

# CITYSOURCE

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October 2016



Your source for City news and information

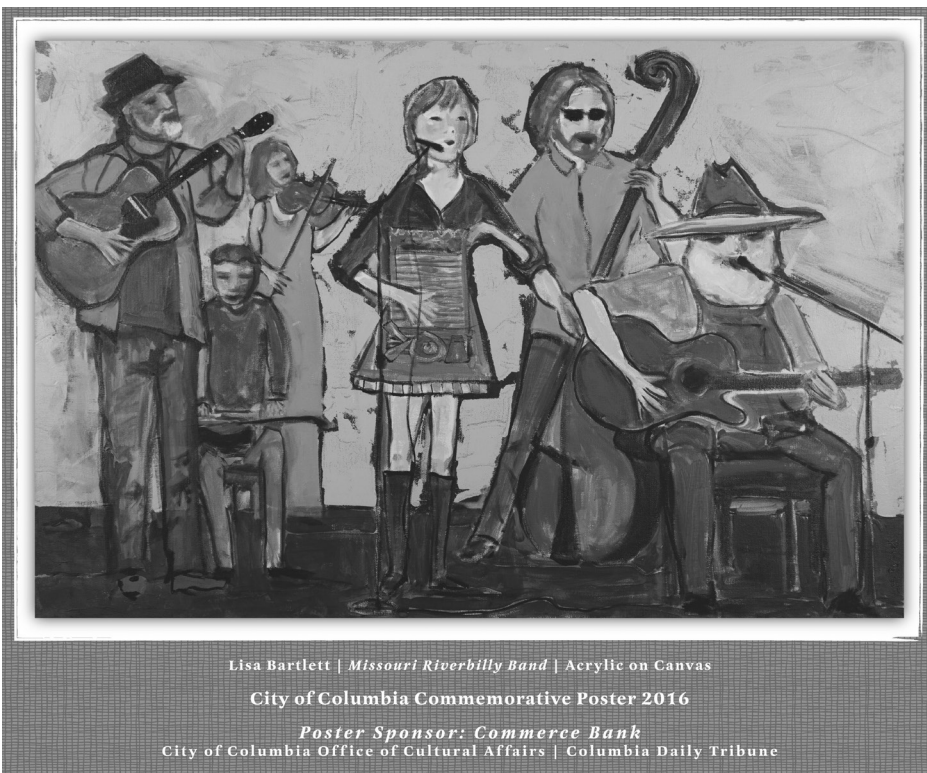


## 2016 Commemorative Poster unveiled

The 2016 City of Columbia Commemorative Poster has been unveiled. Each year, an artist's work is selected to communicate the vitality and beauty of mid-Missouri and the significance of the arts. This year's poster features a painting entitled "Missouri Riverbilly Band" by Lisa Bartlett.

"I find musicians and the act of making music very interesting. There is movement and sound and an overall feeling to capture that is exciting," said Bartlett. "My artwork is directed toward manifesting communication within current cultures that includes all generations and all peoples. I would like to be provocative enough so that viewers will want to dig deeper into history and learn the stories for themselves."

Posters can be purchased for \$15 at the Office of Cultural Affairs, 300 S. Providence. All proceeds support Columbia Arts Fund.



Lisa Bartlett | Missouri Riverbilly Band | Acrylic on Canvas

City of Columbia Commemorative Poster 2016

Poster Sponsor: Commerce Bank

City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs | Columbia Daily Tribune

This year's Commemorative Poster is designed by artist Lisa Bartlett.

## Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

### Student Writings Program

The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Planning Committee is seeking student writings that reflect the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as we honor his legacy in our annual celebration of his life and teachings. This year's theme is "Building an Inclusive Columbia." Students in grades 4-12 are invited to submit their original essays and poetry for possible publication in the 2017 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Student Writings Booklet. This booklet will be distributed to over 1,000 people at the annual community celebration on Jan. 12, 2017, and published on the Celebration website.

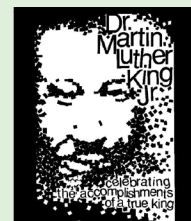
### Submission information and guidelines are available through:

- Columbia Public Schools teachers and principals grades 4-12 **OR**
- City of Columbia's Office of Cultural Affairs at 573-874-6386, OCA@CoMo.gov, or CoMo.gov (Search: Diversity Celebration)

**The deadline for submitting an entry is Monday, November 14, 2016.**

## Columbia Values Diversity awards

Help celebrate diversity in the community by nominating an individual, family, organization or group for the 20th annual Columbia Values Diversity awards. This is a great way to show appreciation for those who have had a significant impact promoting diversity and cultural understanding.



