12 inches or more. Property owners may receive an abatement notice if they are in violation. When properties are out of compliance, the City may abate the weeds and bill the property for mowing. In 2016, Neighborhood Services handled 1,277 weed cases.

To report a weed violation, call 573-874-7339 or report via the City's website at CoMo.gov.

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline June 2 at 5 p.m.

- Columbia Library District Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs
Standing Committee on Public Art
- Railroad Advisory Board
- Water & Light Advisory Board

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.

Budget billing

Utility Customer Service (UCS) has good news for customers interested in budget billing. Customers with the required 12-month history at their current address may now enroll. From this point forward, customers will no longer need to wait until the month of March to sign up, but will be able to enroll at any time during the year as long as they have a 12-month history. Customers may submit their application online at CoMo.gov or may come in to the office at 701 E. Broadway. Customers with questions about the budget billing program may email UCS@CoMo.gov or call 573-874-7380.

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
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Brian Treece

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Fifth Ward

Sixth Ward

City Manager

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