



City Scoop

The City of Collinsville's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We've seen a lot of changes in 2018--new businesses, new City departments, and new community events--and we're ready to take on more in 2019.

Collinsville has enjoyed great community events like Italian Fest and Horseradish Festival for years, and we've seen tremendous success with the more recent additions of Smokin' on Main and the Christmas at the Collins House Electric Light Up Parade. In keeping with these successes, we're excited to start the summer with a new event. This Memorial Day weekend, come enjoy live music, children's activities, and fireworks outside the water park in Eastport Plaza.

We've also welcomed quite a few new businesses in the past year. Uptown Collinsville is growing at an impressive rate with several new shops and the opening of Old Herald Brewery and Who Dat's Southern Food. We look forward to adding Mungo's to the lineup of great restaurants on Main Street this year.

Collinsville isn't just seeing restaurants and retail stores open. We're now home to the new Ameren Illinois headquarters, which employs several hundred corporate staff members. FCB will also be locating their corporate headquarters in Collinsville at the old Shop 'n Save building on Vandalia.

Complementing the new businesses in Collinsville are the City's newest departments, Gateway Center and *Mayor John Miller* Parks & Recreation. With these departments, we have new opportunities to bring more visitors here--visitors who will have great choices for shopping, dining, and recreation. We're starting to see those efforts pay off with the financial success of Gateway Center this year, the improvements we're making in the parks, and the great events and recreation opportunities throughout the City.



Mayor John Miller

Parks & Recreation

The City's Parks & Recreation Department has big plans for 2019. Director Caughran secured more grant funding to continue improving the City's parks. Glidden Park will be receiving an extensive overhaul thanks to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources OSLAD grant. Preliminary plans for improving the park include restoring the hockey rink, improving the interior roadway and parking area, upgrading the shelter and restrooms, and repurposing some of the tennis courts for pickleball.

Woodland Park improvements will continue this year with the help of grant funding. Metro East Park & Recreation District funds will be used to replace all of the existing Woodland Park shelters and the amphitheater. The Lions Playground is planned to be replaced with the help of Mad-

(continued on p. 3)



COLLINSVILLE
ILLINOIS

**MEMORIAL DAY
FIREWORKS CELEBRATION**

COLLINSVILLE AQUA PARK - EASTPORT PLAZA
Sunday May 26, 2019 - 4:00 - 9:00pm

*Featuring food, drinks, live music, children's activities, and more!
Interested in being a sponsor, vendor, or volunteer? Contact the
Parks & Recreation Department at 618-346-7529.*

City Council Meetings

City Council Meetings are held at 6:30pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month (except holidays) at City Hall. The public is welcome to attend and every meeting provides an opportunity for public comments. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

- » March 25
- » April 8
- » April 22
- » May 13
- » May 28 (Tuesday)
- » June 10
- » June 24
- » July 8
- » July 22

Meeting agendas and changes to the regular meeting schedule are posted at City Hall and on the City's website. Changes to the schedule are also on Public Access TV (Charter 993/AT&T 99).

Planning Commission

The City's Planning Commission reviews new developments and makes recommendations to the City Council for final approval of plans. Planning Commission meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:00pm on the second Thursday of each month at City Hall. Meeting agendas are posted at City Hall and on the City's website.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

The City's new Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission held its first meeting on March 19 at the Activity Center (10 Gateway Dr.) at 6:00pm. Meetings are open to the public and will be held on the third Tuesday of each month.



Development News



Ameren Illinois Headquarters

- » We've seen quite a few new developments in Collinsville over the past year:
 - » Electrify America installed an electric vehicle charging station in the Collinsville Crossings Walmart parking lot.
 - » Head Uptown to Monster Vinyl for your favorite vintage vinyl, music, movies, collectibles, and more!
- » Underground Dojo hobby shop and Lux Boutique resale clothing store breathe new life into the old Ashmann Pharmacy building.
- » Ameren Illinois opened its new 48,000 sq. ft. headquarters with 350 employees at 10 Executive Drive
- » Who Dat's Southern Food brought some new flavor to Main St.
- » The Apex building at 100 E. Main St. opened its luxury lofts.
- » Old Herald Brewery opened its full-service restaurant, micro-brewery, and distillery producing their own Ardent Spirits brand. The business is only the second licensed brewery-distillery in Illinois.