These awards will be presented at the 24th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Jan. 12, 2017, recognizing people whose work exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by fostering individual dignity, racial equality, understanding, peacemaking and solving problems through non-violence. Two awards will be presented: one individual/family award and one organization/group award. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 28, 2016. Nomination forms are available by contacting the City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs at 573-874-6386 or by visiting [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) (Search: Diversity Celebration).

## Wrapping up spring/summer road maintenance season

Over the past six months, Columbia has seen its share of challenging weather, from powerful early morning winds to hail, heat waves and historical levels of rain. During this period, the Public Works Department and its contractors have performed critical work on more than 100 lane miles of Columbia streets including Broadway in downtown Columbia.

### April - September 2016:

Type of work	Estimated lane miles
Milling and/or asphalt overlay	26
Surface sealing	10
Asphalt rejuvenators	13
Chip seal	32
Crack seal	20



"This year we are increasing the number of streets receiving asphalt overlay by about seven lane miles and have decreased chip seal about 12 lane miles from last year," said Street Division Engineer Seth Nelson.

Crews also did lane striping, installed 41 tons of pothole repair mix and responded to four heat-and-moisture-related pavement buckles. This was in addition to their ongoing work of repairing

and replacing street signs, mowing, sweeping and clearing hazardous storm debris from Columbia's roads. The Street Division even joined Mexico, Palmyra and other communities to help Centralia after a July tornado littered its roadways with fallen limbs and trees.

Details about street maintenance such as asphalt overlay, chip seal, surface sealing and rejuvenators are available in the Columbia Pavement Management Plan online at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov). Anyone wishing to report critical road work needs, such as potholes, major cracks, heat buckles or missing/damaged street signs, are encouraged to call 573-874-2489 or email [pubw@CoMo.gov](mailto:pubw@CoMo.gov).

## Rental energy efficiency tips

*Follow these tips to keep your utility bills from climbing too high.*

- Keep the thermostat setting at 78 degrees or higher in the summer and 68 degrees or lower during the winter. If you have a heat pump, avoid changing the thermostat temperature more than two degrees at a time during heating season unless you are going to be away for several days.
- Replace the air conditioner/furnace filter four times a year or when it becomes dirty. Dirty filters keep the air from efficiently moving through the system.
- Make sure all windows and storm windows are tightly closed during the heating and cooling season.
- Don't block vents and radiators with furniture, curtains or rugs.
- For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep the shades closed during summer days. In the winter, make sure the shades are open during the day and closed at night.
- Close fireplace damper when not in use.

Looking for an energy efficient rental for next year? Visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) and search the following:

Tips—(Search: *rental efficiency tips*)

Historical utility usage data—(Search: *rental utility data*)



Public Power Week • October 2-8, 2016

Public Power Week celebrates the reliable, affordable electricity Columbia Water & Light provides to our community. Public power puts the people of Columbia first, and Public Power Week gives us the chance to emphasize the advantages of locally grown, locally owned power that supports strong communities. Columbia Water & Light is governed by the customers through their elected City Council representatives. Rates are established by the cost to serve each customer, not to return a profit to shareholders.

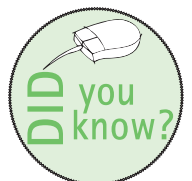
## Get your flu vaccine

It's that time of year again – if you are six months or older, stop by the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services for your annual flu vaccination. Flu vaccine is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the clinic, 1005 West Worley. No appointment is needed; walk-ins are welcome. Please note that due to a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), FluMist nasal spray will not be given this season.

Learn more at [CoMo.gov/health](http://CoMo.gov/health). For flu updates and more, visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept](https://facebook.com/CoMoHealthDept) and on Twitter at [@CoMo\\_HealthDept](https://twitter.com/CoMo_HealthDept).

## Web Did You Know—online parking information

Did you know the City has online interactive maps of downtown parking? Find out where parking garages and on-street parking spaces are located by visiting [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Parking](http://CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Parking). Check the interactive parking map by visiting [CoMo.gov/Maps/Parking/](http://CoMo.gov/Maps/Parking/).





## Strategic Plan—one year update

The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan for the City of Columbia was adopted on Sept. 21, 2015 with the goal of achieving the vision of Columbia to be the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play. Strategic priorities were set as social equity, public safety, infrastructure, economy and operational excellence.

