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July 2017



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Total solar eclipse—August 21, 2017

On Aug. 21, 2017, Columbia will be in the direct path of totality for a total solar eclipse. This will be the first total solar eclipse in the continental United States since Feb. 26, 1979. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, and when the moon is in the 'new moon' phase, it can fully block out the sun, resulting in a total eclipse.

Columbia is the perfect central location and is directly on the line of totality for this rare event, so the city is expected to receive thousands of visitors. To prepare, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has teamed up with Off Track Events to plan several activities leading up to the eclipse, along with a festival at Cosmo Park and viewing area at Gans Creek Recreation Area on Aug. 21. For more information on events, visit CoMoEclipse.com.

Remember that looking directly at the sun can cause eye damage, and the only safe time to view the eclipse without eye protection is during totality (Columbia will have 2 minutes, 36 seconds of totality). Eclipse glasses are available at visitor centers around town and will be at the eclipse events.



The solar eclipse will happen around 1:12 p.m. with 2 minutes, 36 seconds of totality.

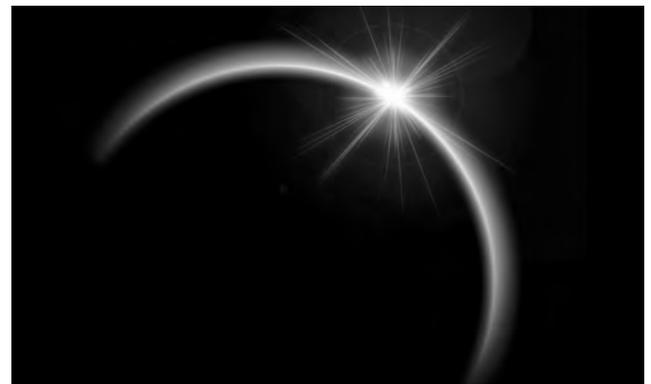
Parks and Recreation planning eclipse themed events

This August, Columbia Parks and Recreation is planning two events to celebrate the total solar eclipse:

FAMILY FUN FEST—series will have a special theme in August: Mad About Science. The event will take place from 6–8 p.m. on Aug. 16 at Cosmo Park. FREE activities and entertainment will focus on the science world. Sponsored by Convention and Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5, KOMU TV8, ParentLink and Tigers Community Credit Union.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 573-874-7460.

MOVIES IN THE PARK—Guardians of the Galaxy will be shown at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19 at Cosmo Park, near Nickell Shelter. Movie-goers are encouraged to bring blankets or low lawn chairs for seating. Admission is FREE, concessions and food trucks will be available for purchase. Sponsored by Missouri Care, KPLA 101.5 and Boone Electric Community Trust.



Track transit changes during the total solar eclipse

Columbia is preparing to welcome thousands of visitors on Monday, Aug. 21 for the once in a lifetime total solar eclipse. Several locations will be hosting viewing events and COMO Connect, Columbia's public transit system, would like to make residents and visitors aware that significant route and schedule changes are possible due to heavy traffic.

For updates on route and schedule changes, visit COMOConnect.org, follow COMOConnectTransit on Facebook and @COMOConnect on Twitter. Smartphone users can download the COMO Connect mobile app to receive instant transit alerts and to track buses in real time.

Street Talk: Chip seal operations begin



Each year Columbia Public Works uses a variety of proven approaches to pave, patch or preserve our city streets. These pavement management approaches include asphalt overlay, mill and overlay, reclamite seal, surface seal, fog seal, crack sealing and chip seal. Several chip seal operations have started or are scheduled to start over the summer.

"Our goal is to extend the life of our roadways in the most cost effective and least disruptive manner possible," Engineering Manager Richard Stone said. "The approach for each street is based on our resources such as budget and manpower and the condition of each road."

WHAT IS CHIP SEAL?

Chip sealing uses the same ingredients as asphalt concrete paving, but rather than milling the road and laying down new pavement, a thin film of heated asphalt liquid is sprayed on the road surface, followed by the placement of small "chips" or stones. Rollers then go over the chips to compact and adhere them to the existing asphalt. The excess stone is swept from the surface after a period of time to allow the chips to dry and settle.

