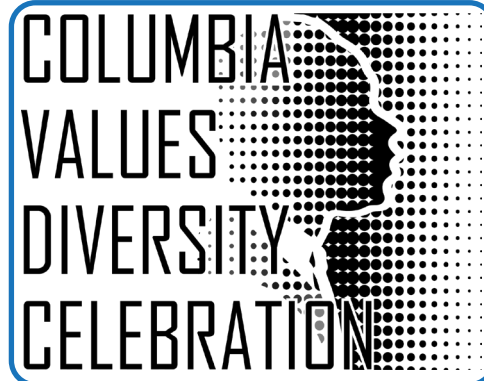


Work for the *City* that works for *you.*

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

2024 Diversity Award winners



The 27th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Wednesday, Jan. 24. The awards are given to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions promoting appreciation for diversity and cultural understanding in Columbia.

Individual 2023 Diversity Award: Ranjana Hans

Ranjana Hans' work exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with her initiatives to educate our community in the area of health and wellness. As an immigrant from India, Ranjana has shared her culture with the community, specifically the benefits of Ayurvedic plants. She has established a thriving business, Raw Roots Turmeric, and with her expertise, she has participated in presenting to many community organizations. She has also volunteered her time to organizations such as The Loop creating a community herb garden and Youthbuild (AmeriCorps) to provide educational resources on the use of herbs in daily life. Ranjana is committed to helping to build a healthier community. Her commitment to the betterment of Columbia has been significant and many have felt her impact.

Group 2023 Diversity Award: Ragtag Film Society

Ragtag Film Society (RFS) works to bring new perspectives to our community through both documentary and fiction films featuring challenging perspectives and diverse representation, both onscreen and behind the camera. Screenings at both Ragtag Cinema and the True/False Film Fest have brought thousands of Columbians together to engage with some of the most important topics of our time.

Recent contributions include the Show-Me Series, in which RFS partners with a wide range of community organizations and groups to present a series of free films followed by community discussions. In addition, with each screening at the True/False Film Fest, there is a discussion between audience members and those involved in the films. Not only does the film fest show provocative and informative films, the fest also hosts a "camp" for high school students that is focused on documentary filmmaking and media literacy. Camp True/False is a vital tool for students across Missouri that not only encourages students to explore careers within the arts, but inspires the participants—especially those less accustomed to seeing themselves represented in media—to see themselves as capable storytellers whose voices and contributions have value. Programs like these reach into the community to affect young people in ways that reflect, encourage and amplify the teachings of Dr. King for a new generation.

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City of Columbia, Mo. Government



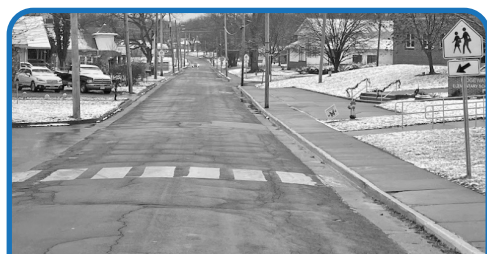
@CoMoGov

Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements underway on East Sexton Road



Sidewalks along the south side of East Sexton Road between Garth Avenue and Mary Street are expected to be repaired by early spring.

Since early January, work has been progressing on the Sexton Road sidewalk project. This project includes repairs to the sidewalk along the south side of Sexton Road between Garth Avenue and Mary Street. It also includes improvements to pedestrian crossings on Sexton Road at the Mary Street and Woodlawn Avenue intersections. The improvements will make the crosswalks brighter and more noticeable for people crossing the road near Ridgeway Elementary School.



Crosswalks near Ridgeway Elementary School will also be improved and made more visible as part of the sidewalk project.

The project will also improve sidewalk accessibility in the area through the creation and repair of sidewalk ramps. During construction, periodic lane restrictions and sidewalk closures will be necessary.

Construction on the project should finish up by early spring, weather permitting.

Protect the environment; go light on the salt

Living in Columbia, we've gotten used to seeing a February mix of snow, sleet and ice. That means homeowners and business owners will be applying salt and other deicers to sidewalks and parking lots. However, the City of Columbia reminds you that there are alternate ways to keep your sidewalks and parking lots clear. More is not always better. Too much salt and other chemical deicing compounds are harmful to Columbia's waterways and the environment.

When snow and ice melt, the runoff can pick up the salt and deicing compounds and carry them into the storm drains. That water then enters Columbia's streams and lakes. The little bit that one resident uses to treat their driveway might not seem like much, but all the deicing compounds applied throughout the area can quickly add up.

Once chloride from the deicer is in the environment, it does not go away. One teaspoon of salt can pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic to freshwater organisms. Chlorides can alter soil composition, slow plant growth, damage vehicles, and weaken concrete, brick, steel and stone infrastructure.

Here are some alternatives for when you want to cut back on the salt:

- Shovel or scrape the area. Remove as much of the snow and ice as possible before you use any deicing agents.
- Follow the directions. Apply salt or deicers only to the slick areas. Using more than the recommended amount does not make the deicer more effective. A 12-ounce cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares.
- Get some traction. Elements like sand and kitty litter do not melt ice, but they can help provide traction. Or you can reduce salt usage by mixing it with sand or kitty litter. Don't use too much. Sand and kitty litter can create blockages in storm drains.

Welcome Assistant City Manager Matt Unrein



The City of Columbia's new assistant city manager, Matt Unrein.

The City of Columbia has announced Matt Unrein will fill the role of assistant city manager beginning Feb. 19. This is the second assistant city manager position at the City which was approved as part of the fiscal year 2024 budget. Unrein has worked in local government for more than 25 years, serving in various roles in Missouri.