At a November City Council meeting, a Strategic Plan progress report will be presented. The report will touch on the work City staff and Strategic Plan partners have accomplished in the first year.

Visit [CoMo.gov/Strategic-Plan](http://CoMo.gov/Strategic-Plan) for more information.

## Parks and Recreation unveils new Columbia Park Reporter

Columbia Parks and Recreation has launched a new web-based reporting tool to help park users communicate park and trail maintenance issues to parks staff. The Park Reporter web application provides park and trail users with an easy mechanism to report issues such as a full trash can, downed tree or wasp nest on a playground.

The Columbia Park Reporter is available through the Parks and Recreation website at [CoMo.gov/ParksandRec](http://CoMo.gov/ParksandRec). The reporting tool can be used through the site or the link can be saved to an individual's home screen on their smartphone.

Park Reporter allows a user to submit a report directly to park staff and to provide key information such as park or trail location, maintenance issue and contact information. The reporting tool also includes a map for the park user to pinpoint the exact location of the reported issue and allows for photos to be uploaded to the report.

Once the park user has completed the report, parks staff receive notification of the problem. The park user will have the ability to monitor the status of the report through the application as well, to determine when the issue will be fixed.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 573-874-7460.

## Code Corner – Safe rental housing

Since the late 1970s the City of Columbia has enforced the Rental Unit Conservation Law to ensure safe and healthy housing for tenants. All rental property in Columbia is to be registered and inspected to meet building codes. Currently, nearly 27,000 housing units and 10,000 structures are registered through the program. The law also allows tenants to file a complaint if their landlord is not addressing maintenance issues.

If you need to register a property you own, or if you are concerned about the rental status of a property in which you are living or that is in your neighborhood, please let us know. To learn more about rental enforcement, contact Neighborhood Services at 573-817-5050 or visit the City's website.



## COMO Recycle and Trash phone app

Are you always forgetting when the recycling and trash is collected for your home? Do you ever question if a material is recyclable or not? The City of Columbia is now offering a phone app that can answer all of these questions.

COMO Recycle and Trash contains a search bar for any residential address within the city limits, and it will send you weekly reminders when the recycling and trash should be set on the street curb. The app also contains a "WasteWizard" search engine that will tell if a material is recyclable and how to go about that process.

Don't have a smart phone? The features on this app can also be found on the City website. You will not be able to get weekly reminders for collection, but you can still search the collection day and what materials to recycle.

Download the phone app or visit the city website—

[CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Solidwaste/](http://CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Solidwaste/) to access the new program.

## Progress as promised: Harmony Bends Championship Disc Golf Course at Strawn Park

Columbia Parks and Recreation recently opened their newest park, featuring a championship-level disc golf course. Strawn Park, 801 N. Strawn Road, is a 129-acre park with shelter, open field, and woodlands and will serve as a trailhead for the future Perche Creek Trail. But, the main attraction of the park is Harmony Bends Championship Disc Golf Course.

Harmony Bends was designed by world-renowned disc golf course designer John Houck, whose stated goal was to make it "one of the top ten courses in the country." The 68-par course features big hills, meandering creeks and many tall trees. Harmony Bends was built not only for local players, but also as a tourism draw for regional and national tournaments.

Construction of Strawn Park and the Harmony Bends Championship Disc Golf Course was funded by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Development Fund and the Park Sales Tax, approved by voters in 2010.



## CoMO Connect conducts Bus Service Evaluation Project

COMO Connect, Columbia's bus system, is conducting a study to determine areas of opportunity in the current service. Olsson Associates, a nationally-recognized engineering and design firm, was chosen to perform the Bus Service Evaluation Project.

The goals of the study are to analyze and evaluate the bus system as it currently exists, to establish service guidelines, and to determine short, medium and long range plans and alternatives.

Since February, Olsson Associates has formally presented the goals and needs of the project to the technical committee and has held 11 stakeholder meetings. The company has also delivered a 49-page market analysis, outlining Columbia's land use, population, income and other characteristics that impact the demand for public transportation.

Additionally, the comprehensive operational analysis is expected to be delivered to City Council in October. This memo will outline the suggested alternatives to COMO Connect's routes, bus stop locations and frequency.

To keep up-to-date with the events related to the Bus Service Evaluation Project, reference the project schedule at [COMO-Connect.org](http://COMO-Connect.org) under the "Get Involved" tab. Notes, presentation materials and the technical memos can also be found online.



