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## Fire Station 11 set to open in September

The Columbia Fire Department (CFD) is pleased to announce the upcoming opening of Fire Station 11 in southwest Columbia in September 2023. The new station is located at 6909 Scott Blvd. near the intersection of Scott Boulevard and Highway K. Station 11 will improve response times to the southwest area of Columbia as well as increase the staffing and capabilities of the Columbia Fire Department.

Three shifts of three personnel each will staff Quint 11, a 75-foot aerial fire truck with pumping and ladder capabilities. The new station will have three apparatus bays, a training room and house a Columbia Police Department substation. It also features a work by Kansas City glass artist, Tyler Kimball, as part of the City's Percent for Art program.

The public is invited to attend the new station's opening ceremony and ribbon cutting, scheduled on Sept. 26, 2023. Tours of the new station and equipment will be available after the opening ceremony.

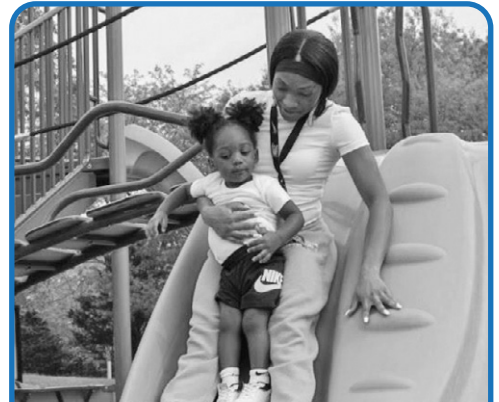
The Columbia Fire Department is committed to providing highly trained professionals who are well-equipped to respond effectively to the needs of our residents. Construction of the station is funded by the 2015 ¼ cent capital improvement sales tax. The Columbia Fire Department thanks the community for its continued support.

## Improvements completed at Cosmo Park

Columbia Parks and Recreation has completed renovations at two shelters and the tot lot playground at Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70.

The tot lot playground is designed for children ages 2 to 5. Renovations included a new play structure and swings, and installation of a new park bench and table. The playground was also relocated to an area of Cosmo near Lamb Shelter that helped alleviate drainage issues.

Two of the largest shelters in the City's park system, Lamb and Burford, also had extensive work completed. The 65-year-old Burford Shelter was demolished and replaced. Lamb Shelter has a new roof, concrete, electrical work, lighting and walkways. Both shelters can be reserved by calling 573.874.7460.



All three projects were funded by the voter-approved 2021 Park Sales Tax.

# Transition to refuse carts and automated collection

The City of Columbia is improving the way the Solid Waste Utility collects refuse. Beginning in March 2024, the Solid Waste Utility will transition to the use of refuse carts and automated collection for residential curbside collection.

The Utility's goal is to provide the best possible service to our customers. A proven method of solid waste collection, automated collection allows us to increase the efficiency of collection while improving safety for our workers.

Also, the use of refuse carts encourages waste reduction, recycling and backyard composting. Customers who want to save on costs by using a smaller cart can do so by taking steps to produce less waste.



## Timeline for the transition to automated collection

Customers should expect to receive a cart selection postcard in the mail around the first week of October. Customers will have until Oct. 31 to log on to the website or call the City Contact Center at 573.874.CITY (2489) to choose a cart size among three sizes. Customers who do not make a selection will receive a 65-gallon cart.

Rehrig Pacific, which will make and distribute the carts, will begin cart delivery Feb. 1, 2024. Distribution is expected to take a month. Distribution will start with Monday customers with daily routes to follow in the ensuing weeks.

The City plans for automated collections to begin March 4, 2024.

## What are the rates for the refuse carts? Monthly rates are predicated on the size of the cart:

- **35-gallon:** \$12.87 per month
- **65-gallon:** \$17.37 per month (current rate)
- **95-gallon:** \$22.50 per month

Customers should select the size of their refuse cart based on the volume they think they'll generate each week. If they exceed that capacity often, they should request a larger cart.

Customers with a 95-gallon refuse cart may request additional 95-gallon refuse cart(s). The fee for each additional 95-gallon cart will be \$13.50 per month.

## How much can each cart size hold?

A breakdown of cart size and refuse amounts is shown below.

