

CITYSOURCE

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November 2017



Your source for City news and information



The 2016 Toy Drive resulted in about 275 Columbia children receiving three toys each. Toy barrels are located at the Parks and Recreation office, #1 South Seventh St. and the Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash.

Almeta Crayton Memorial Toys for Columbia Youth Drive

Please consider helping area children this holiday season. While out shopping, think about picking up an extra gift for a child for Parks and Recreation's annual Almeta Crayton Memorial Toys for Columbia Youth Drive. Toys can be dropped off at the Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash, or the downtown Parks and Recreation office, 1 S. Seventh St. For other drop-off locations, please check

CoMo.gov.

Toys and monetary donations will be accepted through Dec. 11. Cash, checks or credit cards are accepted. A letter of receipt for tax purposes will be provided for your generosity. Donations for the toy drive will be given to low-income youth in our community. Please call 573-874-7460 for more information.

Holiday cooking safety

During this holiday season, many of you will be preparing annual feasts for family gatherings. The Columbia Fire Department reminds residents to "Watch What You Heat!" during the holiday to avoid turning your holiday gathering into tragedy.

By following a few safety tips, you can reduce the likelihood of a cooking fire:

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended.
- Keep your cooking area clean and clear of combustible items such as pot holders, towels, rags and food packaging.
- Do not use a deep fryer or other open flame cooking appliance on combustible decks or surfaces.
- If using a deep fryer, read and follow all of the manufacturer's recommendations for safe operation of the appliance.
- Keep children away from the cooking areas.

If you experience a fire in your kitchen, you should follow these guidelines:

- Never throw water, flour or sugar on the fire. This can spread the fire very rapidly.
- If available, use a fire extinguisher to extinguish the flames.
- If the fire is small, use a lid or cookie sheet to cover the pot/pan; turn off the burner and allow pan to cool before removing the cover.
- If you have any doubts about your safety, evacuate the home and call 911 from a neighbor's house.
- Even if you believe the fire is out, call 911 and have the fire department be sure the fire is completely extinguished.



Unattended cooking is a leading cause of residential fires in Columbia.

Strategic Plan —Step Up to Leadership participants celebrate graduation



Nine Columbia residents celebrated the completion of the 12-week Step Up to Leadership Program at a graduation ceremony on Sept. 28. Over the course of the program, participants learned important leadership skills that they can bring back to their neighborhoods.

The City of Columbia is partnering with Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) to provide this program to residents of the City's three Strategic Plan priority areas.

For more information on Step Up to Leadership, please contact Megan Corbin with CMCA at 573-777-5233.

Front row, L to R: Marva Brown, Tori Stevens, Shawna Neuner, Sandra Turner, Sophia Smith
Back row, L to R: Megan Corbin (CMCA), Manny Harvey, Joann Wilcox, Pat Kelley, Eric Williams, Bill Cantin (City of Columbia)

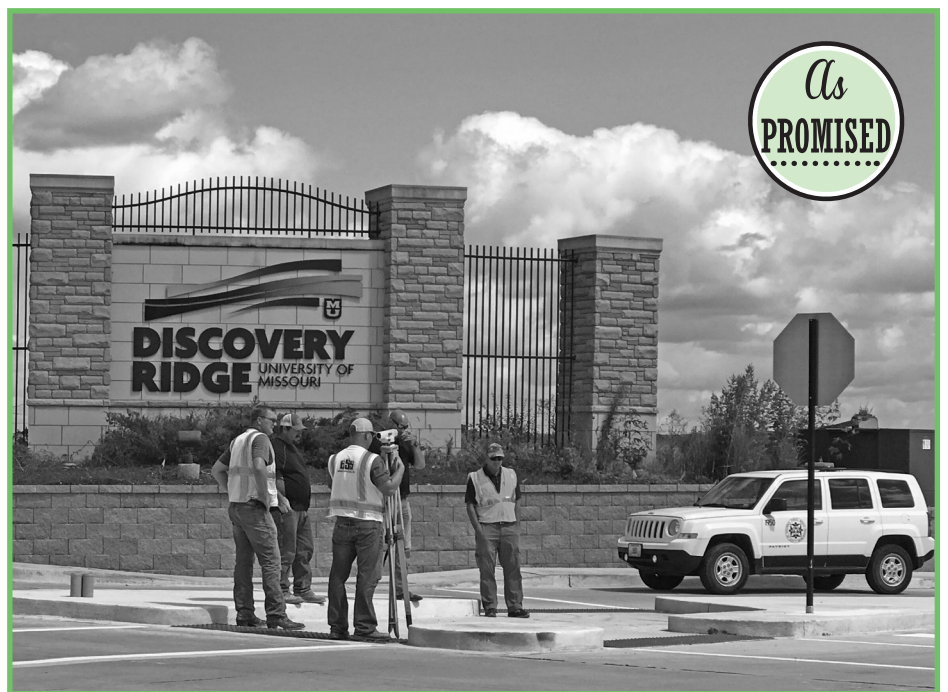
Progress as Promised: Discovery Drive capital improvement project completed

