



## CITY OF COLUMBUS

105 N. DICKASON BOULEVARD COLUMBUS, WISCONSIN 53925-1565  
920.623.5900 FAX 920.623.5901 [www.cityofcolumbuswi.com](http://www.cityofcolumbuswi.com)

### Column #36 – A Hustling, Bustling Community

#### “Under the Clock Tower”

One year ago this month our hometown was blindsided by that powerful windstorm, knocking down powerlines, trees and seemingly grinding Columbus to a halt. Like other challenges, the community quickly banded together and cleaned everything up.

As we approach another July 4<sup>th</sup> and community celebration, I can't help but think about all the positive things that have happened in Columbus since then. Here are a few things that come to my mind:

Columbus has started to really highlight its recreational, leisure and enrichment opportunities for those both in and out of the city. Last month I highlighted the start of the long needed improvements to the Historic Park Pavilion. But also, Columbus Recreation, the Public Library, the Columbus Area Senior Center and Columbus Schools have been offering many activities to keep young and old busy. Just take a quick look on social media and you'll see many photos of happy parents showing the sports teams of their children learning and having fun. The spring seasons from the School programs made us very proud of their successes. Once again, the Columbus Area Aquatic Center is open and ready to serve those in need of a cool respite from the hot weather.

The entertainment venues in the City are growing too. Efforts to enhance the Holidays really drew attention last year when the Holiday Train came to town. This is an event that will be expanded upon in the future. The Horse and Carriage Festival was back as a long time attraction to Firemen's Park, and as you see around you this week, yet another Columbus July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration is set to bring joy as it always delivers.

Moving to important, but less amusing topics, it's very clear that Columbus is rejuvenating its aging infrastructure with the first major street and utility project in several years. The construction work is frustrating for travel in those areas, especially to those who live on those streets being worked on, but in the end it will be an improvement to an area that is long needed. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation recognizes the need to keep travel safe and update our roads as well with the project at the Hwys 16 & 60 Intersection this year. The new traffic lights will be a vital safety improvement. In anticipation for the big Hwy 16 (James Street) reconstruction next year, I have seen great effort by many in the community to pitch in and be part of the planning and preparation that is needed for that project.

With a happy, healthy and active community, a positive offshoot is the increased interest to develop in Columbus. In the past year or so, we are seeing major development occurring in the housing, manufacturing and commercial sectors of our local economy. Columbus had about 16 new homes built in 2015 and a handful more are coming this year. The new development area adjacent to Hwy 16 west of the city has two projects (Ottery Truck Wash and Duffy Fleet Service) underway, with considerable interest by other companies in that area which is prime to develop. The new

Countryside Ford dealership is being built, At-Home Again (a senior living facility) is expanding and another separate facility is on its way. Heading to the downtown, it's clear we like Mexican food as La Tolteca appears to be settling in very nicely as a fixture there. Just outside of downtown, the still new Badger Motor Car Company has become a real attraction to those in and outside Columbus.

All positives, in my mind. As you find your spot on the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade route on Monday, I thought maybe I could provide a little insight of what our community can be proud of as we celebrate our Nation and its independence. I know I will.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue before city government, please contact me down at City Hall at 623-5900 or via email at [pvandersanden@columbuswi.us](mailto:pvandersanden@columbuswi.us).

###