

— City Stats —

Winter 2021-22

50
snow
plow
drivers



27 active, City-owned
snow plowing vehicles



8 winter
weather
events

24.3 inches
of cumulative snowfall



City snow plow drivers ready for winter weather

Just prior to Thanksgiving, City of Columbia Public Works snow plow crews gathered at the Grissum Building to prepare for winter by reviewing safety protocols, watching videos on the different types of plowing techniques and checking to see if there have been any changes on their snow plowing routes.

Plow crews then took part in the annual dry snow run, simulating a response to a real snowstorm by driving plows around the City along their assigned routes.

Have you, too, made the necessary preparations for driving in wintry conditions? Ensuring that your tires are full of air and have good tread, getting a timely oil change and packing your car with emergency winter weather supplies such as blankets, a jump starter, a shovel, snacks and a flashlight are steps everyone can take to be safe in winter weather.

You can also help the City's snow plow crews keep the streets clear during winter weather events. Having the streets free from parked cars allows the snow plow drivers the space they need to do their work quickly, efficiently and safely.

Whenever snow accumulates more than 2 inches and any vehicle parked on a designated snow route must be moved off of the roadway. Not doing so can risk drivers a fine of \$100, in addition to possible towing and storage charges. Motorists can sign up to receive alerts via text, email or phone calls whenever snow accumulation reaches 2 inches.

Sign up today for priority road 'no parking' alerts at Alerts.CoMo.gov, where you can also receive other critical alerts about bus service delays, boil orders and emergency notifications. To learn more, visit CoMo.gov and search "como snow."



Streets Maintenance Superintendent Sam Thomas advises his snow plow drivers to always put safety first.



A City employee works to clear sidewalks adjacent to downtown parking garages during a large winter storm in February 2022.

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Art at new COU terminal

The new airport terminal at COU is a designated Percent for Art project. One percent of the total budget of the new construction is set aside for site-specific public art. For the new terminal, the Percent for Art project was split into two artist calls – one regional, and one nationwide. In addition to Percent for Art, several other artworks are on display at the new airport terminal.



One of the ovals featured in Chris Morrey's *Returning*.

Returning – Chris Morrey
(Columbia, MO)

A pair of large oval rings display different, detailed shapes and surfaces and contrasting colors. The complex shapes of each ring are reminiscent of planets, suns and other celestial bodies, with curved radiating extensions from a central circle.



Columbia Crossing by David Griggs.

Columbia Crossing – David Griggs
(Denver, CO)

The sculpture hangs over the lobby area, with a colorful palette and inferred motion that welcomes visitors to Columbia. Hand-painted images on the sculpture's glass are specific to the land and legacy of Columbia and Boone County.



Artist Jane Mudd with her mural *Missouri River*.

Missouri River – Jane Mudd
(Fulton, MO)

In addition to the Percent for Art project, an interior mural project, created by regional artist Jane Mudd, has been installed on the north wall next to the ticketing counter. The mural highlights a landmark in the area and can be experienced both up close and from afar.

Additional art at COU

Columbia's Aviation History – Boone County Historical Society's Woods Badger Aviation Collection.

Columbia's aviation history has been incorporated into the interior design of the airport with photographs from the Boone County Historical Society's Woods Badger Aviation Collection.

Stephens College Aviation Department Beam

This steel beam once sat as part of the Columbia Municipal Airport, originally located on Business Loop 70 West from 1941 to 1960.

To learn more about the new airport terminal, visit [FlyCOU.com](https://flycou.com).

How to combat cold weather throughout the winter season

BE AWARE—know the signs of potentially dangerous cold-weather illnesses.

Hypothermia: One of the biggest dangers from working in the cold can be the hardest to detect. Hypothermia happens when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Mild hypothermia can make a person confused, and they may not think anything is wrong until it is too late. Early symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, drowsiness, clumsiness and confusion. As the body loses more heat, the shivering may stop, the skin may turn blue, pupils of the eye may expand and pulse, breathing may slow and the person may pass out.

Frostbite: Many parts of the body are prone to frostbite, including fingers, toes, the nose and ears. Frostbite happens when a part of the body freezes, which can damage tissue. Frostbite warning signs include numbness, tingling, stinging or pain where the skin is exposed.

BE PREPARED—proper clothing and safety precautions can help prevent cold weather dangers.

- Avoid being outside in the cold weather unless necessary.
- Wear several layers of loose clothing; layering provides better insulation.
- Wear gloves and a hat or hood.
- If it's wet outside, shoes should be waterproof and have good traction.
- Make sure that cold-weather gear does not restrict movement or block eyesight.

Check on loved ones during low temperatures, especially those who may not be able to heat their home appropriately. The City of Columbia has partnered with Room at the Inn to provide overnight shelter at the Ashley Street Center, 1509 Ashley St.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Rich Wiemann



Helping others has always mattered to Rich.

A mid-Missouri native, Rich moved to Washington D.C. in 2003 to earn his master's degree and teach special education.

After years of teaching, Rich decided to shift to a career in information technology (IT). In 2017, he moved back to Columbia and in 2021 took a job at the City of Columbia's IT help desk.

