

CITYSOURCE

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January 2017



Your source for City news and information



Columbia's water



Access to safe drinking water was why the citizens of Columbia started their own municipal utility in 1904. The water system is operated by people who drink the water every day as do their families and friends. Customers have a say in how the water utility is operated through their representatives on the City Council. The Safe Drinking Water Act parameters are established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources enforces the rules. Columbia meets all of the EPA's safe drinking water standards. Plus many of the substances tested for come back as "not detected." Columbia is fortunate to get water from an aquifer that is naturally clean and own a locally managed system.

Disinfection

Part of providing drinking water to a community is ensuring the water remains free of bacteria, viruses and other organisms that could cause serious waterborne illnesses. Columbia has used both the chlorine and the chloramine disinfection methods over the years. Although there are other methods of disinfection available, not all of them will keep the water disinfected from the treatment plant all the way to a customer's faucet.

What is chloramine disinfection?

Chloramines are formed when a small amount of ammonia is added to chlorinated water. Approximately two milligrams of ammonia is added per liter. For comparison, this would be similar to adding six grains of table salt to a one gallon container of water. The chloramine disinfection process has been used by water utilities for around 90 years. Most people report that they do not notice the taste or odor of chlorine as much with chloraminated water.

Why is chloramine disinfection used?

Until August 2009, Columbia Water & Light used the chlorine disinfection method. The switch to chloramine disinfection was made after the levels of total trihalomethanes exceeded the maximum contaminant level of 80 micrograms per liter in 2008. Trihalomethanes are a by-product of the disinfection process. When carbon compounds from living organisms decompose, they show up in water sources as organic material. When organic material mixes with chlorine, trihalomethanes are formed. This disinfection byproduct can have chronic health risks if someone consumes water with levels that exceed the standard for many years. After the disinfection method was changed, the amount of total trihalomethanes dropped by around 50 percent.

Is the chlorine disinfection method ever used?

Yes. Free chlorine prevents nitrification, the buildup of nitrites and nitrates, within the distribution system. Generally the change in disinfection method happens in the spring/summer. Customers might notice the water has a stronger chlorine taste during this time.

For more information visit [CoMo.gov](http://www.CoMo.gov) and search for "DNRwater," "water quality" or "water testing."

Save on heating bills

- Set thermostat settings at 68 degrees or as low as possible while you're home.
- Set thermostats to 60 degrees when you're away from home, or install a programmable thermostat to do it automatically.
- For windows that receive direct sunlight, keep shades open during the day and close them at night.
- Don't block heating system air vents with furniture, curtains or rugs.
- Close fireplace damper when not in use.
- Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets.

Low-cost

- Replace the heating system's filter every three months or when dirty.
- Seal air leaks around windows and doors by replacing worn out materials or with caulk
- Install foam gaskets behind light switches or outlets located on exterior walls.

Time for bigger improvements?

- Participate in the Home Performance with Energy Star program and receive up to \$1,200 in rebates and low-interest loans to finance your energy efficiency upgrades. For more information, visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com.



Progress as Promised—Hominy Trail and Avenue of the Columns

Hominy Trail Phase II:

Phase II of the Hominy Creek Trail, which passes under Interstate 70, was completed in December 2016, adding an additional 1.1 miles to the trail with connections to Hillsdale Road, Tara Lane and the Links apartment complex. This second phase, which began in March 2016, was funded through a grant from the Federal Highway Administration and is part of the GetAbout Columbia program, a collaboration between Columbia Parks and Recreation and Columbia Public Works. Phase I of the project, which runs under Route WW and Highway 63 and connects to the Bike Boulevard on Green Valley Drive, was completed in 2015.



Avenue of the Columns:

Contractors have completed Phase III of the Avenue of the Columns project along Eighth Street from Walnut to Cherry. The project included decorative bricks, plantings, ADA-compliant sidewalks, ramps, handrails, landings and crosswalks with flashing beacons. The crosswalk beacons are solar powered which not only reduces energy costs but also eliminates the need to connect them to the electric grid.



The project was originally conceived in 2005 as a unique corridor linking the historic columns in the Francis Quadrangle on the University of Missouri campus to the columns at the Boone County Courthouse Square. This phase of the project was funded by the voter-approved 2005 Capital Improvement Project sales tax. Earlier phases of the project were completed in 2012.



