



COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Fall/2021



Scarecrow Crawl October 7-31, 2021

New Citizen Engagement Portal

Set to Launch in October

As promised, the City of Columbia is finalizing details on a new project engagement portal that will allow residents to offer their input on upcoming projects. Residents can actively engage by sharing their ideas on virtual sticky notes, pinning locations on a map where they can offer suggestions and share pictures of things they would like to see there, participating in opinion polls and so much more! The first project will be the creation of the City's long range comprehensive plan which will guide Columbia's growth over the next 20 years. We'll be asking for your input and ideas on Columbia's parks, streets, infrastructure, economy, and development at each step along the way. The plan will be developed over the next 12 months with your input in mind.

Look for the new engagement portal at www.ColumbiaConversations.com beginning in October, and stay tuned to our website and social media channels for more information.



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Fall Into Fun!



Cool, crisp days, falling leaves, sunny skies, pumpkins and scarecrows! Celebrate everything fall this year at the City's seasonal events scheduled just for you.

We kick off the season with FestiFall on October 3! Enjoy the music of the Z Band (formerly the SMASH Band) and stroll the promenade to see what our vendors have in store for you. The kids have their own special area to enjoy inflatables, games, and activities at no cost thanks to our generous businesses and sponsors.

Residents, businesses, organizations and churches will decorate Main Street light poles with creative scarecrows in early October. Check our website to see how you can join in the fun, then take a walk on Main St. and vote for your favorite on Facebook. Witches Ghoulish Night Out is October 12, and don't forget trick-or-treating on Main St. Oct. 30!

Mayors Message



Mayor Bob Hill

Our city has been home to several fun community events lately! We have witnessed so many of you showing up and enjoying all of what Columbia has to offer. From the Music at Metter concert series, to the 4th of July Celebration and fireworks, it has been wonderful bringing neighbors and friends together. I was happy to close out our summer events with a great turnout from Columbia residents and visitors who braved the heat to enjoy the Columbia Daze festival and parade. I want to thank all of you who participated in the festivities in one way or another. It was great to see so many entries showcasing the wonderful organizations and businesses within our community!

By the time this hits mailboxes, the 8th Annual Songs4Soldiers Benefit Concert will be history. I am sure Dustin Row and his team of dedicated volunteers put on another spectacular event. This event marked the kick-off of the City's Comprehensive Planning effort. Stay informed on this process, and look for several opportunities in the future to provide feedback on how YOU can help guide the City's growth.

There are many other upcoming events I encourage you to attend and even invite your out-of-town friends to. Columbia has the City's FestiFall celebration October 3rd, Halloween Hi-Jinks on October 30th, and the Bright Night Christmas Parade on December 4th. Help us by letting your friends get to "Know Columbia"!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach me at 281-7144 x109 or bhill@columbiaillinois.com.

We Heard You

Thanks for Your Input!

On the City's August utility bill, City residents (4,209 households with active utility accounts) were asked to respond to a two question survey to help City leaders gauge the community's level of support for the allowance of cannabis dispensaries in Columbia.

Results from the survey showed that 42.8% of the resident responses indicated cannabis dispensaries "should not be allowed" in Columbia and 57.2% of the resident responses indicated dispensaries "should be allowed". The difference of 14.4% is well outside the margin of error. In addition, 74.6% of the "should be allowed" respondents answered "current regulations are reasonable and appropriate," indicating little support for modifying Columbia's current regulations for cannabis dispensaries.

Your opinion makes a difference! Thank

you to everyone who participated in the survey and if you did not participate, we hope that you will share your opinions on future surveys as we continue to prioritize and provide services with you in mind.



Fall Leaf and Limb Pick-Up

The limb pick up service for Fall 2021 will take place the weeks beginning on October 4 and October 11. If you have limbs to be picked up, please have them by the curb in front of your residence by 6 a.m. on either Monday, October 4 or Monday, October 11. No whole trees or tree topping will be accepted. Piles of limbs shall be free of grass clippings, gumballs, and acorns. The City will allow shrubs/bushes to be placed at curb during this pickup.

The leaf pick up service will begin in mid/late October and continue until mid-December. 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 grass clippings, limbs, branches, 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, Facebook page, and at City Hall.

Questions? Please contact City Hall at 618-281-7144.

Welcome New Businesses!

B & D Slots of Fun
950 Columbia Center

Big River Barter
207 N. Main St., Ste. 103C

Dixie Sewing Machine Company
808 South Main St., Ste. D

Enterprise Leasing Co. of STL LLC
156 Southwoods Center

New Hope Therapy, LLC
207 N. Main Street

M.A.C. Medical
200 Admiral Weinell Blvd.

Roosters Health Store (New Owner)
820 Admiral Weinell Blvd.

