

The City Scoop

Look How Far We've Come

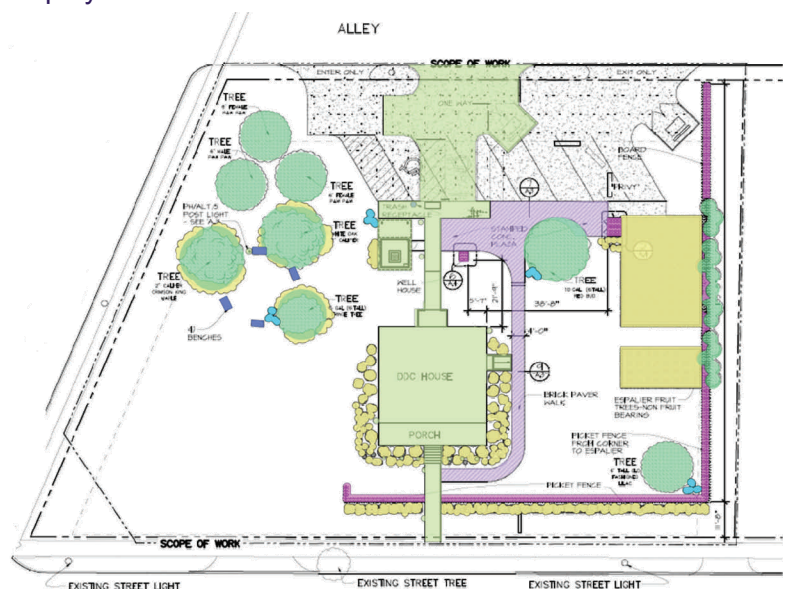
Lately I've realized how often I sit back and reflect. I reflect on how far our great City has come; we have grown and developed immensely in so many ways. I drive through town and can't help but smile because I am so proud to call Collinsville my home. Even more so, I am proud to serve Collinsville as the Mayor. I feel so connected to what has developed here over time and I know the positive direction will continue in the years to come.

Think back ten years ago. Remember how Main Street looked? There were many run down, vacant buildings, little to no trees or green space - it just looked uninviting. But once the Streetscape Program kicked off in 2003, many businesses utilized the TIF grant program to expand, renovate, and improve their existing structures. These types of improvements have led to new businesses locating in our Uptown drawing more people to visit the unique Main Street shops and eateries. The urban pocket parks that adorn Uptown Collinsville draw visitors to spend more time in the outdoor portions of this area. With three phases of the Streetscape Program complete and two more funded, the entire Uptown area will eventually have rehabilitated streets, decorative street signage, stamped brick crosswalks and more!

The next exciting step in this endeavor is the demolition of the Main Square Apartment building and the Martha Manning warehouse (pictured lower left). This project will come to life in the coming months of 2015. The plans for this piece of Main Street is the creation of an attractive community green space known as Collins Park (Master Plan shown lower right). The 1845 Collins House will be relocated just to the west. Upon relocation, a charming plaza area with a picket fence, new landscaping and gardens will make this historic landmark a true sight to be seen. This improved portion of Main Street will flaunt a much needed picturesque entrance into our Main Street community!

Revitalizing Uptown is just one of many undertakings demonstrating how much Collinsville has grown. Great portions of our community have transformed into such beautiful spaces and there is more coming. I hope all of you are as excited as I am to see these projects come to life. Stay tuned as Collinsville continues forward on the trek to be the preferred place to live, work and play!

*John Miller,
Mayor*



Local Candidates Forum



Tuesday, March 10, 2015
@ the Collinsville Library

EDUCATE YOURSELF BEFORE YOU VOTE!

6:00PM ~ Candidate Meet & Greet
6:30PM ~ Candidate Q & A



Meet the candidates running for:

- Collinsville City Mayor --
- Collinsville City Council --
- Unit 10 School Board --

Hear their positions on some of the most important issues **BEFORE** you step into the voting booth!

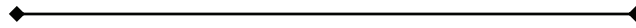
Vote on April 7TH

City Council Elections
~ April 7, 2015 ~

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



COME OUT AND VOTE!



Mayoral Candidates Include:

John V. Miller

Michael L. "Mike" Tognarelli

City Council Candidates Include:

Rob Dorman

Karen M. Woolard

Richard J. "Jeff" Stehman

Cheryl Brombolich

YOUR VOTE COUNTS ~ SEE YOU ON APRIL 7TH

Reporting Burned Out Street Lights



In an effort to help keep City streets safe, we ask and encourage residents to assist in reporting street lights that are out. It is helpful for everyone to take an active role in reporting them so we can make sure they are replaced.

Anyone can report a street light that has burned out. Simply call Ameren @ 1-800-755-5000. Make sure to provide the specific location of the street light (with descriptions of landmarks if it is in a hard to find location) and a contact name and number. Details such as whether or not the light is flickering is also helpful.