Discovery Ridge is an emerging research park that the University of Missouri hopes to be "a thriving environment of business and research activity—in an atmosphere of innovation, collaboration and creativity."

In support of that goal, the Discovery Drive and Sanitary Sewer Extension project was completed this summer by the City of Columbia Public Works Department in partnership with the University.

Emery Sapp & Sons, the principal contractor for the project, added ADA-compliant crosswalks and constructed a paved roadway extension to the south of Discovery Drive and Discovery Parkway. Telecommunications lines and the sanitary sewer were also extended.

The project was funded through a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration as well as the 2005 Capital Improvement Sales Tax. The estimated investment cost was \$1.2 million. More information is available at CoMo.gov/publicworks/discovery-eda.



Surveyors, engineers and inspectors from Emery Sapp & Sons and Columbia Public Works meet to ensure that the crosswalks installed as part of the Discovery Drive project are in compliance with ADA regulations.

Code Corner: sidewalk snow removal

When it snows, having a clear sidewalk can be very helpful to those on foot or in wheelchairs who may be traveling to school or work or delivering mail or meals. It is the responsibility of property owners and occupants to keep sidewalks clear.

Section 302.3 of the International Property Maintenance Code says that all sidewalks, walkways....shall be....maintained free from hazardous conditions. Chapter 24 of City Ordinance requires property owners or occupants to keep sidewalks, "clear and free from rubbish, filth, refuse, dirt, snow, ice and from any and all obstructions and dangerous agencies of every kind and description whatsoever."

Seniors and those with disabilities who need assistance with snow removal and volunteers who want to assist can contact Services for Independent Living at 573-874-1646 or email Volunteer Coordinator Chrissie Fouts at cfouts@silcolumbia.org. There is an income qualification to receive services.

Thanks for keeping our sidewalks clean for the benefit of all Columbia residents who use them.

Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

DECEMBER

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| 2 | Stonegrinder 7K Trail Run, Capen Park/Grindstone Nature Area, 9 a.m., ages 12 and up, \$45, must pre-register |
| 2 | City Kwanzaa Celebration, Location TBA, 2-5 p.m., FREE |
| 2 | Junior NBA Skills Challenge, Armory Sports Center, 10 a.m., FREE |
| 8 | Holiday Lights and Sights Tour, Meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 or 7:45-9 p.m., \$7.50 per person, must pre-register |

Columbia Police Department expands opportunities with employment recruitment



Community Outreach Unit members Sgt. Mike Hestir, Officer Tony Parker, Officer Justin Thomas, Officer Andria Heese and Office Phillip Shull make community connections through a school supply drive for a local elementary school.

The department does not see this change as "lowering the standards" for being a police officer, but rather an opportunity to bring people with diverse experiences to the department that for many reasons may not have included college.

"We are looking at this as an opportunity to cast a wider net," Deputy Chief Jill Schlude said. "One of the most important requirements for being a successful police officer is being able to effectively communicate with people from different backgrounds; you don't necessarily need a college education to develop that skill."