HOW DO WE DECIDE?

Roadways are rated on a 10-point scale with a rating of 10 indicating "new/excellent" condition. Roadways with a rating of 1 have "totally failed" and require reconstruction (very expensive). Typically, an asphalt roadway with a rating of 6-7, or "good shape," is the best candidate for a chip seal. The objective is to preserve the underlying roadway structure at a relatively low cost.

HOW COST-EFFECTIVE IS IT?

The chip seal process typically costs \$1 to \$2 per square yard. By comparison, milling off the road surface and putting down a new overlay of asphalt costs \$7 to \$10 per square yard. This means that a typical 1,000-foot residential street would cost \$5,000 to chip seal but more than \$25,000 to mill and overlay. (Total reconstruction, on the other hand, could range from \$200,000 to \$350,000 for that same street.)

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The chip seal process is a crucial element of the City's pavement preservation process. It prevents deterioration by sealing up cracks and providing a pliable long-term wearing surface that can typically last 5-7 years (longer if followed up by a fog seal or other treatment).

WHAT ABOUT THE CHIPS?

With the passage of time and vehicles over the roadway, chip seal tends to self-heal the cracks in the street and protect the pavement from water intrusion (which is the enemy). Excess chips are swept up by street sweepers as soon as the chip seal dries but may need to be addressed several more times after that.

"We have recently been using more fog seal treatments to help better lock those chips in place," Stone said. "People have been responding positively to that approach."

SAFETY TIPS

During chip seal operations, and several days afterwards, it is advised to drive more cautiously until the chips either lock in or are swept up. Please avoid turning sharply, braking quickly or spinning the vehicle's tires.

For schedule updates and more information about pavement management approaches, visit CoMo.gov/PublicWorks.

Flat Branch Relief Sewer Project update

Flat Branch Relief Sewer Project #3 is in full swing and includes much more than just sewer improvements. For this project, the Sewer Utility has collaborated with the Stormwater Utility, Columbia Water & Light and the University of Missouri to develop a work plan involving multiple crews in one space. By coordinating schedules and projects into one work plan, the City can minimize impacts to traffic and allow for quicker completion times.

In addition to enhancing the gravity sewer, including replacing nearly 3,120 feet of sewer lines with higher capacity pipes, the City will replace two storm drains along Elm Street and upgrade approximately 1,245 feet of water distribution infrastructure along Sixth Street and Elm Street with eight inch PVC pipe. During this time, the University of Missouri's steam tunnel will also be rehabilitated at the intersection of Elm and Seventh. The project began mid-May and is progressing east along Elm toward Hitt Street, where it will likely conclude in the fall.

Roundabout landscaping

As Columbia has grown, so has the number of roundabouts. City staff from Public Works—Streets, Sustainability and Volunteer Programs recently joined forces to update roundabouts to reduce the City's mowing responsibility, make them an asset to our environment and make maintenance more manageable for volunteers. The roundabouts in Scott Boulevard at Vawter School Road and Route KK were the first two to be replanted and more will follow in other parts of Columbia this fall and into next year. Volunteer Programs is now looking for adopters to help care for the landscaping long-term. To volunteer or learn more, contact Volunteer Programs at volunteer@CoMo.gov or 573-874-7499.

Strategic Plan—Affordable housing initiatives

Homeownership can be difficult for lower-income households, so the City of Columbia is working to address this issue by creating permanently affordable housing for households who might not otherwise be able to afford a home.

The Columbia Community Land Trust (CCLT) began in fall 2016 as an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to creating and preserving a permanent supply of affordable homes for lower-income households in the City of Columbia. Affordable, owner-occupied housing stabilizes families and neighborhoods by providing opportunities for families to build wealth and by working with community members to preserve the quality and financial stability of homes in their neighborhoods.

