



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Fall/2023



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## Summer of Storms

### June 30<sup>th</sup> Storm was one for the records

While residents in Columbia have seen our fair share of crazy storms, the storm Columbia experienced on June 30<sup>th</sup> caused wide-spread damage that life-long residents have never seen before. In some areas, wind-speeds in excess of 60 mph, wiped the City of power for over a week. Additional Ameren crews were called in from Kentucky and Tennessee to assist the Illinois crews. They worked around the clock to replace poles snapped by strong winds, transformers, and restring lines downed by tree limbs thus restoring power and making travel safe throughout the City. The City's Department of Public Works, with amazing assistance from many other government entities, worked diligently to clean up downed trees, branches and debris. Estimates from several sources indicated the City amassed 7,800 cubic yards (5,265 tons, or 10,530,000 pounds) of tree debris left in the wake of the storm. Thanks to Monroe County EMA and Baxmeyer Construction, the City was able to utilize a "burn curtain" to safely dispose of the debris. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, Governor Pritzker included Monroe County in the Disaster Proclamation which opens the possibility of the City to recoup a portion of the \$400,000+ spent on recovery efforts. Throughout the recovery process the City of Columbia residents came together to help one another and your cooperation and patience with the City was greatly appreciated. Columbia Strong!

## Major Projects This Fall

### GM&O Connector Trail Project

The GM&O Connector Trail Project began construction on August 4. DMS Contracting, Inc. is the contractor for the project. The project is anticipated to take 2 to 3 months to complete. The project consists of a new hot-mix asphalt trail from Cherry Street to Centerville Road. A sidewalk will be installed along Centerville Road to connect the GM&O Trail to the sidewalk along Main Street. A separate project will be bid late summer or fall to pave (asphalt) the existing aggregate trail from Centerville Road to the end of the City property, which is approximately 300 feet north of IL Route 3.



### Ghent Road Reconstruction Project

The Ghent Road Reconstruction Project Phase 1 was bid on August 4. DMS Contracting, Inc. was the lowest bidder. The project consists of pavement widening, curb and gutter, storm sewer, sidewalk, and Hot-Mix Asphalt surface from Christina Court to the Palmer Creek Bridge. Phase 2 (Christina Court to Main Street) is currently under design.

## Mayor's Message



**Mayor Bob Hill**

This summer was one for the records. Between the heat and the storms we have seen it all. I am extremely proud of our community for pulling together during this challenging time. The Department of Public Works worked above and beyond to clear downed trees, limbs, and brush from the streets. Thank you to our residents for helping each other and being patient with the City as we worked around the clock with Waterloo and other private businesses to clean up damage.

I am also proud to say we didn't let the storms rain on our parade. We celebrated the 4th of July with the C.R.O.W.N. Bike Parade, continued with our annual Music at Metter Concert Series and enjoyed a community night at the Grizzlies Stadium. Throwing out the first pitch was a honor. It was great to see so many businesses, organizations and clubs participate in the annual Columbia Days Parade and Festival. The BackStoppers Hot Rods for Heroes Car show was a highlight on Main Street. Summer is always special in Columbia thanks to these events!

Our Business Awareness Initiative Program is in full swing intended to promote Columbia Businesses. Look to our social media for those spotlights due to begin in September. We always encourage you to support our local businesses.

Having open communications with residents is important and something I care about. Our "Coffee with the Community" events were very successful. We plan to start them back up in late fall. Again, check City social media for dates and times to share your concerns with me and your elected officials. We are here to represent you!

On behalf of everyone with the City, we wish you all the best this fall! I hope to see you around at FestiFall, celebrating Veterans Day at the Honor-Que and Parade November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and at Columbia Football home games!

# Winter Driving

## CPD Driving Safely on Icy Roads

### Safety Tips for Drivers

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brakes.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Do not use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Do not pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you are likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Do not assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.



**The Columbia Police Department wishes all residents in Columbia a safe and Happy Holiday season!**



## Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

**eXp Realty LLC**  
219 S. Main Street

**Train with Aim LLC**  
237 N. Main Street

**Havana Fine Cigar**  
115 E. Whiteside

**ABC Wireless**  
960 Columbia Center



# City Prepares for Winter Weather

**The Department of Public Works is already thinking about winter weather and snow removal activities.**

There are certain things to keep in mind about the Public Works Department perform in their snow removal activities. Here are a few highlights...

- When snow is forecast, if at all possible please remove vehicles from the streets and roadways. In some areas with parked vehicles on the streets and roadways attempting to navigate a large truck with a snow plow and salt spreader is nearly impossible. The more working room allowed for the trucks and equipment the faster the snow removal activities can take place.

- Please make sure basketball goals and other obstructions are not placed in or adjacent to the street. They pose a hazard to snow plowing crews and to the traveling public.

