Welcome to a new year and a new decade! The City continues to move forward with even more exciting developments on the horizon. Long range planning will be a big item this year as the Parks Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Police Staffing Study and Fire Master Plan are all taking shape. The 2020 Census will be taking place this year to ensure all of our residents are accounted for. The Parks and Recreation Department has very exciting changes in store for 2020. The Aqua Park and Activity Center will be getting a face-lift just in time for the Summer season, while our parks and recreation leagues will continue to improve. The Gateway Convention Center has completed its Conference Wing renovations where we look forward to hosting even more meetings and events. City staff continues to work diligently to improve the City’s infrastructure, bringing in new business, and deliver high quality services. Our Police and Fire Departments are second to none in providing public safety services to our residents. And, the City Council is committed to listening to your thoughts and make decisions that will bring you and the City the greatest benefits.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive a request to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. This Census count will determine how the state funds Income Tax, Use Tax, and Motor Fuel Tax for the City of Collinsville.

VISIT COLLINSVILLEIL.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department is working hard preparing for the spring and summer. The Parks Master Planning process is currently underway. Surveys have been sent to a random population to seek a statistically valid opinion from the residents; specific user group meetings have been held to gather needs and wants of current users, and the second public meeting was conducted at the January 14 City Council meeting. The next step in the process will be to formulate initial park recommendations. There will still be opportunities for the public to provide input throughout the remainder of the project. Visit the City website www.collinsville.org for the progress so far or to provide additional input.

The Collinsville Aqua Park has begun renovations for the 2020 season. Many of the renovations will be behind the scenes, meaning not necessarily visible to the public, but will provide for major energy savings and efficiencies for the Aqua Park and the Activity Center. Renovations that will be noticeable include: new paint on all the pools and Monsoon Mountain, new fencing, restroom improvements, and SCS and Monsoon Mountain parts replacements. The 2020 season is shaping up to be a great one.

Woodland Park will see new shelters this year and the revitalization of Glidden Park will begin in 2020 as well. Summer Camp and CBSL registration is open for the summer. And new this year is an adult softball league at the Sports Complex. Please keep posted to our website and Facebook pages for the latest program and activity information.

2020 Collinsville Aqua Park Programs

Swim Lessons Children will be split up based on age and ability. Depending on the class they are placed in, children will learn to get comfortable with the water, while learning the basics of breath holding, kicking, jumping and floating. They may also learn water safety, stroke development, and underwater swim depending on their aptitude. For those participants who have a stronger skill level, stroke development and progression will also be worked into this class. Parent involvement may be necessary depending on the child’s age and skill level.

Private Swim Lessons Private lessons are offered to all individuals no matter skill level, age, or ability. During private lessons, students will go at their own pace to achieve individual goals. Each lesson is 30 min. in length. Private lessons are a very popular option and are only offered at specific times. Private lessons will be offered for one on one.

River Walk Enjoy a low-impact workout while walking in the Lazy River! Join others for a quiet walk, with or against the current to customize your workout. Water Walking increases your blood flow and warms your muscles and joints. An easy-going exercise for those who enjoy the outdoors.

Junior Guard Program This program will provide instruction in necessary life guarding skills. Participants will receive instruction in water safety, public relations, facility operations, water exercise, teamwork, leadership skills, basic work skills, first aid and CPR.

Scout Badge Program Let Collinsville Aqua park incorporate some learning into the fun! We will have one of our certified lifeguards teach your group about water safety, first aid, swimming techniques, or just have some water fun! All programs last about 1 hour in length and include a behind the scenes tour of the waterpark.

Water Aerobics Jump right into our aqua class and build cardiovascular fitness and strength. Just like swimming, our water aerobics classes are easy on your joints, yet challenging enough to help you reach new levels of fitness. Because of their low impact format, water aerobics classes are suitable for every age and fitness level, from beginner exercisers through elite athletes.

Senior Swim Individuals ages 60+ are encouraged to take advantage of this special time to exercise, relax and have fun, without all the hustle and bustle of normal pool hours.

