



# Columbia Quarterly Summer



[www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com)

**CITY OF COLUMBIA**

**Mayor Hutchinson**

We were lucky to have a mild winter—let's hope summer is mild and pleasant as well!

How do you plan to enjoy summer? The Music at Metter Concert series starts June 10th; there are camps for the kids through the YMCA and other local groups; the library has activities all summer, plus they have Wi-Fi so you can still get a little work done and enjoy Metter Park; the American Legion Park is the home of baseball, fun and the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration; and our many parks offer great places for summer picnics and gatherings.

Heading out of town? Get your vehicle safety checked at one of our local repair shops — tires, breaks, wipers, air conditioning, etc. My grandma said "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." You do not want to be on the road and have car troubles.

At the city, we will be busy as well. We will be working with groups to move forward on sections of the Trost Park. The dog park planning is underway. We have road and sidewalk projects. Staff will be planning events, concerts, parades and more. The council and staff continue to amaze me. Your Aldermen and department heads continue to find ways to do more with less. Revenues are down but we are still moving forward thanks to everyone's hard work.

Check out upcoming events on your utility billings, as well as the city website. Need to promote an event? Let us know and we will help get the word out.

So, don't sit around bored this summer — have fun and get involved in your community. You won't regret it.

If you have any questions or concerns, give me a call, or zip me a note or email. I would love to hear from you. Have a great summer, be safe, plan ahead and have fun!

Sincerely, Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor

## EXPLORE COLUMBIA!

The City of Columbia, in partnership with HeartLands Conservancy, has begun the process of creating the Explore Columbia! plan, a comprehensive effort to improve walking and bicycling conditions throughout the city. When completed, this plan will make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to safely and comfortably reach parks, schools, shopping areas, and other important community destinations on foot, by bike, or through other alternatives for transportation. The plan will detail locations and conditions of sidewalks, multi-use trails, bike lanes, and other routes and it will allow the City to apply for funding to complete these projects.

City leaders, working through the Play Commission, need citizens' help in order to determine the most appropriate locations and types of facilities, and desired walking and/or biking improvements to be incorporated into the plan document. Throughout the planning process there will be several opportunities for citizens to give their feedback, ideas, and concerns about Explore Columbia! The first of these is a survey available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ExploreColumbia>; paper copies can also be picked up in the Clerk's Office at Columbia City Hall.

On Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, an Explore Columbia! Open House will be held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at City Hall. At this open house, attendees will be asked to identify destinations, barriers, and corridors for walking and biking travel in Columbia. City officials, Play Commission members, and planners will be available to answer any questions. All information gathered from participants will then be used to help create the final plan.

Other events that will take place as part of the planning process include a Walking Event and a second Open House to review draft plan recommendations. Dates have not yet been set for either activity.

This project is funded by a federal planning grant administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation; other partners include Trailnet and James Pona & Associates. In all, four Metro East communities are participating in this pilot project--Swansea, Waterloo, Columbia, and a yet to be determined Madison County community.



### SOUTH MAIN STREET AND ILLINOIS ROUTE 3

On April 2, 2012 South Main Street at Illinois Route 3 was closed to traffic for construction. On Thursday, April 26, 2012 South Main Street was reopened to traffic for a total closure of a mere 25 days. The contract allowed for a maximum of 70 days of closure meaning only 36% of the closure time was utilized. The City wants to give thanks and appreciation to Baxmeyer Construction for getting the project accomplished in an efficient and timely manner. Tim Ahrens, Assistant City Engineer, was more than willing to meet Baxmeyer Construction's schedule and work through issues while adhering to the plans and specifications. The City also wants to thank the businesses and property owners in the area as well as the traveling public for their understanding and patience while the construction took place.

### SENIOR MOMENT



Pictured here with Mike & Lacy Andra, Mayor Kevin Hutchinson recently accompanied staff from Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council on deliveries across Columbia. Western Egyptian provides home-delivered meals to many seniors and also operates the Senior Nutrition Center located at City Hall. The City provides free rent, subsidies and other support to the Center. For more information or to request services, call Pat Stumpf, Senior Center Coordinator, at (618) 281-7414.

