

## — City Stats —

Winter weather operations



The LeRoy Anderson Salt Dome Facility can hold **5,000 tons** of salt



Columbia has more than **1,350 lane miles** of streets, including 1,100 culs-de-sac, maintained by Public Works



Approximately 520 lane miles of priority routes are plowed and treated **24 hours per day** as needed during a winter weather event



## Street Talk: Effectiveness of road salt during winter weather

When winter weather is in the forecast, Public Works managers check pavement temperatures, monitor the forecast and develop a plan to determine if pre-treatment of roadways will be beneficial and what methods would be most effective.

Salt, road treatment materials and plow blades are stored at LeRoy Anderson Salt Dome, a gated facility at 1101 Big Bear Blvd. The salt dome can store up to 5,000 tons of dry salt. Salt is an effective winter weather tool, though it does have its limitations. Salt begins to lose its effectiveness when road temperatures drop below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Dropping below 10 degrees Fahrenheit can render it ineffective. Cloudy skies also inhibits salt's ability by blocking radiant energy from the sun.

In addition to dry salt, we also produce a liquid brine, salt water, solution which can be mixed into the dry salt to enhance the snow and ice melting capability of the treatment.

We may also mix in natural beet juice which increases the stickiness of the liquid brine used to pre-treat roads before predicted snow falls. Beet juice helps the salt brine adhere and bond to the road surface to improve performance.

More information may be found at [CoMoSnow.com](http://CoMoSnow.com).

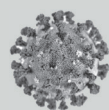
## Code Corner: Neighborhood Services yearly recap

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) handles a variety of residential code issues in an effort to protect the quality of life of those who call Columbia home.

In fiscal year 2020 (Oct. 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2020), ONS handled 4,316 code issues. Health nuisance issues, including trash and debris, were the largest category at 949; followed by 835 landscaping management and vegetation issues; 440 vehicle violations; and 256 property maintenance issues that were related to the structure of the residence.

Unique to this year, ONS responded to 437 COVID-19 compliance inquiries. ONS received 223 complaints from tenants about issues in their rental home or apartment.

Visit the Neighborhood Services page on [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) to learn more about work done in 2020 and contact us with issues where we can assist.



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

## Reducing energy costs this winter

Heating and air conditioning account for almost 50% of a household's energy bills. Now that cold weather is upon us, many City of Columbia Utilities customers are looking for ways to reduce household energy costs and lower their utility bills.

Thermostat control is one of the most effective ways to reduce your energy bills. According to [energy.gov](http://energy.gov), lowering your thermostat by 7 to 10 degrees during the hours you are not at home can reduce your heating costs by as much as 10%. Keeping the thermostat a little bit lower when you are home (at 68 instead of 70 degrees, for instance) can also contribute to energy savings.

Weatherizing to seal leaks, changing furnace filters, turning out lights, and buying energy efficient small and large appliances can also make a difference in monthly utility bills. The City of Columbia offers both online and on-site energy audits to customers that can pinpoint other ways to make your home more energy efficient.

Visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) to learn more.

## Christmas tree recycling

Did you know the City collects live Christmas trees (no tinsel, ornaments, lights or tree stands) with your curbside collection between Dec. 26 and Jan. 31?

Trees may also be taken to one of the Yard Waste Drop-off Centers where they will be shredded into mulch or used at the City compost site:

- **Capen Park:** located off Rock Quarry Road, south of Stadium Drive
- **Parkside:** located between Cosmo Park and Creasy Springs Road

## Progress as Promised: Keene Street and I-70 Drive Southeast roundabout



The new roundabout at the intersection of Keene Street and I-70 Drive Southeast was completed and opened to traffic in August.

A new roundabout was constructed this summer at Keene Street and I-70 Drive Southeast. This intersection enhancement was funded with the quarter-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax and a cost share with MoDOT. The new roundabout project had an investment of \$832,000.

Utility relocations began in fall 2019, and were completed in June 2020. City of Columbia contractor, Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., began construction of the roundabout in June 2020. The roundabout was opened to traffic in early August, ahead of schedule and on budget.

The improvements at the intersection has reduced queue lengths, decreased travel times and improved safety by the removal of the T-intersection and installation of a roundabout.

Roundabouts are designed to improve safety for all users. Roundabouts reduce the types of crashes where people are seriously hurt or killed by 78% to 82% by reducing the number and severity of conflict points and due to the lower speeds of vehicles moving through the intersection.

The roundabout center island landscaping includes a variety of Missouri native plants, supporting a strategy of Columbia's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The landscaping was installed by a group of community volunteers on Oct. 10 and will be maintained by the adopter, Noble Pain Management.

An interested parties meeting for the project was held March 15, 2016, and the project was approved by City Council Feb. 5, 2018, after a public hearing.

## Parks and Recreation completes Oakwood Hill park renovations



Renovations were recently completed at Oakwood Hills Park, which included replacing playground equipment

Columbia Parks and Recreation is completing a list of park projects promised to voters as part of the 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot issue. One of those projects funded by the Park Sales Tax is Oakwood Hills Park, 2421 Lynnwood Dr.

