

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As the holiday season approaches, there is quite a bit to celebrate in Collinsville. Opportunities for progress abound throughout the City. I am pleased with what we've accomplished this year and look forward to more exciting things on the horizon.

One of the biggest successes we've seen recently in our community is the Hometown Heroes Banner program. The response from local families in support of our veterans continues to be overwhelming. The project was selected for the Illinois Governor's Hometown Award for the military program category, and the Chamber of Commerce honored Pat and Leonard Reitz for their work on the project with the Spirit of Excellence award. The City is extremely proud of this program and the support the community has shown for it.

Events such as the Italian Fest and

Horseradish Festival have been a source of pride for our City for many years, and some exciting things are happening on this front. Beginning next year, the Horseradish Festival will be moving Uptown, and the City welcomed a new Uptown event, the Smokin' on Main BBQ Competition, which attracted a crowd of over 30,000. The C3 Expo at Gateway Center provided an evening of family fun and showcased the quality services our schools, City, and local businesses have to offer. Events like these are central to our sense of community, and they wouldn't be possible without your involvement and support. With these successes in mind, we are pleased to announce a new Uptown event this year, the Christmas at the Collins House celebration. I hope you will join us in beginning this holiday tradition.

Also central to our community are our parks, and the City is eager to step into a larger role in improving this critical resource. The agreement with CARD for the City to manage our parks provides us with the opportunity to not only meet the needs of the community, but to exceed expectations. We anticipate a great start in getting our parks and recreation program up and running!

We have so much to be grateful for this holiday season, and I hope you will take a moment to reflect on the positive things happening in our City. Along with the City Council and City staff, I am truly thankful for the opportunity to serve such a great community.



**Celebrate Christmas in Collinsville with a parade through Uptown followed by a tree lighting ceremony & family fun at the Collins House!**

### Dec. 2, 2017, 5:30pm

The City is excited to announce we will be hosting a Christmas celebration this year in Uptown Collinsville!

The celebration begins at 5:30pm with a Christmas themed light-up parade on Main Street and Clay Street. Local businesses and organizations are encouraged to enter floats in the parade (applications due November 17).

After the parade, join us at the Collins House for a tree lighting ceremony led by Mayor Miller. There will be family-friendly activities, pictures with Santa, Christmas carols, and free hot chocolate and apple cider.

For more information or a parade application, visit the City's [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). We hope to see you there!

**The Horseradish Festival is moving Uptown! Mark your calendars for June 1-3, 2018.**

# A New Future for Collinsville's Parks

The City of Collinsville will begin managing City parks again on January 1, 2018. Since 1991, the Collinsville Area Recreation District (CARD) has leased Woodland Park, Glidden Park, Morris Hills Park, and Jaycees Sports Complex from the City and managed their operations. The agreement approved by the CARD Board on October 17, 2017 and by the City Council on October 23, 2017 terminates the existing lease on January 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to management of the parks previously listed, the City will take ownership of Schnuck's Memorial Park and manage its operations.

The City looks forward to the opportunity to make the parks in Collinsville an amenity that will enhance the quality of life for our residents, visitors, and businesses, and bring the parks back as a source of community pride. According to the Strategic Plan, the City's top priority is making Collinsville the preferred place to live in our region, and offering parks and recreation services is critically linked to achieving this goal. The first step in accomplishing these objectives is establishing a Parks & Recreation department to head up management and operations. City staff will include a Parks & Recreation budget for the City Council to consider in the 2018-19 budget cycle.

The agreement includes a provision to reduce



the CARD tax levy by \$100,000. The City Council will then consider lifting the dollar cap on property taxes that was enacted in 2007 in order to provide funding for parks management.

The purpose of these changes is to address the City's added costs to maintain the parks without increasing the property tax bill residents ultimately pay. It is expected that City residents may actually see a reduction in their total property tax bill once the agreement is implemented.

