

CITYSCOOP

The City of Collinsville's Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

2020 has not been the year any of us had hoped for. The COVID-19 global pandemic has caused unprecedented pressure on our families, schools, businesses, and way of life. Many of the events and festivals that we look forward to have been canceled until next year.

Despite all of this, the City has continued to move forward. The City Council recently adopted a Parks Master Plan which will serve as our primary strategy for enhancing the City's parks. The Sustainability Plan 2020 was also adopted, promoting policies and practices to ensure our community will flourish for future generations. New businesses are investing in our community, including Ace Hardware, Smoothie King, and Wingstop.

City staff continue to provide high quality services to ensure that roads, utilities, and infrastructure are well maintained. Our Police and Fire Departments continue to provide top tier protection to our community. Visit the City's [website](#) for the latest news and contact information.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Miller



Mayor John Miller

BLACK FRIDAY *Sale*

2021 Season Passes on sale Nov. 27!

Season Pass	City Res.	N/R
Adult (13-59)	\$70	\$100
Child (3-12)	\$55	\$80
Senior (60+)	\$55	\$80
Family 2 Pack (2 Passes)	\$100	\$160
Family 5 Pack (5 Passes)	\$200	\$320
Add a Family Member	\$45	\$65

Prices increase January 1, 2021



Season Pass holders get:

- Unlimited admission
- 10% off concessions & gift shop
- \$10 off cabana rentals
- 10% off programs & events
- Free locker rental & guest passes
- Early entry into Aqua Park

Buy online at:

www.collinsvilleil.org/pass
(must register for online account)



BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

GLIK'S

(25 ABC Parkway) – Glik's is continuing construction of the 40,500 square foot Glik's Corporate Headquarters/distribution/order-fulfillment center



Ground Breaking Ceremony
March 4, 2020



WING-STOP

(1075 Collinsville Crossing Blvd) - Wings, Fries, and Sides. 1,400 square foot tenant space currently under construction. The restaurant will be located next door to Starbucks in Collinsville Crossings.



SMOOTHIE KING

(1104 Collinsville Crossings Blvd) – Located next to Qdoba in Collinsville Crossings, Smoothie King opened its doors for business in Collinsville in October. Smoothie King Collinsville is open Monday through Friday 7 am – 9 pm, Saturday 8 am – 9 pm and Sunday 10 am – 8 pm. For more information on the new Smoothie King in Collinsville, please visit locations.smoothieking.com/IL/US/IL/Collinsville or call 618-855-8248



ACE HARDWARE

(501 Beltline Road) – Cotton's Ace Hardware is moving into the old Sears Hardware building. Currently completing tenant build-out, hoping to be operational by the end of the year.





HOMETOWN HEROES

Thank you Collinsville! This is our 5th year celebrating our military veterans with our banner display in downtown. We could not have done it without you!

On a personal note, both Lenny and I have learned more about the wars, the battles and what our troops have done than anything we learned in school. I enjoyed the time when the veteran or family came to give us their information and told us stories about the veteran-who he/she is, what they did, where they were assigned and what they went through. It is entirely different for me now when I watch a war movie, I see a possible Collinsville resident. I have more thankfulness and appreciation for our veterans today than ever before.

We were unable to have our Celebration at the Gateway Center for our veterans this year due to COVID. Just know we were still thinking about you.

Thank you to our Streets Department for changing our banners twice a year. Banners are put up after Easter and the second group is put up after the Italian-Fest. We cannot forget City Hall and Mayor John Miller for allowing the program to be started. I could have never imagined the great participation from our patriotic residents or the backing from the city that this program has received.

We love and appreciate our veterans. God bless America.

Lenny & Pat Reitz

FREE

Yard Waste

Drop-off



2020

**Friday
December**

4

8am - 2pm

**Saturday
December**

5

8am - 3pm

Leaves and Yard Waste must be
in paper yard waste bags- **NO PLASTIC BAGS**
proof of residency required

bring Drivers Lisc, Water Bill or Power Bill

Collinsville Street Garage
850 S. Morrison Ave.

