



## — City Stats —

### Live Stream Stats

Did you know that you can watch City Council meetings and some board and commission meetings live online at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov)

Even if you miss the video live, you can watch it later when you have time.



Numbers from  
April to  
November 2018



72%  
streamed to desktop  
  
28%  
streamed to their  
mobile device

The September 4, 2018, City Council meeting was the most viewed archived video from April to November 2018.



## Winter energy efficiency tips

To keep your home energy efficient this winter, City of Columbia Utilities suggests following these helpful tips:

- Have 18 inches of proper attic insulation to save money on heating.
- Set your thermostat settings at 68 degrees, or as low as possible, when you're home.
- Set your thermostat settings at 60 degrees when you're not home.
- Replace the weatherstripping on exterior doors.
- Install new door sweeps or bottom seals.
- Caulk window and door frames on the exterior of your home.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use.
- Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets in the winter.
- For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep shades open during the day and close them at night.

City of Columbia Utilities offers free home energy audits to all customers. Sign up by calling 573.874.7325 or visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) to learn how you can be more energy efficient and possibly save money.

## Columbia Parks and Recreation plans Black History Month activities

Columbia Parks and Recreation is offering several activities in honor of Black History Month in February. All activities are free. Call 573.874.7460 or check [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) for more information.

### African American Film & Discussion

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m. • Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash

The film "Loving" will be shown, followed by a short discussion. "Loving" is the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, plaintiffs in the case which invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

### African American History Exhibit

Weekdays during February, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash

In celebration of Black History Month, an exhibit will be available, honoring African American history in Columbia. Groups are welcome.

### Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner Musical Celebration

Sunday, Feb. 24, 3 p.m. • St. Luke UMC, 204 E. Ash

This year's program will feature artists and groups from the central Missouri area. Entertainment will be followed by a dinner.



## Utility bill payment agreement options

Utility Customer Service (UCS) encourages you to start the New Year off right by learning about payment agreements. Customers who need a few extra days to pay a bill may request a payment extension by calling 573.874.7380 or coming into the office at 701 E. Broadway.

Payment agreements must be paid in full by 5 p.m. on the agreed upon date. As long as the terms of the agreement are met, there is no limit on how many agreements you may make. However, it's important to note that if an agreement is broken (paid late or paid short), UCS would not be able to offer another one for 12 months.

Payment agreements for one past-due bill may be done over the phone, but if the past-due amount represents more than one bill, you must do the agreement in person. You do not need to wait until a bill is past due to request an extension. We encourage you to call us to discuss the possibility of a payment agreement if it's something that you need.

We encourage all customers to visit [CoMo.gov/Utilities/UCS](http://CoMo.gov/Utilities/UCS) for information about utility rates, understanding your utility bill and more.

## Contact Center Connection

Make a New Year's resolution to attend more City of Columbia events in 2019. Call 573.874.CITY (2489) for information about events happening in our community as well as nearby public parking and bus routes to the events.

**Correction:** In the 2018-2019 Citizen Handbook, an article on page 19 titled "History of Guitar Mansion on Oakland Gravel Road" included information about David Guitar's military service. There is conflicting historical information; however, family records and David Guitar's obituary suggest that he was a member of the Union Army, not the Confederate Army. We apologize for any hardship this has caused the Guitar family or their descendants.

## Don't become a victim while warming up your vehicle

Having your vehicle stolen is not a good way to start 2019. In order to have a nice, warm seat when you leave for work, school or errands means a lot of people will start their vehicle and go back inside while it warms up. This is like putting a big neon sign above your running vehicle, saying "TAKE ME, TAKE ME!!"

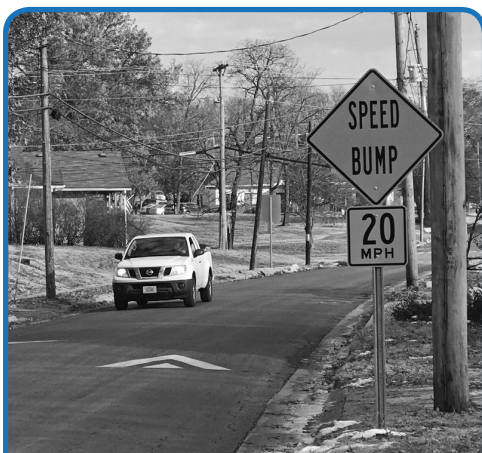
The Columbia Police Department would like to offer some helpful tips to warm up your vehicle:

- Park your vehicle in the garage if you have one.
- Stand with your vehicle while it is warming up.
- If you are able, have plenty of light surrounding your vehicle.
- Try using a window ice shield, which can be found at many automotive retailers, to reduce the time it takes to melt ice from your windshield.

If you do have to start your vehicle and go inside, use a second set of keys so you can lock your door while you aren't with it. Also, there are many devices at various different prices that can either immobilize or even track a stolen vehicle using GPS technology.

Just remember, motor vehicle theft is a crime of opportunity. The lower the opportunity that you give thieves to steal your vehicle, the less of a chance you become a victim.

## Progress as Promised: Speed bumps installed on Sexton Road



The City of Columbia Public Works Department installed speed bumps on Sexton Road between Business Loop 70 and Providence Road as a traffic calming solution.

The City of Columbia Public Works Department installed speed bumps on Sexton Road between Business Loop 70 and Providence Road in 2018. Sexton Road was No. 1 on the 2017 Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Priority List.

The Public Works Traffic Engineering Division provides traffic calming solutions designed to influence driver behavior and create more livable neighborhood streets by slowing down traffic. Engineers conduct appropriate studies to quantify any problems, work closely with neighborhood residents to identify their concerns and develop strategies to moderate traffic speeds.