Additionally, the City will receive revenues from the cellular tower leases in Woodland Park as well as fees for field or facility rental and concessions. CARD will coordinate with the City to apply for Park Enhancement Program funding that may be available from Madison County.

As the City's parks program is implemented, we will work to keep residents updated on our progress through our website and social media. We are excited to work with the community and welcome the opportunity to partner with our residents and local organizations in improving our parks!



**Yard Waste  
Disposal  
Saturday  
November 11  
8am-3pm**

**850 S. Morrison  
(Street Dept. Garage)**

**Proof of residence (driver's license, water bill, or power bill) is required. Must be in paper yard waste bags-no plastic bags! Questions? Visit the [website](#) or Call 346-5214**

## Water Plant Progress

The City is pleased to share that the construction of the new Water Treatment Plant is progressing as scheduled. In the next few weeks, the walls of the building will go up and the underground piping installation at the site will begin. The new plant is expected to go on line in late September 2018 with the entire project being completed in February 2019.



# Collinsville Community Collaboration

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the City, the Collinsville School District, and local businesses and non-profits partnered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Collinsville Community Collaboration (C3) Expo. The event aims to showcase all of the great things happening in Collinsville.

The C3 Expo is open to the public and offers the opportunity for our businesses, schools, and City departments to build connections with residents and communicate what they have to offer. This year's Expo featured performances by the CHS band and local dance and Tae Kwon Do studios, as well as an obstacle course and face painting. The Collinsville School District showed off just some of the great educational and extra-curricular programs they have to offer. The City's Police, Fire, and Public Works departments brought their vehicles and equipment to show students what it's like to work in one of these exciting jobs. Local businesses and non-profits provided fun activities and shared information about their organizations.



C3 followed up this year's Expo with a special presentation on October 11<sup>th</sup> aimed at dispelling some of the rumors and educating the community about the successes of our City and School District. Video of the event and highlights from the Expo are available on the City website and C3 Facebook page. The next C3 event is slated for Spring 2018. Be sure to check the City's website and [C3's Facebook page](#) in February for details!

## Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become vulnerable to theft and other crime. Collinsville is a very safe community; however, we can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Here are some tips to keep the crooks away this holiday season.

### **Traveling?**

- \* Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- \* Ask a neighbor to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.
- \* Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you are gone.
- \* Call 344-2131 to schedule a Police check while you're gone.

### **Out for the evening?**

- \* Turn on lights and the radio or TV to look like you're home.
- \* Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it is just for a few minutes.
- \* Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

### **Shopping?**

- \* Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- \* Park in a well-lit space. Be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card whenever possible. (continued on p. 5)

## Town Hall Meeting

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the City will host a Town Hall meeting at Gateway Center from 6:30-8:30pm. The City Council and City staff will discuss a variety of topics and field questions from the moderator as well as the audience. Questions can be submitted in advance on our [website](#) or to [resident\\_ideas@collinsvilleil.org](mailto:resident_ideas@collinsvilleil.org).

The public will also be able to submit questions at the meeting and ask questions directly to the Council and staff. This is an opportunity for residents to receive informational updates on City initiatives, hear from Council members about key issues, ask questions, and provide feedback.



# Development News



Collinsville continues to grow! We've seen a lot of development over the summer, and there is quite a bit more on the horizon. Just since May, the City has issued 619 building permits representing over **\$20 million** in improvements and new construction.

Some highlights of the commercial development news over the past few months include:

Walmart Neighborhood Market opened on Beltline Rd.

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers broke ground in front of Home Depot.

Villas of Holly Brook demolished the Maag farm buildings on Rte 157 and are planning construction of an assisted living and memory care facility.

Motomart demolished the unoccupied buildings at the corner of Vandalia and Beltline and is poised to break ground on their new gas station.

Ameren is preparing to build a new office building in Eastport Plaza.

With the infrastructure improvements included in the City's CIP, we expect to see even more great developments coming soon!

