



COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Summer/2024



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Columbia Community Market

A Gathering Place Where Community Connects!

For over 30 years, Monroe County Market has been a staple, providing essential goods and services to residents across the region. However, as communities evolve, so do their needs. Recognizing this, the decision to rebrand was made, and the Columbia Community Market was formed. With a vision to enhance its shopping experience and better cater to the unique demands of Columbia, this evolution marks a promise of tailored services, a deeper connection to the community, and a renewed commitment to local prosperity. The Market is open every Thursday from 4 - 7 pm at Metter Park. Big Event Thursdays will be the second Thursday of each month featuring live music and specialty vendors. Shop vegetables, flowers, sweet treats, gifts, and much more!

KnowColumbia App

Empowering Engagement

The City of Columbia is excited to announce our KnowColumbia app, where innovation meets tradition and community thrives. Say hello to streamlined communication. With KnowColumbia, residents can voice concerns, report issues, and offer feedback directly to city officials. This direct line on communication fosters transparency and accountability, ensuring that community needs are promptly addressed. It connects our community, local businesses, and municipal services under one roof. Whether you are a long-time resident, a newcomer, or a visitor, this app acts as your guide to all things Columbia. The KnowColumbia app can be downloaded via the Android and iOS app stores. To stay up-to-date in Columbia, download the KnowColumbia app!

Transportation/ Park Projects

Our first scheduled project around town is the second phase of Ghent Road Reconstruction including the improvement from Christina Court to Main Street with a fall 2024 to early 2025 timeline. The Carl Street Bridge Replacement project is set to begin late fall into winter of 2024 as well. We are excited to announce the Creekside Park Development Project will also break ground fall of this year. This will be a wonderful addition to our stunning park and trail system. Spring and Summer of 2025 will be marked by the focus on the roundabout at Old Route 3/Ghent Road and will continue with work on the Creekside Park Connector Trail set to run through Creekside Park from the GM&O Trail to Rueck Rd and will feature a pedestrian bridge across Rueck Creek. Stay turned to the app for relating road closures.

Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

As summer's rays warm our streets and parks, I am filled with pride to address our vibrant community. As your Mayor, I extend a warm welcome to all residents and visitors as we embark on another season of growth, connection, and renewal.

Summer in Columbia is more than just sunshine and barbecues. It's a time for us to gather and celebrate what makes our community strong: our people and businesses. We hope you tuned in to see Fox 2 showcase our wonderful City! With our top-notch schools, highly trained Police and EMS Departments, dedicated Department of Public Works, incredible businesses, and inspiring residents, Columbia is truly the place to be.

Columbia boasts a vibrant calendar of events throughout the summer, including the Music at Metter Concert Series, BackStoppers Hot Rods for Heroes, Columbia Community Market, Columbia Days, and Songs4Soldiers. We encourage you to participate in these events and support our local businesses and organizations! Their contributions are essential to our City's continued economic prosperity.

While we revel in summer's festivities and enjoy Columbia's parks and trails, let us also remember to prioritize safety, compassion, and kindness. The simple act of checking on our neighbors, especially those who may need assistance during the dog days of summer, strengthens the very fabric of our community.

As your Mayor, I am committed to serving our City and its residents to the best of my ability. Your concerns, ideas, and feedback are invaluable. Please do not hesitate to reach out as we collaboratively strive to make Columbia an even more exceptional place to call home. Enjoy the summer, Columbia!

Summer Safety Tips

Stay Safe and Enjoy Summer 2024!



Here are a few Summertime Crime Prevention and Safety Tips from CPD:

- Keep your doors locked at all times, including garage doors.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman, do not do business with them.
- Always request identification from utility representatives or salespersons.
- Make sure to lock up personal property such as bicycles, lawn mowers, tools, weed eaters, etc. in your garage or shed. Keep garage doors closed even when you are home.
- Always remember to roll up vehicle windows, do not leave valuables inside your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if the vehicle is on your property.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not "normal" to their neighborhoods. Alert the Columbia Police Department if something doesn't seem right (911 or 618-281-5151)
- Be alert for children playing in neighborhoods, residential areas, parks and playgrounds.
- Provide helmets for children riding bicycles. Dress them in brightly colored clothing.
- Establish Internet Safety rules for children home for the summer. They should be supervised by an adult when on-line.
- Exercise pool safety when swimming residentially, at public pools, or on vacation in lakes and the ocean.

Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

Total Body Renewal
420 Columbia Center

Frederick Investigations, Inc
207 N. Main Street Unit 103F

Clenz
207 N Main Street Unit A

The Office LLC
310 Southport Drive

Jimmy Johns
150 Veterans Parkway

Enterprise Leasing Company of STL, LLC
107 AA Road (new location)

City Hall Urges Residents to Sign up for E-Bill and E-Pay for Utilities

Does it seem like some months you get your utility bill late? Unfortunately, that seems to be happening more and lately, despite the City's efforts. We, at City Hall, understand how frustrating the delay can be, which is why we are urging our residents to sign up for electronic billing. Signing up is a very simple process. Please visit the City's website under the Online Portals & Payments tab, set up your account, fill out the direct debit form, and turn it into the payment drop box or Clerk's window at City Hall.

Adventure Begins at Your Library This Summer!