The Lynn Street Cottages development, along a block of Lynn Street in Columbia, is the CCLT's first homeownership development. The development, expected to be completed in August 2017, will feature seven owner-occupied, permanently affordable homes with net-zero energy usage. This development is supported by several community partners, including the City of Columbia, R. Anthony Development Group, Providence Bank, Crockett Engineering Consultants, Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity, Job Point and Central Missouri Community Action.

The efforts of the CCLT align with the City's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan social equity priority to improve the odds for success of Columbia citizens. Two of the objectives of the priority area are to help low-to-moderate income, first-time home buyers achieve home ownership and to increase the stock of affordable energy-efficient homes. The CCLT is directly attributing to these goals.

Anyone interested in purchasing one of the Lynn Cottages should contact Randy Cole at 573-874-6321. To learn more visit CoMo.gov/Strategic-Plan.



Pets in hot cars

As summer heats up, the Columbia Police Department reminds citizens to never leave pets locked in hot cars. Hundreds of pets suffer and die nationwide every year when their guardians make the mistake of leaving them in a parked car—even for “just a minute.”

Temperatures inside a parked car can rise almost 20 degrees in just 10 minutes. This can put a pet at risk of serious illness or death, even on a day that doesn't seem hot to a person. If a pet owner is not able to leave a pet at home while running errands, consider bringing a friend who can either play with the pet outside while running errands, or sit with the pet in the car with the air conditioning running. Pet owners can also plan to eat at an outdoor café where the pet is allowed, or shop at pet-friendly stores where the pet is welcome to browse too.

If a citizen observes a pet in a parked car, CPD recommends to write down the car's make, model and license plate number. If there are businesses nearby, notify their managers or security and ask that an announcement is made to find the car's owner. If the owner can't be found, call the Columbia/Boone County Animal Control office at 573-449-1888, or the Boone County Joint Communications non-emergency line after hours at 3-1-1.

Boone County 3-1-1

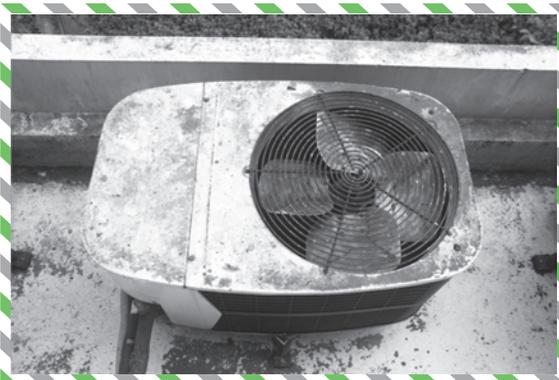
Have a non-emergency law enforcement issue in Boone County? Instead of trying to remember a seven digit phone number, the Boone County Joint Communications Center recently launched 3-1-1; an easy to remember three digit number for non-emergency law enforcement calls. Of course, in an emergency, citizens should still dial 9-1-1 and provide the information requested to respond quickly to the emergency.



The vast majority of 3-1-1 systems in the country are for all non-emergency and general city or county information requests within that 3-1-1 area. In Columbia, to make inquiries or obtain information on City of Columbia services, the number to call is 573-874-CITY (2489). By calling the City of Columbia Contact Center at this number, citizens can request services and information for city solid waste, sewer, stormwater, streets, bus routes, electric, water, energy efficiency, Columbia Regional Airport, Columbia events, employment opportunities and other City of Columbia information.

Remember, in an emergency, call 9-1-1. For non-emergency law enforcement issues in Columbia or Boone County, call 3-1-1. And for inquiries or information on City of Columbia services call 573-874-CITY (2489).

Partner with Columbia Water & Light and start \$aving today!



If your cooling system is older than 10 years, it may be time to replace. Rebates and loans are available. Let us help you finance your upgrade.

Did you know?

By upgrading your cooling system, you can save 20% on your utility bill.

Call today!

