

— City Stats —

Influenza virus

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) encourages all residents to take care of themselves and their loved ones during flu season.

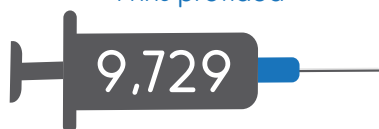


influenza cases were reported during the last flu season which ran from October 2018 to mid-May 2019

Last year, the number of vaccinations PHHS provided to children and adults was



PHHS provided



vaccinations through school-based clinics last flu season

Protect yourself against the influenza virus

It's that time of year again and the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) wants to make sure you have the information needed to protect yourself from the influenza virus.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccination annually. Individuals who are sick with the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever (although not everyone with the flu will have a fever)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some may experience vomiting and diarrhea

Most health professionals believe that influenza viruses are transmitted through the tiny droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the influenza virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes.

PHHS offers the injectable flu shot for residents age six months and older on a walk-in basis, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the clinic, 1005 W. Worley St.

Create a fire escape plan for your home

Do you have a home fire escape plan? With a smart, well thought plan in place, you can stay one step ahead of the unexpected. The Columbia Fire Department offers the following information to consider when creating your plan:

- Home fire escape plans should include two exits from every room in the house.
- A meeting place should be determined outside and should be a fixed object (e.g. a tree, not a movable object like a car.)
- Get out and stay out!
- One-third of American households have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- One-third of American families thought they would have at least six minutes before a fire in their home became life threatening. In reality, it is often far less.



Street Talk: White Cane Awareness Day

Education is key to the City of Columbia's Vision Zero policy and goal to achieve zero traffic deaths or serious injuries on our roadways by 2030. Reminding motorists of best driving practices and laws is an important part of this education effort.

In 1964, the U.S. Congress adopted a joint resolution designating Oct. 15, of each year as White Cane Safety Day. White canes are a means for people who are blind to travel on our streets and sidewalks safely and independently.

"White Cane Awareness Day is our way of emphasizing the critical role that this tool, along with guide dogs, play in living the lives we want," President of the Columbia Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Eugene Coulter said.

Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians are always encouraged to be aware of their surroundings when traveling on streets and sidewalks. Please pay special attention to our community members with limited vision using a guide dog or carrying a white cane (often with a red tip) on our streets and sidewalks.

For more information about Vision Zero, visit CoMo.gov/City-Manager/City-Columbia-Vision-Zero or call 573.874.CITY (2489). For more information about the NFB, contact the Columbia Chapter at GeneCoulter@Charter.net or 573.474.3226.

Join the Fire Department at an open house

Columbia Fire Department will be hosting open houses at each of our stations for the neighborhoods they serve. We plan to host one open house every month with the exception of December.

We look forward to these opportunities to get to know the residents we serve, give you an opportunity to see our facilities and promote fire safety.

Information on these events will be distributed to residents in these areas as we get closer to each one. Feel free to email us at Fire@CoMo.gov or call us at 573.874.7556 if you have questions.

Progress as Promised: Ballenger Lane improvements completed this summer

The Ballenger Lane Improvement Project was completed in summer 2019 as part of the City of Columbia's Capital Improvement Program. This Public Works project provides a safer path for pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized transportation users by widening the pavement to provide shoulders on each side of the road. Nearly a thousand dump truck loads of fill were used to widen the road and regrade so that the shoulders could be added.

The project also included bus shelter pads, grass seeding, overlaying the roadway with asphalt, improving stormwater infrastructure and new line striping. Existing sidewalks from neighboring subdivisions were also connected to the shoulders, making it easier for those on bike, foot or wheelchair to access bus stops, Hominy Trail and other local destinations.

The project investment is estimated at \$2.2 million, funded with the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax, the County Road Tax and cost share from the Missouri Department of Transportation. The project passed through the City's public involvement process, which included an interested parties meeting on June 13, 2017, and a public hearing on Dec. 18, 2017.

Complete details are available at CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Ballenger-Improvements.