Questions?

call 618-346-5214

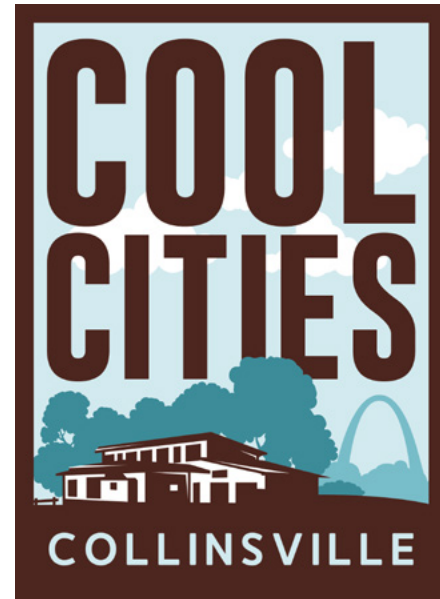
www.collinsvilleil.org

due to covid19-please wear a mask.

Sustainability Plan 2020

The City adopted the Sustainability Plan 2020 on October 27, 2020. Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without sacrificing the needs of the future. The intent of the Sustainability Plan 2020 is to improve the quality of life for present and future residents by considering the long-term impacts of our everyday decisions and actions. The Plan is organized into five focus areas:

- Transportation
- Buildings, Ground, and Lighting
- Environmental Management
- Land Use Planning
- Community Development, Engagement, and Education



Each focus area outlines strategies and objectives that will be implemented overtime based on ease of implementation, availability of existing resources, funding commitments, and impacts. The plan was drafted by the Collinsville Cool Cities Committee with input and ideas from residents, businesses, the Planning Commission, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, and the City Council.

CITY OF COLLINSVILLE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2020

A long-range plan for enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of Collinsville residents through sustainable practices.



Focus Areas Overview

Transportation
The transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States largely come from burning fossil fuel for our cars, trucks, ships, trains, and planes. Over 90 percent of the fuel used for transportation is petroleum based, primarily gasoline and diesel. The objectives within this focus area include creating multi-modal streets, greening the City's vehicle fleet, and providing mobility options for residents and businesses.

Buildings, Grounds & Lighting
The built environment, defined by the facilities and civil infrastructure systems that people use, is the fundamental foundation upon which a society exists, develops, and survives. However, the built environment is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and is also a major consumer of power and water. The strategies within this focus area include greening city-owned and operated facilities, promoting privately owned energy efficient buildings, installing efficient outdoor lighting and traffic signals, reusing and retrofitting vacant buildings, and the promotion of renewable energy generation in the city.

Environmental Management
Environmental management is concerned with understanding the structure and functioning of Earth, and how humans fit into and impact the environmental system. Being multifaceted, environmental management is about predicting future environmental changes, and maximizing human benefit whilst minimizing environmental degradation. The strategies within this focus area include stormwater management, water quality & conservation, air quality, and waste reduction & recycling.

Land Use & Planning
Land use planning refers to the rational and judicious approach of allocating available land resources to different land using activities, (e.g. agricultural, residential, industrial) and for different functions consistent with the overall development vision/goal of the city. Sustainable infrastructure demands planning that is efficient, helps support or create closer knit neighborhoods and the sense of community with them, and preserves natural systems that existed on the land prior to human development. Objectives within this focus area include comprehensive planning & implementation, green space conservation and undeveloped land, as well as smart growth principles.

Community Development, Engagement, & Education
The word community is central to the human experience. Being part of a community gives us a sense of belonging, enables us to share personal relatedness, and supports perpetual growth of each other and the environment. Engaging and educating our community on sustainable practices is paramount. Objectives within this focus include promoting local food, environmental justice and diversity, supporting regional sustainability efforts, raising environmental awareness within the community, and encouraging green-business development.