- **35-gallon:** holds approximately three 13-gallon bags
- **65-gallon:** holds approximately six 13-gallon bags
- **95-gallon:** holds approximately ten 13-gallon bags

## Can I use my own garbage can/cart and receptacles for my garbage?

Only the City of Columbia-provided refuse carts will be collected.

## What happens if I can not fit all of my regular garbage inside the cart? Can I put it on the side of the cart?

No, all refuse must fit inside the cart with the lid closed. Customers who need their cart emptied and cannot wait until the next scheduled collection day can request an appointment for an additional cart collection. The fee for additional collection will be based on the customer's cart size:

- **35-gallon:** \$7.70
- **65-gallon:** \$12.20
- **95-gallon:** \$16.70

## How do I change my cart size?

Customers may request to exchange their refuse cart one time at no charge within the first 120 days of initially receiving the cart. The customer can either call the Contact Center at 573.874.CITY (2489) or email [Waste-Mgmt@CoMo.gov](mailto:Waste-Mgmt@CoMo.gov) to request a different size of roll cart.

Solid Waste will schedule an appointment with the customer to exchange the roll cart.

After the initial 120-day period, customers will be charged a \$25 exchange fee per cart.

The exchange fee and adjusted rate will be reflected on the customer's monthly bill.

## What if I would like an additional cart for my household?

Customers who have a 35-gallon or a 65-gallon cart and frequently exceed capacity should request a cart of a larger size. Customers who have a 95-gallon refuse cart and still need extra capacity should request an additional 95-gallon cart. Customers will not be allowed to request additional 35-gallon or 65-gallon carts.

The fee for each additional 95-gallon cart is \$13.50 per month.

## Will there be a service for the elderly and handicapped?

Customers with existing house collections services will automatically have that service continue when refuse cart collection begins. Customers who are physically unable to transport their refuse cart to the curb may receive house collection at the same service rate as curbside collection. For customers' and staff's safety, customers must leave the trash outside the house in an area that is accessible by staff for collection. Staff will not enter homes or garages to collect trash or refuse carts.

Requests for house collections must include certification by a licensed health care provider of the applicant's physical limitations.

## Will my schedule change? We understand that residents can get used to a general time when crews

service their street. However, collections are assigned to a day, not a time. Routes can change at any time for a variety of reasons. We recommend residents place their refuse carts at the curb no later than 6:30 a.m. on their collection day.

We do not anticipate that any customers will see their collection days change.



## Back to school safety

With the new school year, the Columbia/Boone County Department Public Health and Human Services wants to remind everyone of simple safety reminders that will protect our young residents on the way to or from school. School buses are a safe way to get kids to school and back home, but injuries can occur if other drivers are not paying attention, which puts our kids at risk.

All school buses used to transport children to public school that you will see in Columbia are painted bright yellow and have "SCHOOL BUS" clearly marked. When school buses have to stop to pick up or drop off students, you will see flashing yellow lights as the bus slows down to the stop.

When the school bus is stopped, the alternate flashing red lights and the stop signal arm are activated. Oncoming and following traffic must stop before they reach the bus when these signals are activated. You must stop on a two-lane road where the vehicles travel in either direction and on a two-lane road that is a one-way street. You do not need to stop when you are traveling the opposite direction of a school bus on a highway divided by a median where the vehicles traveling one direction are on a totally separate road from the vehicles traveling the opposite direction nor when you are traveling the opposite direction of a school bus on a highway containing four or more lanes of traffic.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, school buses are one of the safest vehicles on the road. Less than 1% of all traffic fatalities involve children on school transportation vehicles. However, children are more at risk when approaching or leaving a school bus. It's important for all drivers, as well as parents and students, to understand school bus safety.

Teach them to play it **SAFE**:

- Stay five steps away from the curb.
- Always wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver signals for you to board.
- Face forward after finding a seat on the bus.
- Exit the bus after it stops and look left-right-left for cars before crossing a street.

## Code Corner – Rental housing inspections

The City of Columbia has a Rental Unit Conservation Law that was established to keep rental properties safe and in good repair. This includes apartments, duplexes, single family homes, and those who have tenants as part of their owner-occupied home. Lease purchase or rent-to-own arrangements need to comply with the ordinance as well.

Currently, more than 27,700 housing units and 9,700 structures are registered in the program. The law also allows tenants to file a complaint if their landlord is not addressing maintenance issues.

