

# WELCOME

You're home.

[WWW.COLUMBIACITY.NET](http://WWW.COLUMBIACITY.NET)



## COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA



As Mayor of our community, I want to welcome you to the City of Columbia City!

I am so happy you've chosen to join us! It is my hope that you will find this welcome packet to be both informational and hospitable.

As your elected mayor, I have the responsibility to be both the leader of the city and a representative for you. In our community, you will find a safe and enjoyable place to live, a strong focus on improving and growing our citizens' quality of life, and a wealth of economic opportunities throughout Northeast Indiana. In our residents, you will experience people who are friendly, hard-working, and focused on improving our community for the greater good.

In 2015, we chose the tagline "Building a Future Together" because it truly tells the story of our community's drive and dedication towards improvement through collaboration. Our city is consistently one of the safest communities in Indiana, one of the more prosperous communities in Northeast Indiana, and in 2021, named as the second-fastest growing city in Northeast Indiana. Make no mistake, becoming a part of our community will be a choice you won't regret. From the Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatics Center and our diverse park spaces, to our downtown hub and First Friday events, this community is striving to be better today than it was yesterday.

So again, I give you my sincere thanks for choosing Columbia City. My office and the city government stand ready to serve you and we welcome you to stop in and say "Hello"! If I can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact my office or find us on Facebook.

Sincerely,

Ryan L. Daniel  
Mayor, City of Columbia City

Ryan Daniel has served as Mayor of Columbia City since his election in 2011. Although he has many roles and responsibilities, the most important is overseeing the city departments to promote good, efficient government with an emphasis on service to the community. He also serves on the Board of Public Works and Safety, presides over the Columbia City Common Council meetings, and serves on numerous boards and commissions across Northeast Indiana. Mayor Daniel graduated from Columbia City High School in 2003, Anderson University in 2007, and has become a Certified Municipal Official through the AIM Municipal Management Institute.



# DIRECTORY

## CITY AND COUNTY CONTACTS



### City Contact Numbers

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Columbia City Police Department  | 248-5121 |
| Utility Office                   | 248-5100 |
| Water/Stormwater Department      | 248-5118 |
| Mayor                            | 248-5111 |
| City Clerk-Treasurer             | 248-5112 |
| Community Development            | 248-5114 |
| Communications/Dispatch          | 248-5123 |
| Parks Department                 | 248-5180 |
| Aquatics Center                  | 248-5182 |
| Water Pollution Control Facility | 248-5119 |

### County Contact Numbers

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Whitley County Sheriff           | 244-6410      |
| Whitley County Auditor           | 248-3100      |
| Whitley County Assessor          | 248-3109      |
| Whitley County Clerk             | 248-3102      |
| Whitley County Treasurer         | 248-3105      |
| Whitley County Recorder          | 248-3106      |
| Whitley County Engineer          | 248-3107      |
| Whitley County Drainage          | 248-3108      |
| Whitley County Planning/Building | 248-3112      |
| Whitley County Highway           | 248-3123      |
| Whitley County Health Dept.      | 248-3121      |
| Immunization Clinic              | 248-2310      |
| Division of Family Resources     | (800)403-0864 |
| Economic Development Corp.       | 244-5506      |
| Columbia Township Trustee        | 244-0045      |

### Miscellaneous

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| CenturyLink/Lumen               |               |
| New Service                     | (800)788-3500 |
| Repair                          | (800)788-3600 |
| Mediacom                        | (800)874-2924 |
| Surf Broadband                  | 888-274-6381  |
| NIPSCO                          | (800)464-7726 |
| Northeastern REMC               | (888)413-6111 |
| Recycling Center                | 248-3132      |
| Whitley Environmental           | 248-8300      |
| Chamber of Commerce             | 248-8131      |
| License Branch                  | 244-7107      |
| Animal Shelter                  | 244-6664      |
| Post Office                     | 244-5962      |
| Post & Mail Newspaper           | 244-5153      |
| Parkview Whitley Hospital       | 248-9000      |
| Financial Assistance            | 211           |
| Community Action                | 248-4887      |
| Whitley County Council on Aging | 248-8944      |
| Whitley County Transit          | 248-8944      |

### Schools

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Administration Building            | 244-5771 |
| Columbia City High School          | 244-6136 |
| Indian Springs Middle School       | 244-5148 |
| Little Turtle Elementary School    | 244-3343 |
| Mary Raber Elementary School       | 244-5857 |
| Coesse Elementary School           | 244-3351 |
| Northern Heights Elementary School | 691-2371 |
| Eagle Tech Academy                 | 244-5707 |

