

CITYSCOOP

The City of Collinsville's Newsletter



ROUTE 66 MONUMENT

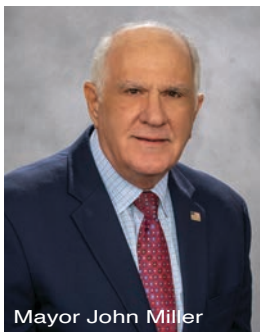
The Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau provided the 12ft monument sign commemorating the last 100 miles of Route 66 in Illinois. The sign is located at the corner of Hwy 159 and Main Street.



You can also check out the Route 66 mural painted on the side of Bert's Chuckwagon and Verona Coffee.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor John Miller

As we kick off the Fall season, the people of Collinsville have a lot of excitement to look forward to. Families now have a brand-new playground and shelters at

Woodland Park to enjoy. On the heels of one of our busiest Summers at the City's Aqua Park, our Parks and Recreation staff are hard at work preparing for a list of fun events throughout the holiday season and into the start of 2023. You can get into the Halloween spirit at the Pumpkin Glow and Float at Woodland Park and start your holiday season off by

signing up to participate in the "Light Up Collinsville" Holiday Lights Decorating Contest. Be sure to purchase your tickets for the 29th annual Festival of Trees at the Collinsville Gateway Center, which raises money for three local charities, including the Children's Dyslexia Center, Collinsville Charities for Children, and the Miners' Institute Foundation. The festive event is your chance to have a fun night celebrating the holidays while also making a difference in our community. Start the last month of the year off by coming out for the City's Light Up Christmas Parade and Christmas at the Collins House where kids can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus! We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!

CHRISTMAS AT COLLINS HOUSE AND LIGHT UP PARADE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

Collinsville will be hosting our annual Christmas at Collins House and Light Up Parade! The Light Up Parade will take place on Clay and Main Streets in uptown Collinsville with festivities ending at the historical D.D. Collins House.

Themed/decorated entries will be given priority. Minimal classic/unique car entries allowed. All entries must display holiday lights, décor, and/or a holiday display. All walking participants must have lights on their person for visibility.

Parade Applications are available at Collinsvilleil.org



What does HOME RULE mean to Collinsville?

Home Rule status is automatically designated when municipalities have at least 25,001 residents or have adopted home-rule by referendum. The primary benefit of Home Rule status to Collinsville lies in the flexibility it affords to financing City capital and operational needs. Home Rule also allows municipalities local freedom of governance with leeway to depart from certain regulations from the State of Illinois. Home Rule allows a municipality to govern locally with the ability to solve local issues with local solutions.

Collinsville achieved Home Rule status in 2005. Following the completion of the 2020 census, Collinsville's new population is 24,366, which is a 4.7% decline from 2010 census total of 25,579. This means it is now up to voters to decide whether to remain a Home Rule community. While the City disagrees with the Census count based on real building permit data, that doesn't matter to the decision residents will be asked to make on November 8th.

When looking at the issue of Home Rule the obvious benefit is that it permits greater local control on local issues with reduced reliance on the State of Illinois. The example where more reliance on the State of Illinois may not be the best for any municipality is in the referendum language that the City is required to place on the November 8th ballot. The wording must be, per state statutes, stated in the negative; "Shall the City of Collinsville cease being a Home Rule unit?" Answering "NO" means Collinsville keeps Home Rule and answering "YES" means Collinsville would lose Home Rule. This is confusing to say the least.

The City Council presented an ordinance that would place this wording on the ballot in the affirmative where "YES" means "YES" and "NO" means "NO". Further clarifying language was desired to be placed on the ballot but due to threatened legal action neither option was possible. So one should ask themselves "why would anyone want confusing language?" The City Council wanted a clearly posed question and was presented with potential legal action in doing so. The root of the language confusion though is presented on the City by the State of Illinois which establishes one of many reasons where local control is critical to a successful community.

The real benefit of Home Rule to Collinsville's residents is its ability to keep the direct cost of services to the residents low by placing the burden on sales tax revenues generated primarily by visitors over property tax revenues that are only paid by residents and property owners. Since Home Rule status was obtained in 2005, it has afforded Collinsville to rely on sales tax revenues and not property tax revenues as the City's primary financial source. A reliance by a municipality on property tax revenues places the majority of the financial burden directly on its residents while sales tax reliance transfers the burden to visitors. The City has maintained one of the lowest property tax rates in the region and in 2021 levied (revenues collected in 2022) just \$3,168,183.98 with \$2,942,538.14 (92.88%) funding the public safety pension obligations for police and fire¹. This leaves just \$225,645.84 (7.12%) to fund general fund capital and service needs. The remainder of the revenues are generated primarily through sales tax revenues.

Given the City's excellent logistical location on three major interstates, sales tax revenues have historically increased year over year and have proven stable through economic downturns. A major component of the sales tax revenues is the Home Rule Sales Tax. This sales tax is established at 1.25% and generated \$5.6 million in 2021. Who pays the majority of sales taxes in Collinsville? On average, approximately 68% of these revenues are generated from visitors residing outside of the 62234 zip code. Conversely, this equates to 32% of these revenues being

generated from residents within the 62234 zip code (62234 includes more than just the City of Collinsville). This equates to approximately \$3.8 million in sales tax revenues just from the Home Rule Sales Tax coming from outside of Collinsville. To provide some perspective this outside investment is more than \$600,000 larger than the total property taxes levied in 2021.



When you look at other Home Rule related revenue sources (Hotel/Motel Tax and the Food and Beverage Tax) that are paid primarily by visitors and not residents they also are significant. These revenues are dedicated exclusively to funding tourism related services. These revenues provide the funding for the Parks and Recreation Department and the Gateway Convention Center and no property taxes are used for these services and programs. All of the revenues generated by the Home Rule tax revenue sources reduce the need for property taxes while also reducing the direct cost of these services to the residents.

The Hotel/Motel Tax is a 9% tax on hotel stays and is generated almost entirely from out-of-town visitors. Totalling \$1.36 million in 2021 (down from a high mark in 2019 of \$1.58 million due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The Hotel/Motel Tax revenues are critical in funding efforts related to tourism focused mainly on Parks and Recreation capital projects. The Gateway Convention Center also uses these funds for capital projects that result in increased business that directly increases the revenues in Hotel/Motel Taxes. This is due primarily to the room nights generated by events at the Gateway Convention Center estimated at 30%-40% of room nights in the City.



