



# City Scoop

The City of Collinsville's Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2019

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

What a great year for Collinsville! We've seen even more great events, more new businesses, and more excitement about our community.

Collinsville is renowned for its local events and this year's events have been immensely successful. The community support for the first annual Memorial Day Fireworks Celebration was spectacular. We look forward to making the event a staple of the Collinsville community. We saw fantastic turnouts for the Horseradish Festival and the 3rd annual Smokin' on Main BBQ Competition, and Italian Fest and the Christmas at the Collins House Electric Light-Up Parade are quickly approaching. Not only are these events a great way for families to spend time together, they

also provide an excellent economic boost for our City.

To provide even more opportunities for guests to visit, shop, and stay in Collinsville, we're making a few more improvements. Gateway Center's Conference Wing is currently under renovation to give it a refreshed look and built-in technology upgrades that will draw more clients looking for meeting space. The new Hospitality Shuttle that runs Friday and Saturday evenings provides the opportunity for guests of Gateway Center and Collinsville hotels to visit our Historic Uptown.

Our community continues to grow with new businesses. We're pleased to welcome two restaurants, Mungo's Uptown and Popeye's Chick-

en. Our parks continue to improve, creating welcoming outdoor space for our residents and visitors to enjoy, and many more improvements are coming soon, including scheduled updates to the street and sidewalk infrastructure in the Uptown area.

This November, Collinsville Hometown Heroes will hold a celebration to honor our local veterans. The event will be held on Nov. 10th at Gateway Center. Visit the City's website for more details.

Our City is growing and we have an extraordinarily positive outlook for the future of Collinsville!



Mayor John Miller



New playground construction at Schnuck's Memorial Park

## Parks & Recreation News

We've had a great summer so far in the Parks & Recreation Department! The new playground installation at Schnuck's Memorial Park was recently completed and the new Lions playground installation at Woodland Park is currently underway. Shelter replacements at Woodland Park are being planned and Glidden Park will undergo major renovations starting next year. All of these project received grant funding to offset the cost of improvements.

Despite a rainy start to the summer, Collinsville Aqua Park (formerly Splash City) has been very busy. The weather is heating up; we'll be open reduced hours through Labor Day for you to come cool off. We also offer group discounts, birthday party packages, and private parties. Check our website at [www.collinsvilleaquapark.com](http://www.collinsvilleaquapark.com) for more details.

As fall approaches, we have new programs and activities planned for all ages. Adults can enjoy some relaxing exercise with Yoga in the Park or Wednesday Walking Club, or have some fun with volleyball or Sunday Funday Kickball. Kids will have plenty to do with karate, dance, tumbling, Willoughby Farm programs, and "No School Day" field trips. Details on programs and upcoming events like Tunes @ Blum, Farmer's Market, and the C3 Back to School Bash can be found on our website at [www.collinsvilleil.org/programs](http://www.collinsvilleil.org/programs) or our Facebook page @CollinsvilleParksandRec.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**18  
AUG**



**300 St. Louis Rd • 12:00pm - 3:00pm**

Celebrate Kruta's 100th anniversary! Purchase wristbands at the bakery for \$5. Proceeds benefit service dogs for veterans.

**Gateway Wedding Show | Gateway Center • 1:00pm - 4:30pm**

Brides and Grooms enter free with coupon code "GWS." Regular admission is \$5 online or \$7 at the door. For more information, visit [www.gatewaycenter.com](http://www.gatewaycenter.com).

**18  
AUG**

**21  
AUG**

**Yoga in the Park | Glidden Park • 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

Foundational yoga postures are practiced to align, strengthen and promote flexibility. Register online and save: [www.collinsvilleil.org/programs](http://www.collinsvilleil.org/programs). Meets every Wednesday through September.

**C3 Back to School Bash | 10 Gateway Dr. • 10:00am - 2:00pm**

Join us for a day of fun activities: touch a municipal truck, local business vendors, and great eats; then hit the Aqua Park for some end-of-summer fun!

