

# CITYSOURCE

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December 2017



Your source for City news and information



## Operation Clean Streets focuses on McKee Street Park

The fall Operation Clean Streets was held on Oct. 20 at the East Strategic Plan Neighborhood in and around McKee Street Park. Operation Clean Streets is a City employee work day where all staff members are invited to take a break from their daily routine to lend a hand to our neighborhoods.

Four neighbors joined the 54 City employees who cleaned curbs, gutters and sidewalks along McKee Street; removed vegetation and cleaned the creek at McKee Street Park; installed and straightened street signs; and removed tires left in the area. Dumpsters were also provided along McKee Street for resident use. Operation Clean Streets is held twice per year.



**City employees pick up litter during Operation Clean Streets in the East Strategic Plan Neighborhood.**

## Columbia earns perfect score on Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index

The City of Columbia earned an All Star rating and a perfect score of 100 points on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI). The Human Rights Campaign, the largest civil rights organization in America working for LGBTQ equality, conducted the annual nationwide evaluation of cities which rates laws, policies, benefits and services of municipalities on established criteria.

The Human Rights Campaign highlighted Columbia as a success story because of the perfect score and because of the following achievements in building an inclusive community: LGBTQ liaisons in the City Manager's Office and the Columbia Police Department; transgender-inclusive health benefits for City employees; diversity and inclusion training for City employees as well as boards, commissions, and City Council; non-discrimination laws for employment, housing, and public accommodations; inclusive restrooms in City facilities; and more.

In alignment with the City's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, Columbia Mayor Brian Treece, the City Council, the City of Columbia's Human Rights Commission and City staff worked together to improve Columbia's score, which was 74 in 2015.

## Columbia REDI earns international accreditation

Columbia's Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI) earned accreditation through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). REDI was recognized as one of 60 economic development organizations accredited by IEDC.

The accreditation process evaluates information about the structure, organization, funding, programs and staff of the organization. Maintenance of the accreditation status is required every three years, and is accomplished through documentation submission and onsite visits.

REDI is a partnership of the City of Columbia, Boone County, the University of Missouri, local municipalities, organizations, educational institutions and private businesses. REDI's mission is to attract, expand and grow businesses to create jobs in Columbia and Boone County, Mission.

## CrimeStoppers posting video to help identify crime suspects

Citizens' tips identifying possible suspects in crimes are eligible for cash rewards. Columbia/Boone County CrimeStoppers, in collaboration with local police, is posting video surveillance and photos to their website for assistance from citizens in identifying possible suspects and/or suspect vehicles in open investigations. All tips related to the identification and or location of the possible suspect(s) remain completely anonymous. If the tip provided leads to police making an arrest in the case, the tipster can receive a cash reward through CrimeStoppers. Citizens can view the surveillance video and photos at [875tips.com/alert](http://875tips.com/alert). All tips in any case should be reported to CrimeStoppers at 573-875-TIPS (8477).

CrimeStoppers is an independent, non-profit community service organization created to aid in the fight against crime in our community. They are not affiliated with law enforcement. CrimeStoppers has served the City of Columbia, Boone County, and the University of Missouri for more than 35 years.

## Nominate business or organization for Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement awards

Do you know of an organization that goes the extra mile to reduce waste, conserve resources or prevent pollution? The Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) awards recognize local businesses and organizations for efforts in sustainable practices and promoting environmental responsibility.

Applications are open through Dec. 31 and may be submitted by anyone.

Visit [CoMo.gov/Sustainability/Awards/](http://CoMo.gov/Sustainability/Awards/) for more information and to view the nominating form.



## Downtown Flat Branch Relief Sewer project complete

The third phase of the Flat Branch Relief Sewer project was completed in late October. This collaborative project began mid-May and included several improvements to the City's sewer, storm drains and water distribution infrastructure along Elm and Sixth streets. All aspects of the Flat Branch Relief Sewer project were discussed at interested parties meeting, which were open to the public, beginning in February 2015. Following which, each feature of the project was addressed separately through the public hearing process and approved by City Council.

