



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Winter/2023



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## GM&O Trail Complete

### Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 18th

The GM&O Connector Trail Project has been completed. The extension adds 0.75 of a mile to the family and dog friendly path, for a total distance of 3.25 miles from the intersection of Rueck Road and Quarry Road down to the south end of town, just beyond Centerville Rd. The City of Columbia hopes to continue expansion on this trail system connecting additional areas of the community.

Thank you to Gonzalez Companies, LLC, DMS Contracting, Electrico, the City of Columbia Engineering and Inspections Department, and the Department of Public Works for their work on the project. We hope our residents continue to enjoy the trail system located throughout Columbia.

## Ghent Road Resurfacing

### Several Phases Scheduled to Complete the Project

The construction project on Ghent Road has begun. It consists on pavement widening, storm sewer, curb and gutter, new sidewalk, and pavement resurfacing of Ghent Road from Palmer Creek Bridge to Christina Court. The current construction phase of the project, from Charlie's Car Star to Ashlee Lane, is underway. DMS Contracting, Inc. will be working on the installation of storm sewer, curb and gutter and pavement widening. The road is currently closed to traffic but will reopen once the winter weather arrives. During closure, access will be maintained for residents and businesses. Your patience throughout the project is appreciated.

## FestiFall a Success

Our Annual FestiFall event on October 1st was a tremendous success! Record high temperatures drew a record number of attendees, who ate, drank, and shopped to their heart's content, all while the ever popular Z Band kept the crowd on their feet. Our amazing Columbia businesses hosted a fun filled Kid Zone that was hopping all day, and the climbing wall provided by Upper Limits was just as popular.

A huge "Thank You" goes out to our sponsors Weber Chevrolet, Joe and Patty Koppeis, CEFCU, R & M Oil, Bruckert Behme and Long, Reliable Sanitation, Monroe County Electric Cooperative. We also want to thank all of our vendors, the Z Band, and our residents for making FestiFall such a special event!

## Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

As the leaves fall and the temperatures continue to drop, we prepare for another beautiful season here in Columbia. The season of gratitude and giving is the perfect time to serve others in our community. As your Mayor, I want to encourage you to either give a little of your time, talents or finances to a worthy organization or cause.

Traditions continue in Columbia with our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 25th at 6:00 pm at City Hall Fountain Park. This year's event will feature caroling, hot cocoa, cookies, children's craft, and a canned food drive for our local food pantries.

Our annual Bright Night Christmas Parade and Turner Hall Social takes place on December 2nd. This Christmas-themed event brings people of all ages to Historic Main Street to celebrate the magic of the season.

Hosting events that include our business is not only a fun way to celebrate with family and friends, but also important to the financial success of our community. With that in mind, we hope you have taken note of Columbia businesses we have been sharing through our Community Awareness Initiative on social media. Our weekly spotlights will continue through the winter months. I encourage you to support these businesses by shopping local this holiday season!

While we have continued efforts to beautify Historic Main street through the addition of more string lighting from Plum to Madison Street, our Department of Public Works has also been working to make Main Street safer by installing three pedestrian flashing beacons. We have ordered six more beacons to continue this safety initiative throughout Columbia.

On behalf of everyone with the City, we wish you happy holidays and safe new year!

## Winter Driving

### Safety Tips for Drivers

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels lock up, ease off the brakes.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Do not use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, ice may be present in shaded areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Do not pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and road conditions in front of them are likely to be worse than behind them.
- Do not assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.



The CPD wishes residents a safe holiday season!



## Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

**Columbia Family Chiropractic, PLL**  
1550 N. Main St

**D & T Nail**  
208 N Main St. Unit C  
(new owner)

**Livido**  
107 N. Main, Unit 2A

**Memory Lane Floral**  
515 B N. Main St  
(new owner)

**El Paso Mexican Cocina**  
230 N. Main St.

**Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen, Inc. TWM**  
100 N. Main St.  
(new owner)

**Advanced Vision Care**  
840 Admiral Weinel  
(new Location)

**Charlies Car Star**  
1845 Ghent Road  
(new Location)



# City Prepares for Winter Weather

With winter upon us the Department of Public Works asks residents for their cooperation in ensuring snow removal is completed as safely and efficiently as possible by keeping the following in mind:

- When snow is forecast, please remove vehicles from the streets, if possible. In areas with parked vehicles narrowing streets, navigating a large truck with a snow plow and salt spreader can be nearly impossible
- Do not place basketball goals, and other obstructions in or near the street. These obstructions pose a hazard to snow plowing crews and traveling public.
- Do not push or throw snow from driveways and sidewalks into the street. This creates extra snow to manage, and may result in calls to the Public Works Department to address these hazards, meaning other snow removal activities are delayed.
- During a heavy snowfall event, the Public Works Department's first priority is to keep heavily traveled streets and open. Secondary and subdivision streets will be addressed as snow removal activities continue and the rate of snowfall subsides. Plowing and removing snow in cul-de-sac areas is time consuming 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 mailboxes. We understand snow plowing operations may inconvenience property owners when snow is plowed in those areas. 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 - Friday trash pickup will be **Saturday November 26th.**

Christmas - **Wed. December 27th & Sat. December 30th** - Reliable Sanitation will also allow 3 additional 30-gallon containers / bags of trash in addition to the 1 trash tote. No extra \$1.25 stickers required.

