

# CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



## Volunteer as a Recycling Ambassador



Recycling Ambassadors Susie Miller and Cecelia Donelson enthusiastically engaging the public at the Mature Living Festival.

Volunteer Recycling Ambassadors are instrumental in helping Columbia reduce its waste line. Recycling Ambassadors are trained on the City of Columbia's recycling programs, alternative recycling options and waste reduction tips. Through community events, presentations and waste audits, Recycling Ambassadors share their knowledge to reduce what ends up in our landfill.

The City is looking for volunteers who are passionate about recycling and waste reduction to join the team. The next training will be Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m. at the ARC, 1701 W. Ash.

Volunteer Programs, in partnership with the Solid Waste Utility, offers Recycling Ambassadors training twice per year. To learn more about the program or the Feb. 20 training, contact Volunteer Programs at [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov) or 573-874-6271.

## CARE Summer Applications Available

Applications for being accepted for Columbia Parks and Recreation's Career Awareness Related Experience (CARE) summer program.

The eight-week program is designed to give youth participants practical work experience and help them become self-sufficient, productive citizens. The CARE program hires at-risk 14- to 20-year-olds who live in Columbia or attend a Columbia school. They are hired at minimum wage to work up to 20 hours per week at local work sites. The City of Columbia pays wages for the participants. About 150 youth are enrolled in the program each summer.

Interested youth may apply online at [gocomojobs.com/postings/search](http://gocomojobs.com/postings/search) from Jan. 1 to Feb. 28 (search: CARE Summer Trainee). For more information, or if you are interested in being a worksite partner, please call Parks and Recreation at 573-874-7460.



Applications are being accepted for the CARE summer program. Participants in the CARE program work up to 20 hours per week, while gaining job readiness training and hands-on work experience while earning money.



## Street Talk: Parking during snow removal

The City urges everyone to voluntarily move their vehicles off of all streets whenever it snows. Fewer cars allow plow drivers to do their work quicker, safer and more efficiently.

However, you are only required to move your vehicles if you park on a Designated Snow Route and it snows at least 2 inches. Parking Utility staff do their best to warn drivers to move their vehicles, however, if vehicles remain on the Designated Snow Routes they will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. To be alerted when it's time to move your vehicles from priority routes, text COLUMBIAPW to 888777 or sign up at [Nixle.com](http://Nixle.com). To find out the latest information about City snow activities and routes, visit [CoMoSnow.com](http://CoMoSnow.com).

## Look Around Boone - New program focuses on youth mental health

Did you know one in five young people experience mental health issues?

The Public Health and Human Services Department, local organizations and Boone County schools are raising awareness about the importance of mental health through a campaign called *Look Around Boone*.

Together, we're asking Boone Countians to Look Around. *Looking Around* means being actively aware and supporting neighbors, friends and loved ones who are experiencing mental health issues. *Look Around Boone* says good mental health is an everybody issue. If you or someone you know is struggling, it's okay to ask for help. See Something. Do Something. Visit [lookaroundboone.org](http://lookaroundboone.org) for more information and resources.



## Fire Department community survey

The Columbia Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of customer service. Your feedback is very important to us as we evaluate how we're doing and where we can improve. We would greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete a very short questionnaire on your experiences and perception of our department.

This survey can be found at the following link:  
<http://bit.ly/ColumbiaFireSurvey>.

## Progress as Promised: Providence Road Improvement Project completed

The completed Providence Road Improvement Project increased safety for drivers, bikers, and pedestrians; as well as, improved traffic flow through this major north-south corridor and improved access to both the University of Missouri and the Grasslands Neighborhood. The project added new traffic signals, turn lanes, sidewalks, medians and signalized pedestrian crosswalks.

"Two new traffic light locations, complete with signalized pedestrian crossings, new pedestrian islands and medians, and improved ADA-compliant sidewalks, provide a safer crossing to and from the west side of Providence for work, school, shopping, recreation or major Mizzou sporting events," Public Works Director David Nichols said.

Construction of the project began on May 15 and was completed Oct. 30. The Columbia City Council approved the final design of the project on June 3, 2013 after a series of public hearings and interested parties meetings beginning in 2008.

"The project was done in several phases so that access to multiple roads would not be closed at the same time during construction," Public Works Construction Supervisor David Fennewald said. "All work on Providence Road itself was done at night to reduce the impact on local traffic. Providence was never closed."

The contractor for the project was Sam Gaines Construction. The investment cost was an estimated \$3.9 million paid for through 2005 Capital Improvement Sales Tax and Surface Transportation Program funds. Complete details about the project are available at [CoMo.gov/publicworks/providence-improvement](http://CoMo.gov/publicworks/providence-improvement).



Two new traffic lights with pedestrian signals, crosswalks and safety islands were added on Providence Road including this one at the intersection of Turner and University Heights.



## Scam Watch 2018

Every year, thousands of people lose money to scams. From phone scams to internet scams, Columbia residents have undoubtedly fallen victim to them. Over 500 fraud reports were taken by Columbia Police officers from January to November 2017. From a few dollars to an entire life savings—all could be gone in an instant. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money.