### SMITHSONIAN COMES TO MONROE COUNTY

Columbia's Sand Bank School will be one of the host sites for the Smithsonian Institution's traveling display. "The Way We Worked," and Monroe County's companion local exhibit, "The Lure of the Land," from June 2nd through July 14th. For more information, visit [www.monroecountyhistorymuseum.com](http://www.monroecountyhistorymuseum.com)



### News from Columbia School District



Columbia Unit School District #4 is proud to be the recipient of four prestigious awards that recognize accomplishments in academics, energy savings, and per pupil expenditures. Parkview School (second year in a row) and Columbia Middle School received the Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education for consistently having high ISAT scores in reading and math. In addition, the school district received the Bright Star Award which compares the cost of educating a student and ISAT scores. CUSD4 received the award for being well below the state average for cost per pupil, but above the state average for our reading and math scores in Grades 3-8. Lastly, the district eagerly accepted the Energy Star Award for Eagleview Elementary's energy efficient geothermal heating and cooling system. Out of over 4000 schools in Illinois, Eagleview was named one of one hundred schools which received this award across the state.

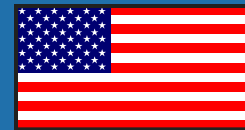
Other school district news:

- The school district congratulates Dr. Roger Chamberlain (CMS principal) and Mrs. Deb Sisk (CHS English) who are two educators retiring from CUSD4 this year. Both individuals have touched the lives of many students, and we wish them the best of luck!
- Replacing the existing football field, the multi-purpose turf field will be installed this summer with an early August completion date. The field surface will allow for continual use by CMS and CHS students during the school day and for after school activities - football, soccer, track, and more. A capital campaign to raise funds for the project is underway. Please visit the district's website for more information on the project, the in-kind donations, and the fundraising efforts.
- For the first time in over twenty years, Columbia High School will offer FFA classes and have an after school FFA/Agriscience Club during the 2012-2013 school year. A special thank you to the Columbia Agriscience Association (FFA Chapter Alumni) for providing support for the new high school program.

All parents will need to register their student for the 2012-2013 school year. Entering kindergarten students should register at Eagleview as soon as possible. District wide Student Registration dates are July 25, July 26, and July 30. Student registration information and paperwork can be accessed on the district's website. Parents can copy and complete in advance. All parents must show one proof of residency (utility bill – water, gas, electric) when registering to verify continued residency within CUSD4 boundaries. For school district information, please access the district's website at [www.chseagles.com](http://www.chseagles.com). Have a great summer!



## A Message from the Columbia Police Department



Throughout the year there are a number of scams that criminals use to try and take money from innocent and unsuspecting victims. Unfortunately, the City of Columbia is starting to see an increase in these types of crimes. I would like to take this opportunity to provide pertinent information regarding scams so that individuals may protect themselves from these types of crimes.

The majority of scams are done by: Mail - E-mail - Phone

Mail scams are usually letters that request all of your contact and/or personal information be sent to someone. The letter will often state that they have millions of dollars in a foreign bank account and they want to work with you to send the money to America. In exchange for your assistance, they will guarantee the recipient of the letter millions of dollars.

E-mail scams typically come with a subject line titled "ALERT" or "Unpaid Account." The message will commonly start out by saying, "I have been waiting for you to contact me since..." or "I have been unable to contact you and this is your final notice." The sender of the e-mail will request the recipient send a specific amount of money and in return they will send them something for their cooperation. The body of the message will usually contain broken English and may include an address from another country. Currently the most common scams are lottery type scams from Canada.

Phone scams frequently involve an unidentified person calling and demanding you to give the caller confidential information. They will often claim they are a credit card company or a debt collection agency.

Please do not ever give or send personal information or money to people or places unfamiliar to you. I would encourage everyone to delete any e-mails they receive if they do not know the e-mail sender. If someone calls you on the phone and you do not know who they are, simply end the conversation by hanging up the phone.

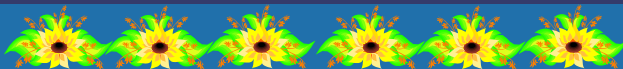
Please note that the situations previously mentioned are just a few of the scams that are currently being used. We ask that you remember to never give out your personal information over the phone or through the mail to people or companies that are unfamiliar to you. If you have any questions about these scams feel free to contact the Columbia Police Department or visit the FBI website at [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov).

### BUDGET INFORMATION

On April 16<sup>th</sup> the City of Columbia passed a budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2012 that is a little less than \$14.2 million. The previous year's budget was a little less than \$14.2 million and the increase in the overall budget is less than 1/2 of 1 per cent. The budget for the year beginning May 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013 may be viewed at the city website [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com) under City Government and then Budget Document. Also under City Government is the required posting pursuant to P.A. 97-609 effective 1-1-12 which lists employees who receive over \$75,000 in compensation which includes salary and certain benefits. Accounting Manager - Linda Sharp

### UTILITY BILL DIRECT DEBIT

Don't forget you can sign up for direct debit payment of your monthly utility bill. This is a free service and can be initiated by completing a direct debit form which is available at City Hall.



### UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS

For your convenience, utility bill payments & other city correspondence/ payments (**no cash please**) may be placed in our drive-up utility box any time of the day/night. The box is located in front of City Hall in the parking lot. Please enter from the Cedar Street side. The box is emptied daily.

### COLUMBIA'S ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Supplier: Ameren Energy Marketing  
d/b/a Homefield Energy  
Rate: \$.0408/kilowatt hour  
(fixed for 2 years)

See city website for more information.

### WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

<p><b>ASAP Contracting</b> 123A Wedgewood General Contracting</p>	<p><b>Magnolia</b> 208 N. Main, Suite D Glassware, tableware, paper goods &amp; gifts</p>	<p><b>New Hope Massage, Inc.</b> 278 Southwoods Center Massage therapy services</p>
<p><b>Outdoor Décor</b> 124 S. Main, Unit B Flags, mailbox covers &amp; lawn ornaments</p>	<p><b>Pen2Paper Art Studio</b> 104 Veterans Parkway Art studio—drawing &amp; painting lessons</p>	<p><b>Quantum Homes, Inc.</b> 808 S. Main Custom homes building business</p>
<p><b>Shooters Firearms &amp; Indoor Range</b> 310 BB Road Indoor shooting range &amp; firearm sales</p>	<p><b>Columbia Bicycle Center</b> 110 Columbia Centre Bicycle sales &amp; services</p>	<p><b>The Patina Pony, LLC</b> 113 W. Gundlach Western apparel &amp; décor boutique</p>



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### COLUMBIA LIBRARY EVENTS

#### SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Kids & adults, register NOW for a chance to win some great prizes.

#### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

June 8: 4—7 pm

#### HUNGER GAMES

June 11: 1 pm Exciting scavenger hunt - foot race for ages 13 & older.

#### MAGIC WITH CHRIS

June 14: 11 am Magic + comedy = fun

#### YOGA FOR KIDS

June 18: 9 am Ages 5-12 (Register)

#### REPTILE EXPERIENCE

June 21: 11 am Up close with reptiles.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT TRIVIA

June 27: 1 pm Ages 8 & up (Register)

#### CRAFT DAYS

June 28 & July 12: 11 am (Register)

#### KNITTING CLASSES

July 2, 9 & 16: 1—3 pm (Register)

#### COOKING CLASS

July 11: 11 am—1 pm  
(Register)

#### ANIMAL TALES

July 21, 10 am

Visit with birds, mammals & amphibians.



### Upcoming Events

For more details on listed items visit the city website "Calendar" at [www.columbiainilinois.com](http://www.columbiainilinois.com) or call 281-7144

#### LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK UP

June 5: Residential curb side pick up

#### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

June 16, July 21, Aug. 18:  
10 am - 4 pm

DOPW Parking Lot, collecting electronics, appliances, batteries, etc.

#### 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

July 4: 11 am—American Legion  
Bike parade (10:30 am), concessions, bingo, washers, family fun & fireworks.

#### LUPUS BIKE RIDE

August 4: Bolm-Schuhkraft Park  
Non-competitive bicycle ride (56 & 112 mile).



#### COLUMBIA DAZE

August 19 & 20: 4 pm-Midnight  
Games, rides, music & food, Metter Park.  
Parade Saturday at 5 pm.

#### KIWANIS CAR SHOW

Sept. 1: 9 am—3:30 pm  
Bolm-Schuhkraft Park (Rain date 9/2)



### MUSIC AT METTER CONCERT SERIES:



Gather your family and friends for a relaxing evening of music at **Metter Park from 6-8 pm**. Bratwurst, hot dogs and ice cold refreshments available.

#### **June 10: Waterloo German Band German Heritage Week**

(Polkas & More)

Sponsored by: HTC & First National Bank of Waterloo

#### **June 24: Silverback**

(Harmony, Blues & Classic Rock)

Sponsored by: Maverick Technologies & Quality Collision

#### **July 8: Randy Webb Band**

(Classics—a great variety)

Sponsored by: Taake Insurance & Midland States Bank

#### **July 22: Second Sojourn**

(Acoustic Harmony, Country Rock & Blues)

Sponsored by: George Weber Chevrolet & Reliable Sanitation

#### **August 5: Heritage Band**

(Waltz, Polkas, Swing, & Light Country)

Sponsored by: Khoury Pharmacy & Garden Place Senior Living

Thanks to our sponsors, all performances are **FREE** to the public!



The City of Columbia is proud to print the Quarterly on recycled paper