Ameren will replace the bulb(s) or make necessary repairs as soon as possible. With spring time rapidly approaching, the City wants to keep our community lit up and safe as warmer weather nears! Thank you for helping with this effort.

FREE Reading Help for Your Child

HHH (Homework - Help - Hoops) Reading Instruction is FREE



WHERE: St. John Church, 307 W. Clay Street

WHO: Children Kindergarten - 6th grade

WHEN: Tuesdays & Thursdays for 1-hour

Select one afternoon / evening session:

3:00pm - 4:00pm

4:00pm - 5:00pm

5:00pm - 6:00pm

6:00pm - 7:00pm



TUTORING & READING HELP PLUS FUN ACTIVITIES!

CONTACT: Dana @ 618-344-2526 to register

CONTACT: Dr. Young with reading questions @ 618-407-8055

INCREASING READING ~ IMPROVING CONFIDENCE!

2015 SPRING CLEAN-UP DATES

It's that time again ~ Spring Clean-Up 2015. Please see the pick-up schedule and dates below:

REGULAR trash pick-up on **Monday** -- Spring Clean-Up day is MAY 4TH

REGULAR trash pick-up on **Tuesday** -- Spring Clean-Up day is MAY 12TH

REGULAR trash pick-up on **Wednesday** -- Spring Clean-Up day is MAY 6TH

REGULAR trash pick-up on **Thursday** -- Spring Clean-Up day is MAY 14TH

REGULAR trash pick-up on **Friday** -- Spring Clean-Up day is MAY 8TH



LARGE ITEMS INCLUDE:

Furniture, mattress sets, large carpets (cut into manageable bundles no longer than 4-feet); lawn furniture and other miscellaneous household items.



- Place items at the curb by 6:00AM on your pick-up day.
- Do not set out loose trash in cardboard boxes.
- Please bag and contain all trash.
- Glass portion of doors, windows, etc. should be broken & placed in a small box marked "glass."
- Tires, other car parts, cardboard boxes, loose debris, concrete, shingles, construction debris, yard waste, and electronics are **prohibited** and will not be picked up.

****This is a complimentary service provided by Republic Services: (618) 656-6883****

Keep Collinsville Beautiful



~ Spring Forward on March 8th ~



It's almost time to spring forward one hour because Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. This is also the best time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors; Daylight Savings Time provides a convenient reminder to do this when you change your clocks! It is estimated that about 1/3 of homes in the United States have smoke detectors with either dead or missing batteries. So remember ~ mark your calendars for March 8th to "Spring Forward" one hour and to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

It's Yard Sale Season!

Warmer weather is nearing and many are preparing for the first yard sales of 2015! The City wants to offer a friendly reminder of the process that must take place before a yard sale can occur.

Please remember to purchase a yard sale permit for \$2⁰⁰ at City Hall, prior to the day(s) of your sale. Permits are required if you live inside City limits. Yard sales are limited to two (2) per calendar year and you may run a sale for two (2) consecutive days with the same permit. It is also important to note that permits are non-transferrable; each household must have their own permit to operate a yard sale within City limits.

If you fail to purchase a permit, and have a yard sale without one, you will be cited and ticketed by City of Collinsville Code Enforcement Officers.

When you purchase your permit at City Hall, you will also be given a sheet of yard sale rules and regulations. The policy must be followed accordingly to coincide with City code and to prevent citations and tickets.

City Launches New Website

For almost 10 years the City of Collinsville has had the same website. It was outdated, difficult to navigate, and lacked necessary information. As quickly as technology and the world wide web is changing, the time has come for the City to change with it. That being said, we are happy to launch our new, revamped City website! The web address is still the same; www.collinsvilleil.org, but the page offers a whole new array of subject matter.

The new page boasts impressive photos from all over our great community. With easy-to-find tabs at the top of the Home Page, locating anything and everything you need is a cinch! There are even "Quick Links" on the right-hand side of the page for specific information such as City Council Meetings, employment, FAQ's, Shuttle Bus, etc.

As the City continues to grow and services improve, we are proud to release the new website as just one of many more upgrades to come. It is critical that our City has the avenues necessary to communicate with and serve the citizens of Collinsville; that is why our community is a great place to live, work, shop & play.



Trivia Night is Back!

COLLINSVILLE, MARYVILLE, CASEYVILLE

ROTARY CLUB

Trivia Night

**How Smart Is
Your Team?**



Friday, March 20, 2015

The proceeds from this event will help support our community.

Doors open at 6pm * Trivia Starts at 7pm

St. John Neumann School – 42 Wilma Drive Maryville, IL 62062

Bring your own snacks and drinks!

\$10.00 per person

8-10 people per table

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Teams

Silent Auction * 50/50 Drawing

**To register please contact Sarah Rhodebeck
srhodebeck@ymcaswil.org or 618.346.5600**

Volunteers Needed!



The Collinsville Food Pantry is looking for you! Volunteers are needed and your help would be greatly appreciated. Caring, compassionate people who are ready to serve at the Food Pantry are in high demand.

