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City of Columbia pledges \$250K to CMCA Weatherization Assistance Program



Homeowners such as Carla, have seen big improvements with the CMCA Weatherization Assistance Program. This program aids in creating a healthy dwelling for eligible applicants by conserving energy.

City of Columbia Utilities believes that it is fundamental that its customers have the opportunity to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes. With more affordable utilities, customers have a more comfortable home and can invest more into the local community.

In order to support that ideology, Utilities has pledged up to \$250,000 over the next five years to help fund Central Missouri Community Action's (CMCA) Weatherization Assistance Program for Columbia Water & Light electric customers.

CMCA provides assistance to income eligible households to make energy efficiency improvements. City of Columbia Utilities' five-year agreement will help ensure that qualifying households receive energy efficiency upgrades at no cost.

According to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of Energy, households that have received weatherization service are able to afford utility bills and reduce debt. A home that has been weatherized can reduce average annual fuel usage per dwelling by 35% for the typical low income home.

City of Columbia Utilities, which has offered energy efficiency programming for more than 40 years, is looking to build on its past successes by expanding access and better aligning its programs with the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan as well as national weatherization initiatives. By implementing this program, City of Columbia Utilities will reduce energy burden and improve opportunities for positive economic outcomes for all City of Columbia residents.

For eligibility information or to apply for the program, contact Central Missouri Community Action at Taylorq@CMCA.us or call 573.443.3500.

For additional rebate and loan programs that can help all Columbia residents use less energy and save money, visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com.

Don't pass the street striping trucks



A striping truck, which drives in a procession due to the time required for the paint to dry. Never attempt to pass a line of striping trucks—instead, use the next intersection to find an alternate route.

The City of Columbia Public Works department is dedicated to ensuring well-maintained roads for everyone's benefit. We have recently been able to update some of our equipment to provide better, more visible stripes. Public Works staff would like to take this opportunity to request your help in making our street striping operations a success and continue to improve the visibility of markings for our roads.

When you approach street striping vehicles from the rear, please do not attempt to pass them. Typically, these trucks drive in a procession. One of the reasons for this and the distance between

the vehicles is to allow time for the paint to dry. Passing these vehicles cannot only undermine their hard work by spreading fresh paint, but it can also pose risks to you, workers, and your vehicle and may even violate traffic regulations.

When you encounter a street striping vehicle, remember that you're in an active work zone. Take the usual precautions for work zones, such as exercising patience and maintaining a safe distance. Remember, a brief delay to your trip contributes to safer roadways.

Residents invited to share comments on the proposed FY 24 budget

The proposed FY 24 budget was introduced at the July 17 Council meeting. Residents are encouraged to learn more about the proposed budget, which will cover the time period of Oct. 1, 2023, through Sept. 30, 2024.

Community members have the opportunity to make public comments at three City Council meetings before the budget is adopted:

- Monday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 7 p.m.

The Council will vote on the proposed budget at the Monday, Sept. 18 meeting.

Copies of the City Manager's proposed budget will be available to view at City Hall, 701 E. Broadway, in the Finance Department or in the City Clerk's Office. The proposed budget is posted on [CoMo.gov](https://www.como.gov). Comments may also be left at [BeHeard.CoMo.gov](https://www.beheard.como.gov).

Reminder: Go COMO route combining begins Aug. 1



Buses will visit stops on 90-minute intervals, instead of every 45 minutes.

Starting Tuesday, Aug. 1, Go COMO's six fixed bus routes will be combined into three, ensuring that we can continue to meet the needs of our valued riders. Under route combining, just like the Saturday service that riders are already accustomed to, the blue route will merge with the gold route, the black route with the orange route, and the green route with the red route.

This decision was made after careful consideration because of the driver shortage. Go COMO staff sincerely apologizes for the difficulties that route combining will cause.

No bus stops are being removed as part of route combining. The main change is that buses will visit stops on 90-minute intervals instead of every 45 minutes.