Old Herald Brewery celebrated its grand opening

And here's a peek at what on the horizon:

- » McDill's plans to construct a new, larger restaurant and expanded parking area at its current location.
- » Construction of the MotoMart at Beltline & Vandalia is planned to begin this spring.
- » The much-anticipated Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen is planning to open in late spring.



Rendering of the plans for the new McDill's



Look for the new Popeye's on Rte. 157 this spring

- » FCB will be consolidating and relocating their corporate offices to Collinsville, bringing 70-100 new jobs to the local market. FCB plans to retrofit the former Shop 'n Save building on Vandalia as the new home for their corporate employees.
- » Uptown Collinsville, home to the Italian Fest, will now also be home to a new restaurant serving fresh, hand-made Italian-American dishes! Mun-go's is expected to open this spring.

THE EASTER BUNNY MAKES HOME VISITS!



Hip Hip Hooray...Easter's On Its Way

Saturday, April 13 • 10am-12pm • 1pm-3pm

First child: RES \$22/NR \$33

Each additional child: RES \$7/NR \$11

Each registered participant will have the opportunity to have his/her picture taken with the Bunny and receive a special bunny treat. Activity #5044.



Register online: www.collinsvilleil.org/parks-rec-events

Upcoming Events

We have lots of great events coming up! Here's a sneak peek at some of our spring and summer events.

- » **April 13 - Bunny Visits:** The Easter bunny will visit your home for pictures and a treat. Advanced registration required.
- » **April 13 - Adult Egg Hunt:** Kick off your spring with our Adults Only Egg Hunt! The eggs will be filled with an assortment of items, including raffle tickets for special prizes. Bring a photo ID and flashlight, and dress for the weather. Advanced registration strongly encouraged.
- » **May 4 - Spring Farm Day:** Join us for our annual Spring Farm Day celebration where we usher in the return of spring - country style! There will be hayrides, games, food, music, and crafts vendors.
- » **May 26 - Memorial Day Block Party & Fireworks:** Our first annual block party will start your summer with a bang! Enjoy live music, food, games, and more from 4:30-9:00pm. Fireworks start at 8:30pm.
- » **June 15 & 22 - Movies on Main:** Head to Uptown Collinsville for a FREE, fun, family-friendly outdoor event! June 15: Mary Poppins Returns. June 22: Hotel Transylvania 3. Movies start at dusk at the corner of Main St. and Seminary St. Follow our Facebook page @CollinsvilleParksandRec for more Movies on Main dates.

June 7-8, 2019
Uptown Collinsville



Parks & Rec (from p. 1)

ison County PEP Grant funds. Additionally, the Schnucks Memorial Park playground will be replaced through a PlayCore grant and Willoughby Farm is planning for the remediation of paddock 3 and an additional solar array on the loafing barn.

The Department is also launching plenty of recreation programs for the community, including baseball, karate, pony club, archery, and dance. Summer is just around the corner, and that means summer camp and swimming seasons will be here soon. Season passes for the water park and summer camp registration are available now.

To register for summer camp, purchase water park season passes, or view a complete list of programs and activities, visit our new online registration website:

www.collinsvilleil.org/parks-rec-events.

Summer Camps

All rates are per week • Drop-off & pick-up is at the Activity Center at 10 Gateway Dr.