Selfie Studio A
102 N. Main St.

Put Your Phone Down

Avoid a Crash



The Columbia Police Department would like to remind our residents to put their cell phones down to avoid driving distracted. While April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, we feel this message is always important, especially with the commencement of school and fall sports. The use of a cell phone while driving increases your chances of getting into a crash by 400%. Texting while driving makes you 23 times more likely to crash. Penalties for distracted driving range from a \$164-\$1,000 traffic citation and could also lead to a suspension and/or revocation of driving privileges.

The CPD would like to thank everyone who practices safe driving thus making the roads and school zones safer for all!



EMS Welcomes New Ambulance



Columbia EMS would like to introduce you to our brand new 2021 ambulance. The new ambulance will be replacing the 2008 ambulance that we have been working out of. We are lucky enough to offer the highest level of emergency medical care with state of the art equipment. Of that state of the art equipment, included is the power auto load stretcher. This will prevent potential crew member injuries and enhance patient safety. The new ambulance will be marked as 6025. Stop by and see 6025 at FestiFall in Metter Park on October 3!

Finance Department News

American Rescue Plan Act Funds Coming Soon

The City of Columbia has applied for federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The City will receive \$1,429,181.48 in federal funds with the first distribution of \$714,590.74 to be received in late August and the second tranche one year later. These funds will be used to benefit the City in various ways within the guidelines of the Act. The City has put a committee together to make a recommendation to the City Council on use of the funds.

Utility Bill Account Numbers

With the move to a new billing software, your utility account number changed. If you pay your utility bill with a bank generated check, please be sure to update your utility account number with your banking institution.

You may visit: <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/columbiail> to make payments or opt-in to paperless billing.

Did You Know...?

Do you own a corner lot? It is a violation of City Code to construct, maintain or permit to remain any fence or other structure, or any bushes or other plants, on a corner lot within fifteen (15) feet of the street lines which obstructs the view, at a height of more than four feet above the level of the adjacent street pavement. (code § 12.04.140)

Let's make sure our streets are safe for all motorists, cyclists and pedestrians! If you see a traffic sign, traffic signal, or an intersection that is obstructed, please let us know by submitting a code violation complaint on our website at: www.columbiaillinois.com/requesttracker.aspx





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Know Columbia



Upcoming Events & Services



- October** **Tree Limb Pick-up:** Place limbs near curb by 6 a.m.
- Oct. - Dec.** **Leaf Pick-up:** Exact dates TBA. Place leaves by curb (not in street). Continual sweeps will be made.
- Oct 3** **FestiFall:** 1-6 p.m. at Metter Park. Celebrate fall with the entire family. Music by the Z Band, (formerly SMASH Band). Kids activities, unique mdse., food & drink.

Oct. 7-12 **Scarecrow Crawl:** Take a fall stroll down Historic Main Street to see decorated scarecrows lining the sidewalks. Vote for your favorite scarecrow on Facebook!

October 14 **Witches Ghoulish Night Out** 5-9 p.m. Food, brew, shopping and fun on Historic Main St. Tickets at mymainstreetcolumbia.com

October 30 **Halloween Hi-Jinks:** Trick or treat on Historic Main St. 10 a.m. - noon. Costume contest on City Hall lot at noon.

November 9 **Large Item Pick-up** for Tuesday Trash Customers

November 11 **City Offices Closed.** Veterans Day Service 11 a.m. at American Legion

November 12 **Large Item Pick-up:** for Friday Trash Customers

November 20 **Holiday Hunt:** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Food specials and retail discounts. *Participating Historic Main St. Assoc. businesses.*

Nov. 26- 27 **City Offices Closed:** Happy Thanksgiving!

December 3 **Designer Bag Bingo:** www.mymainstreetcolumbia.com

Dec. 4 & 11 **Visit with Santa:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Columbia Public Library.

December 4 **Bright Night Christmas Parade:** 5 p.m. on Main St.
Turner Hall Social: Immediately following the parade

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



Hours:
M-Th, 9 am-8 pm
Fri., 9 am-5 pm
Sat., 9 am-4 pm
281-4237

Details at: www.columbialibrary.org

September library card sign-up
Enter to win a \$75 gift card

1000 Books Before Kindergarten**

Pop-Up Kids' Book Club 6-14yrs**

October Food for Fines
\$1 off fines for donated food item

10/2: Document Shred Event
10 a.m. - noon. Turner Hall lot

11/13: Gingerbread House Creations** 9:30 & 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

12/4 & 11 Visit with Santa 10a - 1p

Ongoing:
Babygarten**, Story Hour**,
Tot-Time**, Wiggle Worms** and
Novels at Night**

**Register at columbialibrary.org