

## Celebration of the Arts

Join the Office of Cultural Affairs for the 2022 Celebration of the Arts on Wednesday, Aug. 31, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Jesse Auditorium hosted by Lili Vianello and John Shrum.

This annual event raises money for the Columbia Arts Fund, an endowment fund created by the City of Columbia in 2012 to provide perpetual support for our local arts organizations. Each year, distributions from the fund are combined with City funds and awarded to local arts and culture organizations in dance, theater, literature, film, music and visual arts.

Growing the Columbia Arts Fund means more art programs and events in our community, cultivating Columbia's unique creative culture. In 2022, so far 24 organizations received funds to support their programming. The event also honors the efforts made by our vibrant arts community by unveiling the annual commemorative poster and paying tribute to an individual who has made significant contributions to the arts through their work with a city-funded nonprofit arts organization. Tickets are available to purchase online at CoMo.gov/Arts.

# Exchange your old window air conditioner and save

Since 2007, City of Columbia Water & Light's window air conditioner exchange has helped to reduce summer electric bills for low- and moderate-income families. Water & Light is proud to continue its partnership with the Voluntary Action Center and Boone Electric Cooperative, so income-qualified customers can replace their inefficient window air conditioners at no cost. The window air conditioner exchange runs through Sept. 1, while supplies last.

Interested Water & Light customers should contact the Voluntary Action Center at 573.874.2273 to confirm eligibility and availability before scheduling an appointment. Appointments are available on Thursdays only. Customers can drop off their old unit and pick up their new air conditioner at 403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia.

#### Below are the eligibility requirements for the Air Conditioner Exchange program:

- Be a current Columbia Water & Light electric or Boone Electric customer.
- Have an annual income of less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Participants in the 2021 program are not eligible in 2022.

#### Interested residents must bring in the following items to participate:

- A current electric utility bill for your address faxed to VAC's office (573.874.9172).
- An inefficient window air conditioner to exchange.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

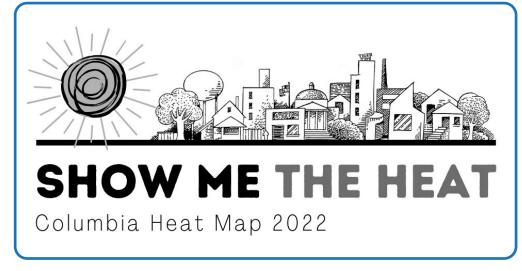






GoCoMoJobs.com

# City seeks volunteers to help create heat map



The Office of Sustainability and our partners are coordinating a one-day community science project called Show Me the Heat to collect data on how heat is distributed across Columbia.

Volunteers are needed in early August to collect ground temperature and relative humidity data (stipends for gas and time will be provided). This project is a first step to tackling urban heat by identifying the hottest neighborhoods in Columbia.

According to the National Weather Service, on average, heat kills more people than any other weather phenomena.

Additionally, climate change is making it hotter and wetter in the Midwest increasing our exposure to heat-related illness.

The City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan contains actions to reduce municipal and community carbon emissions. The plan also directs City staff to help the community adapt to our already changing climate.

To learn more about this project and to fill out our volunteer interest form, visit Show Me the Heat at CoMoClimateAction.Org.

### Columbia Sewer Utility completes extension project along Route B

In May, the City of Columbia Sewer Utility completed a sewer extension project designed to increase demand capacity for the industrial corridor along Route B.

Spurred by the City's agreement with Swift Prepared Foods to build an Italian meats and charcuterie production facility on Paris Road, the Route B Economic Development Sewer Extension project included the construction of more than 2,150 linear feet of gravity sewer main to serve properties along the eastern side of Route B.

Swift Prepared Foods will employ about 250 people at its approximately 275,000-square-foot facility. As part of Swift's agreement to build in Columbia, the company received assurances from the City that all necessary public infrastructure would be available to support the facility's development.

A sewer line exists along the western boundary of Paris Road, but it was determined that the line does not have the capacity to meet the sewer demands for the Swift development. Swift granted a sewer easement so that a public service line could be extended to a larger sewer collection main near Hinkson Creek.

Over the course of five months, crews worked from the 36-inch collection main at Hinkson Creek toward the Swift facility site. Crews installed a gravity main, which means the line relies on downhill flow rather than mechanical devices to move the wastewater. That meant blasting through rock and managing steep slopes to get the pipes in place.

By the end of May, crews had completed the nearly half-mile connection. Most of the project used 10-inch PVC pipe, though iron pipes were required where the main crossed under roads and lock-joint pipes were used on steeper grades.

These upgrades will also provide increased sewer capacity to existing residential and industrial customers while allowing for additional growth in the area.

# 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:

- Board of Health
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Tax Increment Financing Commission

The application deadline is Friday, August 5, at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at **CoMo.gov.** Call 573.874.7208 for more information.



## Columbia Police welcome two new K-9s





Officer Nate Turner pictured with Marek, a Dutch shepherd.

Officer Tyler Miles pictured with Koda, a Belgian Malinois.

