

The City Scoop

Happy New Year to All

Happy 2014 to everyone! I am so proud to kick off another year as Mayor of this great City. Many exciting things have been taking place in the community and they will continue through the coming months.

As most City residents have seen, the corner of Vandalia and Clay Street (where the old Bert's Chuckwagon used to be) is being transformed into a stunning urban park. An exquisite brick wall has been erected while unique art and dramatic landscaping will decorate the intersection upon completion. This will add a new dimension of character and charm to the entrance of our Uptown area. We are all very excited to see this project once it is finished!

For the past few years, the City has made great enhancements in communicating with the public; we recognize how important it is to keep our citizens informed. This past November, the City began developing an email database to use on an informational basis. Residents are encouraged to submit their email address to the City's Communications Coordinator - Julie Jackson at, jjackson@collinsvilleil.org. Anyone who provides an email address will receive notifications when there is a boil order, water main break, road closure, press release, etc. It is important to note that these email addresses are used solely for the purpose of sending information from the City of Collinsville, and will not be sold, distributed, or utilized by any third party. The database is growing each day and we look forward to staying in touch with all of you.

It is exciting to start 2014 with a new face in the crowd. Steve Evans, of the Fairview Heights Police Department, is now the Chief of Police for our own Police Department. He accepted this position with us in late November. We are delighted to have Chief Evans join the City staff serving in this leadership role. His near three decades in law enforcement will contribute tremendously to future initiatives the City seeks to accomplish in public safety.



A significant undertaking the community will see come to life in the coming months, is the redevelopment of the historic Apex Building in our Uptown district. The second floor of the building will be converted into five upscale lofts while the main floor will house a high-end sports bar and restaurant. When the lofts are complete, they will boast hardwood floors and granite countertops. The one and two-bedroom lofts will likely rent for \$750-\$1100 per month and are scheduled for completion this spring. The new restaurant that will run on the main level has been described something like the Tavern on Main in Belleville. As a leader in this community, I am thrilled about this kind of growth and expansion. This piece of property has been aggressively marketed for two years; it's awe-inspiring to see it finally come to life!

Our efforts to be the preferred place to live continue into the new year. The 2014-2015 Budget has been adopted and the City's Strategic Plan has also been restructured. City staff is on board and will continue to exhaust every avenue in serving the residents of this great community throughout 2014 and years to come!

*John Miller,
Mayor*

Water Treatment Plant Expansion



At a Special Meeting/Strategic Session of the City Council held on September 23, 2013, it was the consensus of the Council to construct a new Water Treatment Plant. The City has hired Hurst-Rosche Engineers, Inc. as the design engineers for this project. After several site visits and an in-depth evaluation of the existing Plant, they presented the following details to the City Council:

- The existing building (Water Treatment Plant) is approaching 55 years old and showing considerable signs of distress consistent with its age and materials.
- Current plant design lacks full redundancy of major treatment components. Water treatment plants are required by federal and state regulating authorities to be designed with redundant critical major components such that the loss of one major component will not render the entire plant out of service. It is typically recognized that the plant should be designed to produce the nominal rated capacity with the largest critical component out of service. Full redundancy will allow all future maintenance to be done without interrupting plant operations.
- The original design and construction of the building is not adequate to satisfy the current seismic design requirements. The following contains a brief summary of just some of the deficiencies and strengthening methods

necessary to bring the building into compliance as an essential facility:

- ⇒ Concrete walls & columns are not reinforced properly; in addition, significant deterioration was noted in the concrete filter structure.
- ⇒ Roof and floor decking is not strong enough to transmit horizontal forces resulting from a design earthquake.

