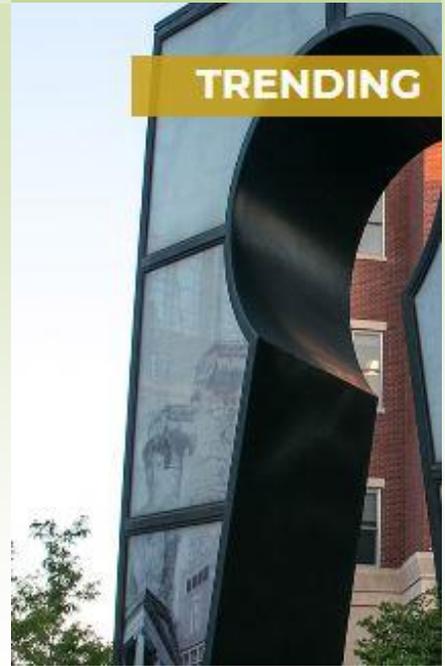


TRENDING



The Week

Board Of Adjustment Turns Down Plan To Revive Old Macy's Building

In a split decision, the Columbia Board of Adjustment turned down a request from the Kroenke Group to make architectural design changes to the façade of the building that formerly housed Macy's in the Shoppes at Stadium. The architectural changes were designed to accommodate new tenants who have expressed an interest in the building that has remained vacant for more than two years.

The basic request was to add two "towers" to the front of the existing building and create additional functional entrances for both retail and office tenants that would occupy the first and second floors of the empty building. The proposed towers were 11.5 feet taller than the maximum building height of 45 feet allowed for buildings located within any M-C zoning district.

Testimony from the applicants indicated that prospective tenants for the unoccupied facility had requested the proposed design upgrades and most parties to the discussion indicated that the aesthetic design of the proposed changes was positive, but that no "hardship" existed that would allow the Board to bypass existing rules. The architect representing the applicant, Michael Chiodini, is the same architect who designed the city's current City Hall structure.

The five-member board voted 3 to 2 in favor of the modifications, but rules require 4 of the five members to vote in the affirmative to achieve approval of the request. Board members voting NO were former East Campus Neighborhood Association President Janet Hammen and current Benton-Stephens Neighborhood Association President Peter Norgard.

To watch a short video of the proceedings, follow this link:

[BOA Regular Meeting – November 13, 2018](#)

Links Of Interest

[Boone County Clerk Election Returns – November 6, 2018 Election](#)

[MO Secretary of State Election Returns – November 6, 2018 Election](#)

[Mizzou Men's Football vs. Tennessee – Nov. 17, 2:30 \(CST\)](#)

TV: CBS

Radio: 96.7 FM, 105.1 FM; 1580 AM

[City Council Regular Meeting Agenda – November 19, 2018](#)

Deeper Dive

CityWatch Regular Council Preview – November 19, 2018

[\(Additional Subscription Required\)](#)

CityWatch Regular P&Z Meeting – November 22, 2018 – CANCELED (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

[Ask us about CityWatch "Preview" and "The Week" special deals.](#)



Is Your Home Really A Hotel?

This month the city will be holding two input/informational meetings regarding potential changes to rules and tax policy relating to “short-term rentals” often referred to as AirBnB, or virtual bed and breakfasts.

This has become quite a debate in some parts of Columbia - not so much in other neighborhoods - where the practice of renting a private home to overnight guests is already precluded due to existing covenants.

The issue has two basic parts: How shall the rentals be taxed? And, how shall the rentals be regulated?

[Meetings will be held at City Hall to discuss new proposals developed by city staff at 6:00PM on November 20 and at 2:00 PM on November 29. \(AGENDA\).](#)

Here are a few materials that may be of use to you:

[NEW SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROPOSAL](#)

[SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS SHORT-TERM RENTAL MEETINGS](#)

A Water Survey

Apparently, this month, the city really wants to see what you think. In addition to the Citizen Survey and the Short-Term Rental Survey, the city wants to know what you think about water rates.

The city is in the process of implementing new water rates for both residential and commercial users. Preliminary indications are that rates will increase minimally for low volume users; will become higher for residential users during summer months no matter what; and if you exceed a certain level of water use for irrigation, you will see significantly higher rates.

Here are two links that can help you participate and become better informed:

[WATER COST OF SERVICE STUDY](#)

[ADDENDUM TO STUDY](#)

[WATER RATE SURVEY](#)

What's On Your Mind? Citizen Survey.

Each year, the City of Columbia surveys citizens to find out how they are doing when it comes to the delivery of services, the condition of our roads, and what we think about public safety and government in general.

