



— City Stats —

City Managers of
Columbia

14

City Managers
since 1949



July 1, 1949



Bill Taylor
named first
city manager

7,445 days



Raymond
Beck, longest
serving city
manager

De'Carlon Seewood named Columbia's new city manager



Columbia's new City Manager, De'Carlon Seewood

The Columbia City Council named De'Carlon Seewood as the next city manager of the City of Columbia during a community briefing Monday, Dec. 20, 2021.

Seewood has worked as deputy city manager in Columbia since 2019.

He assumed the role of city manager on Jan. 15, 2022, following John Glascock's retirement.

Seewood has previous experience working in several Missouri cities, including Fulton, Ferguson and the City of Berkley.

Columbia Mayor Brian Treece said the Council unanimously chose to appoint Seewood to the position of city manager, citing Seewood's forward-thinking vision for the City of Columbia and experiences working in other Missouri communities.

The appointment of Seewood as Columbia's new city manager also has historical significance.

"De'Carlon Seewood will be the first African American City Manager in the City of Columbia," Mayor Treece said. "This diversification of City leadership not only reflects our diverse community, but also brings new experiences, new ideas and new perspectives that we feel will help all residents feel comfortable having a voice in city government."

Seewood said he looks forward to continuing his work at the City.

"The City of Columbia has so much to offer to its residents, and I am excited to be a part of making this the best place for people to live," Seewood said. "As city manager, I look forward to building greater trust between citizens and their local government and creating stronger relationships with community partners providing critical resources to the community."

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City of Columbia, Mo. Government



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Columbia Values Diversity Award Winners Announced



Mayor Brian Treece presented the Sharp End Heritage Committee with the group 2022 Diversity Award.

The 25th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Jan. 13. Awards were given to individuals and groups that have made significant contributions promoting diversity and cultural understanding in our community.

Sharp End Heritage Committee was awarded the group 2022 Diversity Award

The Sharp End Heritage Committee was formed by the late James Whitt in 2014 in an effort to recognize the history of the once thriving Black business district in Columbia known as the Sharp End. In the following years, the committee continued its work to create the broader African American Heritage Trail. With over 20 markers installed, the trail commemorates Black enterprises, churches, and individuals who overcame enormous odds to achieve outstanding legacies. The Sharp End Heritage Committee's work to document and spread awareness of Black history in Columbia will have a lasting impact for our city.



Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer was presented the individual 2022 Diversity Award from Columbia Mayor Brian Treece.

Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer was awarded the individual 2022 Diversity Award

Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer has served as an ambassador to Columbia, playing an important role in welcoming many Chinese visitors to the city and helping the Chinese American community recognize and celebrate their ancestry. Her perseverance toward building an inclusive community reflects the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who led others with education, commitment, and direct action. Wiedmeyer has made a local impact by founding Columbia Friends of China, a nonprofit organization dedicated to better understanding Chinese culture. Through organizing many events and programs, Wiedmeyer has helped to reach thousands of community members and aided in deepening Columbia's appreciation of the diverse cultures found in our community.

Congratulations to the award winners. Mark your calendars for next year's event on Jan. 12, 2023.

Board and commission vacancies

Boards and commissions are a way for residents to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members. The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

Application deadline is March 11 at 5 p.m.

- Tobacco Retailer License Review Board

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia.mo.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Protect the environment: go light on the salt

February is here—and a wintry mix of snow, sleet, and ice will be in the forecast at some point.

That means homeowners and business owners will be applying salt and other deicers to sidewalks and parking lots. However, the City of Columbia reminds you that there are alternate ways to keep your sidewalks and parking lots clear. More is not always better. Too much salt and other chemical deicing compounds are harmful to Columbia's waterways and the environment.

When snow and ice melt, the runoff can pick up the salt and deicing compounds and carry them into the storm drains. That water enters Columbia's streams and lakes. The little bit of salt that one resident uses to treat their driveway might not seem like much, but all the deicing compounds applied throughout the area can quickly add up.

Once chloride is in the environment, it does not go away. One teaspoon of salt can pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic to freshwater organisms. Chlorides can alter soil composition, slow plant growth, damage vehicles, and weaken concrete, brick, steel, and stone infrastructure.

Here are some alternatives for when you want to cut back on the salt:

- Shovel or scrape the area. Remove as much of the snow and ice as possible before you use any deicing agents.
- Follow the directions. Apply salt or deicers only to the slick areas. Using more than the recommended amount does not make the deicer more effective. A 12-ounce cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares.
- Turn up the juice. Beet juice mixed with salt works to a lower temperature than salt alone—and requires 30 percent less salt for the same area. Beet juice has not been shown to have damaging effects on the environment.
- Get some traction. Elements like sand and kitty litter do not melt ice, but they can help provide traction. Or you can reduce salt usage by mixing it with sand or kitty litter.

CPD celebrates Black leaders

In 2003, now-retired Officer Jeff Nichols painted this portrait, honoring the Black leaders of the Columbia Police Department. CPD extends its appreciation to them and to their family members (from left to right):

- **John Kelly**, CPD's first Black Sergeant
- **William E. Dye**, CPD's first Black Chief
- **Marvin "Moon" McCrary**, CPD's first Black Captain
- **Fontella Ford Henry**, CPD's first Black female officer and first Black female Sergeant



The CPD celebrates the Black leaders who helped create its legacy. The actions of these leaders set a standard through their work and their ability to inspire those who follow in their footsteps.

