



City Scoop

The City of Collinsville's Semi-Annual Newsletter

Spring 2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Spring in Collinsville is looking very promising this year! We are continuing to see significant business development and the City is moving forward with positive changes to bring more growth and activity to our City.

The biggest change so far this year is the addition of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. First-class parks and recreation facilities are key to a thriving community and we welcome the opportunity to improve these facilities. There are several improvements in process and many more being planned. In addition to the 5 parks we began operating in January, the City will take ownership of Willoughby Farm and Splash City in 2018. We look forward to maintaining and improving these valuable resources for you to enjoy.

Another exciting development is the City's acquisition of Gateway Center, which is effective May 1. Gateway Center has done an excellent job retaining business in a difficult economy, and the consolidation will enable the facility to reduce operating costs in order to make capital improvements and grow its business.

We are pleased to be in a position to improve these facilities for our residents and visitors. Our number one priority is always to serve your interests to the best of our ability. We are excited to provide higher quality recreational facilities, and we expect significant economic growth to accompany these improvements.

With these changes come new City personnel. We welcome our new staff and look forward to the

positive impact they will have.

In this edition of the City Scoop, we have a page dedicated to Collinsville Unit 10 School District news and updates (p. 4). We want you to be informed on what is happening in our community and the school district is a central part of that. Please be sure to check this and future editions of the City Scoop for important information about school enrollment, events, and how to receive regular updates from the schools.

We look forward to the new developments happening and we hope you enjoy the positive impact they will have on our community.



Mayor John Miller



The City began managing Jaycees Sports Complex (above), as well as 4 other Collinsville parks, on January 1, and will be taking over Willoughby Farm and Splash City. Residents can expect to see improved parks maintenance and plans for capital improvements in the coming months.

Parks & Recreation

The City's newly created Parks & Recreation Department is working hard to create quality parks and open spaces for Collinsville. The initial focus is on ensuring cleanliness, timely maintenance, safety, and accessibility. While the Department is accomplishing these goals, further improvements are being planned. Parks Director Kimberly Caughran is developing a parks, open spaces, and trails Master Plan to aid in prioritization of future projects and improvements, as well as to identify funding opportunities.

The Department was recently awarded the Madison County Park Enhancement Program (PEP) Grant, which will provide 12 new ADA-accessible picnic tables and 8 sets of 5-tier bleachers with safety fencing. Another successful grant through the Metro East Park and Recreation District, for just over \$103,000, will provide amenity improvements at Woodland Park, including Optimist playground replacement, new picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains, and the addition of bike racks near the shelters. It will also provide new tee boxes and baskets for the (cont. on p. 2)

New Developments

In just the first few months of 2018, there's a lot going on! Here are just a few highlights of the new developments we're seeing:

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhouses opened at the end of January at 301 N. Bluff Rd. Project Value: \$900,000

Ameren IL's new 44,000 sq. ft. two story headquarters at 10 Executive Dr. is under construction. Project Value: \$10,200,000

Ameren is expanding a substation on Lebanon Rd. at Spring St. Improvements include removing a mobile home park, relocating a number of utility poles, and enhancing the landscaping.

The Villas of Holly Brook, a 60-unit assisted living and 28-bed memory care center, is under construction at 121 S. Bluff Rd. Project Value: \$7,040,000

The Hamptons at Keebler, which consists of four two-story, five-unit apartment buildings, to be located at 1711 Keebler Ave., are under construction. Project Value: \$1,600,000

The Old Herald Brewery & Distillery is currently under construction at 115 E. Clay St. The business will feature a micro-brewery and distillery producing its own brand, Ardent Spirits, as well as a tap room/restaurant, bar, lounge, patio, and private event space. Project Value: \$2,550,000

A new Popeye's Chicken is expected to go in at Rte. 157 & Collinsport Dr. Construction is anticipated to begin in the winter of 2018.

Barrel Brands, a locally-owned company producing beard, hair, and skin oils that are aged in whiskey, beer, wine, and port barrels, opened at 101 N. Seminary St.

Parks & Recreation (cont. from p.1)

disc golf course, accessible pathways to existing playgrounds and shelters, and a new park entrance sign.