Further, after an analysis of the Gateway Convention Center in 2017 it was decided that due to the facility's overall annual economic impact to the City's economy of \$36 million its survival was critical to the City's economic success. The negative financial performance was mainly a function of statutory creation and limitations and due to the City's Home Rule status transferring ownership and management to the City was made possible. A focused and strategic business approach was applied to the facility and, as of this printing, the facility is within 11% of direct revenues meeting operational costs. When considering the indirect revenues, the facility has achieved financial feasibility via Hotel/Motel Tax revenues. Of the \$1.36 million in Hotel/Motel taxes collected, \$408,000 of indirect revenues can be attributed to the Gateway Convention Center, which places the facility in a profitable situation.

The next most impactful revenue source made possible through Home Rule is the Food and Beverage 1% tax. This tax was extended from the Eastport area Citywide in 2018 to aid in funding both the Parks and Recreation Department and the Gateway

Convention Center. Generating \$838,813 in 2021 these revenues are instrumental in supporting the capital and programmatic needs of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Gateway Convention Center.



Due to the financial mismanagement of the Collinsville Area Recreation District (CARD), the City was put in the position to bringing Parks and Recreation services back under the control of the City, upon the dissolution of CARD. Home Rule not only made that possible, but allowed overall property taxes paid by residents to be reduced. Absent Home Rule status, specific property tax levies would have been required to support this effort. It was only through Home Rule that the direct cost to the residents (property taxes) have been held to the minimal amount to support Public Safety pensions.

In 2018 when the City regained control of its parks (Sports Complex, Woodland, Glidden, and Morris Hills Parks) as well as ownership of facilities owned by CARD (Willoughby Heritage Farm, Water Park and Activity Center, and Schnuck's Park) it did not increase property taxes. In fact Home Rule was the only way these services and assets could be owned and operated by Collinsville without raising property taxes. These efforts are fully funded through Hotel/Motel and Food and Beverage tax revenues. Collinsville's Home Rule Status allowed the effective total amount of property taxes paid by residents to be reduced through Collinsville not increasing property taxes and CARD reducing its levy by eliminating the operational property tax levy. No Collinsville property taxes are used to fund any Parks and Recreation services.

When evaluating and comparing Collinsville's low property tax rate, it is important to make an equal comparison. Collinsville's residents pay one municipal levy while other municipalities assess multiple levies for municipal services, parks and recreation, and fire protection bringing the total direct cost to residents to a much higher level than simply looking at the municipal levy. Again, this was made possible through achieving Home Rule status in 2005 and should that status "cease" then the only options include a combination of staffing cuts and property tax increases. Both of these options present significant adverse financial impacts to the residents of Collinsville.



In 2005, Home Rule status is what allowed Collinsville to add 9 police officers, 5 firefighters, 6 street department laborers, and 3

staff members in administration for a total of 23 total employees added. These staffing increases were only made possible through Home Rule status and the revenues generated by the Home Rule Sales Tax. At this same time, the City made the decision to reduce the direct costs to residents by freezing property tax revenues which has over time placed Collinsville at a competitive advantage regarding property taxes. Again, should Collinsville lose Home Rule status there will be no choice but to institute a combination of staffing cuts with increases in property taxes placing Collinsville at a competitive disadvantage in the region. Collinsville has repeatedly demonstrated responsible use of its Home Rule status since 2005. Since 2005, Collinsville has had 15 different City Council members, 2 different Mayors and 4 different City Managers. All have responsibly used Home Rule status to lower the direct cost of services to residents and expand services offered to those residents.



Collinsville has also used Home Rule status to more effectively manage problem rental and nuisance properties through the Crime Free Rental Program and the Occupancy Program. Both of these effective programs were instituted based on input from residents regarding the need for better regulated rental properties and reducing neighborhood nuisances and code violations. These programs primarily regulate the health and safety of residential properties in the City not only for residents but they also increase the safety of first responders who must deal with issues at these properties.

Collinsville enjoys a premier and strategic location within the St. Louis Metropolitan Region, a location which makes tourism so important to the City's success. Home Rule allows Collinsville to harness the power of tourism and use that to expand tourism opportunities and buy down the direct cost of services to the residents while expanding those services.



Should Collinsville lose its Home Rule status then the achievements made over the past 17 years would be very difficult to maintain and would come at much higher costs to its residents. One should look no further than what Home Rule has made possible to see what it risks losing should Home Rule status be lost.

¹ Public Safety Pension obligations are mandated by actuarial projections and made by each respective Police and Fire Pension Board to the City. The City fully meets this request annually.



2022 C3 Collinsville Community Awards

The 2022 C3 Collinsville Community Awards will be held Thursday night, November 10, at the Collinsville Gateway Center. The C3 Collinsville Community Awards is a celebration of the great people that serve the City of Collinsville.

C3 is the collaboration of The Collinsville Chamber of Commerce, Unit 10 School District and the City of Collinsville.

Tickets are now on sale at:
Collinsvilleil.org/c3



2022 Award Winners

Leader of Tomorrow
Destiny Thomas

Small Business Impact
Redmon Insurance

Corporate Impact
FCB Banks

Firefighter of the Year
Jason Warner

Police Officer of the Year
Trent Ross

Stan Schaeffer Education/
Community Leadership Award
Toni Geisen/Jacob Post
KAHOKstrong

Spirit of Tourism
McDill's Irish Pub

Cool Cities Sustainability Award
Jerry & Dorothy Young

Outstanding City Employee
Paul Phipps

Good Neighbor Award
Chris Hudzik

FREE
Yard Waste Disposal

2022

Friday December 2 8am - 2pm	Saturday December 3 8am - 3pm
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Leaves and Yard Waste must be in paper yard waste bags- **NO PLASTIC BAGS**
proof of residency required
bring Drivers Lic. Water Bill or Power Bill

Collinsville Street Garage
850 S. Morrison Ave.

Questions?
call 618-346-5214 www.collinsvilleil.org



BULK TRASH PICK-UP

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:

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 sets.

Glass portions of doors/windows must be broken down and placed into small box marked "GLASS".

YARD WASTE PICK-UP

Republic Services offers Yard Waste Pick-up Service for Collinsville residents.

