

— City Stats —

This past winter, Columbia saw several winter weather events. Thank you to the Public Works department for keeping us safe.

 **4,825**
tons of salt used 



7,407.5 hours logged by plow drivers and support staff during active winter weather events



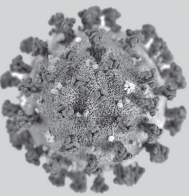
*Statistics from Fiscal Year 2020

Columbia Police warns about possible COVID-19 scams

As we continue to battle this pandemic, COVID-19 scams may come in many forms which can include unsolicited phone calls, phishing emails, door-to-door sales, individuals offering cures, tests, safety equipment or vaccinations. Here are some tips that can help prevent you from falling victim to a COVID-19 scam.

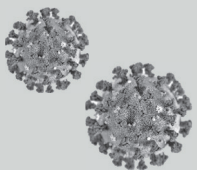
- Do not provide any personal or financial information over the phone, simply hang up. Scammers may call and tell you they need your banking information to deposit stimulus checks, but you should never provide that information over the phone. For information relating directly to the stimulus checks, please visit irs.gov/coronavirus.
- Scammers create fake shops, websites, social media accounts and email addresses claiming to sell medical supplies currently in high demand. These may include items such as surgical masks. When consumers attempt to purchase supplies through these channels, fraudsters pocket the money and never provide the promised supplies.
- Do research before donating contributions to ensure that it is a valid organization or group collecting donations.
- Be wary of phishing emails such as those claiming to have information about the virus. Oftentimes, they direct the reader to click a link, which can be a form of a Trojan virus and would allow the scammer to have full access to the information on your computer.

Be cautious when dealing with any unsolicited offers, and keep in mind if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. You can report online and email scams to the Federal Trade Commission at 877.382.4357. For more details related to COVID-19 visit consumer.ftc.gov.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OFFICIAL INFORMATION

CoMo.gov/Coronavirus



Official information from the City of Columbia and Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) can be found at CoMo.gov/Coronavirus. The City also utilizes City and PHHS official social media accounts to post updates. They can be found at [@CoMoGov](https://www.facebook.com/CoMoGov) on Facebook and Twitter and [@CoMoHealthDept](https://www.facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept) on Facebook and [@CoMo_HealthDept](https://twitter.com/CoMo_HealthDept) on Twitter.

Street Talk: Summer is for street maintenance



Soon after winter ends, Columbia Public Works uses City staff and private contractors to perform annual street maintenance including asphalt overlay.

Pavement management, or street maintenance, is an essential function of the City of Columbia Public Works department. Columbia's streets require continuous maintenance in order to preserve them for a longer life. A combination of private contractors and city crews work to meet the City's road maintenance needs. Some common street maintenance types are asphalt overlay, chip seal, surface sealing, crack sealing and pothole repair.

Staff utilizes the nationally recognized Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) system to assess the condition of each Columbia street. Each street's score and the annual street maintenance budget help determine which streets need to be addressed with which type of maintenance. The following street maintenance resources are available online:

- Description of each street maintenance type
- 2020 Pavement Management Report
- 2020 PASER Rating Maps by Ward
- List of streets paved over the past five years
- List of state-maintained Columbia street
- Online reporting form for potholes
- Updates on this year's paving operations

Please visit [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Pavement](https://www.columbia.mo.gov/PublicWorks/Pavement) for more information.

"Adopt" volunteers care for our City

The City of Columbia has several ways you can adopt an area of City. As an adopter, you get to make a visible difference in the appearance of our community and receive some recognition as well!

- Adopt-A-Spot Beautification allows volunteers to care for a landscaped area in medians, roundabouts and at intersections.
- Volunteers with our Adopt-A-Spot Litter Control Program commit to picking up trash along a City street, four times per year for at least two years.
- The Adopt-A-Rain Garden program allows volunteers to care for rain gardens along our roadways and at City facilities.
- Adopt-A-Trail volunteers care for a quarter-mile section of trail by removing invasive plants, encouraging native species and picking up litter.

There are opportunities for new volunteers with all three programs. To learn more, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Window A/C Exchange expands services

Since 2007, Water & Light's window air conditioner exchange program has helped to reduce summer electric bills for low and moderate income customers. The program has evolved to include two important community partners, the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) and Boone Electric Cooperative (BEC). VAC has administered the program since 2012, providing income verification and is the primary customer contact. BEC and Water and Light provide logistical support in addition to the window A/C units themselves.

How it works: Water & Light or BEC customers meeting the income qualifications below contact VAC at 573.874.2273 to verify their income status. Next, the customer brings in an older, inefficient unit and is given a new, Energy Star rated window unit. The average savings per unit is \$30 per year for the customer.

