

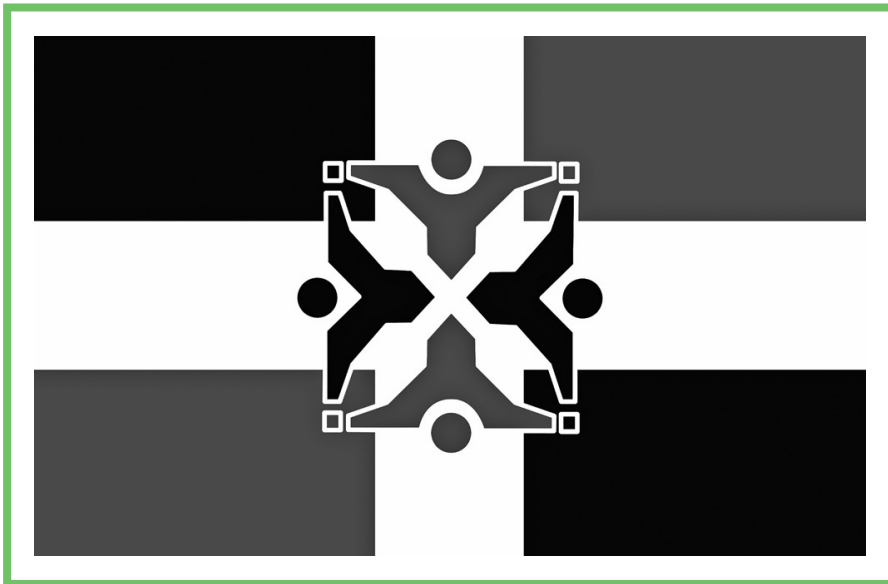
# CITYSOURCE

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July 2016



Your source for City news and information



## New City flag chosen

This spring, the Columbia City Council unanimously approved a resolution to accept the design by Jon Sheltmire as the new, official flag for the City of Columbia. Sheltmire's design represents Columbia being at a crossroads in the center of the state of Missouri, and it incorporates the existing City logo to represent Columbia's diverse, close-knit community. The featured colors in the design, blue and green, symbolize Columbia's many distinctive rivers, creeks, and lakes as well as the city's woodlands, trails, parks and heritage of nature conservation. Columbia now joins the numerous Missouri cities, such as St. Louis, Kansas City and Jefferson City, with an official symbol for its community.

The Office of Cultural Affairs administered the contest, which offered citizens an opportunity to create a lasting symbol for the city that captures the history, beauty and uniqueness of our community. The contest was open to everyone, from amateurs to professional graphic designers. A flag ceremony is planned for a future date, to be determined. For more information, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs at 573-874-6386 or email [OCA@CoMo.gov](mailto:OCA@CoMo.gov).

## Public art mobile app

Experience Columbia's collection of public art on your mobile device. The City's Office of Cultural Affairs has launched a FREE mobile app for iPhone and Android to guide users on a tour of over 35 pieces of public art around town.

Each stop on the tour includes photos, written and audio descriptions, and geolocation mapping to guide you along the way. Powered by Otocast, the app is currently available for download in the iTunes Store and on Google Play by searching, "Otocast." For more information, visit the Office of Cultural Affairs page on the City's website at [CoMo.gov/arts](http://CoMo.gov/arts).



## Sign up for Kaleidospoke Glow Ride

Kaleidospoke is a non-competitive, family friendly, glow bike ride along the MKT Trail. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. on August 20.

Participants will ride the illuminated MKT from Flat Branch Park to Twin Lakes Recreation Area. At Twin Lakes, riders will enjoy s'mores by the bonfire and entertainment before the return ride to Flat Branch.

Riders are encouraged to decorate their bikes and themselves with glow items. Helmets and front and rear bike lights will be required. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The price is \$15, which includes a bike accessory, glow item and s'mores. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Please call Parks and Recreation at 573-874-7460 to register.



## Connecting [with] cops

Making moments matter with Columbia's youth is second nature to Columbia Police Officer Phillip Shull and Officer Matt Rodriguez. Both with children of their own, they understand the importance of building positive relationships at a young age.

"Talking to kids is crucial... so they're not just seeing us showing up at mom and dad's house arresting somebody," Shull said. "They're seeing us as part of their community and as someone walking through in a cool uniform that they can talk to and get to know."

