

## — City Stats —

Parks and Recreation planted

1,528 trees

on park land over the past three years.



Parks and Recreation maintains

17 rain gardens



in the park system that filters stormwater to help keep streams healthy.

200 hours

Volunteers have worked more than 200 hours over the past three years for the City of Columbia's Aquatic Restoration Project (CARP) to help manage the City's aquatic shorelines.

## Cleanup Columbia will be held Saturday, April 11

Columbia's 24th annual citywide litter pickup, Cleanup Columbia, will be held Saturday, April 11. Cleanup Columbia is a great service opportunity for individuals and groups of all ages and abilities to make our City look great and improve our environment. Last year more than 1,800 volunteers participated, picking up 2,733 bags of litter.

Volunteers will be matched to a cleanup location including streets, parks, streams and trails. Bags, gloves and safety equipment will be provided. T-shirts will be available while supplies last! Participants are invited to a post-cleanup lunch at noon that will be held at Albert-Oakland Park, 1900 Blue Ridge Road.

Thanks to Cleanup Columbia sponsors: 102.3 BXR, KFRU AM 1400, KOMU TV 8, the Mid-Missouri CW, the Columbia Missourian, Veterans United and Socket. In-kind support is provided by City of Columbia Parks & Recreation and Solid Waste Utilities.

To register, visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.comogov.org) or call Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499.



Members of the Association for Mizzou Public Affairs were some of the more than 1,800 volunteers who volunteered for Cleanup Columbia last year. The group picked up litter along West Boulevard.

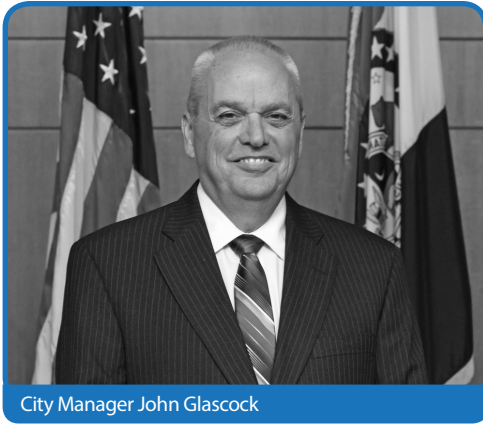
## Municipal election on April 7

A municipal election will be held Tuesday, April 7 for City Council Members for Ward 1 and Ward 5. You can see a map of each ward by visiting [CoMo.gov/Maps/Wards](https://www.comogov.org/Maps/Wards).

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 7. The last day to register to vote is March 11.

For more information about the election or to view your polling location, request an absentee ballot, view a sample ballot or register to vote, please visit the Boone County Clerk's website at [ShowMeBoone.com/Clerk/Elections](https://www.showmeboone.com/Clerk/Elections).

## Letter from City Manager John Glascock



City Manager John Glascock

City of Columbia residents,

Even though our fiscal year 2020 budget runs until the end of September, we are already working on the next budget. Being a full-service city means our budget is expansive and can be a lot to take in, so I want to talk about it in a way that everyone can understand it.

Much like your own personal budget, the City's budget has expenses and revenues. If you make a budget for months or years in the future, you know that some plans will not work out as you expected. Even with careful planning, that's also something that we experience. A project may need to be pushed back to a future budget, an emergency expense can come up or maybe we know there's a large project in the future that we need to start planning for now.

The goal is to align the budget with the new priorities lined out in the 2020 Strategic Plan. When you participate in things like the citizen survey or community focus groups, you are telling us how you want us to spend your tax dollars.

Look for more information about the budget coming soon.

*John*  
Columbia City Manager

## Registration open for Molly's Miles

On Saturday, April 4, families, friends, co-workers, and supporters of law enforcement officers statewide will gather together at the Molly Bowden Memorial Park, 900 W. Nifong Blvd., to walk and run in memory of those who have died in the line of duty and to honor their surviving families.

Molly's Miles is a family-friendly walk/run that is named after Columbia Police Officer Molly Bowden who was shot and killed in the line of duty in 2005. All proceeds from the event benefit the Missouri Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.). Participants can register for the 5K, 10K, as well as a Virtual Run option for those who are unable to attend in person.

Registration for the 5K is \$30 for adults and \$30 for kids (12 & under) or \$100.00 for the family 4-pack. The 10K is \$35 for adults and the Virtual Run is \$20. Participants in the 5K and 10K will receive a shirt, a finisher medal, chip timing and live results. Shirts are only guaranteed to those who register by March 20.

To register or find more information, visit [MollysMilesRun.com](https://MollysMilesRun.com). If you have any questions, please email [MollysMiles5K@gmail.com](mailto:MollysMiles5K@gmail.com).

## Strategic Plan: Proposed priorities developed for 2020 Plan

The proposed priorities for the 2020 Strategic Plan have been developed and action teams will be formed to finish filling out the Plan.

On Jan. 16, 2020, City Council, City department directors, participating front line staff and the Strategic Plan Planning Committee met to make decisions about the priorities and outcome objects that will be in the new Strategic Plan.

To create the proposed priorities and objectives, the group used a variety of data, including information from the eight community focus groups, 10-Year Trend Manual, citizen survey, City employee engagement survey and other related documents.

The proposed priorities for the 2020 Strategic Plan include High Performing Government, Safe Community, Reliable Infrastructure, Healthy Environment and Thriving Community.