Water & Light customers can now participate through curbside pick-up and drop off and are provided with water efficiency kits, service installation or removal is not included.

Board and commission vacancies

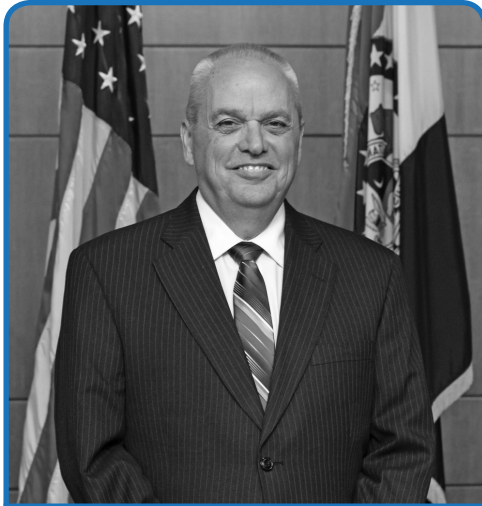
The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

Application deadline is June 5 at 5 p.m.

- Columbia and Boone County Library District Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs Standing Committee on Public Art
- Disabilities Commission
- Railroad Advisory Board
- Water & Light Advisory Board

Boards and commissions are a way for residents 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](https://www.columbia.mo.gov) or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Letter from City Manager John Glascock



City Manager John Glascock

City of Columbia residents,

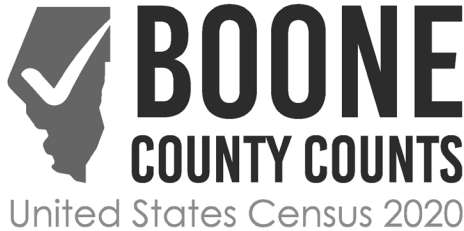
The past couple of weeks have been difficult for all of us. Families and businesses alike have had to adapt to new ways that they likely haven't had to before.

Even though the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has been straining, we've also seen heartwarming examples of neighbors helping neighbors. It's in difficult times that we all need acts of kindness and understanding.

While we're facing hard times and uncertainty, we can still have hope. As we move forward, I ask that everyone please hold on to hope and be kind to each other. Because, we are most certainly in this together.

John
Columbia City Manager

2020 Census count continues



While many of our daily, weekly and monthly routines have been adjusted due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Census Bureau is still conducting the 2020 Census, but with some modifications.

The Census Bureau has adjusted some of the operations for the 2020 Census including pushing back the start date of field operations where census workers visit the households of those who haven't responded. They also moved back the date of when responses will no longer be accepted to allow more time for folks to respond.

Residents are strongly encouraged to fill out the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail. Information can be submitting online at my2020census.gov in 13 languages. Residents can complete the census over the phone by calling 844.330.2020 for English, 844.468.2020 for Spanish or visit 2020census.gov/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html for phone numbers in additional languages. Paper forms were mailed in April.

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

Residential composting is an effective step toward sustainability

Home composting is a fun, simple process that everyone can do to reduce their carbon footprint. Gardeners love composting and the vitality it brings to plants, vegetables and yards. Those who don't garden can also reap many benefits from composting at home. Composting is nature's way to recycle. It reduces the demand on landfill space, the amount of waste that is transported and production of methane.

Composting is not time consuming, rather, it's an easy, manageable system that can take less time than taking out the garbage. When properly managed, a compost pile or bin will not smell bad. There are a few simple steps that can be taken that will keep the pile balanced and produce an earthy smell. Also, well-managed piles or bins won't attract pests large or small

Search workshops at CoMo.gov for resources on residential composting or contact Volunteer Programs at volunteer@CoMo.gov or 573.874.6271 for more information.

What you need to start composting:

- **Food:** 2:1 ratio Browns to Greens
 - Browns/carbons- leaves, shredded cardboard, newspaper or straw
 - Greens/nitrogen- kitchen scraps, green garden and yard waste
- **Air:** Composting is an aerobic process, stir it
- **Water:** Keep the pile moist like a wrung-out sponge

Home composters should not compost meat or dairy products and should keep the pile covered with leaves, cardboard or newspaper.

As Promised: Norma Sutherland Smith Park

Columbia Parks and Recreation is putting the finishing touches on one of the City's newest parks, Norma Sutherland Smith Park, 3350 Waco Road.

Smith Park is about 50 acres in size and is designed as a community park to serve northeast Columbia. The park features a reservable shelter, a lake, walking trail, playground, basketball court, baseball field, restroom, skateboard spot, parking lot and connecting walkways.

Parks and Recreation staff held multiple public input meetings and conducted online citizen surveys in planning the park. Smith Park was designed to meet needs of all age groups and a wide range of recreational interests.