KINDERGARTEN

9am-6pm

Pick-up 3pm-6pm

Wed. Field Trips

Mon. - Fri.:

Res. \$90 • NR \$135

M/W/F:

Res. \$84 • NR \$126

1ST-4TH GRADE

9am-6pm

Pick-up 3pm-6pm

Wed. Field Trips

Mon. - Fri.:

Res. \$100 • NR \$150

M/W/F:

Res. \$90 • NR \$135

5TH-6TH GRADE

9am-6pm

Pick-up 5pm-6pm

2 Field Trips a week

Mon. - Fri.:

Res. \$100 • NR \$150

(5 day option only)

EARLY CARE

(all ages)

7am-9am

Mon.-Fri.:

Res. \$20 • NR \$30

M/W/F:

Res. \$18 • NR \$27

Register online at www.collinsvilleil.org • 618-346-7529 • criley@collinsvilleil.org



Spring Farm Day
May 4 • 10am-3pm



Recreational Burning

With spring quickly approaching, the Collinsville Fire Department wants to remind everyone of the following guidelines for recreational burning.

- » Keep fires a safe distance from any combustibles
- » Fires should not take place during windy or drought conditions
- » Fires should never be left unattended
- » A means to extinguish the fire should be readily available
- » Fires must be contained in a fire pit
- » Burning leaves, trash, and other items listed below is prohibited

City Burn Ordinance

Sec. 8.16.010.

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. Have a fun and safe spring season!

Welcome to Our New Firefighters

Collinsville Fire Department hires six firefighters thanks to Staffing for Adequate Fire And Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

On February 25, the Fire Department welcomed 6 new probationary firefighters. One fills a vacancy due to a recent resignation, and 5 are partially funded by a \$982,138 grant from Homeland Security & FEMA.

The SAFER Grant was created to provide funding directly to Fire Departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" Firefighters available in their communities. The goal of the SAFER Grant Program is to enhance local Fire Departments' ability to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association.

Collinsville was one of 14 recipients in Illinois to receive funds to support the wages of 5 additional firefighters over the next 3 years. The grant pays 75% the first 2 years, and 25% the third year. Congressmen Rodney Davis and John Shimkus assisted by providing letters of support.

The addition of these 6 Firefighters, along with the 3 that were hired in August 2018, increases the number of Firefighter/Paramedics in the Department to 36, bringing the Department much closer to national standards.

In another positive move, Firefighters Local 2625 recently approved an agreement to work additional duty hours in order to increase the number of Firefighters on duty at all times. Minimum staffing has increased to 8 Firefighters on duty; 4 at each station. The addition of these new hires, coupled with the increased hours, will increase the chances of having more Firefighters respond to the scene of a fire, increasing safety and the preservation of life and property within the entire Collinsville Fire District.



Hydrant Testing Begins in April

According to the Illinois Fire Hydrant Act 425 ILCS 20, "No object shall be constructed, maintained or installed within 48 inches of a fire hydrant. It shall be unlawful to install, maintain, construct or enlarge any barriers, trees, bushes, walls, or other obstacles which may hide or impede the use of a fire hydrant."

Residents with obstructed hydrants will receive a letter from the Fire Department and will have 30 days to provide clear access to the hydrant. Watch the Fire Department's Facebook page for details and the hydrant testing schedule.

Did you know?

The City council voted to remove the \$2 permit fee for all Yard & Garage Sale events in the City! A permit is still required to host an event, but the processing is on us! Why do you still need a permit? To help us help you by sharing your event on our website so interested shoppers can find you!



Active Duty
Military
Discount:
Receive Child/
Senior rates!



Season Passes Now Available! 2019 Water Park Season

Open Daily 12-7pm*
Opening Day: Saturday, May 25, 2019
Closing Day: Monday, September 2, 2019

	Daily Pass		Reduced Hours*		Season Pass	
	Res	N/R	Res	N/R	Res	N/R
Child (3-12)	\$8	\$12	\$4	\$6	\$80	\$120
Adult (13-59)	\$10	\$15	\$5	\$7	\$100	\$150
Senior (60+)	\$8	\$12	\$4	\$6	\$80	\$120
Family Starter Pack (2 members)					\$200	\$250
Additional Family Member					\$50	\$50

10 Visit Punch Card: Res \$75 • N/R \$112

Group Rates (20 or more): Res. \$6/ea. • N/R: \$9/ea.