# Budget 101

The City creates a comprehensive financial plan (budget) every two years, with the next budget covering 2018-2019. The City's primary goal in developing the budget is to create a business plan that serves the residents in the most effective and efficient way possible. The principles guiding budget decisions include a focus on improving the community as a whole, investing in people, programs, and projects that increase the level of service to the public, improving policies, processes, and procedures to reduce costs, and making sound financial decisions that focus on the future and minimize market-based influences.

The City divides its revenues into several funds based on the source:

**General Fund.** This is the main operating fund of the City and primarily receives revenue from sales tax and income tax. This fund accounts for most of the City's operating expenditures.

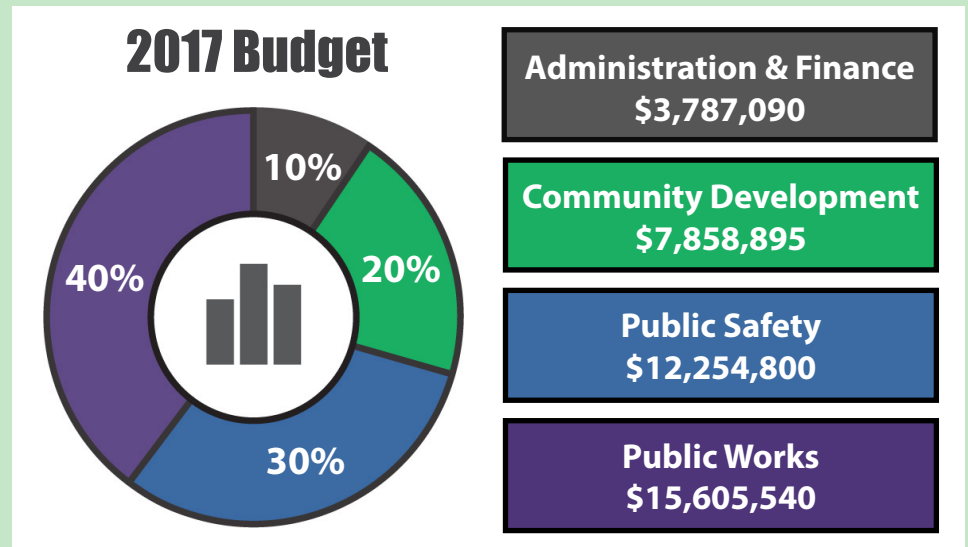
**Enterprise Fund.** This fund is for the City's business-type activities and accounts for water and waste water revenues and expenses.

**Capital Projects Fund.** This fund receives revenues from utility taxes and grants and is used to finance capital assets, such as land, buildings, vehicles, major equipment, and infrastructure.

**Special Revenue Funds.** The City has several special revenue funds that account for specific, segregated revenue streams such as TIF and business districts, the animal shelter, and DUI court fines. Expenditures for these funds are typically limited to the fund's specific purpose.

For both the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund, the City's financial policy specifies that the ending fund balance be 15%-20% of estimated annual revenues, which is the recommended level for reserve funds.

The City is focused on priority-based budgeting, which evaluates programs and services for value and aligns the budget with the City's Strategic Plan. The chart below illustrates these priorities for the 2017 budget, with 70% spent on Public Safety and Public Works.



Over the next few months, the City Council will discuss the 2018-19 proposed budget. The first discussion was held on October 23, 2017, and focused on a broad overview of budget elements. Discussions and public hearings will continue at the November City Council meetings, with votes taking place in December and January.

# Capital Improvement Plan

On August 28, 2017, the City Council approved the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2017-2022. The CIP allows the City to forecast capital costs, funding, and timing for large projects, such as infrastructure improvements and vehicle and equipment purchases. It helps to ensure the City's infrastructure is up-to-date and City services are provided safely and efficiently. The CIP also aids in preparing the City's budget and streamlines the budget process because capital costs are already laid out. As the graphic below shows, the majority of the 2017-2022 CIP is planned to go to infrastructure improvements.



