

# Columbia Quarterly 2010

CITY OF COLUMBIA



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



## From the desk of Mayor Hutchinson

Spring is right around the corner, trees will be budding, flowers blooming and the census coming. Yes, a fresh new count for Columbia. This is a very important event. The more people counted by the census the more money we get from the State and Federal Government, as well as grants and other funding based on population. The more money we get from others the less money we need from you the taxpayer. I encourage you to complete the form and put it in the mail, otherwise a census taker will come to your door and bother you during your favorite show. If a census taker does come to your door, don't get scammed, they will have a picture I.D. and official credentials. They do not need Social

Security numbers or bank information and they will not contact you via email or the internet. If you are not sure, contact the Police Dept. or City Hall.

Do not miss out on up coming events, check out the City calendar. Night Out in "C" Town is the 2nd Thursday of each month, Music at Metter starts in June, Recycle day, Large Item Pick Up and many other events. If your group is having a major event, get it on the City calendar.

This spring turn over a new leaf...get involved. You have talents, interests, passions so put them to good use. Join a club or organization, volunteer at church, the Library, the Boy or Girl Scouts, the YMCA, pick a

club or organization of interest. Volunteer and contribute your personal "Return on Investment" to the community you call home. Need ideas? -- find a club or organization on the City website under Discover Columbia/Community Directory/Category: Clubs and Organizations. Still need help? --call me and I will get you in touch with a group. I promise you will feel good about what you do and better about yourself.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, comments or just want to chat, please contact me at 618-281-4177 x 109, at home @ 281-5199 or [khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com)

Sincerely,  
Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor

## Census 2010

### IT'S TIME TO BE COUNTED 1 2 3 4 5.....

The first census was conducted in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and to gain a better understanding of where people lived, and establish patterns of settlement as our nation grew. The census count includes all U.S. residents, both citizens and non citizens. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to determine our country's population.

Every year, the federal and state governments allocate several hundreds of billions of dollars to states and communities based, in part, on census data. Therefore, it is extremely important that every citizen, no matter what age, be counted. We ask that you take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to complete and submit the census questionnaire you will be receiving in the near future... your cooperation will greatly benefit the City of Columbia by assuring that our community receives the proper amount of funds due the city (based upon census based allocations) over the next decade.

February-March 2010:	Census questionnaires mailed or delivered to households
March-April 2010:	Census questionnaires are available at select public sites for individuals who did not receive one by mail
April 1, 2010:	Census Day
May-July 2010:	Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire
December 31, 2010:	Census Bureau delivers population count to the President

If you fail to complete and return your census questionnaire, a census worker will visit your household to obtain the census information – the worker will have a picture I.D. and proper credentials. The worker will not need your Social Security number or bank information, and will not contact you via e-mail or the internet. If you are unsure as to the person's identity, please contact the Police Dept. or City Hall – never give your personal information to unauthorized individuals.

### City Meeting Information

- **City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7:00 p.m. 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.**

## Celebrate Shoemaker Schoolhouse

The Columbia Heritage & Preservation Commission will hold an open house on Monday, March 22nd, from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Shoemaker Schoolhouse, located near the intersection of Gall Rd. & Illinois 3 in Columbia. The purpose of this event will be to review an application for nomination of this property as a Columbia Historical Landmark, and members of the public are invited to attend at any time during the hours stated above to share comments regarding the schoolhouse, its historic significance, and/or memories of its occupants.

In 1851, a log school building was built by Hammond Shoemaker on his farm south of Columbia for his children and the families of his neighbors. A new brick school building was built on the farm in 1867 by Fred Koch Construction for \$800.

Shoemaker School became a part of the Columbia School District in 1950. Since the school's directors had already contracted Marian Maag to teach for the 1950-51 term prior to the consolidation, the old school was kept open for one final year.

In 1992, the school building was moved to its present site in order to avoid demolition due to the widening of Illinois 3. It was purchased by the City of Columbia in 2009 and is now being transformed into the Monroe County Welcome Center, which will include a restoration to preserve its heritage.

Following the open house, the Heritage & Preservation Commission will consider the nomination and public comments at their regular meeting, which will convene at 7:30 p.m. that same evening in Columbia City Hall.

## BUDGET TIME

The City is in the process of preparing the budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2011. At each Committee of the Whole meeting from now until mid-April, City Administrator, Al Hudzik, and Accounting Manager, Linda Sharp, will discuss various components of the budget. Topics covered will include projected revenue, projected expenditures, capital projects, equipment purchases, cash flow projection and fee schedule adjustments. The budget will be posted for public inspection in mid-April.



### UTILITY BILL DIRECT DEPOSIT

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.



*A message from the Columbia Fire Department....*

### Simple Changes That Could Save Your Life... How Safe Is Your Household?

#### Count Your Smoke Alarms

Be sure there is at least one smoke alarm installed on every level of your home, including one in every bedroom and outside of each sleeping area.

#### Change Your Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Detector Batteries

It only takes a moment, but this simple habit is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire or accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. An easy way to remember to do so is to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when you change your clocks on March 14 for Daylight Savings Time.