*Reduced Hours of 4-7pm on days when Unit 10 Schools are in session

Gateway Center

Gateway Center's first quarter has been busy! In January, we had the 26th Annual Let's Go Fishing Show that draws a crowd of over 9,000 to Collinsville. We also hosted the eSports Tournament Ultimate Gaming Championships Halo Classic 3 that attracted over 1,000 regional, national, and international players and spectators, as well as several other January events. The busy season kept going into February as Gateway Center welcomed the St. Louis Woodworking Show, a unique event that draws a crowd of nearly 5,000 people that enjoy an outlet for their passion through tools, education, and a unique sense of community for woodworkers. Also in February, the 2019 Pokemon Regional Championships was an exciting event that drew an all ages crowd of approximately 1,500. Pokemon Trading Card players and video game players competed for \$50,000 in scholarships and prizes. In March, we are hosting the International Gem & Jewelry Show and the Daddy Daughter Dance that Parks & Recreation sponsors. A repeat convention called Creating Keepsakes Scrapbooking Convention returns in April. The first quarter is always the busiest with its quantity of back-to-back, large events. The staff enjoys welcoming every client, attendee, and exhibitor to Gateway Center and to Collinsville. Seeing the new Free Hospitality Shuttle connecting event attendees and hotel guests from Eastport Plaza to other areas of Collinsville is very exciting!

Since Gateway Center joined the City in May, 2018, the financial impact has been very positive:

Gateway Center Revenues increased	\$1,756,992
Cost Savings related to City Budget	\$1,045,650
Total Positive Cash Impact to the City	\$2,802,645
Total Gateway Center Expenditures	(\$2,512,651)
Net Gateway Center Positive Impact	+\$289,994

Gateway Center Events

There is a lot going on at Gateway Center! Mark your calendars and get ready to enjoy these terrific events:

- Mar. 22-24 International Gem & Jewelry Show
- Mar. 31 Anderson Hospital Baby Fair
- Apr. 3 Collinsville Chamber of Commerce Networking Lunch
- Apr. 5-6 Creating Keepsakes Scrapbooking Convention
- Apr. 9 Collinsville Area Women's Connection
- Apr. 21 Living the Word Easter Celebration
- May 31- Jun. 2 Diecon

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



Water Treatment Plant

The New Water Treatment Plant is nearing completion. The \$20 million, 20 month construction project is slightly behind schedule due to the extremely wet fall and winter. At the time of print, the Water Plant Staff, Manufacturer Representatives, Consultants, and the General Contractor are working together to integrate all of the equipment and various process components of the treatment process to produce the safe, high quality water that our community has grown accustomed to and expects. The New Water Plant is expected to go on line in the next couple of weeks. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled upon the completion of the pending site work.

Addressing the Potholes

With the long drawn out winter, our city streets are showing the signs of just how rough this winter has been. The numerous freeze and thaw cycles that we have experienced over the past four months have taken a toll on the road surfaces. Potholes seem to appear out of nowhere in otherwise perfectly smooth streets, causing havoc to tires and vehicle alignments. The City's Street Department regularly sends out crews to battle the potholes throughout the city. City staff work hard to locate and repair the potholes, but citizens can also help by calling the Public Works Department to report potholes while they are small, before they cause damage. To report a pothole, please contact the Street Department at (618) 346-5214.

Occupancy Permit Program

The City of Collinsville wants to ensure that all residential and commercial properties are safe, maintained, and meet the minimum building code safety standards. To accomplish this goal, the City has enacted the Residential and Commercial Occupancy Permit Program. Due to the aging housing stock in Collinsville, building safety issues are becoming more prevalent. The primary purpose of the Occupancy Permit Program is to address and correct these issues for the safety of our residents.

Occupancy permit programs are also critical in stabilizing and improving property conditions for our neighborhoods. Without this program, it is difficult for the City to proactively address property maintenance issues and the time from notification to correction can be quite lengthy due to legal requirements. With the Occupancy Permit Program, the City will be able to promptly address property maintenance issues and quickly have them remedied. Additionally, improving the safety and condition of properties in the community is expected to result in increased property values over time. Residential Occupancy Permits are valid for 2 years. Commercial Occupancy Permits are valid for 1 – 2 years, depending on specific features of the property.

