



CITY OF COLUMBUS

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Please take time to read through this important information included with your 2016 tax bill. There is a number of items related to the many services that are provided to you from the City.

2016 was a year of progress for Columbus...a continuing of new energy in residential construction, economic development that has taken off like a rocket out on the Highway 16 corridor, and some needed street improvements. We hope to see similar forward steps in 2017.

If you ever have questions, comments or concerns about your local government, please contact the City in the way you are most comfortable, via the City website: www.cityofcolumbuswi.com, or email me directly at: pvandersanden@columbuswi.us, or by phone: (920) 623-3462. It is an honor to serve you!

Best Wishes to you for a Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Patrick Vander Sanden, Administrator

TAX COLLECTION HOURS-CITY HALL

Monday thru Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Address: 105 N. Dickason Blvd.

City Hall **will be closed** for business on the following days to observe the Christmas and New Years holidays:

- Friday, December 23th-for Christmas Eve
- Monday, December 26th-for Christmas Day
- Friday, December 30th-for New Year's Eve
- Monday, January 2nd-for New Year's Day

Payment in full or the first installment is due in this office by January 31, 2017. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you'd like a receipt mailed back to you. Due to the cost of processing and mailing any overpayments \$2.00 or less will not be refunded. Payments postmarked 2016 will be received in 2016-if postmarked in 2017 will be received in 2017. City Hall does not have the ability to process credit/debit cards- other options are available to you, please see below. Questions: kmanley@columbuswi.us or (920)623-5900.

A drop box is provided for after hours payments located at the City Hall entry doors closest to James Street. Payments placed in the drop box between close of business December 30th and January 1, 2017 will be considered **2016** payments unless noted otherwise.



Christmas trees will be picked up by the Department of Public Works January 9th thru February 1st, weather permitting. By Monday of each week place your tree on the tree border. **It must be free of all decorations & tinsel! No wreaths, please.**



MAKE YOUR TAX PAYMENT AT FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK!

FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK **will be collecting taxes for the City at both** of the Columbus locations through January, 31, 2017. **Please bring your tax bill to ensure proper credit!!**

Pay Taxes by Credit/Debit Card or E-Check



Call 1-866-917-7368—Payment Service Network, Inc. (PSN) or you can log in to the website www.cityofcolumbuswi.com and click on "PAY TAXES NOW". This online service can be used to make payments due the city. Use the same link as you would for paying taxes. PSN will charge a convenience fee for this service.

COLUMBUS AREA SENIOR CENTER - OPENTO ALL ADULTS 50+!

For over 37 years the Columbus Area Senior Center has offered and promoted activities and services that enhance the quality of life for adults ages 50+ in our community. Our multi-purpose building helps adults maintain healthy lifestyles by providing activities that keep them engaged—moving, learning, and socializing. Join us for programs and activities like exercise class, birthday celebrations, work out at our free fitness center, learn more about computers and technology, join one of our many clubs, participate in games, cards, and crafts and so much more! Stop in and see what is new and happening in 2017!

You can find information at the Center in our monthly newsletter, *Prime Time Connections*, or view it on line at <http://www.cityofcolumbuswi.com/2200/Senior-Center>. The Center is also available evenings and weekends for party, events and meeting rentals.

Website: www.cityofcolumbuswi.com

Location: Next to City Hall at 125 N Dickason Blvd.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM – 4 PM



IMPORTANT - COMING IN 2017!

JAMES STREET RECONSTRUCTION. The entire length of James Street a/k/a Hwy. 16/60 will be reconstructed in 2017 by the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation. Meetings have been ongoing with business owners and residents along the corridor over the past year. Slated to start in March & end October.

GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION CHANGES. The City will be using Columbia County for garbage & recycling collection in 2017. Watch for updates on schedules & also that carts are planned for in 2017. Information will be sent out prior to any changes but also watch the City's website, the newspaper, utility bill inserts for more information.

POOL UPGRADES IN 2017. The pool's surface will be completely redone in 2017! Donations are also being accepted for a new kiddie slide! Contact Amy Jo Meyers, Recreation Director (920)623-5936.

WINTER PARKING RULES-see page 4!