3 months of yard waste service is \$55.32

Please contact Republic Services at:
(618) 656-6883 or WWW.REPUBLICSERVICES.COM
to start service.



FREE LIMB & YARD WASTE PICK-UP

November 7th through 11th

PARTNERING TOGETHER

The City of Collinsville is partnering with the Collinsville Township to provide a free, one-time, limb and yard waste collection for residents. There is no need to call to register in advance. Republic Services will pick up any limbs and yard waste that is put out at residences on your **NORMAL TRASH DAY THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7TH - 11TH.**



GRASS

WHEN

November 7th through November 11th. Pickup will occur on your normal trash day.



LEAVES

WHAT

Grass, leaves, flowers, stalks, stems, small tree trimmings and branches.



TREE
LIMBS

TREE LIMBS

Small tree trimmings and branches (less than 4 feet in length and less than 3 inches in diameter) shall be in a can or paper bag the weight of which shall not exceed 35 pounds. Tree trimmings may also be tied into bundles and laid in piles curbside.



YARD
DEBRIS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All Collinsville residents within City limits. The City would like to discourage residents from bringing in waste from out of town.

➔ **FREE
ONE-TIME PICK-UP**

brought to you by: ➔



+



The City and Township also plan on scheduling a limb & yard waste pick up in the Spring of 2023 – more details to come!

Questions? - call 618-346-5200 x0



Fall Festival Open House

October 29
10am - noon



In conjunction with the 2022 Fall Festival on Main Street, the Collinsville Police Department will once again host our open house. As was done prior to the pandemic, we will invite our residents into our police department to tour our facilities and get to know our officers. Although all are welcome, we stay in step with the Fall Festival by focusing much of our attention on the children. However, we will do our best to give guests of all ages a worthwhile experience.



This year, we'll again give tours of our facilities, answer questions, and have K9 exhibitions. And of course with the Fall Festival going on right outside our door we'll have plenty to offer our little guests. And the fun doesn't end at the Police Department! After the children have had their share of fun and candy, visit us on Main Street as we participate in the chili cook-off!

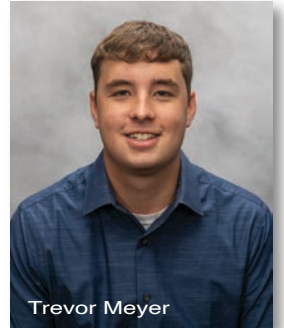
Our officers and our supporting staff look forward to interacting with our residents in a positive situation promoting fun and education.



NEW FACES

The Collinsville Police Department is once again going through a period of transition. Between officers reaching retirement age and other officers choosing to explore other opportunities in policing, we continue to add new faces to the CPD family.

On August 22nd, 2022, Officer Trevor Meyer (DSN 225) was sworn in as a Collinsville police officer, replacing the recently retired Officer Mark Terveer. Officer Meyer, 22, of Troy, Illinois, is a recent graduate of Southern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He is currently attending the police academy at Southwestern Illinois College and is scheduled to graduate in December 2022. Upon graduation, Officer Meyer will enter our 14-week field training program where he will apply the basic skills acquired in the police academy while learning CPD policies and procedures.



Trevor Meyer



Troy LeCroy

On September 19th, 2022, Officer Troy LeCroy, 27, of Swansea, Illinois, was also sworn in as a Collinsville police officer, replacing Officer Hannah Chapman, who departed to explore other opportunities outside the law enforcement profession. Officer LeCroy, hired through our Accelerated Entry testing process, joins the Collinsville Police Department after serving approximately 16 months with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Officer LeCroy will immediately enter the 14-week field training program with the hopes of earning solo patrol status by the end of the year.

Welcome to Collinsville Officers Meyer and LeCroy!



CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Collinsville Police Department is preparing for the 17th session of the Citizen Police Academy. The first session was held in 1997 with the quest to accomplish three simple objectives:

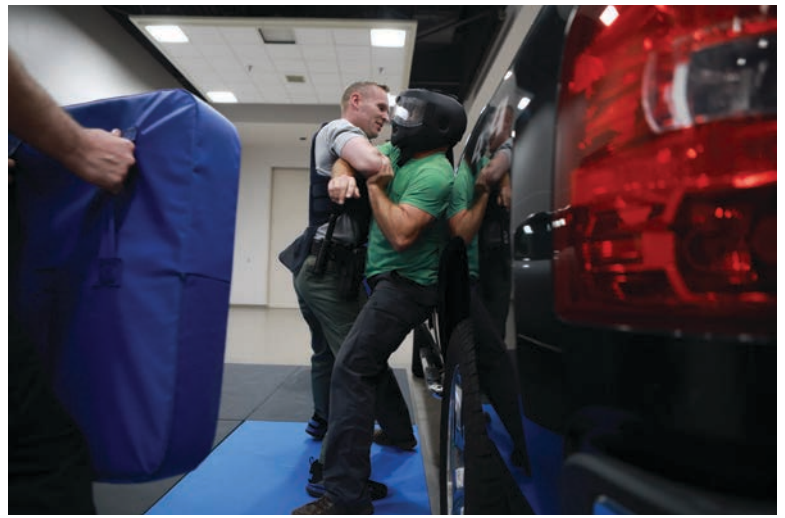
1. To allow the citizens of Collinsville to meet the men and women who serve them.
2. To provide the citizens of Collinsville a better understanding of law enforcement and the services we provide.
3. To foster an environment for open and honest dialogue between the citizens of Collinsville and the men and women of the Collinsville Police Department.

Ultimately, we were seeking a venue to tell OUR STORY!

Over the course of the last 25 years, the CPA has been transformed several times in an effort to keep up with the ever-changing landscape and trends in the field of law enforcement. Today, we believe we have developed a curriculum that will provide the citizens of Collinsville a comprehensive view of policing within our wonderful City. We believe we have the absolute best band of instructors from various areas of expertise that will provide the best possible learning experience. Our CPA provides the unique opportunity to educate the citizens in the Collinsville community about our criminal justice system and also provides insight into everyday police work. In its current form, our CPA is designed to give residents a chance to observe and understand law enforcement through a hands-on approach.

Several areas of police training are covered during the 8-week Academy. These topics include Illinois criminal law, Constitutional Law, the use of force and defensive tactics, fundamentals of criminal patrol, K-9, criminal investigations, specialized operations, and introduction to firearms. Role play scenarios are often used to reinforce the learning process and give students a chance to experience "real life" police situations. Finally, our students are afforded the opportunity to ride along with police officers to observe first-hand the daily challenges we are faced with.