"It's important to me to serve the community I live in," Rich said.

Rich is currently the City's IT infrastructure manager, a position he's held for a year. Every morning, he comes into City Hall early to check all of the City's security alerts.

"From the infrastructure side, we're always looking for vulnerabilities and security risks," Rich said. "We have to go through a list every day to make sure we have the right software in place to prevent IT issues or security breaches."

Rich's work supports a wide variety of City departments and services, such as the storing of finance and health records, and the monitoring of the networks at City Hall, the new airport terminal and the north police precinct. The City's IT infrastructure will also play an important role when Columbia hosts the NCAA Cross Country National Championships in 2025.

Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health accepting nominations for awards

The Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health is accepting award nominations to recognize members of the community who have made significant contributions or improvements in areas of fitness and health.

Nominations are open for all Boone County residents. Award winners will be recognized at a ceremony in spring 2023 and receive a plaque.

Categories for nomination include:

- Weight loss/management
- Mentorship
- Volunteerism
- Fitness
- Tobacco cessation
- Mental health/behavioral

Paper nominations can be completed and turned in at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), 1701 W. Ash St. by March 1.

The Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health is a City Council-appointed board that promotes and educates the public on the importance of physical activity and recognizes outstanding developments, contributions and achievements in physical fitness.

For more information on the awards program, contact Christopher Hawf, council on physical fitness and health vice chair, via Tammy Miller at Parks and Recreation, 573.874.7460.

Parks and Recreation events

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

February 2023

8 Black History Month Film, Pride, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free

18 Stonegrinder 7K Trail Run, Capen Park/Grindstone Nature Area, 9 a.m., ages 12 and up, \$35, must pre-register

26 Boy/Girl Scout Day, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., pre-register, \$4 per child

26 Black History Month: Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner, St. Luke UMC, 4-7 p.m., Free

Sidewalk snow removal

When it snows, having a clear sidewalk can be very helpful to those on foot who may be walking to school or work or delivering mail or meals.

It is the responsibility of property owners and occupants to keep sidewalks clear. Chapter 24 of City Ordinance requires property owners or occupants to keep sidewalks, "clear and free from rubbish, filth, refuse, dirt, snow, ice and from any and all obstructions and dangerous agencies of every kind and description whatsoever."

The City's Community Development department is continuing to enforce these ordinances. Property owners who do not comply are subject to prosecution in municipal court.

Snow removal can be tricky, so remember to have a shovel handy and a removal plan in place. Don't wait until it's done snowing to begin shoveling, and take breaks when necessary.

Thanks for keeping our sidewalks clean for the benefit of all Columbia residents who use them.

Space heater safety tips



When using a space heater, avoid using surge protectors, extension cords and plug timers. Don't plug another electrical device into the same outlet as the heater.

Using portable space heaters to supplement your home's central heating system is an effective way to stay warm during the winter time without generating an expensive utility bill.

The typical space heater draws an electrical current that is well within the limits for safe use inside the home.

However, space heaters are a potential safety hazard. They account for an average of 1,700 house fires nationwide every year according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The majority of home heating fires occur during the winter months.

There are measures you can take to assure that you stay warm and safe this winter.

- Leave your space heater on the floor—preferably on a hard, non-flammable surface.
- Follow the “3-foot rule.” That means avoid placing your space heater within 3 feet of small children, pets, and anything flammable, including curtains, papers, furniture, pillows and bedding.
- When a space heater is turned on, never leave it alone in a room.
- Avoid using surge protectors, extension cords and plug timers.
- Don't plug another electrical device into the same outlet as the heater.

An important component of safe space heater usage begins at the time of purchase. Look for the following features when shopping for a space heater:

- Make sure the heater you buy has a safety certification label from a testing organization.
- Some space heaters have smart sensors that will shut off the heater when it becomes too hot.
- Buy a space heater that has a long, sturdy cord.

Rental energy efficiency feedback requested

The City of Columbia is committed to improving the energy efficiency of rental housing properties. We are looking for feedback from renters, rental property owners/managers and other stakeholders to help identify the benefits and costs of improving energy efficiency in rental housing. Please visit BeHeard.CoMo.gov for a link to a questionnaire and to learn more.

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:

- Commission on Human Rights
- Public Transit Advisory Commission
- University of Missouri Extension Council of Boone County

Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 3, at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at CoMo.gov. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.



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

WARD 1

Pat Fowler
573.256.6841
Ward1@CoMo.gov

WARD 2

Andrea Waner
573.321.9219
Ward2@CoMo.gov

WARD 3

Roy Lovelady
573.810.1965
Ward3@CoMo.gov

WARD 4

Nick Foster
205.420.8102
Ward4@CoMo.gov

WARD 5

Matt Pitzer
573.823.7037
Ward5@CoMo.gov

WARD 6

Betsy Peters
573.874.7812
Ward6@CoMo.gov

CITY MANAGER

De'Carlton Seewood
573.874.7214
CMO@CoMo.gov



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CONTACT CENTER
573-874-CITY
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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CITY OF COLUMBIA

701 E. Broadway • P.O. Box 6015
Columbia, Missouri 65205
573.874.CITY (2489) • CoMo.gov



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