The tract of land for the park was donated by local developer Jeffrey Smith. As a condition of the donation, the park was named for his mother Norma Sutherland Smith.



Norma Sutherland Smith Park, 3350 Waco Road, is about 50 acres in size and includes a lake, walking trail and a skateboard spot.

Development of the park was paid for by the voter-approved Park Sales Tax and a grant from the Land Water Conservation Fund.

For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460.

Columbia Water & Light Earns 2020 ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year-Sustained Excellence Award

Columbia Water & Light is proud to announce that it has received the 2020 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year-Sustained Excellence Award for continued leadership and superior contributions to ENERGY STAR. This prestigious accomplishment recognizes Water & Light's innovative and inclusive approach to energy efficiency and its efforts to iterate and expand offerings to reach new clients and improve more homes.

"This award validates our staff's efforts to improve energy efficiency in the City of Columbia," Director of Utilities Dave Sorrell said. "We know we can do more and continue to seek ways to improve our services, increase awareness and encourage participation in our programs."

The highest honor among ENERGY STAR awards is the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year-Sustained Excellence Award. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presents the Sustained Excellence Award to partners that have already received ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year recognition for a minimum of two consecutive years and have gone above and beyond the criteria needed to qualify for recognition.

"We are honored to be recognized for our efforts to support our community's efficient use of energy," Utility Services Manager Brandon Renaud said. "We continually strive to tailor our programs to meet the needs of a growing and changing community."

Columbia's Home Performance with the ENERGY STAR program uses a whole-house approach to energy efficiency and offers rebates and low-interest loans to help residents achieve their energy efficiency goals. This program was initiated in 2008 and the Utility has since introduced additional programs such as the Enhanced Home Performance, Enhance Your Attic and Attic Plus. Water & Light staff members also provide a Building Performance Institute certified contractor training program and partners with local co-op Boone Electric to create consistency to ensure that all Columbia's residents have the opportunity to benefit from energy efficiency improvements.

For more information, visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](https://www.ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) or [CoMo.gov](https://www.CoMo.gov). Please note: Water & Light rebate and loan programs are temporarily halted due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Be Smart, Do Your Part

Under the City of Columbia's Stay at Home Order 2020-03 issued on March 24 related to coronavirus (COVID-19), public parks and open recreation areas are encouraged to remain open so that residents can fulfill their need for physical activity and recreation.

At the time of this publication, Columbia Parks and Recreation is still reminding park and trail users to maintain a 6 foot distance from others when exercising on trails or in parks. This is in accordance with social distancing requirements set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, the pandemic is an ever-changing situation and residents should visit [CoMo.gov/coronavirus](https://www.columbia.sc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information.

In the meantime, park and trail users are asked to "be smart, do your part," and adhere to these guidelines when visiting parks and trails:

- Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Prepare for your trip by using home restroom facilities, packing your own water bottle, hand sanitizer, wipes, etc. before you leave your house.
- Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to and while on trails including washing hands and coughing/sneezing into your elbow.
- Observe at all times CDC's minimum recommended physical distancing of 6 feet from other people. Practice it and know what it looks like. Keep it as you walk, bike or hike. Walk behind or farther ahead. Avoid walking side by side. Walk in a single file when passing and approaching other trail users.
- Step completely off the trail to allow other trail users to safely pass. When chatting with other trail users, stand on the same side of the trail adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- Warn others as you pass by calling out "on your left" or ringing a bike bell.
- Follow social distancing guidelines in parking lots and pinch points (access trails, bridges and intersections). Avoid lingering on trail bridges and in parking lots.
- Be aware of high touch points like handles, gates and pet waste bag dispensers.
- Practice pack it in, pack it out standards related to all waste products. Bring pet waste bags from home. Leaving no trash behind helps protect park staff and other park and trail users.
- Go out early or later in the day to avoid crowds.
- Exercise an extreme level of social and personal responsibility when visiting parks and trails.

With your help, we can continue to flatten the curve and promote health for our community. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460.



In following CDC guidelines on social distancing, when passing other trail users, step completely off the trail.

Parks and Recreation Calendar

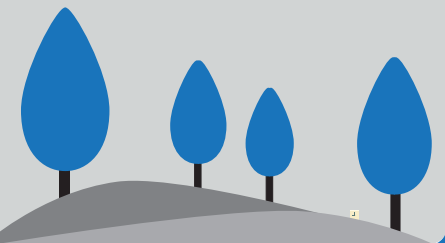
Call 573.874.7460
for more information
or possible event changes.