Police Department shift changes

Stuffing your duffle bag in your locker, you look at the clock—a quarter 'til 8 a.m. Quickly, you make your way to the shift meeting room; even being early is late for police officers. Jotting some notes down regarding last night's shift, you grab your equipment and head to your assigned patrol vehicle to start your shift. Several lines of calls on dispatch already await your attention. It's going to be a long day.

For Columbia Police officers working in the Patrol Division, this is an all too familiar feeling. 12-hour shifts are draining—physically, mentally and emotionally. In addition, Columbia's growing population has increased call volume, while officer staffing levels remain the same. In September 2016, the Columbia Police Department opened a survey to patrol officers regarding potential schedule changes to accommodate the officers' request to eliminate 12-hour shifts. Over 60 percent of the officers selected returning to a 10-hour shift.

Starting on Jan. 15, these 10-hour shifts are becoming reality. Officers will be split between two squads and four separate shifts, with an all squad day on Wednesdays. With earlier start times, every other weekend off, and set shift days, officers have suggested this will boost morale of the department, and increases their time with family.

Service to our citizens is of utmost importance and the shift changes will not affect this. Every day, regardless of shift schedules, our officers work to make Columbia a safe place to live, work, learn and play.

Become a Columbia Tourism Ambassador

Each year tourism spending in Boone County numbers in the hundreds of millions. The sales tax generated from this spending helps repair our roads, support our public safety efforts and enhance our overall quality of life. The more visitors we welcome to our area each year, the more spending and economic impact tourism can have.

Become a Columbia Tourism Ambassador and you can help us achieve our mission and embrace the belief that tourism is a vital industry in our city. A positive visitor experience is critical to increase the number of visitors to our city, how much they spend and, most importantly, their desire to come back.

This is a national certification program and participants will improve their knowledge of the region, craft answers to frequently asked visitor questions, interact with peers, share best practices and develop a better understanding of their role in increasing tourism. All attendees have required pre-reading prior to attending a four-hour classroom session followed by an open-book examination. When completed, participants will be a Certified Tourism Ambassador™ (CTA) and have the tools and knowledge to create a memorable visitor experience.

Sign up at CTANetwork.com or contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 573-441-5573.

SAVE THE DATE!

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
FAIR HOUSING
AND LENDING
SEMINAR**

Friday April 7, 2017

Successful East Campus volunteer cleanup

On a Saturday in November, the City of Columbia, with the effort of volunteers, put a new spin on trash pickup by finding out how much litter picked up on City streets could be diverted from our landfill and instead be recycled. Thirty-eight volunteers picked up litter in the East Campus Neighborhood collecting 58 bags of litter.

The litter was then sorted into three categories: recyclable containers (cans and bottles), recyclable fiber (newspaper, cardboard and paperboard) and trash. The sort resulted in 140 pounds of recyclable containers, 58 pounds of recyclable fiber and 105 pounds of trash. In all, 65 percent of the litter collected was recyclable.

To find out more about the City of Columbia's recycling programs or to schedule a cleanup and litter sort for your organization, contact Jody Cook, Volunteer Programs Specialist at 573-874-6271 or jody.cook@CoMo.gov.



Prices decrease for adult softball

Registration will open Feb. 6 for adult softball leagues for the spring, summer and fall. In 2017, the prices will decrease from \$35.70 to \$34 per game for all of the softball leagues.

Teams may register for one or all seasons, based on availability. Spring and summer leagues play an eight-game schedule. The spring league begins in April, and the summer league typically begins in June or July, depending on the spring rainout schedule. The fall league will begin once the summer league ends.

Games are played at Cosmo Park's Rainbow Softball Center, 1615 Business Loop 70 West. Leagues are offered for men's teams and co-ed teams.

Call Columbia Parks and Recreation at 573-874-7460 or visit CoMo.gov for more information.



Visit CoMoSnow.com for snow removal information

When a snow or ice event hits Columbia, snow plows must treat and plow the equivalent lane miles of the distance from Columbia to Miami. The Public Works Department, Boone County and the Missouri Department of Transportation share responsibility for treating and plowing streets in and

around Columbia. To view which streets the City treats and plows, go to CoMoSnow.com. There you can find information on the snow routes, ordinances, procedures and policies.

Major Roads First: Of the streets that Public Works treats and plows, 275 lane miles have been designated as First Priority streets and 191 lane miles as Second Priority streets. First Priority streets are major streets that facilitate access to public transportation, hospitals, fire stations and other public safety needs. Second Priority streets are heavily traveled streets for access to schools and businesses.

In Columbia, the City, County and MoDOT are all responsible for treating and plowing area roads.