While these are just a few brief points concerning the safety and design of the current Plant, Hurst-Rosche recommends building a whole new facility, as opposed to renovating, for the following reasons:

- Even after renovating the current Plant, the City is still left with an existing building that is over 55 years old.
- New construction provides for more efficient and economical filtration and operation.
- There will be a potential **30% savings** in backwash water with newer filter technology.
- The estimated annual backwash water savings will be 14,215,500 gallons or \$71,000 per year.
- New construction is expected to take roughly half the time over renovation.
- Construction staging for the renovation option would be far more extensive resulting in the following:
 - ⇒ Longer construction & increased engineering costs.
 - ⇒ Greater change order potential.
 - ⇒ Greater potential for water outages due to numerous shut-downs.
 - ⇒ Multiple City-wide boil orders.
 - ⇒ Major headache and inconvenience for City to operate during construction.

The new plant will also save on operational costs in the long run. Much has changed in the way of water treatment equipment over the last 55 years. Today's design standards are totally different than those from the original plant construction in 1958.

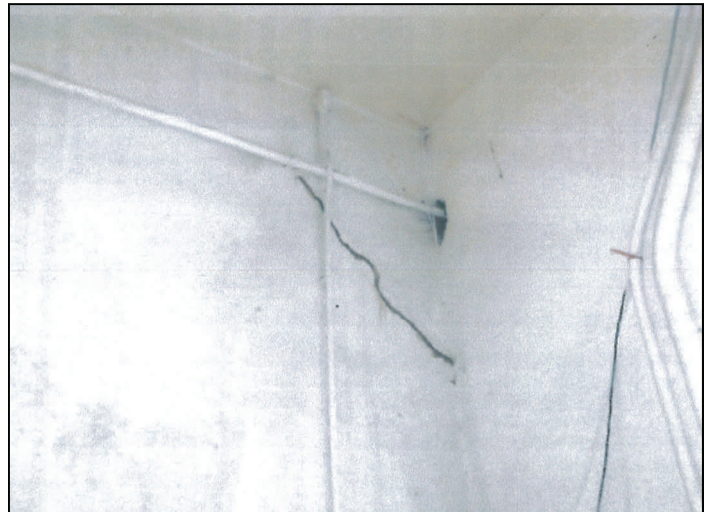
Plant Expansion (cont.)

Updated operational efficiencies through enhanced technology will significantly improve production efficiencies.

Over the past several months, Water & Sewer Director Dennis Kress has initiated and conducted several site visits to the Plant. Community groups such as the Lions Club and Sunrise Kiwanis were interested in and given extensive tours of the 55-year-old facility. "When you are looking to begin a project of this magnitude, it's extremely critical to have support from members of the community," says Kress. "It's not just about the \$16M dollars that will be spent to construct this thing, (new water plant) it's about educating as to why we need it, the good that will come from it, and how it will help Collinsville structurally and economically." Just a few pictures are provided (at right) to show the extreme wear and tear on the plant from 55 years of intense usage - from through wall cracks in filters, to rust and asbestos.

Additional findings also revealed that the Plant does not meet current Illinois Building Codes. During the initial construction of the Plant in 1958, building codes were not as in depth as they are now. To try and rehabilitate the existing Plant to meet these codes would be an immense undertaking; one that will be eliminated once we build a whole new facility from the ground up. The anticipated project schedule is outlined below:

- **February 2014** - Complete Preliminary Design
- **March 2014** - City Approval of Preliminary Design
- **August 2014** - Complete Final Design & IEPA Permit Submittal
- **October 2014** - City Approval of Final Design
- **November 2014** - IEPA Permit Issuance
- **December 2014** - Advertise for bids
- **January 2015** - Bid Opening & City's Notice of Intent to Award
- **February 2015** - IEPA's Execution of Loan Commitment Letter
- **March 2015** - Execute Construction Contract & Issue NTP
- **April 2015** - Start Construction



Plant Expansion (cont.)

Once Plant construction begins in 2015, it is anticipated that in the summer of 2016, the new Water Treatment Plant will be finished and taking on full operations.

