



CITY OF COLUMBIA

www.columbiaillinois.com

Columbia Quarterly

Fall 2012



Mayor Hutchinson

The city survived the heat wave; the grass did not do as well. Now we get to look forward to cool fall evenings and Columbia events. You remember — Movies at Metter, Art on the Bluffs Art Walk on Main Street, FestiFall, Halloween Hi-Jinks, Scare Square & Pumpkin Glow and so much more. All of the information you need is on the back of this newsletter or on the city's website.

Great news, we received \$240,000 for the Legion Park property, another grant for Main Street improvements and other funding for smaller projects. The economy has hit hard and the city is not exempt, so the outside funds help relieve the tax burden of the Columbia citizens. City staff has done a great job of doing more with less. Thank you Columbia employees for understanding.

I also encourage everyone to keep safety in mind as school is back in session and children will be going to and from school, as well as playing in residential

areas. Remember, **it's against the law to talk on your cell phone in school zones and construction areas**—be safe and slow down throughout Columbia—you do not want to meet anyone by "accident!"

We are working towards adding a "Volunteer" section to our website which will connect projects with those interested in volunteering. I thank the schools, churches and all of the civic organizations for their assistance in this endeavor. To be part of this project contact Paul Ellis at City Hall. Columbia is a city of volunteers!

Please be safe and get out and enjoy the events, activities and services our wonderful community has to offer. As always, contact me if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Mayor Kevin Hutchinson
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City Meeting Information

- City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7pm in the second floor Council Chamber at City Hall.
- Aldermanic Committee meetings are typically held on the second, fourth, and occasional fifth Mondays of the month.
- Information regarding other boards, commissions and committees, and their meeting dates and locations, can be found on the City's website or obtained through the City Clerk's Office.



Explore Columbia!



The City of Columbia, the Play Commission, and the HeartLands Conservancy are holding an open house for all residents who want to participate in "Explore Columbia!" on Thursday, September 6th, at Columbia City Hall. Citizens may stop by anytime between 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to view a draft of the proposed new pedestrian and bicycle facilities plan incorporating results from surveys, the first open house, and a walking workshop.

This plan will be a long-range comprehensive proposal for how to improve walking and bicycling conditions throughout Columbia, making it easier for people of all ages and abilities to safely and comfortably reach parks, schools, shopping areas, and other important community destinations by foot, bike, or other means of alternative transportation. Details will include locations and conditions assessments of sidewalks, multi-use trails, and other routes that will allow the City to easily apply for grants and other funding sources to complete projects.

Results from the open house will be used to produce the final "Explore Columbia!" plan to make Columbia a better, safer place to walk and bike for people of all ages. Local businesses and organizations such as Walgreens and the Columbia Bike Center will display their products and/or services. Stop by and chat with business representatives, view the recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and enter a raffle to win a gift certificate to use at the Columbia Bike Center!

The Explore Columbia planning process started earlier this year with the launch of the "Explore Columbia!" survey. An open house held on June 26th provided an opportunity for citizens to voice their comments, concerns, and suggestions for walking and biking in Columbia. A walking workshop held on Saturday, August 11th provided residents with an opportunity to take a walk with planners and city officials to point out areas where constructed features make walking safer, as well as other areas which may need improvement, culminating with each participant giving Columbia a "walkability" score.



VOTER REGISTRATION

MOVED WITHIN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA

If you have moved within the City of Columbia, you may call the Monroe County Clerk's Office at 618-939-8681 to change your address or you may complete the Transfer of Registration form on the back of your current voter registration card and mail it to the Monroe County Clerk's Office. Either way, a new voter registration card will be mailed to you.

MOVED FROM ANOTHER ILLINOIS COUNTY, MOVED FROM OUT OF STATE, NAME CHANGE BY MARRIAGE, NEW REGISTRATIONS

The last day the City Clerk's Office can register voters for the November 6th election is Tuesday, October 9th. Two forms of identification (Driver's License with current address, current utility bill, bank statement, tax bill, car/homeowner's insurance) are required and registration must be made in person. Your social security number is also required on the registration form. The City Clerk's Office is open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

Questions? Call the Clerk's Office at 618-281-7144, ext. 100.

