

Winter 2020

Columbia

Quarterly



Mayor's Minute - As we approach the end of 2020, the City continues to take on the Covid-19 obstacles. Our day-to-day lives have been trying, but I encourage everyone to stay positive and safe. Now, more than ever, it is important to help out our local businesses who have supported our kid's sports teams, clubs and organizations. Please consider a gift or gift card for those on your Christmas list. We have a wide variety of excellent restaurants, retailers and services here in Columbia that will surely make your gift giving a breeze. May we all **LOVE LOCAL** and support our small business owners during these difficult times.

Mayor Kevin Hutchinson

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

New Self-Guided Historic Main Street Walking Tour

The City of Columbia has just completed the installation of their self-guided Historic Main Street walking tour signs and is celebrating with a scavenger hunt contest (thru November 13) and a chance to win one of ten Columbia branded quarter-zip pullovers!

Columbia's Heritage and Preservation Commission came up with the idea to create the signs and decided which locations would best highlight Columbia's history, culture and character. The group decided on 30 locations on North and South Main Street. Members of the Commission, local historians and County Commissioner Dennis Knobloch all helped to gather the information and images for the signs.

Columbia's Historic Main Street lies along the Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail, and the Kaskaskia Cahokia Trail Coalition was instrumental in helping with the funding for the project. Past local resident Dennis Patton is a member of the Coalition and the author of the *Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail*, a 359 page book explaining the history of the Trail. With financial support from the Sophia and Elmer Oerter Charitable Foundation to publish the book, Mr. Patton donated 100 of his books to the City of Columbia to help finance the self-guided historic signs on Main Street. Historic Main Street Columbia Association Treasurer, Joe Lebryk, used his venue at Roseberry Farms as a pass through to sell the books and turn the money from the book sales back over to the City to help pay for a large portion of the signs which were designed to fit nicely with the City's new Main Street streetscape project.



The question and answer sheet and directions for the scavenger hunt can be found on the City's website through November 13 at www.columbiaillinois.com. A brochure showing the locations of each sign can be found any time on the City's website, at businesses along Main Street, the Columbia Public Library, and at City Hall. The scavenger hunt runs through November 13, and is a great Covid-safe activity for residents and visitors of all ages.

Utility Bill Payment—Direct Debit Option

Did you know that when you pay your utility bill through online banking, your bank physically mails the City of Columbia a paper check? This can take between 5 to 7 business days to get to City Hall. Help save the environment and avoid late fees by signing up for direct debit. Your City of Columbia utility bill payment will be debited from the checking account of your choice on the due date each month. No more late fees! For a direct debit form please visit www.columbiaillinois.com/743/utilities or call City Hall at 281-7144.



DRIVING SAFELY in the winter



As winter weather approaches, we would like to encourage everyone to take extra precautions while driving. As always, avoid distracted driving and the use of all electronic devices; stay focused and be aware of your surroundings. Here are a few other safety tips to follow:

- ▶ Speed limits are based on normal road conditions so it is recommended that drivers reduce their speed accordingly when there is ice or snow present.
- ▶ Utilize your vehicle's headlights in the darker winter months especially during snow, sleet and rain.
- ▶ Be aware of "black ice" which is a nearly invisible layer of ice that can develop on roads and cause a driver to rapidly lose control. Black ice is especially common at night.
- ▶ Educate yourself on how to safely maneuver a vehicle if skidding on ice occurs.
- ▶ Maintain at least three times the normal following distance when driving on snow and ice.
- ▶ If you are driving behind a snowplow, it is recommended that you stay at least 200 feet back.
- ▶ Bridges, ramps and overpasses freeze first, so use extreme caution when approaching or passing these structures.
- ▶ Tires are your only contact with the road. With winter hazards it is especially imperative that drivers check their vehicle's tires for wear and replace if needed.

Electric Aggregation Correction: The Fall CQ electric aggregation article contained an error regarding the current price. The article should have read: *"The current aggregation rate is 5.596¢/kWh. This represents a savings of 21.55% when compared to the expiring rate, or \$8.97 per month for the average household."* We apologize for this error.

Columbia's 2020 Holiday Season

With the ever changing landscape of the coronavirus pandemic and the unknowns of how the virus, State of Illinois mandates, and public health directives will affect our holiday season, the City of Columbia is committed to doing our part to ensure that residents and guests remain healthy and safe throughout this special time of year. In most instances, our events have been modified to reflect proper safety precautions, but some events require cancellation. We have made the difficult decision to cancel our beloved Bright Night Christmas Parade this year, but are still able to offer visits with Santa in a new, modified format. Santa let us know that he will be stopping by the bandstand at Metter Park on Saturday, December 5 and 12 from 10am until 1pm. It's important that he stay healthy to deliver toys and goodies on Christmas Eve, so he will be inside the bandstand at a window which will be covered with a clear protective film. He'll still be able to talk with the children and will stand behind the children and the clear protective film for their picture together. Santa can't wait to see all the good little boys and girls!



Holiday Trash & Recycle Schedule

Thanksgiving: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the regular Fri. trash & recycling will be on Sat., Nov. 28.

Large Item Curbside Removal: The next large item (i.e. appliances, furniture, etc.) curbside removal is Tues., Nov. 10 if you have Tues. trash pick-up or Fri., Nov. 10 for Fri. trash pick-up. Bags of trash will not be accepted.

Christmas: Tues. trash & recycling will still be on Tues., Dec. 22. Regular Fri. trash & recycling will be on Sat., Dec. 26. Reliable Sanitation will allow 3 additional 30 gallon containers / bags of trash in addition to the 1 trash tote. No extra \$1.00 trash stickers are needed.

New Years: Tues. trash & recycling will still be on Tues., Dec. 29. Regular Fri. trash & recycling will be on Sat., Jan. 2, 2021. Extra trash will require the \$1.00 per container trash stickers.