The 2018-2019 portion of the CIP totals \$8,768,450, which will form the capital expenditures and expenses in the 2018-2019 budget. The major capital projects to be completed during this time are street resurfacing projects and water main improvements. An overview of the CIP and the complete CIP document are available on our [website](#).

## Collinsville 2025: *Planning Our Future Together*

The City of Collinsville, led by the Planning Commission and Community Development Department, has undertaken the task of developing Collinsville's new Comprehensive Plan. This plan will guide the future growth, development, and preservation of Collinsville. The plan will include recommendations for future land use and development, infrastructure improvements, economic development, public area improvements, cultural opportunities, and overall quality of life enhancements for current and future residents. The Comprehensive Plan serves as the primary planning document by which community-based priorities are integrated into policy decisions and public resource investment, the development and implementation of programs, and other Plans that are adopted by reference.

We need your help planning the future of our community! As members of the Collinsville community, your input is valued and appreciated. Your participation will influence a range of interconnecting issues in our community, including: quality of life, housing, transportation, land use, services, community health, and economic development. The Comprehensive Plan Survey is available now, and in-person workshops are currently being planned. Details on both are on page 7.

## Holiday Safety (cont'd)

- \* To deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers, don't overburden yourself with packages. Carry purses close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put wallets in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- \* Do not carry your Social Security Card or PIN numbers in your wallet or purse. Leave these items in a secure place at home.
- \* Taking the extra time to close your purse and keep it with you while shopping or in public places will reduce the opportunity for thieves to take wallets and other valuables.
- \* Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

### Reporting Crime and Suspicious Activity

- \* Help thy neighbor – See something, say something!
- \* Call 911 if you reasonably believe you are witnessing a crime in progress.
- \* Should you fall victim to a crime or need to report something "not in progress", contact the non-emergency phone number for the police department where the crime or incident occurred. For Collinsville, the non-emergency number is 344-2131.

The Collinsville Police Department wishes you a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season!





# Holiday Fire Safety



"I didn't think a fire would happen to us" is the overwhelming phrase victims use just minutes after losing everything in a house fire. However, recent statistics from the National Fire Protection Association reveal how false that line of thinking is. From 2009 to 2015, across the United States a fire occurs every 23 seconds, with a home fire every 86 seconds. On average, fire claims nine lives every day in the U.S. Unfortunately, as the weather becomes colder and the holidays approach, the risk of home fires also increases.

The Collinsville Fire Department works hard to prevent these tragedies, but we simply can not do it alone. We know how precious life is and we need your help to prevent such tragedies, so please keep these tips in mind as you prepare for the holidays:

Seasonal decorations brighten the holidays, but they can also create fire safety issues.

- \* Consider battery-operated flameless candles.
- \* Never leave a lit candle unattended.
- \* Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.

U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 455 home cooking fires a day in 2010-2014. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, closely followed by Christmas & Christmas Eve.

- \* Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the

stovetop to keep an eye on the food.

- \* Stay in the house when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- \* Keep children 3 ft. away from the stove and hot food and liquids. Steam and splashes can cause serious burns.

As winter settles in and wood-burning stoves and fireplace use increases, fire hazards also increase.

- \* Inspect and clean woodstove pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions.
- \* Use a fireplace screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire fireplace opening to catch flying sparks.
- \* Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.
- \* Ensure you have a working carbon monoxide and smoke detector.

If you or someone you know is sleeping in a home without a working smoke detector, call the Fire Department now. We will do whatever it takes to get a working smoke detector in the home.

Remembering these few fire safety tips will help ensure a safer holiday season. Never think it can't happen to you. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Collinsville Fire Department at (618) 346-5022.

