

The City Scoop

A Note from Mayor Miller

Summer is in full swing. Vacations are being taken, family picnics are the norm, and July 4th is only days away. Having said that, I'd like to remind everyone to have a fun, but safe July 4th holiday.

It is important to note that fireworks are illegal inside Collinsville City limits; however, "consumer fireworks" such as sparklers and fountains are allowed. The consumer types of fireworks are generally weaker in explosive power compared to professional displays and include snake or glow worm pellets, smoke devices, party poppers, snappers, trick matches, etc.

Many residents may be unaware that several well-known types of fireworks such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, and Roman candles are wholeheartedly illegal not just in Collinsville, but also in the State of Illinois. I urge you not to stray from the law by purchasing and displaying these kinds of fireworks. Our City is firm in what we do and do not allow each July 4th.

Any other type of firework and/or pyrotechnic display, are strictly prohibited. Anyone caught violating City code will be subject to a fine and confiscation of all illegal fireworks.

Each July 4th the Collinsville Police Department works hard to patrol our community. They want to ensure that our residents are celebrating safely and obeying the law. They are always ready to respond to reports of illegal firework activity and/or other complaints. Similarly, the Fire Department is on-call and prepped to respond as well. Thankfully, there have not been any firework related injuries or fire reports related to fireworks in the last few years! That alone is fantastic news and I hope we can keep up the good work.

July 4th is a special time for friends and families everywhere. It is the true mark of the summer season and the last big weekend before kids go back to school and our lives get hectic again. I personally enjoy this time of year and I hope you all will enjoy the holiday while staying safe. Have a great summer and we will see you all in the next edition of *The City Scoop* in September!

John Miller,
Mayor

City Hall Closed on July 4th



We knew you wouldn't forget,
but here's your friendly reminder
just in case...

City Hall will be **CLOSED** on
Friday, July 4th to honor
Independence Day.

Business hours will resume as
normal on Monday, July 7th.

Streetscape Phase III Update - City Hall

If you have been up to City Hall in the past several weeks, you have noticed our dust. The major reconstruction taking place in front of the building is Phase III of the City's Streetscape program.

This phase will reconfigure the area around City Hall, creating a new, more pedestrian-friendly entrance and will also include streetscape improvements along Center and Church Streets. The streetscape improvements include new handicap accessible sidewalks, curb and gutter replacement, the installation of historic light standards, decorative street signage, street trees and grates, new trash receptacles and stamped brick crosswalks.

Each phase of the Streetscape Project has been and will continue to be paid for though State and Federal Grants that the City has applied for. For example, the City received \$1.25M from the *Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program* (ITEP). This money comes from the Federal Transportation Bill and is prorated to each State. Furthermore, the City received an additional \$250K from the *Green Streets Program*. That is a total of \$1.5M in grant money to fund Phase III of this project.

While the total cost of Phase III is \$1,875,000, that leaves a remaining 20% balance which the City will pay for though TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funds. TIF is the only locally controlled economic development tool available to Illinois communities. It allows municipalities to self-finance redevelopment projects (like the Streetscape program) in an effort to revitalize areas that are essential to the economic well-being of our community.

Upon completion, a more beautiful City Hall will be revealed boasting impressive landscaping in a courtyard-type setting with decorative benches, flagpoles, and charming Uptown lighting. This is just one more proactive approach City staff is taking to beautify our community. We continue to strive for excellence in making Collinsville the preferred place to live and work!



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 thru December
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/>**

World's Largest Catsup Bottle Festival

The 16th Annual Brooks® World's Largest Catsup Bottle® Festival Birthday Party and Car Show will be held on Sunday, July 13th. Come out to the American Legion Post 365 at 1022 Vandalia anytime between 10AM - 5PM.

It's going to be a whole day of great activities and family fun; from vendors and games, to LIVE entertainment and the Little Princess Tomato & Sir Catsup Pageant - there is something for everyone! Oh and by the way, the famous Oscar Mayer Weinermobile will also be there! Trust us, you don't want to sit at home on July 13th.



For more information and for the day's full agenda, you can visit www.catsupbottlefestival.com and click on "event schedule" on the left-hand side. We hope to see you there!

