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Columbia Police Department welcomes six new officers

Please join us in welcoming six new officers to the Columbia Police Department! Airport Safety Officer Jared Baker and Officers Clayton Flowers, Naoufel Boukezzoula, Caleb Busbey, James Hunter and Collten Alwes graduated last month from the Law Enforcement Training Institute's (LETI) Summer 2023 Academy.

To reach graduation, officers completed more than 700 hours of academy training over the course of 16 weeks. Their education began in May and covered topics including legal studies, practical skills training, interpersonal and cultural competencies, physical fitness and more.

Now that they've been sworn in, the officers will transition to the Department's field training program for approximately 16 weeks. During this time the new officers will be paired with experienced field training officers who will provide guidance and oversee their progress on all aspects of Columbia policing, including law enforcement and community relations.

We're grateful for the dedication and commitment these new officers have displayed throughout their time in the academy. Special thanks to the families and friends who support them and helped them achieve their goals.

Considering a career with Columbia Police? Visit [CoMo.gov/police/employment](https://www.comogov/police/employment) for more information. Work for the City that works for you!



From left: Interim Police Chief Matt Stephens; Airport Safety Officer Jared Baker; Officer Clayton Flowers; Officer Naoufel Boukezzoula; Officer Caleb Busbey; Officer James Hunter; Airport Safety Supervisor Jason Thomas; and Officer Collten Alwes.

Improving Livability: Public Works highlights for 2023



Crews spread asphalt to create a speed hump on Shepard Boulevard.

Throughout 2023, the City of Columbia Public Works department continued work to enhance City infrastructure and improve quality of life for our residents. Thanks to funding received from sources such as the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax ballot initiative supported by residents, Public Works continues to make strides toward improving safety, accessibility and livability for everyone who calls Columbia home. Here are some of the key projects Public Works completed in 2023:

The East Walnut Street improvement project provided resurfacing along with extensive repairs to curbs, gutters,

sidewalks and driveway approaches along East Walnut Street. The project prioritized accessibility, including ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps and landings, ensuring a safer environment for people walking and biking.

Sidewalk construction projects on Oakland Gravel Road and North Stadium Boulevard filled in missing sections of sidewalk and added new pedestrian islands, crosswalk markings and accessible pedestrian signals. The projects improved connectivity and enhanced Columbia's walkability.

Worley Street Accessible Pedestrian Signals - New traffic signal equipment was installed on two of West Worley Street's busiest intersections. These include accessible pedestrian signals with countdown timers and audible crossing cues, making crossing the street safer for our most vulnerable travelers.

Renovations to Eighth and Cherry Parking Garage included waterproofing of the garage's driving lanes and interior restriping. Bright new indoor LED lighting also provides enhanced visibility and security.

The Maguire Slope stabilization project focused on rebuilding sidewalks and reshaping the rock slopes to prevent debris from falling onto Maguire Boulevard.

Public Works also invested in substantial pavement maintenance to approximately 170 different city streets to ensure that Columbia's road network remains safe and reliable for residents and commuters. Traffic calming measures such as speed humps were added to eight new residential streets to reduce speeds and create more liveable, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods. Approximately 150 ADA ramps were also built or rebuilt to current ADA standards in 2023.

Code Corner: Residential code cases in FY 2023

Neighborhood Services handled 5,315 residential code issues in the City's 2023 fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Solid Waste cases made up the largest number with 2,105 followed by landscape management at 993 and health nuisance cases at 894. Resident complaints accounted for about 30% of the cases with the remainder proactively identified by staff.

Rental housing compliance, part of Neighborhood Services, ended the year with 27,689 units and 9,745 buildings in compliance. In 2023, staff responded to 258 tenant complaints.

If there is an issue Neighborhood Services can assist with, please call 573.874.CITY (2489) or visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia-mo.gov).



Operation Clean Neighborhoods recap

The 12th Operation Clean Neighborhoods, a City employee work day, was held Sept. 22 at Worley Street Park and the surrounding neighborhood. Over 70 City of Columbia staff participated in the event alongside residents.

Work included removing vegetation from the park boundary as well as cleaning streets and sidewalks. Street markings were refreshed, litter was picked up in the neighborhood and more than 40 waste tires were disposed of from residents. Dumpsters were provided in the Ridgeway and West Ash Neighborhoods for resident use.

City staff enjoy participating in Operation Clean Neighborhoods as a way to serve our residents, meet one another and make a visible difference in our neighborhoods.

COVID-19 vaccine now available

Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) now has the updated 2023-2024 Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine available. The updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is available at our location on 1005 W. Worley St. by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling 573.874.7249. COVID-19 vaccines are billed to insurance. Free COVID-19 vaccines are available for those without insurance coverage. Additional vaccination opportunities are also available with other local vaccinators. The list of vaccinators and their information can be found by visiting [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

Columbia Values Diversity Awards accepting nominations

Help the City of Columbia recognize members of the community by submitting a nomination for the 27th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. Two awards will be presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Jan. 24, 2024.

