

Columbia

Quarterly

Fall 2010



Mayor Hutchinson



The dog days of summer are almost behind us, school is back in session and snow is just around the corner. Fall is upon us and in Columbia that means Play Day in the Park, Movies at Metter, Art On The Bluffs—Art Walk on Main Street, the FestiFall, Halloween Hi-Jinks, Scare on the Square & Pumpkin Glow and so much more. Don't be left out. Information on these and other happenings in Columbia can be found in this newsletter, on the City's website calendar, at the library or at City Hall.

I am proud of the events and activities offered in Columbia. Why you ask? Because these events would not be possible if it weren't for the great citizens of Columbia. If you are not involved, you are missing out on friend-

ships and experiences that will change your life and the lives of others. Not sure how to get involved? Go to the City's website and click on Discover Columbia, then click on Community Organizations, search Clubs and Organizations, pick a few and check them out. If you are still not sure, call me and together we will find a group that will fit your interests.

Be safe this fall and get out and enjoy the events, activities and services our wonderful community has to offer, I do. And as always, contact me if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely, Mayor Kevin Hutchinson

City Hall: 618-281-7144 ext. 109

Home: 618-281-5199

Email: khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com

City Meeting Information

- City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7 pm 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.

Restoring Historic Schools

Three Efforts Combine to Restore Historic Schools!

Education has always been important to the residents of Columbia. This month, three diverse efforts are combining to highlight the importance of education to the history of our community by means of a unique new program.

Renovation of three historic schools—Shoemaker School, Sand Bank School, and St. Paul Lutheran School—has been in the works for several years, but the pace has quickened considerably this past year. Shoemaker School, which is very visible and convenient to visitors at the intersection of Gall Rd. & Illinois Route 3, is currently being renovated by the City of Columbia into the Monroe County Welcome Center (anticipated opening later this month). Sand Bank School, located off Old Bluff Rd. just north of Sand Bank Rd., is being renovated through a new project recently initiated by Monroe County Partners. The Lutheran school building has been targeted for renovation for several years, and efforts have been renewed recently by an enthusiastic group of volunteers.

The supporters of each of these projects have decided to join forces to jointly promote all three projects and raise funds. While restored one room schools can be found in many Illinois communities, project leaders believe that the concentration of three schools in one community is unique, as is the accessibility they hope to provide to the public. The Monroe County Welcome Center is projected to be open daily with access to the renovated historic building provided on a regular basis, something that is hard to find elsewhere.

Leaders for the three school renovation projects have joined forces to raise additional funds. Their common venue will be the sale of engraved stones in a new courtyard at Shoemaker School which will be commemorating all historic schools in Monroe County. Between 1890 and 1955, more than 60 schools dotted the county under the directive that no child should have to walk more than two miles to school. The new courtyard will allow residents to commemorate parents or grandparents who attended or taught at these Monroe County schools, as well as to commemorate the schools themselves.

For more information about the commemorative effort, please contact Dennis Patton, chair for the Columbia Heritage & Preservation Commission, at (314) 825-2242.



Shoemaker School



Fall Tips from the Columbia Fire and Police Departments



Halloween Costume Tips:

- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories, purchase only those with a label indicating they are flame resistant (are made of flame retardant material). If they are homemade, make sure to use either a fire retardant spray or fabric that has been treated with fire retardant.
- Make sure your child's costume includes reflective material; a flash light or light will make them more visible at night. This will assure that they are seen by drivers and will help you keep an eye on them if they get ahead of you while trick-or-treating.
- Do not include high heel shoes or long dangling pieces of costume that your child could trip over. A scraped knee or bloody nose can really spoil their fun. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- If they are carrying a prop such as a scythe or sword, make sure they are made out of a flexible plastic that will bend if fallen on. Most of the props available today are made of flexible plastic.
- Because a mask can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic and hypoallergenic makeup or a decorative hat as a safe alternative. 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. If so, use some black or gray grease paint around the eye socket to cover skin.
- Always trick-or-treat in groups, never alone. Make your child's costume a unique one so you can spot them easily in a crowded area. Use flashing lights or jewelry to make them stand out. Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Remind your children not to eat any candy or other treats until you have had a chance to inspect it.
- Whether you're going to trick-or-treat in the City of Columbia or in another city, you should visit the Illinois State Police website at www.isp.state.il.us to review the location of sex offenders. The Columbia Police Department would like you to report any suspicious activity that you observe. This can be done by calling 281-5151 or in an emergency 911.

