

CITYSCOOP

The City of Collinsville's Newsletter



Smokin' on Main BBQ Competition & Festival

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor John Miller

As we near the end of summer, we have much to celebrate in Collinsville. After taking a full year off from events, we were able to host the Memorial Day Fireworks Celebration at the Aqua Park, the Horseradish Festival, and Smokin' on Main, which were all great successes for the community.

We're already marking our calendars for Italian Fest in September and the Fall Festival & Chili Cook-Off in October. We are also looking forward to the Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting

Celebration and the Festival of Trees! We are truly fortunate to have such prominent events and festivals that provide support to the entire community!

The City is experiencing greater than expected growth in sales tax revenues, and as the hospitality industry bounces back from COVID-19, the City's financial position will only get stronger. Please continue to support our local businesses and be patient as they gear up and staff up for the increased activity. If some things take longer than usual, they would really appreciate your understanding.

Italian Fest 2021

**Friday
September 17th
11am - 10pm**

www.italianfest.net



**Saturday,
September 18th
10am - 10pm**

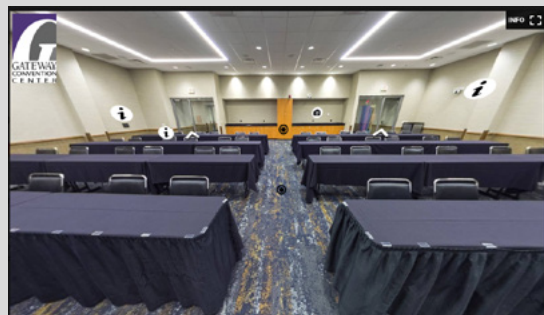


COLLINSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

360° Tours of Gateway Convention Center

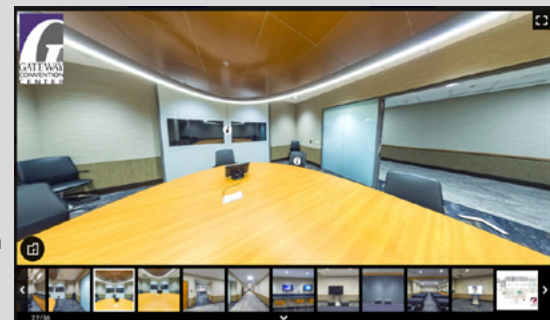
If you have not seen the inside of Gateway Convention Center lately, you can view the newly remodeled conference wing through a 360° tour on

Gatewaycenter.com.



MISSISSIPPIAN ROOM

click photo above to view tour



CAHOKIAN ROOM

click photo above to view tour



Gateway Convention Center

MEET TIM SEEBERG - GATEWAY CENTER'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Story by Mark Ahlvers

The City of Collinsville has hired Tim Seeberg as the General Manager of the Gateway Convention Center. Tim effectively started his new job on June 7, 2021, and hit the ground running as business is picking back up.

I sat down with Tim to ask him some questions about himself and his plans for Gateway Convention Center.

Q: Tell us about yourself and where you came from?

A: "I have been in the venue management business for 20 years. I am originally from the Chicago area. I've spent the last 15 years working outside of Illinois in Eastern Tennessee, Western Colorado, and most recently in Central Arkansas."

Q: Have the venues you worked at been publicly owned venues?

A: "Yes, the venues I have worked at have been publicly owned and operated, so I definitely bring a background in managing a venue of this type."

Q: What has been one of the worst experiences you have ever had to deal with?

A: "At one of my past venues, we had preparations underway for a large banquet event – 500 people expecting to be fed for this event on a Saturday night. Well, that morning, our chef had a heart attack in the freezer, and when his staff came in that morning they found him. We were scrambling without a head chef, but we were able to partner with a neighboring hotel and get their staff to help deliver an event that night."

Q: What does "CVE" in your title designate?

A: "CVE is a designation for "Certified Venue Executive". It basically is a certification that demonstrates a few things. Number one, my commitment to the industry and my level of education within the industry. It also demonstrates that I am qualified to manage venues of any kind whether it be a convention center, arena, or a performing arts center."

Q: What was your first impressions of Gateway Center and Collinsville in general?

A: "Really impressive, venue and community. Getting around the area and checking things out, I was really impressed with what's here. There's a cool downtown area, there's a great attraction to this area for events here at the Gateway Center because we are so close to a large metro market, and the location is great. There's a lot to do here in the Southern part of Illinois and this region of the country. I was really impressed."

