

## Volunteer of the Month: Linus Johnson



Linus Johnson's favorite way to volunteer is removing invasive species as part of the Youth in Action program.

Linus Johnson is the Volunteer of the Month for September. Linus was an active participant in the City's Youth in Action program over the summer, completing 22 hours of service in the span of just two months. He is 14 years old and will be starting 9th grade at Hickman High School this fall. Although this was his first time volunteering with Youth in Action, he is not new to serving his community. Linus has completed projects through his school to help better Columbia.

Linus's favorite project is invasive species removal. While he was initially disappointed when this event was

cancelled earlier in the summer, he got his chance to wrangle thick and dense honeysuckle when the event was rescheduled. Halfway through the project a storm rolled in and heavy rain soaked Linus and his fellow volunteers. Even though this caused his favorite event to be cut short, it is sure to be an invasive species removal he won't soon forget.

Werthen Gass, the 2020 Youth in Action Intern, said, "Linus was a regular volunteer with Youth in Action and always showed up ready to serve. Although he is a man of few words, Linus's dedication to Columbia and strong work ethic spoke volumes." Thank you, Linus, for being an outstanding volunteer.

## September is National Food Safety Education Month

September is National Food Safety Education Month. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness about steps that can be taken to prevent food poisoning.

The keys to basic food safety are ensuring food is cooked to the right temperature and storing it properly. To lower your chances of food poisoning, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services would like to share a few tips to protect yourself and your loved ones by keeping food safe:

- Wash your hands and work surfaces often. Germs can survive in many places around your kitchen including your hands, utensils, cutting boards and counter tops.
- Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs from ready-to-eat foods in your shopping cart, refrigerator and meal preparation area.
- Use a food thermometer to cook food to the right internal temperature to kill harmful bacteria.
- Keep your refrigerator below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Refrigerate leftovers within two hours of cooking (or within 1 hour if it's above 90 degrees Fahrenheit outside).

Additional food safety tips and educational videos from the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services can be found online at:

[CoMo.gov/health/environmental-health/food-safety/](https://CoMo.gov/health/environmental-health/food-safety/).



### 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.*

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#### CITY OF COLUMBIA

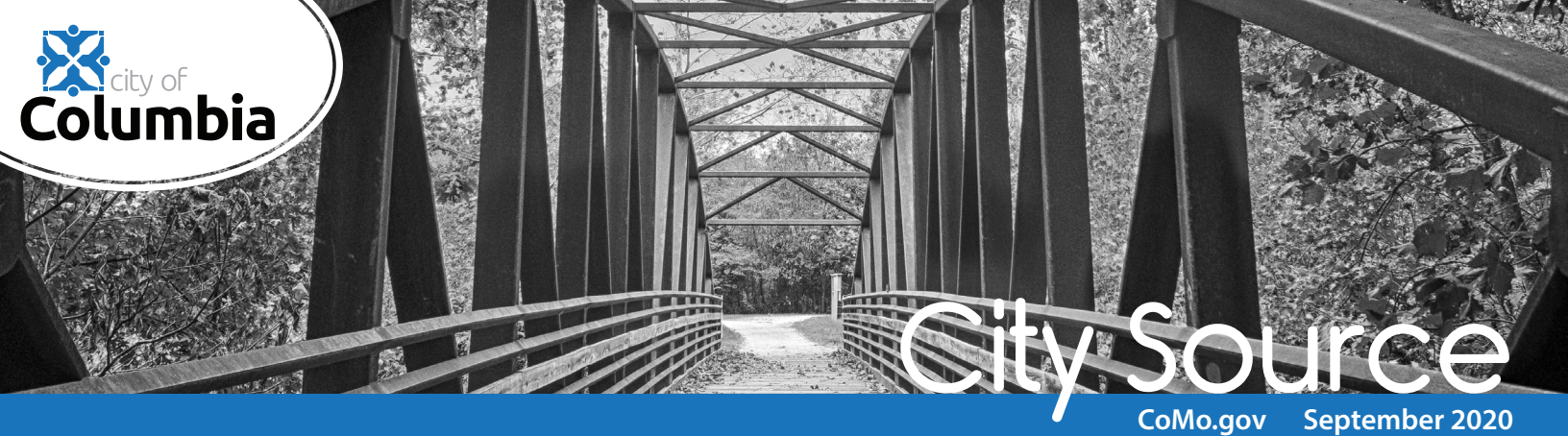
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## — City Stats —