Fiscal year 2020 began Oct. 1

The City of Columbia's fiscal year 2020 began Oct. 1 after the usual public input process. City Council held a budget work session and three opportunities for members of the public to provide feedback about the proposed budget.

The fiscal year 2020 budget runs until Sept. 30, 2020. To view the budget, and other City financial documents, visit CoMo.gov/Finance/Accounting/Financial-Reports.



Nearly a thousand dump truck loads of fill were used to widen Ballenger Lane so that the shoulders could be added to improve safety.

Keep leaves, grass out of storm drains

Fall can be a beautiful time of year. It can also wreak havoc on our stormwater system. When leaves or grass clippings make their way into our storm drains, they can clump with other debris and block the inlets and pipes, causing stormwater runoff to flood streets, yards and homes.

Please consider these tips to help us keep storm drains clear:

- Keep leaves and grass clippings away from storm drains, off sidewalks and out of the street.
- Set your lawn mower to mulch and mow high. Dispersing ground-up leaves and grass back onto your lawn provides fertilizer and soil conditioner.
- Bag excess leaves or grass and place at the curb on collection day to be picked up by the City's Solid Waste crew.
- If you see a storm drain that is clogged and can clear it without placing yourself in danger, please remove the leaves or debris.
- Notify us by email at Stormwater@CoMo.gov for inlets or pipes that need our attention.



When leaves or grass clippings make their way into our storm drains, they can clump with other debris and block inlets and pipes.

Efficiency programs available to utility customers

As energy prices and building codes change over time, so too does the performance and efficiency of your home. In order to keep your home comfortable and reduce your amount spent on heating and cooling, City of Columbia Water & Light offers incentives and financing for certain efficiency improvements.

Through our Home Performance with Energy Star Program, we offer up to \$1,200 in rebates for improving insulation, reducing air leakage, and replacing inefficient windows and doors. The average customer sees an annual savings of 25% on their heating and cooling costs after making recommended improvements through this program.

In addition, the City of Columbia offers up to \$1,600 in rebates for replacing inefficient air conditioners and heat pumps on existing properties.

For more information about our efficiency programs, please visit our website at ColumbiaPowerPartners.com or call 573.441.5528.

Columbia Regional Airport news and updates



The Columbia Regional Airport continues to see an increase in the number of people flying in and out. Check out the COU news and updates to stay informed about airport projects.

Columbia Regional Airport (COU) continues to see an increase in the number of people flying in and out, with an annual average growth rate of 30% enplanements and deplanements between the years of 2007 and 2018.

To accommodate our growing customer base, COU opened a new parking lot with 225 spaces. The lot was built with recycled materials from the runway reconstruction project, which also allowed us to reduce material costs. The project was a partnership with the City of Columbia Public Works Department, which loaned the airport important equipment to assist in expediting the project.

In other exciting news, progress is being made on the terminal project! On July 1, City Council approved a contract with Burns & McDonnell, Inc., who will oversee the terminal project on behalf of the City. We are now looking forward to the architectural and engineering process to begin the design and construction of Hangar 350. You can visit our website at FlyCOU.com to see the new COU terminal project timeline and follow along as we hit those milestones.

Please join us for our All Things Airport meetings located at the Walton Building, 300 S. Providence Road, on the third Thursday of every month from 8 to 9 a.m. Airport staff will be available to answer all questions from travel inquiries to information on upcoming improvements. Complimentary coffee is provided!

We'd like to thank all of our customers for their support and look forward to seeing you the next time you fly with COU.

New recycling container for glass only

You've heard "quality over quantity," right? This is especially true for recycling! The quality of a recycled item depends on how well it has been separated from other materials. For example, a factory is more likely to buy recycled glass if at least 98% of what they receive is actually glass. In order to improve the quality of our glass, we now offer a glass only recycling container at the State Farm Parkway Recycle Center.

Residents are encouraged to separate glass from other recyclables and place it in the purple recycling bin. Separating glass at home can not only provide a higher quality product, it can also improve the work environment for Solid Waste Utility staff.

