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February 2017



Your source for City news and information



Columbia Values Diversity Award Winners

The 20th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Jan. 12. The awards are given to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions promoting appreciation for diversity and cultural understanding in Columbia. Award winners are shown below with Mayor Brian Treece.

DIVERSITY AWARENESS PARTNERSHIP was awarded the 2017 Diversity Award for groups



In the spring of 2015, Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) launched its first regional expansion with the opening of its Columbia branch to support local diversity and inclusion efforts. Led by Regional Manager Nikki McGruder, pictured at left, the expansion came at an important time for more concerted and sustained efforts for diversity and inclusion to improve communities across Missouri and throughout the country. DAP offers the three pillars of impact to the community: training and

education, youth programs and awareness campaigns. DAP exemplifies the determination that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was known for, by having those hard conversations and being creative in their programs in order to build a more inclusive community.

The 2017 Diversity Award for individuals was presented to BILL THOMPSON and CARLA LONDON

Bill Thompson, pictured at right, demonstrates the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through his compassion and concern for everyone in the community, his commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of Columbia and his selfless service to many community programs. Retiring from the City of Columbia in March 2017, Bill has spent his 35 years of service to the Parks and Recreation Department providing direction to youth, teaching positive activities through recreation, and providing a safe space for kids to have fun and learn.



Carla London, pictured at left, is the Columbia Public School District's director for student services. She coordinates the District's suspension center, which helps students continue their education while they are serving a suspension. In addition to her day job, Carla serves on the board for Nora Stewart Early Learning Center. She leads equity trainings for university and community partners, and she facilitates restorative practices trainings with community groups. Dr. King was a civil rights

leader who did not accept no. He sought to find a better yes. Carla exemplifies that same belief.



Fair Housing and Lending Seminar

The City will host the annual **Fair Housing and Lending Seminar** on Friday, April 7 at City Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this FREE and informative event. University of Missouri Law professor and fair housing expert Rigel Oliveri will provide attendees with updates on fair housing and lending laws. Attorney Amanda Biondolino will speak on the popular topic of service animals, fair housing and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Dr. Molly Metzger, a Washington University assistant professor of social work, will talk about her research on structural racism, fair and affordable housing.

There will also be a program fair to allow attendees to meet City staff and explore programs the City offers for improving housing and home ownership, increasing energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, and strengthening neighborhoods and our community. This popular event includes a FREE breakfast sponsored by Central Bank of Boone County. Other sponsors include the Missouri Human Rights Commission, the Columbia Housing Authority, the City of Columbia Human Rights Commission and Disabilities Commission. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:15 a.m. The program starts at 9 a.m.

Please join us and celebrate Fair Housing Month by learning about fair housing and lending. Registration is recommended, but not required. To register visit **CoMo.gov** and search "Fair Housing and Lending Seminar."

Does your insulation measure up?

Home built before 1970
average attic insulation 6"

Annual Utility Savings at R-50	Payoff (years)
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\$246-\$89	2 - 6
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Home built in 1970-1989
average attic insulation 9"

Annual Utility Savings at R-50	Payoff (years)
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\$173-\$60	3 - 8
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Home built in 1990-2010
average attic insulation 11"

Annual Utility Savings at R-50	Payoff (years)
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\$127-\$46	5 - 13
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We recommend 18" of insulation in attics. See chart for your possible savings and pay off. Investments in attic insulation in most homes will pay for themselves in 2-5 years.



ColumbiaPowerPartners.com
573-874-7325

Calculations based on 1100 ft² living space. Your actual savings and payoff will depend on the type or efficiency of your heating and cooling system.

Save energy and be comfortable.

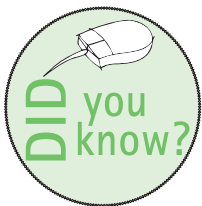
Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration Project



Columbia Parks and Recreation is helping sustain the monarch butterfly population by planting milkweed at City parks. Each year monarch butterflies migrate thousands of miles from southern Canada to Mexico. Like bumblebees and other pollinators, monarchs are important because they pollinate our crops and serve vital roles in our ecosystem. Recently, these species have experienced a severe decline in their populations. Research shows that habitat loss is a contributing factor to these declines.

Canada, Mexico, and the United States have joined together to produce the North American Monarch Conservation Plan, which has a goal of 10 million acres of monarch habitat to be created or restored in the United States.