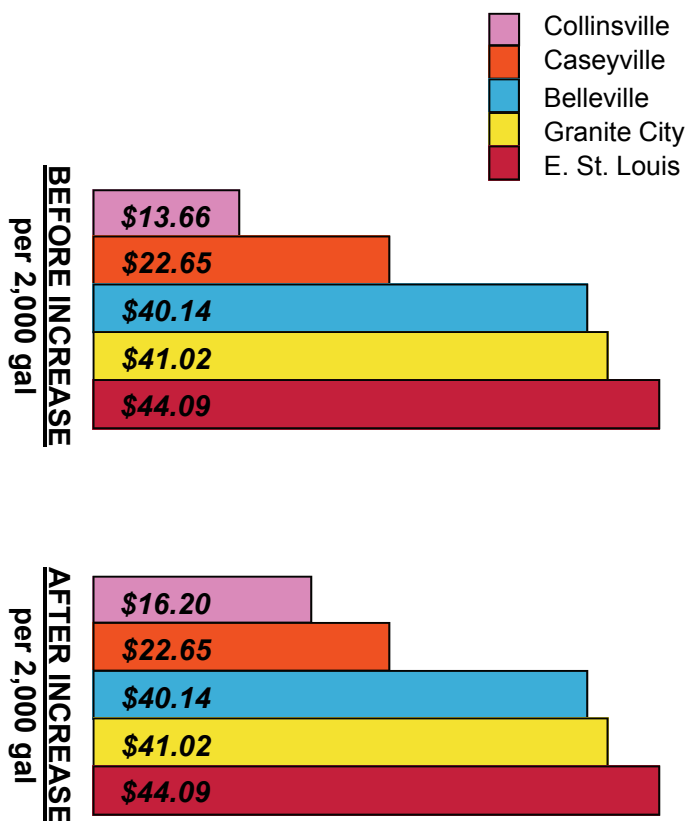
In an effort to help cover the cost for the new Plant, a rate increase - a bit higher than normal - was necessary. Effective January 1, 2014 all Collinsville water customers will notice an increase in their water bills. **PLEASE NOTE** - this increase is on water usage only; it does not pertain to sewer.

City Staff in both the Water and Finance Departments estimate the increase to run steadily around 38%, or \$1.27 per 1,000 gallons used. Director Kress says, "It's important to note that this increase is not a result of budget deficits or anything like that; it is due to the construction of a whole new Water Treatment Plant altogether."

Many residents may be unaware that an increase in water rates would have occurred either way. If the City had chosen to renovate the existing Plant, there would have been a \$1.10 increase per 1,000 gallons. The option to build new, which is what the City Council approved, resulted in \$1.27 per 1,000 gallons - only a \$0.17 difference.

Water usage, on average, is about 2,000 gallons a month. Last year, Collinsville water customers paid \$13.66 for 2,000 gallons of water. After this increase, it will cost \$16.20. The charts included here will help illustrate just how competitive Collinsville's water rates are (even after a 38% increase) compared to other nearby communities.

The City also had the option of purchasing water from an outside company. If this alternative had been chosen, the cost for water would be much higher yet, and here's why. All Collinsville water customers would be responsible for paying for water used in firefighting efforts, water main breaks, sewer line flushing, etc. By supplying and treating our own, there is no additional cost for these types of water uses. Many residents don't realize that the cost of producing our own water is about the same as the wholesale cost from somewhere else. While we understand that no one likes a dollar increase in any type of service, we hope our residents recognize that this one is out of complete necessity.



City Staff has made all the right moves regarding this substantial project. Experts in this field have made certain that all the I's are dotted and all the T's are crossed before moving forward. We are confident in Hurst-Rosche's recommendations and we are confident in what a whole new Water Treatment Plant will do for this community.

This City has reached enormous heights in striving for excellence; to be the preferred place to live and to be responsible stewards of the public tax dollars. The time to start planning for what lies ahead is now. We hope the residents who call Collinsville home will stand by us and support us through this immense undertaking. A 38% rate increase seems extreme to many, but we hope now that any confusion or existing questions regarding the increase and/or the construction of the new Plant have been answered. We look forward to starting this exciting project and updates will be published regularly as progress is made.

