



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Winter/2024



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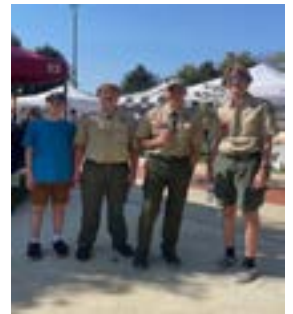
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## FestiFall: A Celebration of Community

This year's FestiFall was a resounding success, bringing together residents and visitors for a day filled with fun, food, and festivities! Held on October 6, the event transformed Metter Park into a vibrant hub of activity, showcasing the best of our community including over 60 local vendors. From live music and engaging kids' zone to craft and unique merchandise vendors, there was something for everyone. Families enjoyed decorating cookies, bounce houses, and climbing on the rock wall, while food lovers savored delicious seasonal treats from local vendors.

We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers, sponsors, and city staff who worked tirelessly to make FestiFall a memorable event. Your enthusiasm and dedication truly shine in our community. As we reflect on this year's festivities, we look forward to next year's FestiFall and hope to see even more faces, old and new. Thank you for making our community special!



## Carl Street Bridge Reconstruction Project

The much-anticipated Carl Street Bridge Reconstruction Project is set to kick off in the first week of November, promising to enhance our community's infrastructure and improve connectivity. Awarded to Baxmeyer Construction, Inc., this vital project will not only reconstruct the existing bridge but also modernize City utilities attached to it. Weather permitting, the project is expected to span approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

During this period, Carl Street will be closed between IL-3 and Charlotte Avenue to ensure the safety of both workers and motorists. Residents and drivers are encouraged to remain vigilant and attentive to detour signs and lane closures as the construction progresses. Your cooperation and patience during this time are invaluable and greatly appreciated. This project marks a significant investment in our community's future, paving the way for smoother travel and enhanced infrastructure. Stay tuned for updates as the project progresses.



## Mayor's Message



**Mayor Bob Hill**

As we enter the winter season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the beauty of our community and acknowledge the remarkable progress we've achieved together. Thanks to the commitment of the City Council and City Staff, we've recently completed essential infrastructure upgrades that enhance our quality of life, including storm sewer improvements in the Joyview Acres Subdivision, water main upgrades in Tower Hill and other areas, and several critical roadway improvements—with many more projects in various stages of planning. Our city parks have never looked better, and we're excited for the planned development of Creekside Park, which will add even more recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors. Each of these projects strengthens our city's foundation and prepares us for the future.

Moreover, I'm pleased to report that we've made these advancements while continuing to lower the City's property tax rate. Over the past three years, our property tax rate has decreased by an average of 4.5% per year, a trend we are committed to maintaining. By responsibly stewarding public funds, we're able to provide even greater value for your property tax dollars, all while reducing the tax burden on our residents.

I encourage everyone to enjoy the winter season and participate in the many events that bring warmth to our community. From our annual Tree Lighting and Bright Night Christmas Parade to gatherings at Turner Hall, let's come together to celebrate the season and support our local businesses, whose success helps fund vital city services. Here's to a season filled with community spirit and continued growth for Columbia!

Enjoy winter in Columbia!

# Winter Watch

## Keeping Our Streets Safe in the Cold

As winter weather approaches, we would like to encourage everyone to take extra precautions while driving. As always, avoid distracted driving and the use of all electronic devices; stay focused, and be aware of your surroundings. Here are a few safety tips :



- Speed limits are based on normal road conditions. Reduce speed on icy or snowy roads.
- Use vehicle headlights during snow, sleet and rain.
- Be cautious of "black ice", which can develop at night on roads and cause sudden loss of control.
- Educate yourself on safe maneuvering techniques for icy conditions.
- Maintain at least three times the normal following distance on snow and ice.
- Stay at least 200 feet back from snow plows.
- Exercise caution bridges, ramps and overpasses, as they freeze first.
- Ensure tires are in good condition, as they are your only contact with the road.

**Be safe this winter and enjoy the season!**

## Library Card Includes Digital Platform Rental

Looking for something new and fun for the family this holiday season? Did you know you can check out a 10' screen and movie projector for movie nights, or a telescope for viewing the night sky?! Additionally, all children (even those living outside city limits) that go to Columbia Unit 4, ICS, Monroe County Christian School, or are home schooled, are able to get a card at no cost for their child. The holidays are a great opportunity to read. Visit [columbialibrary.org](http://columbialibrary.org) for more information.

## Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

**Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P.**  
117 Admiral Weinel Blvd.

**The Doggie Den**  
117 Southwoods Dr

**Caring Transitions of Waterloo & Mt. Vernon IL**  
207 N. Main St., Unit 103C

**Phoenix House Salon Spa**  
1550 N. Main St., Unit E

**Anthont H. Strinmetz, LLC.**  
207 N. Main St., Unit 110A.

**Husdon Dry Cleaning**  
31 S. Main St.



# City Prepares for Winter Weather

With winter upon us, the Department of Public Works asks residents to help ensure safe and efficient snow removal by following these guidelines:

- When snow is forecast, please remove vehicles from streets, if possible.
- Avoid placing basketball goals or other obstructions in or near the street.
- Do not push or throw snow from driveways and sidewalks in to the street.
- During heavy snowfall, primary streets will be cleared first. Secondary and subdivision streets will be addressed as snow removal continues, and cul-de-sacs will be cleared last.
- Property owners are responsible for cleaning their driveway approaches and mailboxes.



## Fall Leaf & Limb Pickup

As the leaves begin to fall, the Department of Public Works will conduct leaf collection sweeps throughout the city starting November 12 and continuing through December 20. Please have your piles ready by 6 a.m. Residents are reminded of the following guidelines:

- No grass clippings, shrubs, branches, gumballs or limbs permitted.
- Leaves should be placed within four feet of the street, behind the curb and sidewalk, in rows not piles.
- Do not park vehicles in front of the leaves.

## Hometown Heroes Banner Project

The Hometown Heroes Banner Project is a heartfelt initiative honoring local veterans and active-duty military personnel. Launched in 2018 with 80 banners, the project now includes nearly 140 banners and aims to recognize the sacrifices of our service members. For more information or to purchase a banner, contact Janet Jansen at [davejan2974@charter.net](mailto:davejan2974@charter.net).



## Extra Holiday Trash?

Thanksgiving - Friday trash pickup will be **Saturday November 30th.**

Christmas - **Tues. December 24th & Sat. December 28th** - 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 - **Tues. December 30th & Sat. January 4th**

Live Christmas Tree Recycling - **January 11th**  
Bolm - Schuhkraft Park, 10:00 am - noon.

**Did you know?**

City Utility Bills are due on the 15th of each month. Are you receiving utility bills late? To streamline delivery, we encourage residents to sign up for electronic billing (E-Bill) and electronic payment (E-Pay). Visit the City's website, go to the "Online Portals & Payments" tab, complete the direct debit form, and submit it at the payment drop box or Clerk's window at City Hall. Switching to E-Bill and E-Pay ensures your payments are processed efficiently (and on time)!





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## Upcoming Events & Services

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>November 30</b> | <i>Small Business Saturday</i><br>Shop local for the holidays. Participating Main Street Businesses. Discounts, food & drink specials all day long.<br><i>Historic Main Street 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.</i>   |
| <b>November 30</b> | City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting<br>Join us at Fountain Park for Columbia's official tree lighting ceremony, carols, and much more.<br><i>Fountain Park in front of City Hall at 6 p.m.</i>   |
| <b>December 6</b>  | Designer Bag Bingo - Bourbon & Bags Bingo<br>Win designer bags or bourbon just in time for the Christmas. Raffle items & 50/50. Tickets at <a href="http://mymainstreetcolumbia.com">mymainstreetcolumbia.com</a><br><i>Turner Hall Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo at 7 p.m.</i> |
| <b>December 7</b>  | Bright Night Christmas Parade<br>Santa Claus makes his grand appearance at this Christmas themed parade of bright lights.<br><i>Historic Main Street. Temple St. To Cherry St. At 5 p.m.</i>   |
| <b>December 7</b>  | Turner Hall Social<br>After the Christmas parade, visit with Santa and enjoy food, beverages, and activities. Parade winners announced.<br><i>Turner Hall 211 E. Cherry St 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</i>   |
| <b>December 8</b>  | Winter Wonderland<br>Santa visits with children (bring your own camera), bounce house, hot chocolate bar, children's activities, food & drink.<br><i>Main Street Abbey 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.</i>   |



Details at [www.columbialil.gov/calender](http://www.columbialil.gov/calender) 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

**Winter Sparks Reading Program**  
December 1, 2024 - March 1, 2025  
Registration begins: December 2

**Chair Yoga with Lisa Fox (Adults)**  
Saturdays, Nov. 26, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m.

**Visit with Santa**  
Saturday, December 14; 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Cram for Exams (12-18 yrs)**  
December 16 & 18, 4 - 7:30 p.m.

**Take Your Child to the Library Day (Families)**  
Saturday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Babygarten (0-18 mos.)**  
Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m.

**Dungeons & Dragons Meetup (11-17 yrs)**  
Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

**Novels at Night (Adults)**  
First Tuesday of Month, 7 pm

**Lego Club (4-12 yrs.)**  
Third Tuesday of Month, 4-5 pm

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