### Specific improvements included:

- Gravity Sewer Replacement: Approximately 3,120 feet of sewer were replaced with new (larger) pipes ranging in size from 8-inch to 18-inch in diameter. This increases sewer capacity for the downtown area and the upper northeast portion of the Flat Branch Watershed.
- Water Main Relocation and Upgrades: Approximately 1,245 feet of water distribution infrastructure were upgraded with 8-inch PVC piping. This provides greater reliability for customers' water supply as well as increases available flow to the area for fire protection purposes.
- Two Storm Drain Replacements:
  - o A new storm drain was constructed with new inlets and junction boxes at Elm and Ninth and was connect to an existing storm drain.
  - o A failing storm pipe was replaced at Elm and Hitt.

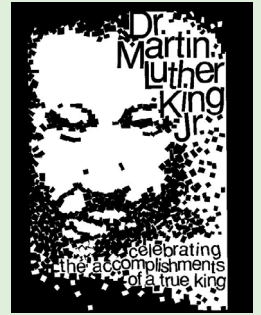
UCM Steam Tunnel Repair: Sewer Utility coordinated with the University of Missouri for steam tunnel rehabilitation work in the Elm Street and Seventh Street rights of way.

## 2018 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 25th Annual

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 7-8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Expo Center.

Pre-registration is required by January 5, 2018 at 5 p.m.



The cost is \$17 per person, but scholarships are available upon request. Please call the City's Office of Cultural Affairs at 573-874-6386 for registration information. A registration form is available on the City of Columbia's website at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) (search: Diversity Celebration).

The theme of this year's celebration is "Forward In Unity: Embracing Our Beloved Community." The program will include performances representing the rich diversity of our community, live music at the breakfast followed by the presentation of the 21st annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. The keynote speaker will be Kevin Powell, writer, humanitarian and President of BK Nation.

The Celebration is designed to be accessible to all. Call 573-874-6386 for more information or accommodations related to disability.

## Christmas tree recycling

The Columbia Utilities trash and recycling division will collect live Christmas trees (no tinsel, plastic bags, ornaments or tree stands) with your normal curbside collection between Dec. 26 and Jan. 31. After Jan. 31, the trees will have to be cut into four-foot lengths and bundled—whole trees would not be accepted after that date. Any trees that are collected with curbside trash and recycling will decompose in the City landfill and produce methane gas that will be used to generate energy.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the Capen Park or Parkside Yard Waste sites. Any trees that are dropped-off at a yard waste site will be shredded into mulch. The mulch is free to the public for residential landscaping and will also be used for the City compost site.



## COLT Railroad adds auto unloading ramp



Members of the City of Columbia, Missouri Department of Transportation and Missouri Auto Auction celebrate the addition of an auto unloading ramp to the COLT Railroad.

City of Columbia's COLT Railroad, the Missouri Department of Transportation and Missouri Auto Auction unveiled the COLT Railroad's new auto unloading ramp on Oct. 5.

The new off-loading ramp will position COLT to bring the benefits of rail transport to the auto marketing industry in mid-Missouri. The acquisition of this auto ramp was made available through a competitive grant process, through the Missouri Department of Transportation's Missouri Freight Enhancement Funds.

Owned by the City of Columbia and operated by City of Columbia Utilities, COLT Transload provides a multitude of shipping services, including rail service from the Norfolk Southern's main line in Centralia to the City's state-of-the-art warehouse in Columbia.

## Budget Breakdown— Capital Improvement Program

The City of Columbia's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a multiyear plan for capital investments in the City's infrastructure, facilities and equipment. It is designed to address the challenges of supporting future infrastructure needs, while also addressing the City's current facility requirements. It includes items such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, public utilities, drainage projects, recreational facilities, buildings and equipment. A CIP is important because it connects City development, comprehensive plans and financial plans. Projects within the CIP are intended to reflect the community's values and goals, and also the overall policy goals of the City Council, including existing citywide long range plans.

## Strategic Plan—Annual report presented to City Council

On Monday, Nov. 20, City staff presented the 2017 Strategic Plan Annual Report to City Council. The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan focuses on five priority areas: economy, social equity, public safety, infrastructure and operational excellence.

Highlights from the report include: affordable housing initiatives, regional job expansion, increased citizen's perceptions of safety, more diversity and inclusion training opportunities for City employees, additional bus shelters and building a stronger Columbia community through community outreach.