Electronics Recycling Fundraiser



**Proceeds benefit
Miner's Theatre**

*Bring items to:
227 W. Main Street
Public Parking lot
across from Spirito's
Italian Market.*

*2nd Friday of each
month; starting in
February 2014
12noon - 6PM*



ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Everything related to a computer or electronic including household batteries, flat-screen televisions, holiday lights and decorations, cell phones, A/V equipment, appliances, and more!!!

CRT (tube) televisions NOT accepted.
Only one (1) computer monitor per tower please.

For more information, please call 618-365-4275

Or visit <http://wecycle-belleville.com/>

Collinsville Firefighter Honored

Article & attached photo courtesy of Roger Starkey - The Metro Independent

When Captain Dusty Katich received a call this spring to request he give a tour of the Collinsville Fire station, he soon discovered that it was no ordinary request. "They said, 'there are two things. they are outside right now and the little boy is blind,'" Katich said.

The little boy is 4-year-old Luke McKeon, of St. Charles, Mo. Luke was born without a right eye, a condition known as Anophthalmia, and with Microphthalmia (an abnormally small eye) in his left eye.

Luke's mom, Collinsville native Eileen McKeon, estimates that he has had 42 surgeries for eye and other conditions. When he was about 3 1/2, the family decided to stop the frequent eye surgeries that had allowed him to see much of his life, but also required him to be under anesthesia frequently. "He has such a sharp mind, we didn't want to take any chances," McKeon said.

The family knew that the surgeries were only a short-term fix and Luke would lose vision at some point. "We thought he would miss his vision, but he just adapted. He is a pretty amazing kid," McKeon said. Luke continues to wear goggles to protect his eye in case another treatment option becomes available in the future.

Katich assumed the role of Captain Stanley during the tour for Luke, his twin sister Katie and their aunt, Kristina Forneris. Captain Stanley is a character McKeon created while telling her son stories of fire departments.

The family came away from the tour impressed with Katich's verbal descriptions, hands-on touch and interactions. Katich was impressed with how the spirited 4-year-old perceived items from the firehouse.

"One of the neat things he thought about the firehouse was how tall the tires on the fire trucks are. I had never seen a kid do that," Katich said. "It was neat seeing things the way he saw them."

After the tour, Katich had been thinking about doing something for Luke, when he saw a news story about Kaitlyn Hall, of Collinsville, who competed in the National Braille Challenge this summer, her second time competing in the event. Katich contacted Hall, who wrote a letter to Luke in Braille.

The letter to Luke was enclosed with a letter to Kristina, explaining that Katich hoped receiving a letter in Braille would help inspire Luke as he learned the writing system. Keeping in character, the letter to Luke was written from Captain Stanley and invited the 4-year-old back to the station to squirt a fire hose.

The letter and Katich's kindness during the tour touched McKeon, who nominated him for the Paul Miller Business Associate of the Month award, given to someone who provides outstanding service.

"He captures all of that human kindness that you look for every day," McKeon said of the December Paul Miller Business Associate of the Month award winner.

At the award ceremony on Dec. 12, the McKeon family presented Katich with a fire hat that reads "Luke's hero, Captain Dusty, also known as Captain Stanley from the Collinsville Fire Department."



Republic Services Announces Recycling

“NAUGHTY & NICE” Lists

For holiday decorations and gift wrappings

What should you do with holiday decorations and used gift wrap this season? Is wrapping paper recyclable? Christmas tree ornaments? Tinsel? Republic Services has its own “naughty and nice” list of recyclable holiday materials.



NAUGHTY ~ NOT RECYCLABLE

- Bubble Wrap
- Metallic Wrapping Paper
- Ribbon & Bows
- Sticky Gift Labels
- Anything on the tree
- Foam Peanuts
- Gift Bags (if laminated, coated, or dyed)

NICE ~ RECYCLABLE

- Gift Boxes
- Gift Bags (if paper)
- Tissue Paper
- Shoe Boxes
- Christmas Trees
- Holiday Cards/Envelopes
- Wrapping Paper (non-metallic)



Ribbons and bows cannot be recycled because they aren't paper products. Christmas trees must be stripped of all decorations (tinsel, lights, bells, ornaments, etc.) before the tree can be mulched or composted.