The 2020 Strategic Plan will be presented to Council for approval in the spring.

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



City Council, City department directors, participating front line staff and the Strategic Plan Planning Committee met Jan. 16 to make decisions about the 2020 Strategic Plan.



## 2020 Census: It's time to start responding

It's March, which means it's time to start responding to the 2020 Census! You will receive information in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau this month with instructions explaining how to respond to the census online or by phone.

If you don't fill out the census online after a couple of mailings, a paper response form will be sent to your home. Employees from the Census Bureau will start visiting homes in May to collect information from those who did not respond online, by mail or by phone.

No need to be worried about confidentiality. By federal law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics. That means your information cannot be shared with anyone, including law enforcement, immigration, tax agencies or landlords.

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

## Traffic Division painted 1.6 million linear feet of lane stripes in 2019

The City of Columbia Public Works Traffic Division painted 1.6 million linear feet of lane stripes in 2019, using 9,500 gallons of paint and 6,000 pounds of glass beads. Public Works uses MoDOT-approved Type P retroreflective paint with glass beads. Retroreflective paint reflects headlight beams back in the direction of the motorist to make the stripes more visible.

The Traffic Division was able to increase the number of lanes striped in large part because of the purchase of a new line striper. The AL-180 EZ-Liner holds 180 gallons of yellow and white paint. As a comparison, in 2017 the Traffic Division used 3,300 gallons of paint and 1,100 pounds of glass beads.

"In the past we could only hold one color paint at a time in our line striper so we would paint all yellow lines in town then switch to white when yellow was finished," Traffic Signal Technician Joseph Kochert said, "with the new EZ-Liner striper, we're able to paint both colors in one pass."

For more information on other Public Works projects, visit [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks](https://CoMo.gov/PublicWorks).

## Board and commission vacancies

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

### Application deadline is April 3 at 5 p.m.

- Board of Adjustment
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Planning and Zoning Commission

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



United States Census 2020

## Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460

### APRIL

- 4 Kite Flying Day, Douglass Park, 12-2 p.m., Free
- 11 Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza, Douglass Park from 12-1:15 p.m., Indian Hills Park from 3-4:15 p.m., Free
- 19 Columbia Youth Intro to Track and Field, Hickman High School Track, 1 p.m. check in, \$7
- 21 Mid Mo Career Fair and Job Expo, Armory Sports Center, 2-6 p.m., Free
- 25 Yappy Hour, Twin Lakes Recreation Area, 3-6 p.m., \$10 per dog and person, \$5 for person not bringing a dog
- 26 Earth Day, Peace Park, 12-7 p.m., Free

## Parks and Recreation plans Arbor Day tree giveaway

Columbia Parks and Recreation and the TreeKeepers volunteer group will collaborate for the annual Arbor Day tree giveaway on Saturday, April 4.

The giveaway will begin at 8 a.m. at the Columbia Farmers Market at the MU Health Care Pavilion, 1769 W. Ash St. The public is welcome to take home two seedlings apiece. A variety of native shade trees, flowering trees and shrubs will be available while supplies last.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460.

## Volunteer of the Month: Valerie Owen



Valerie Owen, a professional gardener, finds joy and relaxation in caring for her adopted flower bed in the Clark Ln. and Ballenger roundabout.

On her drive home, Valerie Owen always noticed the flower bed in the Clark Ln. and Ballenger roundabout. As a professional gardener she would admire the space and think of ways to improve the landscape.

In February 2019, Valerie got the opportunity to adopt the bed and put her expertise to work. Valerie says since she has taken over the spot, "people really do notice, less trash is thrown out, and there are fewer signs littering the roadway!"

With all of the hard work that Valerie has put into her spot, what she enjoys the

most is, "seeing people who drive by stop to comment on how they really appreciate my flower bed. It is work, but I also find it relaxing at the end of my day."

Maintaining a bed that large comes with its challenges, but Valerie has taken on those challenges with perseverance and determination. Valerie says her greatest obstacle was tackling the bindweed that had taken over the entire bed in the summer of 2019. Valerie doesn't let any obstacles get in the way of caring for her flower bed, she simply adjusts her planting plan and focuses on her goals.

We thank Valerie for leading by example and always persevering. If you are interested in becoming an adopter please contact 573.874.7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).

## Code Corner: Nuisance vehicles

Chapter 11 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances declares dismantled, inoperable, junk-filled and unlicensed vehicles parked on private property to be a public safety hazard and a nuisance. When a violation of a nuisance vehicle is identified, the property owner has 30 days to comply before the violation is abated or the case is referred to the municipal court.

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handles nuisance vehicle cases and other residential code enforcement issues found on private property. Problem vehicles found on the street should be called in to 311 for Police to handle. If you have an issue where ONS can help, please call 573.817.5050.

## Anonymously report a crime using CrimeStoppers

One way to assist in reducing crime in our community is to utilize an anonymous tip bank such as CrimeStoppers. Founded more than 30 years ago, CrimeStoppers is an invaluable asset that provides citizens a safe and secure means to give information that may help solve crimes.

An individual can report a crime that has been listed as unsolved by law enforcement agencies by calling 573.875.8477 and saying, "I have a tip." Callers are then assigned a tip identification number which protects the caller's identity and ensures additional information can be provided at a later date. Any tip that results in a successful arrest can receive up to \$1,500. Remember, if you see something, say something.



### 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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