

Work for the *City* that works for *you.*

**We have open positions
in a variety of fields.**

Roll cart delivery begins soon Let's get ready to roll.

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility anticipates that refuse roll cart delivery for our residential curbside collection customers will begin in late January.

Use of the roll carts is scheduled to begin March 4, 2024. Until then, customers should continue putting refuse bags at the curb.

Rehrig Pacific, which will make and distribute the carts, will deliver the carts. Distribution is expected to take a month, starting with Monday customers.

Customers do not need to be home to accept the carts. Solid Waste staff will work with Rehrig Pacific employees to determine the most optimal placement of the cart for each location. Crews will leave the carts in the spot where they would like the customers to place them on collection day.

Customers who participated in the selection process in October will receive their cart choice. Anyone who did not make a selection will receive a 65-gallon cart.

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 to request a different size of roll cart.



The Solid Waste Utility received its first side-loader truck for automated residential collection Nov. 15. Solid Waste will have a fleet of nine full-size trucks and two smaller trucks on their daily routes.

GoCoMoJobs.com

EOE - M/F/D/V



573.874.CITY (2489)
TTY (MoRelay) 711



City of Columbia, Mo. Government



@CoMoGov

Public involvement shapes the future of Forum Boulevard



An aerial view of Forum Boulevard and the bridge over Hinkson Creek. According to the results of the traffic study, the road would benefit greatly from an expansion to four lanes.

On Nov. 30, City residents were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the future of Forum Boulevard between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue. A traffic study had surveyed the area and determined that due to the growing number of vehicles, Forum Boulevard would benefit from an expansion to four lanes and multiple intersection improvements. Additional sidewalk and bike lane enhancements would also be included as part of the project, as would stormwater improvements and replacing or widening the bridge.

These open house gatherings mark the early stages of roadway design projects, where community voices take center stage. While reviewing the concept plans, resident comments, left either on paper or on the project's BeHeardCoMo page, help to shape the designs.



At interested parties meetings, residents are able to review plans, speak with staff and leave comments, either on paper or through BeHeard.CoMo.gov.

The upgrades to Forum Boulevard are intended to improve safety, provide enhancements to the corridor and manage projected traffic growth for the next 20 years.

Attendance exceeded expectations and dozens of comments were left by residents, both on paper and at BeHeard.CoMo.gov. Project construction is currently projected to begin in 2026. Between now and 2026, the design will be refined and presented to City Council for final approval.

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:

- Commission on Human Rights
- Public Transit Advisory Commission

Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available at CoMo.gov. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

New program allows Columbians to subscribe to solar power



The Community Solar program offers Water & Light electric customers access to renewable energy through a subscription program.

City of Columbia Water & Light knows that there are many residents who want access to solar energy but have mitigating factors that prevent them from making the investment.

What if there was a way for customers to support local renewable energy without having to install solar panels?

Water & Light's Community Solar program offers our residential electric customers access to renewable energy through a subscription model program. Our goal is to make renewable energy more directly accessible to our customers who may not be able to access it because they rent, they own homes that are not ideal for solar power or they do not want to install a system on their home.

Beginning in January 2024, customers can reserve one block of solar power (1.5 kilowatts) through 2044. Those customers will receive a credit on their monthly bills that reflect the energy produced from the Bernadette solar field or the Truman Solar Farm.

Residents will have a one-time registration fee of \$27 and a monthly subscription fee of \$24.77. Customers can unsubscribe with no penalty at any time.

For more information, visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com, call 573.441.5528, or email Community-Solar@CoMo.gov.

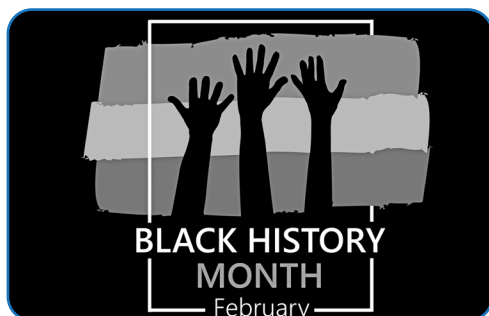
Cold safety

During extreme winter weather, it is important to limit your time outdoors as much as possible. However, while staying indoors can reduce risk, you may also face hazards inside your home. This winter season, help keep yourself and your loved ones safe at home by following some of these steps below.