Additionally, 164 door-to-door assessments were conducted in the three Strategic Plan Focus Neighborhoods which resulted in 115 referrals for community services.

The full report can be found on the Strategic Plan website: [CoMo.gov/strategic-plan](http://CoMo.gov/strategic-plan).

## Howard B. Lang, Jr. Award nominations being accepted

It's time to nominate deserving persons to receive the annual Howard B. Lang, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the City of Columbia.

Howard Lang was Mayor of Columbia from 1953-1957 and made a positive difference for our city. Columbia now has hundreds of volunteers with a similar volunteer spirit and dedication, who make a positive difference for Columbia in their own way.

The recipient of the Lang Award will receive \$1,000 (which may be designated to a project, program or charity of her/his choice) and an engraved plaque.

Please consider nominating a City volunteer—someone who serves Columbia as a volunteer through its departments, services or programs. Such a person may be a member of a City board or commission, an unpaid elected official or other individual who volunteers for the City of Columbia. The recipient will be chosen based on her/his impact, initiative and length of service.

Nomination forms can be found at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov); (search: Lang Award Nomination Form). Click, print and return to the address noted on the form. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 19, 2018. Questions can be directed to Trust Administrator John Baker at 573-817-5027 or [john.baker@CoMo.gov](mailto:john.baker@CoMo.gov).

## With cold weather approaching, space heater safety is critical

As the cold weather quickly approaches, many Columbia citizens will be utilizing space heaters to keep warm during the winter months. This is why the Columbia Fire Department would like to remind the public that, according to a National Fire Protection Association research report on home fires involving heating equipment, space heaters are involved in two of every five fires started by home heating equipment. Moreover, they are by far the most dangerous and destructive types of fire, accounting for 84 percent of civilian deaths, 75 percent of civilian injuries, and 52 percent of direct property damage.

Space heaters can be a quick way to heat up a room; however, they can be as dangerous as they are convenient if used improperly.

### Help reduce the risk of fire with these tips:

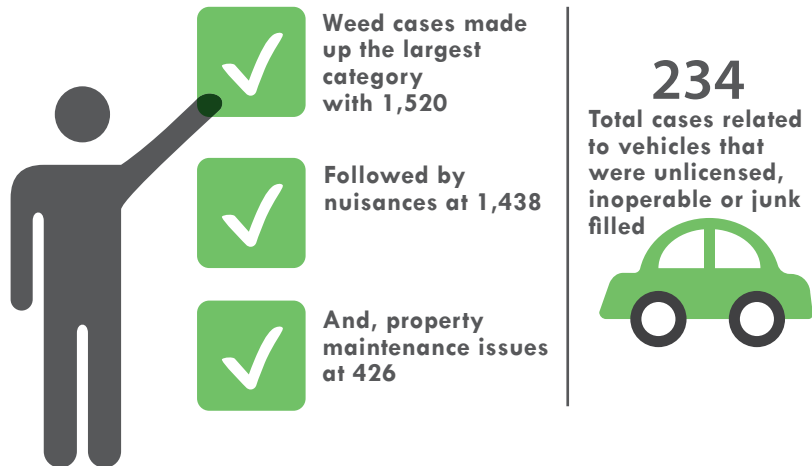
- Heaters must be monitored when in operation.
- Plug heater directly into a wall receptacle. Never plug it into an extension cord.
- Keep space heaters away from exit ways, walkways and paths of travel.
- Space heaters need a clearance space of three feet away from furniture, window treatments, bedding, clothing, rugs and other combustibles.
- Look for space heaters with tip-over and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plan your exit drill in the home and practice at least twice per year.

## Code Corner – Year end numbers from Office of Neighborhood Services

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handled 4,249 residential code enforcement cases in the City's 2017 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017).

If there is a code issue in your neighborhood that the City may be able to help with, please let us know. Neighborhood Services can be reached at 573-817-5050 or report a problem at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov).