J. Ronald Colyer, Columbia City Clerk

TEMPLE STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT COMPLETED

The City of Columbia Public Works Department crews officially completed the Temple Street Sidewalk project on Monday, August 6, 2012. The project included the construction of storm sewer, curb and gutter, sidewalk, a concrete street approach and associated side road work. As everyone is well aware the summer was brutal due to the extended heat and humidity making working conditions particularly difficult. The Department of Public Works worked through the adverse weather conditions to complete the project and provide another link in the intermodal transportation system of the city by tying sidewalk along Main Street to Bolm-Schuhkraft Park. The property owners and residents were gracious in granting the necessary easements for the project and dealing with the inconvenience of the construction activities. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development reimbursed a majority of the project's labor, equipment and materials costs through a grant awarded to the city. It is hoped the residents of the City of Columbia will utilize and enjoy this addition to the city's ever expanding sidewalk and trail system.



Smoke Detectors Save Lives

When you turn your clock back change the battery in the smoke alarm!

Daylight Savings Ends November 4 at 2:00 am



Message from the
Columbia
Police Department

CROSSWALK SAFETY REMINDER

The Officers of the Columbia Police Department would like to remind motorists of the numerous crosswalks in the downtown district of Main Street and throughout the city that the Illinois Vehicle Code states - *The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.* Simply stated, you must stop to allow a person to cross the street before you drive through the crosswalk. However, a pedestrian should not suddenly leave a curb and walk/run into the path of a moving vehicle. Columbia Police Officers will continue to monitor crosswalk intersections, along with crossing guards and various school officials during school crosswalk hours. Please use the necessary care when approaching all crosswalks.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

- Always trick-or-treat in groups, never alone. Use flashing lights or jewelry to make your child stand out.
- Make sure your child's costume includes reflective material; a flash light or light will make them more visible at night.
- If your child is wearing a mask, make sure that the eye holes are big enough to see not only in front but peripherally as well—you may have to enlarge them.
- Remind your child not to eat any candy or other treats until you have had a chance to inspect it.

Report any suspicious activity that you observe to the Columbia PD at 618-281-5151 or in an emergency 9-1-1.

NEW BUSINESS—Opening Soon

Dave Sinclair Ford Used Cars
600 Columbia
Pre-owned vehicle sales

DID YOU KNOW!

Only one U.S. President was actually born in the state of Illinois....Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States from 1981-1989. He was born in Tampico, Illinois on February 6, 1911 and was raised in Dixon, Illinois.





The City of Columbia Announces Credit & Debit Payment Options

Beginning in early September 2012, customers who wish to make payments to the City of Columbia using credit and debit cards may do so through GovPayNet. GovPayNet accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover debit and prepaid debit card brands for payments twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week on-site, online (www.govpaynow.com) or by phone (1-888-604-7888). They need only have some basic information regarding the payment which is easily provided by the City of Columbia.

Cardholders pay a service fee to GovPayNet at the time of their transaction. There are no charges to the City of Columbia for participation in the GovPayNet service. Improving the convenience of taxpayer transactions with the City of Columbia means more frequent and timely payments, improved services and reduced taxpayer expenses.

GovPayNet handles all cardholder calls and inquiries about issues with payments. GovPayNet is an excellent opportunity for the City of Columbia to be at the forefront in offering convenient, flexible payment options.

For more company information, visit the website at www.GovPayNet.com
Or call GovPayNet toll-free at 888-561-7888.



Finance



UTILITY BILL DIRECT DEBIT

Don't forget...the City of Columbia also offers direct debit payment of monthly utility bills. There is no charge for this service - it's free! The direct debit form is available at City Hall or on the city's website at www.columbiaillinois.com. For more information contact Michelle Brown, Accounting Specialist, at 618-281-7144 ext. 102.



News from Columbia Unit School District

Welcome back to the 2012-2013 school year! Columbia Unit School District #4 would like to welcome two new administrators to Columbia High School: Principal Jason Dandurand and Assistant Principal Jeanne Goacher. Both are veteran educators who bring much knowledge and experience to CUSD4. Mr. Reeves, the prior Assistant Principal at the high school, has moved to the middle school as the new principal. Mr. Reeves replaces Dr. Chamberlain who recently retired.

