



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Winter /2021



New String Lights on Historic Main Street

## Christmas Parade Extra Bright This Year

### Christmas in Toyland

**S**anta is anxious to make his seasonal grand entrance at Columbia's Bright Night Christmas Parade. This year, the parade will be even brighter with the addition of the new string lights on Main. Seeing the children's faces light up as he glides down Main Street on his float created by his friends at Turner Hall is one of Santa's favorite things to do (besides delivering toys, of course!)

Christmas in Toyland is the theme of the parade this year, which kicks off at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 4 at Temple and Main Street. It then heads south on Main to Cherry where Santa will arrive at Turner Hall to visit with the children. Be sure to vote for your favorite float on the City's Facebook page @KnowColumbia. The people's choice winner and the winners of three other categories will be announced at the Turner Hall Christmas Social at 7:30 p.m. Stop in for food, drinks and fun after the parade!

## Chamber Makes Christmas Merrier on Main



**T**he Christmas decorations donning the top of the light posts lining Columbia's Historic Main Street have been cherished by residents and passersby for years on end. Children look forward to finding Santa waving to them from the same location each year, and the many festive decorations paired with the arrival of Santa at the Bright Night Christmas parade signal the start of the Christmas season in Columbia. As time passes though, our decorations have grown weary, and tired. It's time for an update!

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce has generously purchased 27 new Christmas lamp post decorations this year to replace some that were unsalvageable and add to our growing collection. Thanks, Chamber, for making Christmas a little more merry on Main this year!



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

**A**s 2021 is nearing an end, I am thankful for all that we have been able to accomplish in such a short period of time!

Main Street Columbia is as vibrant as ever. The lighting that now overhangs the street has been a vision of mine for some time, but it would not have become reality without the effort of City Staff, specifically Department of Public Works Streets Foreman Mike Sander and his crew. We have ordered additional lights, and plan to expand lighting to match the boundaries of our streetscape project.

I look forward to seeing Main Street lined from Temple to Cherry on December 4th for the City's Lighted Christmas Parade. This event seems to mark the start of the holidays here in Columbia.

Since becoming Mayor, I have had the privilege of joining with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce to welcome several new businesses to Columbia. During these times, it is as important as ever to support local businesses. At the November 1st City Council meeting, I issued a proclamation declaring November 27th "Small Business Saturday" in Columbia. I hope residents consider purchasing from our local business for their holiday shopping. Columbia has a variety of stores and restaurants located along Admiral Parkway and Historic Main Street. Anywhere in Columbia, you're sure to find exactly what you're looking for!

I'd like to thank the City Council for their support with the recent expansion of the Department of Public Works. The additional 4 laborers that were approved in September have begun work and are already making a significant impact. It is the City's intention, with the additional personnel, that we will be able to provide an increased focus on maintaining all City parks. This provides the city with the ability to "in-house" Services that were previously contracted out. This also offers residents more flexibility in the city's leaf and limb collection programs.

In closing, I wish you all a very healthy and happy holiday season!

# Stop at Crosswalks

## It's the Law!

**C**PD wants to ensure everyone's safety and stress crosswalk safety. It is Illinois Law to come to a complete stop and allow those at a crosswalk to cross (625 ILCS 5/1-113 (a)).

With the holidays coming up, CPD wants to stress safety when crossing the street and continued awareness around crosswalks.



# Snow Removal

## Tips for our Residents

**T**he 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 performing their snow removal activities.

Here are a couple of highlights...

- When snow is forecasted, 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 driveways and sidewalks 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.



## Welcome New Businesses!

**PR Fitness, LLC**  
870 Columbia Centre

**Holon Inclusive Health System**  
207 N. Main Street  
Suite 109B



# We're Planning Our Future

## Beyond the Horizon

The City of Columbia recently launched the Beyond the Horizon Comprehensive Plan, which will guide the planning of our community over the next 25 years and into the horizon. This exciting process establishes a community vision, goals, policies, and local actions related to Columbia's quality of life, residential growth, economic prosperity, and physical improvements. The Comprehensive Plan process is now underway and will continue into fall 2022.



## Community is at our Core!

This is a community-based plan, and its success starts with you! Your input throughout the process will help inform and supplement involvement from the Elected Officials, City Staff, focus groups, and the Steering Committee. The Beyond the Horizon Comprehensive Plan intends to reflect the aspirations of our residents, businesses, and community partners for Columbia's future.

## Engage with Us!

Share your ideas! Visit [www.ColumbiaConversations.com](http://www.ColumbiaConversations.com) to participate in various online engagement activities. This online platform provides a quick, safe, and convenient way to share your thoughts and ideas on a range of topics throughout the process! There will be additional in-person opportunities to share your ideas throughout the process, including pop-up engagement at community events and (2) Interactive Community Meetings.