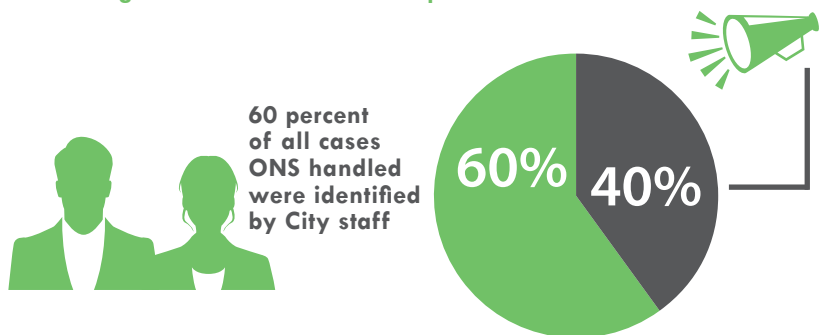
### Largest category reported by the Office of Neighborhood Services



ONS also registers and inspects all rental units and ended the year with

**10,115** buildings & **27,798** units in compliance

Forty percent of all cases ONS handled were due to citizen complaints



## Beware of utility bill scams

Utility Customer Services (UCS) would like to remind customers that phone scams related to utility bills happen frequently. Scammers call about a delinquent bill, demanding immediate payment over the phone to prevent utility disconnection.

UCS reminds customers never to give credit card or bank account information over the phone to anyone claiming to be a City of Columbia Utilities employee. If in doubt, call UCS at 573-874-7380. Customers who have received scam phone calls are encouraged to call the non-emergency number (3-1-1) and report it to the police.

## Progress as Promised: Stadium and Old 63 Intersection improvements



**New landscaping design at the intersection of Stadium Boulevard and Old Highway 63.**

The intersection at Stadium Boulevard and Old Highway 63, which serves as an eastern gateway from Highway 63 to major universities, hospitals, schools and businesses in Columbia, looks very different now thanks to the important improvement project completed this fall.

The project included new traffic signals, wider turn lanes, crosswalks with pedestrian islands, sidewalks and bike lanes, asphalt pavement and landscaping.

"These improvements have made the intersection safer for all users in addition to being more attractive," Public Works Director David Nichols said.

Capacity improvements include dual left turn lanes for northbound to westbound traffic and a right turn lane for westbound to northbound traffic. The project also includes crosswalks, marked bike lanes and sidewalks that tie into the trail system. Beautification improvements feature rain gardens, native grasses and tree/shrub plantings.

"Amazing rain gardens, plus Missouri native plants were incorporated into the intersection project, as part of the landscaping design," Stormwater Educator Michael Heimos said. "This type of design helps improve stormwater quality and provide habitat for local pollinators. Something that makes our Public Works staff so innovative with construction projects like this."

Public forums about the project were held on Feb. 17, 2015, and May 4, 2015, before being approved by the City Council. The infrastructure investment is being shared by the City and the Missouri Department of Transportation, each providing one-half of the project investment revenue. The estimated investment is \$1.75 million with the City's portion of the funding coming from 2005 Capital Improvement Sales Tax.

Aplex, the contractor for the project, began work on the intersection March 20. Most of the work was completed during the day but necessary lane closures occurred at nighttime to reduce the impact on local traffic. Visit [CoMo.gov/publicworks/stadium-old63](http://CoMo.gov/publicworks/stadium-old63) for project details.

## Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

### JANUARY

- 1** CARE summer program applications available online
- 15** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candle Light Walk and Celebration, Walk at Douglass High School at 6:30 p.m., check [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) for celebration location
- 27** ROC Trail Run, Rhett's Run Trail at Cosmo Park, 9:30 a.m., ages 12 and up, \$35 in advance

## Street Talk: What are priority routes, otherwise known as designated snow routes?



Columbia has more than 1,300 lane miles of streets and 1,100 cul-de-sacs maintained by Public Works. The sheer volume of lane miles and cul-de-sacs makes it necessary to prioritize roads during ice and snow events.

There are 466 lane miles of first and second priority routes that create a network of major roads and residential streets that extends throughout the city towards as many neighborhoods as possible. They include such residential streets as Battle Avenue, Worley Street, Thornbrook Terrace and more. Their primary purpose is to ensure safe passageways to and from major highways, hospitals, schools, fire stations and commercial areas.

