



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY

Your Source for City of Columbia News and Events

Spring /2023



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## Major Projects This Quarter

### Valmeyer Road Reconstruction Project

The construction bid for the Valmeyer Road Reconstruction Project has been awarded to DMS Contracting, Inc. The project will reconstruct pavement from the Valmeyer Brige to the FCB Bank entrance, remove and resurface pavement from the FCB Bank entrance to IL Route 3. The project also includes a new box culvert, storm sewer, curb and gutter. Project construction is expected to begin this spring and will take 3 to 4 months to complete. Motorists are cautioned to watch for detours and lane closures while the construction work is ongoing. We encourage you to check thecity website [Columbiaillinois.com](http://Columbiaillinois.com) as well as the City of Columbia Favebook page for detours and updates on the project.

### GM&O Connector Trail Project

The GM&O Connector Trail Project is anticipated to bid in late April. The project consists of constructing an asphalt trail from Cherry Street to Centerville Road. The trail will also be connected to Main street via sidewalk.

## Public Safety Open House

The Columbia Police, EMS and Fire Departments invite all residents to attend the annual Public Safety Open House on Wednesday, May 10th from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. This event is free to the public.

Bring the whole family to the Columbia Public Safety Complex at 1020 N. Main Street for this fun and educational event. Enjoy an evening full of safety information, activities and demonstrations by Columbia's first responders.

Participants can check out the police, fire and EMS equipment and vehicles, get important fire safety and crime prevention information and even meet Safety Pup! Hot dogs and chips available at no cost while supplies last.



## Mayor's Message



Mayor Bob Hill

Spring is a hopeful season. It brings transformation and change. It is known to boost moods leaving us with a joyful feeling about where we are and what is to come. Spring is the perfect time for Columbia to experience freedom from Springfield's regulations and constraints. Columbia is growing and our elected officials are in place to make sure your voices are heard. Our April election provides an opportunity for hope and transformation for Columbia with the choice to vote on Home Rule.

As the weather warms and daylight hours extend we will continue capital improvements around Columbia including the Valmeyer Road Reconstruction Project and GM&O Connector Trail Project. A huge thank you goes out to our engineering and inspection Department, Department of Public Works, Hank's Excavating and Landscaping, and our citizens for the amazing work and cooperation to complete Phase 1 of the Centerville Road Reconstruction Project.

As always we are filling up the calendar with exciting events so be sure to check them out and add them to your calendar. We encourage our residents to shop and dine local supporting our businesses, providing jobs and increasing our tax revenue. Get out and enjoy the wonderful outdoor spaces our businesses work to provide as the weather warms up. The easiest way to help keep Columbia Rocking-n-Rolling is to invite others into our amazing restaurants, boutiques and businesses.

Having open communications is important and something I care very deeply about. You should always be able to reach out to your elected officials and ask questions about what is happening in your city.

On behalf of everyone at City Hall, best wishes this spring. We hope you enjoy the season with family and friends.

# Distracted Driving

## Stay Focused this Spring

**D**istracted Driving was only a non-moving violation offense until recently. Newly passed laws reclassify it as a moving violation and stiffen penalties to provide automatic driver's license suspension after three moving violations.



Traffic crashes are rarely random occurrences. Rather, they are often caused by driver behavior. Distracted driving is a major cause of traffic crashes. The top five distracted driving behaviors are:

1. General distraction or being "lost in thought."
2. Cell phone or electronic device usage such as texting, emailing or scrolling through social media.
3. Distraction by other passengers, pets or unsecured objects in the vehicle.
4. Reaching for items like temperature controls, in-dash electronics or sunglasses.
5. Eating or drinking behind the wheel.

Remember to stay focused on the roadway to ensure that you, your passengers and other drivers reach their destinations safely.

## Yard Waste Pickup

March 1 - November 29

Curbside yard waste removal takes place every Tuesday between March 1 and November 29, 2023. Please set biodegradable yard waste bags out at the curb by 6:00 a.m. One Reliable Sanitation sticker is needed for each bag. Stickers can be purchased at Columbia's Ace Hardware or the City Clerk's office.

## Welcome to Columbia's New Businesses!

**Celina Nails**  
207 N. Main Street  
Basement

**Mr. BBQ Bar & Grill**  
1280 Columbia Center

**Holloran Insurance & Financial Services**  
100 Veterans Parkway

**Volmert Law Office**  
1000 Eleven South  
Suite 3G

**Miranda Sutton Beauty**  
207 N. Main Street  
Suite 110B



# City-Wide Yard Sale

## Register your Yard Sale

Planning to have a yard sale during the city-wide yard sale? This year's event will be held on April 21 & 22. Or, maybe you want to plan your sale for later this year? Here's what you'll need to know:

- Visit [www.columbiailinois.com/yardsales](http://www.columbiailinois.com/yardsales) to register your sale on the City's online portal at least five days before the date of your sale. Shoppers will then be able to view your sale details with the same link.
- No more than two yard signs may be placed at the sale location and the Sign Code prohibits posting sale signs elsewhere in town.
- Each residence is limited to three yard sales per year, including participation in the city-wide yard sale.