The following improvements to the 10-acre neighborhood park were recently completed: playground replacement with new swings and climbing structure; new park benches; new park sign and entry gate; renovation of the basketball court, hiking trail and retaining wall; and extension of the ADA walkway from Burrwood Drive to the playground.

The total investment for the renovations was \$125,000. Staff gained public feedback through an online survey and interested parties meeting.

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

## Warming centers, shelters available this winter

Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services coordinates a network of warming and cooling centers in the community during extreme temperatures. As the temperature begins to drop, the public is reminded of several locations in Columbia available to those who need shelter from the extreme cold.

Warming centers are available to the general public during the building's normal business hours. The public is allowed access to public areas, such as lobbies, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc.

Columbia's warming centers include:

- ARC (Activity and Recreation Center), 1701 W. Ash St.
- Armory Sports and Community Center, 701 E. Ash St.
- Boone County Government Center, 801 E. Walnut St.
- Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services, 1005 W. Worley St.

Official shelters provide sleeping accommodations. These locations may or may not include meals. Columbia's official shelters include:

- Room at the Inn, visit [roomattheinncomo.org](http://roomattheinncomo.org) for dates and locations
- Salvation Army Harbor House (men, women, and families), 602 N. Ann St.
- St. Francis House (for men), 901 Range Line St.
- Lois Bryant House (women and families), 913 Range Line St.
- Rainbow House (for children/youth), 1611 Towne Dr.
- True North (for domestic violence), please call 573.875.1370
- Welcome Home (for veterans), 2120 Business Loop 70 E.

A map of the warming centers and shelter locations is available on [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov), search "warming centers."

## Parks and Recreation Events

Columbia Parks and Recreation is modifying and adding to the list of community special events to ensure compliance with Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services 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://facebook.com/ComoParksandRec).



Park trees protect the environment! One hundred mature trees remove about 430 pounds of pollutants annually.

## Board and commission vacancies

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

**Application deadline is Jan. 8 at 5 p.m.**

- Parking Advisory Commission
- Tree 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](http://CoMo.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

# Volunteer of the Month: Garrett Wright

We are pleased to announce Garrett Wright as the December Volunteer of the Month. Garrett is from Columbia and graduated from the University of Missouri. As a volunteer with the Special Olympics he's coached golf, basketball and tennis.

Garrett started volunteering with the Special Olympics with his best friend Tyler in 2017. They have been friends since they were 2 years old and do most things together. They have even recruited more of their friends to volunteer with the Special Olympics. Garrett talked about a memory when he coached two basketball teams with Tyler and one of their teams won state. He said it was a blast coaching the athletes.

This past year, Garrett volunteered during the golf and tennis season. He competed in the Unified Partners category with Duke Simmons and they placed second in the area tournament. Garrett is excited to start coaching bowling and mentioned that Duke has been proving himself to be a phenomenal bowler.

Garrett enjoys volunteering with the Special Olympics because he can volunteer and build relationships in the community. He likes that the Special Olympics isn't a one-time volunteer event. Garrett encourages any one to volunteer with the Special Olympics.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) or email [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).



Garrett Wright (right) is pictured with Special Olympics athlete Duke Simmons.

## Tips for protecting valuables during holiday season

The holiday season typically brings families together, joy to the masses and reasons to shop at our favorite stores. In the midst of the celebrations, this also means there is an increased possibility of being more vulnerable to theft and other holiday-related crimes. Whether you are traveling or staying local, the Columbia Police Department encourages all residents to remember to remain alert and be proactive to stay safe this holiday season.

When shopping in-person, try to avoid carrying a large purse. A smaller or more compact bag would make it difficult for a thief to grab and run. Residents are also encouraged to carry only the credit cards they intend to use and leave the others behind.

If you have to leave your packages in your car, be sure to place them out of sight in your locked trunk. Whenever possible, it is highly encouraged to park in well-lit areas that heighten visibility and never leave your car unlocked while untended.

For online shoppers, be on alert for porch pirates. Porch pirates aim to snatch your joy by stealing packages that have been delivered to your home. To help prevent this, try to schedule the delivery at a time when you are home or pick them up from the shipping facility.

Remember, if you see something, say something. To stay up to date, be sure to follow CPD on Facebook ([@columbiamopolice](https://www.facebook.com/columbiamopolice)) or Twitter ([@ColumbiaPD](https://twitter.com/ColumbiaPD)).



### 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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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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Cover photo: A festive star sits next to the keyhole in front of City Hall. The District is bringing holiday cheer to the downtown area and the North Village Arts District with new winter decorations. The District encourages residents to snap a selfie with your favorite decorations to post on social media and tag them at [#discoverthedistrict](https://twitter.com/discoverthedistrict) or [#shopsmalleveryday](https://twitter.com/shopsmalleveryday).