



COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Winter 2022



Inside this Issue

Mayor Hill's Message
Winter Driving Safety
Welcome New Businesses
City Prepares Early for Winter
Leaf Pick Up/Holiday Recycling
Event Calendar

Columbia Hosts Sister City Delegation

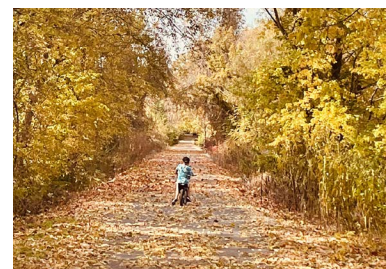
Thirty-four visitors from Columbia's Sister City of Gedern, Germany arrived on September 16th for an 11-day visit. The Sister Cities of Gedern and Columbia alternate hosting the official visit every two years. Members of the delegation eagerly anticipated this visit, which was postponed last year due to the pandemic. Visitors learned about the culture, history and day-to-day American life by staying with host families. They began their week with a "catch-your-pancake" breakfast and giggles from everyone. Columbia's Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Services Departments hosted an open house, complete with rides in a fire truck and up-close tours of our state-of-the-art ambulances. Visitors toured the Monroe County History Museum, went apple-picking at Eckert's and tasted locally-produced bourbon at Stumpy's Spirits and Distillery. The group toured St. Louis sights, including the Fox Theater and Busch Stadium. Hosts and guests enjoyed planning their own outings together on free days. This was the Gedern delegation's 8th visit to Columbia since 1993. We will celebrate the 30th anniversary of our partnership with an official visit to Gedern next fall.

New Roundabout Announced

The City of Columbia has been awarded \$1.2 million to build our community's second roundabout at the intersection of Old IL 3/Quarry Road/Ghent Road. The project will be funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Improvement Program. Project design should begin in 2023 with construction anticipated to be complete in 2024.

New Trail Projects Completed

Chris Brothers Asphalt, Inc. has completed the 2022 Walking Trail Project. The project resurfaced 1.7 miles of paved recreational trails in Bolm-Schuhkraft Park and Admiral Trost Park. The project also reconstructed approximately 635 feet of the GM&O Trail near Quarry Road.



Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

As fall winds down and winter begins to take shape, I want to pause and reflect on some happenings in Columbia that make me proud to be your Mayor.

In mid-September, Columbia's Sister Cities program rolled out the red carpet for our visitors from Gedern, Germany. I was proud to be part of the festivities and enjoyed showing them what Columbia has to offer. A special "Thank You" to Ingrid Soraghan and all involved with the Sister Cities program.

I was also able to take part in our 2022 FestiFall which brought out record crowds. It seemed the weather was on our side for all of our fall events including Witches Night Out and Halloween Hi-jinks. All of the events attract residents and guests to Columbia's businesses, which is great news for our economy. Not only does this make our homegrown businesses successful, but it helps fund vital City services and facilities. Please "buy local" over the holiday season and invite your friends and families to do the same.

The City is preparing for winter celebrations and the challenges of the winter season. Be sure to winterize your homes and vehicles before it is too late! Please monitor weather conditions in your travels so you arrive safely.

Winter is also a time to celebrate! What do you love most about spending holidays in Columbia? For me, it's gathering with family and friends at Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's the beautiful lights along Historic Main Street and the hope of snow-covered trees in Bolm-Schuhkraft Park. One of my favorite traditions is attending Columbia's Bright Night Christmas Parade and the Turner Hall Social. Watching the children's faces as Santa makes his grand appearance is a simple joy that never gets old.

Please take a moment to reflect on your gratitude over the past year and your aspirations for the upcoming New Year! I look forward to seeing you around town and celebrating the season in Columbia!