**Smoke Detectors Save Lives: When you turn your clock
(Daylight Savings Ends November 7, 2010 at 2:00 am)**



back change the battery



in the smoke alarm!

Elected Officials

Mayor: Kevin Hutchinson
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Treasurer: Robert Naumann
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Visit www.columbiaillinois.com/ward map or stop by the City Clerk's Office to obtain a copy of the City ward map!

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.

SIRENS IN COLUMBIA

There are three (3) sirens located in the City of Columbia:

1. City Hall
2. Parkview Elementary School on Veterans Parkway
3. Columbia Lakes at the Diehl water tank

The sirens are sounded at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm, Monday through Saturday; not on Sundays. This is a routine procedure that tests the sirens. For a fire emergency, the sirens sound four (4) times, between 6:00 am and 10:00 pm. For a tornado or disaster, the sirens sound one (1) time for three (3) consecutive minutes, 24 hours a day, as a warning that everyone should seek immediate shelter.



Plan Commission Seeks Input on Aging Assessment

Increased life expectancy is creating record numbers of people aged 65 and older. While this age group represented only 13% of the population in 2000, it will comprise about 21% of the population in 2030. The group expected to grow most rapidly in the next 30 years is the one aged 85 years and older.

Over the past several months, members of Columbia's Plan Commission have been undertaking an assessment of the local community and its readiness for the impact of an aging population upon various aspects of community life. In this task, the Commission has used assessment tools provided by the Area Agency on Aging of Southwestern Illinois. While identifying challenges confronting Columbia in the various areas assessed, the Commission also hopes to identify many of the positive features that already make this city a very desirable community for the aged—and for other citizens—now and in the future.

Public input is encouraged as the Commission prepares its final report. Draft copies of the assessment document are available for download from the City website or at the City Hall, and members of the public are invited to review the document and offer comments. The Plan Commission will hold an open house to review the assessment in the very near future, as well.

LIMB AND LEAF PICK UP PROGRAM FOR 2010

The limb pick up service for Fall 2010 will take place the weeks beginning on October 4th and October 11th. If you have limbs to be picked up please have them by the curb in front of your residence by 6:00 am on either Monday, October 4th or Monday, October 11th.

The leaf pick up service will begin on Monday, October 25th and continue until Friday, December 3rd. You may place your leaves by the curb, but not in the street, at any time. Continual sweeps will be made through the City to pick up the leaves. It is recommended that if possible, you cover the pile(s) of leaves so they do not get wet, which makes the leaves difficult to pick up. Leaf pick up will not occur prior to October 25th or past December 3rd. Piles of leaves should be free of grass clippings, limbs, branches and twigs, acorns, gumballs or any items other than leaves. The leaf vacuums cannot pick up these types of items.

OLD TOWN PROJECT

After a lengthy construction time, a contractor having financial difficulties and some uncooperative weather, the Old Town Project is finally coming to a conclusion. Some very minor items remain to be addressed concerning the construction work, and the final paperwork needs to be processed. The Public Works Department would like to thank the traveling public, and in particular the residents in the Old Town and surrounding areas, for their patience and understanding. We knew the project would not be an easy one to complete, but the issues that occurred during construction made it far more difficult and inconvenient than envisioned. Through diligence, perseverance and some intense hand wringing the project has been completed. We hope the residents and traveling public enjoy and utilize this major transportation improvement.



Columbia Named 'Playful City USA' for 2010

For the second year in a row, Columbia has again earned recognition as a Playful City USA despite difficult budgetary conditions in the wake of the economic downturn. Playful City USA is a national recognition program honoring cities and towns determined to prioritize play and ensure that children are healthy by providing the time and space for play.

The designation is a tribute to the work of the Play Commission, a nine-member citizen body that advises the City Council on issues related to parks & recreation. National non-profit KaBOOM! this year recognized 118 cities across the country, including Columbia, as Playful City USA communities.



Stroke & Time Critical Diagnosis

In the last edition of our newsletter, we discussed *Time-Critical Diagnosis* (TCD) and how early recognition and summoning of EMS can drastically improve the survivability of a heart attack victim. This edition will discuss the same concept for the stroke patient.