The ultimate goal is to reduce the number and severity of collisions. While there are budgetary and public input considerations, it is the goal of Public Works to find ways to address as many issues as feasible each year.

The estimated project investment was \$75,000 paid for through Annual Traffic Calming Funds. Engineers hosted two interested parties meetings to gather public input on Nov. 30, 2017 and March 15, 2018. City Council approved the calming project after a public hearing on Aug. 6, 2018.

For more information, about the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, visit [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Traffic](http://CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Traffic).

## Space heater safety tips

Space heaters are a popular way to add supplemental heat to a room or space, but they are also very dangerous when not used properly. If you use a space heater, please view the following safety tips from the Columbia Fire Department:

- Keep all combustible material at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- Never use space heaters as a primary heat source.
- Place your heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

## Code Corner: Occupancy restrictions

Occupancy limitations help protect the quality of life in Columbia's neighborhoods. Too many occupants can lead to increased traffic, trash, and noise and may create an unsafe living condition for the occupants. 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 developments and 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.

## Street Talk: CoMoSnow.com provides snow-related resources

When it snows in Columbia, all of the snow-related resources and links you need during a winter storm are at your fingertips in one location at [CoMoSnow.com](http://CoMoSnow.com). The website provides the following information:

- Priority route poster
- Designated snow route maps
- Winter weather policies and procedures
- Nixle alerts
- City, state and county resources
- Road condition maps
- Road treatment methods
- Clearing sidewalks
- Trash and recycling collection
- Power outages
- Warming centers

You don't have to wait until a winter storm to visit [CoMoSnow.com](http://CoMoSnow.com). Visit the site today to learn about the City's snow event response plan.



## Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460  
for more information

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Black History Month: African American Film and Discussion "Loving," Armory Sports Center, 6:30 p.m., free

- 24 Black History Month: Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner, St. Luke UMC, 3 p.m., free

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



## Boards & Commissions

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

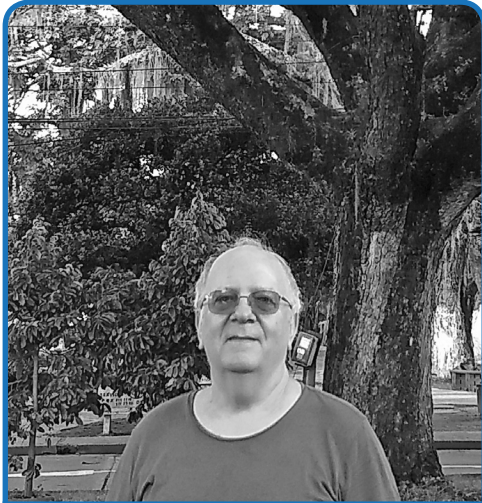
**Application deadline is Feb. 8 at 5 p.m.**

- Commission on Human Rights
- Public Transit Advisory Commission
- University of Missouri Extension Council of Boone County

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](http://CoMo.gov) or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.



## Volunteer of the Month: Steve Matthews



Steve Matthews

Steve Matthews has been volunteering with the City of Columbia Volunteer Programs since 2002. Steve has been heavily involved with the Treekeepers and CARP programs; dedicating nearly 1,000 hours over the last 16 years to removing overgrown honeysuckle and falling trees in and around Columbia's many parks and trails.

Steve's love of trees is deeply rooted in the way in which he was raised.

"I was raised on a large farm along the Missouri River, and we were taught that a 'weed' is a plant you don't want to grow on your land," Steve said.

When "greedy growth" such as bush honeysuckle threatens to kill native trees and plants, Steve takes pride in rescuing them from extinction. Just this year, Steve cut very overgrown honeysuckle around Grindstone Park. Steve states the patrons of the park "were super appreciative of my efforts to open up the jungle, which is something that really keeps me going."

When Steve isn't cutting honeysuckle you can often find him reading books from the local library.

"I was born in the bookmobile of rural Ray County, I sometimes think!" Steve joked.

Steve enjoys attending Osher adult education classes and has volunteered with other local programs such as PET, Love Inc. and In2Action.

We appreciate Steve's selfless giving of his time and talents to help keep Columbia beautiful! To learn how you can get involved as a volunteer, contact us at 573.874.7499 or Volunteer@CoMo.gov.

## 2013 sewer bond update

City Council called a special election on Nov. 5, 2013 where voters approved sewer system revenue bonds in the amount of \$32,340,000. Approximately 73 percent of these funds were allocated for improvements to the existing sewer collection system. This includes repairing current sewer infrastructure to address structural deficiencies and reduce inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sewer system, which can cause backups or overflows during heavy rains.

Sewer revenue bonds are also being used to replace failing private common collectors with a public sewer collection system that meets Columbia's sewer standards. The remaining 17 percent of 2013 bond funds were to be allocated for system expansion and necessary upgrades to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Improvements to the digester complex at the WWTP were approved by Council in November and construction is anticipated to begin mid-2019.

Visit [CoMo.gov/Utilities/Sewer](http://CoMo.gov/Utilities/Sewer) for a full list of 2013 sewer bond funded projects.



### 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.*

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### MAYOR

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mayor@CoMo.gov

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ward1@CoMo.gov

#### WARD 2

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#### WARD 3

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573.474.2195  
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#### WARD 4

Ian Thomas  
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#### WARD 5

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#### WARD 6

Betsy Peters  
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### INTERIM CITY MANAGER

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cmo@CoMo.gov



**CITY OF COLUMBIA**  
**CONTACT CENTER**  
**573·874·CITY**  
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

*The City of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, receipt of governmental assistance, alienage or citizenship status, status as a victim of sexual or domestic violence or order of protection status.*

### CITY OF COLUMBIA

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