In addition to these improvements, the City will also own and operate Willoughby Farm and Splash City. The Collinsville City Council and the Collinsville Area Recreation District Board have reached an agreement to transfer ownership of Willoughby Farm and Splash City to the City of Collinsville. These are both excellent facilities and the City is excited for the recreational opportunities they offer. Once ownership is transferred, the City will assess the facilities to determine what improvements are needed and how to operate the facilities to best serve Collinsville residents. CARD will operate Splash City through the 2018 summer season.

Since CARD will no longer own any parks and recreation assets, the City Council also approved legislation supporting the dissolution of CARD and Collinsville residents' disconnection from CARD. This will allow the City to obtain additional grant funding for parks and recreation and save City residents some of the property taxes they are currently paying to CARD, though residents will still need to pay property taxes for CARD's debt.

Stay tuned to the City's website and Facebook page for more information about the City's Parks and Recreation program and how to contribute ideas and offer input on Collinsville parks.



Director of Parks & Recreation
Kimberly Caughran

Utility Tax Rebates

Senior citizen, disabled, and low income City residents can apply for utility tax rebates from April 1 - May 31, 2018. The rebate is for Collinsville municipal taxes on gas and electric service and is a maximum of \$55.

Eligibility and Required Documentation:

- » Must reside within the City of Collinsville and have electric and/or gas service in your name
- » State or Federally issued ID
- » Senior Citizens: 65 or older (no income limit)
- » Disabled: Illinois Class 2 Disability Card (no income limit)
- » Low Income: Income Tax Return, IRS Notice 703, or affidavit stating no income tax return was filed (see chart for income limits)
- » Complete copies of electric and gas bills for April 2017 - March 2018

| Low income applicants only: | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Family Size | Max Income |
| 1 | \$39,400 |
| 2 | \$45,000 |
| 3 | \$50,650 |
| 4 | \$56,250 |
| 5 | \$60,750 |
| 6 | \$65,250 |

Applications must be submitted online at www.collinsvilleil.org/utility-taxrebate by May 31, 2018. Applications can be submitted from home, however, if you are unable to complete the application yourself, we can help. To improve the process from last year and reduce lines and wait times, we are scheduling appointments to submit applications at City Hall. If you have questions about the rebate or need to make an appointment, please call 618-346-5200 x1186.

Gateway Center

The City is excited to announce that effective May 1, 2018, Gateway Center will become part of the City. Since its beginning, Gateway Center has operated closely with the City, but has been its own entity. The consolidation plan came as a result of Gateway Center's long-term strategic plan.

Last year, Gateway Center hired Johnson Consulting to conduct a market analysis and develop a Strategic Plan to ensure Gateway Center's financial viability and success long-term. At the January 8 joint meeting of the City Council and the Gateway Center Board, Johnson Consulting presented its findings and the recommendation for the City and Gateway Center to merge. Competition in the convention center market has increased significantly over the years, and in order to remain competitive, Johnson Consulting recommended a number of capital improvements that would be difficult for Gateway Center to accomplish on its own.

Through consolidation, capital improvements to Gateway Center will be strategically planned for within the City's Capital Improvement Plan. It will also achieve significant overhead and operational savings because the City and Gateway Center will be able to pool resources, combine contractual services, and put employees in more efficient and focused roles to perform their key responsibilities. The savings from the consolidation can then be reinvested in making improvements to Gateway Center.

Most importantly, the consolidation unites both entities in economic development activities and policies. Gateway Center contributes approximately \$32 million to the City economy and the unification allows the City to lead at a time of renewed economic activity. The consolidation, when coupled with the creation of the City's Parks and Recreation Department, allows the City to make tremendous strides in leading the region in tourism activities and developing an even more robust hospitality market.

The consolidation agreement was approved by the Gateway Center Board at its January 18, 2018 meeting and by the City Council at its January 22, 2018 meeting.

Convention & Visitors Bureau

On January 22, 2018, the City Council approved a resolution to appoint the Great Rivers & Routes Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), formerly the Alton Regional CVB, as the City's official tourism bureau. The City was previously affiliated with the IllinoisSouth Tourism Bureau. This change is part of the City's strategic economic development efforts.

With the addition of a Parks & Recreation Department and the acquisition of Gateway Center, the City is focused on developing a stronger tourism and recreation market to bring economic growth to Collinsville. The Great Rivers & Routes CVB will provide a more comprehensive approach for the marketing and development of tourism in Collinsville. In addition to focused marketing efforts, this CVB will provide the City with data on the results of their efforts. These efforts will help to increase business at Gateway Center and the Jaycees Sports complex in particular, as well as increase overall economic growth in the City. We are excited to see the results of these efforts.

