



## WHAT IS COVID-19?

**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may also be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions like: heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease are at higher risk of getting very sick.

You can protect yourself by: avoiding close contact with people who are sick; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19 and no specific antiviral treatment.

If you think you have COVID-19, you can contact your healthcare provider, Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services, or the COVID-19 hotline: **1.877.435.8411**.

*All information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Learn more at [CoMo.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).*



## PEOPLE AT RISK FOR SERIOUS ILLNESS FROM COVID-19

Early information out of China, where COVID-19 first started, shows that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. This includes:

- Older adults
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
  - Heart Disease
  - Diabetes
  - Lung Disease

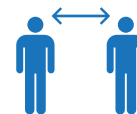
If a COVID-19 outbreak happens in your community, it could last for a long time, an outbreak is when a large number of people suddenly get sick. Depending on how severe the outbreak is, public health officials may recommend community actions to reduce people's risk of being exposed to COVID-19. These actions can slow the spread and reduce the impact of disease.

If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or because you have a serious long-term health problem, it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease.

## Recommended Actions:



Stock up on supplies



Keep space between yourself and others



Avoid crowds as much as possible



Avoid cruises and non-essential air travel



Limit close contact and wash your hands often



Stay home as much as possible



## Progress as Promised: Wastewater Treatment Plant digester complex improvements



The improvements to the digester complex will allow for a more efficient and effective mixing of wastewater sludge. Photo credit: River City Construction, LLC

The Digester Complex Improvement Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently underway. This \$5.76 million construction project includes \$4.1 million approved with the 2013 Sewer Bond issue. River City Construction, LLC is the general contractor for the improvement project that also includes miscellaneous piping work, concrete repairs and electrical work.

The three digesters will receive new equipment to allow for a more efficient and thorough mixing of the wastewater sludge. The digesters are where bacteria decompose the solids portion of the wastewater in order to produce gas and biosolids. The gas generated by the digesting sludge is used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to heat the sludge itself and is used as fuel to heat some of the buildings at the facility. Once the sludge is mixed and appropriately digested, it is de-watered and the resulting biosolids are applied onto both City-owned and private farmland as a valuable fertilizer and soil conditioner.

The construction will replace digester covers on three of the primary anaerobic digesters and replace the roof of the digester complex building itself. Two of the existing covers and the mixing equipment are original to the Wastewater Treatment Plant which was completed in 1983.

These upgrades to the digester complex at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will allow the City facility to keep running efficiently and effectively. For more information visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) (search: wastewater treatment).

## Code Corner – Take care of tall grass

The City of Columbia vegetation management ordinance addresses turf and turf weeds that are 12 inches or taller. This ordinance is in place to deter rodent harborage and also protect property values for neighborhoods in the cases where lawns are not maintained. When properties are out of compliance, the City may cut the weeds and tax bill the property for mowing. In 2019, Neighborhood Services handled 1,132 vegetation cases.

To report a weed violation, call 573.874.7339 or report via the City's website at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov).

## 2020 Capital Improvement Program projects advance safety for all modes of transportation

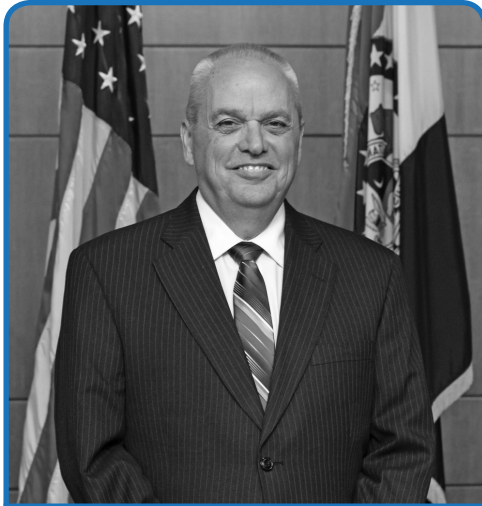
The City of Columbia Public Works Department is committed to advancing the safety of all travelers through the design and construction of street and sidewalk improvement projects. To achieve this, work will be taking place on a number of Capital Improvement Program projects in 2020. Every project must pass through an extensive public involvement process which includes identifying funding sources, seeking community input and presenting to the City Council for approval.

One of the biggest projects to begin construction in 2020 is the Nifong Boulevard Improvement Project. This project will improve Nifong Boulevard from Providence Road to Willowcreek Lane by adding travel lanes, restricted turning movements, intersection improvements, pedestrian crossings, bike lanes and sidewalks. The project is expected to be completed by fall of 2021.

Two roundabouts will also be constructed on Nifong Boulevard at the intersections of Sinclair Street and Old Mill Creek Road in 2020. A third roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Keene Street and I-70 Drive Southeast. Roundabouts improve safety for travelers by reducing fatalities and serious injury collisions through engineering design. These intersection improvements also include the construction of sidewalks and crosswalks.

