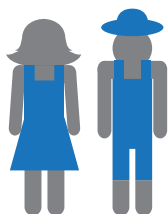


— City Stats —

Volunteers benefit from social connections, public service opportunities and personal satisfaction of making a difference.



39,294
hours
of service from
community
members



Hours of service
valued at
\$970,173
*(based on the national
value of an hour of
volunteer service per
Independent
Sector- \$24.69)*



105
different
events or
programs
served
by volunteers



5,506 bags
of litter collected

One person—
you
can make a difference by sharing
your time as a volunteer.

New Citizen Transparency portal now available

Columbia Mayor Brian Treece launched the City's new Citizen Transparency portal in a press conference on Oct. 26.

The new portal is the latest step in the City's efforts to give the public online access to City financial data. This adds to the open records portal already in place that makes it easy for community members to submit records requests. The Citizen Transparency portal will show financial records, including expenditures, revenues, vendor payments and payroll details.

The City takes transparency very seriously and will continue to consider new ways to provide information to the public in an easy and transparent manner.

To view the Citizen Transparency portal or to submit a records request, please visit CoMo.gov and click "transparency" on the right.

Columbia earns perfect score on Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index for second year



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®**

For the second year in a row, 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 by rating cities on six categories: non-discrimination laws, municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement and leadership on LGBTQ equality.

Of the 506 cities reviewed in 2018, Columbia was one of 78 cities that earned a perfect score. Columbia also earned an all-star rating by obtaining a high score in a state that lacks comprehensive non-discrimination laws for LGBTQ people; of the 46 cities that earned an all-star rating, Columbia was one of only 32 cities that achieved a perfect score. The national average for all cities reviewed was 58 points.

Columbia received full points or bonus points because of the following achievements in building an inclusive community: non-discrimination laws for employment, housing and public accommodations; services for the community's HIV/AIDS population; transgender-inclusive healthcare benefits for City employees; LGBTQ liaisons in the City Manager's Office and the Columbia Police Department; hate crime statistics are reported to the FBI; leadership's pro-equality policy efforts; and more.



Crime prevention tips for the holidays

As the 2018 holiday season approaches, the Columbia Police Department would like to give you some reminders that may help prevent you from becoming a victim, as this time of year of an opportune time for crime.

- Always lock your vehicle and home.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit area while out shopping.
- Store packages in your trunk or other covered and lockable storage when out shopping.
- Don't open the door without knowing who is on the other side.
- Track deliveries online to confirm deliveries have occurred. Don't let the package sit on your front porch too long. Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to pick the package up if you won't be home when it arrives.
- Burglars know what big presents have arrived at your home when they look at the boxes and packaging that is left on the curb. Break down the boxes and place them in the recycling drop-off points that are located around town. Find recycling drop-off centers by visiting CoMo.gov and searching "Recycling drop-off."
- Utilize timers for your lighting decorations.
- If you are away for the holidays, create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TVs. Or ask a trusted neighbor or friend to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.

For more safety and crime prevention tips, please visit CoMo.gov/Police.

Public engagement event planned for Consolidated Plan for Affordable Housing and Community Development

The City of Columbia's 5-Year Consolidated Plan for Affordable Housing and Community Development is the guiding document for directing resources and establishing goals supporting affordable housing and community development in Columbia. The Consolidated Plan supports the City's strategic priority of social equity and will strengthen our community so all individuals can thrive. The fiscal year 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan will include five categories for public engagement:

- Affordable housing
- Fair housing
- Neighborhood infrastructure
- Community facilities
- Economic development

The Community Development Housing Programs Division will be hosting public engagement events and focus groups in the coming months. Public engagement is critical for developing an effective plan that reflects the values of the community. Please come out and be a part of shaping Columbia's future and guiding how public resources are expended.

- Kick-off Event, Jan. 9, 2019: FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan Neighborhood Congress, Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) 1701 W. Ash St. 6 to 8 p.m.



The Community Development Housing Programs Division will be hosting public engagement events and focus groups to establish goals supporting affordable housing and community development in Columbia.