- In case of power failure, make sure to use battery-powered flashlights or lanterns rather than candles, if possible. Candles can lead to house fires. If you do use them, never leave lit candles unattended.
- Remember to conserve heat. Use gas-fueled heaters, such as ventless gas fireplaces, which require some ventilation. Otherwise, if you don't need extra ventilation, keep as much heat as possible inside your home.
- Avoid unnecessarily opening doors or windows, close off unneeded rooms, stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors, and close draperies or cover windows with blankets at night.
- Generators should be located outside and at least 20 feet from any window, door or vent and in a space where rain and snow will not reach them. Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning by installing a battery-operated CO detector.
- Never use generators, gas or charcoal grills, camp stoves, or similar devices inside your home, in basements, in garages or near windows. The fumes are deadly.
- Have at least one backup heat source in case the power goes out such as extra blankets, sleeping bags or warm winter coats.
- Despite the cold temperature, it's important to remember to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water. Eating well-balanced meals will help you stay warmer. Do not drink alcoholic or caffeinated beverages, as they cause your body to lose heat faster. Instead, drink warm, sweet beverages or broth to help keep yourself warm. If you have any dietary restrictions, ask your doctor on what food and drink would be best.

Columbia Parks and Recreation plans Black History Month activities

Columbia Parks and Recreation is offering several activities in honor of Black History Month in February. All activities are free. Call 573.874.7460 or check [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia-mo.gov) for more information.



African American History Exhibit

- Weekdays during month of February
- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash

In celebration of Black History Month, an exhibit will be available, honoring African American history in Columbia. Groups are welcome.

African American Film

- Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m.
- Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash

The film *John Lewis: Good Trouble* will be shown. This film explores the Georgia representative's 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health care reform and immigration.

Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner

- Sunday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m.
- St. Luke UMC, 204 E. Ash

This year's program will feature artists and groups from the central Missouri area. Entertainment will be followed by a dinner; covered dishes are welcome.

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).

February 2024

- 7 Black History Month Film, *John Lewis: Good Trouble*, Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free
- 17 17 Stonegrinder 7K Trail Run, Capen Park/Grindstone Nature Area, 9 am, ages 12 and up, \$35, must pre-register
- 25 Black History Month: Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner, St. Luke UMC, 4-7 p.m., Free

Columbia Regional Airport begins next master plan process

An airport master plan is a comprehensive study of the airport which evaluates the short-, medium-, and long-term development needs to meet future aviation demands at COU. The plan looks to understand the issues, opportunities, and constraints unique to the Columbia Regional Airport (COU).

The master plan process will include evaluating the existing capacity of the airport, considering the impacts of aviation trends and identifying future needs of the airport. The assessment results in the development of alternatives which will be analyzed for alignment with the goals of COU and the community it serves. After the alternatives are selected, the planning team will prepare a capital improvement plan and implementation plan which will guide the future improvements at COU.

Learn more at [FlyCOU.com/masterplan](https://www.flycou.com/masterplan).

Roger Wink – January featured volunteer



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

Roger Wink settled in Columbia about 40 years ago, moving from Columbia, Illinois. He found his way here after college putting his engineering degree to use at the Callaway Energy Center. Like many, he quickly found that he enjoyed Columbia and all it has to offer. Upon retirement, Roger had extra time to put to use giving back to the community and meeting new people.

Roger began volunteering with the City of Columbia in July 2022. Being on the trails frequently, he decided that he could serve his community and became a Park Patrol volunteer. Through Park Patrol, he discovered additional opportunities with Special Olympics and Parks and Recreation. Volunteer Programs staff encouraged Roger to

volunteer with additional programs after learning about his interests. City staff quickly found that Roger was a dependable volunteer and everyone enjoyed working with him. When our volunteer roster looks slim, Roger is always quick to jump in and help out. We greatly appreciate him and his enthusiasm volunteering for the City!

Roger is also a dedicated Red Cross and State Historical Society volunteer. He enjoys golfing, hiking and watching sports. If you see Roger out patrolling the trails, say hello and thank him for all that he does for our City!

To learn more about volunteering visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.co.mo.gov) or call Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499.

Columbia earns perfect score on Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index for seventh consecutive year

The City of Columbia earned a perfect score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index for the seventh year in a row, as well as its eighth consecutive all-star rating.

The Human Rights Campaign, the largest civil rights organization in America working for LGBTQ+ equality, conducted its 12th annual nationwide evaluation by rating how inclusive cities' laws, policies and services are of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people.

Of the 506 cities rated, Columbia was one of 129 cities that earned a perfect score. The national average score was 71 points. Eight Missouri cities were evaluated. Along with Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis also received a perfect score.

Columbia also received an all-star rating, which is given to cities when they obtain a high score in a state that lacks comprehensive non-discrimination laws for LGBTQ+ people.

Visit [Reports.hrc.org/municipal-equality-index-2023](https://reports.hrc.org/municipal-equality-index-2023) to learn more about the Municipal Equality Index.



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 ✱
CONTACT CENTER
573·874·CITY
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

The City of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, receipt of governmental assistance, alienage or citizenship status, status as a victim of sexual or domestic violence or order of protection status.

CITY OF COLUMBIA

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