The Shepard to Rollins Trail Project will also be completed in 2020 along with two new sidewalks along Sinclair Road between Nifong Boulevard and Southampton Drive and along McKee Street between Nick Court and Orchard Lane. A complete list of street and sidewalk construction projects to improve safety is available at [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Updates](http://CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Updates).

## Letter from City Manager John Glascock



City Manager John Glascock


City of Columbia residents,

One of the most important tasks we can do as residents is be involved in our community, and that includes participating in the 2020 Census. While it's only conducted every 10 years, the census has a big impact on our community, state and nation.

Our local non-profits receive funding based on census data and businesses look at the growth potential within a community when considering where to open new stores and create new jobs. The census has a big impact on our community's ability to thrive and having a complete and accurate count is very important.

The U.S. Census Bureau is taking responses right now and I encourage everyone in our community to respond online, by phone or by mail. You can find more information on [BooneCountyCounts.com](https://boonecountycounts.com).

I hope you will complete the 2020 Census to help our community grow and thrive.

  
Columbia City Manager

## Census 2020: Respond now online, by phone or by mail



**BOONE  
COUNTY COUNTS**

United States Census 2020

The 2020 Census is in full swing and you're encouraged to complete the form online, by phone or by mail. The questions about the household and each person living there are simple and quick to answer.

The census is available in 13 languages online and by phone; paper forms are in English and Spanish. Your information is safe, will only be used for data purposes and cannot be used against you.

When filling out the census don't forget the youngest members of your household, which includes babies born before April 1. Young children less than 5 years old were among the most undercounted in the last census. Also, consider additional people living in your home such as roommates, grandchildren, friends or other family members.

For every adult and child that is not counted, Missouri loses an estimated \$1,300 in federal funding per person, per year. Those funds can have a big impact on our community and we want to be sure we have an accurate count.

You can find information about Boone County's efforts to achieve a complete census count by visiting [BooneCountyCounts.com](https://boonecountycounts.com) or [@BooneCountyCounts](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

## Columbia Police Department continues to incorporate community policing principles

Officers at the Columbia Police Department are striving to incorporate community policing principles into everyday interactions with our citizens. Our police officers are expected to provide excellent customer service, operate as trusted professionals and become valued partners with our neighborhood and businesses throughout our community.

The Columbia Police Department has demonstrated their commitment to these values by installing numerous substations across the community, hosting trainings through the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program as well as utilizing social media platforms to provide accurate information about what is happening in our community. Since community support is integral in effective engagement, officers will continue to create more opportunities for two-way communication.

The Columbia Police Department encourages community members to partner with officers to build long-term relationships and promote safety within our neighborhoods. For more information follow the Columbia Police Department on Facebook and Twitter. Remember, if you see something, say something.



## Columbia Parks and Recreation kicks off summer special events



In August, the Family Fun Fest will be themed "Around the World," with international activities and entertainment for the whole family.

The month of May marks the start of summer special event series offered by Columbia Parks and Recreation. All activities listed below are free:

**Family Fun Fests** are held the third Wednesday of the month from May through September, from 6-8 p.m. at Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70 W. Family Fun Fests feature a different theme each month. The Family Fun Fest series is sponsored by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5, KOMU 8, ParentLink and Tigers Community Credit Union.

**Movies in the Park** are held the second Friday of the month from May through September at Cosmo Park. Movies start at dusk and are shown on a large inflatable screen near Nickell Shelter. Concessions and food trucks available; movie-goers should bring blankets or low lawn chairs for seating. These events are sponsored by MissouriCare, Boone Electric Community Trust and KPLA 101.5.

**Stevens Lake Amphitheater Concert Series** are held the first Thursday of the month (with some exceptions) at the Stevens Lake Park Amphitheater, 100 Old Hwy 63. Concert-goers should bring blankets or low lawn chairs for seating. The concert series is sponsored by KPLA 101.5 and Daniel Boone Regional Library.

**Neighborhood Block Parties** are held throughout the summer, starting with the annual Heritage Day celebration at Douglass Park, 400 Providence Rd, on May 9. Other events are planned at Indian Hills Park with a Juneteenth celebration and Wacky Water Olympics. Block parties are sponsored by MissouriCare, Tigers Community Credit Union and Inclusive Impact Institute.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460 or visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.como.gov).

## Spring tips for protecting your home from burglars

With spring here, it is a great time to conduct a survey of your home and implement these tips from the Columbia Police Department to protect your home against burglars.

- Trim shrubbery around doors and windows to prevent a burglar from working undetected.
- Close your windows and drop the blinds or shades when you are not home.
- Keep all doors and windows closed and locked while you are not home.
- Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on your automatic garage door opener for security.
- Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home. A message that you will return at a certain time leaves your home vulnerable in the interim.
- Use motion sensing lights for outdoor light fixtures to increase visibility.
- Have a trusted neighbor or friend pick up any newspapers, packages or door coupons when you are not home.