#### Check Your Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

After inserting a fresh battery in each smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector, push the safety test button to make sure alarms are in proper working condition. Never disconnect your smoke alarm battery! Remember that a "chirping" alarm is a signal that it needs a fresh battery.

#### Clean Your Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Ensure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors sensitivity by cleaning them each month of dust and cobwebs.

#### Replace Your Smoke Alarms

Install brand new smoke alarms every ten years



### Smoke Detectors Save Lives



### Change Your Clock



### Change Your Battery

#### Did you know?

A notable feature of community spirit was evidenced by the high level of Columbia's interest in the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. With singular purpose, on September 22, 1904, all businesses and schools were closed and 1,000 of the 1,300 inhabitants of Columbia attended the World's Fair on that one day. It set a record of attendance for members of one community to be at the Fair at the same time.

## City of Columbia Announces Annual Recycling Event

It's spring cleaning time and the City of Columbia would like to encourage citizens to "think green" -- please recycle and dispose of unwanted items in a responsible fashion. To assist with this process, Columbia's annual recycling event has been scheduled for Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 3pm at the Columbia High School parking lot. So plan ahead and let's get started on those garages and cluttered closets!

To encourage a city-wide yard/garage sale effort, permits will not be needed for residents planning a sale on June 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, making this is a perfect time to organize a neighborhood yard sale. If there are unsold items remaining from your yard sale that you'd like to dispose of, place the items in a sturdy box or plastic trash bag and bring them to the high school parking lot before 3pm on the day of the event.

Nice Twice, a non-profit organization supporting Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, will gladly accept gently used clothing, shoes, furniture, toys and other household items. In addition, the Columbia Library and the Columbia Friends of the Library will be accepting gently used books. Web Innovations & Technology Services (WITS) will be accepting any and all items with a cord or circuit board, including all computer equipment, phones, household electronics and audio/video equipment. All items are accepted free of charge, however, WITS requests donations to cover recycling fees for computer monitors and TV items. There is a \$5 fee for all appliances, furnaces, air conditioners, refrigerators, humidifiers and other Freon containing devices. Please visit <http://witsinc.org> for a complete list or call 314-382-1650. Reliable Sanitation will also provide two special dumpsters for non-recyclable items for the use of city residents only--identification may be required. Once these dumpsters are full, no more non-recyclable items will be accepted.

Thanks to Columbia National Bank, Reliance Bank and Midland States Bank, there will be a service on site from 9am until 12 noon to shred confidential documents.

In order to promote the City of Columbia's recycling program, a green recycling bin can be picked-up at this event (free - while supplies last) by residents showing proof of an address within the city limit. In addition, Reliable Sanitation will bring out their recycling truck for glass, plastic and aluminum. Residents are asked to take newspapers to their local school's recycling bins. Volunteers are needed to help remove trash from various Columbia road shoulders and assist at the recycle event. Groups and organizations interested in volunteering should contact Jackie Hausmann at 281-7144 ext. 106.



Faced with the challenge of a growing community and a commitment to meet or exceed our customer's expectations, your EMS department has made many recent improvements.

The last five years have seen progressive changes in the way we deliver emergency medical service to our citizens. These changes include improvements in technology, operational procedures and human resource management.

Technological improvements have been accomplished by purchasing updated equipment and vehicles such as two new ambulances, 12-lead cardiac monitoring equipment and Auto-Pulse units for patients in cardiac arrest. The patient outcomes with this new equipment have been even better than expected!

Operational changes include increased staffing to provide a second in-service ambulance when our first unit is out and "in-house" staffing made possible by a low-cost modular housing unit placed behind our station. This housing unit allows on-duty EMS personnel to remain on the premises around-the-clock. Having this staffing "in-house" instead of responding from home provides improved safety for our personnel and has statistically reduced our response times by over fifty-percent!

Improvements in human resources have been achieved by hiring four full-time paramedics over the past few years to provide more consistent ambulance staffing and management of paid-volunteer personnel.

Your paramedics and EMTs are also committed to getting acquainted with our citizens at public events and functions. Please look for us and ask for a tour through our vehicles and/or a demonstration of our equipment. We take pride in giving you personalized customer service with a high degree of clinical skill and ability!

Ken Buss EMT-P  
Assistant Director, Columbia EMS

## LIMB AND LEAF REMOVAL SERVICE FOR 2010

The City of Columbia is soliciting proposals from companies to perform the limb and leaf removal services for 2010. At this time an anticipated schedule can be provided.

Limb removal service for the spring will be scheduled for the first two full weeks in April beginning April 5<sup>th</sup> and ending April 16<sup>th</sup>. Limb removal service for the fall will be scheduled for the first two full weeks in October beginning October 4<sup>th</sup> and ending October 15<sup>th</sup>. Leaf removal service will be scheduled beginning October 25<sup>th</sup> and ending December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The schedule for limb and leaf removal service is subject to change and will be firmly set once contracts with companies to provide the services have been executed. Please watch for notices concerning the limb and leaf removal services as we come closer to the anticipated dates.



