

— City Stats —

In 2019, Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services distributed



redeemable at the Central Missouri Humane Society to spay or neuter a pet for free.

Spayed female cats live an average of **39% longer.**
Spayed female dogs live an average of **23% longer.**



Neutered male dogs live an average

18% longer.

Neutered male cats live an average of **62% longer.**



Go COMO and Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services partner on bus pass program

Go COMO and Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) are partnering to distribute free bus passes to income-eligible persons. The annual bus pass allows a rider unlimited access to the fixed route buses for 2020 without having to pay a fare. This program is intended to improve access to reliable transportation for people with low income and to better connect the community.

Bus passes are limited and will be distributed on a monthly basis using a random selection process. Applications are available at the PHHS office, 1005 W. Worley St., and online at CoMo.gov/health. Please call 573.817.6430 or email socialservices@CoMo.gov for more information.

February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

February is nationally recognized as "Spay/Neuter Awareness Month." The goal is to promote the sterilization of pets before spring and summer months when most animal shelters experience a significant increase in animal intake.

Spaying a female dog or cat's ovaries eliminates heat cycles and generally diminishes undesirable behaviors. Early spaying can also help protect from health problems later in life, such as uterine infections and breast cancer.

Neutering male dogs and cats can decrease their breeding instinct, making them less likely to stray from a home. Neutering can also reduce a pet's risk of developing an enlarged prostate gland and testicular cancer.

The procedures have no effect on a pet's ability to learn, work, play or hunt. Some pets tend to be better behaved following surgical removal of their ovaries or testes, making them more agreeable companions.

A partnership between the Central Missouri Humane Society and The Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) Animal Control Division provides a limited number of vouchers for Columbia or Boone County residents to spay or neuter pets at no charge.

Vouchers are limited to one household per year. For information on eligibility requirements call the Columbia/Boone Animal Control Division at 573.449.1888 or visit CoMo.gov/health (search: Spay Neuter).

Street Talk: Roundabout education



The roundabout at the intersection of Lake of the Woods Road and St. Charles Road is sometimes referred to as an eggabout for its oblong shape. Satellite and drone images of Columbia area roundabouts can be viewed at CoMo.gov/Roundabout-Education.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety four types of crashes lead to traffic fatalities. 56% of traffic fatalities are from frontal collisions, 24% are right-angle collisions, 6% are rear-end collisions and 14% are other types of crashes.

While roundabouts are not a cure-all, they do reduce fatalities at intersections. Frontal collisions are practically eliminated. Right-angle and rear-end collisions are greatly reduced and occur at lower speeds and less severe angles.

In addition to improving safety, roundabouts also:

- Improve traffic flow: Studies by Kansas State and the Insurance Institute found a 20%-89% reduction in delays at roundabouts.
- Simplify complex intersections: Roundabouts create a steady flow of traffic when multiple roadways of different capacities merge, or when streets merge at unusual angles.
- Function during power outages: A roundabout functions normally when the power goes out compared to signalized intersections.
- Reduce pollution: Less acceleration and braking improves fuel efficiency, reduces noise pollution and reduces greenhouse emissions.

Consider signing up for budget billing

Utility Customer Service (UCS) would like to remind customers that March is enrollment month for the budget billing program. Budget billing enables customers to pay the same dollar amount each month. This amount is determined by using the average bill amount of the last 12 months. Throughout the year the budgeted amount can be higher or lower than the actual bill, but customers should always pay the budget billing amount, not the actual bill amount.

Once a year, there is a settle-up month to bring the account current. If a customer has a deferred credit balance the account will be credited for that amount. If the deferred balance is a deficit (owing) amount customers pay the actual amount due on the bill to bring the account to zero.

To qualify for budget billing, customers must have a full 12-month history at the current address and be current on their payments. Detailed information along with an application will be included on a tear-off flap in the March utility statement. Customers may also apply online at CoMo.gov or call Utility Customer Service at 573.874.7380 for more information.

Tips to protect against identity theft

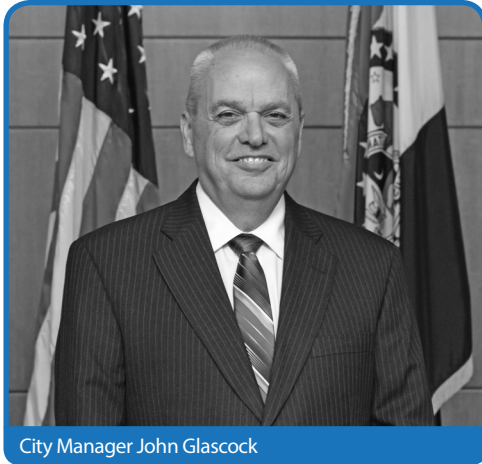
Identity theft happens when an individual's personal information is stolen and used to commit fraud. Your information can be used to apply for credit or loans, file taxes, get medical services and withdraw money from bank accounts.

Here is a list of tips from the Columbia Police Department that can help prevent identity theft in order to ensure that you and your loved ones are protected.