To view the Sustainability Plan 2020 in its entirety, visit:

<https://www.collinsvilleil.org/departments/community-development/planning-and-zoning-division/sustainability-plan-2020>

GATEWAY CENTER



GATHERING OF TREES: DECEMBER 4-6, 2020

Gathering

The City of Collinsville and KAHOKstrong Present:

~~FESTIVAL OF TREES~~



VIRTUAL EVENT

DECEMBER 4-6



Joyously celebrate the holidays by joining us (*virtually*) at the 27th Anniversary of the Gathering of Trees. Online bidding via Ogle Auctions will be available starting December 4th through December 6th. Trees will be delivered on December 7th after bidding has closed. This years event will benefit KAHOKstrong.

EVENT AND BIDDING INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND BY VISITING -
[HTTPS://COLLINSVILLECHRISTMAS.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://collinsvillechristmas.eventbrite.com)

Parks & Recreation

The City adopted the Parks Master Plan on November 10, 2020. The plan's intent is to guide the Parks and Recreation Department through growth and improvements in a sustainable and achievable way for the benefit of Collinsville residents. The plan determines future expansion needs, documents the priorities of the community and identifies potential opportunities for new recreation programming and facilities.

The plan covers each of the parks within the City limits and stresses the economic development impact of Willoughby Heritage Farm, the Collinsville Aqua Park and the potential at the Sports Complex. The plan also focuses on the development of new programs, advertising, operations, staffing and connectivity.



City of Collinsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

November 2020



Planning Design Studio
in association with Ballard*King, Councilman-Hunsaker, ETC Institute and AAC

Activity Center/Aqua Park



Current Projects

Make Repairs to Aqua Park Pools (Complete)

- Lap Pool, Leisure Pool, Tree House

Suggested Improvements

- Add 6 or 8 Lane Lap Pool for Competition
- Dedicated Pool and Competition Space That Can Be Separated From Or Opened Up To The Rest Of The Aqua Park Complex
- Redesign and Rebuild the Lazy River
- New Splash Pad
- Interior Renovations of Activity Center and Concessions Building
- Landscape around Activity Center
- Add Walking Trail Around Park
- Create a Public Plaza Space

Collinsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Planning Design Studio in association with Ballard*King, Councilman-Hunsaker, ETC & AAC



The newly adopted Parks Master Plan will work in coordination with the Great Streets Plan, Sustainability Plan and the City Strategic Plan to achieve multiple goals in each project. Public input was sought and incorporated throughout the master planning process in the form of public meetings, surveys, stakeholder meetings and statistically valid surveys mailed to a percentage of Collinsville homes.

[Click here to see the Parks Master Plan](#)