Driving Safety

Winter Weather Driving

In an effort to keep residents safe during winter driving, the Columbia Police Department is sharing the following tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

1. Check the weather before you leave. Assess the road conditions and traffic.
2. Always remain vigilant while driving.
3. Drive slowly in the winter. It takes longer to slow your vehicle on a icy, wet or snowy surface.
4. Allocate extra time for travel during the winter to compensate for driving more slowly. Do not rush or put yourself in a situation where you feel pressure to rush or speed.
5. Stock your vehicle with the supplies you need to drive safely and stay warm in an emergency during the winter, including: broom and/or ice scraper, flashlight, jumper cables, warning devices (flares, emergency markers), blankets, cell phone charger, water and food.
6. Check the inflation pressure of your tires because the cold temperatures can cause the pressure to drop. Make sure your pressure meets the manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure.
7. Make sure your defrosters and windshield wipers work properly. It is imperative to replace the blades if they have become worn.



**Be safe this winter and
call CPD if you need help!**

Leaf & Limb Pickup

Mid-Oct. through mid-Dec.

Continual sweeps will be made city-wide.

No Grass clippings, shrubs, branches, or gumballs.

**Place leaves in rows in front of residence within
4 feet of the street behind the curb, but not in street.**

Welcome New Businesses

CEFCU
180 Admiral Trost Dr.

Columbia Café
127 W Locust St.

Mid America Oral Surgery
220 Admiral Trost Dr. Ste. 3B

Inline Data Systems
1839 Ghent Rd.

City Prepares Early 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 performing 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.

Extra Holiday Trash?

Thanksgiving- regular trash pickup will be Saturday Nov. 28th.

December 27th & 30th - Reliable Sanitation will allow 3 additional 30 gallon containers / bags of trash in addition to the 1 trash tote. No extra \$1.00 stickers are needed.

January 14- Live Christmas Tree Recycling
Bolm-Schuhkraft Park, 10:00 am - noon



Post COVID Holiday Travels? Keep your children safe. Stop by Columbia EMS or call 618-281-4163 for an appointment to get your child's car seat check. All CEMS full-time crew members have completed a 40 hour course and are Certified Car Seat Technicians. Please bring car seat instruction manual and child with you to ensure proper fitting. We have a car seat assistance program for those who qualify.

City Hall Holiday Hours

November 24 - Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!
 November 25 - Closed all day
 December 23 - Closed at noon
 December 26 - Closed all day
 January 2 - Closed - Happy New Year!



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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.
- December 2** **Designer Bag Bingo:** Win designer bags just in time for Christmas. Raffle items & 50/50. Tickets and information at www.mymainstreetcolumbia.com. *Turner Hall*. Doors open at 6 pm. Bingo at 7 pm.
- December 3** **Bright Night Christmas Parade:** Santa Claus makes his grand appearance at this Christmas-themed parade of bright lights.
Historic Main Street: Temple St. to Cherry St. 5 pm.
- December 3** **Turner Hall Social:** After the Christmas parade, visit with Santa & enjoy food, beverages and activities. Parade float winners announced.
Turner Hall, 211 E. Cherry St. 6 pm - 9 pm.
- December 4, 17** **Visit with Santa on Main Street:** Santa visits with children & poses for pictures at the Selfie Studio. Bring your own camera. *Selfie Studio, 102 N Main St. 1 pm - 4 pm.*
- December 10** **Visit with Santa at the Library:** Activities & treats provided. Bring your camera.
Columbia Public Library 10 am - 1 pm.

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



Mon - Thurs: 9 am - 8 pm
Fri: 9 am - 5 pm
Sat: 9 am - 4 pm
Phone: (618) 281-4237

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

Winter Sparks Reading Program
December 5, 2022 - March 4, 2023
Registration begins 12/5

Don't Toss Your Clothes - Fix Them!
(Teens/Adults)
December 5, 6:30-7:30 pm

The Golden Gamers (Adult 45+)
December 8 & 22, 10 am-12 pm
Socialize and play games. Snacks and
drinks provided.

Visit with Santa (all ages)
December 10, 10 am - 1 pm
Activities in library basement

Cram for Exams (12-18 yrs.)
December 14 & 15, 4 - 8 pm

Last Minute Christmas Gift Programs!
December 19, 3-4 pm (5-7 yrs)
December 19, 6 pm (8-12 yrs.)
December 20, 6:30-8 pm (Teen/Adults)

Take Your Child to the Library Day!
(Families)
February 4, 9 am-2 pm