Upcoming Events

There are a lot of great events happening in Collinsville! Mark your calendars and get ready to enjoy a fun-filled year:

Uptown Events

- » Horseradish Festival: June 1-2
Details at horseradishfestival.com
- » Code 3 Smokin' on Main BBQ Competition and Festival: July 28 - 29
- » Italian Fest: September 21 - 22
Details at italianfest.net
- » Fall Festival: October 27
- » Christmas at the Collins House: December 1

Check the City website and Facebook page for more details about these events as they approach!

Gateway Center Events

- » May 2: Collinsville Chamber of Commerce Networking Lunch (monthly event)
- » May 5: Trash or Treasure (similar to Antique's Roadshow)
- » May 6: Anderson Hospital Baby Fair
- » May 11: Mother & Son Superhero Ball
- » June 8-10: DieCon
- » June 9-10: Artistic Rubber Stamp Show
- » June 27: Chamber Women's Conference
- » August 5: Gateway Bridal Show

For details on these events and how to register, visit gatewaycenter.com

Stay up to date on everything happening in Collinsville! Visit the City website, collinsvilleil.org, and follow us on Facebook or Twitter: @collinsvilleil



Collinsville Unit 10 School District News

**Congratulations to the
Collinsville Middle School
Boys Basketball Team -
2018 SIJHSAA Boys Bas-
ketball State Champions!**

Stay in the Know about Collinsville Schools!

Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 has several ways for you to stay informed about district news and events:

Our website, www.kahoks.org, has the latest news and announcements from around the district – including a direct link to the Skyward student information system, staff directory, sports and event calendars, pages for each school and lunch menus.

Kahoks.org is the place to get details on enrolling students, Illinois student health requirements, obtaining a transcript, and Board of Education actions. The Virtual Backpack has copies of handouts and announcements sent home with students.

Bookmark our website for quick access to information.

Like Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@CUSD10) for daily news and information.



Kindergarten Enrollment Begins in April!

Kindergarten Enrollment will be held at the Administration Annex Building, 123 West Clay Street, on the dates listed below for each school. If you are not sure which school your child will be attending, please contact the district enrollment office at 346-6350 ext. 4237 or 4228.

| SCHOOL | DATE | TIME |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Maryville | Wednesday April 4 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| Caseyville | Thursday April 5 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| Jefferson | Friday April 6 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| Kreitner | Monday April 9 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| John A. Renfro | Tuesday April 10 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| Twin Echo | Wednesday April 11 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| Summit | Thursday April 12 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| Webster | Friday April 13 | 8:15am - 4:00pm |
| All Schools | April 16 - August | 8:15am - 4:00pm |

ALL SPOTS AT EACH SCHOOL ARE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

The above enrollment schedule is for:

1. Children entering kindergarten next year including any child previously enrolled in Pre K or Early Childhood. Children must be five years old on or before September 1, 2018.
2. Those children entering first grade who are not presently attending Kindergarten Classes in the public schools.

TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD, YOU WILL NEED TO BRING WITH YOU...

- » Certified Birth Certificate. The certificate issued by the hospital is NOT acceptable according to Illinois State Law.
- » Proof of Residency

On the first day of school, your child must present a completed physical examination form with all immunizations listed as required by Collinsville Unit 10. Your child will also be required to have a dental exam and an eye exam.

For complete information on school enrollment requirements, please visit www.kahoks.org and look under Parents-Resources-Enrollment.

Please note: All Kindergarten students must also register either on-line or at Centralized Registration in July of 2018

Early Childhood Screenings Scheduled

Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 will hold Early Childhood Screenings on March 23 and April 6 at Meadow Heights Baptist Church. Call 346-6301 option 3 to schedule an appointment.

For more information on CUSD 10 Pre-K and Early Childhood services visit: www.kahoks.org/students/services-to-age-5/



Capital Improvement Plan



Progress continues on the City's Capital Improvement Plan. The City is slated to see \$5.6 million dollars' worth of improvements being made to the City's infrastructure in 2018. The improvements include 15,809 feet of new roadways and 5,925 feet

of new sidewalk. Most notably, Uptown Main Street is scheduled to be resurfaced in the summer of 2018. The new water plant is on track and is forecasted to be online in September of 2018 (photos below).



