



COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Spring/2025



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Arts in the Park

June 8th

The City of Columbia is excited to announce our partnership with the Monroe County Arts Alliance to bring you our Annual Arts in the Park on June 8th at Metter Park. This experience for all the senses will feature art, entertainment, and delicious food and drink from local restaurants and vendors. Bring your family, your lawn chairs, and be wowed by local performers and artists' original artwork.

In addition, a special children's art area as well a high school art area will be available. This event runs from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Special thanks to Eppinger Foundation for sponsoring this event for making this event, making it FREE to attend. Are you a local artist or performer looking to get involved? Contact Marla Rose at mrose@columbiail.gov.

Quarry Road Bike Trail Connector Project

The City has just secured a \$200,000 Bike Trail Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to kick off the highly anticipated Quarry Road Bike Trail Connector Project! This incredible project will extend the existing Quarry Rd. bike trail all the way to Ghent Rd. and feature a brand-new pedestrian bridge over Palmer Creek. By filling in a major gap in the city's trail and sidewalk network, this new addition will make biking and walking around Columbia easier and more scenic than ever before. Once complete, residents will have access to a stunning 3.6-mile loop, connecting Main, Rueck, Quarry, and Ghent Roads – a perfect route for both cyclists and pedestrians to explore!

City Wide Yard Sale

April 25 & 26

Don't miss this chance to find amazing deals! Yard sale permits are not required on April 25 & 26. To register your yard sale for the City-Wide Sale, visit www.columbiail.gov, and click on the "Things to Do" Section. While here, you can also view and print a list of registered yard sales. Customize your list to include only the items you are looking for! The registration link is available now!



Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

As we welcome the vibrant season of spring, I'm excited to share some updates with you all as we continue to make Columbia an even better place to live, work, and play!

With warm weather here, it's time to enjoy some of Columbia's exciting events! Arts in the Park returns on June 8 at Metter Park, showcasing local artists and performers. The Monroe County BackStoppers will also be hosting another fantastic car show this spring on Main Street—a must-see for car enthusiasts! And don't forget to shop the City-Wide Yard Sale on April 25 & 26.

I'm also thrilled to announce that at our February 18th City Council Meeting, the City awarded the contract for the construction of Creekside Park! Baxmeyer Construction has been tasked with bringing this much-anticipated park to life. Situated on a 17-acre tract along Rueck Road, Creekside Park will feature a 2-acre lake/pond for fishing, a pavilion, a playground, and connectivity to Columbia's trail network. This project is another step toward enhancing our community's outdoor spaces and providing even more recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

As Earth Day approaches, City Hall encourages residents to go paperless by signing up for e-billing and e-newsletters. Sign up via our website or the KnowColumbia mobile app. Going paperless saves taxpayer dollars on printing, labor, and postage while ensuring on-time payments—plus, it's eco-friendly!

Don't forget to support local business! Columbia's businesses are vital to our economy. You may have noticed our Community Awareness Initiative highlighting local businesses on social media. Let's continue supporting them by shopping local this spring!

Together, we'll continue to make Columbia the best it can be! Happy Spring!

Spring Crime Prevention Tips



The Columbia Police Department wants to help you avoid preventable crimes. Follow these tips to keep you and your family safe this spring:

- Keep all doors locked, including garage doors
- If you open windows and sliding doors during the day to enjoy spring weather, ensure they are closed and locked before going to bed, or leaving home..
- Store ladders and tools in a secure area, and lock sheds or storage units.
- 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.
- Lock up bicycles, lawn mowers, tools, weed eaters, and other valuables in a garage or shed. Keep garage doors closed even when you are home.
- Lock your vehicle, roll up windows, and never leave valuables inside—even in your driveway.

Be a good neighbor! This can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not "normal" in their neighborhoods. Stay alert and report suspicious activity to the Columbia Police Department at 911 or 618-281-5151.