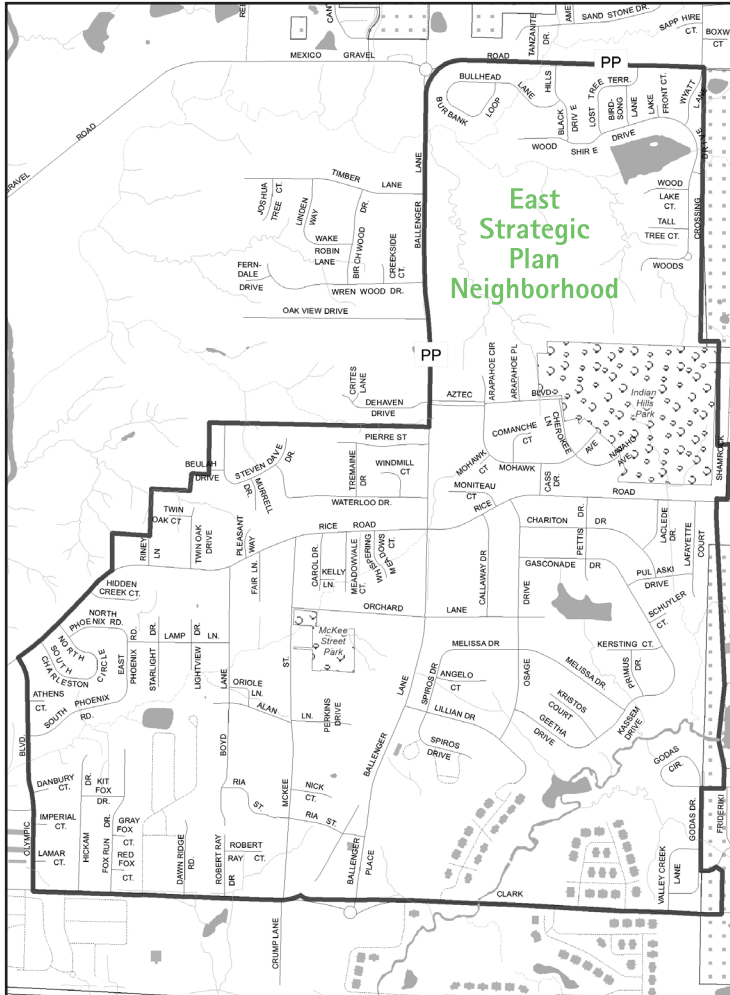
The officers are part of the Community Outreach Unit (COU). They serve in the East Strategic Plan Neighborhood which runs from Mexico Gravel Road to Clark Lane and from Olympic Boulevard to Godas Drive. They spend time on foot patrol in the community, which includes visiting schools in the area. Students often greet the officers with high fives and smiling faces as they enjoy seeing their "police friends" there.

"[They're] heroes, saving people's lives, and doing the best they can to support others," said Da'jeon, a fifth grade student at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary.

Shull and Rodriguez highlight their interactions with the East Neighborhood on social media. They encourage community members to follow them on Twitter at @CPDPPhillipCoMo and @CPDMattCoMo to keep current with where the officers are and what events are going on in the area. You can visit **CoMo.gov/Police** for more information on COU and you can contact the officers at [Police\\_Outreach@CoMo.gov](mailto:Police_Outreach@CoMo.gov).



Officer Matt Rodriguez (left) and Officer Phillip Shull (right) with Mrs. Rice's preschool class at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School.



## Budget breakdown – hotel/motel tax

In May 2016, the Columbia City Council voted to place a proposition before the voters on the August 2, 2016 ballot to raise the gross receipts license tax on hotels and motels from 4 percent to 5 percent. Revenues generated from this 1 percent increase are proposed to be used for the Columbia Regional Airport Terminal Improvement Project.

Currently, the Columbia Regional Airport (COU) does not comply with ADA standards and most of the facilities are undersized for the current passenger activity. In 2015, COU had a 21.8 percent increase in passenger boarding and served 129,887 passengers.

In comparison, Jefferson City's hotel/motel tax is 7 percent and Springfield's is 5 percent.



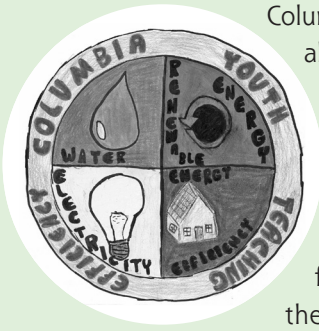
Join the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services this summer for the Summer Food Program. Children 18 years old and younger will be provided with nutritional summertime lunches through August 5 at Douglass Park, 400 North Providence Road. The USDA funded program, an extension of the school free and reduced lunch program, will serve lunch every weekday (except July 4) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In addition to lunch, children can take part in fun activities on-site. Previous years' activities have included: visits from the Missouri Symphony, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, educational session on plants, wildlife, and vegetation from park rangers, MU and Columbia College sports teams, and the Daniel Boone Regional Library Bookmobile.

