



COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Summer/2021



Meet your newly elected officials on page 3

Events are Back

Music Takes Center Stage

Beethoven once said, "Music can change the world." Most of us are ready for a change from the unparalleled year we faced in 2020, and we're ready to start tapping our toes and singing a happy tune! Join your friends and neighbors at the many musical events taking place in Columbia this summer! Music at Metter Park begins Sunday, June 13 and continues every other Sunday from 6 - 8 p.m. Songs4Soldiers welcomes Josh Turner and Night Ranger on September 17 & 18 at Bolm-Schuhkraft Park, and our restaurants, wineries and bars feature music regularly!



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CPD Shares Safety Town Videos



The Columbia Police Department is happy to provide a "virtual" Safety Town this year. Due to pandemic restrictions still looming, the decision was made to not have "in person" Safety Town again

this summer. However, CPD has come up with several virtual Safety Town videos that can be viewed on the Police Department's Facebook page @ColumbiaILPoliceDepartment. "We had a lot of fun filming these videos. We are very confident that we will be able to have regular 'in person' Safety Town back in the summer of 2022. We wish everyone a safe and fun summer! If you need anything, we are always here at the Columbia Police Department" said Chief Jason Donjon.



Mayors Message



Mayor Bob Hill

Has it already been a month? As I write this note, I am overwhelmed by the support I continue to receive from Columbia residents. I cannot thank you all enough for entrusting me to lead our great City for the next four years.

This first month in office has been enlightening. I have met with residents and business owners to hear how the City can work to meet their needs. I have visited nearly every City facility, and met with Staff from all across the organization. There are challenges that will need to be addressed, and opportunities that can be leveraged- from the Public Safety Complex on Main Street to the sewer treatment plant on Bottom Road. This City is poised for tremendous growth. In an effort to ensure the City can continue providing a high level of service that our community expects, it is important we work to ensure this growth is approached responsibly. The City's Comprehensive Planning effort, detailed in the next article, is crucial to achieving this goal.

Since taking office, I have been fiercely advocating for the City. Under Governor Pritzker's proposed budget, the City of Columbia stands to lose over \$150,000 in income tax revenue. I sent a letter to the Governor's Office, State Sen. Terri Bryant, and State Rep. David Friess strongly encouraging the reconsideration of this proposal. Additionally, I have met with US Representative Mike Bost regarding the detrimental impact draft flood risk review maps will have on existing Columbia homes and development potential for the City.

I look forward to keeping an open dialogue with the community. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach me at 281-7144 x109 or bhill@columbiaillinois.com.

Change Happens...

Plan for It!

The City of Columbia will begin preparing a new comprehensive plan this summer. As your local government agency, one of the City's primary responsibilities is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Comprehensive planning is critical to guiding a city in meeting this important responsibility as the community grows and changes. Columbia's "20/20 Master Plan" has helped guide our slow, steady growth over the last 15 years. The plan has run its course. It is now time to replace it with a new plan based on updated data and projections to guide Columbia's growth for the next 20 years.

Why is this project important? We know Columbia will continue to grow. This is a great community where people want to live. The new comprehensive plan will identify how much growth to expect and when to expect it, while assessing available resources, opportunities, potential constraints, and community preferences. Based on these factors, appropriate locations and standards for commercial, industrial, and residential development will be identified. The plan will also determine

how the City should keep up with the anticipated growth with sufficient infrastructure and municipal services at expected service levels.

The key to a successful plan is engaging the community in the planning process, which is anticipated to take about one year to complete. The City will be sharing project information and actively seeking input from the community at each step along the way. An online project portal will be maintained with up to date project information, such as status and interim reports. The project portal will also provide notice of community forums, online participation opportunities, links for project surveys, and options for submitting feedback. We will keep the community informed throughout the



project of any opportunities to provide input.

We know change will happen. The City wants your help to plan for it! Check the City's social media and website periodically for updates as we finalize project details. For questions or comments about the project, contact Scott Dunakey, Director of Community Development at sdunakey@columbiaillinois.com or (618) 281-7144 ext. 118.

Welcome New Businesses!

Advanced Industrial Controls, Inc.
1945 Westgate Dr.

Bake Salon Studio
319 N. Main St.

Citizens Equity First Credit Union
180 Admiral Trost Dr.

Columbia Laundry
287 Southwoods Center

Dieterich Bank
218 N. Main St.

The Lash Browtique by Krystina
207 N. Main St., Ste. 103E

Meet Your New Aldermen

Council Welcomes New Faces

Your aldermen have been elected to represent you and safeguard your interests in matters that relate to the City. Each alderman is elected by the people in his or her ward and there are two aldermen for each ward. Not sure which ward is yours? You'll find a ward map on our website.

If you live in Ward 1 or Ward 3, you elected a new alderman in April. Doug Garmer, along with his wife, and two daughters has lived in Columbia for 21 years. Doug will serve Ward 1 residents and plans to focus on intelligent city design, fiscal responsibility, public safety and police support. Doug is also determined to advocate for the small business community.

Paul Khoury is your new Ward 3 alderman. Paul is a local

Doug Garmer



Paul Khoury



business owner and 23 year resident of Columbia where he resides with his wife and four children. He hopes to build a healthy, open dialogue with our local businesses and residents, and encourage infrastructure maintenance and improvements including Columbia's trails and parks.

You'll certainly see both Doug and Paul out and about in town. Be sure to introduce yourself and let them know your thoughts and visions for Columbia so they can best represent you.