The City has teamed up with several partners to create more habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. Approximately 14 acres across Columbia will be restored to native wildflowers and grasses. New butterfly habitat areas have been developed at Nifong Park, 3M Flat Branch-Hinkson Creek Wetlands, Atkins Park, Stephens Lake Park, Twin Lakes Recreation Area and Lake of the Woods Golf Course. For the next year, the City will clear the areas of all plants by mowing, applying herbicides and prescribed burning. Then during winter we will seed and continue to manage each plot. These sites will take years to mature. Follow our progress along the MKT Trail by Jay Dix Station, Twin Lakes Recreation Area and the Gans Creek Recreation Area.



Web Did You Know...

Power out?
outageviewer.gocolumbiamo.com

24-hour emergency outage number:
573-875-2555

If you have any details about the outage, please call us. Any information that will help our crews isolate the problem will make the restoration process go faster.

Street Talk—Public involvement an integral part of Public Works Capital Improvement projects



The construction of roads, intersections, sidewalks and trails is a major part of the City's Capital Improvement Program managed by Public Works. Public input is sought at every step of the process, whether it is voting for funding, expressing views to the City Council or participating in neighborhood meetings to review engineering plans.

Columbia Public Works coordinates with the City's Finance Department, Community Development, Columbia Utilities, and other agencies to prioritize construction projects based on funding schedules, traffic management challenges, safety concerns, scheduling conflicts and logistical issues.

"Time and cost effectiveness is looked at closely," said Public Works Director David Nichols. "Prioritizing projects to minimize traffic disruptions is also a major consideration."

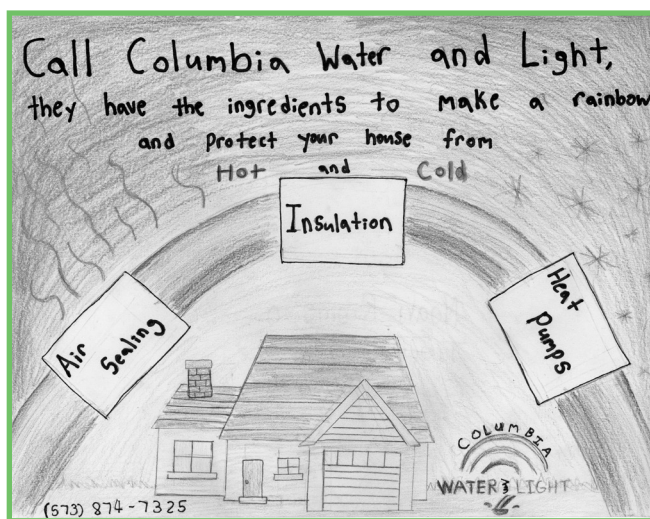
Stakeholders in the community are identified and invited, along with the general public, to an interested parties meeting to review and provide feedback on the conceptual plans for a given transportation network project. Preliminary plans are then developed and presented to the City Council during a formal public hearing. Public comments are heard before a final discussion and/or vote is conducted by the Council. The designs are then finalized and, if easements are needed for the project, right-of-way plans are drafted and presented to Council for consideration. Finally, the construction plans and specifications are drawn up for bid and a bid call is presented to Council for approval.

Chapter 22 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances details the City's commitment to the Public Works and Improvements. Ordinances are available online at CoMo.gov. The City also encourages citizens to visit the city calendar regularly and sign up to receive press releases of upcoming interested party meetings and hearings.

New features of utility billing software coming soon

Utility Customer Service has started the second phase of the billing software upgrade which will provide customers with additional online services. Customers will have online access to their billing statements and allow for paperless billing. Phase two started in late January with the anticipation of having it completed and ready for customers by summer.

Utility Customer Service would like to thank our customers for their patience through the billing software conversion. Both the billing office staff members and the software vendor continue to work together to eliminate issues and make changes in order to fit customers' needs.



Artwork by:
Noah Robinson,
7th grade,
Gentry Middle
School

Columbia Youth Teaching Efficiency

Kids have a way of keeping it simple and looking at things from a different perspective. That's why Columbia Water & Light started Columbia Youth Teaching Efficiency (CYTE). The goals of the program are two-fold: teach middle school students about energy efficiency so they can use that information for the rest of their lives, and use their creativity to add freshness to our marketing messages. The results of the program were fantastic again this year. Even in non-winning entries it is evident the students understood the concept of energy efficiency and how they can apply it in their lives. Columbia Water & Light would like to thank all the participants in the 2016 CYTE Marketing Contest.

Look for student artwork, haikus and radio commercials to be showcased throughout the year. To see/hear the winning entries visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com.