As we embark on the 17th session of the CPA on October 19th, 2022, we are excited to welcome a new group of residents to our program. We look forward to another chance to foster a strong relationship with the community we serve. It is our hope the citizens we serve and our officers can work together to make the entire community a safer place to live.



Parks & Recreation Programs

Bonfires and Brews

Saturday, November 5th

Join us at Willoughby Farm for a night of beer tasting, s'mores, bonfires, and music. Participants must be at least 21 years of age to participate and will need to provide proper identification at the event. Each registrant will receive two drink tickets and a gift bag. Complimentary S'mores will be available. Additional drinks, water, and soda will be available to purchase.



Light Up Collinsville Holiday Lights Contest

Let's Light Up Collinsville for the Holidays! Participating Collinsville homes will be judged on creativity, use of decorations, and overall appearance. Participants must register through Collinsville Parks and Recreation Department. Registered houses will be marked by a yard sign provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. A guide of all participating houses will be published on the Collinsville website and Facebook page.

Houses will be judged by members of the Community Appearance Board from December 7th -11th, 2022. The Judges top three choices will be posted on the Collinsville Parks and Recreation Facebook Page for a community vote. Select the "Like" option on the picture of your favorite house.

Voting ends Thursday December 15th, 2022. Winner will be announced on the Collinsville Parks and Recreation Facebook page on Friday, December 16th. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Registration Opens: Tuesday, November 1

Registration Closes: Tuesday, December 6

House must be registered by December 6th to participate in contest

Contest Important Dates:

Yard signs reading "Light up Collinsville Participant" must be placed in Participants front yard.

Wednesday, December 7

- Guide of all participating houses will be published on the City of Collinsville website and Collinsville Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

December 7 - 11

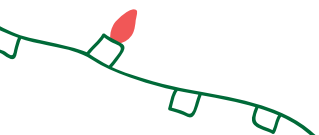
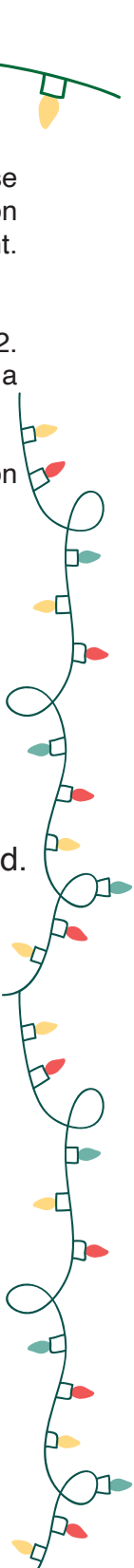
- Judges from the Community Appearance Board will judge houses.

December 12 - 15

- Judges' top three choices will be posted on the Collinsville Parks and Recreation Facebook page for a community vote. Press the 'Like' button to vote on the picture of your favorite house.

Friday, December 16

- Winners will be announced on the Collinsville Parks and Recreation Facebook page.
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.



Woodland Park

The next time you visit Woodland Park, you'll notice several exciting improvements. Community members can enjoy a brand-new rotary playground and an upgraded park shelter.



The playground, which is made up of two separate structures, will provide a fun play experience for all ages. It also includes several safety features, such as an artificial turf surfacing. Parks and Recreation Director Kimberly Caughran said this is the City's first time using the turf in one of its parks, and it is designed to accommodate people and children with mobility issues. The material of the surfacing will also meet fall zone requirements, which will help prevent injuries. Caughran said the department is excited to be able to provide the improved park features to residents.

"It's wonderful to finally see these things going up and to see this park starting to take shape," Caughran said.

The bigger of the two play structures is geared for kids aged 5 to 12 and the smaller structure is geared for kids aged 2 to 5. Caughran said the smaller structure is lower to the ground with smaller fall zones and less challenging obstacles. It is the City's first play structure built specifically for the 2 to 5 age group.

While the design and construction of a playground may seem simple, Caughran said playground research has expanded significantly over the years to create a fun, safe, and inclusive play experience for

everyone. She said the playground is not only for kids to enjoy but also their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

"It's this multi-generational approach we're trying to take, not just for the playground but for the parks in general," Caughran said.

Woodland Park is also home to newly-updated park shelters. The new shelters are part of a project including five new shelters that have either been completed or are in progress throughout Woodland Park. Community members will be able to rent out the shelters for events. The parks department will re-vamp its rental system in time for next year's park season. The shelters will all have electricity, an outdoor fan, and lights. The metal frame and roof ensures they will have a long lifespan.

Along with the shelters, residents can also look forward to a new amphitheater in Woodland Park. Caughran hopes to see that project completed by Summer 2023.

"We'll be able to do programming on it, such as movies and music in the park on the stage and people can sit on the hillside and watch the performances," Caughran said.

All of the projects are part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan and are partially funded by the Madison County Park Enhancement Program Grant and the Metro East Park and Recreation Districts Park Grants.



The play structures and shelter were constructed by City staff, which Caughran said allows the City to put more money into the park itself rather than bringing in outside labor.



The City is currently working on a plan to clean up the lakes in Woodland and Schnucks Parks. The lakes need dredged first. After the dredging, further measures will need to be put in place to insure that each waterway does not silt back in. In Woodland Park, riffles will be added to the north side inlets to help with the influx of sediment. At both parks, natural bank stabilization will need to be put in place to stabilize the banks of the waterways and filter out sediments through native plantings with complex root systems. Both measures will help to get the lakes clean and keep them clean with healthy ecosystems for increased biodiversity and recreational opportunities.





Fire Department

The Collinsville Fire Department helped more than 200 adults and kids learn how to perform hands-only CPR at the 2022 Italian Fest. Thanks to funding from the Illinois Heart Rescue Community Action grant, firefighters were able to show an instructional video and use mannequins to demonstrate how to perform CPR. They also taught community members how to recognize the signs of when someone needs CPR and shared general fire safety information.



Fire Chief John Bailot said the department is always working to share information with the public that will save lives. Early recognition of sudden cardiac arrest, quick bystander action and notification of the EMS system, and early CPR is critical and one of the five links in the cardiac arrest chain-of-survival. The more people we educate and train in early recognition and bystander CPR, who can then help someone in need, the higher the odds are for that person to survive an out of hospital sudden cardiac arrest event.