**24  
AUG**

**4  
SEP**

**Wednesday Walking Club | Woodland Park • 9:00am - 10:00am**

Join us for a walking group at a different park each week. Free program! No registration is required. More dates: 9/11: Glidden Park • 9/18: Willoughby Farm • 9/25: Schnuck's Park

**Tunes @ Blum: Straight 6 | 414 W. Main St. • 6:30pm - 8:00pm**

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy live outdoor music in front of the Blum House every Wednesday in September. More dates: 9/11: 30 Days • 9/18: Cherry Hill • 9/25: MadBeats

**4  
SEP**

**11  
SEP**

**Farmer's Market | Collins House, 703 W. Main St. • 4:00pm - 7:00pm**

Shop for fresh local produce, meat, eggs, honey, baked goods, and other great local products. Brought to you by Maryville Farmer's Market.

**Sunday Funday Kickball | Glidden Park • 10:00am - 11:30am**

Join us for a pickup game of kickball at Glidden Park and then head to Who Dat's for food and football. \$10/person each date (adults only). Additional dates: Sept. 22 • Oct. 6 • Oct. 13

**15  
SEP**

**5  
OCT**

**Fall Farm Day | 631 Willoughby Ln. • 10:00am - 3:00pm**

Visit Willoughby Farm and enjoy food, music, and activities, visit the animals, and shop the vendors. Rain or shine. \$2 per person or \$10 per family (3 & under free). [www.willoughbyfarm.org](http://www.willoughbyfarm.org)

**Garage Sale & Costume Swap | 10 Gateway Dr. • 10:00am - 2:00pm**

Bring your garage sale items and Halloween costumes for a garage sale and costume swap. \$20 per household to reserve space to sell items. Setup 9am-10am. Call 618-346-7529 to register.

**12  
OCT**

For more event information, visit [www.collinsvilleil.org](http://www.collinsvilleil.org)



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Dec. 7, 2019**

Visit [www.collinsvilleil.org](http://www.collinsvilleil.org) for parade float applications

## New Water Plant Goes Online

After more than two years of construction, Collinsville's new water treatment plant went live in April and started producing water for the community. The new 5 million Gallon Per Day state-of-the-art facility has improved the reliability of the continuous supply of safe drinking water to the businesses and residents of the community. The new plant replaces the 60 year old plant which was only equipped with a single treatment process, restricting the length of time the plant could be taken off-line for maintenance. The new plant provides 100 percent redundancy on all major process equipment and was designed to be fully expandable to meet the needs of the community in the future.

The new plant's location adjacent to the old plant allowed for a seamless transition by simply turning a valve. The new plant was designed around the previous plant's existing six wells, eliminating the need to drill new wells. City staff worked extensively with the project engineers throughout the planning and design phase to make sure the new plant produced the same high quality water that that the residents of Collinsville are accustomed to.

The City received a low interest loan for the \$20 million project through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's State Revolving Loan Program. The City also received \$750,000 in loan forgiveness from the IEPA as well as \$160,000 in Energy Incentives rebates through Ameren Illinois.



**Collinsville's New Water Plant**

## Business News

With summer upon us, so is the time for construction. This summer, Collinsville welcomes several new high-quality businesses to the area.

- » Mungo's Uptown recently opened its doors, bringing its signature Italian fare to Uptown Collinsville.
- » Both Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen (703 North Bluff Road) and Joe's Pizza and Pasta (1099A-B Beltline Road) are now open in Collinsville.
- » The Lewis & Clark Habitat for Humanity ReStore will soon be relocating from its current location within Collinsville Uptown to a tenant space within The Orchards at 1950 Vandalia Street. It is expected that Habitat for Humanity will be ready at their new location this fall.
- » The Old Herald Brewery and Distillery recently installed a new sign at their location overlooking the newest addition to the Brewery, an outdoor patio and Bocce Ball court scheduled to open this summer.
- » Claire's Boutique recently opened a new location within Wal-Mart located at 1040 Collinsville Crossing.