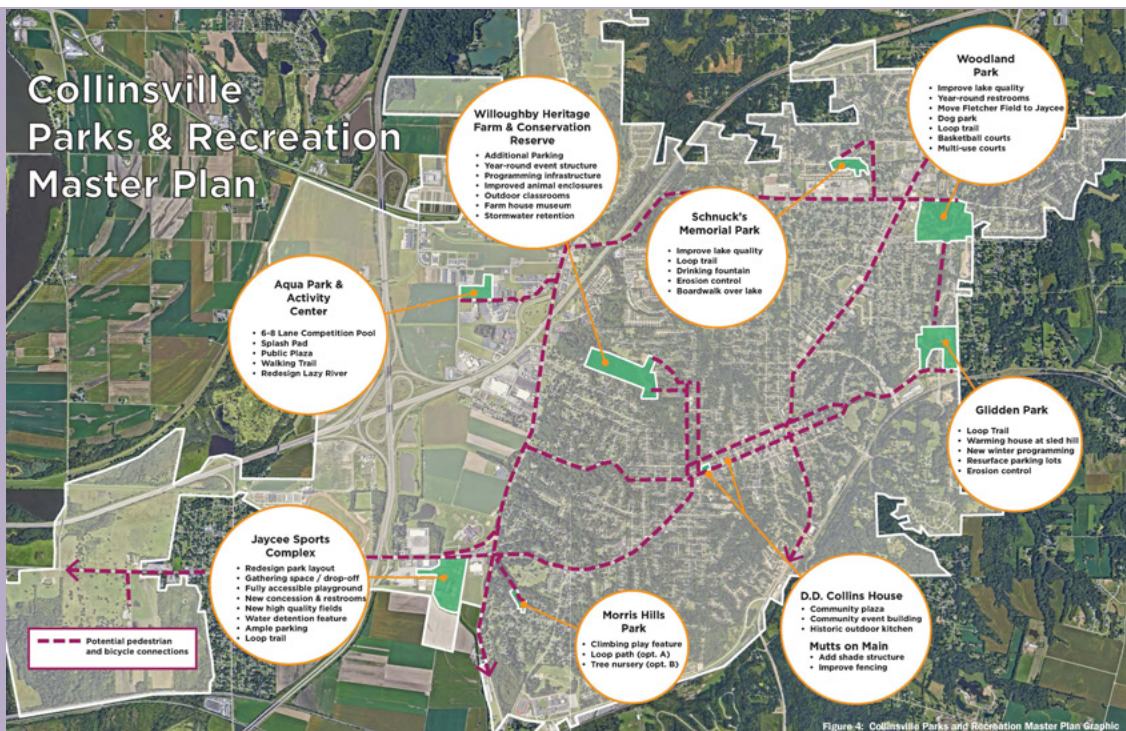


Figure 4: Collinsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan Graphic

Letters from the North Pole

Ho! Ho! Ho! Add to the excitement of Christmas for your little one with a letter from the jolly guy himself, Santa Claus, straight from the North Pole. Here's how:



- 1 Register your child for Letter from the North Pole by calling 618.346.7529 or visiting collinsvilleil.org.
- 2 Have your child write a letter to Santa Claus.
- 3 Parent completes Santa's Check List from the North Pole Form. Forms are available at collinsvilleil.org and at the Collinsville Activity Center (10 Gateway Drive).
- 4 Parent places your child's letter and Santa's Check List from the North Pole Form in a sealed envelope.
- 5 Beginning December 1, bring your child to the Collinsville Activity Center to place their letter in Santa Claus' Mailbox or place the letter in the mail addressed to Santa Claus, Letter from the North Pole, City of Collinsville Parks & Recreation, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. Include child's letter along with Santa's Check List Form.

All Ages • December 1-12

Letters from North Pole Form must be received between Dec. 1-12. Santa's helpers at the City of Collinsville Parks & Recreation will take care of the rest! Registration required.



City of Collinsville Parks and Recreation
10 Gateway Drive • collinsvilleil.org





FALL & WINTER SAFETY TIPS

With the season changing and temperatures dropping, we thought it would be a good time to provide some fire safety tips.

FIREPLACE SAFETY

Wood burning fireplaces should be inspected every Fall prior to use: Follow the listed tips for a safe and warm burning season.

- The damper should open and close properly. Ensure it's in the fully open position prior to starting a fire; failure to fully open the damper could result in the release of toxic gases into your home.
- Wire mesh screening should be used to prevent embers from flying out of the fireplace. These embers can not only damage floor finishes but can also start a fire.
- Ensure that firestarters, kindling, and logs are stored away from the fireplace so there is no way an ember can ignite them.
- Only use fireplace tools when adjusting logs, and never move the logs with your hands. Fireplace gloves work well to prevent burns when adjusting hot doors or screens.
- The firebox should be periodically cleaned of ash during the burn season. The ash should be put in a metal container and allowed to cool completely before discarding. Remember, coals will stay hot long after a fire, so it is imperative they are disposed of properly.
- The flue should be checked prior to use and professionally cleaned to remove any excess buildup of creosote.
- Chimney caps are recommended to prevent birds and other animals from building nests in the chimney.

