

# Fall 2020 Columbia Quarterly



**MAYOR'S MINUTE** The last six months have certainly thrown us a curve with the Coronavirus pandemic. The City has taken on these challenges and taking extra precautions while conducting business. You can now virtually join our City Council, Plan Commission and Parks meetings from the comfort of your home. Just go to our website to see how. As always, and especially now during these trying times, I'd like to encourage everyone to support our local businesses whenever possible. Please remember to follow all Covid-19 safety guidelines in place, and check in on family, friends and neighbors. Columbia is full of kind, considerate and giving people; I am very proud to represent our fine City.

Mayor Kevin Hutchinson

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GOVERNMENT

BUSINESS

RESIDENTS

THINGS TO DO

HOW DO I?



New Website Launched, Tell Us What You Think!



Search...



AGENDAS  
& MINUTES



FORMS AND  
APPLICATIONS



REPORT  
A CONCERN



ONLINE  
PAYMENTS



BID  
OPPORTUNITIES



SCHOOLS

The City of Columbia is excited to announce the launch of its redesigned website.

On September 1, the City unveiled its new website, complete with a colorful design which incorporates our City's modern branding. The easy to navigate menus, complete with new graphic elements and updated information are designed to bring users to their destination quickly.

The homepage is designed to allow users to easily find the information they're looking for. Icons with links to the information searched for the most will bring users to their destination in just one click. The homepage also includes a "Columbia News" section where users will find City notifications about roadwork, recycling, and other special services, a "Columbia Events" section highlighting the upcoming week's public meetings and social events, and contact information complete with phone numbers and office hours at City Hall.

Additionally, the new site features a unique notification system called "Notify Me," where users can sign up to receive emails or text messages about a variety of topics from City events to City Council agendas to City services updates.

We invite the public to explore the website's new features at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com) and let us know what you think by completing the survey which can be found in the "Columbia News" section of the homepage.

## Protect Your Children From Internet Crime By Following These Crime Prevention Steps

- Instruct your child never to give out personal information online – such as their name, address, or school name – without your approval.
- Teach your child about scams that appear as friendly emails or offers that are too good to be true.
- Place your computer where you can see what your child is doing.
- Install software that prevents access to inappropriate sites and chat rooms.
- Teach your child what to do if they come across inappropriate sites or receive emails or invitations from strangers.
- Learn how your children are using the internet by regularly checking frequented sites and monitoring how much time they spend online.



For more information on this topic, the Columbia Police Department recommends parents view Smart Social (smartsocial.com), a website that provides an internet safety guide for parents and teachers. This resource allows students and parents to stay up to date on trends, dangers, news and changes for every popular teen app and social media platform.



*The Mission of the Columbia Police Department, in cooperation with our community, is to protect life and property, and enhance the quality of life for all of our citizens.*



## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Main Street Streetscape and South Main Resurfacing Project and the Bolm-Schuhkraft Connector Trail Project are substantially complete. The City of Columbia Main Street Streetscape Project has been nominated by IDOT District 8 for the 2020 Urban Contract of the Year. It is hoped that the residents of the City of Columbia will enjoy these additions to our sidewalk and trail network. The city would like to thank the residents, businesses, and motorists for their cooperation and patience during construction. The city also wants to thank Baxmeyer

Construction for their willingness to work with the city, businesses, and residents on both projects. And finally a big thanks to the Department of Public Works and Assistant City Engineer Tim Ahrens for their work on the projects.



### WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

NOW  
OPEN

Changes Hair Care, LLC  
911 S. Main St.

► Hair by Carla  
► Lena's Nail Bar  
► Styles by Kristin  
► Suite Hair, Shear Envy  
► Virginia Stumpf Hair  
109 W. Legion St.

Mala Salon & Blow Dry Bar  
111 W. Locust St.

COMING SOON

Beast Southern Kitchen & BBQ  
1280 Columbia Centre

Dixie Grace Candle Company  
420 Columbia Centre

M.A.C. Medical, Inc.  
200 Admiral Weinel Blvd.

## LIMB AND LEAF PICK UP

The limb pick up service for Fall 2020 will take place the weeks beginning October 5 and October 12. If you have limbs to be picked up, please have them by the curb in front of your residence by 6:00 a.m. on either Monday, October 5 or Monday, October 12. The service **will not** pick up piles that contain honeysuckle, vines, or landscape waste such as grass clippings or bushes.

The leaf pick up service will begin in October and continue into December (exact dates TBD). You may place your leaves by the curb, but not in the street at any time. Continual sweeps will be made through the city to pick up the leaves. It is recommended (if possible) you cover the pile(s) of leaves so they do not get wet which makes the leaves difficult to pick up. Piles of leaves shall be free of honeysuckle, grass clippings, limbs, branches and twigs, acorns, gumballs or anything other than leaves. The leaf vacuums cannot pick up

these types of items. As we get closer to these dates, additional reminders and information will be posted on the City website, City's Facebook page, at City Hall, and on utility billing notices.

If you have questions about the leaf and limb pick up service, please contact City Hall at 281-7144 x 100.



## NEW MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGGREGATION RATE SAVES COLUMBIA RESIDENTS 20%

On June 16, 2020, a group comprised of municipalities across central and southern Illinois held a bid opening for the purchase of the combined electric supply of its residents and eligible small businesses. Effective with the first meter read this December, the new rate for participants in Columbia's electric aggregation program will be 4.39¢ per kilowatt hour. The current aggregation rate is 5.596¢/kWh. This represents a savings of 21.55% when compared to the expiring rate, or \$8.97 per month for the average household. The City will be remaining with Homefield Energy for residential/small business electric supply.