Code Enforcement

Spring is here and City staff will be actively enforcing property maintenance codes for common seasonal violations, particularly tall grass and weeds, unpermitted construction, standing water, trash & debris, and derelict vehicles. Tall grass and weeds and standing water are particularly important problems to address through the spring and summer because they attract mosquitoes and other bugs. The City works hard to address all violations to strengthen the character, safety, and value of properties in our community, but your help in identifying issues is greatly appreciated. To report a Code Violation, please call 618-346-5200 and choose Option 4, or go to the Community Development page on the City's website and click "Report a Code Violation."



The Gardens at the D.D. Collins House

The Gardens at the D.D. Collins House serves as a heritage preservation and education initiative to educate the public about gardening and plant life that could be found in Collinsville during the mid-1800s and is still visible today. Flowers, crops, herb and vegetable gardens are planted, maintained, and harvested by the Collinsville Garden Club and their fantastic group of Master Gardeners. The Collinsville Garden Club is dedicated to both education and service to the local community. In 2017, approximately 200 lbs. of fresh vegetables were harvested from the Gardens and donated to the Collinsville Food Pantry/SOS Soup Kitchen! Other crops, plants, and flowers are harvested and used to prepare unique local crafts.

The Collinsville Garden Club is excited for a new and prosperous season. If you are an individual or organization interested in volunteering your service to the D.D. Collins House Gardens, you may contact our Master Gardener Trisha Haislar at (618) 567-3947 or the Historic Preservation Commission's Staff Liaison, Cristen Hardin at (618) 346-5200 x1140. To learn more about local plant history, gardening tips, fun facts, plant uses, recipes, and craft ideas please visit the Gardens link on the Friends of the D.D. Collins House's website: www.friendsoftheddcollinshouse.org

Building Permits & Inspections

Building permits and inspections are required for certain types of work, including, but not limited to, new construction, remodels, fences, sheds, roofs, windows, electric, and plumbing. Please call the Building Department at 618-346-5200 extension 1126 to verify if your work requires a permit.



More information on what's happening in the City is posted on our new informational sign in front of City Hall!

Senior Citizen & Disabled Shuttle Bus Service

For over 40 years, the City has provided disabled residents of any age and all residents 60 years of age or older with free transportation service to any location within the City and the Collinsville-Maryville-Troy YMCA, in order to assist them in meeting their social, economic, medical, and nutritional needs.

Hours of Operation:

Mon. - Fri. 8:30am - 4:15pm

- » No calls for outgoing service will be accepted after 3pm
- » No calls for return home service will be accepted after 3:30 pm.

For information or to schedule a ride please call 618-346-5200 and select Option 2.



OLD SIGN

The new signs will feature stone backgrounds with backlit metal letters.



NEW SIGN

NEW CITY SIGNS

The City's entry signs are getting a facelift!

Look for new signs being built in 2018.

Visit the D.D. Collins House

Collins Park, featuring the D.D. Collins House, is located at 703 W. Main Street in Uptown Collinsville. To learn more about its unique history please visit us for a tour where you will be met by our group of dedicated, expert volunteers. The D.D. Collins House is open to the public for tours on Saturdays (except holiday weekends) from 11am-3pm. For more news, history, fun facts, and upcoming events please visit www.friendsoftheddcollins-house.org. To schedule a private tour for large groups or tours outside of regular hours please contact Lavadna Hines at (618) 420-0288. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Cristen Hardin at (618) 345-5200 x1140 or via email at chardin@collinsvilleil.org.

Recreational Burning Guidelines

With Spring quickly approaching, the Collinsville Fire Department wants to remind residents to always practice fire safety. Burning trash, leaves, and other waste is prohibited, but outdoor recreational fires are allowed provided they are monitored and properly contained. Please use the following guidelines for recreational burning:

- » Fires should never be left unattended
- » Keep a means to extinguish the fire readily available
- » Fires must be contained in a fire pit
- » Keep fires a safe distance from any combustibles
- » Fires should never take place during windy and/or drought conditions

City Burn Ordinance: Sec. 8.16.010. - Prohibition; exceptions.