CANDLES

Candles are one of the leading causes of residential fires. Please follow the tips listed below when using candles:

- Never leave lit candles unattended; make sure they are extinguished prior to going to sleep.
- Never place lit candles next to flammable materials such as drapes, furniture, etc.
- Make sure lit candles are out of reach of children and pets.

SMOKE DETECTORS

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports between 2012-2016, almost three out of five home fire deaths in the U.S. resulted from fires in homes with no smoke detectors or smoke detectors that were not working. Additionally, in 2019 there were 91 residential fire deaths in Illinois, with most of the deaths occurring in homes without working smoke detectors.

Time is everything when it comes to escaping a fire in your home and working smoke detectors will increase your chances of escaping if a fire were to occur.

- It is recommended that smoke detectors be tested once a month, but Daylight Savings Time serves as a reminder to inspect, test, and replace any expired or non-working smoke detectors. It is recommended that smoke detector batteries be replaced when the time changes in the Spring and Fall.
- Smoke detectors should be discarded once they are ten years old.
- Beginning January 1, 2023, a new Illinois law will require ten-year sealed smoke detectors for all homes without hard-wired detectors.

This March we installed some smoke detectors in a duplex, replacing older detectors with dead batteries. This same duplex suffered a fire in September. The smoke detectors alerted the next-door neighbor in the duplex which led to early detection of the fire. The occupants were not at home and there were no injuries, but this early detection helped us contain the fire mostly to the bedroom.

CLASSROOM VIDEOS AVAILABLE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Due to Covid-19, both Fire Stations have remained closed since March and our interaction with the public has been strictly limited. All classroom visits and Station tours for all groups, including schools, churches, scout groups, day care classes and the general public have been cancelled. Since many of these activities take place during October, the month in which Fire Prevention Week is celebrated, we decided to create some videos that could be used by these groups to virtually connect children with Firefighters to learn about fire safety.

Video tours are available for Fire Station One, a Fire Engine, and an Ambulance. We also have a gear demonstration video featuring a Firefighter getting into his turnout gear to go to a fire.

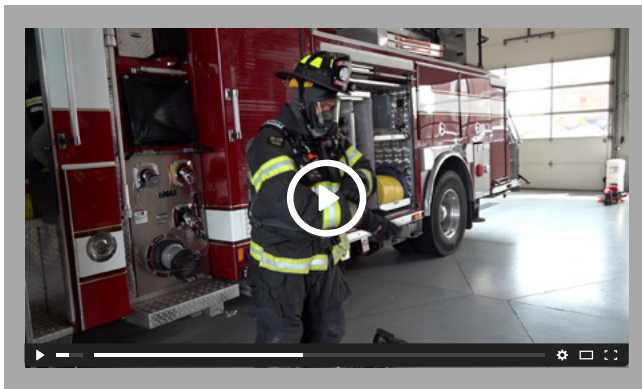
view these videos by clicking photos or visiting <https://www.collinsvilleil.org/departments/fire-department/fire-department-videos>



Fire Station 1 Tour



Ambulance Tour



Fire Gear Demo

click to watch



Fire Truck Tour

In cooperation with the Collinsville Memorial Public Library, we also have a few videos of Firefighters reading children's books. Any of these videos are available for use & presentation and can be obtained by emailing tcarlson@collinsvilleil.org.



Fire Trucks Book



The Fire Station Book

Unit 10



TEACHER JENNIFER BHOOSHAN NAMED A 2021 ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

September 29, 2020 – Collinsville, Illinois – The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has named Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 (CUSD 10) elementary music teacher Jennifer Bhooshan the 2021 Illinois Teacher of the Year for the Southwest Region.

Mrs. Bhooshan teaches kindergarten through fourth grade music at Maryville Elementary and Webster Elementary schools in Collinsville CUSD 10. She was nominated by Maryville Elementary Principal Carmen Loemker.