New Year's - **Wed. January 3rd & Sat. January 6th**

Live Christmas Tree Recycling - **January 13th**  
Bolm - Schuhkraft Park, 10:00 am - noon.

## Fall Leaf Pick-Up Begins Early-November

The Department of Public Works will begin its annual fall leaf pick-up program in early November. The program will continue through early December

Residents are reminded of the following:

- Grass clippings, shrubs, branches, gumballs or limbs will not be collected
- Leaves should be placed in front of the residence within four feet of the street, behind the curb and sidewalk in rows, not piles.
- Do not park in front of the leaves as this blocks collections crews.

Join Our 55+

## SENIORS CLUB

Friends meet Thursdays @ the American Legion, Columbia  
Doors Open at 11am. \$5.50 lunch & Activities

Join our 55 +  
SENIOR CLUB!

Sponsored by the Columbia  
Public Library and the  
American Legion.

Lunch, Conversations,  
and Activities!

## City Hall Holiday Hours

November 23 - Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!  
November 24 - Closed all day.  
December 22 - Closed at noon.  
December 25 - Closed - Merry Christmas!  
January 1 - Closed - Happy New Year!

Did you know?

The City of Columbia, in support of Earth Day with, reusing, recycling and reducing as a focus, hosts an Annual City Wide Yard Sale.

The 2024 City Wide Sale will be April 19 & 20.

To participate in the City Wide Yard Sale please visit our website and register under the "How Do I" - "Sign up for yard sale".

As an attendee, you can also register under "How Do I" and print a map of all registered yard sales in the City Wide Yard Sale.

<https://www.columbiaillinois.com/485/Yard-Sales>





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## Upcoming Events & Services

November  
25

**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.

November  
25

### Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with the official lighting of Columbia's Christmas tree. City Hall Fountain Park 6:00 pm.

December  
1

**Designer Bag Bingo:** Win designer bags just in time for Christmas. Raffle items & 50/540. Tickets at [www.mymainstreetcolumbia.com](http://www.mymainstreetcolumbia.com). Turner Hall. Doors open at 6 pm. Bingo at 7 pm.

December  
2

**Bright Night Christmas Parade:** Santa Claus makes his grand appearance at this Christmas-themed parade of bright lights. Parade from Temple St. to Cherry St. 5 pm.

**Turner Hall Social:** After the parade visit Santa, enjoy food, drink, and activities! Parade winners announced!

December  
16

### Winter Wonderland

*The City of Columbia along with Main Street Abbey host a visit with Santa, hot cocoa bar, smores, bounce house, Christmas crafts and Christmas story readings. For tickets call 618-719-2335. Main Street Abbey 1 - 5 pm.*

December  
11-22

### Holiday Light Display Contest

Celebrate the season by voting on your favorite residential light display. Vote by QR code on the Facebook Event page.



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



### HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 9 am - 8 pm  
Fri: 9 am - 5 pm  
Sat: 9 am - 4 pm

Phone (618) 281-4237

### Preschool Yoga (2-5 yrs)

Wednesdays, November 15 & December 20, 10:30 a.m.

### Coffee with Caregivers (Adult)

Second Wednesdays in fall. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

### Chair Yoga with Lisa Fox

Saturdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 2 & 16, 10:00 am.

### Winter Sparks Reading Program

December 4, 2022 - March 2, 2023  
Registration Begins: December 4th

### Visit with Santa

Saturday, December 9, 10 am. - 1 pm.  
Activities in Library Basement

### Cram for Exams (12-18yrs)

December 18 & 19, 4 - 8 pm.

### Last Minute Christmas Gift Program!

Monday, Dec. 4, 6:30 - 8 pm. (Teen/Adults)  
Wednesday, Dec. 16 4 - 5 pm. (5-7 yrs)  
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5:30 - 7 pm. (8-12yrs)

**Take your Child to the Library Day! (Families)**  
Saturday, February 3, 9 am. to 2 pm.

For event details and registration, call or visit  
[www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org)