COLUMBUS WATER & ELECTRIC UTILITIES

www.columbuswaterandlight.com

The Utility office is located at 950 Maple Avenue—now with a convenient drop box at that location.

Utility Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Drop Box Locations: Water & Light office, City Hall (105 N. Dickason) & across from Post Office

ENERGY ASSISTANCE—HOW TO APPLY Call (800)506-5596. For questions or emergency assistance, call (608) 742-4088. Income levels do apply. Columbus Senior Center is also an outreach center—call (920)623-5918.



NOW IS THE TIME—ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER STORMS? OR BETTER YET ANY STORM?

Things to have on hand—extra batteries for radios, flashlights or other devices and a weather radio or link to a cellphone. Do you have enough food? Water? Extra blankets or clothing? Games, cards or radio to entertain if you have no power? **TIP:** Keep track of your cellphone battery charge—with data and internet use the charge on a cellphone can be drained quickly! Without power you will rely on your phone (or a portable radio).

COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU!

Do you have an old vehicle that is no longer usable that you would like to dispose of? The fire department is always looking for old vehicles to use for our training with the Jaws of Life. If you have such a vehicle, please contact the fire department.

With the holiday season upon us, please be extra concerned about fire safety in the home especially...

- Do not use extension cords for Christmas lights that are under sized
- Make sure real Christmas trees are kept moist and do not run out of water (check daily)
- If using holiday candles, keep combustibles away and extinguish before leaving or going to bed

Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday!

Columbus Fire Department

123 W. Harrison St.

623-5914



WINTER SNOW REMOVAL FOR YOUR SIDEWALKS Section 86-226. The owner, occupant, person in charge of any residence, building or lot in the city abutting any street right-of-way containing a sidewalk shall clear the sidewalk of snow and ice to the width of the sidewalk within 24 hours after the stop of a snowfall and shall keep the sidewalk clear of snow and ice. If it's found that a sidewalk has not been shoveled/cleared the public works director shall give written notice to the property owner, occupant or person in charge requiring the sidewalk be cleared within 24 hours of the written notice. Failure to remove the snow and ice will result in the City removing the snow/ice and billing the costs back to the property owner. Any questions contact the Public Works Department at (920)623-5908; 229 East School Street.



Columbus POOL—2017 Membership SPECIALS

Purchase any type of membership through the month of December and receive a **FREE \$20.00** concession stand punch card!

Purchase any type of membership through the month of January, 2017 and receive a **FREE \$15.00** concession stand punch card.

Purchase any type of membership through the month of February, 2017 and receive a **FREE \$10.00** concession punch card.

Purchase any type of membership through the month of March, 2017 and receive a **FREE \$5.00** concession punch card.

ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION: Memberships can be purchased at Active Net <http://activenet19.active.com/columbusrecwi/> - use of Active Net may have convenience fees which the user is responsible for.

IN PERSON PAYMENT OPTIONS: You can also stop in to the Recreation office located at 229 East School Street or stop by City Hall to purchase your membership. The Recreation Department can accept check, correct cash only, debit or credit cards. City Hall can accept cash or checks. Office hours for both are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Pay the full membership price now and you will receive your concession card prior to the opening of the 2017 season along with your membership cards. (Lost cards will not be replaced)

Current Memberships Fees

Family—Resident	\$200.00	Family—Non-Resident	\$225.00
Individual—Resident	\$ 90.00	Individual—Non-Resident	\$100.00

Amy Jo Meyers, Recreation Director

229 East School Street

**Telephone: (920)623-5936 Email: recreation
@columbuswi.us**



***Check with Amy for more activities
offered by the Recreation Department!***

TELEPHONE: 920-623-5900
FAX: 920-623-5901
WEBSITE:
WWW.CITYOFCOLUMBUSWI.US

DOG LICENSES

Due by 04/01/17

All dogs must be licensed in the City by April 1st. State Statute states that after that date a \$5.00 per license penalty is applied to the normal fees.