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



CPR Classes

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 618-346-5022 ext. 3141



FALL SAFETY TIPS

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

FIREPLACE SAFETY

For wood burning fireplaces the following should be inspected prior to use:

- The damper should be inspected to make sure it opens and closes properly. Also, the damper should be in the fully open position before starting a fire. Failure to fully open the damper could result in the release of toxic gases into your home.
- 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.
- Wire mesh screening should be used to prevent embers from flying out of the fireplace. These embers can not only damage floor finishes, but they can also start a fire.
- Only use fireplace tools when adjusting logs, and never move the logs with your hand. 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.
- Ensure that fire starters, kindling, and logs are stored away from the fireplace so there is no way an ember can ignite them.

Follow the listed tips for a safe and warm burning season.

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.
- Never place lit candle next to flammable materials such as drapes, furniture, etc.
- Make sure lit candles are out of reach of children and pets.



Candle
Safety

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

The Collinsville Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) is set up to help the City during natural and manmade disasters.

While the primary function of the CEMA volunteers is to assist in a declared disaster, you would also be able to assist with traffic control, street closures, fire scenes, police scenes, parades, malfunctioning utilities, and similar situations when requested by the Collinsville Police or Fire Departments.

Training is provided and no prerequisites are needed other than CEMA members must be at least 21-years of age.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

To apply, scan the QR code or visit <https://collinsvilleil.applicantpro.com/jobs/>

The City of Collinsville Receives \$1.8 Million for St. Louis Road Commercial District Project

The City of Collinsville has been selected to receive a \$1.8 million grant for the St. Louis Road Commercial District Project through the Rebuild Illinois (RBI) Downtowns and Main Streets Capital program. The project will provide crucial public infrastructure upgrades along the St. Louis Road and Collinsville Road Corridor.

The 3.5-mile stretch between Uptown Collinsville and Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site provides a variety of opportunities for the City's economic growth and well-being. The funding will allow the City to revitalize the beloved area, creating a vibrant dining and shopping destination and a hub for pedestrian activity. It will also encourage future private investment and revitalize a commercial area that has experienced historic disinvestment.

"The Rebuild Illinois grant offers the community a rare opportunity where we can seamlessly transition from plan to action," said Community Development Director Travis Taylor. "The improvements and concepts outlined in the Great Streets Plan, and funded by this grant, not only provide immediate benefits to our community and businesses in this area but will hopefully be the first domino to fall in a more comprehensive re-design of the corridor. This grant funding is proof that the community's hard work re-envisioning this corridor and shaping the Great Streets Plan paid off."

The project will:

- ✓ *Replace two deteriorating, break-susceptible water mains on St. Louis Road and Bond Avenue*
- ✓ *Replace an undersized storm sewer main on St. Louis Road and Bond Avenue, which has contributed to area flooding*
- ✓ *Repair an existing storm sewer main on St. Louis Road and Maple Street*
- ✓ *Reconstruct Bond Avenue including:*
 - * *A reconfigured intersection at St. Louis Road*
 - * *Curb extensions/bump-outs*
 - * *ADA compliant sidewalks*
 - * *Enhanced, high visibility crosswalks*
 - * *Landscaping, including street trees and rain gardens*
 - * *Construction of a public parking lot*
 - * *Public plaza, including a water feature, outdoor seating and other facilities*
- ✓ *Reconstruct St. Louis Road (West and East) including:*
 - * *A reconfigured intersection at Collinsville Avenue and Maple Street*
 - * *Curb extensions/bump-outs*
 - * *On-street parking spaces*
 - * *ADA compliant sidewalks*
 - * *Reconstructing sidewalk along west side of St. Louis Road into a 10-foot-wide shared use path*
 - * *Landscaping, including street trees and rain gardens*
 - * *Adding more public greenspace*

Historically, the St. Louis Road and Collinsville Road Corridor and neighboring businesses were a central part of Collinsville's original "Main Street." The project area was once the thriving southern tail of today's Uptown Collinsville District. Completion of the project will be a major step in rebuilding, growing and improving the historical significance and economic value of the corridor.



The project area is well-known for several local landmarks, including: Kruta Bakery, McDill's Irish Pub, and Horseshoe Lounge & Restaurant.

"We are excited to see the development coming to the St. Louis Road Corridor," said Mary Kruta, Owner of Kruta Bakery. "It will be a much more welcoming entrance to the City for the people coming off I-255. The enhancement and the new streetscape will hopefully cause people to slow down and see the hidden gems on the west side of the City."

The City is currently in the final planning stage with construction expected to begin in November. Project completion is expected December 2024.

The project is part of the City's Great Streets Plan to work with communities to create more functional and vibrant roadways. In 2006, East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWGCOG) launched the Great Streets Initiative to expand the way communities think of their streets. Rather than viewing a roadway solely as a means to move cars, the Great Streets Initiative aims to create a more comprehensive vision for significant streets.





FAQ's



Q: What is the latest update on Beltline Road construction?

A: Beltline Road is not under the City's jurisdiction and therefore is not maintained by the City. It is owned and maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation and is slated to be resurfaced in 2023.

Q: How much revenue does the City bring in from Cannabis sales, and where does that money go?

A: The City taxes Cannabis sales at 3%. The Cannabis Tax generated \$1,365,771.78 in 2021 and has generated \$940,983.20 so far in 2022. This money is used for general fund, capital projects and operations.

Q: What is the latest update on renovations at Cahokia Mounds?

A: A re-open date has not been set yet. The Interpretive Center closed for major renovations in March 2022. The project will replace the roof and the HVAC system, fire security and lighting systems. The closure is expected to last a year or more. Ramey Drive is gated off, but Monks Mound is still available to climb as well as the trails on the North side of Collinsville Road.

Q: Now that the TIF on Main Street is expired, is there still money available for redevelopment?

A: While the TIF on Main Street is expired, the Uptown area does have properties which are located within the Madison County Discovery Zone (Enterprise Zone) which offers an exemption from Sales Taxes on building materials used to improve and/or renovate the property. For more information on this program, property owners and businesses should reference the Madison County Website. In some instances involving significant redevelopment, the City of Collinsville may consider Property Tax Abatement through the Enterprise Zone. Further information regarding this potential abatement can be gathered by contacting the City of Collinsville's Department of Community Development, 618-346-5200, ext. 1143

Neighborhood Planning & Improvement Program

The City is seeking feedback about your neighborhood and what can be done to improve it. The Neighborhood Planning and Improvement Program aims to collect input from residents to improve the City's services and responsiveness to neighborhood issues and to help identify and prioritize capital improvement needs.