Unrein is currently serving as the assistant city administrator and public works director in Festus. Prior to working in Festus, he also worked as the assistant city manager and public works and parks director in Ferguson, city administrator of Arnold, assistant city manager of Maryville, and began his career in the community development department of Independence.

"Matt will make a great addition to the leadership team at the City of Columbia," City Manager De'Carlton Seewood said. "He has a proven track record of success in seeing projects through and is well respected in his profession. I believe his hands-on experience in various roles will provide a unique perspective that our residents will benefit from."

Unrein is a member of the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and is a credentialed manager. He is also a member of the Missouri City Managers Association and the American Public Works Association.

Proper use of roll carts helps with efficiency of service

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility will be rolling out the roll carts for residential curbside collections throughout February.

We are all excited about the roll carts. But please remember—automated collections will not start until March 4. The current trucks are not equipped to pick up roll carts, so residential curbside collection customers need to continue placing trash bags at the curb for collection. Carts placed at the curb before March 4 will not be collected.

The Solid Waste Utility's goal is to provide the best possible service to our customers. By following a few simple steps, you will enable our crews to provide dependable, efficient collections.

For your convenience, City of Columbia Utilities has a booklet attached to your roll cart for guidelines on using and storing your roll carts.

Carts are not to be left in the public right-of-way and must be stored on private property between collection days. Although your collection day hasn't changed, the daily routes may have. Please place your cart at the curb no later than 6:30 a.m. on collection day. Carts must be removed from the curb no later than 10 p.m. on the customer's collection day.

In order for crews to collect the carts, there needs to be a minimum clearance surrounding the carts. During distribution of the carts in February, Solid Waste crews will 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 leave them on collection day.

Staff recognizes that some residential routes include narrow streets with on-street parking. In these areas, Solid Waste will use smaller vehicles that are better suited to maneuver on highly congested streets. These vehicles will be staffed by two crew members so roll carts can be repositioned as needed.

Only regular household trash and yard waste should be put in the carts. Items such as hazardous waste, hot ashes and coals, and construction debris need to be handled differently from regular trash and should not be placed in the roll cart.

All refuse must fit inside the cart with the lid closed. Bags left on the curb or on top of a cart will not be collected. Also, customer-owned trash cans and roll carts will not be collected. Customers who need their cart emptied and cannot wait until the next scheduled collection day can request an additional collection by calling 573.874.CITY (2489) or emailing Waste-Mgmt@CoMo.gov.



The City of Columbia is excited to move to automated roll cart curbside collection beginning Monday, March 4. Please call 573.874.CITY (2489) with any questions.



Parks and Recreation events

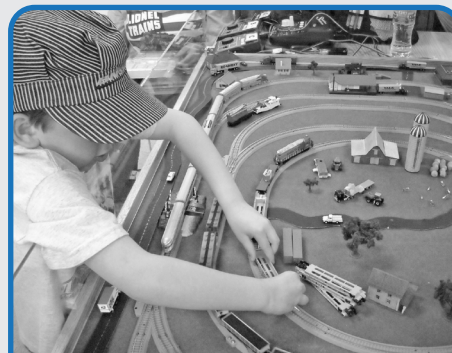
For more information, please visit CoMo.gov/parksandrec or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at Facebook.com/parksandrec.

March 2024

6 Women's Month Film, "Suffragette" Armory Sports Center, 6 p.m., Free

16 Annual Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Free

Join us at the annual train show at Paquin Tower



Join us Saturday, March 16 at Paquin Tower, 1201 Paquin St. from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. for the annual train show.

All aboard! See a wide variety of displays involving trains and the early days of transportation as well as movies and photographs on rail travel. Hosted by Mid-Mo Railfans and Columbia Parks and Recreation. Admission is free.

Please call Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460 for more information.

Kim Kraus — February featured volunteer



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

Kim Kraus began volunteering with the City of Columbia in late 2019 after seeing a call for Park Patrol volunteers in *City Source*. She quickly became a regular volunteer with the City and also started volunteering for Household Hazardous Waste, Cleanup Columbia and Recycling Ambassadors.

Kim is a Master Naturalist that enjoys participating in citizen science projects, native gardening and hiking with her lab/beagle mix from Columbia Second Chance named Maybelle. She is a lover of rescue cats and advocates for reducing the dog and cat population, and a proud supporter of rescue organizations. Volunteering is easy for Kim as she is able to enjoy her favorite

leisure activity while doing so, bird watching with Maybelle.

The feeling of satisfaction in supporting her community and the camaraderie among volunteers and City staff is what keeps Kim coming back to volunteering with the City of Columbia. She finds that it is the perfect way to learn and try new things.

When asked what she would tell someone that is thinking about volunteering, Kim said it best, "There are a variety of opportunities so it's easy to find something to enjoy. Many opportunities can be done independently or spontaneously to fit into any schedule."

When dropping off your Household Hazardous Waste, say hello to Kim as she directs traffic! To find out how you can join Kim in volunteering, visit CoMo.gov or call Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499.

Winter weather tips from Public Works

You don't need to ask a groundhog to know that winter weather will remain a concern in mid-Missouri throughout February and into March. Across Columbia, Public Works snowplow crews are tasked with maintaining a total of 1,450 lane miles, 691 miles of which are considered priority routes.

During winter events, resident cooperation is sincerely appreciated. Please avoid parking on streets, especially priority routes, once snow accumulations reach 2 inches. To minimize disruptions, park your car in driveways or on non-priority routes. Remember, vehicles left on priority routes may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Keep up-to-date by signing up for alerts at Alerts.CoMo.gov. These notifications, available via text, email, or voice, will inform you when to move your cars during winter events.

By working together, we can ensure safer, clearer roads for everyone this winter season. Thank you for doing your part in helping Columbia navigate through these chilly months.



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
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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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