Your Public Transit Connection



Columbia's Historic Preservation Commission is taking nominations for the 2017 City's Most Notable Properties. The deadline for submission is November 25, 2016.

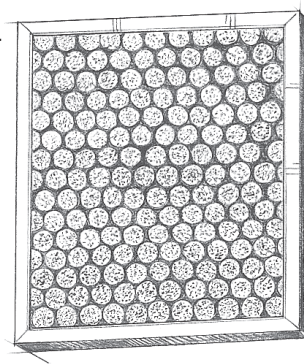
Properties need to be at least 50 years old, located within the City of Columbia corporate limits, and have architectural or historical characteristics which contribute to our City's social and/or aesthetic resources. The properties may be endangered, derelict, recently restored, or nicely maintained. They may be a private home, public or private workplace or any other space, public or private. They may be modest or grand, hidden away or in public view.

Once applications have been received, the Historic Preservation Commission evaluates the nominations and selects a diverse set of properties which they believe best represent the above qualities.

Submission materials can be downloaded by using the link on the City of Columbia's homepage at [CoMo.gov/community-development/planning/historic-preservation/](http://CoMo.gov/community-development/planning/historic-preservation/) or by calling the City Planning Department at 573-874-7394.

## Replace Your Furnace Filter

October's typically pleasant weather offers a great opportunity to service your home's heating system before the winter months arrive. For starters, consider replacing your furnace filter. A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder to keep you warm, thereby wasting a lot of energy. A clean filter will also prevent dust and dirt from building up in the system, which might lead to expensive maintenance and/or early system failure. For best performance, change the filter every three months.



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

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

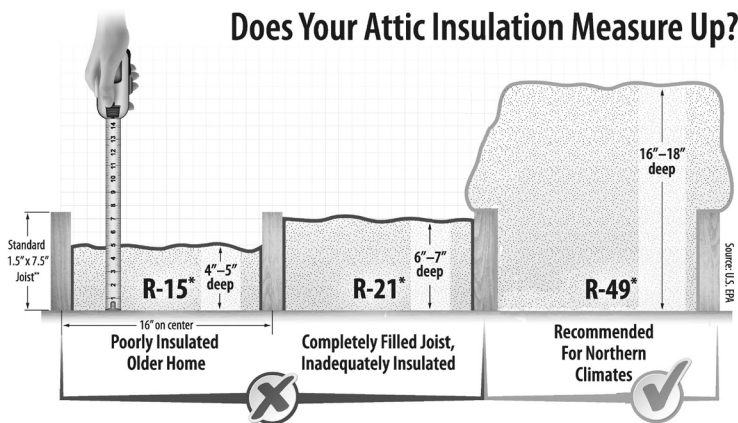




In many Columbia homes, air leaks and low levels of attic insulation are one of the biggest sources of energy waste and discomfort. If your attic insulation level is near the top of the attic floor joists, you have only about half the insulation

you should (see illustration).

Columbia Water & Light will help finance your energy efficiency improvements through the Home Performance with Energy Star rebates and low-interest loan program. For more information, visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com).



\* Recommended Dept. of Energy attic insulation levels for commonly used fiberglass, mineral wool, and cellulose insulation assuming about R-3 per inch.

\*\* Standard joists are sold as 2" x 8" but usually measure closer to 1.5" x 7.5."

## Columbia Utilities' new billing system: customers must re-register for online services

City of Columbia Utilities' customers will need to re-register for online or phone payments if they have not done so since August 25, 2016 when the new billing system was implemented. However, automatic payments from a customer's bank **do not** have to be reset.

### Online

1. Go to [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) and search for "payment options" then click on the "Online" link
2. Have your utility bill close by so you can enter your account number to gain access.
3. You will need to include all of the 15 digits on your account number, including the zeros, without a dash.
4. For example, if the account number is 123456-12345, the customer needs to enter it into the system as 001234560012345 because the customer identification number (left of dash) must be eight digits and the location identification number (right of the dash) must be seven digits.

### Phone

1. To make a payment by phone, please call 1-844-234-0641 or 573-874-7694.
2. Follow steps two through four on the list above.  
Columbia Utilities billing office: 573-874-7380 or [ucs@CoMo.gov](mailto:ucs@CoMo.gov).