Trade A Tree

Avoid electrical problems due to trees

Sign up for the Trade A Tree program and the City will inspect your trees growing near the City's main electric distribution lines. If the tree on your property qualifies for the program, Columbia Water & Light will remove the problematic tree. You can then select a small growing tree or bush to be planted in your yard.

CoMo.gov (search for Trade A Tree)

573-874-2489

TreeSource

Did you know you can make 100 percent organic maple syrup from trees in your backyard? That's right; by tapping your sugar maple trees you could be enjoying your own maple syrup the rest of the year. All you need are the following four things: a sugar maple tree, a tap or spile, a drill and something to catch sap in like a milk jug. Once the temperatures are consistently below freezing at night and above during the day you can tap your sugar maple trees. On good days you can collect a gallon or more of sap. After collecting a decent amount of sap just boil it down until it reaches 219 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep in mind it takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. For more information on maple syruping visit <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/activities/maple-sugaring>.

Written by Tree Task Force Vice Chair Josh Behounek (@treesrtheanswr)

5K to honor fallen Columbia Police officer

On Saturday, April 8, law enforcement officers, supporters, families and friends will come together in Columbia at the first annual Molly's Miles 5K. Named in memory of fallen Columbia Police Officer Molly Suzanne Thomas Bowden, the event aims to honor the surviving families and affected co-workers of Missouri law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Missouri Chapter Concerns of Police Survivors.

Molly's Miles 5K is scheduled to kick off at 8 a.m. on April 8 at the Molly Bowden Memorial Park, 900 W. Nifong Blvd. The event features a family friendly 3.1 mile course for walking or running participants. Each course finisher will be awarded a medal at the finish line, and distinctive awards will be given to the top three overall male and female runners. Registration costs are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children ages 12 and under. Registration includes a long sleeve shirt, a finisher medal for course finishers, race bib, chip timing and live results. To register, please visit MollysMilesRun.com.



firstmidwest presents

MOLLY'S MILES

BENEFITTING MISSOURI C.O.P.S.



A 5K RUN/WALK @ 8AM
"HONORING THE SURVIVORS"
MOLLY BOWDEN MEMORIAL PARK
900 W. NIFONG BOULEVARD
COLUMBIA, MO 65203

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN



\$30 ADULTS
\$20 12 & UNDER

REGISTER TODAY!
WWW.GETMEREREGISTERED.COM/MOLLYSMILES5K
PRICING INCLUDES: ONE LONG SLEEVE SHIRT, ONE FINISHER MEDAL FOR RACE FINISHERS, RACE BIB, CHIP TIMING, AND LIVE RESULTS.
DISTINCTIVE AWARDS FOR TOP 3 OVERALL MALE & FEMALE RUNNERS!

 **ULTRAMAX SPORTS**

WWW.MOLLYSMILESRun.COM

Total Solar Eclipse: Show Me Totality



At 1:12 p.m. on Aug. 21, 2017, make sure you're outside. Columbia will be in the path of totality for a Total Solar Eclipse, the first in the continental United States since 1979, and the first to be visible only from the U.S. since 1776. Being in the path of totality means the sun, moon and Earth will line up and cast a shadow onto our planet, making it dark. With two minutes and 37 seconds of totality, Columbia is an ideal viewing location for solar eclipse enthusiasts from across the country and even around the world.

A weekend of festivities is planned leading up to the eclipse and two large-scale viewing events are scheduled for Monday, Aug. 21. At Cosmopolitan (Cosmo) Park, attendees can participate in activities, music, food and hands-on educational opportunities along with a large open space to view the eclipse in the early afternoon. Gans Nature Area will host eclipse enthusiasts who need space to set up scientific equipment to observe the eclipse.

The moon will begin to move across the sun at approximately 11:45 a.m. with totality beginning at 1:12 p.m. and lasting just over two and a half minutes. During the total phase of the eclipse, the sun is safe to view, but safe eclipse glasses are needed to observe the partial phases leading to totality.

The path of totality for this eclipse runs from the Pacific coast of Oregon to the Atlantic coast in South Carolina. With over 88 million people within 200 miles of the path of totality, communities like Columbia that are in the path are preparing to welcome an influx of visitors who are excited to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Stay informed on plans for the Total Solar Eclipse in Columbia by checking out CoMoEclipse.com or liking **Visit Columbia MO** on Facebook.

TreeKeepers Academy scheduled for March 18



The City of Columbia is once again offering the TreeKeepers program to provide residents knowledge about our natural resources and provide hands-on service projects in our parks.

The 2017 TreeKeepers program will be a one-day academy format on Saturday, March 18. During the TreeKeepers Academy, volunteers will learn about tree identification, pruning and planting, and commit to assisting on tree projects in our parks on Saturday mornings.