Columbia Library is Full of Surprises

One Stop Shop for Entertainment this Summer

Who needs a library card, it's just a bunch of dusty old books in there anyway, right?" If you've thought this to yourself based on what you know about libraries of the past, you're not alone. But today, the Columbia Public Library functions much more like a cross

between Amazon and a community center!

Being connected to over 520 libraries in Illinois through nearly daily delivery means that almost no book, DVD, kit or magazine is out of your reach when ordering from your account at home. Even more instantaneous are the Cloud Library and Overdrive/Libby apps we share with other libraries in the consortium, giving you hundreds of thousands of e-books and e-audiobooks at the click of a button. The Columbia Library also subscribes to Hoopla, where many movies and TV shows can be streamed free on your device along with e-books and e-audio with no wait times. If you like keeping up with the Belleville, St. Louis, and national newspapers from home, we offer NewsBank online! With a Columbia Library card, you also have free access to LinkedIn Learning, building new skills through online courses in business, sales, accounting, web design, photography, social media, and more.

If online services aren't your thing, we are fully open to the public, so if you prefer to browse in-person, come on in! Check out our section of new bestsellers, or take our tennis rackets or a bird & wildlife backpack into the park next door. For a rainy day, we offer puzzles, brain-games, and knit-kits complete with yarn and knitting needles. We have CD players to take home, pocket-sized

Playaways for your weekly jog, and kids' Voxbooks that read aloud to your child to get them excited about literacy. If you're looking for hot ideas to refresh your home décor, we have subscriptions to HGTV magazine, House Beautiful, Magnolia Journal, Better Homes & Gardens, and many more.

Every year the library offers Summer Reading for all ages! Get registered online or at the library for a chance to win prizes! The library has free events year round that are free and open to the public.

Visit columbialibrary.org to register for summer reading and events! We offer events via Facebook Live, Zoom, our website, and in-person. We have in-person events happening in Metter Park: story times on Wednesdays, a professional magic show with cruise-line magician Glen Foster, and a Wild Times Exotic animal show.

Be sure to take advantage of our important community services too. Did you know we have a notary on staff? We also have computers connected to printers, along with faxing, scanning, and copying capabilities for the general public. If internet is scarce on your summer vacation or camping trip, try one of our T-Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots! With restrictions lifting in the area, Columbia Library cardholders now have the ability to book the basement for meetings throughout the year, where we have hosted everything from neighborhood associations to Girl Scouts.

We want to save you money! The Columbia Public Library helped each family who currently utilizes the library save an average of \$5,000 a year in items that they would otherwise have to buy. Over the past year, the Columbia Library saved our community around \$2,000,000 in physical and digital costs. Stop by and use your card to start saving today!



Did You Know...?

It is a violation of City Code to blow your grass clippings onto public roadways. The accumulation of grass clippings and other landscape waste doesn't just look bad, it can cause injury to motorcyclists or bicyclists because when they are wet, they become slippery, like ice! Grass clippings can also wash into storm drains and cause them to clog, which in turn can cause water to back up into homes and businesses.

Please keep our streets safe for motorists and our water ways clean by not blowing yard debris and clippings into the streets.





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Know Columbia



Upcoming Events & Services



- June & July every Wed.** **Wednesday Night Workout Series:** 7-8 p.m. at a new location - Cafe on the Abbey lot, 322 S. Main
- June 13** **Music at Metter Park:** 6-8 p.m. *Waterloo German Band.* Doggie Mac's food truck onsite.
- June 27** **Music at Metter Park:** 6-8 p.m. *Dr. Fong & the Long Bros.* Doggie Mac's food truck onsite.
- July 4** **C.R.O.W.N. Bike Parade:** 10a.m. 322 S. Main to Metter Park.
- July 4** **4th of July Celebration & Fireworks:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. American Legion Park, 375 E. Locust. Food, drinks & fireworks.
- July 5** **City Offices Closed** in observance of the 4th of July holiday
- July 11** **Music at Metter Park:** 6-8 p.m. *Fanfare!* Doggie Mac's food truck.
- July 27** **Music at Metter Park:** 6-8 p.m. *Johnny Henry Band.* Doggie Mac's food truck onsite.
- August 7** **Electronics Recycling:** 8 a.m.-noon. McDannold Drive.
- August 7** **Taste of Columbia and Vendor Fair:** Main Street
- August 8** **Music at Metter Park:** 6-8 p.m. *SteamRoller Band* & Doggie Mac's food truck
- August 20** **Columbia Days Picnic:** Turner Hall Friday and Saturday
- August 21** **Columbia Days Parade:** Main Street/Temple to Turner Hall @ 4 p.m.
- August 31 & Sept. 3** **Large Item Curbside Removal:** Tuesday Trash Customers
Large Item Curbside Removal: Friday Trash Customers
- Sept. 17-18** **Songs4Soldiers:** Bolm-Schuhkraft Park. *Josh Turner & Night Ranger.*



Hours:
M-Th, 9 am-8 pm
Fri., 9 am-4 pm
Sat., 9 am-3 pm
281-4237

Details at: www.columbialibrary.org

6/21: Color Crafts: Kaleidoscope (7-11 yrs.) 6 p.m. - Zoom**

6/22: Caregiver Conversations

6/28: Author's Visit: Dea Hoover

6/29: Book Bingo, 7 p.m., FB Live

7/6: Balloon Making Workshop (8+), 6:30 p.m. - Zoom**

7/8: Find Your Roots (Adults)

7/9: Tales to Tails (2-12yrs.)**

7/13: Get Your Photos Organized!**

7/16: Glen Foster Magic Show**

7/19: Illinois Inventors (Family)**

7/22: Colorful Science (K-8) Zoom**

**Register at columbialibrary.org

For more specific details, visit www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar or call 281-7144