Please visit the City's website collinsvilleil.org or scan the QR code to take the survey. Your time and input is valued and appreciated!

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NIS>



Program Goals

- Connect residents & City staff
- Receive feedback & input from residents on several criteria impacting their neighborhood
- Improve the appearance and functionality of our neighborhoods
- Improve customer service and City responsiveness to neighborhood issues

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 5 Princess Party

NOV 10 C3 Community Awards

NOV 19 Kellsie's Trees of Hope

NOV 25-27 Cahokia Mounds Vendor Fair

NOV 26-27 The Great American Train Show

DEC 7 Festival of Trees

DEC 17-18 Winter Market

JAN 6-8 Let's Go Fishing Show

JAN 26 Gateway Wedding Show



Gateway Convention Center 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.

29TH ANNIVERSARY



Tickets on Sale Now!



2022
Festival
of
TREES

Gateway Convention Center
Collinsville IL

DECEMBER 7
6PM-10PM

www.festivaloftrees.info

This year's event will benefit these three local charities:





Jamie Lane

2022 has been a year of growth and excitement for the Gateway Convention Center. Despite the last two years of unprecedented difficulties, the massive multi-purpose venue is experiencing a strong recovery. The adaptable center hosts a variety of events, receptions, meetings, and expo shows all year round. With nearly 50,000

square feet of flexible space, the centrally located center brings in millions of dollars in revenue for the City every year. The City of Collinsville spoke with general manager Jamie Lane about the business's economic success and goals for the future.

Q: What have the last few years been like for Gateway?

A: 2020 was absolutely horrible, the pandemic crushed us. We lost massive amounts of revenue; we had major staff reductions. It was a very hard time with a lot of uncertainty. In 2021, we started our road to recovery with the MCHD vaccination clinic and sporting and social events with COVID-19 safety plans. In 2022, we've seen recovery from all types of events, even meetings and conventions, which we think were the last to come back because of working from home and doing virtual solutions for their events. What we found from talking with clients was virtual got old and nothing compares to the face-to-face interactions that you get an in-person event.

Q: Tell us how your renovations have allowed you to market Gateway to even more clients.

A: We renovated our entire conference wing in 2019. It has really elevated our venue to a new level. The rooms were available to rent for just five months before the pandemic, so we didn't really get to utilize that space. The rooms are gorgeous with renovations that include high-end audio and visual equipment, including touchscreens, a technology bar with big displays and user connections, USB charging stations, as well as video cameras for live-streaming and recording. The rooms also include new carpet, wall coverings, ceilings, LED lighting and glass doors. The entire convention center also offers free 1 gigabit fiber internet.

Q: What types of clients are you hoping to work with more this year?

A: We're really in a good place to strategically go after meeting clients. We would love to work with more corporate clients and associations, a lot of which need space for meetings and conventions. That works well with our facility that has those conference wing rooms with easy-to-use technology. We also have huge spaces that compliment those, so we can do a group of 20 all the way up to 2,000.



Q: Tell us about the economic success you've had this last year and how that ultimately generates revenue for the entire City.

A: The sporting market has really exploded, which has been very positive for our bottom line. Sporting events, such as dance competitions, wrestling, ping pong or gymnastics, will come in for multiple days, and they will usually rent the entire facility. They stay in the hotels, they eat in the restaurants, and in the Summer, they go to the Aqua Park. They also go to other attractions and visit Uptown for a night out. These sporting events are basically conventions, and they can bring in such a giant amount of revenue, which economically impacts the City. One of the things I'd like people to know is that as Gateway Center recovered from the pandemic, our recovery helped the businesses of Collinsville recover. Ultimately, economic impact has always been what Gateway is about. That has been our mission from day one.

Q: What are some of your goals for the future?

A: We would like to find ways to calculate the economic impact we are having on the City. We know we are generating a lot of revenue, but to measure that is a challenge. We would love to get that data to share with the public how much of an economic impact Gateway brings to Collinsville. As a building, our goal is to have as many repeat customers as possible. We want to strive every day to provide excellent event experiences to our guests so that they spread the word about our facility and Collinsville in general. As far as types of events, we want to be able to sustain and retain those clients and keep our calendar as full as it is right now.



Collinsville High School Alumna Pat Adams Establishes Scholarship to Benefit Lady Kahoks

Collinsville High School 1956 graduate Pat Adams announced her intention to provide a scholarship designated for a Lady Kahok scholar athlete.

The Pat Adams Lady Kahok Scholar Athlete Scholarship was established for a graduating CHS female student athlete who plans to attend college after graduation. There will be one \$5,000 scholarship awarded a year.

Adams attended Illinois State Normal University (today Illinois State University) and became a physical education teacher. She earned a master's degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She taught elementary and junior high PE for 34 years - 31 in East Alton School District #13. She officiated softball, field hockey, basketball and volleyball throughout the area for many years.

Pat has been interested in sports her entire life. When she was a student at Collinsville High School in the mid-1950s, female athletes were limited to intramural volleyball, basketball and softball, where they did not compete against other schools; and were members of the gender-specific Girls' Athletic Association (GAA). She is pleased with the opportunities afforded today's Lady Kahoks and wanted a way to reward those who successfully balance the demands of athletics with academics.

"I want this scholarship to reward someone who has worked hard to be a good student," said Adams.

Her desire to pay it forward comes from an anonymous cash donation given to her when she was a young student teacher. "I received assistance and I want to pass it along," she said, "Young people need to be encouraged. If we have the capacity to help someone, we should go ahead and do it."

Adams moved back to her Collinsville hometown and reconnected with the Kahoks when she retired in 1994. She admittedly "bleeds purple" and is a superfan cheering at countless Kahok men's and women's athletic competitions. "Ms. Pat" gets to know students, coaches and families. She often shares stories and the history of Title IX with today's athletes to build a bridge between her generation and theirs.

CHS Athletic Director Clayton Smith said, "Pat Adams is a Kahok! Her support for our Kahok Student Athletes and coaches is greatly appreciated. Pat is a pioneer for female athletics, and her generosity in providing scholarships for our student athletes to attend college is a fantastic opportunity."