From Post Office to Parking Lot

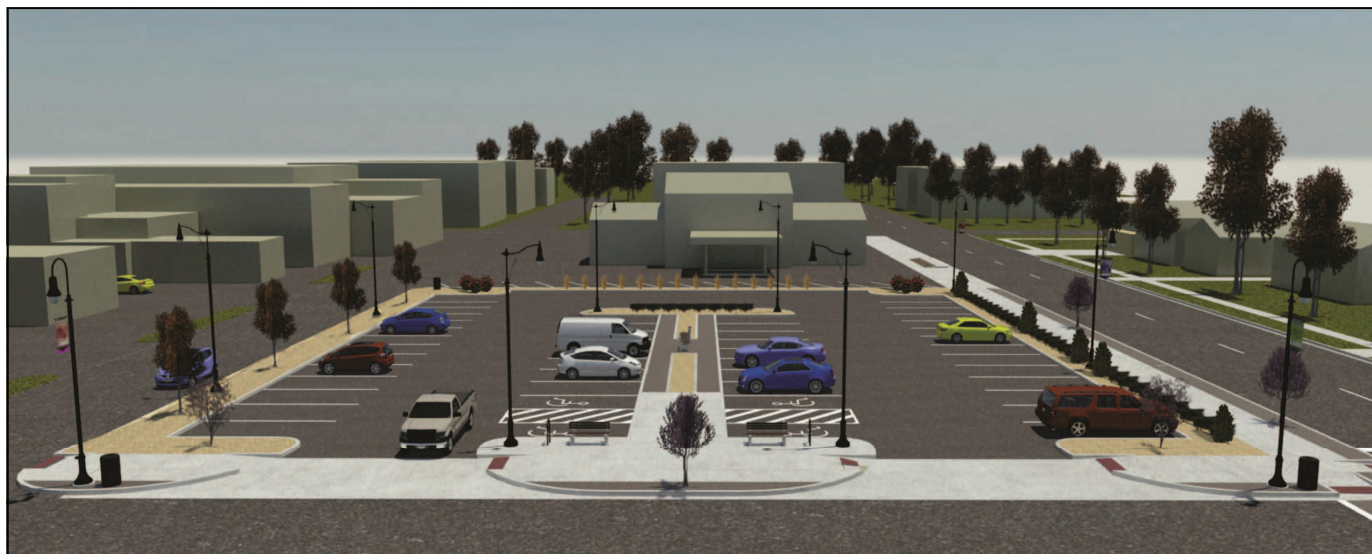
Last August, the City of Collinsville received a petition signed by 28 Main Street business owners urging City officials to purchase the site of the former Post Office. It was their hopes to utilize that space to create a public parking lot. Just a few short months ago, the City purchased the property.

Demolition, performed by the Collinsville Street Department, began the week of June 23rd. Bids for the construction of the new 50-space parking lot were opened on June 20th. The project was awarded to the lowest bidder, Hank's Excavating.

Mayor John Miller is thrilled to see this go through, "This is an exciting opportunity to lessen the demand for parking spaces Uptown. By creating 50 new spaces, we are able to offer a much needed convenience factor to the patrons of City Hall as well as to the businesses in the heart of the Uptown commercial district."

Uptown Coordinator Leah Joyce is pleased that this type of project will assist in the revitalization of the Uptown area, "A new up-to-date parking lot like this will further our efforts in creating a more appealing Main Street for potential new businesses."

The proposed completion date of the new public parking lot is Fall 2014; stay tuned!



A Special Congratulations!

On June 12th, the Collinsville Fire Department (CFD) held a promotional ceremony to honor three staff members. Held at Collinsville Fire Station #1 on Clinton Street, the ceremony was well attended. From City Councilmembers, Mayor John Miller, to other City staff members, and family and friends - they were present to show their support and encouragement during this special time.

Dale Kyrouac (pictured left) has been with the CFD for 22-years and was promoted to serve the City of Collinsville as the Assistant Fire Chief. Tim Rainey (pictured center) has served as a member of the Department for 14-years and was promoted to Captain. Colter Tate (pictured right) has worked as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City for the last 6-years; he was promoted to Lieutenant.

We extend a very special congratulations to these gentlemen and a deep sense of gratitude for all they have done over the years in serving both our Fire Department and our community. Best of luck to them in their new endeavors with the City of Collinsville.



Asst. Fire Chief D. Kyrouac



Captain T. Rainey



Lieutenant C. Tate

INFO. TO KNOW

S. CLINTON BRIDGE - For the next several months, the S. Clinton Bridge will be closed due to complete bridge reconstruction. A detour will remain in place via IL-159 to Brookhaven Drive until further notice.

YARD SALES - As yard sales continue to boom throughout the summer, don't forget to purchase the required \$2.00 permit at City Hall.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - All 2013 audited financial statements are now available to view on the City's website; www.collinsvilleil.org. The goal of these audits is to provide reasonable assurance that the basic financial statements of the City for the 2013 year are free of material misstatement.

ITALIAN FEST PACKETS - This year's Italian Fest is scheduled for September 19th & 20th. All parade, vendor, and pageant application packets are now available at italianfest.net.

YARD OF THE MONTH - The Collinsville Community Appearance Board is accepting nominations for the "Yard of the Month" contest. Any Collinsville residence can be nominated by calling Kim Wasser of the Community Appearance Board at 346-5200, EXT. 1126.

CPR Certification



City of Collinsville

- Get certified in 2014 -
Infant, toddler, and adult CPR & choking

WHEN:

Classes are held the first Wednesday of each
month from 6PM - 9PM



WHERE:

Fire Station 1 ~ 130 S. Clinton Street

WHO CAN ATTEND:

Anyone over the age of 10
(first preference given to Collinsville residents)

\$5.00 per person

Call 346-5200,
EXT. 1145 to register



First Day Scheduled for August 1st



The annual First Day Family Fun Celebration is about a month away! The First Day Celebration is a fun, practical and effective way to get parents involved in their children's education. Collinsville Education Liaison Gary Clark has been working diligently to plan and organize this big day since the conclusion of last year's First Day event. This year's First Day Celebration will be held on Friday, August 1st from 4PM - 7PM at the Gateway Center.