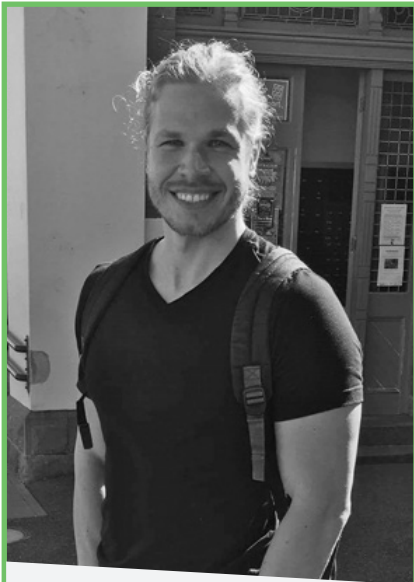
If a snowfall is less than 4 inches, crews focus on priority routes during normal business hours. If the snow exceeds 4 inches, crews will work around the clock to treat and plow every street in the city, beginning with priority routes, until they are deemed passable by snow inspectors. Although a street may still be snow packed, if at least one lane is accessible for a front-wheel-drive vehicle at a slow speed, the road is considered passable.

There is no parking allowed on priority routes when snow accumulates 2 inches or more. Parking Utility staff do their best to warn drivers, but vehicles will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense if they are not moved. To be reminded of when it's time to move cars off of priority routes, sign up for alerts at [Nixle.com](http://Nixle.com) or by texting the phrase COLUMBIAPW to 888777.

A full list of priority routes and more information is available at [CoMoSnow.com](http://CoMoSnow.com).



## Volunteer of the Month—Michal Zigo



Michal Zigo

Michal Zigo is the renaissance man of volunteering. He can be found at the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri, Household Hazardous Waste Collection, park and stream clean-ups or Parks and Recreation events.

"I am the type of person who finds manual work soothing and relaxing," Zigo said. "As a researcher I mostly conduct intellectual work, therefore I don't get to do a lot of work with my hands."

The City of Columbia Volunteer Programs considers themselves lucky to have him.

"He has great leadership skills and brings a lot of personal experience and interest to everything," said Jody Cook, a volunteer programs specialist.

As a trained Recycling Ambassador, Michal helps with many education projects on waste reduction and recycling, whether it's tabling events, picking up litter or helping with children's activities.

One of Michal's most memorable volunteering experiences was cleaning up along Rock Quarry scenic road and filling an entire truck with litter.

"The saddest part for me was that when I drove by two weeks later, it was littered again," he said.

Michal approaches his volunteering experiences with an international lens and therefore finds meeting new and interesting people one of the best parts about volunteering in the community. He is from Slovakia and attended school in Czech Republic.

"There are not as many volunteering opportunities at home," Zigo said.

He encourages everyone to volunteer when they can.

Visit our website at [CoMo.gov/volunteer](http://CoMo.gov/volunteer) or contact us at 573-874-7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov) to learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia.

Written by volunteer Laura Davis

### Contact Center Connection

For the latest holiday and weather related changes to your trash collection schedule visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov), download the COMO Recycle and Trash app or call 573-874-CITY (2489).



### Reminders for utilities during winter months



If your winter plans include being away for several days or more, lower your thermostat to between 50 degrees and 60 degrees Fahrenheit to save money and energy. Setting it lower than 50 degrees may risk frozen pipes. Renters should check with their landlords for specific vacation thermostat settings.

During winter months, utilities will not be shut off for delinquent accounts when the actual temperature is below 32 degrees. Customers are encouraged to contact Utility Customer Service at 573-874-7380 before their account becomes delinquent to see if their account is eligible for a payment agreement.

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.

City of Columbia  
701 E. Broadway • Columbia, Mo 65205  
573-874-2489 • CoMo.gov

#### MAYOR

Brian Treece

#### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>First Ward</b>	<b>Clyde Ruffin</b>
<b>Second Ward</b>	<b>Michael Trapp</b>
<b>Third Ward</b>	<b>Karl Skala</b>
<b>Fourth Ward</b>	<b>Ian Thomas</b>
<b>Fifth Ward</b>	<b>Matt Pitzer</b>
<b>Sixth Ward</b>	<b>Betsy Peters</b>
<b>City Manager</b>	<b>Mike Matthes</b>



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