A paper version of the 2018 Citizen Survey was mailed this week to 1,800 recipients. If, however, you are not one of the random households selected to receive the printed version, you have the ability to weigh in online. Unfortunately, the initial links on the city website kept referring interested parties back to the news release sent out by the city. Here's a direct link to an electronic version of the survey that you can complete:

[2018 CITIZEN SURVEY DIRECT LINK](#)

The survey will be used this year to help prioritize items during next year's budget planning process. That is important since the city is now moving toward a Priority-Based Budgeting process that will rank the relative importance of each category of expenditures.

There are 38 general questions on the survey (including some sub-questions on specific items) and an additional 13 questions that are mostly demographic in nature. You do not have to identify yourself individually to complete the survey and the tabulation is conducted by a third-party consultant. If you received a paper survey and do not respond, you will receive a telephone call from the city asking if you would like to complete the survey by phone. Your opportunity to respond to the survey runs until the first part of December, so don't delay. Results of the survey will be published next year.

Want to see what citizens said before? Here are links to the 2016 and 2017 surveys:

[2017 Citizen Survey Results](#)

[2016 Citizen Survey Results](#)



Antique Thanksgiving Day Pin

**The elections are over. Now it's really time to talk turkey.
Happy Thanksgiving Day to all our loyal readers.**

*(Contact us if you have an interesting political item
that we might feature in this space.)*

City Adjusts Schedule For Thanksgiving

Many people in Columbia will enjoy a holiday on Thanksgiving (which falls early this year on November 22), and will also enjoy a bonus holiday from work the day after. This year, many city workers will be able to follow suit.

All administrative city offices will be closed on Thanksgiving, and for the first time, will also be closed on the following day, November 23. Police and Fire emergency services will be active both days, although administrative public safety offices will be closed.

Trash pick-up schedules will change during Thanksgiving week as well. No collection will occur on Thursday. Thursday customers will be picked up on Friday. Friday customers will be delayed by one day and will receive Saturday trash pick-up. The landfill will also be closed for the holiday.

If you are a member of the ARC recreation facility, doors will close at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, November 21 and remain closed all day on Thanksgiving, but will re-open for normal hours on Friday, November 23.

If you experience problems with city utilities or need to report outages over the holidays, direct lines will be open for Water & Light, Sewer and Stormwater customers.

Emergency Water & Light Contact phone number: 573-875-2555

Emergency Sewer or Stormwater phone number: 573-441-5530

There are no city board, commission or task force (**including P&Z**) meetings scheduled for Thanksgiving Day and throughout the weekend. Regular meeting schedules resume on Monday, November 26.

**CityWatch-
Columbia** offices
will be closed for
Thanksgiving
beginning 3:00 PM
November 21.
Reopen Monday,
November 26.

Speaking of Birds...

The Birds – and now the Pony - motorized scooters are about to get the opportunity to roam throughout Columbia – but it definitely won't be "free" range.

On Monday, Nov. 19, the council is expected to approve contracts that will impose the following requirements on the new scooter companies:

- \$10,000 initial operating fee
- \$1 per day per scooter payment to the City Sidewalk and Transit Replacement funds
- Bond fund payments of \$30 per scooter
- Scooters restricted to 15 mph speed limit
- Scooters off the street by dusk or 8PM
- Cease operations during inclement weather or snow events
- Companies must maintain adequate liability insurance coverage
- Agree to move scooters blocking sidewalks within 2 hours of notification
- Maintain 24-hour toll free help line
- Stay off trails and downtown sidewalks

The city anticipates it will receive \$308,000 in revenue from the scooter companies for the first two years of operation, and \$144,000 each year thereafter. The Lime Scooter company is expected to ask for similar recognition soon.

CityWatch-Columbia

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Find us on the Web:

www.citywatchcolumbia.com

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Mixed Use Project Will Test New Zoning Code

A proposal to annex and rezone 69 acres of land located at Oakland Gravel and Prathersville Road from Agricultural use in the County to mixed use zoning categories will be heard by the City Council on November 19. This is the largest proposal for a mixed-use development to come forward since the city adopted its new zoning code in March 2017. The applicant is asking for a combination of R-1, M-N and M-C classifications on the land with commercial uses intended along the major roadways and single-family housing in the remainder of the area. Previously, projects like this were encouraged to apply for Planned zoning designations. The new code discourages that approach due to enhanced, requirements built into the new code. (Case #18-166)

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If you like “The Week” – or more - and would like more information about how to subscribe, we offer several different subscription options.

[EMAIL CITYWATCH BY CLICKING HERE.](#)

For other questions or suggestions, contact us at citywatchcolumbia@gmail.com.

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