## Leaving for the summer? Don't forget your utility account!

Springtime often means getting ready to move. There's so much to do, and it can be easy to leave some loose ends. Don't forget your utility account! If you're leaving for the summer, please remember to cancel your services. You can do this in person, online at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) or by calling Utility Customer Services (UCS) at 573.874.7380.

Customers who leave temporarily for the summer, or who are required to keep utilities active until their leases expire, may provide UCS with a temporary alternate mailing address. This ensures you receive your bills in a timely manner, allowing you to keep your utility account current. You may also do this by phone or online by selecting the "update your contact information" link. Of course, you can always keep track of the status of your account by registering for the My Utility Bill customer portal at [myutilitybill.como.gov/register](http://myutilitybill.como.gov/register). If you have additional questions as your move approaches, contact UCS at 573.874.7380.

## Columbia Fire Department teaches hands-only CPR

According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in Missouri. Throughout the United States, there are 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests each year.

The Columbia Fire Department offers training on hands-only CPR. Rather than combine compressions with mouth-to-mouth, you only use your hands in the resuscitation process. Hands-only CPR is a simpler method and is less likely to be forgotten. It is also proven to be very effective at saving lives.

To learn more about hands-only CPR or to arrange a time for someone from the Columbia Fire Department to deliver training on this life-saving technique please contact us at [fire@CoMo.gov](mailto:fire@CoMo.gov) or at 573.874.7556.

## Strategic Plan: Action steps being developed for 2020 Plan

The City's 2020 Strategic Plan is moving right along into creating action steps. The Plan has various elements, including priority areas, outcome objectives and action steps.

The priority areas are the overarching themes of the plan, which have outcome objectives within each area that list goals and measures to work towards. Each outcome objective has action steps which are smaller goals that help to achieve the larger goals of the priority area.

With City Council approval this month, the proposed priority areas will be High Performing Government, Thriving Community, Healthy Environment, Reliable Infrastructure and Safe Community.

City staff members from all levels have worked for several months to review data and feedback from residents and City employees to create a Plan that's reflective of the community's needs and wants.

Updates will be posted on [CoMo.gov/Strategic-Plan](http://CoMo.gov/Strategic-Plan) as they are available.



The Columbia Fire Department offers training on hands-only CPR.

## Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460  
for more information

### MAY

- 6 Tons of Trucks, Target parking lot at Columbia Mall, 4-7 p.m., Free
- 7 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Karaoke in the Park, 6 p.m., Free
- 8 Movies in the Park: Frozen 2, Cosmo Park, 8:30 p.m., Free
- 9 Heritage Day Block Party, Douglass Park, 4-7 p.m., Free
- 10-17 19th Annual Bike, Walk and Wheel Week
- 16 Visit Your Park Playground Challenge Kicks Off
- 20 Family Fun Fest: Kindness Carnival, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., Free

## Board and commission vacancies

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

**Application deadline is May 8 at 5 p.m.**

- Columbia Housing Authority Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Youth Advisory Council

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](http://CoMo.gov) or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

# Volunteer of the Month: Lydia Stephens



Lydia Stephens believes volunteering not only benefits the community, but helps develop character.

When Lydia Stephens attended the Missouri Leadership Seminar at the University of Central Missouri in 2019 she fell in love with helping others and making a positive change in her community, "I promised myself once I returned home I would get more involved, and joining Volunteer Columbia was the perfect opportunity."

When Lydia first saw Teens in Action on the Volunteer Columbia Instagram page she instantly knew it was something she wanted to be a part of, "I believe any student-lead organization created to benefit their community is a perfect opportunity to develop your character and experience the real world."

Lydia's biggest challenge is finding time to volunteer, "Most of my volunteering consists of working with Teens in Action and The Food Bank, as well as other opportunities I find on the monthly Volunteer Columbia email." Besides attending school and work, Lydia is also involved with two organizations through her school, the National Honor Society and FCCLA.

Lydia recommends, "To anyone thinking of getting involved with volunteer work, just do it. It can seem really daunting and awkward at first but taking that first step and showing up will do a world of difference not only just for others but also for yourself."

Thank you to Lydia for demonstrating the power of Teens in Action. If you know or have a teen that would like to volunteer contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).

## Opportunities for summer youth volunteering

Summer brings extra time for many local young people, and the City of Columbia wants to help them make the most of it! Volunteer Programs has three ways to get young people involved and making a difference:

- **Youth in Action** is designed for those 12-15 years of age. The program includes a variety of volunteer projects and activities that are structured and supervised. Participants can select the activities that best suit their interests and schedules.
- **Teens in Action** is for those entering grades 10, 11 or 12 this fall. Teens will work together on volunteer projects and at events.
- Our **Directory of Summer Youth Volunteering** is a resource for those who want to arrange their own service this summer and includes details from many local organizations.

To learn more about these programs or to get involved, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or visit us at [CoMo.gov/volunteer](https://www.cocomo.gov/volunteer).



### 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.*

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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#### CITY OF COLUMBIA

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