If this method is successful, glass only recycling bins will be placed at other locations around Columbia. Solid Waste will continue to collect glass in the blue bags and "mixed container" recycling bins, however, we encourage you to separate the glass whenever possible.

View a list of all recycling drop-off centers and view an interactive map of locations at [CoMo.gov/Utilities/Solidwaste/Recycling-Drop-Off-Centers](https://www.columbiago.gov/Utilities/Solidwaste/Recycling-Drop-Off-Centers).



A new glass only recycling container has been placed at the State Farm Parkway Recycle Center.

Strategic Plan: Civic spending exercise

The City of Columbia's Strategic Plan Planning Committee is continuously setting the base for the City's next Strategic Plan. They are currently in the phase of the process that involves gathering and analyzing data.

This fall, staff members will invite the community to participate in a "civic spending exercise." The objective of the exercise is to balance a budget that funds services and specific priorities using a combination of strategies (increasing revenues/expenditures, decreasing revenues/expenditures and using reserves) amid specific challenges.

The results of the exercise will assist in informing the development of the 2020 Strategic Plan. Information about dates and registration will be posted on the City's social media pages.

Halloween safety tips

Halloween can be a fun and exciting time for both kids and adults. Here are some helpful tips from the Columbia Police Department to have a safe holiday:

Costumes

- A mask can limit or block eyesight. Consider using makeup and hats instead of a mask.
- When using makeup, make sure it's non-toxic and always test it on a small patch of skin to ensure there are no allergies.
- Plan on using costumes that are bright, reflective and fit properly. Always look at the label when purchasing costumes to ensure they are flame resistant.

Carving pumpkins

- Never allow children to use carving tools when decorating pumpkins. Children can first draw the design with a marker and an adult can then use a carving tool.
- If using candles inside the pumpkin, place the pumpkin on a solid and sturdy surface, away from curtains or other flammable material. If possible, use a flashlight or glow stick inside your pumpkin instead of a candle.

Trick-or-treating

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children and remember to stay in a group.
- Carry at least one source of light (flashlight) with fresh batteries.
- Let someone else know what area/route you will be trick-or-treating.
- Don't assume that drivers can see you when crossing the street. Always look both ways, use a cross-walk when available but always cross the street at an intersection.



Columbia Police Officer Jenny Hopper greets a future officer dressed up for Halloween. Check out the tips from CPD to have a fun and safe holiday.

Don't let your parking ticket turn into a warrant

You've been running a couple of errands and perhaps some shopping downtown. You're returning to your vehicle and spot it on the windshield a block away. The dreaded yellow parking ticket.

Looking at the ticket you notice there is a court date. What? Do I have to go to court and take time from my day to pay a parking ticket? What's this about?

Supreme Court Rules now require a court date to be printed on parking tickets. Like all ordinance violation cases, you have both rights and responsibilities. You can read about your rights on our website at CoMo.gov and search "parking ticket." The best way to avoid going to court is not to get a ticket.

Avoiding a ticket

The City of Columbia offers a number of options to pay for your parking at the meter and remotely. Coins are accepted at all meters. CoMoPark Cards and the ParkMobile app can also be used to pay for parking at any meter.

CoMoPark Cards are preloaded cards that can be used to pay for parking. The Cards are available for purchase on the third floor of City Hall, 701 E. Broadway. The ParkMobile app, available for both iPhone and Android users, offers the convenience of being able to add time, up to the maximum allowed, to the meter from your smartphone. This option is especially handy if your errands run longer than you expect.

Despite your best plans, things don't go as intended and you return to your vehicle to find a parking ticket. You have options.

I want to plead guilty and pay the ticket

Your payment of the ticket is your guilty plea. You can pay in person on the second floor of the Municipal Building, 600 E. Broadway, or on the first floor of City Hall in the Cashier's Office. Keep in mind that payments made at the Cashier's Office after 9 a.m. will not be credited until the next business day. You can mail a check (don't mail cash) using the envelope provided with the ticket. Or, you can pay online at CoMo.gov. All of the payment options are listed on the parking ticket.