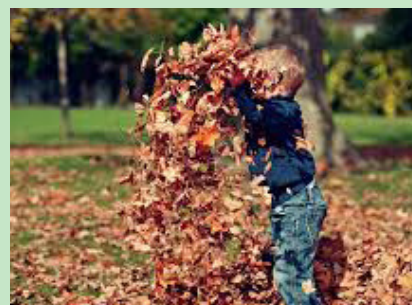


## Fall Code Enforcement & Property Maintenance

As winter approaches, we have several friendly reminders to help keep our neighborhoods safe and in good condition. The biggest maintenance challenge for the fall is leaves. Burning leaves and yard waste or raking/blowing them into the streets or storm sewers is prohibited in the City, but there are several alternatives to dispose of yard waste:

- \* City residents will be able to dispose of yard waste at the Street Dept. garage at 850 S. Morrison on Saturday, November 11th from 8am-3pm. Proof of residence (driver's license, water bill, or power bill) is required. Yard waste must be in paper yard waste bags--no plastic bags! Questions? Call 346-5214.
- \* Republic Services offers yard waste pick-up for an additional monthly charge with a three month commitment required. To sign up for this service, call 656-6883.
- \* Alternatively, you can mulch leaves in place to help feed your lawn.

With swimming season over, be sure to properly maintain and cover swimming pools. Check for other sources of standing water and remove promptly. Keeping up with this maintenance will help to prevent mosquito breeding.



# Citizens Police Academy

In an effort to make a connection with the citizens we serve and following a growing trend in law enforcement across the country, the Collinsville Police Department initiated its very first Citizens Police Academy (CPA) in 1997. Through this program, we set out on a quest to accomplish 3 simple objectives:

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

Ultimately, we were seeking a venue to tell our story!

Over the the course of the last 20 years, the CPA has been transformed several times in an effort to keep up with the ever-changing community landscape and trends in the field of law enforcement. Through this process, we have developed a curriculum that provides the citizens of Collinsville with a comprehensive view of policing in our wonderful city. We have the absolute best band of instructors with the expertise necessary to provide the best possible learning experience. Our academy offers the unique opportunity for us to educate the Collinsville community about our criminal justice system and provide insight into everyday police work. It 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 units, 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 facing.

If you're interested in joining the next academy, or just want to know more about our Police Department, check out the Police Department page on the City's website or follow Collinsville Illinois Police Department on Facebook!

## **Collinsville 2025:** *Planning Our Future Together*

(cont'd from p. 5) The survey is available on the City's website or at the following locations: City Hall, Collinsville Library, CARD Office, Collinsville Township Office, Senior Center, and Chamber of Commerce.

Plan to attend the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Workshops in January for more opportunities to engage in the process and learn about the plan. Dates, times, and locations will be announced soon.

This is OUR community...let's plan it together!

The City occasionally has surplus property for sale. If you are interested in these items, please visit [www.collinsvilleil.org/surplus-items-auction](http://www.collinsvilleil.org/surplus-items-auction)

## Utility Tax Rebates

In April and May of this year, the City accepted applications for utility tax rebates for senior (65+), disabled, and low-income residents. This was the first year the City offered utility tax rebates. 332 claims were accepted for a total of \$16,916.99 in rebates, with the average rebate being \$50.95.

Qualifying residents can submit applications for utility tax rebates each year in April and May. The application requires a state or federally issued photo ID. Additionally, disabled residents will need an Illinois Person with a Disability ID and low-income residents will need a copy of their 2017 tax return. 2018 applications will need to include copies of gas and electric bills for April 2017 - March 2018. Since applications must be submitted online, the City will again have assistance options available for residents without internet access. Details on application assistance will be provided in the Spring 2018 issue of the City Scoop. For information on eligibility and how to apply, please visit:

[www.collinsvilleil.org/utilitytaxrebate](http://www.collinsvilleil.org/utilitytaxrebate)



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



# City Scoop

The City of Collinsville's Semi-Annual Newsletter

Fall 2017

If you have any questions or concerns about any information in this newsletter, or about any other City business, please visit our website or call us at the numbers below:

City Hall: 346-5200  
Public Works: 346-5214

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

[www.collinsvilleil.org](http://www.collinsvilleil.org) ~  and  @collinsvilleil