Two new K-9s will soon be hitting the streets to support the Columbia Police Department in their mission of keeping the community safe.

K-9s Marek, a Dutch shepherd, and Koda, a Belgian Malinois, are currently completing their 12-week training course before they'll be ready to officially join their handlers, Officers Nate Turner and Tyler Miles.

Once trained, Marek and Koda will be able to assist the Department in identifying narcotics, locating suspects, and searching buildings and areas of interest.

"Our K-9s are one of the Department's biggest assets," said Officer Jamie Dowler, who trains the Department's K-9s. "Almost all of our tools are single purpose, whereas a K-9 can operate in so many varying capacities. They're also the only tool we have that suspects are unable to take and use against us, as they could do with a gun or pepper spray, for example."

Dowler said that Marek and Koda should be finished with their training by the beginning of August. The training doesn't end there, however, with all Department K-9s engaging in weekly training to ensure they're always ready to aid in protecting the community.

The Department has the capacity for four K-9s and currently serving are K-9s Gorrit and Nero. Marek and Koda will be replacing K-9s Kane and Duncan, both of whom have retired within the last two years.

## Vision Commission seeks feedback on strategic plan

The City of Columbia Vision Commission is seeking public feedback on its strategic plan. Residents can visit **BeHeard.CoMo.gov** and provide input by completing surveys covering the City's five strategic priorities:

1.) Organizational Excellence 2.) Safe Neighborhoods 3.) Reliable Infrastructure 4.) Inclusive Community 5.) Resilient Economy

The Vision Commission will use the responses to create a report. It will share the report with City Council. Your feedback will guide the City in its work to improve our community in a way that's meaningful for all of Columbia's residents and visitors.

## Parks and Recreation events

For more information, please visit **CoMo.gov/ParksandRec** or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at **Facebook.com/ParksandRec**.

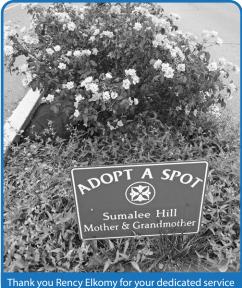
#### August 2022

DID YOU 7	
27	Kaleidospoke, Flat Branch Park to Twin Lakes Rec Area, 7-10:30 p.m., \$18
24	Food Truck Roundups, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.
20	Indian Hills Block Party, Indian Hills Park, noon-2 p.m., Free
17	Family Fun Fest: Be Prepared, Albert-Oakland Park, 6-8 p.m., Free
12	Movies in the Park, "Jungle Cruise," Cosmo Park, 8:30 p.m., Free
10	Food Truck Roundups, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.
7	Coolin' Down with the Blues, Douglass Park, 4-7 p.m., Free
6	DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-6 p.m., Free
4	August Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Being Bilingual Rocks with Alina and Hamlet, 6:30 p.m., Free

This month, Family Fun Fest focuses on ways that kids and their families can take care of community, nature and themselves in unexpected situations.

NIUVV

## Rency Elkomy – July Volunteer of the Month



to the City of Columbia and our Adopt-A-Spot Beautification program.

Rency Elkomy is one of Columbia's Adopt-A-Spot Beautification volunteers.

She has been with the program since September 2015 and cares for the median in Green Meadows Road just east of Providence Road.

Rency has had a life-long passion for gardening. This passion developed from helping her mom out in the garden as a kid. She has lived in Columbia since 1988. She puts an Adopt-A-Spot sign wherever she gardens. Both of her signs have her parents' names on them.

"My mom's sign represents my love for gardening," Rency said. "My dad's sign represents how he served our country in the U.S. Army for 20 years during times of peace and war."

Her parents have been role models in gardening and serving our community; they are a reason why she is an adopter.

Elkomy loves being able to share the beauty of flowers with the citizens of Columbia and any visitors.

Thank you Rency for your service! To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit **CoMo.gov** or call 573.874.7499.

### Going on vacation? Make sure to park in your driveway



Please help street crews by not parking in the street while you're out of town.

If you're going on vacation this summer, please help street crews by not parking in the street while you're out of town. While Public Works does its best to notify residents when a street maintenance project is planned, often those notifications (usually signs staked into the ground) come only one week in advance. If you're away from your home for longer than a week, it's possible that you might not receive that notification.

According to City ordinance 14-548, no vehicle is allowed to park in the same place on any Columbia street for a period of longer than 24 hours. A street maintenance project could require the street to be cleared of vehicles at any time. Public Works crews never like having to tow a vehicle, but if crews need to resurface a road and a vehicle is parked on that road, they may have no other options.

The easiest way to prevent crews from having to decide whether to tow your car or postpone the project is to keep your car parked in your driveway and off the street if you're away from home for an extended period of time. Public Works sincerely appreciates your cooperation and hopes that everyone has a fantastic summer.



**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.

#### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

MAYOR Barbara Buffaloe 573.874.7222 mayor@CoMo.gov

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#### **CITY OF COLUMBIA**

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Cover photo: A beautiful view from Cosmo-Bethel Park, a 40-acre green space with a fishing pond and trail, plus a playground, tennis courts and picnic shelters.