Progress as Promised: Oakland Gravel Road sidewalk completed



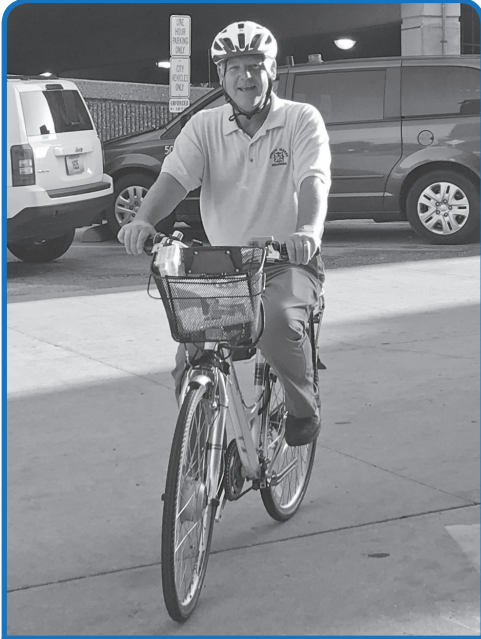
The new sidewalk on Oakland Gravel Road between Blue Ridge Road and Edris Road closed a sidewalk gap near Oakland Middle School.

A sidewalk gap located around the corner from Oakland Middle School was completed by a recent capital improvement project. Rhad Baker Construction, a contractor for Columbia Public Works, installed a 6-foot-wide sidewalk along the west side of Oakland Gravel Road between Blue Ridge Road and Edris Road. To reduce the impact on trees and yards, a short retaining wall was constructed along some of the properties at the back of the sidewalk.

An interested parties meeting was held on June 14, 2017, and the project was approved by City Council on Aug. 7, 2017. The project was funded by the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax with an estimated investment (including design, easement acquisition, utility relocation and construction) of \$311,500.

For more information, visit CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/progress-as-promised to learn more about completed capital improvement projects.

Street Talk: Columbia named one of the "Best Bike Cities in America"



Bicycling magazine identified Columbia as one of the "Best Bike Cities in America" with a rank of 46, up one spot from last year.

Bicycling magazine identified Columbia as one of the "Best Bike Cities in America" with a rank of 46, up one spot from last year. The magazine "hit the streets and talked to local advocates, officials and everyday riders" while considering more than 100 cities for this designation.

"We have a very engaged biking and nonmotorized transportation community," Director of Columbia Public Works David Nichols said. "It's nice to be recognized for the countless hours our City's staff, citizens and leadership have dedicated to building new infrastructure with a 'complete streets' approach through a Vision Zero lens. Funding will always be a challenge, but whether your mode of transportation is by foot, bus, car, wheelchair, or bicycle, it's our immediate and long-term goal to make every street safe and accessible."

Columbia has been able to make significant progress in its complete streets approach in no small part to the Capital Improvement Sales Tax approved by Columbia voters, as well as local, state, and federal partnerships and grants. In 2006, the Getabout Columbia program was launched with a \$22.4 million grant from the National Highway Administration. Funding was renewed in 2012 with \$5.9 million. This funding has been used for numerous streets, bridges, trails, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, sidewalks, bike lanes and bike-friendly pedways.

For more information, visit CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Biking and CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Getabout.

Public Sewer Rehabilitation, Private Sewer Reimbursement programs

Since 2013, more than \$20.4 million in sewer bond and revenue funds have been spent rehabilitating existing sewer infrastructure throughout the city of Columbia. Much of the work has been focused in the Flat Branch and County House Branch watersheds (primarily Wards 1 and 4) which contain the oldest infrastructure and have the greatest need for repair and rehabilitation.

Multiple sewer main replacements and Private Common Collector Elimination projects have been completed. Additional work to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I) involves lining manholes, public sewer mains and connection points of private laterals.

Sources of I&I include public defects, such as leaky sewer mains or manholes, and private defects, such as sump pumps or downspouts directly connected to the sewer, broken laterals or foundation drains. When rainwater gets into the sewer system through these defects, it can cause the sewer to backup in basements and buildings.