Q: What opportunities do you see for Gateway Center?

A: "Because we are near a larger market, there are probably some untapped business opportunities in the Downtown St. Louis area. And because we are close to St. Louis and have interstate accessibility, we think there are opportunities to grow some of our existing markets that have untapped potential, such as sports, entertainment, and competitive cheer. These are events that we have capitalized on this year but would like to do more going forward."

Q: What are some of the trends in your industry and how does Gateway Center fit within those trends?



Tim Seeberg, CVE

A: "The trends I see, are that a lot of the conventions we are booking, or that we are going after, are shorter run. A three-to-four-day convention may only go for a day, day and half instead. The sporting events are becoming much larger in all markets across the country. There are many sporting organizations that are trying to put together sporting events for kids and there are more and more every year."

Q: How well equipped, technology wise, is Gateway Center?

A: "This newly remodeled wing of the Gateway Center is really well equipped for conferences and meetings that require projection and video recording capabilities. A lot of our local clients have taken advantage of the technology here to host their seminars/webinars. It is definitely important for our future."

Q: What are the biggest challenges you see for Gateway Center in the near future?

A: "First of all, related to the pandemic, I am not sure we are going to be out of it totally for a while and that will impact our industry. We may see conferences and larger events tentatively dropping off. Going into 2022, that may be challenging for us. Also as we ramp up to meet the demand of current business levels, which are really great right now, we are struggling to find staffing to fill key positions."

Q: What has been your impression of the current staff at Gateway Center?

A: "Incredible team already onboard here at Gateway. Really dedicated people that are built for this industry, which is to say 'whatever it takes to make the customer happy'. I've seen that in everybody here. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team and they will keep us going through the higher demand stretches of time that are in front of us."

You can see my interview with Tim on the city's youtube channel. www.youtube.com/cityofcollinsville.



WWW.GATEWAYCENTER.COM

The Gateway Convention Center is Owned and Operated by
The City of Collinsville



Gateway Convention Center experienced tremendous growth in the sports market with 80% more athletic events in 2021 compared to 2019. Those additional sporting events, resulted in a 50% increase in revenues for the athletic event market.



Sporting events create incredible economic impact to the City of Collinsville because they are multiple-day competitions that stay in local hotels, eat at restaurants, shop at retail outlets, and visit attractions.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GATEWAY CENTER

- SEP 10-12** International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc.
- SEP 22** Jobs Plus 2021
- SEP 24-26** IL Archaeological Society
- SEP 25-26** American Indian & Ethnographic Show
- OCT 1-3** ARCHON 44
- OCT 15-17** Anime Senpai
- NOV 6-7** The Native American Indian and Western Art Show
- NOV 13-14** Gateway Comic Con
- NOV 20** 10th Annual Kellsie's Trees of Hope Gala
- NOV 27-28** Great American Train Show
- DEC 8** Festival of Trees
- DEC 17-18** Winter Market
- JAN 7-9** Fishing Show

Gateway offers flexible and affordable space with easy access for vendors and exhibitors. Our clients love the Center's close proximity to hotels, restaurants, and local attractions as well as the convenient, central location and free parking.



The Gateway Wedding Show on August 8, 2021 was a huge success with approximately \$30,000 in revue. With 70+ vendors and over 500 attendees, this years Wedding Show was met with much anticipation as brides and grooms were excited to get out and see some new trends in the wedding market.





FALL FARM DAY
SATURDAY OCT. 2ND

10AM - 2PM

Come celebrate fall at Willoughby Farm. Visit the animals, enjoy the music, take a wagon ride, and shop the vendors. \$2 per person. Ages 2 and under are free.



FALL BARN DANCE
COMING IN NOVEMBER

WINTER WONDERLAND
DUSK - 7PM - DECEMBER

Bring a hot chocolate and stroll through the illuminated farmyard.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Wednesday Workdays @
Willoughby Farm - 9am - 1pm

Parks-In-Action -
1st Saturdays from 9am-noon
Call to request individual or group opportunities.

Book your next special occasion at Willoughby Farm!

Be sure to visit our website at collinsvilleil.org or call 977-0941 to see our new rental prices for 2021.

Programs & Events



TUNES -at- BLUM

FREE CONCERT SERIES

6:30 -8:00pm Wednesday Nights in September

on the lawn of
The Blum House
414 W. Main St

FREE PARKING
at the Collinsville Library

HOMESTYLE GRILL FOOD TRUCK
will be vending food!