Republic Services suggests creative and practical ways to reuse items that are not recyclable. For example, use sustainable packing materials when packing and sending gifts. Instead of purchasing new foam peanuts, use shredded newspaper or even popcorn. Foam peanuts are made from polystyrene and are usually not recyclable. If you receive foam peanuts in packages, consider reusing them for later shipping.

For holiday greeting cards, recycle paperboard and paper envelopes, or use them to make a festive gift tag.

More clever ideas for recycling and reusing holiday materials can be found online - simply search “recycling holiday décor” for a variety of websites with some great information.

Get CPR Certified in 2014

Need to get certified in CPR? The City of Collinsville offers full certification courses the first Wednesday of each month at the Station 1 Fire Department. **Please note:** some dates fall on Tuesdays.

Classes cost \$5 per person and run from 6PM - 9PM on the appropriate Wednesday. (These courses are highly recommended, especially for those with small children). The City's instructors cover infant, toddler, and adult CPR as well as choking in each 3-hour session.

Anyone over the age of 10 is encouraged to register. Please call Stacey to put your name on the list; she can be reached by calling **618-346-5200 EXT. 1161**. The schedule for the 2014 year is listed below:



January 8th
March 5th
May 6th
July 1st
September 3rd
November 5th

February 5th
April 2nd
June 3rd
August 6th
October 1st
December 3rd



DID YOU KNOW?!?

If you are 65 or older, you may be eligible for the reduced trash rate.
Instead of paying \$12.71 per month, you will be billed \$9.68 per month.

~ Please call the Water Department at 346-5200 for more details ~
You may press EXT. 1114 or EXT. 1117



Just a Friendly Reminder...



City Hall will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, January 20th
To honor Martin Luther King Day.



Business hours will resume as normal,
From 8:30AM - 5:00PM on
Tuesday, January 21st



FREE same-day
demand response;
Radio dispatched
door-to-door escort
transportation
service.



SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

CITY OF COLLINSVILLE

FREE service within Collinsville City limits
for Senior Citizens 60 years or older
or any disabled residents.

Shuttle runs Monday - Friday
9AM - 4PM

Call 346-5200, Option 2

****Service provided to Collinsville residents ONLY****

City of Collinsville Television



CCTV
- City of Collinsville TV-
Television FOR
Collinsville!

CCTV airs bulletins throughout the day advising citizens of the different events around the City as well as a monthly talk show, *Collinsville Today*, that focuses on those events and how to become involved.

Another program, *Inside City Hall*, provides viewers with information on different services offered to residents from within City Hall. In depth coverage of some of Collinsville's most interesting aspects are explored in our program, *City Spotlight*.

City Council Meetings have always aired on CCTV the day after the meetings and now you can see **ALL** of the City's **Boards and Commission meetings** on the channel!

Please tune in to get updates on items of immediate interest, such as holiday schedules for garbage service, street closings and detours for construction, boil water orders, public safety warnings and MUCH, MUCH more!

Join us on Facebook to view our bulletins and let us know what you'd like to see and check out our channel on youtube, just search for CityofCollinsville.

**CCTV - City of Collinsville Television -
STAY TUNED!**



125 S. Center Street
Collinsville, IL 62234

facebook

You Tube

What to Watch:

City of Collinsville
Television - CCTV

Where to Watch:

- Charter Communications Channel 993
(108.11 for digital flat screen tvs)
- AT&T U-Verse - Ch. 99
- www.collinsvilleil.org

What You'll See:

- *Collinsville Today Show*
- *Inside City Hall Show*
- *City Spotlight Show*
- *City Council Meetings*
- *Board & Commission Meetings*



Tune in for:

INSIDE

CITY HALL

airing at 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

CCTV City of Collinsville Television