Follow us on social media for updates and details about all of our engagement opportunities. Remember, we want to hear from you!

#ColumbiaConversations #ColumbiaILBeyondTheHorizon #ColumbiaILCompPlan #ColumbiaILHorizons



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## Leaf Removal

In an effort to save money and provide better service to our residents, the City has purchased a leaf vacuum and will provide leaf removal services in house. Leaf removal services will begin the week of November 1 and continue through December 17. Continuous trips will be made throughout the City.

## DOPW Welcomes New Hires

Please join us in welcoming our new team members at the Department of Public Works. Jake Dohrman, Ryan Gregson, Chris Metz and Brendan Schumacher will rotate through various duties as they learn all aspects of their job requirements.



Jake  
Dohrman



Ryan  
Gregson



Chris  
Metz



Brendan  
Schumacher

## Did You Know...?

Homeowners are allowed to make many repairs and renovations to the home they reside in without a building permit. For indoor projects, this generally includes work done outside of existing wall surfaces such as: electrical fixtures, plugs and switches; plumbing fixtures; floor and wall coverings; and other work that does not alter existing structural components like framing. Non-structural outdoor work such as roofing, gutters, siding, landscaping and deck surfacing can also be done without a building permit. However, work done to deck structures, porches and stairs, along with new accessory structures like fences and sheds require building permits and inspections. These building permit exemptions apply only to work done on a homeowner's legal residence and work must be done in compliance with the current building code. If you are unsure if your project requires a building permit, please contact the Community Development Department.





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Know Columbia



## Upcoming Events & Services



**Nov. 1 - Dec. 17** **Leaf Pick-up:** Place leaves by curb (not in street). Continual sweeps will be made.

**Nov. 18 - Dec. 12** **POP-UP Shop Columbia, Illinois** welcomes The Shoppes at 510. Open Wed. 10a.m. - 6p.m.; Thurs., 10a.m.-8p.m. and Fri. - Sat. 10a.m.-6p.m.

**Nov. 20** **Holiday Hunt:** Food specials and retail discounts at participating businesses. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Nov. 25** **City Hall Offices Closed:** Happy Thanksgiving! Due to the holiday,

**Nov. 26** Friday trash & recycling will be on Saturday, November 27.

**Nov. 27** **Trash & Recycling:** For regular Friday trash customers

**Nov. 27** **Small Business Saturday:** Discounts at retailers and restaurants. Check in at Cafe on the Abbey (7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.) to enter to win gift cards.

**Nov. 27** **Indoor Meat Raffle & Outdoor Meat Shoot:** 11a.m.-5p.m. Am. Legion

**Dec. 3** **Designer Bag Bingo:** Supports Historic Main St. Assn. Turner Hall, 7p.m.

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

**Dec. 4** **Bright Night Christmas Parade:** 5p.m. on Main St. (Temple to Cherry)  
**Turner Hall Social:** Immediately following the parade

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

**Dec. 23** **City Hall Offices Close at Noon**

**Dec. 24** **City Hall Offices Closed.** Merry Christmas!

**Dec. 31** **City Offices Closed:** Happy New Year!

**Jan. 8** **Live Christmas Tree Recycling:** Bolm-Schuhkraft Park, 10a.m.-noon.



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

Details at: [www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org)

**Family Reading Night**  
November 17, 6:30-7:30p.m.

**Pop-Up Kids' Book Club (6-14yrs)\*\***  
November 20, 10a.m.-noon

**Winter Sparks Reading Program\*\***  
December 7 - February 28, 2022

**Santas Visit (All Ages) at the Library**  
December 4 & 11, 10a.m.-1p.m.

**Last Minute Christmas Gift Program**  
December 15, 3-4p.m. (5-7 years)  
December 15, 4:30-6p.m. (8-12 yrs)  
December 21, 6:30-8p.m. (Teen/Adults)

**Ongoing:**  
**Library Storytime\*\*** (1-5yrs.) Mon. 10:30a  
**Wiggle Time\*\*** (1-5yrs.) e/o Fri. 10:30a  
**Novels at Night\*\*** (Adults) 1st Tues. 7:00p  
**Preschool STEAM\*\*** (3-5yrs.) Dec. 10 10a  
**STEAM Explorers\*\*** (6-12yrs.) Dec. 7, 4p

\*\*Register at [columbialibrary.org](http://columbialibrary.org)

For more specific details, visit [www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar](http://www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar)  
or call 281-7144