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# CITY SERVICES

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## Trash, Leaf & Limb Pickup

Trash is picked up weekly for residents of single-family homes or duplexes within city limits. Trash will only be picked up if it is out by 6:00am on your designated day, the lid is completely closed, and a car is not parked in front of the trash tote. Additional blue trash bags can be bought at City Hall for a small fee; please note that our trash service will only pick up these specific bags. As a service to the citizens of Columbia City, the Street/Sewer department will pick up limbs monthly from April through October, leaves in Autumn and large trash items once a year. This department also plows snow within the city limits. Citizens are required by ordinance to remove snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours of each weather occurrence. It is recommended that residents allow the snowplows to pass prior to cleaning sidewalks and driveways as they may become snow covered. Residents are prohibited from throwing or plowing snow back into the street.

## Recycling & Special Trash

Whitley County Solid Waste, located at 701 S Line Street, takes hazardous and electronic waste on Wednesdays from 8:00am - 4:00pm. These items cannot be put in your regular trash bin. Whitley Environmental provides recycling to all of Whitley County. Their number is 260.248.3132.

## Mosquito Briquettes

During spring and summer months, when mosquitoes are prevalent, the city's Street/Sewer Department will place mosquito larvicide briquettes in the catch basins and retention ponds throughout the city. The larvicide helps kill mosquito larvae and works to keep their population at a minimum. Residents can purchase their own larvicide briquettes at the Utility Office on the first floor of City Hall for a small fee.

## City Utilities

As a resident within city limits, you are provided with a variety of utility services. Most city residents are billed monthly for electricity, trash, water, sewage and stormwater. The Utilities Department can be contacted at 260.248.5100 for all your utility questions.



# CITY LIFE

## Food

Columbia City offers a variety of food choices. In downtown, we have Tokyo Restaurant for sushi, Pickles Café for omelet & sandwich lovers, Ozaras if you prefer healthier options, The Square has steaks, burgers and salads, or Italian-inspired Cibo with pasta and bread. We also have our local coffee shop downtown, Brewha, which is loved by many. Last but not least, Blue Moon Bakery provides baked goods for any palate while Señor Fajitas or Casa Balbina will satisfy your chips and salsa craving. If you travel around the city you'll find fast food restaurants, an array of pizza choices, and a few Starbucks locations as well. Bon appetit!



## Summer Fun

Every June, the Old Settlers' Days Festival comes to town, along with the rides, food and parade that accompany it. Make sure you stop by during the wristband special so you can enjoy unlimited rides! Another summer favorite is the Whitley County 4-H Fair. You can come to enjoy the food and entertainment, or join in on the fun by signing up for classes or showing an animal. During the warmer months, you'll find the farmers market on Saturday mornings around the courthouse square and First Friday events downtown. Paige's Crossing has an arcade, mini golf, a Topgolf driving range and more. Finally, if you enjoy the summer breeze in your hair, you have the option to drive a golf cart within city limits (permit required).

## Learning

Residents old, young, and in-between enjoy the Peabody Public Library because of their programs, classes, and variety of items you can check out (not just books!) They even have rooms that you can rent for your meetings or get-togethers. City residents receive a complimentary library card. Located at 1160 E IN-205.



## And More...

If you're an avid runner, you can join people from around the United States in our annual Veterans' Marathon, Half-Marathon, and Heroes' 5K. And, last but not least, head to Bones Theatre to enjoy a movie and popcorn any time of the year.



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# PARKS & RECREATION

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## Cycling & Running

Whether you enjoy running or cycling, the Blue River Trail and the Morsches Park wooded trails offer a scenic experience for both the body & mind. Morsches Park is located at 1035 IN-205, where you can find both of these trails winding through the park. If you aren't looking for a high-energy workout, simply walking the trails is another worthwhile venture.

## Dancing

The Parks Department hosts yearly Mother/Son and Father/Daughter events, which tend to be a hit among our residents! These memorable experiences offer entertainment, a meal, and more surprises. For information, check out the Parks Department's Facebook page or the City's website at columbiacity.net.

## Playing

The Parks Department offers a variety of sports for children and adults alike. From Junior League football and cheerleading to baseball and softball, our community is "all in" when it comes to these popular sports. Check out the Park Department's website (see below) for more information. Just make sure you arrive early to the games; parking spots can be in high demand! Don't forget to stop by Every Kids' Dreamland at 610 W Van Buren Street, too!