Phone scams were one of the more popular scams Columbia residents faced last year. Scammers would manipulate caller ID to make the number appear to come from CPD or the Boone County Sheriff's Department. The scammer told the potential victim a loved one was in jail and to have them released, the victim could pay the bond over the phone. Along the same lines, scammers also manipulated caller ID to make the number appear to come from Columbia Utilities. The scammer would advise the potential victim their utilities were in jeopardy of being shut off if the victim didn't pay the bill over the phone. Residents are reminded you would never be asked to make telephone payments on bonds or utility bills.

Scams do not stop with the start of the new year. The examples given were only two of hundreds of scams residents need to watch for in 2018. Be aware—CPD regularly disseminates information regarding scams circulating the area on social media sites. Prevention tips are available on our website at [CoMo.gov/Police](http://CoMo.gov/Police), or you can call the Public Relations Unit at 573-817-5049 for more information.

## Homes for Computers applications being accepted

The City of Columbia, Voluntary Action Center (VAC) and the Downtown Optimist Club are once again partnering to provide surplus refurbished computers to eligible low-income Columbia families through the Homes for Computers program.

Applications are available at the VAC office, 403 A Vandiver Dr., and must be submitted by Feb. 12. Families must have at least one child in grades K-12 and reside within the City of Columbia. For more information on applying, contact VAC at 573-874-2273. Computers will be distributed at the Downtown Optimist Club building, 1201 Grand Ave., on Saturday, Feb. 17.

The Homes for Computers program was approved by City Council in December 2003. More than 500 computers have been given to worthy families through this program.

## Utility Customer Service payment extension agreements

Utility Customer Service (UCS) encourages customers who need a few extra days to pay a bill to request a payment extension by calling (573) 874-7380 or coming into the office at 701 E. Broadway.

There is no limit on how many agreements a customer may make as long as the terms of the agreement are met. Payment extension requests can be made before the bill is due. Payment agreements for one past-due bill may be done over the phone, but if the past-due amount represents more than one bill, customers need come to the UCS office to complete the agreement in person.

We're here to help you, so please call to discuss the possibility of payment agreements.

## Recycling/trash bag vouchers coming soon

Customers eligible for curbside collection will receive vouchers redeemable for blue recycle bags and black trash bags. Vouchers are accepted at Gerbes, Hy-Vee, Menards, Moser's, Schnuck's and Westlakes Ace Hardware. Barcode on vouchers will be scanned at checkout in exchange for bags at no charge. Download the COMO Recycle and Trash app on your smartphone for solid waste collection updates and reminders.

## Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

### FEBRUARY

**25** Boy/Girl Scout Day, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., pre-register, \$3 per child

## Code Corner – Revising the weed ordinance

The City of Columbia's current weed ordinance states that any vegetation other than "recognized trees, decorative shrubs and ornamental grasses" that exceed 12 inches is in violation of the City's weed ordinance. As written, native plants may be in violation of the weed ordinance because they often exceed 12 inches. There is a growing number of property owners who are using native plants in their landscape due to their environmental benefits.

City Council has asked staff to explore changes to the weed ordinance. Receiving public input is an important part of the process. To learn more about this issue and share your comments, visit Neighborhood Services at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) or call us at 573-817-5050.



## Volunteer of the Month { Mizzou Parks, Recreation & Sports Programming class }



Mizzou Parks, Recreation & Sports Programming class

The runners appreciated these students and their high level of enthusiasm as a boost to keep going.

The partnership between the Parks, Recreation and Sports class and the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department developed through Assistant Teaching Professor Jennifer Upah and City of Columbia Recreation Specialist Stacey Kulik. Both Upah and Kulik believed this opportunity would serve as a great hands-on learning experience. Furthermore, Kulik believed the support from the students is what makes the City of Columbia's events stand out in the running community, and increases participation from mid-Missouri runners.

The City of Columbia thanks the Mizzou Parks, Recreation and Sports students for their continued support and look forward to collaborating with them on future events.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, 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).

## City seeking volunteers for parks programs

The City of Columbia is looking for volunteers who are interested in working in our parks and caring for our environment through two programs: C.A.R.P. and TreeKeepers.

The Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project – C.A.R.P. – was created by the Parks and Recreation Department to involve volunteers in implementing an aquatic plant and shoreline management plan. The 2018 C.A.R.P. class will

be held Wednesday evenings, Feb. 21 and 28. Classes include information on aquatic plants and insects, stormwater management and lake ecology.

The TreeKeepers Academy will be held Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During the class, participants will learn about tree identification, pruning and planting and spend time on hands-on demonstrations.

Both programs will be held at the Parks Management Center, 1507 Business Loop 70 West, near Cosmo Park. Following the classes, participants are asked to share time on projects in city parks. To register or learn more, contact the City's Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).



CARP volunteer Cheryl Hardy helps with a planting project in fall 2017.

For the past two years the Parks, Recreation and Sport Programming class at Mizzou have become a familiar group of volunteers at the Bear Creek Run Half Marathon. Each year, approximately 20 students are responsible for providing refreshments and encouragement for runners at the five aid stations along the 13.1 mile course on the Bear Creek Trail.

## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

**Application deadline Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.**

- Commission on Human Rights
- Public Transit Advisory Commission

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) or at the City Clerk's office. Call 573-874-7208 for more information.

## Contact Center Connection

Make a New Year's resolution to attend more City of Columbia events in 2018.

Call 573-874-CITY (2489) today for more information about events happening in our community, available nearby public parking and bus routes to the locations.



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-CITY (2489) • [CoMo.gov](http://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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