**Mungo's Uptown at the corner of Main & Center**



**Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen on Rte. 157**





## A message from new CUSD #10 Superintendent Dr. Brad Skertich



I am extremely excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to our hallways being filled with students as the new school year approaches. Furthermore, I look forward to seeing our students, staff, parents, and community members actively supporting our wide range of student events throughout the school year. As a reminder...don't forget to wear purple and show your KAHOK PRIDE!

Stay up-to-date on CUSD #10 news and events by following @CUSD10 on Facebook and Twitter and visiting [www.kahoks.org](http://www.kahoks.org)

# 23 AUG

### 2019 Fall Kahok Kickoff • CHS • 5pm

Enjoy a night of sports and performances by Cheer, Dance, & Band! FREE (please bring non-perishable for food pantry)

## Times-Tribune Covers Collinsville

The Times-Tribune has expanded coverage to include the greater Collinsville area, and as part of their commitment to our community, they will donate \$5 from new subscriptions to KAHOKstrong. Just use the coupon from the flyer on the CUSD #10 website or the promo code KAHOKstrong online.

Herald Publications, the new owner of the former Troy, Illinois newspaper, is transitioning the publication to be "Madison County's Leading Independent Newspaper." Part of their expansion includes local coverage of Collinsville and surrounding communities. CUSD #10 school news and Kahok sports will be regularly featured content.

The Times-Tribune publishes weekly on Thursdays. Readers can subscribe online or have hard copies sent to their homes. Copies can also be purchased at several Collinsville businesses. For more info, see the Times-Tribune website at [www.timestribunenews.com](http://www.timestribunenews.com), or call 618-667-3111.

## No School, No Problem!

The Collinsville Parks & Recreation Department is offering No School Day Trips this year! Drop off your participant at the Activity Center at 10 Gateway Dr. for a full day of activities, FUN, and games. Participants should come dressed for the weather and bring a sack lunch. Includes trip admission, adult supervision and transportation with extended hours from 7am-6pm. All trips will return to the Activity Center by 3:30pm. Upcoming Trips:

- » Sep. 20: Pride Gymnastics
- » Oct. 14: Relleke Pumpkin Patch

Call 618-346-7529 for more information or to register!

## Counselor of the Year

CHS Counselor Karen Olsen was named 2019 Ray Piagentini High School Counselor of the Year by the IL School Counselor Assoc.

Her outstanding service to CHS is legendary. She is co-chair of the Student Recognition Committee, serves on the Illinois Democracy School, RTI (Response to Intervention) and School Improvement Committees. She is a Counselor Mentor and member of the CUSD 10 "HART" Emergency Response Team that assists students and staff following a traumatic incident. She received the CUSD 10 Superintendent's Award in 2014 and a Peabody Leader in Education Award in 2012-13.

Olsen instituted the annual "Academic Signing Day" tradition at Collinsville High School, which honors seniors as they accept academic scholarships from their chosen universities.

# FALL FARM DAY

[www.willoughbyfarm.org](http://www.willoughbyfarm.org)



## October 5th 10AM - 3PM

*Rain or Shine*  
631 Willoughby Ln.  
Collinsville, IL

Visit the Animals  
Activities • Music • Food  
Special Presentations





## Did you know?

6 Collinsville Police  
Department retirees now  
serve other communities  
as their Chief of Police

## Utility Tax Rebates

This year's Utility Tax Rebate period ended on May 31, 2019 with 391 claims accepted and \$20,811.76 in rebates issued, for an average rebate of \$53.23. Utility Tax Rebates are available annually from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> for senior, disabled, and low income City residents.

This year, applicants were able to sign a letter of agency form for Azavar to obtain the utility bills directly from Ameren. All account information was secured and confidential. The City will continue to look for ways to make the process easier for residents.

### Required for all applications:

- State or Federally issued ID
- Utility bills (gas and electric) for April 2019-March 2020 (name and address must match ID) or a signed letter of agency to obtain the bills from Ameren for the rebate period.