Designated Snow Routes: Designated snow routes are clearly marked with signs that remind drivers not to park on them when snow is expected to accumulate two inches or more. Unfortunately, cars must be towed to optimize snow removal and safety when violations of the ordinance occur.

Optimization Routes: This winter, some new "optimization routes" are being piloted to facilitate vehicle access to First/Second priority streets as well as residential neighborhoods. Although vehicles may park on these routes without penalty when snow accumulates two inches, the Street Division asks drivers to consider not parking on them during a snow event. This will assist in treating and plowing all streets more efficiently.

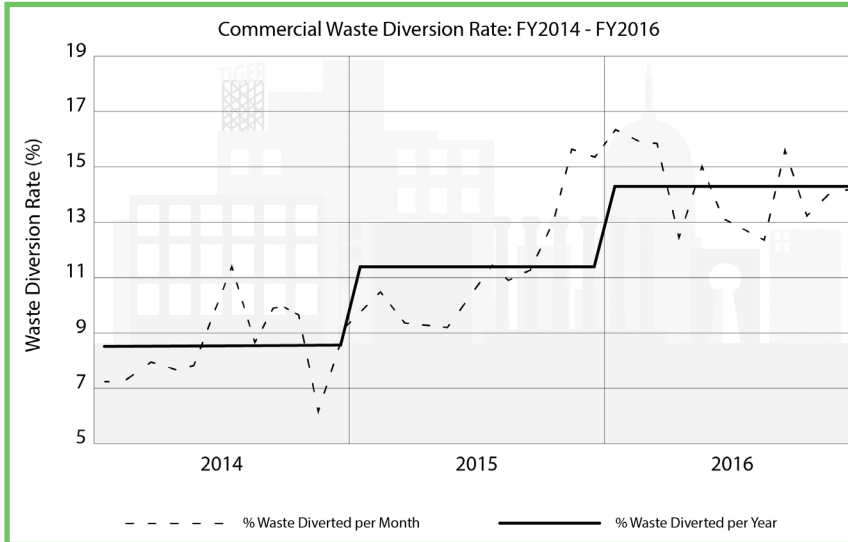
Residential Streets: For snowfall over 4 inches, crews work continuously until First and Second priorities are addressed, and then work continuously until all residential streets are at a minimum passable in a front-wheel drive vehicle at slow speeds. This includes Columbia's 1,132 cul-de-sacs, which are particularly challenging and time consuming because there are few places to push the snow without blocking driveways, mailboxes, fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. Sometimes this requires special equipment or extra time. For snows of less than 4 inches, plows work during regular business hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Again, plow drivers ask everyone to help out and consider not parking on residential streets during snow removal whenever possible.

For a list of frequently asked questions and more information about Public Works' snow removal plans, visit CoMoSnow.com.

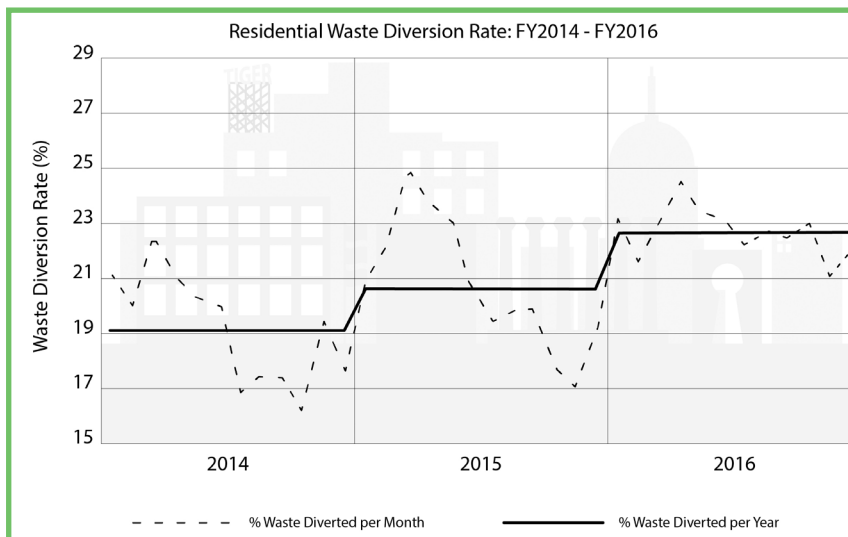
Budget breakdown—Annual audit

The City's fiscal year 2016 ended on September 30, 2016. In December, external auditors RSM US LLP were on-site conducting the annual audit. The final audit report will be issued by February 1, 2017 and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) will be prepared and posted on the City's website. The City also submits the CAFR to Governmental Financial Officers Association for review in the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program. The City has met the requirements for this certificate for 35 years. Visit the City's website to view documents since FY 1998.