Time **is** critical when diagnosing a stroke. The sooner the patient or the lay public recognizes the symptoms and calls EMS, the sooner the *stroke-team* at an appropriate hospital can be activated. Research has proven that a 3-hour window of time from the beginning of a stroke until appropriate treatment is critical for a positive prognosis.

Once again this proves what an important role the patient and/or the public plays in improving the outcome of a serious illness. Typical symptoms of a stroke are; sudden numbness, paralysis, weakness in your face, arm, leg (especially on just one side of your body), trouble with walking or balance, drooling, slurred speech, trouble speaking or understanding, feeling confused and/or a sudden or severe headache different from past headaches.

Once these symptoms are recognized and 911 is called for help, your arriving EMS team will make a rapid assessment and provide supportive care. The most crucial action your Paramedic will take is activating the nearest hospital's *stroke-team*. This quickly assembles doctors and other specialists that administer clot-dissolving drugs and other invasive therapies to prevent permanent damage to the patient's brain. Remember, **you** can make a difference by acting quickly and not hesitating to call for help!

At CEMS your Paramedics and EMTs take pride in giving you personalized customer service with a high degree of clinical skill and ability! We wish you a safe and happy fall!

Chief Ken Buss EMT-P
Columbia EMS

Did You Know!

In 1959, Columbia's centennial was celebrated with a large festival. In 1960, the Strassenfest (Street Festival), a three-day festival celebrating the German heritage of the community, was established.

The Strassenfest became so popular that it had to be moved to St. Louis in 1972, where it attracted more than 100,000 visitors over a three-day period every year.





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Upcoming Events



Columbia has a lot of great activities planned for the fall. For more details on events listed below, call 281-7144 ext. 106 or visit the city website calendar at www.columbiaillinois.com.

Story Hour at the Library **Begins September 2, 10-11am:**

1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month - ages 4-5.
(Must register.)



Tot Time at the Library **Begins September 9**

2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. 1st session 10-10:30am; 2nd session 10:45-11:15am - ages up to 3. (Must register.)

Clerk's Office Closed
September 4 & 6 (Labor Day)
November 25, 26 & 27 (Thanksgiving)

Library Preschool
Begins September 8:
Meets every Wednesday 9:30—11am - ages 3-5. (Registration and a fee required.)



Night Out In C-Town

2nd Thursday of each month:

Save these dates: September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9. Visit some unique local businesses and earn chances to win many nice prizes.

Movies at Metter

September 10, at dusk:
Bring the kids to Metter Park for this free outdoor movie under the stars featuring "UP".



Large Item Trash Pick Up
September 14 residential pick up.

Play Day USA—2010

September 18, 1-4pm:
Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a variety of free games & interactive activities planned for Play Day at Bolm-Schuhkraft City Park.

Columbia FestiFall

September 26, 1-6pm:
Music by the Smash Band, food, wine tasting, unique merchandise and many fun fall activities for the kids!



Art On The Bluffs Art Walk

October 2, 10am-4pm:
Stroll Main Street and visit a wide variety of artists offering their creations; kid's activities, food, music & more!

Movies at Metter

October 8, at dusk:
Free outdoor movie at Metter Park featuring "Mall Cop".



Halloween Hoopla

October 25, 11am-12pm-Library:
Stories, fun, games. (Registration required; begins October 1.)

Halloween Hi Jinks

October 30, 10am-1pm:
Participating businesses on Main Street welcome trick-or-treaters followed by a kid's parade sponsored by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.



Halloween Scare Square & Pumpkin Glow

October 31, 5:30-8:30pm:
Stop by City Hall Fountain Park for some free hot chocolate, hot dogs and trunk-or-treating. Enter & vote for your favorite carved or decorated pumpkin.

Daylight Savings Ends

November 7, 2am:
Set clocks back one hour!



Family Reading Night at the Library

November 18, 7-8pm:
Stories read by special guest! Games and prizes!



Veteran's Day

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



Upcoming Holiday Events:

Christmas Cruising in Columbia

November 28, 11am-4pm:
Take a local cruise in your car and get a head start on holiday shopping at our convenient businesses in town; chances to win nice prizes too!

12/4: Lighted Christmas Parade
12/5: Holiday House Tour



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