Parent Tot-Time This special time will give parents, grandparents and/or babysitters the opportunity to spend time with their little ones before the waterpark is open to the public.

Adult Swim Individuals ages 18-59 are encouraged to take advantage of this special time to exercise, relax and have fun, without all the hustle and bustle of normal pool hours.

2020 Collinsville Aqua Park Rentals/Reservations

Birthday Parties Book the birthday party your child won’t forget! Enjoy reserved seating, food, and drinks, and all-day admission to the Aqua Park for you and your guests.

Group Reservations Need a day of fun for a large group? Come splash around at Collinsville Aqua Park! Discounted admission available for groups of 20 or more.

Private Events If you’re planning a summer party, check out our options for private rentals. Choose from one water feature or the whole park.

WILLQUIGHBY FARM

UPCOMING WILLQUIGHBY FARM EVENTS

Maker Days-Dog Toys 3/15
St. Patrick’s Day Pooch Party 3/15
Beginning Vegetable Gardening 3/21
Archery - 4 classes thru 4/18
Ecology Club-Mushroom Farm 3/29
Maker Days-String Art 4/19
Ecology Club-Using Tech in Nature 4/26
City Nature Challenge 4/24 - 4/27
Spring Farm Day 5/2
Maker Days-Bee Hotel 5/17
Ecology Club - Reptiles & Amphibians 5/31
Maker Days - Flower Press 6/21
Ecology Club - Composting 6/28

Be sure to visit our website at Willoughby@collinsville.org or call 977-0941 to see our new rental prices for 2020.
At the Gateway Convention Center, the Conference Wing renovation is complete and our staff is busy giving tours and booking events in the remodeled rooms. The Conference Wing has been transformed into elegant meeting spaces with built-in, high end technology that includes large drop down screens, easy-to-use touchscreen control displays, a technology bar with displays with user connections, and USB charging stations throughout all rooms. Some of the rooms are outfitted for video streaming and recording capabilities. With the new look, new amenities, and new technology, we are excited to welcome new clientele that book training sessions, seminars, presentations, and corporate meetings. Call today for a tour! 618-345-8998.

Gateway Convention Center started off the new year breaking records! The 27th Annual Let’s Go Fishing Show had 10,546 people in attendance, which is the highest attendance on record! Fishing enthusiasts of all ages gathered to shop great deals and stock their tackle boxes from items from 127 exhibitors. The attendees at the show enjoyed meeting and learning from the pros at the free seminars and the free fish pond. The exhibitors came from 16 different states plus Canada. They raved about the show stayed in Collinsville hotels, ate at local restaurants, and shopped at local retailers.

As we look ahead, we look forward to helping our clients have their best events yet in 2020. In our first quarter, we host all types of events with some of the largest being the Gateway Home Show, St. Louis Gift Show, Winterfest Hamfest, Onsite Wastewater Professionals of Illinois Convention, the St. Louis Woodworking Show, Pokemon 2020 Regionals Competition, the International Gem & Jewelry Show, Creating Keepsakes Scrapbooking Convention, Illinois Archeological Society, and the American Indian & Ethnographic Show.

GATEWAY CONVENTION CENTER

NEWLY RENOVATED 1.4 MILLION DOLLAR RENOVATION OF CONFERENCE WING AT GATEWAY CONVENTION CENTER

RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL LET’S GO FISHING SHOW

PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT AT GATEWAY CONVENTION CENTER

AN EXCITING 2020!
Police Department

Recruitment and selection of the next generation of police officers is one of the biggest challenges facing law enforcement organizations and their leaders today. The Collinsville Police Department is not immune to these challenges. For the past several years, we have seen applicant interest continue to drop. Fewer and fewer people are applying or testing for police jobs across the county, while at the same time, seeing an increase in the number of veteran officers, hired in the 1990’s as part of federal Community Policing grants, reaching retirement. This presents a significant problem: More job vacancies with fewer qualified, quality applicants to fill those vacancies. While this is a big challenge, the leadership team at the Collinsville Police Department is up to that challenge. We are committed to hiring the best possible candidates to fill our vacancies, without lowering standards to those that are being created through mass retirements. By doing so, we are bringing in valuable experience from outside agencies. However, the biggest advantage to this process is that the recruit does not have to attend the police academy, thus trimming that 7 month time frame from hire date to solo patrol in half. When faced with a large number of retirements at one time like we did in the Summer/Fall of 2019, this recruitment option will be invaluable.