- Store personal information, such as a Social Security card, in a safe place.
- Shred any unnecessary documents that contain personal information.
- Be cautious of whom you give information to over the telephone, email or other communication devices as well as the internet.
- Protect your identity by never clicking on links sent to you in unsolicited emails. Use firewalls, anti-spyware and anti-virus software to protect your computer.
- Create unique and complex passwords that include letters, numbers and signs. Avoid using obvious passwords like your birth date, the last four digits of your Social Security number or your home address.
- Review credit card and bank statements for unauthorized transactions.
- Periodically check your credit history and financial statements for any discrepancies.

If you are a victim of identity theft, or would like to report it, visit the Federal Trade Commission website at identitytheft.gov.

Letter from City Manager John Glascock



City Manager John Glascock

City of Columbia residents,

There are several exciting projects coming up in 2020 and I want to make sure you know what we're working on.

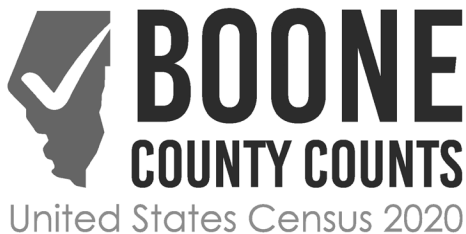
We plan to break ground this summer for the new terminal at the Columbia Regional Airport and for the Molly Thomas-Bowden Neighborhood Policing Center in north Columbia. The Climate Action & Adaptation Plan was adopted last year and progress will be made to meet those goals. We'll also be doing the kinds of work we do every year for continued maintenance on roads and infrastructure.

Additionally, we'll have a new Strategic Plan in 2020 that will help guide our work. The priorities created in the plan come from information we've collected from you in a variety of ways, including eight community focus groups and the annual citizen survey. Thank you to those of you who provided input.

As we do with a lot of our work, we'll ask for your feedback during the year on various projects. I value your opinion and I want to hear from you. If you have a suggestion on ways we can improve, you can drop a comment in one of the suggestion boxes at City facilities or fill out the form on [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia-mo.gov/CoMo.gov).

John Glascock
Columbia City Manager

Census 2020: Timeline for responding



It's almost time to start responding to the 2020 Census, which gives us an opportunity to ensure our population is accurately counted. We receive federal funding based on census data and those dollars go towards important programs like schools, roads, hospitals and more. In 2016, the state of Missouri received \$16 billion in federal funding.

You have a few options on how to respond to the census: online, by mail or by phone. You will receive a postcard in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau in March that will encourage you to respond online. 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.

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

Strategic Plan: Groundwork complete for 2020 Plan

The City of Columbia's 2020 Strategic Plan one step closer to being complete.

Front line employees representing every City department met in October and December to review data and create potential priority areas and objectives for the next plan. To create the proposed priorities and outcome objectives, the front line employees used a variety of data, including information from the eight community focus groups, 10 Year Trend Manual, annual citizen survey, City employee engagement survey, departmental plans and other related documents.

City Council Members, City department directors, participating front line staff members and the Strategic Plan Planning Committee met in January to review and refine the priorities and outcome objectives. Further details and action steps will be established by teams of employees. The 2020 Strategic Plan will be adopted by City Council once the Plan is complete this spring.

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



Front line employees representing nearly every City department met in October and December to review data and create potential priority areas and objectives for the 2020 Strategic Plan.

CARE summer applications close Feb. 28, work site partners needed



Addy Valerio, CARE program participant, assists a customer at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Applications for the City of Columbia's Career Awareness Related Experience (CARE) summer youth program will close on Friday, Feb. 28. The summer program will take place this year from June 1 through July 24.

The CARE program hires at-risk 14- to 20-year-olds who live in the City of Columbia and/or attend a Columbia school. Youth go through a job interview process and are placed at local businesses where they gain real-world, hands-on work experience while getting paid. Applications may be made online at gocomojobs.com. For those needing assistance with the application, please call the CARE office at 573.874.6300.

CARE depends upon partnerships with businesses and agencies to make the program successful. All of the trainees' wages are paid by the City of Columbia through the Parks and Recreation Department. There is no financial cost to the work site partners.

If your business or agency would like to become a work site partner, please contact CARE Coordinator Ron Schmidt at Ron.Schmidt@CoMo.gov or 573.874.6300.

Columbia Values Diversity Award Winners Announced

The 23rd annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Jan. 16. The celebration brought people together from throughout our community to share breakfast and a special program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Our Dream: The Journey Continues" with the keynote address presented by Malik Ahmed, CEO of Better Life Family and an artistic program performed by the Stephens College School of Creative and Performing Arts. Columbia Mayor Brian Treece presented the awards to an individual and a group that have made significant contributions promoting diversity and cultural understanding in our community.

City of Refuge, Group 2020 Diversity Award

City of Refuge was founded with the mission to help refugees recover and regain control of their lives by becoming productive, successful and contributing members of our community. City of Refuge is built on the premise that serving others is the highest calling. Its staff and volunteers help refugees integrate into the larger Columbia community by fostering cross-cultural understanding and establishing long lasting friendships.