- » Residential Rental Occupancy Permit Program: Began Sept. 1, 2018
- » Residential Change of Ownership Occupancy Permit Program: Began December 1, 2018
- » Commercial Occupancy Permit Program: Began Jan. 1, 2019

The City is committed to making this process as seamless as possible for the community. Details and forms, are available on our website at www.collinsvilleil.org/residential-and-commercial-occupancy-permits-program or selecting "Occupancy Program" from the menu on the City's home page. Questions can be directed to the Community Development Department by calling (618) 346-5200 and selecting Option 3, Building & Zoning.

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 Criteria 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 2018 - March 2019

<i>Low income applicants only:</i>	
Family Size	Max Income
1	\$43,050
2	\$49,200
3	\$55,350
4	\$61,450
5	\$66,400
6	\$71,300
7	\$76,200
8	\$81,150

Applications must be submitted online at www.collinsvilleil.org/utilitytaxrebate by May 31, 2019. Applications can be submitted from home, however, if you are unable to complete the application yourself, we can help. If you have questions about the rebate, please call 618-346-5200 x1186.



Youth Police Academy

During the summer of 2018, the Collinsville Police Department hosted our first Youth Police Academy (YPA). While YPA's are not a new concept in the United States, they have become a growing trend within the Metro-East law enforcement community. When we began this journey of creating a Youth Police Academy, we set out on a quest to accomplish three simple objectives:

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

The inaugural event was so successful we have decided to extend the 2019 Academy an additional week. This will allow us to expand programs to provide participants an even more impactful experience.

Open to Collinsville youth ages 13-17, the Academy introduces participants to the field of law enforcement and provides an opportunity for youth and police officers to connect. The Academy includes structured activities designed to highlight four main principles: team work, leadership, communication, and problem solving/conflict resolution. Students accepted into the program are able to learn about multiple topics and issues in the field of law enforcement in a fun, friendly, and hands-on environment taught by the men and women of the Collinsville Police Department.

Some of the topics included in the curriculum include:

- » Physical Fitness Training
- » Flag Etiquette
- » Honor Guard
- » Drug Awareness
- » ILEAS/SWAT Demonstration
- » K-9
- » Money Management Skills
- » CPR
- » Police Department Tour
- » Cyber Safety

If your son or daughter, or someone else you may know might be interested in attending our 2nd Annual Youth Police Academy, keep an eye on our social media pages (Facebook & Twitter) for further announcements and registration information coming in late March, 2019. If you have further questions feel free to contact the Administrative Assistant to the Chief, Teresa May by phone (618-344-2131, ext. 5426) or email (tmay@collinsvilleil.org.)

New Child Car Seat Law

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, children traveling in Illinois must ride in a rear-facing car seat until age 2.

What changed about the law?

- » The new law requires that children under the age of two be transported in a rear-facing child restraint unless the child weighs 40+ lbs. or is 40+ in. tall.

Why did this law change?

- » Numerous crash test studies show that rear-facing children are less likely to suffer serious injury than if forward-facing.
- » The violent forces of a crash are spread across the back of the car seat's hard shell when rear-facing, as opposed to the child's head, neck, and spine when forward-facing.
- » A rear-facing car seat with a harness will cradle and slow down the body.
- » Forward-facing children are more likely to sustain leg injuries than rear-facing children because they often collide with the vehicle seat in front of them.

How will they fit?

- » Car seat manufacturers have advanced design to allow for extended rear-facing weight/height limits.
- » In the event of a crash, a car seat will pull away from the vehicle seat, and the child's legs will tuck into their body.
- » A car seat "fits" as long as the child is within the car seat manufacturer's recommended height and weight range (identified on labels) and the top of their head is within one inch of the top of the car seat.

***** COLLINSVILLE *****

**FARMER'S
MARKET
ON MAIN**

NEXT TO THE COLLINS HOUSE



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



City Scoop

The City of Collinsville's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2019

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
Parks & Recreation: 346-7529

Police Department: 344-2131
Fire Department: 346-5022
Gateway Center: 345-8998