“Jennifer Bhooshan is an outstanding music educator, advocate for children, role model for young teachers, and supporter of the arts. She develops meaningful relationships with students and demonstrates constant enthusiasm for her profession. Her lessons include culturally diverse music and she works with teachers to provide cross-curricular lessons that incorporate movement and dance. I am thrilled Mrs. Bhooshan is being recognized for her excellent teaching,” said Principal Loemker.



Each spring, outstanding Illinois teachers are nominated from school districts throughout the state. Nominations are disaggregated by region. The top scorers are selected as Illinois Teacher of the Year regional winners and represent their region as Teacher of the Year for the upcoming calendar year. Illinois’ official representative in the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) National Teacher of the Year program is chosen from the regional representatives.

[Visit Kahoks.org to read more](https://www.kahoks.org)

CHS SENIOR CAROLINE LENTZ IS 2021 COMMENDED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR

CHS Senior Caroline Lentz has been named a 2020-21 Commended National Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) based on her performance on the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).



Caroline is one of 34,000 scholastically talented seniors throughout the nation being recognized for their academic promise. She placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020-21 competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT last fall.

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.” [Visit Kahoks.org to read more](https://www.kahoks.org)

CHS SENIOR AMERICA GUTIERREZ-TREJO IS 20-21 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

October 2020 – Collinsville High School Senior America Gutierrez-Trejo has been named the 2020-21 Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 Student School Board member and was selected to serve on the Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council for this school year.

The CUSD 10 student school board member is a non-voting student voice on the district’s Board of Education. The student school board member attends regular monthly meetings of the BOE and carries out duties as assigned. CHS rising seniors can submit an application, including a transcript and essays about why they want to serve and what they see as issues important to the student body. A panel of CHS faculty recommends a candidate for approval by the BOE. America was approved by the BOE at the September 2020 meeting.



In addition, America applied and was chosen to serve on the 2020-21 ISBE Student Advisory Council. According to the ISBE website: “Each year a group of students are chosen from around the state to be student advisors to the board. This group of students have the opportunity to see the State Board’s policymakers in action and work with them to provide student perspectives and concerns on the state’s education policies. Students come together a handful of times throughout the year and work remotely on a research project that is presented to the Board. Applications are available in the spring and students are chosen over the summer with their work beginning in September and culminating with a presentation to the Board in March.”

[Visit Kahoks.org to read more](https://www.kahoks.org)



NEW FACES

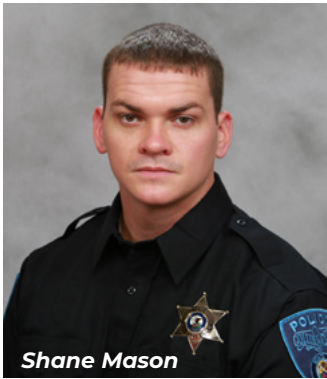
On November 10th, 2020, Officer Nicole Dwyer and Shane Mason were sworn in by Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Stehman as the two newest police officers for the City of Collinsville. Officer Dwyer and Officer Mason replace the recently retired Chris Warren and recently departed Adam Padilla.

Nicole Dwyer, 37, of St. Louis, was recently employed as a police officer by the Brooklyn and Venice, Illinois Police Departments. She graduated from the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy in 2019. Nicole earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2013.