## How are my Columbia Utilities calculated?

### Electric

Residential electric customers are charged a base charge and a usage charge. Electric usage is charged on a block system. When a customer's usage hits a certain threshold (300 kilowatt hours is the top of the first block) they are bumped into a block with a higher per kilowatt hour (kWh) rate for the usage above that level. Block rates have been in place for many years to encourage efficiency. The rate structure helps recover costs associated with the infrastructure needed to supply higher consumption amounts, particularly during the summer months. The average residential usage per month is around 800 kWh. While small commercial customers have a similar base charge and block usage structure, large commercial customers and industrial customers pay a base charge, a kWh charge and a kilowatt charge for demand. The electric meter measures the maximum "demand" the large customers are placing on the system.

### Water

Water customers pay a base charge and a usage charge. The base charge is determined by the size of the meter. During the summer months, water is also charged on a block system. Residential customers pay a higher rate per CCF (hundred cubic feet) for all usage above 2 CCF. The average residential customer uses around 6 CCF per month. There are approximately 748 gallons per one CCF. Commercial customers and master meter customers are charged a higher rate per CCF for all usage higher than 70 percent of their average usage in the previous period of January, February and March.

### Sewer

Sewer is a non-metered service that is billed for a 30 day period, or twelve times per year. There is a base charge each billing period to be connected to the system. The volume rate (flow charge) you pay is based upon your water consumption. Monthly charges for residential customers are based on the average monthly billing of water usage from November through March. For commercial and master metered customers, charges are based on the water used each month. Customers with irrigation meters are not charged a corresponding sewer charge.

### Stormwater

Stormwater is a non-metered service that is billed for a 30 day period, or twelve times per year. The charges are based on the square footage of buildings or other impervious surfaces where rain water cannot be absorbed by the ground. For commercial property, the owner of the parcel is responsible for the stormwater charge for all businesses on the parcel.

### Solid Waste

Solid waste is a non-metered service that is billed for a 30 day period, or twelve times per year. Charges depend on the type of solid waste pick-up the customer receives. For example, there are different rates for bag pick-up versus facilities with dumpsters. Commercial customers can also have recycling or food waste services that are charged separately.

## Volunteer of the month – Randi Webster

Randi Webster became a part of the City Wide Flag Line in November 2015 as a volunteer coach. The City Wide Flag Line is one of the many programs offered to youth ages 7-18 through the Community Recreation program at the Armory Sports Center.

Webster said she loves being able to share something she loved as a kid with her daughter and other children.

"They [the kids] are all so dedicated; the look of pride when they accomplish a tricky move makes all of our hard work worth it," Webster said.

Webster's passion and dedication has not gone unnoticed by others, specifically Parks and Recreation staff. Community Recreation Leader Mary Dewey said Webster has been the perfect match for this program. As a former member of her high school Color Guard, Webster knew what she was doing when it came to teaching the kids a flag routine. Webster works with the flag line group every week preparing them for performances that take place at many community events.

The City thanks her for providing a unique opportunity for our youth and her commitment to bettering the community.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit our website at [CoMo.gov/volunteer](http://CoMo.gov/volunteer) or call 573-874-7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).



Randi Webster, top right, poses with the City Wide Flag Line.

## Boards & commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

- Columbia Vision Commission
- Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health

Application deadline November 4 at 5 p.m.

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.

## Budget Breakdown

The City's fiscal year begins on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30 of the following year. In the FY2017 budget, which began on Oct. 1, 2016, the property tax rate remains at \$0.41 per \$100 assessed value as it has been since 1998. In addition, the City will continue to receive 2 percent of the total sales tax rate which will help fund City services as it has since 2001. The budget for the 2017 fiscal year can be found on the City's website, [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov), in the Budget Reports section of the Financial Reports page located at [CoMo.gov/finance/accounting/financial-reports/](http://CoMo.gov/finance/accounting/financial-reports/).



## Fire Prevention Week

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is "Don't Wait — Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years."

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacturer on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

A recent study by the National Fire Protection Association found that roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms.

Protect your family's life and property by ensuring you have working smoke alarms. If you cannot afford a smoke alarm, contact the Columbia Fire Department by calling 573-874-7556 to see if you qualify for free smoke alarm(s) through the Share the Light program.

Fire Prevention Week is recognized Oct. 9-15.

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

<i>First Ward</i>	<b>Clyde Ruffin</b>
<i>Second Ward</i>	<b>Michael Trapp</b>
<i>Third Ward</i>	<b>Karl Skala</b>
<i>Fourth Ward</i>	<b>Ian Thomas</b>
<i>Fifth Ward</i>	<b>Laura Nauser</b>
<i>Sixth Ward</i>	<b>Betsy Peters</b>
<i>City Manager</i>	<b>Mike Matthes</b>



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