

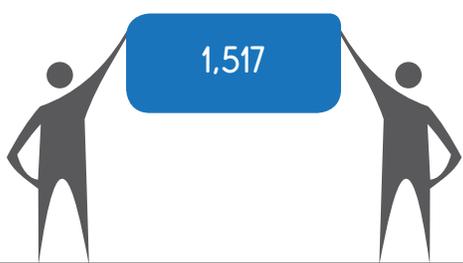
— City Stats —

Columbia City Council approved the fiscal year 2020 annual budget for the City of Columbia which can be found online at CoMo.gov.

The FY 2020 budget includes:



Permanent City employees



Estimated loss of sales tax



Street Talk: Winter is coming

Last winter, the first snowy weather appeared in November, followed by nearly 20 inches of snow in January and the final snowfall in early March.

Have you begun to prepare for this winter yet? Are your tires in good shape with good tread? Have you considered snow tires or chains, depending on where you live? Have you packed your car with emergency winter weather supplies such as blankets, batteries, snacks and hydration? Assuming you have already done all of these things, you might also want to consider signing up for Nixle Alerts and bookmarking CoMoSnow.com for winter weather updates.



Nixle Alerts: Whenever snow accumulates more than 2 inches, any vehicle parked on a designated snow route must be moved off of the roadway or risk a fine of \$100 plus towing and storage charges. The purpose of this rule isn't to collect fines, though. We'd prefer not to tow a single vehicle. This critical ordinance allows plow drivers the space to do their work more quickly, efficiently and safely for everyone. To be notified when it snows 2 inches or more, please sign up for alerts at Nixle.com or by texting COLUMBIAPW to 888.777.

CoMoSnow.com: This website provides all the information you need before, during and after a winter weather event. Information includes:

- Nixle alerts for those who don't text.
- Snow fighting plans and procedures.
- A complete list of Designated Snow Routes with maps.
- Examples of what a passable road looks like.
- Links to resources for all City services potentially impacted by winter weather, including the electrical outage map, warming centers, transit and trash collection.

Most of all, CoMoSnow.com provides you with the latest updates about winter weather events and operations to let you know what proactive steps are being taken by the City to pretreat and plow our community streets.

Progress as Promised: 2019 pavement management

Without proper pavement management, or road maintenance, City streets would deteriorate to a condition that would require total reconstruction, which is very expensive. To avoid this, Public Works engineers rate each City-maintained street by condition to determine which type of paving maintenance will be most effective in preserving our streets for a longer life. Below are the different maintenance options the engineers consider and how often they were used in 2019.



Supervised children watch from a safe distance as City of Columbia Public Works Street Division crews chip seal West Briarwood Lane.

Chip Seal: Public Works chip sealed almost 15 lane miles of Columbia streets in 2019. Heated asphalt is sprayed onto the surface of the road, followed by small “chips” or stones, which are compressed into the roadway, creating a pliable long-term wearing surface. Chip seal prevents deterioration by sealing up cracks to prevent water intrusion and preserving the underlying roadway structure at a relatively low cost.

Reclamite: In 2019, more than 15 lane miles of streets were treated with reclamite, a product that can rejuvenate the protective qualities of asphalt lost through oxidation caused by precipitation, sunlight and other factors. Reclamite prevents water from penetrating into the asphalt, which is the biggest threat to roadways.

Surface Seal: Nearly 24 lane miles of City streets were sealed this fiscal year. Crews use a fast-drying asphalt sealing solution designed to extend pavement life. This mixture of liquid asphalt, fine aggregates, recycled products and bonding agents also protects the roadway from water intrusion.

Mill and Overlay: This year, approximately 27 lane miles of Columbia streets were overlaid with new asphalt. This process consists of milling off the surface of a street, in most cases, and laying new asphalt. The benefits of asphalt are durability, cost effectiveness, smoothness and the ability to install it relatively quickly. This paving process is about five times more expensive than chip seal but 10 times less expensive than totally reconstructing a street.

For more details about 2019 street maintenance and repair, visit [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Pavement](https://www.como.gov/PublicWorks/Pavement).

Board and commission vacancies

The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

Application deadline is Dec. 6 at 5 p.m.

- Finance Advisory and Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement Board

Boards and commissions are a way for residents to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.como.gov) or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

City offices closed for upcoming holidays

City of Columbia offices will be closed for the following upcoming holidays:

- Thanksgiving Day – Nov. 28
- The day after Thanksgiving – Nov. 29
- Christmas Day – Dec. 25
- New Year's Day – Jan. 1

Residential curbside recycling and trash will not be collected on the holidays and will be delayed by one day the remainder of the week. Even though City offices are closed the Friday after Thanksgiving, solid waste collection will resume. Thursday customers will be collected on Friday and Friday customers collected on Saturday. Residents can download the COMO Recycle and Trash app for collection day reminders and service notifications. Questions concerning the collection schedule should be directed to the Contact Center at 573.874.CITY (2489). The landfill will also be closed.

Go COMO, Columbia's public transit system, will not operate, and parking meter regulations will not be enforced on the observed holidays.

Parks and Recreation's Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) will be open limited hours on the holidays. Although administrative offices for both the police and fire departments will be closed, all other emergency services will be available.

Please visit [CoMo.gov/Utilities](https://www.como.gov/Utilities) for phone numbers to contact staff regarding emergencies related to Water & Light, Sewer and Stormwater.