**SAVE THE DATE...**
Session 1-June 9 - 13
&
Session 2-July 16 - 20

Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

Tyler Sonka Insurance Agency, INC.
400 Columbia Center

Industrial Gas Products, Inc.
915 N. Main Street, Unit 1

SSM Health Medical Group
1000 Eleven South, Unit 2E

CW Business Advisory Group, LLC.
128 S. Main Street

Spring Limb Pick-Up

Columbia residents should have tree limbs out for removal by 6:00 a.m. Monday, April 1 and Monday, April 8

Yard Waste Pick-Up

March 1 - November 29

Between March 1st and November 29th, Reliable Sanitation offers curbside yard waste collection every Tuesday and Friday, depending on your trash day. Please set biodegradable yard waste bags at the curb by 6:00 a.m. Each bag requires one Reliable Sanitation sticker, available at City Hall and Ace Hardware.

Public Safety Open House

May 15th

The Columbia Police, EMS and Fire Departments invite all residents to attend the annual Public Safety Open House on Wednesday, May 15th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Safety Complex (1020 N. Main Street).

This FREE family-friendly event features safety information, activities, and demonstrations by Columbia's first responders.

Check out CPD, CEMS, and CFD vehicles and equipment, get important fire safety and crime prevention tips, and even meet Safety Pup! Hot dogs and chips will be available at no cost (while supplies last).



GLO GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY
MONROE COUNTY
startUP

Monroe County startUP class of 2025 is hosting a Glo Golf Tournament at Acorns Golf Links! It will be a 4 person scramble on a 9-hole, Par 3 course. Dinner and Goodie Bags are provided, and golfers have the chance to win fun raffles and prizes!

EVENT DETAILS

MARCH 28TH 2025 — 6pm-11pm

Acorns Golf Links- 3933 Ahne Rd, Waterloo, IL

Thinking about adding a shed this spring? Here's what you need to know:

- If applicable, get HOA approval before starting City application process.
- Submit a Residential Accessory Building Permit via the City's EPL Licensing Portal at www.columbiail.gov.
- Attach required documents to your permit application, including:
 - HOA approval letter (if applicable)
 - Site Plan
 - Construction Plans (including foundation details)

Reminder: All sheds must be secured on a permanent foundation

Did you know?

City Hall Urges Residents to sign up for E-Billing and E-Payment

Have you noticed delays in receiving your utility bill? Unfortunately, late deliveries are becoming more common. To avoid this frustration, we encourage all residents to sign up for electronic billing.

Signing up is quick and easy! Visit the Online Portals & Payments tab on the City's website, create an account, fill out the direct debit form, and drop it off in the payment drop box or at the Clerk's window at City Hall.







City of Columbia
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Know Columbia



Upcoming Events & Services

March 15	Shenanigans on Main Street Enjoy games and activities at participating businesses. <i>Historic Main Street Columbia 5 - 9 p.m.</i>	 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. 9to5: The Story of a Movement Friday, March 21 - Sunday, March 23 Call 281-4237 to register for Zoom Link The Art of Foraging with Alexis Nikole Nelson Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m. Call 281-4237 to register for Zoom link Chair Yoga with Lisa Fox (Adults) Saturdays 3/15, 3/29, 4/12, 4/26 at 10 a.m. Free Plant Swap (Plant Lovers) Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Summer Reading Kickoff & Registration Celia's Sing Along Dance & Bubble Party Saturday, May 31, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. <i>Metter Park</i> Story Hour (3-5 yrs) Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. Lego Club (4-12 yrs) Third Thursday of Month, 4-5 p.m. For event details and registration, call or visit www.columbialibrary.org
April 25 & 26	City Wide Yard Sale 100+ yard sales throughout the City. Register your sale or view the citywide directory at www.columbiaill.gov	
May 15	Public Safety Open House <i>Public Safety Complex 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.</i>	
June 8	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. <i>Metter Park 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.</i>	
June 22	Music at Metter Featuring The Core Extreme. Bring your requests, friends and lawn chairs. Turner Hall will be selling brats and hot dogs. <i>Metter Park 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.</i>	
July 4	4th of July Bike Parade & Activities Children parade down Main St. to Metter Park. 10 am - noon. 4th of July Celebration Food, games, and fireworks! <i>American Legion Park 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.</i>	
 Details at www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar or call (618) 281-7144		