September 1 - The Hangouts

September 8 - Meatwood Flack

September 15 - Tony Hausmann

September 22 - Chris and Jillian

September 29 - Double Wide Duo

Collinsville Area Fall Garage Sale at the Activity Center - Sept 25

Halloween Costume Swap at the Activity Center - Sept 25

Egg tober - October 21st - 23rd and 27th through 31st

Halloween House Decorating Contest October 1st - 31st

visit COLLINSVILLEIL.ORG/PARKSANDREC for all Parks and Rec info

FREE! HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP

September 25, 10:30am-11:30am
at the Collinsville Activity Center



Looking to trade in your gently-used, family-friendly Halloween costumes from past years?

Costumes can be dropped-off from
9/20/2021-9/24/2021 between
8:30am and 4:30pm at 10 Gateway Dr.
All donations are final.

Each participant who brings in a costume
will be given a Swap Token to be used on
9/25/2021 from 10:30-11:30am for a
different costume.

Register for FREE by calling 618.346.7529
or by visiting www.collinsvilleil.org.

Questions? Contact the Parks & Rec Department at 618.346.7529.

FREE

Yard Waste Drop Off

2021

**Friday
December**

3

8am - 2pm

**Saturday
December**

4

8am - 3pm

Where:

**Collinsville Street Garage
850 S. Morrison Ave.**

Questions?

call 618-346-5214

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

www.collinsvilleil.org



Christmas
AT THE COLLINS HOUSE

-Uptown Collinsville-

Light Up Parade

1st Saturday in December



visit www.collinsvilleil.org/christmas
to submit Parade Entry Form

Police Department

COLLINSVILLE YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

The Collinsville Police Department hosted its 4th Youth Academy over a two week period from July 26th to August 6th. The Summer 2021 session was attended by 23 students.

Open to Collinsville youth ages 13-17, the Academy introduces participants to the field of law enforcement and provides an opportunity for youth and police officers to connect. Students accepted into the program are able to learn about multiple topics/issues in the field of law enforcement in a fun, friendly, and hands-on environment taught by the men and women of the Collinsville Police Department.

Collinsville Police - Youth Academy



Collinsville Police - Youth Academy

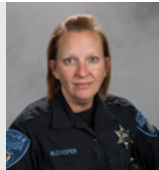


The CPD introduced its newest member, Odin. Odin is a 2-year old Belgian Malinois and is partnered with Officer Dylan Madron. They completed the K9 academy at St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department's K9 Academy in April. Take time to welcome Odin when you see him.

A vertical recruitment banner with a blue background and white stars. At the top is the Collinsville Police Department logo. Below it, the text reads: 'NOW HIRING EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICERS' and 'APPLY ONLINE COLLINSVILLEIL.ORG'.

RETIREMENTS LEAD TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW FACES AT COLLINSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On July 9, 2021, Detective Melissa Cooper retired from the Collinsville Police Department after 22 years of service.



On July 16, 2021, Lieutenant Mark Krug retired after serving more than 20 years with the Collinsville Police Department.



On August 8, 2021, Officer Jennifer Kyrouac retired with over 21 years of service at the Collinsville Police Department.



Throughout their distinguished careers, all three officers held many positions within the department while serving the community with pride and honor. Melissa is beginning a new career with the Missouri Department of Corrections, Mark will be joining the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and Jennifer will be serving the Collinsville Community Unit School District #10. We wish all three success in their future endeavors.

On July 26, 2021, Detective Sergeant Mark Kuechle was promoted to the rank of lieutenant.



Officer Michael Brown was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Sgt. Brown will be taking the lead of B squad within the patrol division.



Sgt. Keith Jackson will transition from patrol to the assignment of detective sergeant.



The retirements and promotions will also trigger the hiring of new Collinsville Police Officers. Three new officers will begin their career with the Collinsville Police Department soon. We are very excited to watch the newly promoted officers grow in their new leadership roles. With equal enthusiasm, we look forward to watching our new officers develop as guardians of this community.

Wastewater Plant to Undergo Bio-Solids Handling System Upgrade

The City of Collinsville is breaking ground on a new project at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to upgrade the facilities residual handling process. The project will convert the current inefficient process of lime stabilization and storage of the liquid bio-solids to a more efficient, sustainable, and environmentally safer process system of drying and pasteurizing the residuals. The completion of this project will provide greater flexibility and long-term cost control of residual disposal and reduce the odor produced at the facility.