Schlude said the ability to receive applications from those without college hours does not mean that education is not important to the department, but it allows the department the opportunity to receive more applicants, and hopefully a wider diversity of applicants, for consideration.

"We want to look at each applicant as an individual with individual life experiences and talents they can bring to our CPD team as we work to better reflect the community we serve," Schlude said.

For more information on how to become a police officer, visit [CoMo.gov/police/join-our-team](https://columbia.mo.gov/police/join-our-team) or contact the Training and Recruitment Unit at 573-817-5015.

Did you know that you can now apply to be a Columbia Police Officer with only a high school diploma? Previously, the department required at least 60 college credit hours for consideration or a combination of military experience and college credit. After meeting with the NAACP and discussing hiring and recruiting challenges the department's command staff reviewed the credential requirements for other jurisdictions similar to Columbia, otherwise known as benchmark cities, particularly those who were CALEA accredited. They found that many jurisdictions were facing a similar issue with having multiple vacancies within their own departments. Approximately 45 percent of the cities they compared did not have a college requirement.

Volunteer of the Month – Judy Bock



Judy Bock

Bock enjoys teaching children at Lunch in the Park and school science days about reducing their own waste and proper recycling techniques. "Some kids are more interested in it than others," Bock said.

Bock is also an active Park Patrol volunteer, and enjoys this leisurely assignment. "I kill two birds with one stone; I walk my dog on the trail and get exercise," she said.

She listens to audiobooks while picking up trash along the trail. She's a smiling face on the trail to let people know that there's someone caring for our trails and improving safety.

Bock's dedication and generous spirit make her an asset to the City of Columbia's team of volunteers. "All the people involved in the volunteer program are so much fun that helping doesn't feel like work," she said.

Written by volunteer Laura Davis.

For Judy Bock, recycling, composting and gardening are second nature. After retiring from nursing and journalism, Bock got involved in volunteering through the City of Columbia, City of Refuge and the Wardrobe. City of Columbia Volunteer Programs has allowed her to use her passion for waste reduction to educate others.

Holiday reminder from UCS

'Tis the season for holiday travel. Whether you're leaving town for an extended holiday visit or moving out of Columbia permanently, please update contact information (address and phone number) with Utility Customer Service (UCS).

Many accounts go delinquent over the holiday season because UCS does not have correct mailing information. Customers leaving town for a month or more may also provide a temporary alternate mailing address, then go back to receiving bills at the service address when they return. Go online to CoMo.gov, click 'Utilities', and submit the form to update contact information, or call 573-874-7380. Visit this same link to register for online account access and bill payment to stay on top of the account while out of town. UCS would like to wish all our customers a safe, healthy, holiday season.

City offices closed for upcoming holidays

The City of Columbia will be closed to observe Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. During the observation of these holidays, City offices will be closed.

Residential refuse and curbside recycling collection will not be made and will be delayed one day the remainder of the week after the holiday. Residents can download the COMO Recycle and Trash app for collection day reminders. Questions concerning holiday refuse collection should be directed to the Public Works Solid Waste Division at 573-874-2489. The sanitary landfill will also be closed.

Go COMO, the city transit system, will not operate, and parking meter regulations will not be enforced. Although administrative offices for both the police and fire departments will be closed, all other emergency services will be available.

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline Dec. 8 at 5 p.m.

- Finance Advisory and Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement Board

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at CoMo.gov or at the City Clerk's office. Call 573-874-7208 for more information.

Contact Center Connections

Not only can you call the Contact Center, but you can also email. Need to send a picture of a pothole to the Streets Division? Click, upload and email the picture to the Contact Center at City@CoMo.gov. For City questions, call 573-874-CITY (2489).



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
573-874-7111 • CoMo.gov

MAYOR
Brian Treece

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| First Ward | Clyde Ruffin |
| Second Ward | Michael Trapp |
| Third Ward | Karl Skala |
| Fourth Ward | Ian Thomas |
| Fifth Ward | Matt Pitzer |
| Sixth Ward | Betsy Peters |
| City Manager | Mike Matthes |



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