Learn more at [GoCOMOTransit.com](https://www.gocomotransit.com).

Recycling drop off locations

The City of Columbia currently has nine convenient recycling drop off locations. A map of the current locations can be found at

[CoMo.gov/contacts/recycling-drop-off-centers/](https://www.columbia-mo.gov/contacts/recycling-drop-off-centers/)

The drop off locations are:

- Columbia College (Dulany Hall) – near 8th St. and Hickman Ave.
- Columbia College (Wightman Bldg.) – south end of Pannell St.
- Downtown (The Armory) – along Park Ave., between 7th and 8th St.
- Downtown (10th and Cherry) – south side of 10th & Cherry Parking Garage
- South Providence – 3601 S Providence Road, on the outer road
- State Farm Parkway – near the Grindstone north of E. Nifong Blvd.
- Parks Management Center – at Cosmo Park off Business Loop 70 W
- University of Missouri (Bluford Hall) – along Kentucky Blvd.
- University of Missouri (Schurz Hall) – near College Ave. and Ashland Rd.

Columbia Police district meetings



Thank you to everyone in the community who participated in the Columbia Police Department's District meetings.

We're incredibly thankful to everyone who attended the Columbia Police Department's North and South District meetings in June. Community members had some great questions and comments, and we hope the information shared was able to provide insight into some of the issues facing our community.

The presentations given at these meetings are available online at [CoMo.gov/police/data-reporting-forms](https://www.columbia-mo.gov/police/data-reporting-forms). Residents who have questions regarding this information, are encouraged to contact the public information office at PolicePIO@CoMo.gov.

CPD will be hosting District meetings again in mid-December and we hope you'll join us then. Community conversations with the police are key to creating strong partnerships that promote safer neighborhoods, businesses and roads. More information on these meetings will be shared in the coming months.

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).

September 2023

- 5 Pooch Plunge, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 5-6 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5 per dog, must pre-register

- 7 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Darkroom Records Teen Band Showcase, 7 p.m., Free

- 8 Movies in the Park: *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, Cosmo Park, 7:45 p.m., Free

- 13 Food Truck Roundup, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.

- 16- 45th Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show, Nifong Park, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Free

- 20 Family Fun Fest: *Creative Kids*, Albert-Oakland Park, 6-8 p.m., Free

- 27 Food Truck Roundups, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.



On September 8, bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy *Spider-Man: No Way Home* on the large, inflatable screen under the stars. Show up early for concessions, food trucks, and to grab a great spot.

Volunteer of the Month - Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Volunteers



Richard and Colleen Olesen started caring for this median in Barnwood Drive in 2019 to help improve the entrance to their neighborhood from I-70 Drive NW. Thank you, volunteer adopters!

Columbia has more than 100 Adopt-A-Spot Beautification areas through the City maintained by volunteers. This is one of the most challenging volunteer assignments, due to the size, location and hard work required to maintain landscaping. Volunteers also find it tremendously rewarding because the results of the work is highly visible; their beds are enjoyed by hundreds of residents and visitors each day.

Adopters are asked to make a four year commitment, with many of our volunteers working well beyond that requirement. The City of Columbia assists in purchasing plants, mulch and other materials. In a growing City, there are always opportunities for new adopters to join the program! To learn more, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or visit us at CoMo.gov.

Update: police chief search

The City and its consultant, Public Sector Search and Consulting, conducted forums with stakeholder groups and community members in July. Feedback from the forums will be used to craft a profile used in the search for candidates.

Public Sector Search and Consulting will create materials to recruit candidates. Once candidates are selected, they will go through a rigorous interview process. Community members will have additional opportunities to become engaged in the next steps of the process once finalists have been selected. More information about this will be released at a later date.

Residents are encouraged to provide feedback using the survey at BeHeard.CoMo.gov/city-of-columbia-police-chief-search.

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:

- City of Columbia New Century Fund Inc. Board
- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Personnel Advisory Board

Application deadline is Friday, Sept. 8 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.

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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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