573-441-5528



ColumbiaPowerPartners.com

Window air conditioner exchange

Every summer, Columbia Water & Light, Boone Electric Cooperative and the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) team up for the air conditioner exchange program. This program allows low-income Water & Light customers to exchange their older, less efficient or broken window air conditioner units for new ones that are more energy efficient. This helps them stay comfortable and save money on utility bills. Exchange of old units and pickup of new units both take place at the VAC (403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia). All of the old air conditioners are disposed of properly and recycled by the City.

The program runs now through August 31 (or until unit supplies run out) and will be distributed on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.–noon and 1–4 p.m. A limited number of units are available.

To participate, you must bring in the following items:

- Older, inefficient window air conditioner to exchange
- Proof of current physical Water & Light address (IDs or leases will not be accepted)
- Identification for everyone at your address (originals, no copies)
- Proof of all income for everyone at your address (including food stamps and TANF)
- Current utility bill for your address

Summertime fire safety

Summertime means cookouts, Fourth of July and outdoor activities as families get out and enjoy the weather. The men and women of the Columbia Fire Department hope citizens enjoy this summer and remember this time of the year also presents opportunities for fires and injuries. Following are a few tips to help make the summer safe and enjoyable:

- Don't wear loose clothing while barbecuing.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire. The flame can flashback into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach children to report loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Inspect the area around a barbecue or campfire. Avoid having a grill or 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 tractors or lawn mowers to cool down outside before being stored in a shed or garage.
- Keep mower clean of lawn debris. Dried grass near a heated area may cause a fire.
- Install and test smoke alarms in garages 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 CoMo.gov/Fire.

Keeping mosquitos away

Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services wants to keep citizens safe this summer, because spring rains not only grow flowers—but also mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes can hatch in about a week and need just a capful of water to breed. Therefore, it's important to eliminate any standing water around homes once a week, if not every time after it rains.

Check these common areas for standing water:

- Tree stumps and hollowed trees
- Pool covers
- Hot tubs
- Bird baths
- Ponds
- Wheel barrows
- Toys
- Discarded tires
- Clogged rain gutters, storm drains and down spouts
- Flat roofs
- Outdoor faucets
- Rain barrels

Citizens can also prevent mosquito bites by wearing insect repellent with DEET. For more information on mosquito safety, visit CoMo.gov/Health.



Progress as Promised – Residential projects complete through Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

The Columbia Public Works Traffic Division manages the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. The program involves a lengthy process of resident participation, public meetings and City Council approval of funding and construction, among other steps.



Streets included in the program are ranked based on need, traffic studies and whether infrastructure improvements designed to slow traffic can make a significant difference on a given street.

This spring, projects were completed on Stewart Road, Rice Road and Kelsey Drive. City crews installed speed humps and speed tables on all three residential streets. Crosswalks were also added on Stewart Road.

"The Rice/Kelsey neighborhood was concerned with aesthetics, protecting the bike lanes, smoothness of ride, and effectiveness for everyone," Traffic Engineer Lee White said. "This led to selecting a combination speed table and speed hump approach."

The total investment was estimated to be about \$31,800 for Stewart Road and \$72,000 for Rice/Kelsey, funded through Annual Traffic Calming Funds.

More information is available at CoMo.gov/PublicWorks.

Utility Customer Services summer rush

Summer is here, and that means higher temperatures and longer days. During this time of year, Utility Customer Services (UCS) is experiencing higher than normal call volume due to "summer rush," which means longer hold times for customers. Avoid the frustration of a long wait on hold by going to the City's website CoMo.gov. Customers may request new service, transfer current services to a new address or terminate existing services by filling out an online form up to 30 days in advance of the requested date. Customers can also go online to pay bills, update contact information or sign up for automatic bill payment. The website is always available, so remember: the shortest line is online. Thanks in advance for helping to reduce UCS call volume by taking advantage of the website.

Also, during hot weather it is especially important to keep current with utility bills. Per City ordinance found in Chapter 27-21 (h), the City of Columbia may shut off delinquent accounts when the temperature is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit and below 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Disconnections are based on actual temperatures, not forecasts, so when the actual temperature is below 90 degrees, services may be shut off. If an account is past due, please call 573-874-7380 or visit the UCS office at 701 E. Broadway. Agreements for extensions are possible for eligible accounts.

Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

August

3	Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, BXR Acoustic Artist Showcase, 7 p.m., FREE
9	New Leisure Times available
12	Wacky Water Olympics, Indian Hills Park, 3-5 p.m., FREE
13	Coolin' Down with the Blues, Douglass Park, 3-8 p.m., FREE
16	Family Fun Fest: Mad About Science, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE
19	NFL Punt, Pass and Kick, Cosmo Park, 9 a.m. check in, FREE
19	Kaleidospoke, meet at Flat Branch Park, 7:30 p.m., \$15
19	Movies in the Park, Guardians of the Galaxy, Cosmo Park, 8:30 p.m., FREE
30	Neighborhood Park Fun Day, McKee Street Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE

Did you know?

Every day in the U.S. about 10 people die from unintentional drowning. Columbia Parks and Recreation lifeguards performed 77 rescues last year, keeping our pool patrons safe from harm.



Volunteer of the Month—Carol Schultz

Carol Schultz is a familiar face at many of the City's Convention and Visitor's Bureau events. She began as a Columbia Tourism Ambassador (CTA) in 2012 where she has been a friendly face welcoming visitors to our city. Her desire to volunteer for the Convention and Visitors Bureau comes from a passion to travel and connect with others.

"I love to travel and always ask the local people wherever I travel for suggestions, so it was a natural step for me to be part of the group that welcomes visitors to beautiful central Missouri," Schultz said.

As a CTA, Carol has dedicated several hours of service by staffing the City's Visitors Center and by managing the Convention and Visitors Bureau information table at various special events throughout the city. It is clear Carol truly enjoys what she does and has been a great asset to the City of Columbia not only as a volunteer but also as an ambassador for our beautiful city. We thank Carol for her dedication and service to make our city the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.

To learn more about becoming a Columbia Tourism Ambassador or other volunteer opportunities with the City, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or volunteer@CoMo.gov.



Carol Schultz

Butterfly bush is bad for butterflies

By: Danielle Fox, Community Conservationist

Many people are offended when I tell them that the butterfly bush (*Buddleia* spp.) is bad for butterflies. Marketers encourage gardeners to plant the butterfly bush specifically for butterflies, so the gardeners' frustration isn't unwarranted. Though the butterfly bush provides nectar, it is still bad for butterflies. It doesn't make new butterflies and it is becoming invasive in our natural areas. Caterpillars are specialists, meaning that they only eat a certain type of plant. An example is the monarch caterpillar and its reliance solely on milkweed. Other caterpillars exclusively feed on their own special plant and the butterfly bush is not one of them.

The butterfly bush is a non-native plant from Asia or Africa. Caterpillars in Missouri did not evolve with non-native plants like the butterfly bush and so they do not recognize it as food. Additionally, the butterfly bush has escaped the garden and can now be found in our natural areas displacing native plants that provide food to caterpillars and support their populations. Therefore, to produce more butterflies we need to include native plants that caterpillars feed on into our landscaping. To see a list of native plants to include in a garden, visit

CoMo.gov/sustainability/community-conservation.

Code Corner—rental inspections

Since the late 1970s, the City of Columbia has had a Rental Unit Conservation Law that requires all owners of rental property to register their rentals with the City and agree to an inspection. City staff inspect rental units to ensure safe and healthy living environments for the thousands of residents who rent. There are currently 27,380 dwelling units registered with the City. The fees charged to property owners are based on the City's costs and are less than two cents per day for many units.

To learn more about the City's rental regulation, contact Neighborhood Services at 573-817-5050.

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline is Aug. 4 at 5 p.m.

- Board of Health
- Historic Preservation 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.

Web did you know?

Are you interested in following City departments on social media? See updates, photos, and videos on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and more. For a full list visit—
CoMo.gov/SocialNetworking.



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.

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