If you need to register a property you own, or if you are interested in the compliance status of a property in which you are living or that is in your neighborhood, please let us know. You can learn more about a property's status at our Citizen Self Service portal found at [CoMo.gov/selfservice](https://www.columbiagov.org/selfservice). To learn more about rental enforcement, contact Neighborhood Services at 573.817.5050 or visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbiagov.org).



Parents should advise their children to arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.

## Parks and Recreation events

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

### October 2023

- 4 Sensory Friendly Touch-a-Truck, Rainbow Softball Center at Cosmo, 4-6 p.m., Free
- 11 Park Pop-Up and Play Day, Again St. Park, 4-5:30 p.m., Free
- 14 Yappy Hour, Twin Lakes, 2-5 p.m., \$12, registration required
- 16 Toy Drive kicks off
- 28 Bear Creek Run Half Marathon, Bear Creek Trail, 8 a.m., Ages 12 and up, \$65

Parks and Recreation publishes two Leisure Times activity guides per year, in March and August. The current fall/winter issue lists all activities, life enrichment classes and special events and is available at [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbiagov.org).



## Board and Commission vacancies

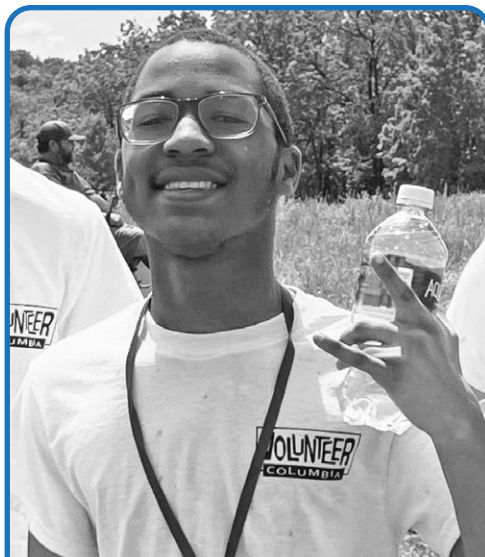
Boards and Commissions are a way for residents to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members.

The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

- Citizens Police Review Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs
- Housing and Community Development Commission
- Substance Abuse Advisory Commission

Application deadline is Friday, Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available at [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbiagov.org). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

## Christian Russell – September featured volunteer



Thank you Christian for being such a dedicated volunteer. We are so thankful for your service!

Christian began volunteering with the City of Columbia this year through the Youth in Action program and he hit the ground running. He has volunteered at a wide variety of events over the past couple of months, including The Food Bank, Fire in the Sky, SPLAT and many other projects.

Christian's biggest takeaways from volunteering are a greater appreciation for making a difference, a strong sense of community, and new experiences. He is proud of pushing himself to get up and make a difference, even on the days he was tired. Christian had the most volunteer hours of Youth in Action participants this summer, and we are thankful for his service.

For any of you who are considering volunteering, Christian has some great advice: "Sometimes doing something selfless can bring you a greater sense of self."

Youth In Action is a summer volunteer program that allows young people 12-15 years of age to assist at City events and support local nonprofits. To learn about next summer's program, or about other ways to serve, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or [Volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:Volunteer@CoMo.gov).

## Park for less with the downtown employee parking permit

From cultural events to bustling shops and eateries, downtown Columbia offers unforgettable experiences for everyone. For the hardworking people who help make it that way, the Downtown Employee Parking Permit presents a straightforward solution to finding a parking space.

The Downtown Employee Parking Permit lets workers park their vehicles for up to 24 hours at a time at any green-topped parking meter, with no need to add coins. Part of a partnership between the City and ParkMobile, the permit can be purchased online and costs \$35 per month, providing a cheaper alternative to garage permits or hourly parking fees.

Workers with the permit enjoy the convenience of longer stays and no need to repeatedly run out to their car to feed meters with coins. The permit also helps free up parking spots directly in front of businesses, making it more convenient for customers to visit the downtown area.

Please remember that this permit is only valid at any of the approximately 300 green-topped, 10-hour parking meters in the downtown area. No physical tags are issued upon registration, since your license plate serves as your permit.

To find a map to all 300 green-topped parking meters and sign up for the permit, visit [CoMo.gov/parking](http://CoMo.gov/parking). Additionally, keep in mind that free parking is available weekdays after 6 p.m. and all weekend long in any of the City's six parking garages.



### 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

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

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### CITY OF COLUMBIA

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