COMO recycling data



Graphs are based on tons of trash and recycled material during the City of Columbia fiscal year (October-September).



The waste diversion rate for the City of Columbia has steadily increased for residential and commercial properties over the past three years. During that time, we have started recycling #1-7 plastics rather than just #1-2 plastics. The City population has also increased during that time. However, this data does not include scrap metal, electronic waste, clothing and other recyclables that are dropped-off at private businesses. They also do not include food and yard waste that residents compost in their backyards.

When determining the waste diversion rate, there are many unknowns to consider. Any materials that are sent to the landfill or recycling facility are measured by weight rather than volume. This means that a gallon of expired milk (8.6 pounds) that is thrown into the landfill would be equal to 394 empty, recycled water bottles (16.9 oz; 9.89 grams each). The empty water bottles would have occupied more space in the landfill, but they are not measured by volume. The weight of empty plastic bottles has also decreased by 48 percent between 2000-2014*. This means that more recycled items are needed to match the previous year's waste diversion rate. The challenge exists throughout the country and everyone is calculating waste diversion rates differently.

*Source—
International Bottled Water Association

Volunteers shared more than 35,000 hours in 2016

In the City's 2016 fiscal year, volunteers shared 35,180 hours of service supporting 12 City departments. Parks and



Recreation had the greatest support from volunteers, with 14,342 hours contributed to 60 different programs and activities. The Community Development Department logged 8,812 hours and City Utilities, including Solid Waste and Stormwater, had 5,802 hours of service. We estimate that more than 6,000 individuals volunteered with the City during the year.

Overall, volunteer hours are up 2 percent from the previous year with eight departments having an increased or steady volunteer support from the previous year. Volunteer service to the City fluctuates from year to year due to staff changes, department

priorities and volunteer preferences.

In addition to the hours and service represented in this report, hundreds of volunteers share time on more than 40 boards and commissions that advise the City Council and staff.

The City of Columbia believes the contributions that residents share are tremendous and there is strong support among staff and the community for volunteer service with the City. Thank you, volunteers.



NEW parking meters and pre-paid cards

The City of Columbia is rolling out the new CoMo Park Card, a pre-paid parking card accepted by all City meters. This card replaces the EZ Park Card and functions with a log-in/log-out system. The new cards are free and can be loaded by CoMo Parking on third floor of City Hall, 701 E. Broadway. Those who currently have an EZ Park Card can exchange it for free and have any remaining funds transferred to the new card.

In January, CoMo Parking is installing almost 1,400 new meters which accept the CoMo Park Cards but not the EZ Park Cards. About 350 of those meters will have double bay meter heads that control two parking spaces and the remaining 957 meters will be single bay meters.

More information: 573-874-2489 or CoMo.gov search "parking."



Directions for CoMo Park Card

- 1.) Insert card. This will log card in.
- 2.) Meter will show max time available for card.
- 3.) Remove card.
- 4.) When you return to meter insert card. Meter will debit card for the amount of time you parked.
- 5.) Remove card. This will log card out.
- 6.) Ensure card is logged out before leaving meter.

Happy New Year from the City of Columbia! Start 2017 right by exploring the many services offered by the City of Columbia.

Call 573-874-CITY(2489) for:
 Trash services, recycling, sewer issues, stormwater issues, street concerns, parking issues, energy efficiency programs, water and electric issues, airport information and other City services.

Thank you for helping us make Columbia the best place to live, work, learn and play!

Happy New Year! 2017

Parks & Recreation Calendar

Call 573-874-7460 for more information.

February

7	Black History Month Film Festival: "Within Our Gates," Armory Sports and Community Center, 7 p.m., FREE
14	Black History Month Film Festival: "Body and Soul," Armory Sports and Community Center, 7 p.m., FREE
21	Black History Month Film Festival: "Murder in Harlem," Armory Sports and Community Center, 7 p.m., FREE
26	Boy/Girl Scout Day, Hickman Pool, 1-3 p.m., must pre-register, \$3 per child
28	Black History Month Film Festival: "Swing!" Armory Sports and Community Center, 7 p.m., FREE
	<p>Did you know? Ninety-five percent of C.A.R.E. (Career Awareness Related Experience) trainees said that participating in the program kept them away from bad influences and out of trouble.</p>

Columbia receives STAR Community rating for sustainability

Columbia has been recognized for sustainability leadership. The City recently received a Certified 3-STAR Community rating from STAR Communities.