The purpose of the First Day event is to strengthen the relationship between the Unit 10 School District and the City government, all while showcasing everything the City, schools, civic groups, and businesses have to offer residents of Collinsville.

All participating organizations will have tables and interactive activities for families and children of all ages. In addition to the fun, booths will feature educational activities such as disaster preparedness, fitness and nutrition, face-painting and games, to hair cutting and school supply giveaways.

For more information, or if your organization is interested in participating in the 2014 First Day Celebration, please contact Education Liaison Gary Clark at 346-5200, EXT. 1143 or gclark@collinsvilleil.org.

Running for a Cause



Year after year, employees from the Collinsville Police Department (CPD) find ways to give back to our community. Just recently, about 20 runners participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run benefitting the Illinois Special Olympics. This is the 25th time runners have taken on the 3-mile course through our community as a fundraising effort to support members of the Illinois Special Olympics.

A very generous thank you goes out to the employees in our Police Department and others that make an effort to participate in the Torch Run year after year. Because of your support and dedication, this type of public awareness effort transforms communities by inspiring residents to accept and celebrate differences among all people! We are very proud to have such an active, involved CPD!

Contemporary Indian Art Show

A UNIQUE SHOPPING EVENT FEATURING ORIGINAL NATIVE AMERICAN ART



JULY 12TH & JULY 13TH
CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE
9AM - 5PM BOTH DAYS

~ FREE ADMISSION ~



OVER 25 AMERICAN-INDIAN ARTISTS WILL DISPLAY AND SELL THEIR WORKS OF FINE ART, SCULPTURES, JEWELRY, BEADWORK, POTTERY, ETC.

CALL 618.346.5160 FOR MORE INFO.

Coming Soon!

Ruler Foods: By the end of the year, a new discount grocery store has plans to open in the Orchard Shopping Center on Vandalia. The bag-your-own grocer is similar to Aldi's but is owned by Kroger and will primarily stock Kroger branded merchandise.

Reifschneider's Grill and Grape: Last October, Main Street Developers, LLC purchased the historic Apex building located at 100 East Main Street. Reifschneider's Grill and Grape will open their third location on the main level and the developer will construct high-end lofts on the second floor.

Lindenwood University Collinsville Campus: Housed in the Sanford Brown building with plans to open this October, there will be seven classrooms that can hold 20-25 students each. The campus will offer both Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees in a variety of academic fields.

The Mission for Miner's



For several years, the Miner's Institute Foundation has been working diligently toward one purpose - to renovate and reopen the historic Miner's Theatre. But a task of this magnitude doesn't come easily.

Back in May, the Foundation held a benefit concert (Rockin' for the Miner's) at the American Legion and a Trivia Night at the Collinsville Fireman's Hall in June. Both events combined raised over \$6,000 that will go directly toward the renovation! Efforts such as these are just a few of some major fundraisers to help with the restoration and hopeful reopening of the theatre.

You can follow the progress and remain up-to-date on the restoration at www.facebook.com, Miner's Theatre.

Yard of the Month Program in Full Swing

The purpose of the Yard of the Month (YOM) Program is to recognize Collinsville residents who devote their time improving and maintaining immaculate landscaping and yards. Nominated yards are judged by members of the City's all-volunteer Community Appearance Board, who select a first place winner and a runner-up.

The Collinsville Community Appearance Board is a volunteer organization that is responsible for various initiatives relating to the beautification of the City. One of their many administered efforts is the Yard of the Month Program.

This YOM Program runs from May to October each year. Monthly first place award recipients are recognized at televised City Council Meetings, on the City's website, www.collinsvilleil.org, here in *The City Scoop*, on City of Collinsville Television (Charter channel 993, AT&T U-Verse channel 99), and various other media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter.

While the Yard of the Month has been very successful in the past, the Community Appearance Board tweaked the program a few years back to further incentivize participation.

Several Collinsville businesses make generous monetary contributions to the Board which allows monthly winners to receive gift cards to sponsoring businesses. \$50 gift cards to Creekside Gardens are awarded to 1st Place winners and \$20 gift cards to Rural King go to the runners-up.

Additionally, every Fall, visitors to the City's website will be asked to cast their vote for their favorite yard of the six monthly winners. The yard with the most votes will be recognized as Collinsville's Yard of the Year. The Yard of the Year winner will be awarded a gift card and recognized at a community event.

Nominations for the Yard of the Month program are still being sought and can be submitted through the City website:

www.collinsvilleil.org/yardofthemoth.

2014 YOM Sponsors



721 Johnson Hill Road
618.344.7054



100 E. Clay Street
618.345.1121



Brion (Barney) Brown
618.363.8634



9525 Collinsville Road
618.344.0105



1049 Collinsville Crossing
618.344.9022



1674 N. Bluff Road
618.344.8841

Yard of the Month Winner ~ May 2014

Brian & Marsha Brueggemann • 15 Ramsgate



Yard of the Month Winner ~ June 2014

Ron & Jennifer Bay • 802 Greenwood