## Swimming & Skating

Built in 2018, the Russel & Evelyn Fahl Aquatic Center has become the place to be throughout the summer. From the twisting slides, to the thrilling vortex, your family will enjoy all this facility has to offer. There's even a kiddie area for the youngest swimmers. Swim lessons and pavilion rentals are also offered during the summer months, while during the winter you will find the Eagles Ice Rink at this facility. Head to their Facebook page to learn more or go to [columbiacity.net/aquaticscenter/](https://columbiacity.net/aquaticscenter/).





# MONTHLY MEETINGS

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## Common Council

The Common Council (also known as the City Council) is the Legislative Body for the City of Columbia City. The council is made up of four elected representatives from four sections of the city and one at-large representative elected by the entire city. The council has many roles and responsibilities, including approving the yearly budget, setting ordinances (laws) for the city, and changing/implementing policies for city employees. The council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

## Board of Public Works

The Board of Public Works (also known as the Board of Works and Safety) is responsible for the administrative management of the City of Columbia City. The Board is made up of the mayor and two of the mayor's appointees. The board has many roles and responsibilities including entering into contracts, accepting new public infrastructure, spending money, and managing most city departments. The board meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

## City/County Joint Planning & Building Department

The Columbia City/Whitley County Joint Planning and Building Department provides planning, zoning and building services for all of Whitley County. The department staff assists both existing and future residents with applications for zoning, variance and development proposals as well as building permits for dwellings and accessory structures. Developers and development professionals are also provided with information and assistance on requirements and regulations regarding zoning matters and subdivision plats. They are located at 220 W Van Buren Street, Suite 204 and their phone number is 260.248.3112.

## Columbia City Community Tree Board

The Tree Board is responsible for studying, investigating, developing, updating annually, and overseeing the administration of a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, re-planting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. The board consists of seven volunteer members who are appointed by the mayor and city council. They meet every 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

## Columbia City Housing Authority

The Housing Authority's purpose is for the improvement, clearance and reconstruction of areas in which unsanitary or unsafe housing conditions may exist. They also seek to beautify the city through their Residential Façade Loan Program, which offers residents up to \$5,000 as a no-interest loan to improve their home's exterior. Additionally, the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program offers a no-interest loan up to \$20,000 for repairs to make homes safer and to eliminate hazards. The board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

## Columbia City Redevelopment Commission

The responsibility of the Redevelopment Commission is to investigate, study, and survey blighted areas within the city, and to promote the use of the land in a manner that best serves the interest of Columbia City. This board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon in the Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

## Columbia City Park Board

The Columbia City Park Board plans and discusses programs and equipment for the parks system, while making decisions on additional quality-of-life amenities. This board meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

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# “ SMALL TOWN VALUES. WORLD CLASS RESULTS. ”

Whitley County Consolidated Schools consists of four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. The state-of-the-art high school also includes Eagles Tech Academy. The high school opened in 2020, and will take your breath away! Also, every student in grades K-12 have access to a tech device on a daily basis.



Mary Raber Montessori School is a free, public Montessori school for the residents of Whitley County. Each class is multi-aged with a Montessori elementary teacher and an assistant teacher. It promises a hands-on education, full of life skills, and student-led learning.

Whitley County Consolidated Schools  
**WCCS**  
Small Town Values. World Class Results.

## Mayor



Ryan Daniel  
rdaniel@columbiacity.net

# CITY OFFICIALS

## Clerk-Treasurer



Leslee Robinson  
lrobinson@columbiacity.net

## Common Council Members



Jennifer Middleton  
jmiddleton@columbiacity.net



Dan Weigold  
dweigold@columbiacity.net



Jennifer Romano  
jromano@columbiacity.net



Brent Bockelman  
bbockelman@columbiacity.net



Tad Varga  
tvarga@columbiacity.net

## Board of Works Members



Ryan Daniel  
rdaniel@columbiacity.net



Lisa Smith  
lsmith@columbiacity.net



Dan Weigold  
dweigold@columbiacity.net

## Department Heads



Gary Parrett  
Chief of Police  
gparrett@columbiacity.net



Tom LaRue  
Fire Chief  
tlarue@columbiacity.net



Terry Wherry  
IT Director  
tlwherry@columbiacity.net



Chip Hill  
Community Development Director  
chill@columbiacity.net



Mike Shoda  
Water Superintendent  
mshoda@columbiacity.net



Kelly Cearbaugh  
Street Superintendent  
kcearbaugh@columbiacity.net



Beth Igney  
H.R. Director  
bigney@columbiacity.net



Mike Cook  
Water Pollution Superintendent  
mcook@columbiacity.net



Matt Heiden  
Parks Director  
mheiden@columbiacity.net



Shawn Lickey  
Electric Superintendent  
slickey@columbiacity.net