Ward 1:
\$9,018,478

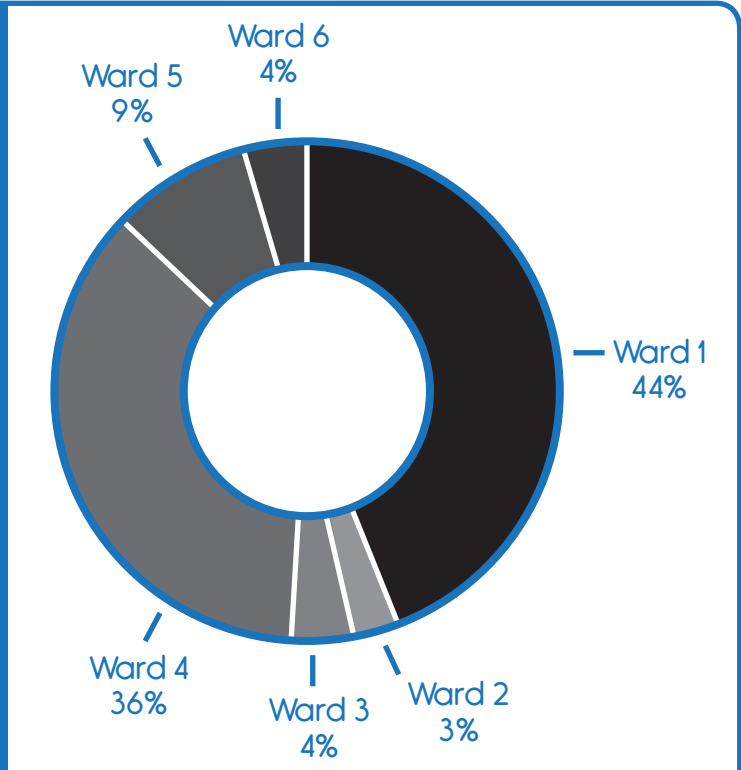
Ward 2:
\$577,491

Ward 3:
\$851,915

Ward 4:
\$7,384,116

Ward 5:
\$1,894,233

Ward 6:
\$680,362



Since 2013, more than \$20.4 million in sewer bond and revenue funds have been spent rehabilitating existing sewer infrastructure. See the breakdown of how much has been spent in each Ward.

The City has two Cost Reimbursement Programs available to assist homeowners in removing private sources of I&I and protecting their properties from sewer backups. For information and to determine if your property is eligible for one or both of these programs, visit CoMo.gov/Utilities/Sewer.

City plans 47th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Walk, Memorial Celebration for Jan. 21



The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Celebration will be held at St. Luke UMC on Jan. 21.

Columbia Parks and Recreation will hold the 47th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Walk and Memorial Celebration on Monday, Jan. 21.

The candlelight walk will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash. Candles will be provided to participants. The walk will proceed to St. Luke United Methodist Church, 204 E. Ash, for the memorial celebration.

The walk and memorial are both free and open to the public. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460.

Christmas tree recycling



Live Christmas trees will be collected with your regular curbside trash and recycling collection between Dec. 26 and Jan. 31. Please remove all decorations.

Did you know the City collects live Christmas trees (no tinsel, ornaments, lights or tree stands) with your curbside collection between Dec. 26 and Jan. 31? After this date, trees will need to be cut into four-foot sections and bundled prior to collection.

Trees may also be taken to one of the Yard Waste Drop-off Centers where they will be shredded into mulch or used at the City compost site:

Capen Park - located off Rock Quarry Road, south of Stadium

Code Corner: Office of Neighborhood Services year end numbers

In fiscal year 2018 (Oct. 1, 2017 – Sept. 30, 2018), the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handled 3,373 code cases, most on residential properties. Weed cases made up the largest category with 1,202, followed by nuisances at 874, property maintenance (issues with the structure) at 320 and vehicle violations (unlicensed, inoperable or junk-filled) at 299. ONS responded to 143 complaints from tenants. Citizen complaints accounted for 49 percent of cases with City staff finding the remaining 51 percent.

If there is an issue that Office of Neighborhood Services can assist you with, please contact us at 573.817.5050 or neighborhood@CoMo.gov or visit CoMo.gov for more information.

Nominations open for Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement awards



Do you know a group that goes the extra mile to reduce waste, conserve resources, prevent pollution or protect the environment? Since 2014, the City of Columbia has recognized 24 businesses and organizations for taking on sustainable practices.