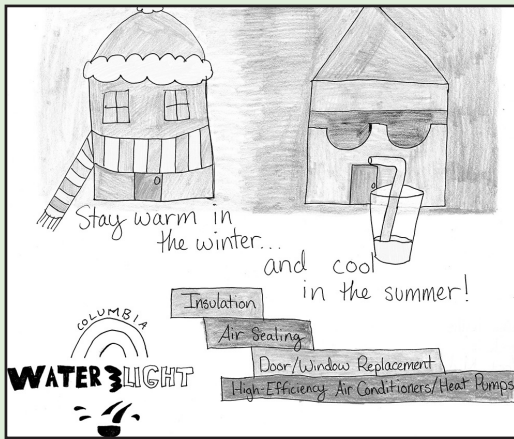
The complete, wholesome meals are prepared by Columbia Public Schools and served by volunteers. Persons interested in volunteering should contact Voluntary Action Center.



## Columbia Youth Teaching Efficiency



Columbia Water & Light would like to thank all the participants in the 2015-2016 Columbia Youth Teaching Efficiency Marketing Contest. Our goals were 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. We are thrilled with the results. 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.



Artwork by  
Emma Willis,  
West Middle  
School

## Adopt-A-Spot to care for our City

Adopting an area of the public right of way can be a rewarding experience. Volunteers play a huge role in helping us care for our public space and get the reward of knowing their work is enjoyed by hundreds if not thousands of people every day.

*The City has three ways you can adopt an area of right of way:*

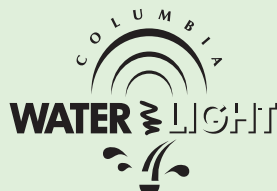
- The Adopt-A-Spot Beatification program allows volunteers to care for a landscaped bed often in a median or roundabout. Volunteers are asked to make a four-year commitment to weed, mulch and plant their bed. The City will assist with supplies and water, where available.
- The Adopt-A-Spot Litter Control program connects volunteers to City streets where they are asked to pick up trash at least four times per year. A two-year commitment is requested.
- The Adopt-A-Rain Garden program is conducted in cooperation with the City's Stormwater Utility to care for rain gardens along streets or at public spaces including fire stations and our recycling sites.

There are current opportunities to participate in all three programs in locations throughout the City. To learn more, contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).

## Save electricity this summer

Use these air conditioning efficiency tips to save money on your electric bills this summer.

- Set thermostat at 78 degrees or as high as possible while maintaining reasonable comfort level while you're home.
- Change the air conditioning/furnace filter every three months.
- For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep shades closed during the day.
- Avoid heating up the kitchen during the hottest part of the day. Grill outside, use the microwave or prepare a cool meal.
- Use heat producing appliances (clothes dryers, dishwashers, etc.) during the late evening or early morning.
- Make sure all storm windows and fireplace chimney dampers are closed.
- Don't block air conditioner or air return vents with furniture, rugs or curtains.
- Remove weeds, grass, bushes and other obstructions from around the outside condensing unit.
- Schedule a tune-up for your cooling system by a qualified air conditioner contractor.



## Parks and Recreation presents Family Fun Fests

Columbia Parks and Recreation is hosting the next Family Fun Fest from 6 to 8 p.m. on August 17 at Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70 W.

Fun Fests are held the third Wednesday of the month from May through September. Entertainment for the entire family features music, live performances, art activities, hands-on learning, face painting, balloon art and fun for all families.

The Family Fun Fests are sponsored by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8, Aetna and Parent Link.

**August 17: Around the World** — "Travel the globe" with dancing, games, music and more.

**Coming Up** — Sept 21: Creative Kids

## Summer safety tips from the Columbia Fire Department

Summertime means cookouts, Fourth of July, and outdoor activities as families get out and enjoy the weather. The Columbia Fire Department hopes you enjoy this summer and remember this time of the year also presents opportunities for fires and injuries. Following are a few tips to help make your summer safe and enjoyable:

- Don't wear loose clothing while cooking at a BBQ.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire. The flame can flash back into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Inspect the area around your barbecue or campfire. You don't want to grill or light a campfire near other flammable materials including dry grass or overhanging branches.
- Dispose of hot coals properly – douse them with plenty of water and stir them to ensure the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Allow your tractor or lawn mower to cool down outside before being stored in a shed or garage.
- Keep your mower clean of lawn debris. Dried grass near a heated area may cause a fire.
- Install and test smoke alarms in your garage and storage areas.
- Keep gas and fuel containers stored in well-ventilated outdoor storage areas.

