

— City Stats —

Public Safety K-9s

Columbia Police and Fire Departments both use K-9s to help their public safety efforts.

5 active working K-9s

The Fire Department has 1



The Police Department has 4



Number of times the five K-9s have been used so far in 2019



Minimum annual training hours, per dog

Fire K-9s
587



Police K-9s
416



42nd Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show

History will come to life at the 42nd Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show at historic Nifong Park. Columbia Parks and Recreation will hold the Festival Sept. 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heritage Festival is a free event and offers entertainment and fun for the whole family.

Visitors will stroll through replica mountain man and cowboy camps and a lost arts area with traditional artisans. Entertainers on three stages will be performing both days, including the Haskell Indian Nations Dancers along with a variety of traditional and roots music.

The Festival will also feature handmade crafts for sale, kids activities, hayrides, food trucks, and tours of the Boone County Historical Museum, village and Maplewood Home.

The Heritage Festival is coordinated by Columbia Parks and Recreation and sponsored by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Boone County History & Culture Center, Columbia Missourian, KFRU, KPLA 101.5 and the Missouri Arts Council.

Call 573.874.7460 for more information about the festival, or visit CoMo.gov/ParksandRec.



Traditional artisans demonstrating lost arts at the Heritage Festival & Craft Show.

Explore utility bill portal features

Utility Customer Service would like to invite customers to register their accounts with our new customer portal: My Utility Bill.

Once registered, customers can access many online services, including viewing and paying bills; tracking billing and usage history; and starting, stopping or transferring utility service. In addition, it offers a quick way to make sure UCS has 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.

Using the My Utility Bill customer portal is convenient and is available 24 hours a day. It can also save you valuable time, as you avoid a potential long hold time on the phone. To register, visit MyUtilityBill.CoMo.gov.



City of Columbia using K-9s to help public safety

The City of Columbia has a long history of using K-9s to support our public safety operations, and ultimately the residents and visitors of our community.

The Columbia Police Department currently has four K-9s: Duncan, Kane, Gorrit and Nero. The Columbia Fire Department has one K-9: Izzo. The Police Department's K-9s are cross-trained for building search, article search, area search, narcotics detection and suspect apprehension. The Fire Department's K-9 is trained for accelerant detection.

All five K-9s receive extensive and continual training in order to stay sharp on the services they provide. CPD's four K-9s train for at least eight hours per week. K-9 Izzo for CFD trains daily and is annually certified to ensure he has the experience of being exposed to various odors that indicate an accelerant was used in a fire.

In both departments, the K-9s have assisted not only the residents of Columbia, but have assisted other agencies in the state of Missouri. Because Izzo is the only accelerant detection trained K-9 in Missouri, other city and county fire departments reach out and request assistance from Columbia Fire. So far in 2019, Izzo has responded to 22 investigations for the entire state.

Street Talk: New, improved line striper painting City streets



The City's new line striper uses MoDOT-approved Type P retroreflective paint with glass beads that turns the light around and sends it back in the direction of drivers' headlights.

Street and Traffic Division crews for the City of Columbia Public Works Department completed training on the City's new and improved striper in June and painted Forum Boulevard and several other roads by early July.

The new striper is smaller than the old striper, allowing for better maneuvering as it repaints the City's traffic lanes. Due to an improved painting system, crews can now paint stripes on a road with fewer passes and less staff time. It is also more environmentally friendly due to better fuel efficiency and fewer spills, splashes and paint loss.

"With the old striper we were constantly fixing paint guns that stay on when you switch them off and adjusting bead guns because it dropped too much," Public Works Traffic Signal Tech Joe Kochert said. "With the new truck we are more productive and much more efficient."

The new striper, which holds 180 gallons of paint, goes a further distance than before without stopping to load more paint. It has the ability to paint a broken white line and a solid yellow line simultaneously when needed, meaning fewer passes down the same road.