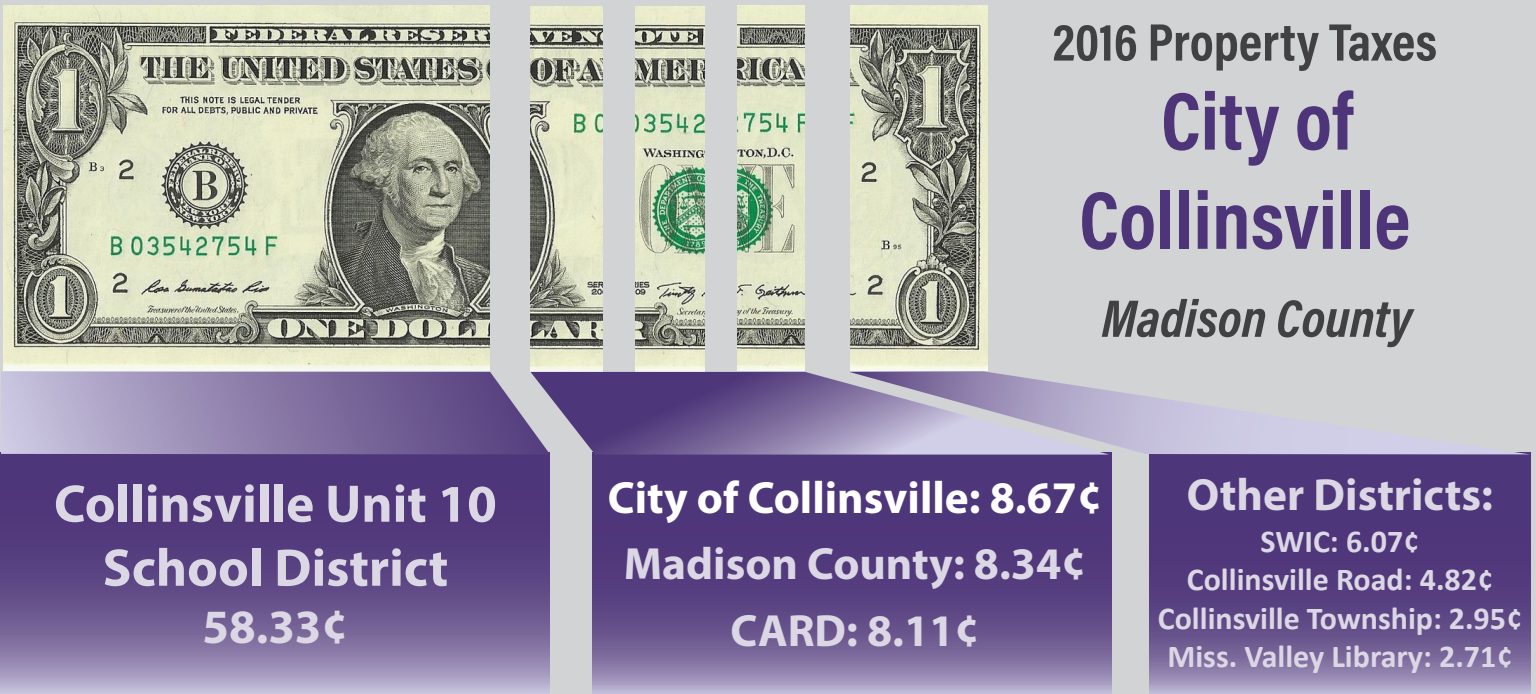
No person, firm, company, corporation, association, joint venture, partnership, trust, estate, or other legal entity shall burn any leaves, brush, grass, wood, tree limbs, rubbish, garbage, trash, or other combustible materials in the City. Notwithstanding the provisions herein, this chapter shall not be construed to prohibit wood fires in fireplaces, stoves, heaters, furnaces, and incinerators safely designed, constructed, and installed for such purposes and complying with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and building codes. Further, this chapter shall not be deemed to prohibit outdoor wood fires for recreation or ceremonial purposes.



Please call the Fire Department at 618-346-5022 with any questions or concerns.

WHERE DO COLLINSVILLE PROPERTY TAXES GO?

The graphic below shows where each dollar of property tax goes for a home in the City of Collinsville within Madison County.

