



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Fall/2024



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## Carl Street Bridge Reconstruction

We are excited to announce the Carl Street Bridge Reconstruction Project is scheduled to begin this fall/winter! This essential infrastructure project will improve the safety and accessibility of our local roads by replacing and widening the current bridge. The City has secured \$600,000 in federal funding to help support the project. To accommodate construction, Carl Street (near Shadycreek Nursery and Garden Center) will be closed for approximately eight weeks, weather permitting. During this period, motorists and residents are advised to use alternate routes, such as Gall Road. We will provide regular updates on the project's progress and any traffic advisories. Your cooperation and patience during this time are greatly appreciated as we work to complete these important improvements.

## Exciting Progress on Creekside Park

The City is excited to share the latest updates on the Creekside Park Project, a welcoming space designed for both residents and visitors. Pending approvals from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the project is anticipated to begin this fall/winter. Plans for Creekside Park include the construction of over 4,000 linear feet of walking trails, a parking lot, two pavilions, restrooms, a playground area, and a lake designed for stormwater detention and retention. In addition to offering outdoor activities for all ages, the project will help address drainage issues near the Wilson Hills subdivision, specifically around the intersection of Wilson Drive and Arlington Drive. The project has been awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, supporting the park's development. In parallel, the City is working on the Creekside Trail Connector Project, which is expected to go out for bid next summer. This project, funded by a \$350,000 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant, will involve constructing a pedestrian bridge and walking trail to connect the GM&O Trail to Rueck Road via Creekside Park. It will also provide a new sidewalk connecting the Creekside Subdivision to the park. Stay tuned for more updates, and thank you for your continued support as we work together to build a greener, better Columbia





## Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

As the vibrant colors of fall begin to grace our community, I want to take a moment to reflect on this season of change and the many ways our City is thriving.

Fall is a time for renewal and reflection—a perfect opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments and set our sights on future goals. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in improving our City's infrastructure, enhancing public safety, and supporting local businesses. We also launched our KnowColumbia app, strengthening communication across the community. Thanks to your ongoing support and collaboration, our City continues to grow stronger and more resilient. On that note, I encourage you to make your voice heard this November by voting and shaping our City's future.

As we embrace the season, I invite you to enjoy the many events and activities happening around town. From our annual Scarecrow Crawl to the festive FestiFall, Ghoulish Witches Night Out, and the Columbia Farmer's Market, there are countless ways to experience the beauty of autumn and connect with your neighbors.

Let's also remember to support our local businesses as we move into the holiday season. In an age where online shopping dominates, the impact of supporting our local economy cannot be overstated. This summer, we celebrated the opening of the Principal Hotel, a testament to our City's unique character and charm. The entire Franklin Yard development promises to bring fresh energy and opportunities to Historic Main Street.

As your Mayor, I am dedicated to serving our City and its residents to the best of my ability. Please don't hesitate to reach out as we continue to work together to make Columbia an even more exceptional place to call home.

Enjoy the fall in Columbia!

## Safe and Fun Fall

### Internet Safety

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



- **Teach your child never to give out personal information online** – such as their name, address, or school name – online without your permission.
- **Educate them about online scams-** warn your child that not all emails or online offers are legitimate, especially those that seem too good to be true.
- **Position your computer where you can monitor you child's activity** - keeping the screen visible helps you stay aware of what they are doing.
- **Install parental control software** - use programs that block access to inappropriate sites and chat rooms, as online identities may not always be what they seem.
- **Prepare your child for unexpected encounters** - teach them what to do if they come across inappropriate content or receive unwanted messages from strangers.
- **Stay informed about your child's online habits** - regularly check the websites they visit and keep track of how much time they spend online.

## Meet our New Code Enforcement Officer

We are please to announce Jared Massey as our new Code Enforcement Officer. A native of O'Fallon, IL, Jared brings a strong understanding of municipal codes. He and his wife have lived in Monroe County for over 10 years with their 14-year old son.

An avid sports enthusiast, Jared roots for the St. Louis Cardinals and Blues and enjoys watching his son play baseball. As an outdoorsportsman at heart, Jared is excited about his new role with the City of Columbia, where he is eager to help the city grow and prosper.



## Veterans Day Parade & Honor-Que

### Celebrating Sacrifice and Service

Veterans Day is a time to honor the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces. One of the most meaningful tributes communities offer is the Veterans Day Parade, a vibrant event filled with pride, gratitude, and remembrance.

The parade features marching bands, military units, and floats representing various organizations. It draws families, veterans, and active-duty service members together to celebrate the sacrifices made for our freedom. The atmosphere is alive with patriotic music, cheers, and heartfelt moments as veterans share their stories and experiences.

In conjunction with the parade, many communities host initiatives like the "Honor-Que," a special event that pairs honoring veterans with a community barbecue or cookout. Together, the Veterans Day Parade and Honor-Que create a meaningful celebration that reminds us of the sacrifices of those who serve, while fostering unity and gratitude within the community.

Join us for the Columbia Honor-Que and Parade on November 8 & 9, with the parade kicking off at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 9th.

## Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

**The Bashful Babe  
Ultrasound Studio**  
207 N. Main St. Unit 109B

**Small Town Girls  
La Bella Rosa**  
109 M. Main St

**So IL Studios LLC**  
204 S. Main St

**Americas Best Cleaning LLC**  
123 Southwoods Dr.

**J Scott Agency  
The Health Insurance Guy**  
204 S. Main St.

**Empower Me Rehabilitation,  
LLC.**  
480 DD Road

**Valvoline Instant Oil Change**  
110 Mark Dr.

**Gallagher Johnson Aesthetics**  
111 W. Locust

**Did you know?**

In Columbia, as in many municipalities, door-to-door solicitation is subject to local regulations. Solicitors are required to obtain a permit or license from City Hall, which includes a thorough background check, before canvassing neighborhoods. There are also specific hours during which solicitors may operate. Always ask solicitors to present official City of Columbia identification. To obtain a solicitor permit for Columbia, visit <https://www.columbiail.gov/52/Permits-Licenses-Inspections>.

To report unlicensed solicitors, please call 281-5151.



## Fall Leaf & Limb Pickup

As the leaves begin to fall, the Department of Public Works will conduct leaf collection sweeps throughout the city starting November 12 and continuing through December 20. Please have your piles ready by 6 a.m. Residents are reminded of the following guidelines:

- **No grass clippings, shrubs, branches, gumballs or limbs permitted.**
- **Leaves should be placed within four feet of the street, behind the curb and sidewalk, in rows not piles.**
- **Do not park vehicles in front of the leaves.**

### Limb Pick-Up Schedule:

Limb Pick-up will occur during the week of September 30th - October 4.

- **Place your piles of limbs parallel to road, and behind the curb by 6 a.m. on September 30th to ensure timely pick-up.**

## Residents Urged to sign up for E-bill and E-Pay for Utilities

Are you receiving your utility bills later than expected? You're not alone—many residents have experienced delays recently, despite the City's efforts to address the issue.

At City Hall, we understand how frustrating this can be. To help streamline delivery, we strongly encourage residents to sign up for electronic billing ( E-Bill) and electronic payment (E-pay).

The process is simple:

1. Visit the City's website and navigate to "Online Portals & Payments" tab.
2. Set up your account, fill out the direct debit form, submit the form either at the payment drop box or the Clerk's window at City Hall.

Switching to E-bill and E-pay will ensure your payments are processed efficiently!





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## Upcoming Events & Services

<b>October 6</b>	<b>FestiFall</b> Celebrate autumn in Columbia! Kids' activities, vendors, and food & drink including authentic German potato pancakes! <i>Music by the Z Band. Metter Park 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.</i>	 <b>HOURS</b> Mon - Thurs: 9 am - 8 pm Fri: 9 am - 5 pm Sat: 9 am - 4 pm <b>Phone</b> (618) 281-4237
<b>October 7 - 31</b>	<b>Scarecrow Crawl</b> Stroll down Main Street to see decorated scarecrows lining the sidewalks. Enter your own scarecrow for a chance to win prizes or vote for your favorite!	<b>September Library Card Sign up Month!</b> Sign up for a new library card in September for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card!
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Witches Ghoulish Night Out</b> Food, brew, contests, prizes, shopping & fun for witches & warlocks. Info and tickets at <a href="http://mymainstreetcolumbia.com">mymainstreetcolumbia.com</a> <i>Historic Main Street 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.</i>	<b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons Meetup (11-17 yrs)</b> 9/10, 10/1, 10/8, 11/5, 12/3, 12/10; 3:30 - 5:30 pm <b>Plant Swap</b> Tuesday, September 24; 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
<b>October 26</b>	<b>Halloween Hi-Jinks</b> Trick or Treat at Historic Main Street Businesses and City Hall. Trick or treating and activities 10 a.m. - noon <i>Costume contest at City Hall parking lot at noon.</i>	<b>Document Shred Event (5 box limit)</b> Saturday, October 5, 10 - 12 pm @ Turner Hall Parking Lot.
<b>November 30</b>	<b>Small Business Saturday</b> Shop local for the holidays. Participating Main Street Businesses. Discounts, food & drink specials all day long. <i>Historic Main Street 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.</i>	<b>Friends of the Library Book Sale @ FestiFall</b> Sunday, October 6, 1 - 6 p.m.
<b>November 30</b>	<b>City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting</b> Join us at Fountain Park for Columbia's official tree lighting ceremony, carols, and much more. Fountain Park in front of City Hall at 6 p.m.	<b>Halloween Hoopla (18 mos. to 5 yrs.)</b> Saturday, October 19, 10 am - 12 pm @ Library <b>Gingerbread House Creations (Family)</b> Saturday, November 2 9:30 am; 11 am; 1 pm <b>Novels at Night (Adults)</b> First Tuesday of Month, 7 pm <b>Lego Club (4-12 yrs.)</b> Third Tuesday of Month, 4-5 pm
	Details at <a href="http://www.columbiaillinois.com/calender">www.columbiaillinois.com/calender</a> or call (618) 281-7144	For event details and registration, call or visit <a href="http://www.columbialibrary.org">www.columbialibrary.org</a>