City trail usage:  
Highest usage day  
(percent increase from  
April 2019–April 2020)


 **99%**  
Bear Creek Trail Increase

 **137%**  
County House Trail Increase

 **56%**  
Greenbriar Trail Connector Increase

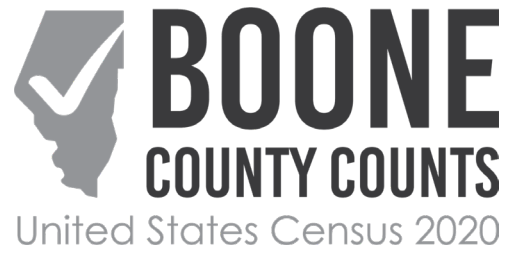
 **72%**  
Hinkson Creek Trail Increase

 **62%**  
MKT Trail Increase

 **188%**  
Scott's Branch Trail Increase

## Last chance to fill out the 2020 Census

It's your last chance to make sure you and your family are counted in the 2020 Census. Completing the census is our civic duty and just 10 minutes of your time can have a big impact on our community for the next 10 years.



For every person not counted in the census, we could lose \$1,300 per person, per year for 10 years. That's \$13,000 per person that we won't get to improve our schools, hospitals, roads and fund important programs like Head Start, school lunch programs, mental health programs and more.

When you complete the census, your information is safe and can't be used against you. Information gathered is used for data purposes only.

Spend a few minutes of your day to fill out the 2020 Census to make our community better. You can complete the Census by visiting [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or calling 844.330.2020. The last day to complete the census is Sept. 30.

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



#MaskUpCOMO

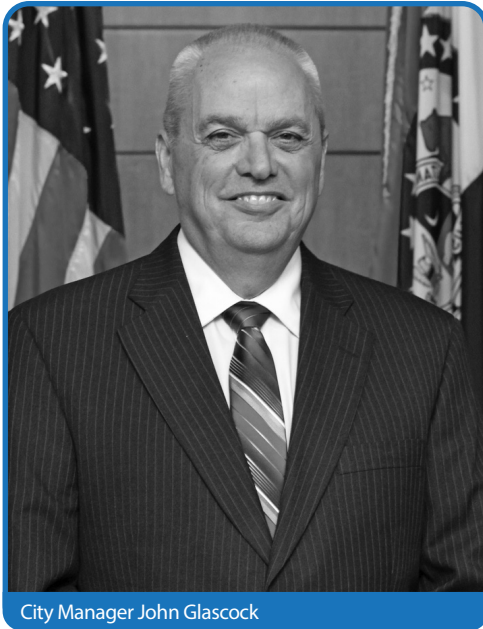
## Do your part to help protect our community

- ✓ Wear a mask
- ✓ Wash your hands often
- ✓ Maintain social distancing

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Official Information Visit:  
[CoMo.gov/Coronavirus](https://CoMo.gov/Coronavirus)



# Letter from City Manager John Glascock



City Manager John Glascock

City of Columbia residents,

We're several months into the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and it has not been easy on any of us. The past several months have been hard on our families, neighbors, front-line workers, health care system, businesses, nonprofits, schools and local government.

This isn't over yet and I ask that you please continue to follow all local health orders whether you reside in the city, are visiting our city or are coming here temporarily. The decisions made about health orders are in the best interest of our community, our residents and you. It's important that we are all in this together.

While this has been a hard time in our history, I want to commend you for your resiliency. I also want to thank the many businesses and nonprofit organizations that are helping residents and employers through this hard time. I am proud of their dedication to lifting up others.

With time, we'll get through this together.

*John*  
Columbia City Manager

## Utility customers have options on how to pay bill

One of the questions new customers often ask when setting up new service is, "How can I pay my bill?" There are several options available to meet customer needs and preferences.

Customers may register for online services at [myutilitybill.como.gov/](https://myutilitybill.como.gov/). From the My Utility Bill dashboard customers may make online payments, select paperless billing and email bill notification, view bills and access billing and usage history.

