

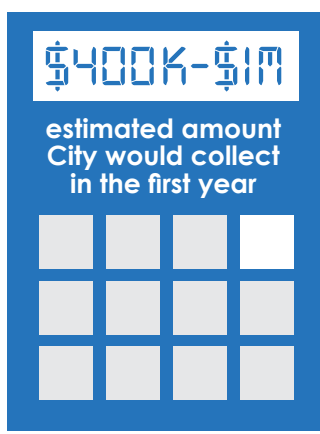


— City Stats —

Proposition 1

Ballot Language

Shall the municipality of
Columbia, Missouri
impose an additional
sales tax of three percent
(3%) on the retail sale of
adult use marijuana?



Recreational marijuana sales tax on the April ballot

On Tuesday, April 4, Columbia voters will be asked to decide whether the City should implement an additional 3% sales tax on marijuana purchased for recreational (adult) use.

At its Jan. 17 meeting, City Council voted unanimously to put a recreational marijuana sales tax question, named Prop 1, on the April 4 ballot.

Council's decision comes off the heels of Missouri voters approving Amendment 3 during the statewide election of November 2022, which made the use and sale of recreational marijuana legal in Missouri for adults of over the age of 21.

As part of Amendment 3, an additional 6% statewide sales tax was placed on purchases of recreational marijuana and local governments were authorized to add an additional 3% sales tax.

If voters approve of the Prop 1 ballot measure, the tax would go into effect Oct. 1, 2023. The additional sales tax would not apply to marijuana purchases made for medical purposes using a medical marijuana ID card or caregiver ID card.

It is estimated that the City would collect between approximately \$400,000 and \$1 million in the first year of the tax.

The funds collected from the recreational marijuana sales tax could be allocated toward public safety, public health and social service initiatives.

Currently, more than 100 Missouri municipalities have put a recreational marijuana sales tax question on the April ballot, including Kansas City, Joplin and Jefferson City. Locally, Boone County has its own recreational marijuana sales tax on the April ballot, as do several municipalities within the county, including Centralia, Sturgeon, Hallsville and Ashland.

To learn more, visit CoMo.gov/prop1.

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

MARIJUANA TAX PROP 1

APRIL 4, 2023 · COLUMBIA, MO

JOIN OUR TEAM!

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Public Works hears traffic safety feedback from unsheltered persons



City of Columbia employees distributed high visibility backpacks to members of the public who attended Project Homeless Connect.

Representatives from the City of Columbia Public Works department attended Project Homeless Connect, an event organized twice annually by the Boone County Coalition to End Homelessness (BCCEH). At the event, which took place Thursday, Jan. 26, Public Works provided BCCEH with high visibility backpacks, which were used to package and distribute items that were donated by members of the public.

The backpacks, which have light-reflecting elements, are part of Public Works' Vision Zero initiative, a campaign to reduce fatalities due to automobile crashes.

Project Homeless Connect gave Public Works a chance to interact with and gather crucial information directly from a population that, based on analysis, may be overrepresented in pedestrian crashes.

Three Public Works employees and an employee from the City's Office of Community Development were on hand to survey attendees about pedestrian safety issues they have experienced in Columbia.

Public Works staff will assess the survey data gathered to help determine locations that can be analyzed further for potential improvements to make walking, biking and accessing transit services safer.

Project Homeless Connect provides a way for people experiencing homelessness to obtain haircuts, access health and veterinary services, obtain lunch and many other services.

For more information on how to help, visit [BCCEH.org/project-homeless-connect](https://bcceh.org/project-homeless-connect).



City employees were on hand to survey attendees about pedestrian safety issues they have experienced in Columbia.

ARPA fund allocation update

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a federal aid package that provides funding to families, governments, businesses, schools, nonprofits and others impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA funding is intended to build a bridge toward economic improvement and provide vital support to communities in crisis.