With the passage of the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA), the MCPA awards were established to promote sustainability throughout the local economy.

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2019 MCPA awards and will host its fifth awards banquet next spring. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to apply at CoMo.gov/Sustainability/Awards. Nominations due Dec. 31.

Correction

The number of average monthly flights from Columbia Regional Airport was incorrectly printed in "City Stats" in the September issue of City Source. The correct number of average monthly flights from COU to Chicago is approximately 150 and from COU to Dallas is approximately 60.

We apologize for the error.

Potential new water rate structure

City of Columbia Utilities is considering a potential new water rate structure. An interested parties meeting was held Nov. 7 to receive public input on a potential new structure for water rates.

A consultant prepared a cost of service study which featured two proposed water rate structures. The cost of service study is to determine if the current water rates are adequate to meet future revenue requirements or if a rate adjustment is necessary.

The next step is for City staff to compile all customer feedback and present it to the Water & Light Advisory Board. Once decided, the Board and staff will then present the proposed water rate structure to City Council.



Feedback from the public meeting and the online survey will be used for consideration, along with information from City staff and a consultant.

Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460
for more information

JANUARY

21 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candle Light Walk and Celebration, Walk begins at Armory Sports Center at 6:30 p.m., proceed to St. Luke's UMC

26 ROC Trail Run, Rhett's Run Trail at Cosmo Park, 9:30 a.m., ages 12 and up, \$35

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration registration



Cathy Cox sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the 2018 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration. Registration for the 2019 Celebration is now open.

Register now for the 26th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 from 7-9 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Expo Center, 2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 11, 2019 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 (search: Diversity Celebration).

The theme of this year's celebration is "The Power of Diversity." The program will include several performances representing the rich diversity of our community, with live music at the breakfast followed by the presentation of the 22nd annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards.

The Celebration is designed to be accessible to all. Call 573.874.6386 for more information or accommodations related to disability.

Boards & Commissions

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

Application deadline is Jan. 4 at 5 p.m.

- Parking Advisory Commission

Boards and commissions are a way for citizens 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.

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 to never give credit card or bank account information over the phone to anyone claiming to be a City of Columbia Utilities employee. If in doubt, please call UCS at 573.874.7380.

Customers who have received scam phone calls are encouraged to call the police non-emergency number (3-1-1) and report it.

Volunteer of the Month: Dee Campbell-Carter



Dee Campbell-Carter

Anyone who has met Dee Campbell-Carter knows how friendly she is and that she always has a smile to share. She has used her enthusiasm as a volunteer with Live Well by Faith.

Dee is honored as our December Volunteer of the Month and was nominated by Verna Laboy with the Columbia-Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services for her work.

Dee has been an instrumental volunteer with the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Community Garden. In 2017, the first year for the garden, there were

eight beds. Under Dee's leadership, the garden expanded to 31 beds this season! The Friendship Church is located in the City's North Strategic Plan Neighborhood.

Verna shares that Dee's work promoted healthy living, foods, and eating by planting and growing your own food. Dee shared weekly gardening how-to's and did "amazing work that should be celebrated." Dee overcame challenges for Friendship's community garden, including poor soil and water. She overcame these by hauling in better soil and getting a water tank for use near the garden.

The City of Columbia says thank you to Dee Campbell-Carter for her dedicated volunteer service. To get involved as a volunteer, visit CoMo.gov or call us at 573.874.7499.

Fire safety tips for the holiday season

Stay safe this holiday season with these 10 holiday safety tips from the Columbia Fire Department:

1. Keep pets, children, and flammable materials at least three feet away from burning candles and electrical cords to prevent burns and electrical fires. Flameless candles are a great alternative to real ones for decorating.
2. A dry tree in your home is a fire danger. Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
3. Decorating with a live tree? Always keep water in the tree stand, check daily and add water as needed.
4. Check the manufacturer's instructions on holiday lights to find out how many can safely be connected to prevent electric shock and fire.
5. Replace any string lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
6. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use but not both. Read the instructions to know how to use your lights.
7. Overloaded electrical outlets are a major fire hazard. Plug strings of lights directly into the wall and keep the number to a minimum.
8. Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
9. Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
10. Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.



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
573·874·CITY
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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CITY OF COLUMBIA

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