- Please do not push or throw snow from drives and walks into the street. This is just extra snow to manage plus it may result in calls to the Public Works Department to remove a potential hazard in the street or roadway meaning other snow removal activities have to be put on hold to take care of the potential hazard.

- During a heavy snowfall event, the Public Works Department's first priority is to keep the more heavily traveled streets and roadways open. Secondary and subdivision streets will be accomplished as snow removal activities continue and the rate of snowfall starts to subside. Plowing and removing

snow in cul-de-sac areas is time consuming and tedious and takes away from other snow removal activities. Cul-de-sac areas are one of the last areas to be fully cleared of snow.

- Property owners are responsible for cleaning their driveway approaches and around mailboxes. Snow plowing operations may inconvenience property owners when snow is plowed in front of driveways and mailboxes. However, we cannot respond to requests to clear driveways or mailboxes. Our priority is keeping roads open for emergency service providers.

**Did you know?**

**Permits, Licenses, and Inspections Applications are all online!!**

With the intention of going paperless, the City has implemented a new software system changing the way residents apply for permits and licenses. We encourage all who are applying for occupancy, residential building permits, commercial building permits, business and liquor licenses to check out our new online portal by visiting [www.columbiaillinois.com/EPL](http://www.columbiaillinois.com/EPL)



## Extra Holiday Trash?

**Thanksgiving** - regular trash pickup will be Saturday November 26th.

**December 26th and 29th** - Reliable Sanitation will allow 3 additional 30-gallon containers / bags of trash in addition to the 1 trash tote. No extra \$1.25 stickers required.

**January 13** - Live Christmas Tree Recycling  
Bolm - Schuhkraft Park, 10:00 am - noon.

## Fall Leaf Pick-Up Begins Late October

As leaves begin to fall, the Department of Public Works will make sweeps as needed throughout the City starting in late-October, and continuing through early-December.

Residents are reminded of the following:

- No grass clippings, shrubs, branches, gumballs or limbs are permitted.
- Leaves should be placed in front of residence within four feet of the street behind the curb and sidewalk in rows not piles.
- Do not park in front of the leaves so that the vacuum truck can access them.

## Large Item Pickup

**TUESDAY TRASH CUSTOMERS - Nov. 7**

**FRIDAY TRASH CUSTOMERS - Nov. 10**



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

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 5584  
St. Louis, MO

Know Columbia



## Upcoming Events & Services

November  
26

**Small Business Saturday Gift Card Giveaway:** Shop local for a chance to win gift cards. Main Street retailer discounts and food & drink specials 9 am - 2 pm.

November  
26

### Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with the official lighting of Columbia's Christmas tree. City Hall Fountain Park 6:00 pm.

December  
1

**Designer Bag Bingo: Win designer bags just in time for Christmas. Raffle items & 50/540. Tickets at [www.mymainstreetcolumbia.com](http://www.mymainstreetcolumbia.com).**

Turner Hall. Doors open at 6 pm. Bingo at 7 pm.

December  
2

**Bright Night Christmas Parade:** Santa Claus makes his grand appearance at this Christmas-themed parade of bright lights. Parade from Temple St. to Cherry St. 5 pm.

**Turner Hall Social:** After the parade visit Santa, enjoy food, drink, and activities! Parade winners announced!

December  
16

### Winter Wonderland

*The City of Columbia along with Main Street Abbey host a visit with Santa, hot cocoa bar, smores, bounce house, Christmas crafts and Christmas story readings. For tickets call 618-719-2335. Main Street Abbey 1 - 5 pm.*

December  
11-22

### Holiday Light Display Contest

Celebrate the season by voting on your favorite residential light display. Vote by QR code on the Facebook Event page.



Details at [www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar](http://www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar)  
or call (618) 281-7144



### HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 9 am - 8 pm  
Fri: 9 am - 5 pm  
Sat: 9 am - 4 pm

Phone (618) 281-4237

### Preschool Yoga (2-5 yrs)

Wednesdays, November 15 & December 20,  
10:30 a.m.

### Coffee with Caregivers (Adult)

Second Wednesdays in fall. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

### Chair Yoga with Lisa Fox

Saturdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 2 & 16, 10:00 am.

### Winter Sparks Reading Program

December 4, 2022 - March 2, 2023  
Registration Begins: December 4th

### Visit with Santa

Saturday, December 9, 10 am. - 1 pm.  
Activities in Library Basement

### Cram for Exams (12-18yrs)

December 18 & 19, 4 - 8 pm.

### Last Minute Christmas Gift Program!

Monday, Dec. 4, 6:30 - 8 pm. (Teen/Adults)  
Wednesday, Dec. 16 4 - 5 pm. (5-7 yrs)  
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5:30 - 7 pm. (8-12yrs)

**Take your Child to the Library Day! (Families)**  
Saturday, February 3, 9 am. to 2 pm.

For event details and registration, call or visit  
[www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org)