JUNE

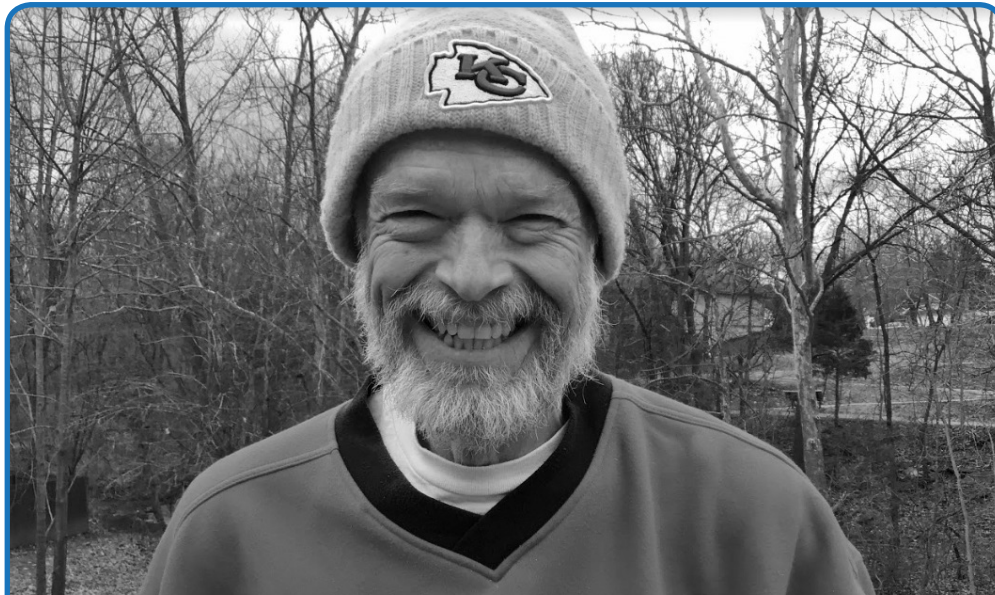
- 6 National Trails Day, Find the Golden Hiking Boot
- 6 Shred Fest Skateboarding Event, Columbia Skate Park at Cosmo Park, 4-7 p.m., Free
- 11-14 Show Me State Senior Games
- 12 Movies in the Park, *Toy Story 4*, Cosmo Park, 8:45 p.m., Free
- 17 Family Fun Fest: Fitness is Fun, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., Free
- 20 Indian Hills Park Block Party featuring Juneteenth, Indian Hills Park, 12-2 p.m., Free
- 20 DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-6 p.m., Free
- 21 Lawn Chair Concert Series, Douglass Park, 3-5 p.m., Free

Did you know?

The City of Columbia has preserved about 3,411 acres of green space for parks, trails and natural resource areas.



Volunteer of the Month: John Mier



Adopt-A-Trail volunteer John Mier relives stress by removing honeysuckle along his section of the trail.

Volunteer of the Month for May: John Mier

Adopt-A-Trail volunteer John Mier is not your typical volunteer. He is a heavyweight champion in the battle to take down the invasive, non-native, bush honeysuckle that has overgrown our forests and trails.

Initially, Adopt-A-Trail volunteers participate in training to learn proper tree care, trail maintenance, the identification of invasive species in Missouri and how to remove them. They are then assigned a quarter-mile section of trail in the city to care for. Since 2017, John has logged over 91 hours of hard work, but he doesn't mind because he says it's a great way to relieve stress. John's removal of the honeysuckle has allowed for native plants to begin to grow back along the trail.

"It's all about helping," John says. He's been volunteering in some capacity for decades, "You meet new people, learn new things and, in most roles, you know you are helping." John also spends time volunteering at the St. Louis Zoo.

We would like to thank John for his energy, fortitude and desire to help. If you also like helping and want to learn more about volunteering for the City's Adopt-A-Trail program, please contact volunteer@CoMo.gov or call 573.874.7499.

Written by volunteer Bob Murphy.

Municipal election rescheduled to June 2

The spring municipal election was rescheduled due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The municipal election will be held Tuesday, June 2 for City Council Members for Ward 1 and Ward 5. You can see a map of each ward by visiting CoMo.gov/Maps/Wards.

The last day to register to vote did not change and was March 11. The deadline to request a mail absentee ballot is May 20 at 5 p.m. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on June 2. To view your polling location, request an absentee ballot or view a sample ballot, please visit the Boone County Clerk's website at vote.boonemo.org.



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

Brian Treece

573.874.7222

mayor@CoMo.gov

WARD 1

Clyde Ruffin

573.268.4783

ward1@CoMo.gov

WARD 2

Michael Trapp

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ward2@CoMo.gov

WARD 3

Karl Skala

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ward3@CoMo.gov

WARD 4

Ian Thomas

573.239.7916

ward4@CoMo.gov

WARD 5

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ward5@CoMo.gov

WARD 6

Betsy Peters

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ward6@CoMo.gov

CITY MANAGER

John Glascock

573.874.7214

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.

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