Funding for this project was provided by a low interest loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Public Water Pollution Control Program (WPCLP). The WPCLP is funded by both state and federal sources. The \$6,700,000 loan has a simple interest rate of 1.11% and will be repaid over 20 years. For more information on the project, please contact the Collinsville Wastewater Department at 618-346-5211.



CITY COUNCIL



MEETINGS

City Council Meetings take place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm at City Hall. You can watch meeting live or on demand at collinsvilleil.org

City of Collinsville Now Hiring

The Human Resources Department is actively recruiting candidates for Full-Time, Part-Time, and Seasonal workers throughout departments across Collinsville. During the spring and summer season, our busiest months, we recruit staff to manage and operate our Aquapark (over 100 seasonal employees!). Please visit our [website](#) to visit our current offerings and follow us on Facebook to keep updated of our future openings!

CPR Classes

CPR Classes are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 6-9 pm at Fire Station 1, 130 South Clinton.

The class consists of Infant, Youth & Adult CPR as well as an introduction to the AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The class does not include First Aid Certification; available First Aid classes can be found at cpr.heart.org

The cost is \$25 for City & Fire District residents and \$50 for nonresidents.

Our classes are "Heartsaver" through the American Heart Association and are not appropriate for Health Care Providers

who need "BLS Provider" Certification. BLS Classes can be provided to groups of 6 or more upon request. Heartsaver classes can be provided to larger groups upon request as well (scouts, church groups, businesses, etc).

To register, send your name, home address, phone number and date you'd like to register for, to: tcarlson@collinsvilleil.org.

You will receive a confirmation and additional information by return email.

To set up a group class, contact Tracy Carlson at 346-5022 ext. 3141





LOCAL GREEN RECOGNITION PROGRAM

In 2021, the Cool Cities Committee started a local recognition program to spotlight the efforts of businesses and organizations who are going above and beyond to incorporate sustainable practices into their operations. The following organizations have been recognized:

OLD HERALD BREWERY & DISTILLERY

Old Herald Brewery & Distillery is being recognized for its green business practices, including the use of compostable plant-based materials for disposable packaging, linen service to reduce paper waste, growing herbs on-site for the kitchen and bar, and donating spent grains from the brewery to local farmers to feed cattle. Additionally, Old Herald's facility utilizes 100% LED time-controlled lighting and reuses reclaimed wood and fixtures for decor throughout the establishment.



DORRIS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

The faculty at DIS installed a water filling station to reduce single-use plastics and encourage reusable water bottles. DIS participates in a Use-It-Again program drop box for textiles that are reused for those in need in lieu of going to the landfill. DIS has also developed an extensive recycling program for specialized materials such as cell phones, eyeglasses, hearing aids, keys, markers, highlights, and grocery bags.



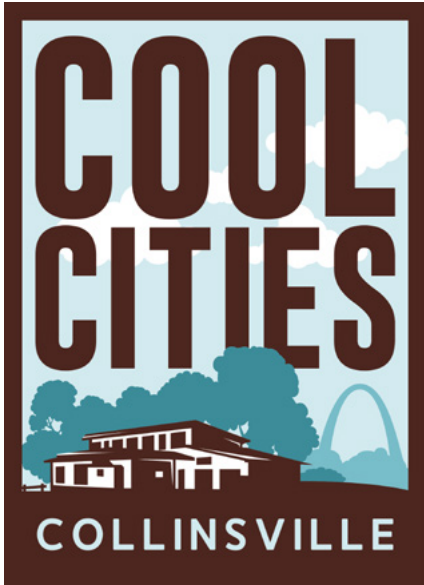
KNOW A LOCAL BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION WHO IS WORTHY OF RECOGNITION? NOMINATE THEM! SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS TO: THE COOL CITIES COMMITTEE AT DJACKSON@COLLINSVILLEIL.ORG.

DÉJÀ VU KIDZ

Déjà vu Kidz is a not-for-profit business located on Main Street that specializes in reuse and resale of youth clothing. Their business model gives textiles a second life, preventing additional solid waste from leaving the community.