### Additional Documentation:

#### For Disabled Residents only:

- » Illinois Class 2 Disability ID

#### For Low-Income Residents only:

- » U.S. income tax return, IRS Notice 703, or affidavit stating no tax return filed

Mark your calendars for next year to contact the City between April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> to get the Utility Tax Rebate process started.

# Collinsville Police Department

## Retirements lead to new opportunities and new faces

On May 24, 2019, Lieutenant Chuck Mackin retired from the Collinsville Police Department after 30 years of service. On August 1, 2019, Sergeant Eric Danford retired with over 28 years of service. Throughout their distinguished careers, both officers held many positions within the department while serving the community with pride and honor.

Lt. Mackin is beginning his new endeavor as the Chief of Police for the Village of New Baden while Sgt. Danford will be serving as the Deputy Director for the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy. We thank them both for their service to the City of Collinsville and wish them both the best of luck in their future.

Retirements generally bring exciting new opportunities for others and this is no exception. Subsequent to the retirement of Lt. Mackin, Bud Jeremias was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Keith Jackson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Following the retirement of Sgt. Danford, Brad Akers is being promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

The retirements and subsequent promotions also trigger the hiring of new Collinsville Police Officers. Three new officers begin their career with the Collinsville Police Department in August of 2019.

We are very excited to watch the newly promoted officers grow in their new leadership roles. With equal enthusiasm, we look forward to watching our new officers develop as guardians of this community.



Retired Lt. Chuck Mackin



Retired Sgt. Eric Danford

## Cool Cities Committee

The Collinsville Cool Cities Committee is an advisory group of volunteer residents who provide ideas and recommendations to the City Council in order to make Collinsville a sustainable community for all residents. The Committee encourages a balance between environmental issues, economic health, and social equity. The Committee coordinates efforts within the City to encourage residents, schools, and businesses to consider sustainable alternatives that benefit all members of our community.

The Committee is actively planning street clean-ups via the state's Adopt-A-Highway Program, stream cleanups to remove invasive species, and handing out reusable tote bags at the Farmer's Market as an alternative to single-use plastic bags. The Committee meets the 3rd Monday of every month at City Hall at 7pm.

If you are interested in sharing your ideas about how to make the Community greener or are looking for opportunities to volunteer, please attend one of the Cool Cities Committee's meetings!

### Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- » August 19, 2019
- » September 16, 2019
- » October 21, 2019
- » November 18, 2019
- » December 16, 2019



# Finance Updates

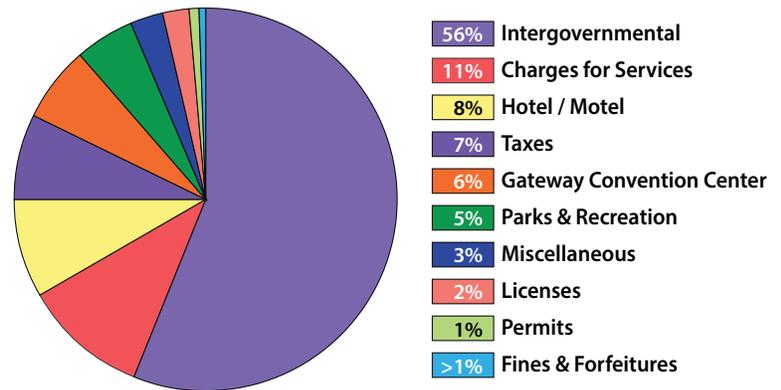
The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 2018 fiscal year was released at the end of June and is available on the City's website (under Department / Finance / Financial Statements). Highlights include:

