

WELCOME

You're home.

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

Brightspeed	(833)692-7773
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

CITY SERVICES

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 5:00am 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 and Pickles Café for omelet & sandwich lovers. The Square has steaks, burgers and salads, or Italian-inspired Cibo boasts delicious pasta and bread. 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. Just a little south of downtown, you'll find Big G's, which is a favorite among many for breakfast and lunch. 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!

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.



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).

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.



PARKS & RECREATION

Cycling & Running

Whether you enjoy running or cycling, the Blue River Trail and the Morsch's Park wooded trails offer a scenic experience for both the body & mind. Morsch's 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

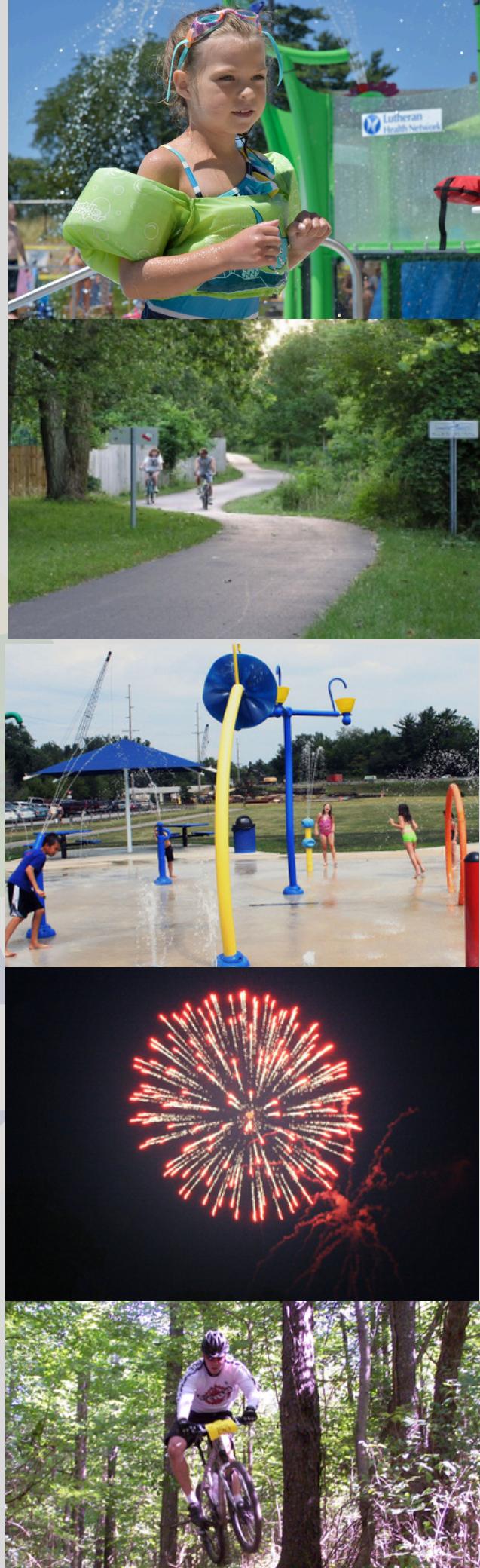
The Parks Department hosts yearly Mother/Son and Father/Daughter events, which tend to be a hit among our residents! These memorable experiences offer entertainment, a meal, and more surprises. For information, check out the Parks Department's Facebook page or the City's website at columbiacity.net.

Playing

The Parks Department offers a variety of sports for children and adults alike. From Junior League Football to baseball and softball, our community is "all in" when it comes to these popular sports. For those young swimmers in your life, they can join our swim team, the "Stingrays"! 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. Head to their Facebook page to learn more or go to columbiacity.net/aquaticscenter/.





MONTHLY MEETINGS



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 6:00pm 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 seeks 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 Parks Office at 400 N Whitley Street.

“ **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 includes three different academies. The high school opened in 2020, and will take your breath away! Also, every student in grades K-12 has 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.

Mayor



Ryan Daniel
rdaniel@columbiacity.net

CITY OFFICIALS



Clerk-Treasurer



Leslee Robinson
lrobinson@columbiacity.net

Common Council Members



Ryan Adamson
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Dan Weigold
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Jennifer Romano
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Brent Bockelman
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Tad Varga
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Board of Works Members



Ryan Daniel
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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
tlwerry@columbiacity.net



Chip Hill
Community Development Director
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Mike Shoda
Water Superintendent
mshoda@columbiacity.net



Kelly Gearbaugh
Street Superintendent
kgearbaugh@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