Jill Rice of the Collinsville Food Pantry says, "We are always in need of all kinds of folks to do all types of work; a few hours of help here and there goes a long way."

If you would like to help out, please contact the Collinsville Food Pantry. You can call 618-346-1861 or email cama@camacollinsville.com.

This type of volunteer work is fun and rewarding because you are giving back to your own community. Call today to see where you fit in!

Fundraiser Follow-Up

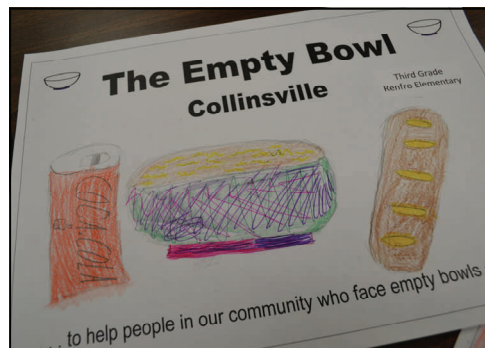
The 2015 Empty Bowl Fundraiser was a huge success! Hundreds of people came out to support this amazing cause; not to mention all the organizations that donated the soups and the volunteers who gave their time to work.

Over 30 soups were hot and ready to eat. Many classic favorites such as Clam Chowder, French Onion, and Chicken Noodle to some true originals including Sweet Potato Chili, Lemon Chicken, and Cheese Tortellini. The options were endless and the tastes were exceptional!

Live entertainment was provided by the Collinsville High School Jazz Band as well as the Wilkerson Brothers. Both groups were fantastic and upheld the lively environment. Anna and Elsa from Disney's "Frozen" spent the afternoon greeting children and taking pictures with guests of all ages. Furthermore, a few St. Louis Rams Cheerleaders joined in the fun and showed their support for The Empty Bowl as well.

A unique finishing touch on each table were the placemats. Each place setting boasted an individual placemat decorated by Unit 10 students as well as St. John's Adult Day Program in Collinsville & Edwardsville. The drawings referenced the empty bowls and the hunger that many people in our community face everyday.

It was such an amazing gathering because so many people came together to support the same mission. Without a group like the Collinsville Food Pantry, many people in our community would continue to suffer. Thank you to all who came out for the cause, joining in the mission and in the fellowship, and to those who made this tremendous fundraiser a spectacular event!



Welcome to Collinsville!

The following businesses have opened their doors in our great community. We would like to take a moment to welcome them to Collinsville and to thank them for selecting Collinsville as their development location.

- Choice Care Counseling, Inc., 430 Regency Centre
- Professional Transportation Inc., 820 S. Morrison
- Rent Source Inc., 607 Vandalia
- The Egg Roll Guys, 122 North Bluff Road

Stay in Touch With Us

The City of Collinsville is continuing efforts to communicate with the public through social media. We want to keep you informed and we want all City-wide information to be right at our your finger tips.

Teams of employees continuously update the new City website, Facebook, Twitter, CCTV (City of Collinsville TV), and YouTube. In 2011, the City's Twitter page had only 47 followers. Now in early 2015, we can proudly say that number has surged to 691! The City's Facebook page boasts 2,481 page likes - which is fantastic! We'd love to see that number hit 3,000 sometime this year.

Not only do we most frequently communicate through Facebook and Twitter, but we also rely on an email database. This database is managed by the City's Communications Coordinator and is used only for the purpose of keeping the public informed. Many City residents who do not have Facebook and/or Twitter, want to be "in the know" with everything that goes on in our community; from water main breaks and road closures, to holiday hours of operation and press releases. The folks who have registered to be on this email list, receive emails anytime anything relevant happens in town. To be placed on the database, please email Julie at jcheatham@collinsvilleil.org.

We ask that each and every one of you stay connected with us as we promote our great City. There are so many great things that have happened in Collinsville just in the past few years, and we want to keep you informed of these things. It is our duty to keep you informed. If you have a Facebook page or a Twitter account, please follow us. Encourage your friends, family, and co-workers to do the same. Bookmark the City's website to your "favorites" or even change it to your home page. And if you think of it, tune in to CCTV and check out the great programs that run 24/7.

The more you know and the more information you have, the better off we will be as a community. Remember to like the City of Collinsville on Facebook ~ you can find us as **City of Collinsville, Illinois (Official)** and on Twitter as **@CollinsvilleIL**. We look forward to keeping in touch with you!

STAY CONNECTED



Electronic Billing Available Now!

Would you like have to your water bill
sent in an email? Now you can!

Sign up for Electronic Billing and receive
your water bill electronically!

E-bills will arrive on time and save on postage
~ helping the City's efforts to GO GREEN!

To sign up for electronic billing, please email
Neyfit or April in the Water Billing Department:

nfuentes@collinsvilleil.org

-- or --

acalandro@collinsvilleil.org



~ GO GREEN ~
~ GO PAPERLESS ~