Typically, when we hire a new police officer without experience, they must first attend the state-mandated 14 week police academy at Southwestern Illinois College. Upon graduation, the Probationary Officer will enter our 14 week Field Training Program where they will take what they learn from the Police Academy, build upon it, and learn the Collinsville way.” Essentially, from hire date to solo patrol, it will take 7 months to train an inexperienced police officer.

For the first time in our history, the Collinsville Police Department has initiated an Accelerated Entry Recruitment and Testing Process that will allow us to supplement our traditional Entry-Level Testing Process that we conduct each year. What this means is that we are directly targeting and recruiting experienced police officers to help us fill vacancies that are being created through mass retirements. By doing so, we are bringing in valuable experience from outside agencies. However, the biggest advantage to this process is that the recruit does not have to attend the police academy, thus trimming that 7 month time frame from hire date to solo patrol in half. When faced with a large number of retirements at one time like we did in the Summer/Fall of 2019, this recruitment option will be invaluable.

If you know a currently certified, full-time police officer wanting to join one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the St. Louis Metropolitan Region, please direct them to our “Recruitment” page and new recruitment videos at collinsvilleil.org.

Part of the reason we’ve begun sending a fire truck with the ambulance is increased staffing. In 2018, the City and the Firefighters’ Union partnered to increase daily staffing at both stations. The Firefighters increased their week by 4.15 hours, and the City increased minimum staffing from 6 personnel per day to 8 per day. This allows us to better respond to the increasing number of emergency calls coming in at the same time. We have more people on duty to respond to critical emergency medical calls with both an ambulance and fire truck, manned by four firefighter/paramedics. Once the medical emergency is under control, the fire engine can still respond to other emergency calls directly from the scene.

All members of the Collinsville Fire Department are trained and certified as Paramedics, and responding fire trucks are equipped with major advanced life support equipment like emergency medications and heart monitors, allowing first responders to provide better care to our residents, faster and more efficiently. When an ambulance may not be immediately available, personnel on the fire truck can begin advanced treatment for a heart attack, stroke, diabetic issue, or any other medical emergency.

These increased resources are a great benefit for our community, and help support our primary mission of delivering exceptional customer service to our residents, visitors, and guests by providing them incomparable emergency services.

On December 16th, 2019, Officer Adam Padilla and Hannah Chapman were sworn in by Mayor John Miller as the two newest police officers for the City of Collinsville. Officer Padilla and Officer Chapman replace the recently retired Dan Porter and Ray Rowland.

Adam Padilla, 28, of Edwardsville, was employed as a part-time Civilian Police Aide with the Collinsville Police Department for three years prior to his hire as a police officer. Adam is the first “home-grown” Civilian Police Aide to be hired by the department. Adam earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University in 2017.

Hannah Chapman, 22, of Edwardsville, was employed by Woodland Elementary School in Edwardsville as a teacher’s aide in the Special Education Department prior to her joining our team at the Collinsville Police Department. Additionally, in her spare time, Hannah was a goalie coach with the Glen-Ed Soccer Club. Hannah also conducted an internship with the Illinois State Police in July 2019 prior to her graduation from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice.

Next, Officer Padilla and Officer Chapman will spend the next 14 weeks attending the Police Academy at Southwestern Illinois College. They will then transition into our Field Training Program where the knowledge, skills, and abilities they learned at the academy will be put to the test.

Welcome to Collinsville Officers Padilla and Chapman!
**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2019-2024**

The CIP is the City’s roadmap for large-scale project prioritization over the next six (6) years. The plan provides an overview of each project by department and year in which the project will be started. Total numbers are by fund, department, year, and type of project. Visit the City’s website collinsvilleil.org to view the full plan in its entirety.