Barbecue safety tips to keep you safe

While you're still taking advantage of the summer weather, be sure that you're using your barbecue grill safely. The Columbia Fire Department encourages you to follow these barbecue safety tips:

1. If you have a propane grill, check all hoses for leaks by turning the gas on and spraying all hoses with soapy water. If you see bubbles, replace that hose.
2. Keep your grill a safe distance from any structures or overhangs.
3. Keep your grill clean of any excessive grease.
4. Dispose of charcoal in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid.
5. Never leave your barbecue grill unattended.

Columbia's City Channel earns three silver, one bronze Telly Awards



Zia Nizami, Jay-Dee Bush and Jaye Hickem (not pictured) earned Telly Awards for videos they produced for Columbia's City Channel.

Columbia's City Channel was recognized for creative excellence in production by the 40th annual Telly Awards. Jay-Dee Bush, Jaye Hickem and Zia Nizami were awarded bronze and silver Telly Awards for videos they produced.

Student Diversity Writings 2019 was a silver Telly winner in the Non-Broadcast: Diversity & Inclusion category. For producer Jay-Dee Bush, this was his first full production as a producer for City Channel. The video features Columbia area high school students performing their poetry on the topic of diversity. It was featured at the 2019 Annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards Celebration.

Our Journey to Fair Housing was a silver Telly winner in the Non-Broadcast: Diversity & Inclusion category and a bronze Telly winner in the Non-Broadcast Documentary: Individual category. Produced by Jaye Hickem to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act (1968), Our Journey features the stories of local activists and homeowners who lived through that time.

Taste (Beer) was a silver Telly winner in the Non-Broadcast: Government Relations category. Produced by Zia Nizami, this was the first in the Taste series of videos

highlighting unique characteristics of Columbia culture. In this installment, meet the owners and brewers who are creating a vibrant craft beer scene in Columbia.

These and other award-winning videos can be viewed at CoMo.gov/CityChannel/Awards.

School bus safety reminders

As a new school year approaches, the Columbia Police Department wants to remind everyone of simple safety reminders that will protect our young residents on the way to or from school. School buses are a safe way to get kids to school and back home, but injuries can occur if drivers are not paying attention, which puts our kids at risk.

All school buses used to transport children to public school that you will see in Columbia are painted bright yellow and have "SCHOOL BUS" clearly marked. When school buses have to stop to pick up or drop off students, you will see flashing yellow lights as the bus slows down to the stop. After the bus comes to a stop, you will see flashing red lights, along with a stop sign. As per city ordinance 14-168 "Duties of drivers meeting or overtaking school buses," all vehicles will come to a full and complete stop while the lights on the bus are flashing red.

When the school bus is stopped, the alternate flashing red lights and the stop signal arm are activated. Oncoming and following traffic must stop before they reach the bus when these signals are activated. You must stop on a two-lane road where the vehicles travel in either direction and on a two-lane road that is a one-way street. You do not need to stop when you are traveling the opposite direction of a school bus on a highway divided by a median where the vehicles traveling one direction are on a totally separate road from the vehicles traveling the opposite direction nor when you are traveling the opposite direction of a school bus on a highway containing four or more lanes of traffic.

Board and commission vacancies

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

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

- City of Columbia New Century Fund Inc. Board
- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Personnel Advisory 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 or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Strategic Plan: laying groundwork for next planning cycle

The City of Columbia is laying the groundwork for the next Strategic Plan to list priorities and goals for the City and community. In late summer 2018, the Strategic Plan Planning Committee was formed to start creating a solid foundation for the next Strategic Plan.

The Committee is currently gathering and analyzing data, which includes information from eight focus groups. The focus groups represented a cross section of the community with groups to specifically hear from community members who identified as being in the categories of low income, business, youth, seniors and people with disabilities. Additionally, there were three at-large focus groups that any community member could attend. The focus groups were asked a series of questions about their opinions about the City and what they think the City should focus on. The data from the focus groups were compiled into a report that can be found at CoMo.gov/Strategic-Plan.

