



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Spring/2024



- Mayor Hill's Message
- Spring Crime Prevention
- Welcome New Businesses
- City-Wide Yard Sale
- Limb & Large Item Pick-up
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## Public Safety Open House

**May 8th**

The Columbia Police, EMS and Fire Departments invite all residents to attend the annual Public Safety Open House on Wednesday, May 8th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. This event is free to the public.

Bring the whole family to the Columbia Public Safety Complex at 1020 N. Main Street for this fun and educational event. Enjoy an evening full of safety information, activities and demonstrations by Columbia's first responders.

Participants can check out the police, fire and EMS equipment and vehicles, get important fire safety and crime prevention information and even meet Safety Pup! Hot dogs and chips available ,at no cost, while supplies last.

## Arts in the Park

**June 9th Metter Park**

The City of Columbia is excited to announce our partnership with the Monroe County Arts Alliance to bring you Arts in the Park on June 9th at Metter Park. This experience for the eyes, ears and palate will feature art, entertainment, and delicious food and drink from local artists, restaurants, and vendors. Bring your family, your lawn chairs, and be wowed by local performers and artists' original works. In addition, a special children's art area as well a high school art area wil be available. This event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Speical thanks to Eppinger Foundation's sponsorship for making this event FREE to attend. If you are a local artist or performaer looking to get involved, contact Marla Rose at [mrose@columbiaill.gov](mailto:mrose@columbiaill.gov).

## Ghent Road

### Phase 1 and Phase 2

The Ghent Road Construction Phase 1 is nearly complete. Final items include asphalt surface, striping, and grading/seeding. The city thanks DMS Contracting, Inc. for working with the city and the residents throughout the project phase. A big thanks to the Department of Public Works and Assistant City Engineer Tim Ahrens for their dedication to the project.

Ghent Road Construction Phase 2 (Christina Court to Main Street) is currently under final design. Phase 2 improvements include new asphalt, pavement widening, curb and gutter, and sidewalk, and intersection improvements at Ghent and Main. Construction is anticipated late fall or early spring depending on approvals from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

## Mayor's Message



**Mayor Bob Hill**

Spring brings a sense of new life with rain showers, budding flowers and fresh air! It's just the boost we need to be outside and productive within our community, enjoying everything Columbia has to offer.

New traditions are being made here in Columbia, with the addition of the Arts in the Park event on June 9th at Metter Park. Come out and enjoy local artists' performances and works. Back by popular demand, The Monroe County BackStoppers will be hosting another fantastic car show in July on Main Street!

We have been busy planning at City Hall. We have integrated a mobile application to keep you updated on all that is happening in Columbia. We hope this improves communication between the City and residents, as notifications can be pushed out in real-time. The KnowColumbia app is available for most iOS and Android devices via their respective app stores. Be looking to our social media for launch dates of the KnowColumbia App.

As Earth Day is just around the corner, we at City Hall are asking our residents to help us go paperless by signing up for e-billing & e-newsletters. Sign up on our website or on our soon to be launched, KnowColumbia mobile app. Advantages of going paperless are saving taxpayer dollars on printing, labor, and postage costs as well as ensures on-time payments and is more environmentally friendly.

Columbia businesses are important to our economy. I hope you have taken note of the businesses we have been sharing through our Community Awareness Initiative on social media. I encourage you to support these businesses by continuing to shop local this spring.

On behalf of everyone with the City, we look forward to enjoying spring weather with you all in our parks, trails, and at our Columbia events!

# Spring Crime Prevention Tips



The Columbia Police Department would like to help you prevent becoming a victim of avertible crimes. Below are suggestions to keep you and your family safe this Spring:

- Keep your doors locked at all times, including garage doors.
- If opening your windows and sliding doors during the day to enjoy spring weather, make sure to close and lock windows and doors before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Put all ladders and tools back into a secure storage area after use. Make sure to lock any storage unit or shed on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman, do not do business with them.
- Always request identification from utility representatives or salespersons.
- Make sure to lock up personal property such as bicycles, lawn mowers, tools, weed eaters etc. in garage or shed. Keep garage doors closed even when you are home.
- Always remember to roll up vehicle windows, do not leave valuables inside, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if the vehicle is on your property.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not "normal" to their neighborhoods. Alert the Columbia Police Department if something doesn't seem right (911 or 618-281-5151).