You can pay your summons in person at the Municipal Building up to your court time.

I want to contest the ticket or need time to pay

A parking ticket may be contested by submitting a Parking Violation Protest Form to the City Prosecutor identifying the ticket and stating the reason that the alleged violation should not be prosecuted. The statement shall contain the name and address of the person contesting the ticket. A separate statement shall be required for each ticket being contested. Protests must be submitted within fifteen (15) days from when the ticket was issued. A written response shall be made to the person contesting the ticket within ten (10) business days of receiving the statement contesting the parking ticket. If the protest is denied, you will be required to appear on the court date and time listed on the citation unless paid prior to that date.

You can also contest the ticket on the court date and appear before the judge and plead guilty or not guilty and exercise all your rights under the law. If you plead guilty or you are found guilty, court costs and a fine of up to \$225 can be given for each parking ticket. The judge can also give you time to pay your ticket or allow you to do community service work. If you do not pay the summons before the court date and fail to appear, the judge may issue a warrant for your arrest. A warrant costs you additional time, money, potential embarrassment and additional work for the courts. If you appear for your court date you will not have a warrant issued for your arrest.

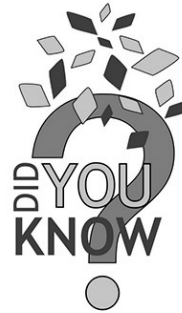
If you have questions about the process, you can visit CoMo.gov/Law/Parking-Tickets or call the City's Contact Center at 573.874.CITY (2489).

Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460
for more information

NOVEMBER

- 16 Homeless Youth Awareness
Month Dodgeball Tournament,
Armory Sports Center, 9 a.m.,
\$75 per team



Columbia's
Eastport Park has
the largest
hortulan plum
tree on record in
the USA and it has
been crowned the
national champion
of its species.

Code corner: Rental housing inspections

Did you know the City of Columbia has a Rental Unit Conservation Law that was established to keep rental properties safe and in good repair? All rental property in Columbia is to be registered and inspected to meet basic code. This includes apartments, duplexes, single family homes and those who have tenants as part of their owner-occupied home. Lease purchase or rent-to-own arrangements need to comply with the ordinance as well.

Currently, more than 28,000 housing units and 10,000 structures are in 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 CoMo.gov.

Volunteer of the Month: Snowy Li



Volunteer of the Month Snowy Li, Gloria Nishimwe, Genney Zheng, Mayor Brian Treece, Martha Nishimwe and Jenny Yoo.

When classes end in the spring, many students find ways to earn money while others just want a little rest and relaxation. But some students in Columbia spend their summers volunteering for the City. Snowy Li is certainly one of them.

Snowy participated in the Youth in Action program the two previous summers, but aged out of the program this year, so she organized Teens in Action for older youth in July.

Teens in Action began with a bang. In just two months, 23 teens accumulated

over 217 volunteer hours across 10 events, such as a stream cleanup at the A.L. Gustin Golf Course and a block party at Indian Hills.

City of Columbia Volunteer Programs Specialist Sabrina Lambrecht said Snowy is “dedicated, dependable, and extremely driven.”

Motivating other young people to join and attend projects can be challenging. On the other hand, what is easy for Snowy is motivating herself.

“I have always loved the environment, animals and taking care of others,” she said. “I find it very fulfilling.”

Snowy also participates in the City’s TreeKeeper and CARP programs.

Congratulations, Snowy, and thank you for your service to Columbia! It’s your work and dedication that inspires other youth to get involved.

Teens in Action will continue to participate in activities throughout the year. Any young person grades 10-12 is welcome to join the program.

If you would like more information on volunteering for the City, call 573.874.7499 or email Volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Board and commission vacancies

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

Application deadline is Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.

- Airport Advisory Board
- Columbia Vision Commission
- Community Land Trust Organization Board
- Mayor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Health

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 or at the City Clerk’s Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.



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

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John Glascock

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

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CITY OF COLUMBIA

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