The default rate offered by Ameren Illinois (effective October 1, 2020) will be 4.546¢/kWh. Ameren may increase rates at any time if they demonstrate to the Illinois Commerce Commission that costs have changed. The City's rate is guaranteed through December 2022.

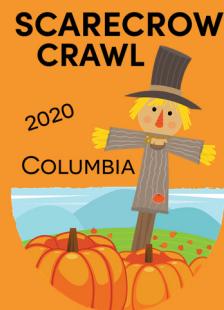
Customers who have opted out of the aggregation program may return to the City's supplier by contacting Homefield Customer Care at 844-351-7691. You will need to provide the account holder name, address and account number.

Customers who are being served by another retail electric supplier (other than Ameren Illinois or Homefield) and wish to participate may enroll in the program by contacting Homefield Customer Care. Make sure to check your term and early termination provisions of your contract.

Authorized by referendum in 2012, electric aggregation allows Columbia to get a "bulk" price, through the bidding process, and is intended to provide rate stability. Residents can compare the Municipal Electric Aggregation price to Ameren's current default electric supply price at any time at [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org).

## CITY HOSTS SCARECROW CRAWL

Come take a stroll on Historic Main St. between October 5–31 to see all of the amazing Scarecrow entries created by individuals, schools, businesses, organizations, churches & more. What a great way to create something fun during these challenging times.



A Scarecrow Decorating Contest will be held, and judges will vote on Most Columbia Spirit, Best Use of Recyclable Materials, Most Creative, Best Name, Most Complex and Best Overall. The public will have the opportunity to vote on the People's Choice award determined by most Likes on the City's Facebook page. Winners will be announced on the City's Facebook page on Friday, October 30 and cash prizes will be awarded.

Scarecrow Contest Registration Forms and more information can be found on the City's website or contact Sue Spargo at [sspargo@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:sspargo@columbiaillinois.com) or call 281-7144 x 134.

We encourage everyone to follow all safety guidelines for Covid-19 while taking part in this festive Fall activity.





City of Columbia  
208 S. Rapp Avenue  
P.O. Box 467  
Columbia, IL 62236

Know Columbia



Prsrt Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 5584  
St. Louis, MO



## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more info call  
281-7144 or visit  
[www.columbiaillinois.com-calendar](http://www.columbiaillinois.com-calendar)

**Tree Limb Pick-Up**  
**Weeks of Oct. 5 & 12:**  
Place limbs near curb by 6 am  
(see page 2).

 **Leaf Pick-Up Oct. - Dec.:**  
(Exact dates TBA). Place leaves  
by curb (not in street).  
Continual sweeps will be made.

**Scarecrow Crawl**  
**Oct. 8-31:** Take a stroll  
with family & friends on  
Main St. to see all of the  
festive Scarecrows.



 \* **Witches Ghoulish Night Out**  
**Oct. 8, 5-9 p.m.:** Food, brew,  
shopping & fun for witches and  
warlocks. Free! Very Important  
Witch (VIW) package available  
to purchase Sept. 1 at  
[Mymainstreetcolumbia.com](http://Mymainstreetcolumbia.com).

**City Hall Closed**  
**Nov. 3:** Election Day



**Veteran's Day**  
**Nov. 11, 11am:**  
Ceremony outside American Legion.

*The City of Columbia is proud to print the Quarterly on recycled paper*

### \* Small Business Saturday Nov. 28, 8am-5pm:

Great gift card giveaway all morning on Historic Main Street. Stay local to win a gift card of your choice.



### \* Designer Bag Bingo

 **Dec. 4:** Win designer bags just in time for Christmas. Stay tuned for more details as the format of this event may change depending on Covid restrictions.

\* Sponsored by Historic Main St. Columbia

Please remember to follow  
all Covid-19 safety guidelines  
while attending events.



### Annual Events Cancelled due to Covid

- Songs4Soldiers
- FestiFall
- Halloween Hi-Jinks
- Holiday Hunt



### COLUMBIA LIBRARY HOURS

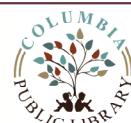
The Columbia Library is open to the public and offers curbside service as well.

**Hours:** Monday -Thursday, 9am-8pm  
Friday, 9am-4pm  
Saturday, 9am-3pm



### LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

#### Online Library Programs



#### September Library Card Sign up Month

New patron's names will be entered into a drawing for \$75 Schnucks gift card.

#### October Food for Fines

Patrons will receive \$1 off their fines for every donated non-perishable food item.

#### Ralph's World TV Treehouse: Season One

Sept. 5—Nov 21, Saturdays at 10am  
Facebook and Library Website

#### Fake News with Betsy Jewell

Sept. 17, 6-7pm

#### \*\*Comic Book Heros/Costume Fashion Design

Sept. 28, 2-3pm, Zoom meeting led by Crayola Imagine Arts Academy of St. Louis.

#### Document Shred Event

Oct. 3, 10am-noon, Turner Hall Parking Lot

#### Medicare 101 with Carol Vogt

Oct. 7, 6-7 pm

\*\* To Register or see more events go to:  
[www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org)

#### New Digital Platforms at [www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org)

**Hoopla:** Over 700,000 items—movies, TV series & more

**NewsBank:** St. Louis Post & Belleville News Democrat

**OverDrive:** Over 32,000 eBooks & eAudio books