## 2024 Safety Town Dates

**June 3-7 & June 10-14**

### Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

**The Barn**  
316 N Main Street

**BKCM INC**  
304 Southport Drive

**Fire & Ice Frozen Cocktails and More LLC**  
123 S. Main Street

**Strano & Associates Real Estate**  
128 S. Main Street

## COMING SOON Know Columbia App

We're excited to announce our new mobile app available April 1, 2024!!

- Convenience at Your Fingertips
- Real-Time Updates
- Streamlined Service Requests
- Enhanced Civic Engagement
- Access to Government Resources



## City-Wide Yard Sale

April 19 & 20!

Don't miss this chance to get amazing deals! Yard sale permits are not required on April 19 & 20. Registration to hold a yard sale during the City-Wide Sale is found at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com). Click on the link to register your sale under "Things to Do." View and print a list of yard sales at the same link. Your list can be customized to include only the items you are looking for! The link is available now so visit our website to get registered! Register, view and print sales up until the date of the sale - no deadlines. See you out shopping!



## Meet Our New Building Official

We are pleased to announce that Jared Kertz has been selected as our new building official. Kertz, a St. Genevieve native, comes to us with 8 years of municipal experience. Most recently he served as Building Official for the City of Hazelwood. He and his wife Sara live in Columbia with their 2 young children. He is an avid sports enthusiast who roots for the St. Louis Cardinals! Jared is excited to be involved in helping Columbia grow and prosper.



## City Hall Urges Residents to sign up for E-Bill and E-Pay for Utilities

Does it seem like some months you get your utility bill late? Unfortunately, that seems to be happening more and more lately, despite the City's efforts. We, at City Hall, understand how frustrating the delay can be, which is why we are urging our residents to sign up for electronic billing. Signing up is a very simple process. Please visit the City's website under the Online Portals & Payments tab, set up your account, fill out the direct debit form and turn it into the payment drop box or Clerk's window at City Hall.

## Did you know?

Sheds are a frequent consideration in the Spring, and we want to help answer your shed installation questions. First, make sure to obtain approval for your shed from your HOA. Next, submit a Residential Accessory Building Permit by accessing our on-line portal found on the City website. [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com). When applying for the permit remember to attach the HOA approval letter, site plan, and construction plans including foundation details.

Reminder: All sheds must be secured on a permanent foundation.





**City of Columbia**  
208 S. Rapp Avenue  
P.O. Box 467  
Columbia, IL 62236

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 5584  
St. Louis, MO

Know Columbia



## Upcoming Events & Services

**March 23** **Monroe County Start-Up 5K Color Run**

Celebrate Spring with a fun family run!  
*Bolm-Schuhkraft Park 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**April 19 & 20** **City-Wide Yard Sale**

100+ yard sales throughout the City. Register your sale or view the citywide directory at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com)

**June 9** **Arts in the Park**

Celebrate the Arts! Enjoy local artists' original work for viewing and purchase, performances by local community ensembles, a creative children's arts area, and food & drink.  
*Metter Park 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

**June 23** **Music at Metter**

Featuring Stay Tuned STL. Bring your requests, friends and lawn chairs. Turner Hall will be selling brats and hot dogs.  
*Metter Park 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.*

**July 4** **4th of July Bike Parade and Activities**

Kids decorate their bikes for the 4th and parade down Main Street to Metter Park. Games and activities to follow.  
*Main Street and Metter Park. Parade starts at 10 a.m.*

**July 4** **4th of July Celebration**

Food, games, and fireworks!  
*American Legion Park 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.*

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

### Seniors' Club (55+)

American Legion in Columbia  
Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### AARP Tax Assistance (Adults)

March 1 - April 12  
Call 281-4237 to schedule for M. or Th.

### Spring Crafts

Wednesday, March 20  
4-5 pm (3-6 yrs) and 5:30-6:30 pm (7-10 yrs)

### Chair Yoga with Lisa Fox (Adults)

Saturdays 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20 at 10 a.m.

### PickleBall Tournament (Adults)

Saturday, April 27 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Plant Swap (All ages)

Tuesday, April 30 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

### Jigsaw Puzzle Contest (Teen/Adult)

Saturday, May 4, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Summer Reading Kickoff & Registration

Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

### Local Author Showcase

Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