Use Tax placed on April 5 ballot

The Columbia City Council voted Monday, Jan. 3, to call a special election on the question of whether to impose a local use tax.

The election will take place Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

A use tax is a sales tax applied to goods purchased from certain online and out-of-state sellers. If voters approve, the City's 2 percent sales tax would apply to purchases from vendors located outside the state of Missouri.

Currently, if a person purchases an item at a store located in Columbia, the vendor collects a state and local sales tax on the purchased item. However, if the same person purchased the same item online from a vendor located outside the state of Missouri, the vendor is not required to collect the same local sales tax.

The City relies heavily on revenues from local sales tax to fund basic services, such as street maintenance and public safety.

As more retail activity moves online, local communities are working to modernize their funding sources to better reflect consumer behavior.

A local use tax would help the City maintain its revenue while continuing to provide the essential services residents expect. If approved, a buyer will never pay both a local use tax and sales tax on the same purchase.

To learn more, visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbiamo.gov) and search "use tax."

*Paid for by the City of Columbia, Missouri. De'Carlton Seewood, City Manager
701 E. Broadway, P.O. Box 6015, Columbia, MO 65205.*

Where to get accurate COVID-19 information

Do you know where to go for accurate COVID-19 information?

You can visit [CoMo.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.columbiamo.gov/Coronavirus) for information and resources. The Health Resources section will provide information about recommended isolation times if you test positive, what to do if you are identified as a close contact and where you can get a COVID-19 test.

The Get Help and Give Help section will provide information if you need help with utility assistance, housing assistance, food, mental health services and more.

For COVID-19 vaccine information, you can visit the Vaccine Information section for a list of where to get a vaccine, read an FAQ and see the latest vaccine updates.

Parks and Recreation events

For more information, please visit [CoMo.gov/ParksandRec](https://www.columbiamo.gov/ParksandRec) or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/ParksandRec).

March 2022

- 10 Women's Month Film: *Joy*, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free

- 19 Annual Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Free



Columbia Parks and Recreation oversees over 60 miles of trail, and conducts programs at 12 indoor recreation facilities.

Water & Light, MU to host 17th annual Advancing Renewables Conference

As the City of Columbia continues the expansion of its renewable energy portfolio, City of Columbia Water & Light considers connecting with industry leaders and regional partners a major priority. The annual Advancing Renewables Conference propels the City to the forefront of efficiency programming and renewable energy development in the Midwest.

Since 2006, Water & Light has co-hosted the conference with the University Missouri School of Natural Resources. Speakers from around the country address current topics in renewable energy.

The 17th annual conference is scheduled for April 26 and 27 at the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia. For more information, visit [AdvancingRenewables.com](https://www.advancingrenewables.com).

Volunteer of the Month: Dignory Carmona



Thank you Dignory Carmona for your dedicated service to the City of Columbia.

When extraordinary volunteers come to mind, Dignory "Dig" Carmona Luna stands out. In her home country of Colombia, Dig volunteered with several daycares to support children through activities and tutoring. Since moving from South America to the United States, she has become a familiar face at many City of Columbia events. Dig has taken on leadership roles with the Household Hazardous Waste and Litter Team and helped with Parks & Recreation special events including Fire in the Sky and the Columbia Youth Track Meet.

As an international resident, Dig feels welcomed at City events; they give her the opportunity to make new friends and learn more about the community.

"America has given me so much," she said. "From the experiences, to the amazing new people I now have in my life. I will always be grateful for that."

Volunteering also gives Dig a sense of purpose. She loves making an impact in the community through service. Based on the fun experiences she has had, Dig encourages others to get involved with the community. She believes that being a part of something larger than yourself and giving back is an important act for everyone to do.

We are so grateful for Dig and all of the warmth and energy she has brought to our community. We are honored to have her as one of our volunteers. Thank you so much for your time and service, Dig!

If you are interested in similar experiences, visit our website at CoMo.gov, or contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 and volunteer@comogov.

Crack sealing means pothole prevention

Winter can be a taxing season for roadways. Sudden changes in temperature can cause the concrete or asphalt to expand and contract. The resulting cracks that form can let in water and other impurities. When water collects below the road's surface, the road structure can fail, causing potholes to form. Public Works knows that conducting crack sealing can help keep water out, preventing more costly repairs in the future.

Crack sealing is not only relatively inexpensive in material cost, but is one of the most relied-upon and most environmentally-friendly methods of road maintenance available.

How the process works is, first, a crack is blown clear of dust and debris, then the blocks of crack-sealing solution are heated in mobile furnaces. The newly-liquified solution is applied directly to cracks up to an inch wide. The solution then fills the crack and hardens, sealing off the base layer of road from moisture.

Crack sealing is best performed when the weather is cool and dry, so staff are now identifying which roads are in need of treatment. Once roads have been treated, they can be driven on almost immediately with no need for a road closure. However, drivers should slow down and pay attention when crack seal operations are underway.



OUR VISION

Columbia is the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.

OUR MISSION

To serve the public equitably 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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