Nikki McGruder, Individual 2020 Diversity Award

Nikki McGruder's work and perseverance towards building an inclusive Columbia community reflects the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who led others with education, commitment and direct action. McGruder fosters relationships and forges partnerships with all types of organizations to create room for productive dialogues informally and through the Journey to Inclusive Excellence. Under her leadership, thousands of community members have been reached through events, trainings and educational opportunities.

Congratulations to the award winners and mark your calendars for next year's event on January 14, 2021!



Mayor Brian Treece presents the Group 2020 Diversity Award to City of Refuge.



Mayor Brian Treece presents Nikki McGruder the Individual 2020 Diversity Award.

Progress as Promised: Columbia Fire Department training facility improvements



The Columbia Fire Department Technical Rescue Team trains on how to rescue victims during a simulated structure collapse. Improvements to the training facility provides more opportunities for firefighters.

City of Columbia contractor Little Dixie Construction completed many improvements and upgrades to the Columbia Fire Department's training facility, 701 Big Bear Boulevard. A metal frame was built to allow for more storage and practical skills training during inclement weather. Upgrades were also made to the classrooms and bathrooms in an existing building at the training academy. The additional facility, as well as the improvements to the existing building, allows for more and better opportunities for training which will greatly enhance the level of services the fire department provides to the community.

In addition, upgrades to the bathrooms and roofs of Fire Stations 4, 5 and 6 were completed. These stations, built almost 50 years ago, serve as homes to Columbia's firefighters while they are on duty. The investments in these buildings will not only make the spaces more habitable, but the mechanical system improvements will improve energy efficiency thus lowering operating costs.

A total of \$1.5 million was invested on these projects from a one-fourth of 1% sales tax extension approved by voters on Aug. 4, 2015.

Advancing Renewables in the Midwest Conference

As we continue to grow our renewable portfolio, City of Columbia Water & Light considers connecting with industry leaders and our regional partners a priority. The annual Advancing Renewables in the Midwest Conference helps further this goal. Since 2006, Columbia Water & Light has co-hosted the conference with the University of Missouri School of Natural Resources. Speakers from around the country address current topics in renewable energy.

The 15th annual conference will be March 31 and April 1, 2020 at the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia. For more information, visit <http://advancingrenewables.org/>.

Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460
for more information

MARCH

21 Train Show, Paquin Tower,
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Free

New opportunities for local visual artists

The City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs has two opportunities for artists in mid-Missouri to share their art with our community.

The traffic box art program invites artists to submit a design which would be applied to a traffic signal box in downtown Columbia. Painted or vinyl-wrapped boxes are resistant to graffiti and contribute to the uniqueness of the downtown streetscape. The selected artist will be awarded \$1500 with a material allowance.

Design proposal templates and applications are available at comoarts.com.

Since 1992, the City's annual Commemorative Poster has expressed the vitality and beauty of mid-Missouri and the significance of the arts. The official poster is unveiled at the annual Celebration of the Arts event in the fall and is available for purchase year-round. Sales of the poster support funding of local arts organizations.

The selected artist will be awarded \$1000. Application information is available at comoarts.com.

Both opportunities are open to artists 18 and older. Applications will be accepted until early March.

Email oca@CoMo.gov or call 573.874.2489 for more information.

Volunteer of the Month: Columba Jimenez



Columba, pictured right, with Solid Waste Utility Supervisor Jason Clayton.

Columba Jimenez has been committed to serving her community for years. She is a familiar face at many of City of Columbia events and also volunteers at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri and at her church.

Columba has participated in monthly Litter Team cleanups for seven years and has attended many Household Hazardous Waste Collections (HHW) meet-ups for the past four years. Columba goes above and beyond at HHW by making authentic burritos to share with fellow volunteers and the Solid Waste Utility staff. She is instrumental in supporting a team atmosphere that keeps other volunteers coming back.

Columba works full-time as a nurse and has a son who is heavily involved in Special Olympic Sports. In spite of a packed schedule, Columba carves out time to serve her community. During free time, Columba and her son pick up litter in areas of need. She enjoys being able to walk along clean streets and trails.

What Columba likes best about volunteering is, "meeting new people, discovering new places and trails, and being a good role model for her son." If you are interested in similar experiences, visit our website at CoMo.gov, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or email volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Code Corner: 2019 year-end numbers

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handles a variety of residential code issues in an effort to protect the quality of life for those who call Columbia home. In Fiscal Year 2019, Oct. 1, 2018–Sept. 30, 2019, ONS handled 4,606 code issues which included 1,557 reports from residents. Vegetation cases made up the largest category with 1,132 reports, followed by nuisances at 948 reports, property maintenance (issues with the structure) at 587 reports, vehicle violations (unlicensed, inoperable or junk-filled) at 223 reports and 233 complaints from tenants about issues in their rental home or apartment.

Visit the Neighborhood Services page at CoMo.gov to read our annual report and view maps of our work completed in Fiscal Year 2019. If there is an issue that Neighborhood Services can assist you with, please contact us at 573.817.5050 or Neighborhood@CoMo.gov.



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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