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Water & Light offers incentives for EV charger installation

City of Columbia Water & Light has taken an important step to encourage electric vehicle adoption in Columbia. Water & Light has launched a pilot rebate program to help offset some of the cost for customers who would like to install electric vehicle chargers at their residences.

Through the Utility's Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Program, residential customers can receive up to \$500 for installing a Level 2 charging station in an existing home or new residential construction or up to \$100 for the installation of 240-volt NEMA outlets in new construction houses to make the new home EV ready. Approval from the property owner is required, if applicable.

Upgrades that can be covered by the rebate include labor, building material and charging equipment. Level 2 charging is the industry standard for in-home charging stations. These Level 2 chargers will allow a customer to fully charge a vehicle in four to eight hours.

According to a U.S. Department of Energy report, as of June 2022, Missouri had 10,050 all-electric vehicles registered. Water & Light believes that incentivizing electric vehicle charging will support the adoption of electric vehicles, which will help the City of Columbia reach its climate action goals.

For more information, visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com or call 573.441.5528.



According to a U.S. Department of Energy report, as of June 2022, Missouri had 10,050 all-electric vehicles registered. Level 2 chargers are sold separately from the car, although they're often purchased at the same time. These chargers require a slightly more complicated setup, as they are plugged into a 240-volt outlet which allows charging three to seven times faster depending on the electric car and the charger.

East Walnut Street improvements taking shape



It is crucial to slow down and remain alert for lane changes, merging vehicles, and sudden traffic backups when driving through a construction zone.

Be extra mindful when you're traveling on East Walnut Street east of College Avenue over the next few months. From now through July, contractors for Public Works will be resurfacing the roadway and repairing curbs, gutters, sidewalks and driveway approaches on East Walnut Street between College Avenue and Old Highway 63.

In addition to resurfacing East Walnut Street across the 2,700-foot work zone, installation has also started on replacing 2,280 square feet of sidewalk, which includes new curb ramps and landings to meet ADA requirements. A total of 1,550 feet of curbs and gutters will also be rebuilt, providing the area with an overall improved look. Finally, new pavement markings will be painted, including new crosswalks, making East Walnut Street more safe for people walking and people biking.

Intermittent lane restrictions and road closures will be necessary as the project continues through July, weather permitting. Periodic updates on the project will continue to be available on Public Works social media pages from now until completion.



Contractors for Public Works will be resurfacing the roadway and repairing curbs, gutters, sidewalks and driveway approaches.

This project was made possible by Columbia residents who voted for the 2015 Transportation Sales Tax Ballot Initiative. Through the public process at that time, the City heard that taking care of existing facilities was an important aspect citizens wanted the City to focus on. Based on that feedback, projects to repair portions of Rangeline Street, Garth Avenue and this project along East Walnut Street were included, along with other major reconstruction and new project efforts. We appreciate the support of citizens on these critical infrastructure needs and look forward to the completion of the project.

Family Fun Fests summer schedule

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation is preparing to kick off the 2023 Family Fun Fest series. The Fests are held on the third Wednesday of the month from May through September from 6 to 8 p.m.

Family Fun Fests are free and offer music, food trucks, live performances, art activities, hands-on learning, face painting, balloon art and fun for all.

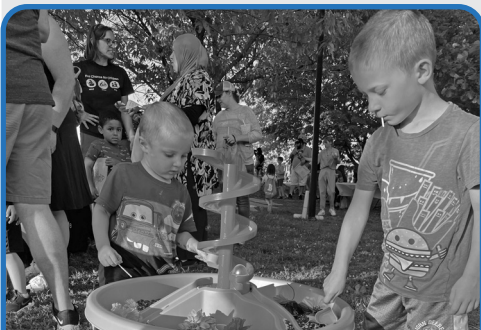
2023 dates, locations and themes:

- May 17:** *"BEE" Kind to Your Mind*, Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70 West
Featured sponsor: Burrell Behavioral Health
- June 21:** *Juneteenth Jamboree*, Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70 West
Featured sponsor: Healthy Blue
- July 19:** *Healthy Habits*, Albert-Oakland Park, 1900 Blue Ridge
Featured sponsor: Compass Health
- Aug. 16:** *Be Prepared!*, Albert-Oakland Park, 1900 Blue Ridge
Featured sponsor: Boone County Office of Emergency Management
- Sept. 20:** *Creative Kids*, Albert-Oakland Park, 1900 Blue Ridge
Featured sponsor: City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs and Missouri Arts Council

The presenting sponsor of the Family Fun Fest series is Tiger Community Credit Union. Other sponsors are the Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5, KOMU 8, ParentLink and the Columbia Missourian.



Entertainment for the entire family includes music, food trucks, live performances, art activities, hands-on learning, face painting, balloon art, and fun for all.



Children enjoy hands-on learning during a Family Fun Fest night, which are held on the third Wednesday of the month from May through September.

Water & Light earns Energy Star Award

City of Columbia Water & Light advances resource conservation through efficiency and renewable-energy initiatives while taking a community-focused approach to enhance utility performance, customer service and local economic growth.

This approach earned Water & Light the 2023 ENERGY Star Partner of the Year Award–Sustained Excellence from the Environmental Protection Agency. It is the department’s sixth straight Partner of the Year Award and the fourth straight nod for Sustained Excellence.