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**FREE YARD WASTE DISPOSAL**

The City of Collinsville is offering free yard waste disposal for Collinsville residents on Friday May 1 from 8am to 2pm, Friday May 15 from 8am to 2pm & Saturday May 16 from 8am to 3pm.

The yard waste must be brought to the Street Department Facility located at 850 S. Morrison Avenue.

**PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED**

**ACCEPTABLE YARD WASTE ITEMS:**
- Leaves and yard waste must be in paper yard waste bags. No plastic bags!
- Tree branches must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and 36 inches in length.

**QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE EVENT**

Call the Collinsville Street Department (618) 346-5216

**BULK TRASH PICK-UP**

Republic Services provides a clean-up of large items and appliances for residents twice each year. Please contact Republic Services at (618) 656-6883 or www.republicservices.com to schedule your clean-up.

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN LARGE ITEM PICKUPS:**
- Appliances, Carpet (cut into bundles no longer than 4’ in length and 3’ in diameter and weighing less than 50lbs. per bundle. Furniture including couches, chairs, dressers, tables, desks, mattress sets, etc.
- Glass portions of doors/windows must be broken down and placed into small box marked “GLASS”.

**UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN LARGE ITEM PICKUPS:**
- Basketball sets/poles, unless they are broken down into sections no larger than 3’ in diameter.
- Batteries, concrete and construction material of any kind, electronics, florescent light bulbs, tires, yard waste.

**Sustainability Plan Open House**

The City of Collinsville’s Cool Cities Committee invites you to attend a Sustainability Plan Open House

Are you interested in helping the City be more sustainable? The City is seeking feedback from residents and business on the development of a sustainability plan, which will serve as the City’s long-range planning tool related to environmental efforts. The Open Houses will be an opportunity for residents to share their ideas.

February 27, 5-7:30pm - City Hall
March 7, 9am-noon - Public Library
March 17, 5-7:30pm - City Hall
March 25, 5-7:30pm - City Hall

Can’t make the meetings? Be on the lookout for the online survey!

**Code Violations**

The City works hard to address all violations to strengthen the character, safety, and values of properties in our community, but your help in identifying issues is greatly appreciated. To report a Code Violation, please call 618-346-5200 ext. 1158, or go to the Community Development Page on the City’s website and click “Report a Violation.”
Kindergarten Enrollment will be held at the Administration Annex Building. 123 West Clay Street, on the dates listed below for each school.

If you are not sure which school your child will be attending, please contact the district enrollment office at 346-6350 ext. 4237 or 4228.

SCHOOL DATE TIME:
- Maryville
  - Mon, March 30 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
- Caseyville
  - Tues, March 31 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
- Jefferson & Summit
  - Wed, April 1 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
- Kletner
  - Thur, April 2 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
- Twin Echo
  - Fri, April 3 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
- Renfro
  - Mon, April 6 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
- All Schools
  - Tues, April 7 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
  - All schools
  - April 13 - August (Mon - Fri)
  - 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Important Unit 10 Dates
- Spring Break: April 8, 9, 10
- 4th Grade Jamboree: May 7
- CHS Graduation: May 16
- CHS Prom: April 18
- CHS Graduation: May 16
- Spring Break: April 8, 9, 10
- 4th Grade Jamboree: May 7
- CHS Graduation: May 16
- CHS Prom: April 18
- Spring Break: April 8, 9, 10
- 4th Grade Jamboree: May 7
- CHS Graduation: May 16
- CHS Prom: April 18

The enrollment schedule is for:
1. Children entering kindergarten next year who are not currently in Pre-K or Early Childhood. CUSD10 resident children currently enrolled in Collinsville Pre-K or Early Childhood programs do not need to re-enroll in the District for Kindergarten unless there has been a change of address. NOTE: Children must be five years old on or before September 1, 2020.
2. Those children entering first grade who are not presently attending Kindergarten Classes in the public schools.

TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD, YOU WILL NEED TO BRING WITH YOU:
1. Certified Birth Certificate. The certificate issued by the hospital is NOT acceptable according to Illinois State Law.
2. Proof of Residency within the Collinsville CUSD10 District boundaries.
3. The child must present a completed physical examination form with all immunizations listed as required by Collinsville Unit 10. Your child will also be required to have a dental and an eye exam.

(Please note: All Parents/Guardians of Kindergarten students must also complete the online Registration process via the CUSD 10 Skyward Family Access Parent Portal in July of 2020)

Kindergarten Enrollment Dates

The Kindergarten Enrollment will be held at the Administration Annex Building. 123 West Clay Street, on the dates listed below for each school.

When you take time to respond to the 2020 Census, you help determine funding for educational programs that benefit our children like after school activities, school meal programs and PreK initiatives. It’s more than just a count, it’s an opportunity to shape the next generation. Help our schools by participating in the census.

The scope of this Great Streets project includes a comprehensive corridor planning approach assessing existing conditions, identifying opportunities, and the developing a plan for future implementation.

The St. Louis Road and Collinsville Road Great Streets Initiative Plan was Adopted by the Collinsville City Council on November 12, 2019.

Two local landmarks, McDill’s Irish Pub (334 St. Louis Road) and Kruta Bakery (300 St. Louis Road), are leading the way in implementing the goals of this plan through redevelopment projects which include new construction, vibrant outdoor spaces, and pedestrian-oriented amenities.

Great Streets

In December 2017, the City of Collinsville was awarded a $75,000.00 planning grant through the Great Streets Initiative sponsored by East-West Gateway Council of Governments to develop the St. Louis Road - Collinsville Road Great Streets Initiative Plan. The City embarked on this project to revitalize a vital economic corridor by inducing private investment and increasing and enhancing opportunities for pedestrian activity through a unique, inviting, vibrant place and connection for residents, workers, and visitors traveling to, through, and within the corridor. The corridor begins at the intersection of St. Louis Road and Main Street, near uptown, and extends west along St. Louis Road and Collinsville Road ending at Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site.

The St. Louis Road - Collinsville Road Great Streets Initiative Plan is a community-driven plan informed by robust community and stakeholder engagement. The Plan establishes consensus on the community’s vision and priorities for revitalizing the corridor. The consultant team utilized a multidisciplinary planning approach examining the Corridor’s existing conditions, issues, and opportunities through the lenses of Urban Design, Market Analysis and Strategy, Transportation Planning, and Environmental Infrastructure Planning.

Business & Development

The St. Louis Road - Collinsville Road Great Streets Initiative Plan is a community-driven plan informed by robust community and stakeholder engagement. The Plan establishes consensus on the community’s vision and priorities for revitalizing the corridor. The consultant team utilized a multidisciplinary planning approach examining the Corridor’s existing conditions, issues, and opportunities through the lenses of Urban Design, Market Analysis and Strategy, Transportation Planning, and Environmental Infrastructure Planning.

The scope of this Great Streets project includes a comprehensive corridor planning approach assessing existing conditions, identifying opportunities, and the developing a plan for future implementation.

The St. Louis Road and Collinsville Road Great Streets Initiative Plan was Adopted by the Collinsville City Council on November 12, 2019.

On the 1st of the year, HCI Alternatives began selling recreational cannabis at 1014 Eastport Plaza Drive in accordance with the Illinois Adult Use Cannabis Act. The establishment netted approximately 2.5 million dollars of sales over 10 days. This accounts for 23% of the total 11 million dollars’ worth of sales statewide. The City receives 2.25% sales tax on all transactions, and the rate will increase to 5.25% starting July 1, 2020. The City plans on investing those dollars into capital improvement projects that will benefit the City’s infrastructure. Additionally, staff is working with HCI Alternatives to address parking along the roadways in Eastport Plaza, as a result of the tremendous demand, by securing additional parking at Gateway Fun Park. It is expected that the demand will eventually ease and normal operations will return with the facilities existing parking being able to serve its customers.