The City of Columbia will receive a total of \$25.2 million of ARPA funds in two tranches to address the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Columbia City Council previously identified four areas it would like to prioritize with the first half of the funding (\$12.6 million): homelessness, community violence, workforce development, and behavioral health crisis care and mental health services.

City Council asked Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) to gather community feedback on priorities for the second half. The community identified affordable housing, access to services, workforce support and access to mental health services.

The process for ARPA proposals is similar to other funding processes in Boone County. First, organizations are asked to provide a letter of intent (LOI), submitted through ResourceX. LOIs are then reviewed by an internal group and scored. Organizations with the highest scores are then asked to submit full proposals.

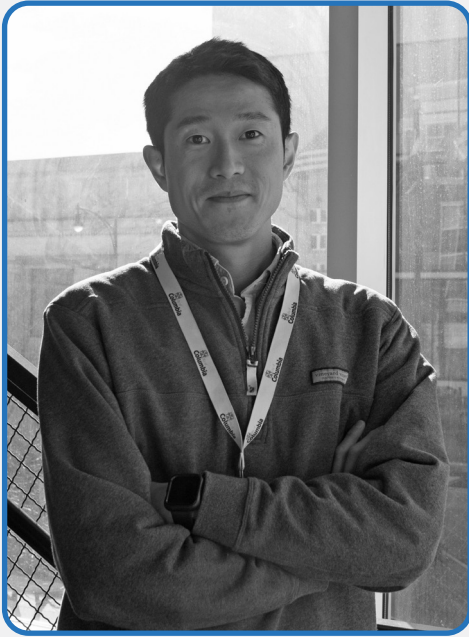
Proposals are scored on ARPA priority alignment: demonstration of need, efficiency, equity impact, outcome measurement and sustainability.

These proposals are submitted through Apricot, a digital social solutions platform, scored by an external group and presented to City Council for approval before contracts are written and funding is disbursed. The letter of intent process has opened and closed for access to mental health services, homelessness, community violence, and workforce development. There will be an opening for access to services and affordable housing soon.

For more information, instructions on how to apply for funding, and access to the City's Open Finance Portal, visit BeHeard.CoMo.gov/arpa

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Hong Pang



Hong discovered he had a talent and passion for design at a very young age. In kindergarten, he began teaching himself the elements of design and how to create graphics.

Hong began his career in interior design, but soon realized that graphic design, particularly in relation to advertising and branding, was his true calling.

He went on to earn a master's degree in marketing and accepted a job with the City of Columbia as a graphic artist.

Hong designs logos, flyers, reports, motion graphics and much more. His designs play an important role in engaging residents and ensuring that the City's branding echoes its strategic plan.

In just one year with the City, staff have come to know Hong for his artistic talent and positive attitude. Hong likes working for the City because of the work-life balance it offers. He enjoys his work and the people with whom he works, and also enjoys having time for his favorite activities, such as running, hiking, reading, volunteering at his church and, most importantly, spending time with his son.

"I am lucky to work for an organization that values diverse cultures and the quality of life of its employees," Hong said. "The City of Columbia is an awesome place for me to learn, serve and improve my community."

Parks and Recreation plans Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza

Columbia Parks and Recreation is planning two separate Easter activities for Saturday, April 8, at two parks as part of the department's annual Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza.

The free event will take place at both Douglass Park, from noon-1:15 p.m. (egg hunt at 12:45 p.m.), and Indian Hills Park, from 3-4:15 p.m. (egg hunt at 3:45 p.m.). Each event will feature three separate hunts in different areas designated by age. Kids can also enjoy other activities such as coloring, face painting and games. Please call Parks and Recreation at 573.817.5077 if you or your organization would like to volunteer by hosting a game or activity.

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 Adjustment
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Planning and Zoning Commission

Application deadline is Friday, April 7, at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia-mo.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Parks and Recreation events

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

April 2023

- 1 Kite Flying Day, Douglass Park, noon-2 p.m., free
- 8 Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza, Douglass Park from noon-1:15 p.m., Indian Hills Park from 3-4:15 p.m., free
- 12 Park Pop Up and Play Day, Auburn Hill Park, 4 p.m., free
- 22 Columbia Youth Intro Track and Field, Hickman HS Track, 9 a.m. check-in, \$10

Community Development Needs Survey

The City of Columbia expects to receive approximately \$1.6 million for fiscal year 2024 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for projects that provide affordable housing and expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.