Welcome New Businesses

Birds Nest Design 538 S. Main St.	The Farmhaus 1300 Columbia Centre
Hair by Bail 207 N. Main St., 110B	HDI Distribution 207 N. Main St., 211A
Jackie's Hair 207 N. Main St., 103B	Maya Investments 1015 N. Main
R&B Widel Trucking 207 N. Main St., 212	Serenity Therapy 103 McCrosky Prof. Park
Sound 4 Healing 103 McCrosky Prof. Park	Splendid Art/Works 237 N. Main St.

Live Christmas Tree Recycling

Live Christmas tree recycling drop off will be held at the Bolm-Schuhkraft City Park parking lot next to the Parkview School on Sat., Jan. 9, 2021 from 10am until noon. Any questions, call the City Clerk's Office at 281-7144 x 100.



Quarry Road Resurfacing Phase 1



The City will be undertaking the resurfacing of Quarry Road from Ghent Road to approximately 400 feet west of Palmer Creek Drive.

Once the project is under contract, the anticipated construction schedule will be posted on the City's website and social media. The project includes patching, replacing existing culverts at Palmer Creek, a shared use path on the south side of Quarry, and resurfacing of Quarry Road. Quarry Road will be closed at times to facilitate construction. During closures residents and motorists shall use alternate routes such as Rueck, Ghent, etc. Palmer Road will be signed as a one way street from Rueck to Palmer Drive. As always your cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated as the roadway improvement project is performed.

Adapting to COVID at the Library

After months of shutdown, and then only offering curbside assistance, the library opened in July at limited capacity.

Visitors are required to wear masks, sanitize their hands as they enter, and keep a six-foot physical distance from others. All staff wear masks, work behind a sneeze guard, frequently sanitize regularly used surfaces, and sanitize books as they are checked out. All staff are required to sanitize their hands and record their temperature at the start of their shifts.

The library still has curbside service available. Patrons can request books online or by phone, and then call 281-4237 to schedule pickup. The patron can then pick up their bag of items at the library's entrance.

Another change has been the wait time on returns or requests for books from other libraries. When you return books, they are quarantined for eight days before being checked in. Patrons' fines will be waived up to nine days from when items are dropped off.

When patrons request books from another library, the wait time may take up to two - three weeks. The Illinois Heartland Library System's courier service has a quarantine procedure of their own and then the items go through our library's quarantine process.

Columbia Library has been following the REALM Project by OCLC, a global library cooperative, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Battelle who partnered to research the life of the virus on museum, library, and archival materials, while also developing best practices in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 to staff and visitors who may be handling these materials.

Be sure to check out our new digital platforms at www.columbialibrary.org for many Covid-safe entertaining options.

Hoopla: Over 700,000 items – movies, TV series & more

NewsBank: St. Louis Post & Belleville News Democrat

OverDrive: Over 32,000 eBooks & eAudio books





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UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

For more info call
281-7144 or visit
www.columbiailinois.com-calendar

Leaf Pick-Up through Dec. 4
Place leaves by curb (not in street).
Continual sweeps will be made.



POP-UP SHOP

Nov. 5–Dec. 7: Welcoming Baker's Woodcrafts.

Check website for hours.

www.popupshopcolumbiaillinois.com

Large Item Pick-Up

Nov. 10: Large item curbside removal for Tuesday trash customers.



Veteran's Day Ceremony
Nov. 11, 11am: Outdoor drive-up ceremony at American Legion.

Large Item Pick-Up

Nov. 13: Large item curbside removal for Friday trash customers.

Holiday Hunt

Nov. 21, 11am-4pm: Food specials and retail discounts at participating businesses.

Small Business Saturday

Nov. 28, 8am-4pm: Discounts at retailers and restaurants. Check-in at Café on the Abbey (8am-noon) to enter to win a gift card and pick-up a complementary shopping bag.



Visit with Santa
Dec. 5, 10am-1pm:
Metter Park Bandstand

POP-UP SHOP

Dec. 7-13: Welcoming My Charming Door.
Check website for hours.
[Www.popupshopcolumbiaillinois.com](http://www.popupshopcolumbiaillinois.com)




Visit with Santa
Dec. 12, 10am-1pm:
Metter Park Bandstand

Live Christmas Tree Recycling

Jan. 9, 2021, 10am–noon:
Bolm-Schuhkraft Park near Parkview



Events Cancelled Due to Covid

- Designer Bag Bingo
- Bright Night Christmas Parade
- Turner Hall Christmas Social

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 26 & 27: Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24 at Noon: Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25: Christmas
- Jan. 1: New Years Day
- Feb. 15: Presidents Day



The Columbia Library is open to the public and offers curbside service as well.

Hours: M-Th, 9am-8pm;
Fri, 9am-4pm; Sat, 9am-3pm

Virtual Story Time

Every other Tuesday, 10am

Arts & Crafts

Every other Thursday, 2pm

Ralph's World TV Treehouse
Saturdays, 10am (Ends Nov. 24)

Virtual Author's Visit with Stenetta Anthony
Nov. 7, 6pm-6:30pm
Facebook live with Q&A in Real Time



***Detective Science: Who Stole the Cookie Recipe? (5-12 yrs.)**
Nov. 17, 6:30-7:30pm

Zoom Meeting led by Mad Science of St. Louis

*** Winter Sparks Reading Program**
Dec. 7 – Feb. 27

Details will be announced on website

February Food for Fines

Patrons will receive \$1 off their fines for every donated non-perishable food item

*** Take Your Child to the Library Day**
Feb. 6, 10am-2pm

* To Register or see more events go to:
www.columbialibrary.org



The City of Columbia is proud to print the Quarterly on recycled paper