Those data, along with other information, will be utilized in the process for forming the next Strategic Plan.

Progress as Promised: Gans Creek Cross Country Course



Parks and Recreation crews installing infrastructure at the Gans Creek Cross Country Course.

Columbia Parks and Recreation will open the new cross country course at Gans Creek Recreation Area, 3350 E. Gans Road, in September.

The Gans Creek Cross Country Course has a 500-meter starting chute, 2K and 3K loops, 30-foot-wide irrigated turf, permanent finish line structure, an elevated timing tower, outdoor shelter and indoor building with restrooms. As a premiere cross country course complex, it was designed to accommodate spectators and media, with a raised seating area and various vantage points along the course.

The new course was designed to host major cross country competitive events, including the NCAA Southeastern Conference (SEC) Championship in 2021. It will be the home of the University of Missouri's cross country team, with the University contributing a substantial amount toward the development of the course. Gans will serve as the home for other area colleges and local high schools as well.

The course will also host the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) championships starting this year. Columbia Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with Columbia Public Schools, will host a pre-state event, the Gans Creek Classic, for high school athletes from across the state on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The course will be available for groups and teams through reservation by calling Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460.

The initial construction of the cross country course was funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax with additional amenities constructed utilizing funding provided by University of Missouri Athletics.

Boone County Joint Communications offers enhanced 911 services with Smart911

Boone County officials encourage you to take advantage of the Smart911 service to help you in times of need when you have to dial 911. Smart911 is a free service that allows individuals and families to sign up online to provide key information to 911 call takers during an emergency.

Smart911 allows individuals to create a Safety Profile for their household at Smart911.com or on the Smart911 app. When a resident makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 911 call taker, allowing them to send the right response teams to the right location with the right information.

Smart911 has been credited with positively impacting emergency outcomes including a missing child in which the girl's photo and physical description were immediately available to 911 and responders, as well as a heart attack victim where an address and medical notes allowed responders to be dispatched to his location quickly.

Smart911 is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and only made available to the 911 system in the event of an emergency call.

Parks and Recreation presents last Family Fun Fest of 2019

Columbia Parks and Recreation is partnering with the City's Office of Cultural Affairs to present the last Family Fun Fest of the year. It will be held Sept. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70 West.

This month's theme is Creative Kids and is also sponsored by the Missouri Arts Council. The evening will feature performances by dance, theater, and music groups, kid-friendly art activities, chalk art, face painting and balloon art. Food trucks will also be available.



Jabberwocky Studios dancers teach break dancing moves to kids at Family Fun Fest.

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

Did you know?: Healthy community design

Did you know that the American Public Health Association advocates for communities to work together to consider health impacts in discussions about the built environment? They call this “healthy community design,” which means planning and designing communities that make it easier for residents to achieve their optimal health. The built environment of Columbia is the human-made features of our community, things like sidewalks, public transportation, housing and more. The way we design and build our community affects our physical and mental health.

Communities that have an abundance of walkable sidewalks and bike-friendly routes for kids to take to school generally have students that are more active. When people can walk where they need to go, car traffic decreases, and that can improve air quality and respiratory health. Children who live in homes that do not contain lead or asthma triggers are better able to grow and develop.

With ongoing improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including sidewalks and bike paths, green initiatives like a new Agriculture Park (offering year-round fresh local food and assisting in assuring food security, especially among the most vulnerable members of our community) and the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan recently adopted by Columbia City Council. The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services supports the community in making equitable and substantive changes in the way our community is designed to promote sustainability for generations to come, and in doing so, promoting wellness for each and every resident.

Adopt-A-Spot to care for our community

The City of Columbia has several ways you can adopt an area of town to help beautify the community. As an adopter, you get to make a visible difference in the appearance of our community and get some recognition as well!