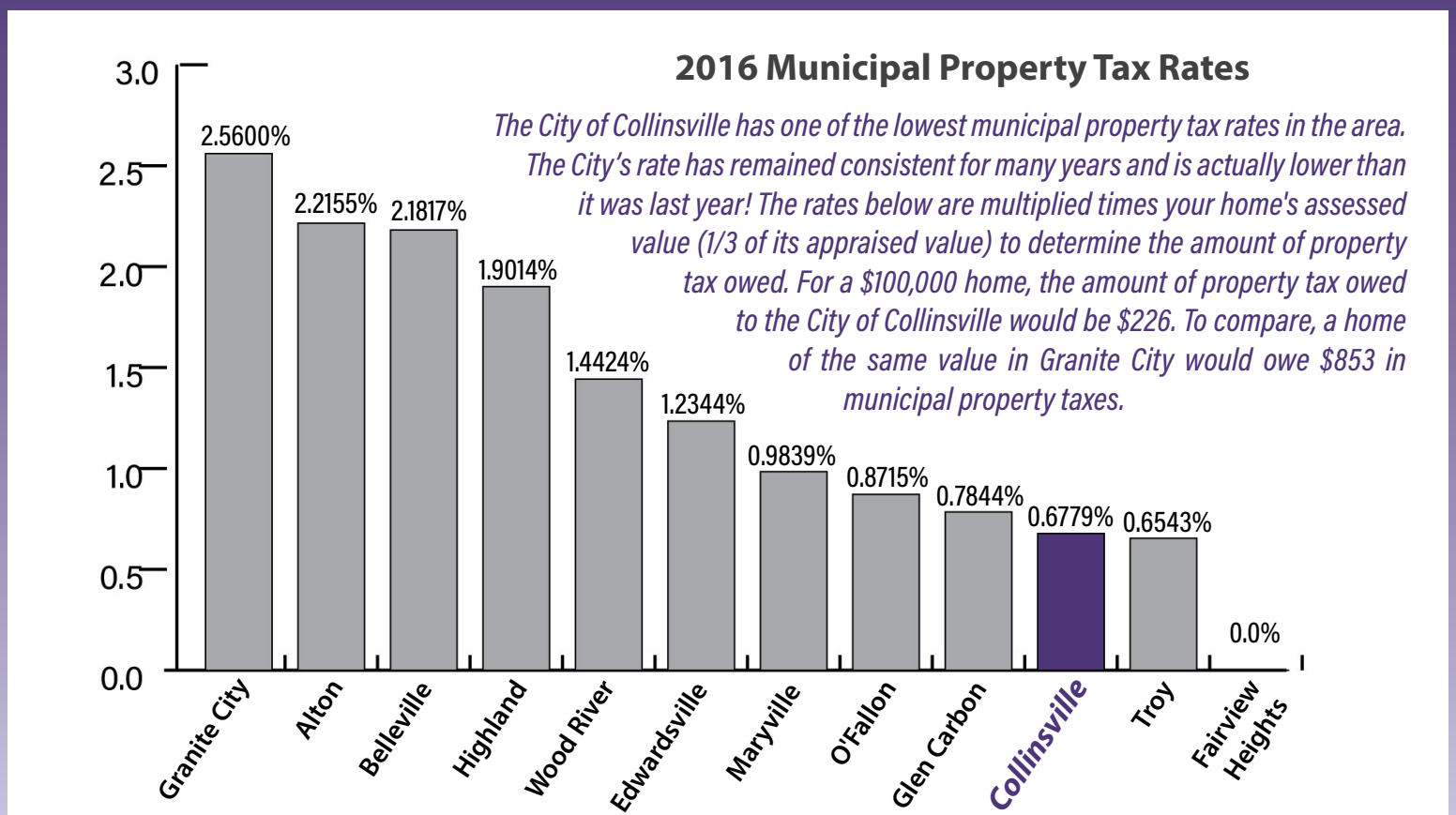


St. Clair County Rates
 » Unit 10: 57.9¢
 » City of Collinsville: 8.6¢

» St. Clair County: 13.78¢
 » CARD: 8.03¢
 » SWIC: 6.03¢

» Caseyville Road: 1.44¢
 » Caseyville Township: 1.5¢
 » Miss. Valley Lib.: 2.71¢

HOW DOES COLLINSVILLE'S TAX RATE COMPARE TO SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES?



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



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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

Police Department: 344-2131
Fire Department: 346-5022

www.collinsvilleil.org ~ 618-346-5200 ~  and  @collinsvilleil