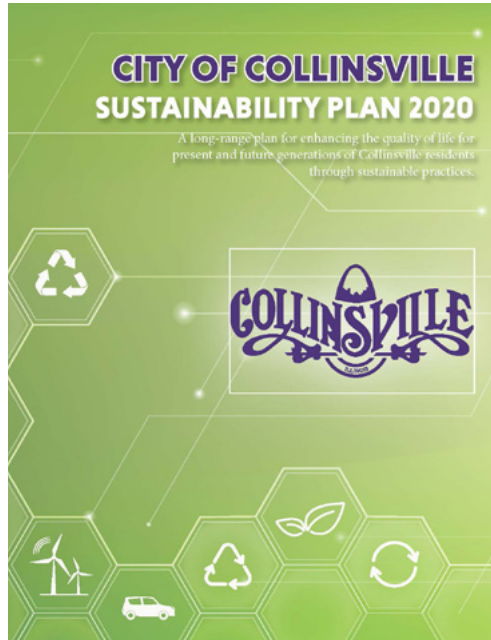


Watch the video of each presentation on the City's Youtube Channel.
[youtube.com/cityofcollinsville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofcollinsville)



In 2018 the Collinsville City Council created the Cool Cities Committee, an advisory group of residents who assist the City by providing ideas and making recommendations in order to make the City's operations more energy efficient. In addition, the Committee coordinates efforts within the community to encourage residents and businesses to consider sustainable alternatives that benefit the environment. The Committee meets the third Monday of every month and welcomes input from residents.

www.collinsvilleil.org/coolcities



The City's Sustainability Plan, which was drafted by the Cool Cities Committee and adopted by the City Council in 2020, is a policy road map which prescribes sustainable objectives and strategies related to transportation, facilities, environmental management, land use planning, and community engagement.

www.collinsvilleil.org/sustainability-plan

Keep Collinsville BEAUTIFUL!

Reminder, City of Collinsville Staff works to ensure our neighborhoods and corridors remain welcoming and safe. However, no one is a better advocate for our town than our residents. If you happen to find a code violation or believe there is a property maintenance issue within the City, we ask that you please submit a report through the City's Website or call 618-346-5200, Extension 1158. Staff will contact concerned residents and work towards a solution.



Blow grass clippings into yard away from street

Mowing Reminder

Reminder, as the weather breaks, please note that the City of Collinsville takes pride in the safety, appearance, and maintenance of our streets. Please help us keep them safe and clean by ensuring all grass clippings are kept off the street. Grass clippings along roadways are not only unsightly, but clippings clog storm drains and are dangerous for motorcyclists. Failure to keep your grass clippings out of the street will result in the issuance of a violation and an accompanying fine.

**-Madison County Electronic Recycling-
Collection Dates**
Sept. 11 - 8am - 2:30pm
Oct. 9 - 8am - 2:30pm

COLLECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT CJD E-CYCLING
5257 N STATE RT 157 - EDWARDSVILLE, IL
FREE for all Madison County Residents
Appointments Required

Email recycling@co.madison.il.us
 or call 618-296-6647 to sign up

Acceptable Items: Anything with a cord, all tv models, home electronics, computers & monitors, small appliances, air conditioners, lawn equipment.



BULK TRASH PICK-UP



REPUBLIC SERVICES

Republic Services provides a free pick-up of large items and appliances for residents **twice each year**. Please contact Republic Services at (618) 656-6883 or www.republicservices.com to schedule your pick-up.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN LARGE ITEM PICKUPS:

Appliances, Carpet (cut into bundles no longer than 4' in length and 3' in diameter and weighing less than 50lbs. per bundle), Furniture including couches, chairs, dressers, tables, desks, mattress set. Glass portions of doors/windows must be broken down and placed into small box marked "GLASS".

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN LARGE ITEM PICKUPS:

Basketball sets/poles, unless they are broken down into sections no larger than 3' in diameter. Batteries, concrete and construction material of any kind, electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, tires, yard waste.

UNIT 10

Daniel Toberman is New Collinsville High School Principal 2021-22



Daniel Toberman

Daniel Toberman is the new principal of Collinsville High School beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

"I am excited to be part of a new era at Collinsville High School," says Toberman. He succeeds Principal David Snider who retired at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Toberman has been part of the CHS staff for the past 14 years, serving 8 years as an English teacher and 5 years as assistant principal.

"Mr. Toberman has the ability to celebrate the successes of our students and staff but also make difficult decisions in the best interest of our students. He brings a wide range of experience to the position having served as a teacher and assistant principal at CHS for many years," said Collinsville CUSD 10 Superintendent Dr. Mark B. Skertich.

"He is very knowledgeable of the traditions and successful programs within the high school and able to determine areas of improvement as we move forward. I am excited to watch CHS continue to improve and flourish under the leadership of Mr. Toberman," Skertich added.