In order to best determine how to allocate those funds, we are seeking your help in identifying affordable housing and community development needs within the community.

Columbia residents are invited to complete the Community Development Needs Survey on [BeHeard.CoMo.gov](https://www.beheard.como.gov).

This anonymous survey will remain open through May 10, 2023.

You may skip whichever questions you prefer not to answer. Additionally, you can change the language in which the survey is presented on your screen by using the Google Translate feature on the top left corner of the page.

Cleanup Columbia – The Power of Yes!



Volunteers who register to participate in Cleanup Columbia will work with the City's Volunteer Program staff to pick up litter along a street, stream, trail or in a City park.

Cleanup Columbia, our annual, city-wide litter pick up event, returns in April! Volunteers can choose the date, time and location to help pick up litter throughout our City. When residents say "Yes!" to volunteering with Cleanup Columbia, they help care for our environment, spend quality time with family or friends, and get physically active. Volunteering unlocks the power of yes!

Volunteers who register to participate will work with the City's Volunteer Program

staff to pick up litter along a street, stream, trail or in a City park. You pick the date and time, and we will provide you with a location assignment, bags, gloves, vests (if needed) and arrange to have your filled bags picked up! Cleanup Columbia focuses on April, but volunteer litter pick-up can be arranged year round.

Register for Cleanup Columbia online at CoMo.gov/volunteer. For more information, contact us at volunteer@CoMo.gov or 573.874.7499.

Meet Tony, the Columbia Fire Department's new arson dog

The Columbia Fire Department's new arson dog, Tony, showed his skills to Columbia residents at a demonstration Friday, Feb. 3.

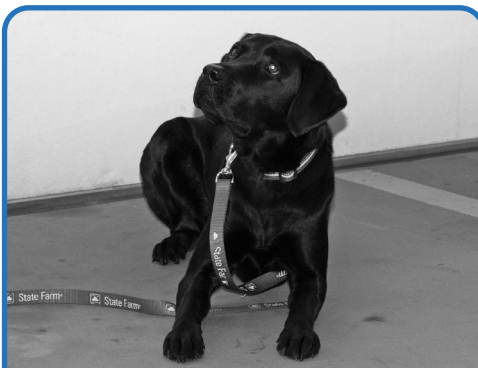
Arson dogs like Tony are trained to detect small amounts of accelerants, such as gasoline and lighter fluid. These dogs help public safety officials solve crimes, get arsonists off the street and keep people safe.

"Investigating fires is a difficult – sometimes back-breaking, hot, sweaty, humid, dirty – job," Columbia Fire Chief Clayton Farr Jr. said. "Sometimes, unlike your favorite crime shows, we miss clues, or those clues can be damaged by the fire or by our firefighting efforts. That's where Tony comes in."

Tony's sense of smell is believed to be 10,000 times stronger than that of a human. He can detect and discriminate 60 different types of accelerants. During the demonstration, Fire Battalion Chief Jim Pasley, who is Tony's partner and handler, led Tony around six aluminum cans, one of which contained a cotton swab covered in a small amount of gasoline. Tony quickly sniffed out the can containing gasoline and sat, which is how Pasley knows Tony has detected an accelerant.

Had this happened at the scene of a real fire, Pasley would then safely package the detected items and send them to one of the various crime labs in Missouri.

Tony was part of State Farm Insurance Company's Arson Dog Program, which has provided funding for the training and acquisition of more than 434 arson dog teams in 46 states, three Canadian Provinces and Washington D.C.



Tony has been trained to detect and discriminate 60 different types of accelerants.



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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CONTACT CENTER
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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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CITY OF COLUMBIA

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