Other district news:

- The new multi-purpose field is now complete with students at the high school and middle school sharing use. The grand opening event took place on August 7th with midnight football practice taking place right after. The field will be the new home for outdoor physical education classes, practice and game field for girls' and boys' soccer teams, football teams, and the marching band. Funding for the field consisted of private donations (50%), in-kind contributions (20%), and school district funds (30%). A formal dedication ceremony will soon be planned to recognize those individuals who played a key role toward making this project a reality.
- FFA is back at Columbia High School! Mrs. Carrie Koester is leading the charge as new instructor and FFA sponsor for our students. The district is very pleased to have great support from the newly formed Columbia Agri-Science Association consisting of area FFA alumni and supporters. Please contact the central office at 618-281-4772 if you would like more information.
- The Press Box was nearly completed over the summer months. In the Spring, the construction class was responsible for building an addition and renovating the existing concession stand area. The construction class will finish the interior after football season. The Music Boosters, Columbia Athletic Booster Club, and a private grant funded this construction class project.

A new concept will soon be launched entitled Columbia PRIDE. The PRIDE is an acronym for Private Revenue and In-Kind Donations for Education. The capital campaign that helped fund the multi-purpose field was the first Columbia PRIDE project. Very soon, a link to the district's website will be added to describe Columbia PRIDE and how individuals can support school initiatives falling in various areas of education: academic, fine arts, athletic, and general items.

For school district information, please access the district's website at www.chseagles.com.





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Upcoming Events

For more details on events call 618-281-7144 ext. 106 or visit the city website calendar at www.columbiaininois.com.

Clerk's Office Closed

September 1 & 3 (Labor Day)
November 22, 23 & 24 (Thanksgiving)

Large Item Trash Pick Up

September 11: residential pick up

Movies at Metter

September 14, at dusk: Free movie under the stars featuring "Dolphin Tale" at Metter Park.



Mutt & Me 5K Run/Walk

September 15, 9am:
Bolm-Schuhkraft Park
(rain or shine)



Electronics, Appliance & Battery Recycling Drop-Off Location

Sept. 15, Oct. 20 & Nov. 17,
10am-4pm

Public Works Parking Lot (110 W Sand Bank)

Art On The Bluffs Art Walk

September 22, 10am-4pm:
Stroll Main St. and visit a wide variety of artists offering their creations; kid's activities, food, music & more.



Columbia FestiFall

September 30, 1-6pm:

Music by Well Hungarians "Country Group of the Year", delicious food, wine tasting, unique merchandise and lots of fun fall activities for the kids!

Movies at Metter

October 12, at dusk: Free outdoor movie at Metter Park featuring "Journey 2, Mysterious Island"



Halloween Hi Jinks

October 27, 10am-1pm:
Main Street businesses welcome trick-or-treaters followed by a kid's parade.

Halloween Scare Square & Pumpkin Glow

October 31, 5:30-8:00pm:
Free hotdogs, hot chocolate & trunk-or-treating. Enter & vote for your favorite carved or decorated pumpkin at City Hall fountain park



Daylight Savings Ends

November 4, 2am:
Set clocks back one hour!



Veteran's Day

November 11, 11am:
Dedication ceremony at the American Legion.



LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Library Preschool

Begins September 5, 9:30-11am:
Every Wednesday

Story Hour

Begins September 6, 10am
1st and 3rd Thursday

Tot Time

Begins September 13, 10-10:45 am:
2nd and 4th Thursday each month

Story by Jacque Weiss

September 18, 7pm
Hear the incredible story of a local woman's 4,000 mile journey.

Lego Story Time

Begins September 25, 4pm
Come build a love of books.



Halloween Hoopla at the Library

October 25, 11am-12pm:
Kids come dressed in costume and enjoy games, stories and treats.

Christmas Cruise

November 25, 11am-4pm:
Cruise around town and get a head start on holiday shopping; win nice prizes too!

Bright Night Christmas Parade

December 1, 5pm:
A festive display of lighted floats, unique entries & music on Main St. — sure to get you in the Christmas spirit!