- Adopt-A-Spot Beautification allows volunteers to care for a landscaped area in medians, roundabouts and at intersections. The City will assist with supplies and plants and volunteers share the “elbow grease” to plant and maintain the spots.
- Volunteers with our Adopt-A-Spot Litter Control Program commit to picking up trash along a City street, four times per year for at least two years.
- The Adopt-A-Rain Garden program allows volunteers to care for rain gardens along our roadways and at City facilities.
- The Adopt-A-Trail program connects trained volunteers to quarter-mile sections of trail to remove invasive plants and replace with Missouri native plants.

There are opportunities for new volunteers with all three programs. To learn more, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or Volunteer@CoMo.gov.



Adopt-A-Spot volunteers keep our community looking great by caring for landscaping and rain gardens in our street right-of-way and picking up litter along our streets.

Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460
for more information

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Pooch Plunge, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5 per dog, must pre-register
- 5 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Darkroom Records Teen Band Showcase, 7 p.m., Free
- 13 Movies in the Park: Incredibles 2, Cosmo Park, 7:45 p.m., Free
- 18 Family Fun Fest: Creative Kids, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., Free
- 21-22 42nd Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show, Nifong Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Free

Code corner: Vegetation near sidewalks, streets

Anyone who uses a sidewalk knows how frustrating it is when it is blocked by vegetation. Grass, bushes and trees can encroach on the sidewalk causing a problem for those who use it.

Property owners or occupants are responsible for keeping vegetation away from the path of travel.

Branches and limbs must be no closer than 14 feet from the path of travel on a street or alley. Landscaping must not cause a safety hazard by obstructing the line of sight of a motor vehicle driver, bicyclist or pedestrian at a street intersection.

Thanks for doing your part to check your property and cut back vegetation that may be causing an issue for others.

If there is an issue where you live, contact Neighborhood Services at 573.817.5050. We may be able to help!

Volunteer of the Month: Debbie Lacy-Anderson

Retired teacher Debbie Lacy-Anderson has volunteered as a compost workshop instructor for three years teaching the basics of residential composting and motivating like-minded Columbians to recycle wastes and enrich soils.

Her interest in composting began as a side hobby to her love for gardening. Growing up on a farm with wonderful, rich soil and then moving to the Ozarks and then Columbia, where the soil is not as good, she learned that composting was a cheap and easy way to improve her dirt and grow better flowers and vegetables.

Being a teacher all her life, and volunteering throughout, it was a natural for Debbie to start teaching compost workshops in Columbia's Volunteer's Programs. Jody Cook, her volunteer supervisor, says that Debbie "has a fun and energetic approach to teaching and is skilled at involving and engaging her audience."

"I guess I can't stop teaching!" Debbie said. Volunteering enables her to meet people who share many of the same interests. "It is just fun!" she said. Debbie is also committed to growing native plants in her gardens, as naturally as she can, to provide a home for pollinators.

Thank you, Debbie, for your volunteer service to Columbia as a composting instructor.

If you would like to volunteer in some way for our community, call 573.874.7499 or email Volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Written by volunteer Bob Murphy

Conserving water saves resources, money

Using water more efficiently will ease demands on the drinking water system by reducing the amount of treated water used by the community.

Water conservation is a key component to saving resources and money for the utility and customers alike. You can still use all the water you need and reduce usage at the same time by watering smarter. That means using water in a way that helps every drop you use go towards its intended purpose.

Outside, you can do this by watering your lawn during cooler periods of the day and when it isn't windy, setting timers so you aren't over watering and checking that your irrigation system isn't on when it's raining. Inside, you can do this by installing a low flow shower head to use less water, not leaving the water running while brushing your teeth or washing the dishes, and only running full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine.

Making these small adjustments will help prevent water waste, keeping your bills lower and making sure there is enough pressure in the system for everyone's water needs.

For more conservation tips, visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com.



Debbie Lacy-Anderson teaching a compost workshop.



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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CONTACT CENTER
573·874·CITY
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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