Library Card

YOU PAID FOR IT  
CLAIM IT!

If you live in Columbia City limits your pre-paid Library card gets you:

- Magazine Subscriptions
- Nintendo Switch Games
- Pickleball Sets
- E-Audio Books
- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Board Games
- Newspapers
- Kindle Books
- TV Shows
- And so much more!

## Columbia Home Rule Referendum



GET THE FACTS.  
GET OUT & VOTE.

[Columbiailinois.com/homerule](http://Columbiailinois.com/homerule)

# Backstoppers Hot Rods for Heroes

## Benefit Car Show



Spring is a great time to get out and enjoy the weather around Columbia, especially this year! Columbia Police Department and Monroe County Backstoppers have partnered to present the **Hot Rods for Heroes** benefit car show on Sunday, June 11th from 9:00 am-noon in downtown Columbia.

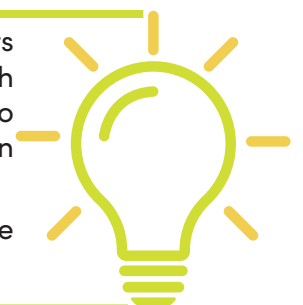
This joint event will offer loads of fun for car enthusiasts at just \$20 per ticket. Ticket proceeds will benefit Backstoppers, to provide ongoing financial assistance and support to spouses and dependent children of first responders who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Bring your family to Main Street between Whiteside and Cherry Street on June 11th. The first 150 entrants receive Dash Plaques. Awards will be presented to the Top 20 participants, plus the winners of 10 specialty awards categories.

## Did you know?

The City offers paperless billing and direct debit with no extra costs associated? When you sign up for paperless billing, you are provided with your bill the same day it's generated! No more waiting for the mail to come or wondering if your neighbor received your bill instead of you. Sign up for paperless billing by visiting

[www.municipalonlinepayments.com/columbiail](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/columbiail) or call the Clerk's office at 618-281-7144 ext. 100.





City of Columbia  
 208 S. Rapp Avenue  
 P.O. Box 467  
 Columbia, IL 62236

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 St. Louis, MO



## Upcoming Events & Services

<p><b>March 18</b></p>	<p><b>Shenanigans on Main Street</b>            Enjoy games and activities at participating businesses.  <i>Historic Main Street Columbia 1:00 - 4:00 pm</i></p>	 <p><b>HOURS</b>            Mon - Thurs: 9 am - 8 pm            Fri: 9 am - 5 pm            Sat: 9 am - 4 pm  <b>Phone (618) 281-4237</b></p>
<p><b>March 25</b></p>	<p><b>Early Voting at City Hall</b>  <i>9:00 am - Noon at 208 S. Rapp Ave.</i></p>	
<p><b>April 4</b></p>	<p><b>Election Day</b>            Get out and vote at your polling place.</p>	<p><b>Chair Yoga with Lisa Fox (Adult)</b>            Following Saturdays: 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, 5/27  <i>at 10:00 am</i></p>
<p><b>April 14</b></p>	<p><b>Rotten Egg Hunt (Adults only Easter egg hunt in the dark)</b>            Tickets at <a href="http://mymainstreetcolumbia.com">mymainstreetcolumbia.com</a>  <i>Bolm-Schuhkraft Park 6:30 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Benefits for Veterans and Their Surviving Spouses:</b>            Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30 pm</p>
<p><b>April 21 &amp; 22</b></p>	<p><b>City-Wide Yard Sale</b>            See <a href="http://www.columbiaillinois.com">www.columbiaillinois.com</a> to register your yard sale or view the city-wide sale directory.</p>	<p><b>Spring Crafts:</b> Wednesday March 29th 3-6 yrs: 4:00 p.m. &amp; 7-10 yrs: 5:30 pm</p>
<p><b>May 10</b></p>	<p><b>Public Safety Open House</b>            Meet first responders, demonstrations, safety/wellness info.  <i>Public Safety Complex 1020 N. Main 4:30 - 7:00 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Jigsaw Puzzle Contest (Teen/Adult)</b>            Saturday, April 1st at 9:30 am</p>
<p><b>June 25</b></p>	<p><b>Music at Metter</b>            Featuring the Waterloo German Band. Bring your own lawn chairs. Enjoy Turner Hall brats &amp; Sister Cities strudel!  <i>Metter Park. 6:00 - 8:00 pm</i></p>	<p><b>First Aid &amp; CPR Certification Training (12+yrs)</b>            Saturday, April 29. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>
	<p><b>Details at <a href="http://www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar">www.columbiaillinois.com/citycalendar</a> or call (618) 281-7144</b></p>	<p><b>Safe-Sitter@Essentials with CPR</b>            Saturday, May 13 9:00 am - 4:00 pm</p>
		<p><b>Summer Reading Kickoff &amp; Registration:</b>            "The Pirate Who Didn't Want to be a Pirate" performed by Circus Kaput            Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am &amp; 1:00 pm in Metter Park</p> <p>For event details and registration, call or visit <a href="http://www.columbiaillinois.com">www.columbiaillinois.com</a></p>