

— City Stats —

Go COMO 10 new stops

- North Garth Ave. at Oak Towers Apartments
- Business Loop 70 West at North Garth Ave.
- North Garth Ave. at Austin Ave.
- Business Loop 70 West at Rusk Rehabilitation Hospital
- Business Loop 70 West at Parkade Boulevard
- Business Loop 70 West at Parkade Plaza



- West Sexton Rd. at Business Loop 70 West
- West Sexton Rd. at Mikel St.
- West Sexton Rd. at Jefferson St.
- West Sexton Rd. at Oak St.

Go COMO 2022
43,321
riders per month



Go COMO buses to visit Parkade Plaza on the Business Loop



Download the Go COMO app to access real-time bus tracking right from your smart phone.

On Monday, Aug. 1, Go COMO transit buses added 10 new stops along the gold route, giving riders access to more of what makes Columbia a great place to live, work, learn and play.

After departing the Wabash Bus Station, the gold route will proceed to Garth Avenue, where it will then head north. After visiting these 10 new stops, it will return to its existing route on West Worley Street and head west toward Columbia Mall. After reaching the mall, it will head directly back to the Wabash Bus Station, not revisiting the Business Loop during its eastbound return trip.

Some of the important locations now served include Oak Towers Apartments, the Columbia campus of Moberly Area Community College, Rusk Rehabilitation Hospital, the Salvation Army Thrift Store, and the Family Support and Children Division. Restaurants such as Long John Silvers, Imo's Pizza and Just Jeff's are now within reach, as well as grocery options like Aldi and the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri, which will open at its new location in 2023.

In order to maintain a route time of 45 minutes, the gold route will unfortunately no longer be able to serve the Walmart Supercenter area on West Broadway. Riders who wish to visit this location must use the red route, which will continue to provide service to the West Broadway Walmart area after Aug. 1.

The red route will also be altered slightly beginning Aug. 1 to travel along West Worley Street instead of West Ash Street. This small alteration will allow the red route to pick up two stops formerly serviced by the gold route: West Worley Street at Park De Ville Drive, and West Worley Street at Basin Drive.

To review the changes being made to the gold and red routes, visit the redesigned and improved Go COMO website, GoCOMOTransit.com, or check the Go COMO app.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

GoCoMoJobs.com



573.874.CITY (2489)
TTY (MoRelay) 711



City of Columbia, Mo. Government



@CoMoGov

Pay As You Throw explainer for new residents



Trash and recycling should be set at the curb no earlier than 4 p.m. the day before your scheduled collection day.

As new students move in, the City of Columbia would like to remind everyone of the available options for disposing of household garbage. Cooperation with the City's Solid Waste guidelines will help us provide efficient, dependable service.

The City of Columbia uses a modified Pay As You Throw program.

Pay As You Throw means that Solid Waste provides weekly residential curbside trash service and biweekly curbside recycling service through the collection of official City-issued bags. Only official City-logoed bags will be picked up. Trash that is not in a bag will not be collected. The program is meant to encourage waste reduction.

Through the City's voucher program, customers will receive vouchers twice a year that can be exchanged for 104 black refuse bags and 54 blue recycling bags at Gerbes, Hy-Vee, Menards, Moser's, Schnucks/EatWell or City Hall. Vouchers are mailed directly to the residence in January and June.

Customers in need of additional black trash bags will have to go to one of the above outlets and purchase a roll of five bags for \$10. The \$2-per-bag fee pays for landfill costs, vehicle maintenance and worker salaries. Additional blue recycling bag vouchers can be requested through WasteZero at customerservice@wastezero.com for no additional cost.

The blue recycling bags are for rigid plastics, metal and glass containers, such as bottles, cans and tubs. Fibers, including cardboard and paper, can be bundled in a box or paper bag and left curbside. Fiber material cannot be placed inside the blue recycling bags.

Anyone who would like weekly reminders or schedule notifications can download the CoMo Recycle and Trash app.

For more information on solid waste disposal options, please visit CoMo.gov/utilities/solidwaste/.

Thinking of going solar?

As more Columbia residents opt for the benefits that come from solar power, you might be considering putting panels on your roof as well. By switching to this clean energy source, you can significantly reduce your household electric bills.

If you are thinking of adding solar to your home or business, City of Columbia Water & Light is here to help.

Water & Light provides rebates 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 ColumbiaPowerPartners.com.

Water & Light also arranges low-interest loans for solar installations. Loans for up to \$15,000 dollars are available for residential customers and \$30,000 for commercial properties, with interest rates as low as 1%.

Additionally, in 2022, the federal government will grant a tax credit for 26% of your costs associated with solar power.

If you are interested, Columbia Water & Light maintains a list of approved solar contractors who are familiar with the rebates and loans offered by Water & 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 for more information on going solar and for a list of the approved solar contractors.



Water & Light offers up to \$15,000 loans to residential electric customers toward the installation of solar panels.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Regina Morgan

Five years ago, Regina Morgan was looking for a new job. A friend of hers who worked for the City of Columbia, mentioned to her that Go COMO, the City's public transit system, was looking for new bus drivers.