Fees are: Spayed or Neutered: \$10.00

Not Spayed or Neutered: \$15.00

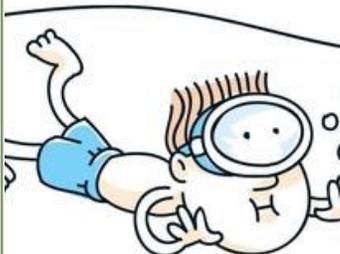
A rabies certificate is required. Questions, call 623-5900.



**THE CITY IS ON THE WEB & FACEBOOK!
CHECK US OUT!**

CITY ON TV?

WATCH CHANNEL 980 FOR INTERESTING PROGRAMS & EVENTS!



COLUMBUS AQUATIC CENTER

Telephone: (920)623-6047
1049 Park Avenue—see us on FACEBOOK!

*Lessons, Lap Swim, Adult Time
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!*

MEDICATION DROP BOX AT POLICE DEPARTMENT

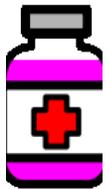
The medication drop box is available in the Public Safety building lobby. Guidelines for using the drop box are:

- This drop box is for the safe and secure disposal of unused/unwanted PHARMACEUTICAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES or other prescription/over-the-counter medications.
- Do not place sharps/needles in this container.
- Please remove all labels with personal information from containers before disposing in this drop box and make sure the bottle/container is closed.
- Access to the box is in the Public Safety Building lobby which is open 24/7/365.

If you have any questions as to what can be disposed of in this container, please contact the Police Department at the (920)623-5919 non-emergency telephone number.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

**Columbus Community Hospital Farmers & Merchants Union Bk
Anonymous Community Donors**



WINTER PARKING RULES

PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON ANY CITY STREET ONCE 2" OF SNOW HAS FALLEN & UNTIL 12 HOURS AFTER THE END OF THE SNOWFALL. PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF THE CITY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF MIDNIGHT & 6:00 A.M. AFTER THE ACCUMULATION OF 2" OR MORE OF SNOW UNTIL THE STREET HAS BEEN COMPLETELY PLOWED FROM CURB TO CURB. VEHICLES LEFT ON THE STREET DURING THIS TIME ARE SUBJECT TO BEING TOWED OR TICKETED.

Columbus Public Library; Serving the Present & Future Needs of the Community

The Library is out of space. Your beautiful 1912 Claude and Stark Prairie design library building was not built for modern life. It was not built for wheelchair access or with modern plumbing needs in mind. Or data access needs. We can't fault the builders from more than a century ago for these issues, but we can plan for the future.

With future expansion in mind, the Library Board recently purchased the house across the parking lot from the library. Until we can expand our current building, the house will be the Library Annex-housing community groups, sharing space & resources. Two groups that will definitely move from the Library to the Annex are The Friends of the Library and the Columbus Literacy Council.

The Columbus Literacy Council has been helping adults with literacy needs for nearly 30 years. In conjunction with the library, they offer free tutoring for special needs adults and English language learners. Their devoted volunteers have reached their limits as literacy requests grow and finding tutoring space at the Library becomes more challenging.

The Friends of the Library is another devoted group of volunteers working with the Library. They raise funds to help the Library do more, supporting the Children's Library and improving the community room. The Friends hold book sales a few times a year, only accept book donations the week before each sale, as the Library has no room to store or sort the books before the sale. The Annex will offer them valuable space to be able to take book donations year round and conduct more book sales.

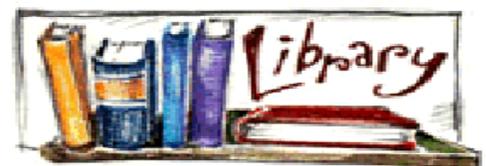
Keep an eye out for news about the Library Annex. We would especially like to hear from those of you with interest in an office-share situation. Whether you are launching a new business or telecommute daily, the Library believes the new Annex can provide the space and technology you need.

For more information on co-working space or to volunteer with the Literacy Council or the Friends of the Library, please contact Library Director Cindy Fesemyer.

Telephone: (920)623-5910 or email info@columbuspubliclibrary.info

The library is located at 223 W. James Street.

Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 9-8:30; Friday 9-5:30 and Saturday 9-1.



www.columbuspubliclibrary.info