“Efficiency is a building block of the clean energy economy,” Utilities Services Manager Brandon Renaud said. “We look forward to building on this achievement and continuing the tradition of energy efficiency in Columbia.”

The Sustained Excellence Award is the highest honor bestowed by the ENERGY STAR program, celebrating a group that has made a long-term commitment to fighting climate change and protecting public health through energy efficiency. Applicants are evaluated based on collaboration with other utility providers, the accessibility of their programming and the extent of the “whole-house approach” being accomplished.

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program, established in 2008, offers rebates and low-interest loans to help residents achieve their energy efficiency goals. Water & Light believes that when customers have control of their energy consumption, they have more flexibility about where or how to spend their money, have less stress and have a more comfortable home.

To make efficiency accessible to all customers, Water & Light offers a free energy assessment. An employee evaluates the home’s efficiency, including attic and wall insulation levels, heating and cooling equipment age and efficiency, and window and door operation.

To request a free on-site energy assessment or phone consultation call 573.441.5528 or email Efficiency@CoMo.gov.

Severe weather safety for spring

The arrival of spring means we are heading into a severe weather season. This is the perfect time to review severe weather safety. There are several natural disasters to consider, such as lightning, flooding, tornadoes and heavy wind/hail.

In the event of a disaster, specific information would be obtained from local broadcast media. Everyone (e.g., schools, businesses, families) should have basic knowledge of severe weather safety and a plan in place. Knowing what to do or where to go when severe weather threatens can mean the difference between life and death. It is a good time for all residents to practice their severe weather safety plans. Prepare now for a sudden emergency.

Some steps to take are:

- Create an emergency plan and discuss it with family members.
- Prepare a disaster supplies kit. Assemble drinking water, food and supplies (battery-powered radio, flashlights, etc.).
- Locate hazards in your home. In an emergency, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a potential hazard.
- Know what to do and where to go if you have to evacuate.
- Prepare an emergency car kit and a fire safety plan.

For information about severe weather safety visit ShowMeBoone.com and search “severe weather.”

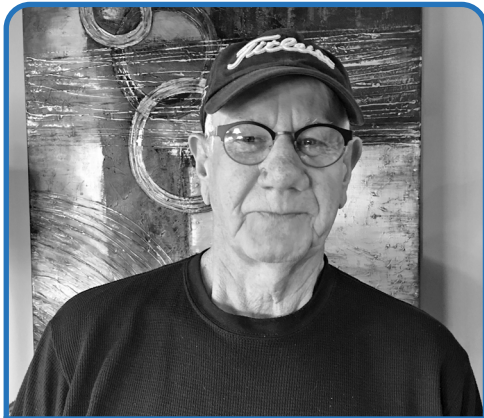
Parks and Recreation events

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.

June 2023

- 1–30 Juneteenth History Display, weekdays at the Armory, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Free
- 1 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Bobby Norfolk, 6:30 p.m., Free
- 7 Park Pop Up and Play Day, Smithton Park, 4 p.m., Free
- 7 Juneteenth PBS Film Series, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free
- 9 Movies in the Park, Moana, Cosmo Park, 8:45 p.m., Free
- 14 Food Truck Roundups, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.
- 14 Juneteenth PBS Film Series, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free
- 21 Family Fun Fest: Juneteenth Jamboree, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., Free
- 21 Juneteenth PBS Film Series, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free
- 25 DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-6 pm, Free
- 25 Juneteenth PBS Film Series, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free
- 28 Food Truck Roundups, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.

Volunteer of the Month - John Johnson



Thank you John for all your volunteer work in Columbia! It is greatly appreciated.

John began volunteering with the City of Columbia in 2016 as a Park Patrol volunteer. Quickly he became a volunteer that could be counted on with any last minute need or special project. You will often see him mixing paint at Household Hazardous Waste, directing runners at a Parks and Recreation 7K, or out in the community picking up litter.

After working for the City of Columbia for 26 years in Information Technology, John wanted to give back to his community by volunteering. He finds great joy in interacting with others and is

appreciative of the recognition provided to volunteers. When John is not volunteering you can find him enjoying retirement on his bike.

When talking with John about being our featured volunteer he said numerous times how he thought there were others more deserving, which just goes to show the heart John has. Say hello and a big thank you to John Johnson!

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact us at Volunteer@CoMo.gov or visit CoMo.gov.

Summer youth volunteering

Summer brings extra time for many young people, and the City of Columbia wants to help them make the most of it! Again this summer, the City of Columbia Volunteer Programs will offer Youth In Action, designed for those 12-15 years of age. The program includes a variety of volunteer projects and activities that are structured and supervised. Participants can select the activities that best suit their interests and schedules. There is no cost to participate and youth can serve in as many projects as they choose.

To learn more about Youth In Action, contact Volunteer@CoMo.gov or visit CoMo.gov.

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:

- Columbia and Boone County Library District Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs Standing Committee on Public Art
- Disabilities Commission
- Water & Light Advisory Board

Application deadline is Friday, June 2 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

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OUR MISSION

To serve the public equitably through democratic, transparent and efficient government.

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