For more safety tips and information on how to contact the Columbia Fire Department please visit [CoMo.gov/fire](http://CoMo.gov/fire).

## As promised...Woodridge Park improvements



Renovations at Woodridge Park, 3532 Berrywood Dr., were recently completed. A rededication ceremony was held at the park on May 26.

The improvements at Woodridge include a new premier, inclusive playground, featuring ramps, music therapy, a group swing, ground-level features and poured-in-place surfacing. Other park renovations include a single table shelter, council ring and walking trail.

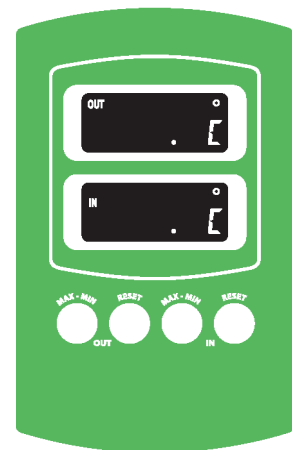
Woodridge Park was selected as the location for the inclusive playground because of its proximity to the Ronald McDonald House, Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and the University of Missouri Women's and Children's Hospital.

Woodridge Park provides a relaxing outdoor place to serve visitors to the hospital and autism center, as well as the surrounding neighborhood.

Funding for Woodridge Park improvements came from a donation from the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club, private donations and a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

## Consider a Programmable Thermostat

The average household spends more than \$2,200 a year on energy bills, with nearly half of this going to heating and cooling costs. Consider installing a programmable thermostat in your home, which will allow you to conveniently control temperatures while you're home and away. If properly programmed, these thermostats can save a home nearly 10 percent on heating and cooling expenses each year.



[ComoEnergyChallenge.com](http://ComoEnergyChallenge.com)

**Brought to you by the CoMo Energy Challenge.  
Competing for \$5 million and change.**

## American Public Works Association accredits City

Columbia's Public Works has been accredited longer than any other Missouri municipality and is currently one of only seven Missouri cities accredited by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The purpose of the APWA accreditation program is to provide a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for compliance with recommended best practices.



**ACCREDITED  
AGENCY**

Public Works is responsible for many infrastructure services, including maintaining and improving City streets and sidewalks, signs and traffic signals, mowing, parking, City vehicle maintenance, public transportation and snow/ice management. This year, Columbia Utilities and the Community Development Department assisted with several items related to their operations, such as recycling, drinking and waste water, flood management and building code enforcement.

Evaluators from APWA visited the City and conducted an in-depth review and inspection of procedures and best practices. The City was recognized for the manner in which it develops and follows a process for reviewing its mission, structure, operational capabilities and services as well as its risk assessment procedure.

"We are thrilled that two of the areas the evaluators looked at stood out as model practices for other cities nationwide to follow," said Director of Public Works David A. Nichols, P.E. "We received high marks in all aspects of our operations. Our objective is continuous improvement in all areas of public works, every day, every year, every project, no matter how small or how challenging."

## Save with the window air conditioner exchange

*(for income qualified customers)*

Below are the eligibility requirements for the Window Air Conditioner Exchange program:

- Be a current Columbia Water & Light electric customer
- Have an older less efficient and/or broken window unit to exchange
- Have an annual income of less than 200 percent of the poverty level
- Participants in 2015 are not eligible for the exchange this year

*Please call before bringing your older unit in to confirm eligibility and availability!*

**Through September 8 (while supplies last)**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

You must bring in the following items to participate:

- Proof of your current physical Boone County address (IDs or leases will not be accepted)
- Identification for everyone at your address (originals...no copies)
- Proof of all income for everyone at your address (including food stamps and TANF)
- Current utility bill for your address
- An older, inefficient window air conditioner to exchange