What is STAR?

STAR is designed to assess a community's sustainability performance in seven goal areas.

- Built Environment
- Climate & Energy
- Economy & Jobs
- Education, Arts & Community
- Equity & Empowerment
- Health & Safety
- Natural Systems



How was Columbia's rating determined?

Led by the Office of Sustainability over a one-year period, multiple individuals from City departments and community partner organizations provided detailed documentation to support the City's application for a STAR rating. This third-party evaluation process gives validity to the City's efforts to self-report Columbia's sustainability performance. Based on this comprehensive evaluation, Columbia received a 3-Star rating (out of a possible 5 Stars).

What are the next steps?

The Office of Sustainability is currently reviewing this year's performance and identifying opportunities for improvement. Please visit our website for more information and opportunities to be involved.

CoMo.gov/sustainability/star

Volunteer of the month—Historic Preservation Commission

Founded in 1998, the City of Columbia Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has been a leading force for the preservation of historic properties and the upcycling, salvaging and repurposing of unique historical building treasures for use in contemporary structures. They have an on-call salvage team to remove items from historic structures that are slated for demolition and collect and store items for later public sale. They also consult with citizens wanting to maintain and rehabilitate their historic properties.

With their multi-faceted mission the HPC devotes hundreds of hours to their task. One of their most exceptional projects involved organizing 60+ volunteers over five years to rescuing 19,000 pounds of historic building materials from James Condominium and a dozen other structures. This culminated in a September 2016 sale at Rock Quarry Park with more than 200 shoppers in attendance and dozens of doors, door knobs, windows, stoves, tin ceilings, radiators and much more. The HPC had done something very special: making the old new and giving individuals the ability to purchase historic building materials for numerous other projects in town. In a sense, theirs is the gift that keeps on giving. Thank you, HPC.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit our website at CoMo.gov/volunteer, or contact Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or email volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Written by volunteer Elizabeth Miller.



Strategic Plan meeting facilitators announced

As part of the Strategic Plan, the City announces the selection of New Chapter Coaching and Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) to continue the facilitation work of Carl Kenney.

Carolyn Sullivan and Elisa Glick with New Chapter Coaching and Nikki McGruder with DAP will serve as facilitators for the community meetings being held in each of the three Strategic Plan Neighborhoods (Central, North, East). As facilitators, they will encourage citizens to share information about their needs; information that might help the City to work alongside them to design and implement strategies to improve the quality of their lives.

To read the City's Strategic Plan, see the three focus neighborhoods or read the plan's annual report, visit CoMo.gov and click Strategic Plan on the left.

Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project February 15 & 22



The City of Columbia is looking for volunteers who are interested in working in our parks, caring for our environment and enjoying an occasional splash in a lake or stream. If that describes you, then you may want to participate in C.A.R.P.

The Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project – C.A.R.P.– was created by the Parks and Recreation Department to involve volunteers in implementing an aquatic plant and shoreline management plan.

The 2017 C.A.R.P. class will be held Wednesday evenings, February 15 and 22 at the Parks Management Center, 1507 Business Loop 70 West, near Cosmo Park. Classes include information on aquatic plants and insects, stormwater management and lake ecology. In return, volunteers are asked to share 18 hours of service on projects in city parks.

To register or learn more, contact the City's Volunteer Programs at 573-874-7499 or volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Code corner— exterior mold removal

A common issue on exterior siding throughout Columbia is the appearance of mold. Mold growth is common, especially on the north side of structures. Mold and mildew is unsightly but fortunately, can be removed with a little effort. Mold can be removed from vinyl siding with a cloth or brush, or with a power washer. There are also private companies that can assist with removal.

Thanks for your effort to keep our neighborhoods looking great. If there is an issue the Office of Neighborhood Services can help with, please contact us at 573-817-5050 or neighborhood@CoMo.gov.

The City does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, familial status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

City of Columbia
701 E. Broadway • Columbia, MO 65201
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Brian Treece

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Second Ward	Michael Trapp
Third Ward	Karl Skala
Fourth Ward	Ian Thomas
Fifth Ward	Laura Nauser
Sixth Ward	Betsy Peters
City Manager	Mike Matthes



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