Customers may also opt for automatic payments to have bills drafted from a bank account. Customers may apply for autodrafting by submitting an online request at [CoMo.gov/webapps/autopay/autopay\\_request.php](https://CoMo.gov/webapps/autopay/autopay_request.php). Customers may also mail their payments, pay from their bank's online payment page or pay in person at the Cashier's Office. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The drive-through behind the City Hall building is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is also a drop box behind the building customers may access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Code Corner: Property maintenance

Houses with problems like peeling paint, broken windows or fallen gutters are in violation of City Code as adopted in the International Property Maintenance Code. Issues with the condition of fences and outbuildings may also be addressed as code issues. The property maintenance code helps protect our neighborhoods and property values for everyone. If you have a concern about a home, you are welcome to report it to Neighborhood Services, 573.817.5050 or [neighborhood@CoMo.gov](mailto:neighborhood@CoMo.gov).

## Progress as Promised: West and New Haven Elementary playground projects

Columbia Parks and Recreation helped fund two playground projects recently completed at area elementary schools, in cooperation with Columbia Public Schools.

These projects include new playground equipment at West Boulevard Elementary and replacing asphalt on the playground at New Haven Elementary. Parks and Recreation contributed about \$30,000 toward the projects.

For many years, Columbia Parks and Recreation and Columbia Public Schools have worked together to make playground improvements to serve the community. Students use the equipment while school is in session. After school hours, the playgrounds are available for public use.

These City/School cooperative playground projects are made possible by the Park Sales Tax, which is approved by voters and dedicated to parks capital projects.

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



Columbia Parks and Recreation helped fund new playground projects including playground equipment such as the musical playground pictured here at West Boulevard Elementary.

## Thinking of going solar?



Solar photovoltaic on your home helps reduce your electric bill, protects the environment and contributes to the City of Columbia's renewable energy portfolio.

If you are thinking of adding solar to your home or business, City of Columbia Water and Light is here to help. Not only can installing solar help reduce your electric bill, but it can also help the City of Columbia meet its renewable energy goals and help protect our natural resources.

Columbia Water and Light provides rebates for installing solar. Rebate amounts vary from \$375 up to \$625 per kilowatt (kW) depending on the direction of the roof and onsite

conditions for systems up to 10 kW. The typical residential solar installation in Columbia is around 7 kW. For systems larger than 10 kW, additional information can be found at the web address given below.

Along with providing rebates, Columbia Water and Light also provides low-interest loans for solar installations. Loans for up to \$15,000 dollars are available for residences and \$30,000 for commercial properties, with interest rates as low as 1%.

If you are interested in solar, Columbia Water and Light has an approved solar contractor list. These contractors install solar in Columbia and are familiar with the rebates and loans offered by Columbia Water and Light. If you have any questions regarding installing solar at your home or business, or you are interested in getting a quote, please contact any of the approved solar contractors.

Visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com/solar](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com/solar) for more information on going solar and for a list of the approved solar contractors.

## CPD works to build bridges of trust through the Community Outreach Unit

On August 9, 2020, the Columbia police department took another step forward in promoting safety and strengthening community relations by restoring the department's Community Outreach Unit (COU). The unit has six officers, a sergeant and a lieutenant whose goal is to engage neighborhoods and businesses as valued partners.

All officers employed by CPD are required to demonstrate the principles of the department's community policing model which balances law enforcement with caretaking. These officers are assigned to neighborhoods with both public safety challenges and assets that contribute to an improved quality of life.

In the upcoming months, CPD encourages the community to take advantage of opportunities to meet and interact with the officers assigned to their neighborhood. Expect to see officers on foot patrol, visiting schools and connecting with organizations, while remaining consistent with health guidelines currently in effect.

Once residents become more familiar with the officers, their presence will help create more opportunities for engagement, solving problems, getting feedback and ensuring accountability to members of the community.

The COU was initially established in the police department in 2016 in an effort to open lines of communication and resolve community issues through the incorporation of community partnerships, problem-oriented policing and citizen input. Community outreach officers served areas in central, north and east Columbia.

## Parks and Recreation Events

Columbia Parks and Recreation is modifying and adding to the list of community Special Events to ensure compliance with local Health Department orders and social distancing guidelines. For current information, please visit

[CoMo.gov/parksandrec](http://CoMo.gov/parksandrec) or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ComoParksandRec/](https://www.facebook.com/ComoParksandRec/)



Regular exercise can boost your immune system. Exercise promotes good circulation, allowing substances of the immune system to move through the body and do their job efficiently.

## Board and commission vacancies

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

**Application deadline is October 9 at 5 p.m.**

- Board of Adjustment
- Citizens Police Review Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs
- Housing and Community Development Commission
- Substance Abuse Advisory Commission

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](http://CoMo.gov) or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.