**Voluntary Action Center**

**573-874-2273**

**403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia, Missouri**

## Parks & Recreation Calendar

**Call 573-874-7460 for more information.**

### August

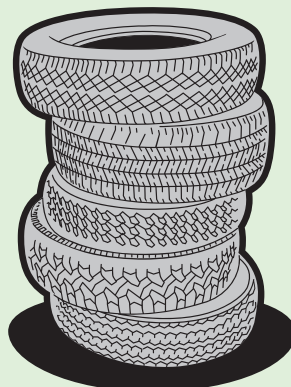
4	Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, BXR Unsigned Artists Showcase, 7 p.m., FREE
7	Lawn Chair Concert Series: Douglass Park, 4 p.m., FREE
10	New Leisure Times available
12	Movies in the Park, Inside Out, Cosmo Park, 8:30 p.m., FREE
13	DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-8 p.m., FREE
14	Coolin' Down With the Blues, Douglass Park, 4-8 p.m., FREE
17	Family Fun Fest: Around the World, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE
20	NFL Punt, Pass and Kick, Cosmo Park, 9 a.m. check in, FREE
20	Kaleidospoke, Meet at Flat Branch Park, 7:30 p.m., \$15
27	DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-8 p.m., FREE
31	Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Again Street Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE

## Code Corner – tires

Tires in our residential areas can be unsightly and also collect stagnant water that may harbor mosquitoes. Tires are listed in our aesthetics ordinance in Health & Sanitation, Chapter 11, of the City Code among items that cannot be left for longer than 48 hours in any location outside of a residence that can be viewed from a ground location of the premise. The City of Columbia appreciates the cooperation of residents to properly store or dispose of tires.

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS)

works to support quality residential life in our City. Please contact us at 573-817-5050 or [neighborhood@CoMo.gov](mailto:neighborhood@CoMo.gov) if ONS can help you.





## July volunteer of the month – John Scalise

As a Rehabilitation Services Manager at Job Point, John Scalise uses his background as a volunteer to train City employees on the topics of emotion management and stress and depression management.

"I truly believe that if people knew more about mental health the stigma would decrease," Scalise said. "There have been amazing advancements in behavioral health and understanding how to overcome the life challenges us humans face."

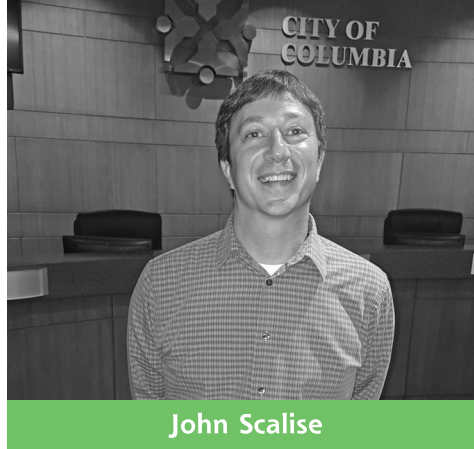
Since last winter, Scalise has been offering training sessions that provide a series of topics that assist people in helping others. Even with a busy schedule, Scalise has volunteered his time to help educate City employees ways of managing difficult situations to better serve Columbia.

As a direct care provider for individuals with life challenges, Scalise and his wife are "natural born helpers" that seek to make a difference by helping others.

"I think it's so important for people to learn about the myths about mental health," Scalise said. "My hope is that people will stop seeing mental illness as a health problem that is no different than physical health. If we can increase the understanding and decrease the stigma I believe people will be able to address concerns better."

To learn more about volunteering with the City, visit our website or contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).

*Written by volunteer Abby Holman*



## Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

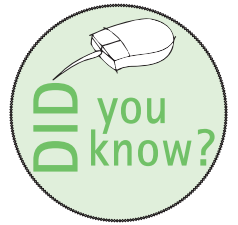
*Application deadline August 5 at 5 p.m.*

- Board of Health
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Tax Increment Financing 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.

## Web did you know?

Looking to give back to the community this summer? Visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) and search "volunteer" to see a plethora of volunteer opportunities around Columbia.



### Utility Customer Service

#### Summer rush



Summer is here. In addition to higher temperatures and longer days, Utility Customer Services (UCS) is experiencing higher than normal call volume due to "summer rush," which means longer hold times for customers. Avoid the frustration of a long wait on hold by going to the City's website [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov). Customers may request new service, transfer current services to a new address, or terminate existing services by filling out an online form up to 30 days in advance of the requested date. Other online services include reviewing or paying bills, updating contact information, or signing up for automatic bill payment. **The website is always available, so remember: the shortest line is online.** Thanks in advance for helping to reduce UCS call volume by taking advantage of the website.

UCS continues to work toward converting to new billing and customer service software. As the "go live" date approaches, there may be times when the customer service lobbies will be closed temporarily. Every effort will be made to let customers know when those closures will occur. At this time, all changes to meter-reading cycles have been completed. UCS appreciates your continued patience as we work through this billing software change.

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](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>Laura Nauser</b>
<b>Sixth Ward</b>	<b>Betsy Peters</b>
<b>City Manager</b>	<b>Mike Matthes</b>



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