



COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Summer /2023



Meet your newly elected official on page 3

Inside this Issue

Mayor Hill's Message

Summer Safety

New Businesses

Meet Your New Alderman

New Permit/License System

Summer Library Entertainment

Event Calendar

Columbia Receives Award

Quarry Road Roundabout

The Quarry Road Roundabout Project was selected by the Illinois Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) as the Project of the Year in the Transportation category for projects with construction costs less than 5 million dollars. The project was honored during the Annual Awards Presentation Dinner on May 3rd at the annual APWA conference at the City of Peoria Civic Center. In the photo (from left to right), was Illinois APWA Chapter President Mark Lee, City of Columbia Assistant City Engineer Tim Ahrens, Oates and Associates Project Engineer Brian Heil, Roger Strong and Josh Froese with Baxmeyer Construction.



GM&O Connector Trail Project

The GM&O Connector Trail Project has been bid to DMS Contracting, Inc. and is anticipated to begin this summer with a completion timeline of 2 - 3 months. The project consists of a new shared use trail located in the Railroad ROW between Cherry Street and Centerville Road. As always, your cooperation is appreciated during the construction.

From Farm to Table

Columbia's Farmers Market Moves to a New Location

Join your friends and family at the Farmers Market in Turner Hall's parking lot next to Metter Park this summer to get the freshest produce around! The Farmer's Market has been serving Columbia for over 30 years and has been in several locations throughout the City. We are hoping they have now found their forever home at Turner Hall. The Market opened Thursday, May 4th and continues all summer through November, every Thursday from 4 - 7 pm. Featuring Lehr's Vegetable Farm, Josie's Sweet Treats, Purple Petal Flower Farm, Spare Thyme Farms, and Living Millennially Coffee Bar. There is something for everyone! If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the market, please contact Jennifer Brinson at josieessweettreats16@gmail.com.



Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

With warmer days ahead, summer is one of the most exciting seasons of the year! Family trips, lazy pool days and fishing are some of my favorite ways to spend summer days. As always, we are filling up the calendar with exciting events. Be so be sure to check them out on the last page!

This summer brings the Backstoppers Car Show, Music at Metter Concerts, Taste of Columbia and finally Song4Soldiers! We can't forget Columbia 4th of July Celebration that ranks high on my list of the best events! We have every month covered, so get out and enjoy the wonderful outdoor spaces our Department of Publics Works is continually improving. Just this spring, an additional 50 trees were planted in preparing for our future.

This past May marked the 30th Anniversary of the Columbia-Gedern Sister Cities Partnership. We were honored to recognize Andreas Heuser for his 3 decades of work coordinating the annual student exchange program between Columbia High School and Gedern Gesamtschule. Herr Heuser's work has directly enriched the lives of nearly 600 American and German students.

We are excited to announce the City launched a new Business Awareness Initiative to help promote Columbia's amazing businesses. Look to our social media for more information. We always encourage you to invite friends and family to get to Know Columbia!

Having open communications is important and something I care very deeply about. This spring we kicked off our "Coffee with the Community" sessions where we have enjoyed great conversations with you. I encourage all to get to know your aldermen and share your thoughts on how we are doing. We want to represent your voice.

On behalf of everyone with the City, best wishes this summer. We hope you enjoy the season!

Summer Safety

CPD Stresses Safety

With the summer upon us, the Columbia Police Department would like to stress safety throughout the community. Warmer months usually prove to be busier than the rest of the year and we ask that citizens be conscious of all safety measures this summer.



CPD will increase its focus on traffic enforcement, including:

1. Speeding
2. Distracted Driving
3. Stop Light Violations
4. Impaired Driving

We encourage citizens to also consciously lock their vehicles, be wary of scams, watch out for increased bike riders through town and on Bluff Road, and to notify the Columbia Police Department of any dangerous or unusual activity. The City of Columbia has a lot to offer in the summer months and we want to make sure everyone is safe.

We are excited to announce that Safety Town has been scheduled again this year! It will be held at Eagleview Elementary from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Class 1 is the week of June 12th - June 16th. Class 2 will be June 19th - 23rd. Contact CPD for more information.

Large Item Pickup

TUESDAY TRASH CUSTOMERS -

AUGUST 29 & NOVEMBER 7

FRIDAY TRASH CUSTOMERS -

SEPTEMBER 1 & NOVEMBER 10

Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

Columbia General Store The She Shed

318 N. Main Street

1260 Columbia Center Drive

**Goliathtech of St. Louis,
LLC**

102 N. Main Street
Suite 2

Meet your Newest Alderman

Council Welcomes New Member

Your aldermen have been elected to represent you and ensure your voices are heard at City Hall. Two aldermen are elected from each of the City's 4 wards. Not sure which ward you reside in? You'll find a ward map on our website (www.columbiaillinois.com).

If you live in Ward 2, you elected a new alderman in April. Lauren Nobbe, a life long resident of Columbia and former business owner here in Columbia. She joins Mike Lawlor in representing your voice. In her service to Ward 2, Lauren's focus is on supporting and promoting our small businesses. In addition to advocating for small businesses, Lauren intends to work toward the improvement and expansion of our parks and trails. As an enthusiast of the outdoors and hiking, Lauren appreciates our green space and trail systems. She is also a huge animal lover and would love to see a dog park in Columbia. She is full of ideas to lower maintenance needs and costs in our park system. You will certainly see Lauren out and about in town. Be sure to introduce yourself and let her know your thoughts and visions for Columbia so she can best represent you.



Permits/Licenses/Inspection Applications Online!

With the intention of going paperless, the City has implemented a new software system changing the way residents apply for permits and licenses. We encourage all who are applying for occupancy, residential building permits, commercial building permits, business and liquor licenses to check out our new online portal by visiting www.columbiaillinois.com/EPL

Library Plans an Exciting Summer

Oceans of Possibilities at Columbia Library

Fill in your summer schedule with fun library events around your beach vacations! This summer, the library brings a wave of exciting events inspired by this summer's reading theme: "Oceans of Possibilities"!

This year's Columbia Library events are brought to the community with support from local businesses and our Friends of the Library. The Monroe County YMCA hosts the Whalemobile on June 19th. Nile, a life-size inflatable humpback whale comes to the "Y" all the way from Massachusetts! Children will step inside Nile to learn about the similarities and differences humans have with these creatures and how we can protect them! Families can also attend the show "Fred and His Feathered Friends" at Garden Place Senior Living in Columbia on July 17th! Learn about the parrot world in a unique and entertaining way as parrots ride cars, play basketball, sing and talk up a storm! Other events scheduled this summer focus on conservation: the St Louis Aquarium leads programs in June and July focused on animal care and addressing pollution issues. (6/5, 6/23, 7/12); adults will learn how to upcycle tin can into garden creatures (6/26); and YGD Aquatics will help teens turn old pickle jars into shrimp aquariums (7/25)! Other fun events involve tie dye, cookie and cupcake decorating, yoga, escape rooms, water play, animal programs and even a Pickle Ball tournament! To view all events and register, visit columbialibrary.org and click on calendar. All library programs are free to the public and do not require a library card.

Did you know?

It is a violation of City Code to blow your grass clippings onto public roadways. The accumulation of grass-clippings and other landscape waste doesn't just look bad, it can cause injury to motorcyclists or bicyclists. Wet grass clippings are as slick as ice! They can also wash into storm drains and cause them to clog, which in turn can cause water to back up into homes and businesses.

Please keep our streets safe for motorists and our water ways clean!