Both programs will be held at the Parks Management Center, 1507 Business Loop 70 West. To learn more or register, please contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or volunteer@CoMo.gov.



Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

March

18

Annual Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., FREE

Did you know?

Rain gardens reduce stormwater runoff and prevent harmful pollutants from entering our streams. Parks and Recreation has constructed 17 park rain gardens to help improve Columbia's water quality.

Strategic Plan—Work ready community

Boone County has achieved official designation as a Certified Work Ready Community (CWRC). The initiative helps communities validate the skills and knowledge of their emerging, transitioning and current workforce to the business community.

Missouri's Certified Work Ready Communities is a voluntary initiative guided by key community leaders, including local elected officials, economic development, business leaders, chambers of commerce, educators and workforce development. The initiative links workforce development to education; aligns with the economic needs of communities, regions and the state; and helps close the skills gap by matching individuals to jobs based on skill levels.

This initiative is directly linked to the City's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan priority focusing on economy which has a goal to address the overarching question, "how do we create more living wage jobs?"

Code Corner: occupancy restrictions

Occupancy limitations help protect the quality of life in single family neighborhoods. Under the definition of family in Chapter 29 of City code, no more than three unrelated people can live together in R-1 zoning districts and some planned unit developments. No more than four unrelated people can live together in other zoning districts. Over occupancy is a violation of the City's zoning code. To learn about or report an occupancy issue or other residential code violation, contact Neighborhood Services at 573-817-5050.

Volunteer of the Month—Mason Brobeck

When extraordinary volunteers come to mind, Mason Brobeck stands out. With a passion for the environment, Brobeck has spent the past two years leading community environmental, recycling and sustainability initiatives. He has spent countless hours matching citizens and organizations with valuable opportunities to build Columbia's community and sustainability infrastructure. He has also organized litter clean-ups and worked hard to educate the city's population about the importance of recycling.

In 2015, Brobeck began his volunteer service with the City by becoming a member of the Park Patrol. He organized his first litter clean-up in his neighborhood in 2015. By 2016, Brobeck's second massive litter clean-up involved 40 volunteers, netting more than 58 bags of litter of which 68 percent was recyclable. In order to increase city-wide recycling rates, Brobeck encouraged participants to sort the trash from the recyclable goods. Currently, Brobeck serves as a Recycling Ambassador and a leader in the City's Rental Energy Efficiency Forum. Thank you, Mason.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit our website at CoMo.gov, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or email volunteer@comogov.

Written by volunteer Elizabeth Miller.



Mason Brobeck

Phone utility scamwarning

City of Columbia utility customers have reported that they have been receiving calls from someone posing as a utility employee. The caller states that the customer account is delinquent and a payment must be made immediately to avoid disconnection. This is similar to a scam that has occurred in the past.

City of Columbia staff members are not allowed to take any payments over the phone. They can only take payments in person at the billing office in City Hall. Customers can use the automated phone service to pay their bills (573-874-7694) or pay through the city's web site (CoMo.gov). If customers have a question about a bill, the billing office can be reached at 573-874-7380 or by email at (ucs@comogov.) Utility bills are due 20 days after the date listed on the utility bill. Customers are notified of delinquent bills through a mailed notice.

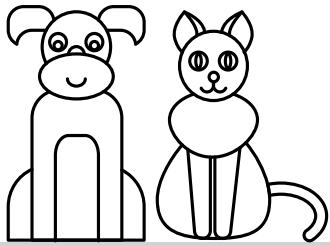
If you are a victim of a fraud, report it to a law enforcement agency.

Pet Assistance Available

A partnership between the Central Missouri Humane Society and the Animal Control division provides a limited number of vouchers to help get your dog or cat spayed or neutered at no charge. If you meet any of the eligibility requirements below, please call the Central Missouri Humane Society at 573-825-8976 to make an appointment. You must also be a Columbia or Boone County resident.

Eligibility requirements:

- Missouri EBT Card (Food Stamps)
- MO Healthnet (Medicaid)
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
- Temporary Medicaid for pregnant women
- LIHEAP (Low Income Utility Assistance)
- Temporary or permanent disability
- Social Security & Social Security disability
- TANF
- Income eligible (see chart below)



Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,665	\$1,722	\$430
2	\$28,704	\$2,392	\$598
3	\$36,144	\$3,012	\$753
4	\$43,584	\$3,632	\$908
5	\$51,012	\$4,251	\$1,062



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 65201
573-874-7111 • CoMo.gov

MAYOR
Brian Treece

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



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