The awards recognize people whose work exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by fostering individual dignity, racial equality, understanding, peacemaking and solving problems through nonviolence. The community is invited to submit nominations for an individual, family, organization or group.

Nomination forms are available at CoMoDiversityCelebration.com. The deadline is Friday, Dec. 8, 2023.

Does your attic insulation measure up?



Proper insulation will help with the retention of both warm air and cool air, lowering energy costs for heating and cooling.

As autumn settles in and cooler weather approaches, it is a good time to start thinking about what can be done to make your home more comfortable in winter and what will help save energy and money. One of the biggest areas to consider at this time is the insulation in your attic. If you find you need to add insulation, City of Columbia Water & Light's award-winning Home Performance program offers rebates and loans that can help finance your project.

The Home Performance program is available to Water & Light customers in single-family homes and larger duplexes and condos. Through this program, residents could be eligible for up to \$500 in rebates for adding insulation and up to \$1,200 in total for energy efficiency upgrades.

Adding attic insulation is an investment that will pay for itself in two to five years. Low levels of insulation is one of the biggest sources of energy waste and discomfort. If your attic insulation level is near the top of the attic floor joists, you have only about half the insulation you should.

How do you know if you have enough insulation? Either read the R-value printed on the batts of your existing insulation or use a measuring tape or ruler to measure the depth of the insulation. Columbia Water & Light recommends having 16 to 18 inches of attic insulation (R-50). If you need help finding information about your home, we can help during a Free Energy Assessment, offered at no cost to all Columbia Water & Light customers.

To maximize the efficiency of your energy improvements, Home Performance rebates and loans require the below insulation levels in key areas:

- Attic: R-50
- Floor over unconditioned space: R-19
- Crawlspace walls OR floors above crawlspace: R-10 with a vapor barrier covering the ground
- Ducts: R-13 in unheated areas
- Rim-joists: R-13

Residential electric customers who are not eligible for the Home Performance program may be eligible for rebates through Water & Light's Attic Plus program. For more information on insulation and all of our efficiency programs, visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com or call 573.441.5528.

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.

December 2023

8 Lights and Sights Tour, Meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 or 7:45-9 p.m., \$7.50 per person, must pre-register

9 City Kwanzaa Celebration and Black-Owned Business Expo, Armory Sports Center, 2-5 p.m., Free

12 Central Columbia Holiday Party, Armory Sports Center, 6-7:30 p.m., Free

Come celebrate the City Kwanzaa Celebration and Black-Owned Business Expo which is based around developing positive families and communities. There will be an expo featuring local black owned businesses, socializing, entertainment, and a holiday feast.



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 Sports Commission
- Finance Advisory and Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement Board

Application deadline is Friday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available at CoMo.gov. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Patty Rodriguez – November featured volunteer



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

Patty began volunteering in 2020, shortly after relocating to Columbia from St. Louis with her husband and four children. After retiring from the Air National Guard after 25 years of service and working 20 years with Edward Jones, Patty was looking for something to fill her time and get involved in her new city. In early 2020, she attended a Volunteer Columbia informational meeting and discovered Park Patrol. She quickly found it was a great fit to help her explore Columbia and the many parks it has to offer.

Patty was able to incorporate volunteering in a routine to help her stay active and moving while working from home with MFA Oil, which her two dogs also enjoy! She helps ensure Cosmo-Bethel Park is clean, in good

repair and safe. Oftentimes Patty discovers large maintenance issues that are able to be repaired before the issue worsens or affects a park visitor's experience. When she is not on Park Patrol, you can find Patty volunteering for events such as Biscuits, Beats and Brews.

We greatly appreciate all Patty does for Cosmo-Bethel Park and Park Patrol! To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.co-mo.gov) or call 573.874.7499.

Toys for Columbia's youth

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation is organizing the annual Toys for Columbia's Youth Drive. Families interested in applying for the program may do so by Friday, Dec. 1. The toy drive serves children ages 12 and under. To be eligible, families must be Columbia residents, meet income requirements and not receiving toy assistance from another agency.

Donations of new toys and money are being accepted through Dec. 5. Toys can be dropped off at the Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash, the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), 1701 W. Ash or the Parks and Recreation office, 1 S. Seventh St.

In addition to toys, cash, checks or credit cards are accepted. A letter of receipt for tax purposes will be provided for your generosity. Please call 573.874.7460 for more information.



Please consider picking up a new toy and dropping it by our office at 1 South Seventh St. or any Parks and Recreation facility. Monetary donations are also accepted.



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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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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