- » In the government-wide financial statements (including business type activities), the City's net position was \$29,340,457, an increase of \$15,439,370 from 2017.
- » At 12/31/2018 the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$10,307,198 or 38% of total General Fund expenditures for the year and 41% of the total General Fund revenues. The City is in compliance with Financial Policy which requires 15-20% of estimated annual revenues for the General Fund.
- » The net position of the City's Governmental Activities increased +\$14,792,528 and the Business Type Activities increased by +\$646,842.
- » The City merged with Gateway Center resulting in a special item of \$7,868,952 that increased the net position as of December 31, 2018, which included total assets of \$13,075,885 and liabilities of \$5,206,933. The merger resulted in a +\$2,946,627 positive increase in the General Fund.
- » At the end of 2018, the City had total long-term debt obligations for governmental and business-type activities in the amount of \$59,272,455 compared to \$49,112,229 at the end of 2017. This represents an increase from 2017 in of \$9,997,971 or +20.4% in 2018.
- » The Collinsville Crossings Fund is a major special revenue fund of the City. Its resources are to be used for payments on the 2014 General Obligation bonds and List bonds related to the Collinsville Crossings development. The City is fully on track to honor all expenses (Principal and Interest) associated with these bond schedules, and the revenues exceed the obligatory payments.
  - At the end of the current fiscal year, the fund balance of the Collinsville Crossings Fund was \$3,067,848, an increase of \$292,057 from 2017.
  - Sales tax generated in the development exceeds the required bond payments.
- » Actual, budget basis expenditures in the General Fund were \$23,656,196, or \$1,132,546 less than the final 2018 budget. The General Fund finished 2018 at 95.4% of budget or 4.6% under budget.
- » The City's total investment in Capital Assets increased for 2018 to \$99,873,337. This is an increase of +\$24,262,099 or +32.1% from the 2017 total of \$75,611,238.

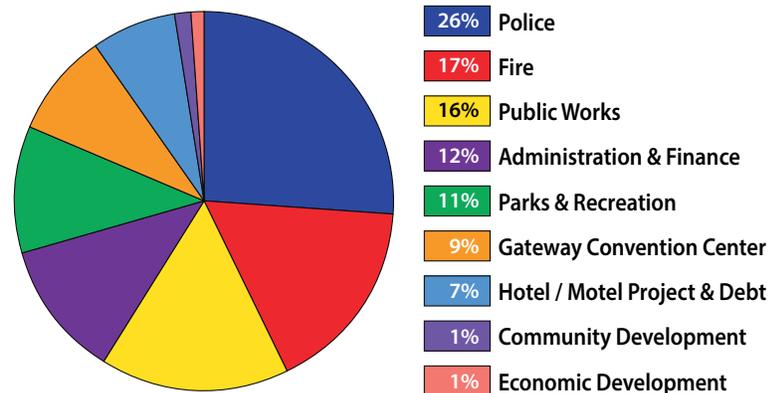
# Water Bill Payments

We have a new phone number to call to pay your water bill by phone:  
**1-855-276-3583**

## 2019 Budget Revenues

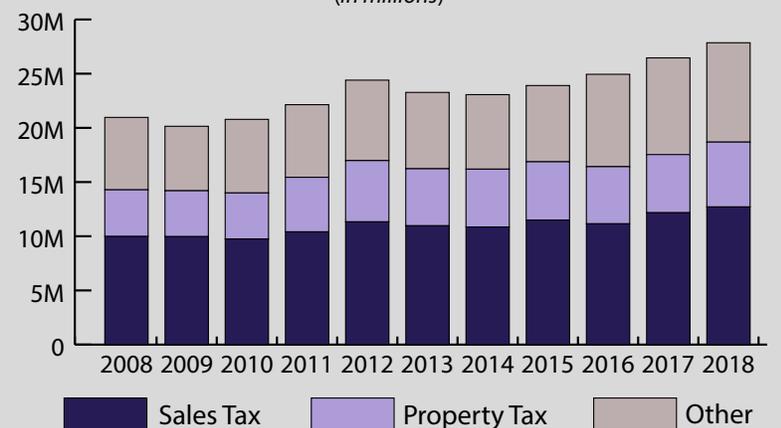


## 2019 Budget Expenditures



## Tax Revenue Trends

(in millions)



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



# City Scoop

The City of Collinsville's Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 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

[www.collinsvilleil.org](http://www.collinsvilleil.org)



and



@collinsvilleil