Regina applied and got the job.

After completing her CDL training, Regina started on the Tiger Line as a part-time campus driver. She quickly moved up into a lead driver position.

With the new, full-time position came increased responsibilities, and Regina thrived – dispatching drivers, handling their questions and concerns, and training new hires as they earned their own CDLs.

"When someone asks about my job, I feel a real sense of pride in saying I'm a City worker," Regina said.

Now Regina is a Safety Supervisor at Go COMO. Her responsibilities include making sure that all of the City's transit drivers get the proper amount of training throughout the year, leading training sessions, and writing the agency's safety plan.

Regina finds a real sense of purpose in her work, and that's because she loves interacting with and meeting new people.

"I have fun at my job. Love what I do. My absolute favorite thing about this job is all the people that I've met. Being there to help them, giving them good customer service, getting them to work on time."

Expiration date extended for some at-home COVID tests

If you have at-home COVID-19 tests with an upcoming expiration date, don't throw them out yet. Many tests have had their expiration date extended.

The FDA typically authorizes at-home COVID-19 tests with a shelf-life of about four to six months from the day the test was manufactured, based on initial study results. As additional data is collected, tests can have their expiration date extended.

To check if the expiration dates on your tests have been extended, visit [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov) and search "home otc covid-19 diagnostic tests."

The FDA does not recommend using at-home COVID tests when they reach the expiration date if the date has not been extended.

Free at-home COVID tests are still available to order by visiting [Covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests).

Boone County residents can report positive at-home COVID tests by visiting [CoMo.gov/coronavirus/positive-covid-19-tests](https://www.como.gov/coronavirus/positive-covid-19-tests).

If you test positive and have questions about what to do next, you can call 573.874.6337 to speak to a Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services staff member in English or Spanish.

Parks and Recreation events

For more information, please visit [CoMo.gov/ParksandRec](https://www.como.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).

September 2022

- 1 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Darkroom Records Teen Band Showcase, 7 p.m., Free
- 6 Pooch Plunge, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m., \$5 per dog, must pre-register
- 9 Movies in the Park: *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, Cosmo Park, 7:45 p.m., Free
- 14 Food Truck Roundup, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.
- 17-44th Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show, Nifong Park, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Free
- 18
- 21 Family Fun Fest: Creative Kids, Albert-Oakland Park, 6-8 p.m., Free
- 24 Bike Safety Rodeo, Northeast Event Center, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Free

Board and commission vacancies

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

- City of Columbia New Century Fund Inc. Board
- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Marijuana Facility License Review Board
- Personnel Advisory Board

The application deadline is Friday, Sept. 2, at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.como.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Sophia & Tobias White – Volunteers of the Month



Thank you Sophia and Tobias White for your dedicated service to the City of Columbia. Your hard work and volunteer hours are much appreciated!

Siblings Sophia and Tobias White, our August Volunteers of the Month, have been active with Youth in Action, a summer volunteer program for young people 12-15 years of age. The Whites have combined over 100 hours of volunteering. Tobias and Sophia started volunteering after watching their parents get involved in the community.

Sophia has volunteered with the City for four years. Even though she has aged out of Youth in Action, Sophia is still finding ways to help serve her community. Sophia's favorite event is Family Fun Fest. She says volunteering is fun and helps you gain experience.

Tobias started volunteering with Youth In Action last year and has dedicated himself to serving the community in many ways. Tobias' favorite opportunity has been Household Hazardous Waste. He says it is a fun and interactive experience. Tobias wants to encourage others to volunteer, he says, "Give it a try. Do something that sounds fun, and go from there!"

The Whites are also active in 4-H, America's largest youth development organization, with Sophia serving as Boone County Junior Council President; Tobias is active with Scouts. Both 4-H and Scouts have given them great connections to volunteer service.

Thank you Sophia and Tobias for the hours and hard work you have put into our City! To find out how you can volunteer with the City of Columbia, visit CoMo.gov.

Keeping waters clean is a community responsibility

Our creeks and streams are extremely valuable to Columbia, which is why protecting this resource is a top priority of the City's Stormwater Utility.

The Environmental Protection Agency has regulations to protect our streams, lakes and rivers; the Stormwater Utility is doing its part to protect our local watersheds. The City of Columbia, Boone County and the University of Missouri are joint caretakers of an MS4 permit. MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, which means that all stormwater runoff flows directly into our waterways without treatment. We are implementing programs, practices and goals for addressing stormwater quality and improving the environment.

Here are some steps you can take to help protect our local watersheds:

- Take toxic household chemicals to a household hazardous waste collection event.
- Do not pour chemicals down storm inlets or on the ground.
- Properly dispose of trash in the garbage or recycling. Pick up litter so it doesn't end up in the storm drain.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers on your lawn. More is NOT better, use chemicals as directed. Consider using organic or slow-release fertilizers instead.
- Use native plants that require little to no watering.
- Pick up after your dog and dispose of the waste in the trash.
- Report stormwater pollution or dumping of pollutants by calling 573.445.9427 or through our online form at CoMo.gov.



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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CITY OF COLUMBIA

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