Holiday cooking safety

The Columbia Fire Department offers the following cooking safety tips to keep you safe during this holiday season:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire, oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains, away from your stovetop.

If you have a cooking fire:

- Get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 after you leave.
- If trying to fight the fire, be sure others are out and you have a clear way out.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Check out the new features of My Utility Bill

Most customers know they can pay bills online, but now the new customer portal, My Utility Bill, offers many more online services.

One of the most useful features is being able to see usage and payment history. Knowing when electricity or water consumption typically rises can make it easier for customers to take measures to conserve energy or water to lower their utility bills in typical peak months. With My Utility Bill, customers may also opt for e-billing and email notification. Bills generated after a customer registers are also available for viewing and printing.

Take advantage of all the online features by registering today:

MyUtilityBill.CoMo.gov/Register. In addition to the new features, the portal also offers a quick way to make sure Utility Customer Service has your updated contact information. If you need to change your phone number or billing address, hover over your name in the upper right corner, and select "My Profile" to make the desired changes.

If you sign up for e-billing and opt to not receive a paper bill that means you will no longer receive this publication, City Source Newsletter, in the mail. However, the newsletter is available online by visiting CoMo.gov and searching "City Source."

CoMo 200 One Word Project calls for community input



In 2021, Columbia will celebrate its bicentennial. CoMo 200, the initiative behind the Columbia bicentennial, is working on multiple projects and events to commemorate this exciting occasion, one of which is an expansion of Flat Branch Park.

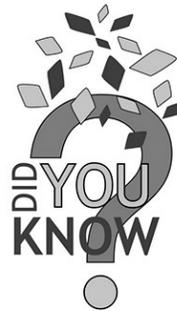
This expansion will include multiple art features, including a new gateway at the corner of Providence and Broadway. One feature of this gateway will be a sphere representing the "O" in Columbia. The sphere will be covered with words describing Columbia and the community's hopes for the future.

CoMo 200 invites members of the community to submit their own "One Word" through early December. You can submit your own word at various events, physical locations or online. To learn more about how to submit your One Word, visit the CoMo 200 website at CoMo200.com.

Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460
for more information
DECEMBER

- 6 Lights and Sights Tour, Meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 or 7:45-9 p.m., \$7.50 per person, must pre-register
- 7 City Kwanzaa Celebration, Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 2-5 p.m., Free
- 10 Central Columbia Holiday Party, Armory Sports Center, 6:30-8 p.m., Free
- 14 Junior NBA Skills Challenge, Armory Sports Center, 10 a.m., Free



Children who get one hour or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity a day perform better academically, have better memory, and are less likely to develop depression.

Toys for Columbia's Youth

Columbia Parks and Recreation is organizing the annual Toys for Columbia's Youth Drive. Families interested in applying for the program may do so by Monday, Dec. 9. The toy drive serves children ages 12 and under. To be eligible, families must be Columbia residents, meet income requirements and not be receiving toy assistance from another agency.

Donations of new toys and money are being accepted through Dec. 9. For drop-off locations, visit CoMo.gov.

In addition to toys, cash, checks or credit cards are accepted. A letter of receipt for tax purposes will be provided for your generosity. Please call 573.874.7460 for more information.

Volunteer of the Month: Gloria Schwartz



Volunteer of the Month Gloria Schwartz (left) with Special Olympics athletes.

For a long time Gloria Schwartz wanted to coach the Special Olympics, but she thought she didn't have time. Finally, three years ago, a friend coaxed her into helping at a practice. Then, she not only found the time, but a very rewarding career in coaching.

Gloria has been involved with competitive sports all of her life. She wanted to help persons with intellectual disabilities experience the same excitement, opportunities and lessons she knew sports could provide. That's why she volunteers and is now their softball and basketball coach. Gloria tells us it was the "best decision I've ever made."

Jessica Sida, recreation specialist for the Special Olympics, says that Gloria's style of coaching is "nothing short of admirable." She provides the athletes with a safe and fun space to experience emotional growth and build relational skills with teammates and others; things they can take home and use in other parts of their lives.

"Gloria is always bringing out the positives in all our athletes and helping them realize those positives," Sida said.

Thank you, Gloria, for your dedication and passion. Gloria would like to add that if you have any interest in helping with the Special Olympics, don't hesitate.

"You will make a difference in someone's life and at the same time, it'll change yours," she said.

For information on volunteering for the Special Olympics, call 573.874.7312 or email Jessica.Sida@CoMo.gov. For other volunteer opportunities in the City of Columbia, contact 573.874.7499 or Volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Written by volunteer Bob Murphy

Landfill or compost?

Winter is coming! That means it is time to rake leaves, trim bushes and cleanup flower beds. Some houses will dispose over 20 bags of leaves this month, and it is important to know your disposal options.

You can place yard waste in black trash bags and set them on the street curb. This material will be picked up by a trash truck and will be sent to the landfill. Alternatively, you can place yard waste in your car, truck, or trailer and take the material to a Yard Waste Drop-off Center. Then, the material will be turned into mulch and sent to our compost operation. Yard Waste Drop-off Centers are located at Capen Park and Cosmo Park, along Parkside Drive.



OUR VISION

Columbia is the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.

OUR MISSION

To serve the public through democratic, transparent and efficient government.

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CITY OF COLUMBIA ✕
CONTACT CENTER
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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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