"I was planning to put something in my will to set-up a scholarship," said the 84-year-old Adams, "When I read about giving through the Collinsville Area Community Foundation, I decided now was the right time to do it. I can make a difference and meet people benefiting from my scholarship."



Pat Adams, surrounded by members of the Lady Kahok Volleyball and Tennis Teams.

She wants her generosity to be an inspiration to others: "People need to see this happening. It doesn't have to be a huge amount. Anyone can make a difference."

"Pat exemplifies the love and support our students receive from our community regarding academic and extracurricular success," said Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 Superintendent Dr. Mark B. Skertich, "Her generosity will positively impact our future graduates for generations to come."

The Pat Adams Lady Kahok Scholar Athlete Scholarship application must be submitted by April 3, 2023 for consideration. Information will be posted soon on the CHS Counseling Department's scholarship webpage.



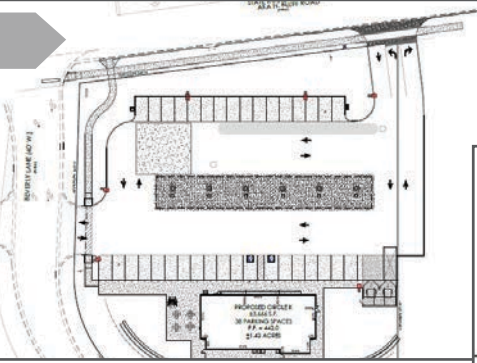
To support or create a scholarship for Collinsville High School students, visit the Collinsville Area Community Foundation website. CACF is a public charitable organization as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions and gifts are tax deductible. Donations and bequests are accepted from and disbursed to individuals, groups or businesses.



www.collinsvillefoundation.com

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

Circle K



(300 North Bluff Road) A new Circle K Gas Station is proposed at the corner of Beverly and North Bluff Road. The developers are currently in the preliminary design phase and hope to break ground by 2023.



Eastport Plaza Phase 4



(1609 Eastport Plaza Dr.) – The fourth and final phase of the Maune development along Eastport Plaza Drive has just started construction. The fourth building will consist of a similar layout to buildings A-C and offer similar small-scale warehousing/distribution space.



Dorris School Expansion



(1841 Vandalia St.) – Collinsville School District Unit 10 has started the expansion to their existing facility. The expansion will be two stories and provide additional classroom space.



Uptown Scoops



(403 W. Main St.) – Uptown Scoops now open



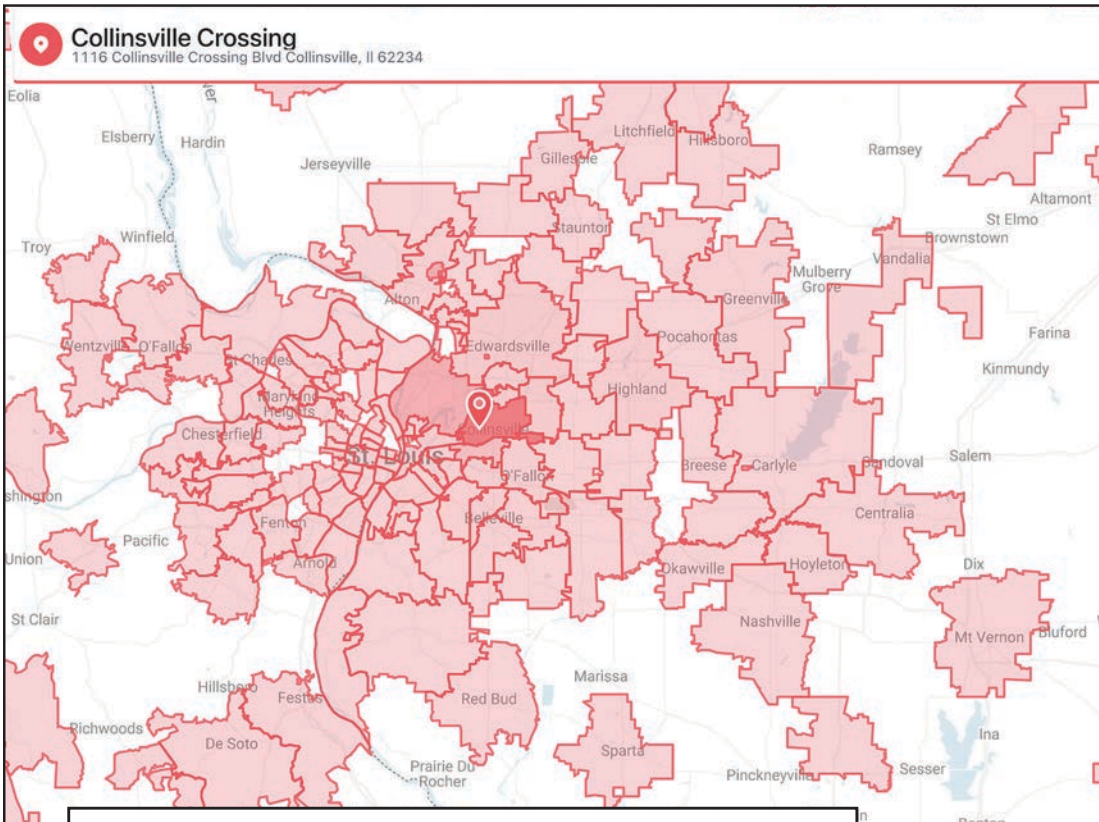
Herald Square



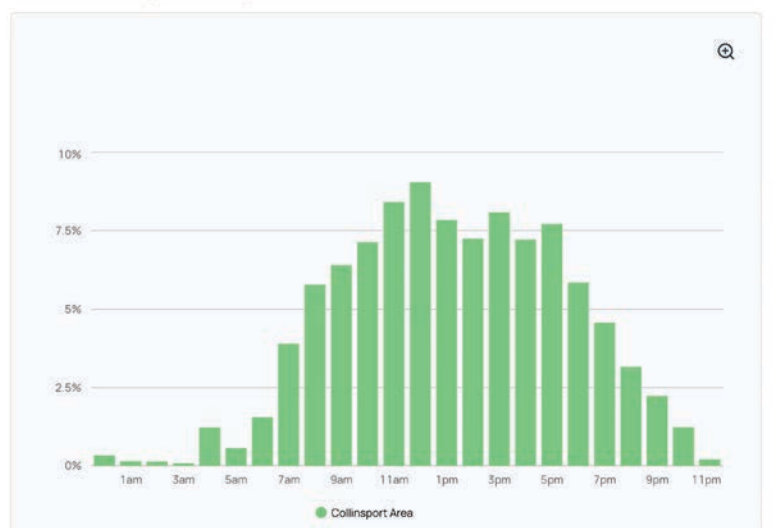
(119 E. Clay) – Old Herald's extension east to include a new pavilion and ice cream/concession building is now complete and open to the public.