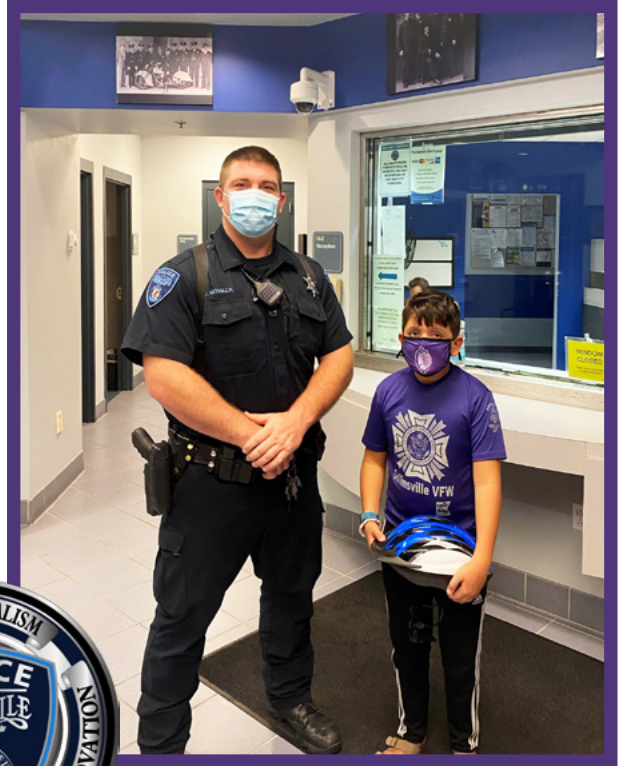
Shane Mason, 24, of Collinsville, was employed as a police officer by Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Police Department since 2018. Prior to that, he worked for both the Fairview Heights and O'Fallon Police Departments as a Civilian Police Aide. Shane graduated from SIUE in 2018 with a degree in Criminal Justice and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration from SIUE.

Next, Officer Dwyer and Officer Mason will spend the next 14 weeks in the Field Training Program where we will build upon the foundation they built at their previous agency, with the goal of turning them into a well-rounded Collinsville Police Officer.

***Welcome to Collinsville
Officers Dwyer and Mason!***



POLICE PROVIDE FREE BICYCLE HELMETS TO CHILDREN



The Collinsville Police Department is pleased to announce our partnership with Dr. Joe Cangas and the organization he founded, Helmets First!. Dr. Cangas provides free bicycle helmets and rewards to local police departments while providing training on how to fit these helmets for children. Our part of the collaborative effort is to offer the properly fitted helmets to children who we see riding without a helmet. Additionally, when we see kids wearing bicycle helmets, we can reward them with gift certificates provided by local businesses.



Dr. Cangas founded Helmets First! in 2004 to prevent injuries and deaths to children. 85% of all bicycle related head injuries could be avoided with a properly fitted helmet. Since its inception, the organization has put tens of thousands of properly fitted helmets on children.

We are excited about the extra opportunity Dr. Cangas has given us to interact with our youth. For more information about Helmets First! and ways to support this great cause please visit their website, www.HelmetsFirst.com

Voice of the People Awards

September 27, 2020 – National Research Center (NRC) at Polco and the International City & County Management Association (ICMA) have announced The City of Collinsville Winner/Finalist of the Voice of the People (VOP) Awards for **Transformation in Economy**. The City received high marks in being a great place to work and employment opportunities.

The Voice of the People Awards are the only national awards that honor local governments based on feedback from residents. Collinsville’s award recognizes its large improvements on The National Community Survey™ (The NCS) and its intentional, data-informed decisions.

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS) is a tried and trusted community survey that provides a comprehensive and accurate picture of resident perspectives on local government services, policies, and management. Results draw from the largest resident opinion database of its kind, representing well over 30 million Americans. The NCS compares local results with benchmarks compiled from surveys conducted across the U.S.

“We recognize these amazing communities that are shining examples of how to engage residents to improve quality of life and deepen trust and transparency,” said Nick Mastronardi, CEO of Polco.

“During this difficult year especially, local government leaders are rolling up their sleeves and working tirelessly to guide their communities forward,” said Damema Mann, Director of National Engagement for Polco. “We are honored to be able to recognize these deserving communities nationally.”

The 12th annual Voice of the People Awards were presented by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and National Research Center (NRC) at Polco at ICMA’s digital conference: Unite September 23-26, 2020.

Collinsville, Illinois Receives Voice of the People Award Transformation in Economy