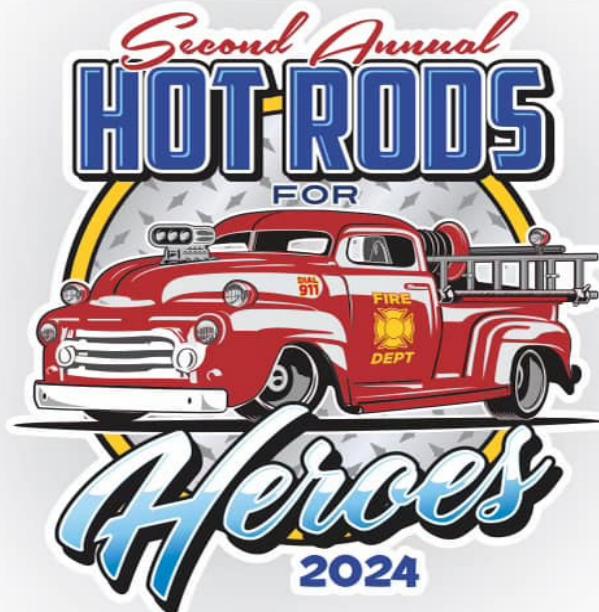
The Columbia Library is hosting its 2024 Summer Reading Program "Adventure Begins at Your library." All ages are encouraged to read and attend library events, for a chance to win some of the cool prizes showcased. Thanks to the generous sponsorships from local businesses, we are able to bring some fun, educational events to the library! In June, Helping Strays is allowing kids to read to some rescued puppies, and, later in the month, kids can read to support dogs from Got Your Six Support Dogs. Makers on Main Street will be leading a "Minute to Win It Game Night" for teens with small prizes! If you are all about improving your health this summer, consider registering for "Love your Gut" and "Toss the Toxins". Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Clean Beauty Advocate, Sarah Schlemmer, RDN, LD, MA will be teaching people about gut health sharing some special recipes, and teaching the fragrance loophole with suggestions of safer skincare products. McAuliffe Chiropractic is sponsoring yoga classes at the library this summer, for different age groups. Finally, for those with a pep in their step, check out our beginner dance classes in line dancing and West Coast Swing dancing. To view all events and register, visit columbialibrary.org and click on the calendar.

Did you know?

The City of Columbia was featured on Fox 2 News! Scan the QR code to catch the special series highlighting our vibrant community and all the wonderful things happening here. From our charming Historic Main Street to our friendly citizens, Columbia has so much to offer. Don't miss out on seeing what makes our town truly special!

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Are you looking for a new way to make a difference in Columbia? If you have the time, the interest, and the "know-how" we would like to hear from you. The City accepts applications on a rolling basis to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. Applicants may complete and submit an on line application or complete the application on line, print, sign, and mail it to the City Clerk's office for processing. Mayor Hill will make appointments as necessary. For more information and to learn about opportunities available, please visit www.columbialil.gov/Boards-Commission-and-Committees.



BENEFIT CAR SHOW
MAIN STREET, COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Registration, at 208 S. Main St., begins at 9 am and awards are at 3 pm. \$ 20 entry fee.

Proceeds to Benefit BackStoppers





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

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Know Columbia



Upcoming Events & Services

June 23	Music at Metter Featuring The Core on June 23 and Fanfare on July 14. Bring your requests, friends, and lawn chairs. Turner Hall will be selling brats and hot dogs. <i>Metter Park 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.</i>	 HOURS Mon - Thurs: 9 am - 8 pm Fri: 9 am - 5 pm Sat: 9 am - 4 pm Phone (618) 281-4237
July 4	Fourth of July Bike Parade and Activities Kids decorate their bikes for the 4th and parade down Main Street to Metter Park. Games and activities to follow. <i>Main Street and Metter Park. Parade starts at 10 a.m.</i>	Seniors' Club (55+) American Legion in Columbia Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
July 4	Fourth of July Celebration Food, games, and fireworks! <i>American Legion Park 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.</i>	Preschool Yoga (2-5 yrs) Fridays, June 14 and July 12; 11 a.m. @ Library
July 14	Hot Rods for Heroes Car Show Historic Main Street 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Absolute Science Discovery Family Night Monday, June 17; 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. @ Library
August 3	Electronics Recycling For Columbia residents <i>McDannold Drive. 8 a.m. - noon</i>	Love your Gut - register on website Tuesday, June 18; 6:30 p.m. @ Library
August 3	Taste of Columbia Enjoy the best food and drink Columbia has to offer. <i>Historic Main Street Time TBD</i>	West Coast Beginner Swing Dance Class (Adult) - Register on website Saturday, June 22; 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. @ Library
August 4	Music at Metter Featuring Waterloo German Band. Bring friends & family. <i>Metter Park 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.</i>	Minute to Win It Teen Game Night (11-17 yrs) Thursday, June 27; 6 - 8 p.m. @ Library
		The Flying Feelings Show (All Ages) Saturday, June 29; 10 a.m. @ Metter Park
		Butterfly Encounters (All Ages) Saturday, July 20; 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. @ Metter Pk
		The Boogie Band and Ice Cream Party Saturday, July 27; 10 a.m. @ Library/Metter Park



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

For event details and registration, call or visit
www.columbialibrary.org