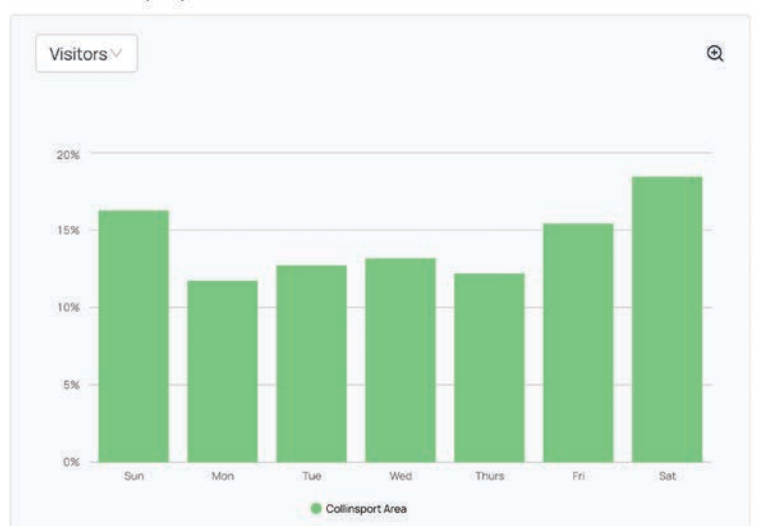
City Enhances Economic Development Efforts



Visitor Volume By Hour of Day



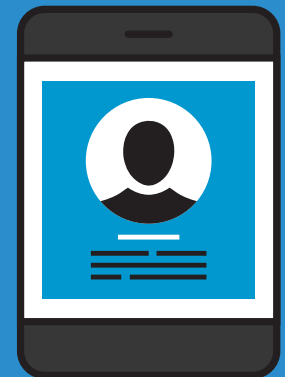
Visitor Volume By Day of Week



The City partnered with Buxton Co., a web-based data provider who provides specific location based economic development data for local governments. The software includes a proprietary analytic technology that provides a host of standard data, mapping, market insights, and reporting capabilities. This allows the City to define and analyze a study area by leveraging consumer mobile device data, which uses household level data to provide granular and detailed view of visitors.



Having access to these tools will allow the City to be more strategic in its economic development efforts and allow staff to market both undeveloped and developed sites more strategically and efficiently to potential developers. Additionally, the software also greatly benefits marketing efforts by Gateway Convention Center and Parks & Recreation.



COLLINSVILLE RESIDENT AND VISITOR SALES TAX BREAKDOWN

To gain a better understanding of the ratio of residents versus visitors who shop in Collinsville, the City has compiled a SAMPLE of businesses using consumer mobile device data through the Buxton Co's proprietary analytic economic development software from July 2021 to June 2022. While the City cannot disclose individual

business sales tax data, the table below provides insight into the percentage of visitors who are located within 62234 zip code and those outside. It should be noted that the 62234 zip code is larger than the City's actual corporate limits, so the ESTIMATED IS CONSERVATIVE.

RESIDENT / VISITOR BREAKDOWN

- 62234: 31.96%
- Visitor: 68.04%

HOME RULE SALES TAX BREAKDOWN

- 62234: 29.54% or \$688,210.01
- Visitor: 70.46% or \$1,641,839.76

GENERAL SALES TAX BREAKDOWN

- 62234: 25.73% or \$1,069,755.11
- Visitor: 74.25% or \$3,802,792.62



Who Pays What? July 2021 - June 2022									
Business	62234 Percentage	Visitor Percentage	HR Sales Tax Total	HRST 62234 \$	HRST Visitor \$	General Sales Tax	GST 62234 \$	GST Visitor \$	
Bandanas	20.32%	79.68%							
Walmart Super Center	24.26%	75.74%							
Walmart Neighborhood Market	46.56%	53.44%							
Panera	34.94%	65.06%							
McDonalds (Ramada)	31.94%	68.06%							
McDonalds (Beltline)	58.93%	41.07%							
Culvers	32.21%	67.79%							
Freddy's	21.43%	78.57%							
The Home Depot	27.02%	72.98%							
Schnuck's	45.67%	54.33%							
Walgreen's (Collinsville Crossing)	36.64%	63.36%							
Walgreen's (Beltline)	58.51%	41.49%							
Aldi's	48.96%	51.04%							
Q'doba	29.03%	70.97%							
Dairy Queen	36.47%	63.53%							
Popeye's	28.00%	72.00%							
Jimmy John's	19.10%	80.90%							
Dobb's	32.65%	67.35%							
Starbuck's	24.81%	75.19%							
Taco Bell	46.75%	53.25%							
Firehouse Subs	44.77%	55.23%							
Wendy's	41.51%	58.49%							
Sonic	45.68%	54.32%							
Arby's	21.57%	78.43%							
White Castle	15.89%	84.11%							
Long John Silvers/A&W Root Beer	15.87%	84.13%							
Little Caesars	24.19%	75.81%							
Doubletree (Includes Porter's)	8.83%	91.17%							
Drury	7.28%	92.72%							
Casey's	37.50%	62.50%							
Hardee's	56.99%	43.01%							
Mungo's	29.31%	70.69%							
Rural King	17.11%	82.89%							
Old Herald	19.16%	80.84%							
Laura Buick GMC	8.75%	91.25%							
Jack 'N The Box	31.58%	68.42%							
Ravenelli's	17.07%	82.93%							
Subway (Beltline)	67.39%	32.61%							
	31.96%	68.04%	\$2,330,049.77	\$688,210.01	\$1,641,839.76	\$4,152,547.73	\$1,069,755.11	\$3,082,792.62	
				29.54%	70.46%		25.76%	74.24%	

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



CITYSCOOP

The City of Collinsville's Newsletter

Fall 2022

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