Mr. Toberman says he wants to honor the rich history at Collinsville High School: "I want the great things we have going here to continue. I want to maintain all the traditions that make us special, the things that make us Kahoks. I hope I don't make too many changes too quickly, but when I see ways to get better, I don't want to wait around either. I want all members of the school community to expect me to do what is best for our school and our students. I want everyone to hold me accountable for doing

so. I want all my decisions and those made by everyone here to be based on what is best for students."

Toberman grew up in Fairview Heights and attended Belleville East High School. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism and Education Specialist (Ed.S.) certification from SIUE, and a Master's degree from McKendree University. He moved to the Collinsville Community in 2013.

"This has become my home. No one wants this place to be better than I do. I want to work together with all stakeholders to make sure CHS is the absolute best we can make it," he says.

The 2021-22 school year presents challenges after last year's remote and hybrid learning, but Toberman and CHS staff are prepared.

"The biggest issue we have coming back this year is the lack of connection many of our students have to our school. Some never came at all, and others were limited in how much they came last year," said Toberman, "There is only one class of students currently in our school who have ever had a normal, full year as a Kahok, the seniors back when they were freshman. I want our students to love their school, and love being here.

"I am so excited about what we are going to accomplish at CHS this year and for many years. It's a great time to be a Kahok!" says Toberman.



Ms. Jamie Hadjan

Collinsville CUSD 10 Welcomes Jamie Hadjan as New Director of Finance

Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 welcomed Jamie Hadjan as the district's new Director of Finance effective for the 2021-22 school year.

Ms. Hadjan served as the Chief Financial Officer of Jacksonville (IL) School District 117 for the past seven years. She previously worked in Staunton (IL) Community Unit School District #6 for ten years.

Hadjan says, "My career started in banking, then auditing, and then trust services/investment management. Looking for a better work/family life balance, I took a position as an HR/Business Services Coordinator in my hometown of Staunton, where I had gone to school and where my kids were in school."

"I thought it would be a temporary step out of the corporate world and that I would go back after my kids were a little older," she adds, "But I loved working in the school! I learned many different aspects of school business, decided to further my education and completed my Masters Degree in School Business and have stayed in the Education field ever since."

Hadjan grew up in Staunton, IL and went to Staunton Schools K-12. She graduated from Eastern Illinois University and completed a Masters at Northern Illinois University. She went on to earn the Chief School Business Official endorsement on her

Administrative License.

She enjoys many aspects of her job, but confesses construction and renovation projects are her favorites. She will gain additional experience in those areas as CUSD 10 has slated many upcoming building projects, including plans to replace the existing Caseyville Elementary School.

"Construction/Renovations are exciting in all phases...initial discussions, financial decisions, design, getting started and the actual construction. But the best part is seeing the reactions of the students when they see their building for the first time," said Hadjan.

Hadjan and her husband of 30 years live in Staunton. They have two children and three grandchildren. "Spending time with my grandkids is my favorite thing to do outside of work."

Collinsville CUSD 10 Superintendent Dr. Mark B. Skertich said, "Jamie brings a wealth of knowledge to the district as it relates to all aspects of school finance and facility management. She hit the ground running on July 1st and has not looked back. We are excited to welcome her as a member of our Kahok family!"

Hadjan is familiar with the expectation of wearing purple on Fridays in CUSD 10. "From the day I was hired, I was told to start working on my wardrobe," she says, "I have a few things, but some shopping may still be in order."

"I am very thankful for this opportunity and look forward to being a part of Collinsville Unit 10."

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

Tesla Charging Station



Tesla Charging Station- at Casey's General Store Hwy 157 became operational in June 2021.



Agavero Grill & Cantina



(604 N Bluff Rd) – In the old Ruby Tuesday building, Agavero Grill & Cantina will be opening their authentic Mexican restaurant in October 2021.



Thrivent Financial



(506 Vandalia) – Legacy Planning and Thrivent Financial are joining together to re-purpose and expand the existing structure at 506 Vandalia.



McDill's Irish Pub



(334 St. Louis Rd.) – Building next to the existing restaurant, McDill's will double their seating capacity. Expected to move in first quarter of 2022.



The City of Collinsville
125 S. Center St.
Collinsville, IL 62234



CITYSCOOP

The City of Collinsville's Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2021

If you have any questions or concerns about any information in this newsletter, or about any other City business, please call us or visit our website!

City Hall: 346-5200
Public Works: 346-5214
Parks & Recreation: 346-7529

Police Department: 344-2131
Fire Department: 346-5022
Gateway Center: 345-8998