

Columbia

Quarterly



Winter 2010

www.columbiaillinois.com



Mayor Hutchinson



**Future Monroe County Welcome Center
Shoemaker School**

CITY OF COLUMBIA

This is a special time of the year to reflect and be thankful for the great city that we live in. I am proud to announce that the City of Columbia received the Governor's Home Town Award in recognition of the Outstanding Community Volunteerism that exists in our city. A big "Thank You" goes out to the Art on the Bluffs Art Walk; Friends of the Library; the Columbia Play Commission; the Sand Bank School House Restoration Project; and the Columbia Kiwanis. This honor was awarded in recognition of the outstanding volunteer spirit shown by each of these organizations to our community -- over 400 members, organizers and volunteers assisted these groups in projects resulting in 2,500+ volunteer hours and donations exceeding \$41,000 for the betterment of our community. Thanks again - each of you make Columbia a better place to live.

I would like to encourage everyone to "Think Monroe County First" during this holiday season. We have many great businesses in town that can help you with your shopping list and they would love your support. The State of Illinois continues to be delinquent in the payment of funds due to local governmental entities — the current amount owed to the City of Columbia from the Local Government Distributive Fund (our portion of the income tax) is \$240,318. Spending your money locally is more important than ever - every little bit helps.

The USS Columbia (our namesake submarine) celebrated the 15th anniversary of its commissioning during November. The submarine's Commander and several members of the crew were in town for this year's Veteran's Day Celebration. It was a great honor to meet the Commander and some of the crew of this Los Angeles Class fast attack submarine. While in Columbia, the crew members also visited our local schools to share experiences and help our younger generation understand the responsibilities of our military forces.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or just want to chat please contact me at 281-7144 x 109, khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com or at home 281-5199.

Wishing you all a Safe & Cheerful Holiday Season and a Healthy & Happy New Year!

Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor

Columbia's Main Street is Coming Back...Big!

Reifsneider's Grill & Grape has been open now for several weeks and has been a welcome addition to Columbia's historic Main Street--at least judging by the crowds gathered there each evening. The new restaurant and bar, located at 608 N. Main, has seats and parking enough for everyone...but just barely.

Reifsneider's is just one in a series of new eating places opening along Main Street, a continuing boom that includes Who Dat's Southern Food and a regional restaurant (name to be released) opening a branch here in a few weeks. These dining spots join long-term vendors like Joe Boccardi's Ristorante, Dear Diva Desserts, Gruchala's, The Lantern, Thai House and Quizno's to make Main St. a place to consider whenever mealtime rolls around.

Restaurants aren't all that's happening on Main Street. Several other new businesses have opened this year, most of them offering personal services. During the same period, the facades (storefronts) of several buildings have been improved to take advantage of a matching grant program offered by the City.

The surge in new businesses has spurred a surge in enthusiasm as well. Merchants recently formed a Main Street Merchants Association to combine their efforts and to promote local shopping. One of the first initiatives of this new group will be to sponsor banners promoting "Historic Main Street Columbia" on light standards after the first of the year.



Welcoming New Businesses to Columbia

<u>Dear Diva Desserts</u> : 321 N. Main St. Bake shop offering cakes & baked goods	<u>Who Dat's</u> : 123 S. Main St. (Now Open) Cajun, BBQ & Southern Food	<u>New Leaf Massage Therapy</u> : 808 S. Main St. Massage therapy, facials & waxing services
<u>Robins Nest Treasures</u> : 124 C S. Main St. Antiques, treasures & collectibles	<u>Braun Colonial Funeral Home</u> : 265 Quarry Road	<u>Pepper's Paws</u> : 123 N. Main St. Dog grooming salon
<u>National Machine & Tools</u> : 632 N. Main St. Broker for manufactured parts	<i>Please remember to support our local businesses when shopping for the holidays and throughout the year.</i>	
		<u>Real Title & Escrow Services</u> : 808 S. Main St. Title insurance company



NEW RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING CART



During 2010, the City of Columbia is introducing, at no cost to residents, a larger residential recycling cart to accommodate the ever-increasing amount of recyclables produced by residents. This new 65-gallon recycling cart will be similar to your current 65-gallon trash cart, but with a **blue lid**. Please note: **your weekly recycling pick-up day will not change**. In addition, please place the recycling cart at least 5 feet from your trash cart. This will allow proper access for the automatic arm on the Reliable Sanitation truck to pick up the carts.

Recyclable items that were normally put in the green recycle bins can be put in the new recycling carts. NOTE: No Styrofoam, motor oil, insecticide, herbicide or hazardous chemical containers are permitted. Please do not put **non-recyclable** materials in the recycling cart as the entire recycled load collected by Reliable Sanitation may be rejected at the recycle plant and ultimately end up in a landfill. A complete detailed list of recyclable items can be found on the City's website, www.columbiaillinois.com/recycling guide.

Disposal of your used 18-gallon recycling bin will be provided at a later date; bins will either be reused or recycled.

Distribution of the recycling carts recently began on the west side of Columbia. Due to the large number of homes in Columbia receiving new recycling carts, we ask for everyone to be patient while waiting for delivery of a new recycle cart. It is anticipated that all city residents will receive a cart by the end of 2011.

'Team Columbia' Promotes Community with Midwest Retailers, Developers

Reports show that the national and regional economy is slowly improving - the City of Columbia and its partnering entities are working to tell the community's story to attract new retail businesses and other development into the city.

City staff have been working to continually improve and update the municipal website, the venue through which 85% of first contacts are made (according to a national survey). The City maintains records online displaying available land and buildings within the city limits; this information is also entered into the Location One Information System (LOIS), a regional database for properties across the Midwest.

Obviously, just maintaining a list is not enough. The City also markets opportunities by a variety of means. Last month, Columbia exhibited at the International Council of Shopping Center's Chicago Deal Making event, a trade show that assembled more than 2,400 developers, retailers, real estate brokers and city officials for the express purpose of making connections and facilitating new deals. Last January, the City exhibited at a similar event in Kansas City, and plans are being made to participate in another event next month in St. Louis.

The City's booth at these events is staffed by Paul Ellis, Director of Community & Economic Development. He was assisted by Craig Hiser, owner of CMJP Properties (a brokerage based in Columbia), and David Wittenauer, vice president for NAI DESCO (a regional brokerage with an office in Columbia). While these brokers have business interests expanding beyond the city limits, all three work together as "Team Columbia" to identify and follow up with potential new development.

Elected Officials

Mayor:	Kevin Hutchinson khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com
Ward I:	James Agne jim@columbiaillinois.com Fred Stumpf fstumpf@columbiaillinois.com
Ward II:	Dan Row drow@columbiaillinois.com Mark Roessler mroessler@columbiaillinois.com
Ward III:	Gene Ebersohl gebersohl@columbiaillinois.com Brad Oberfell boberfell@columbiaillinois.com
Ward IV:	Mary Ellen Niemietz meniemietz@columbiaillinois.com Candace Hejna chejna@columbiaillinois.com
City Clerk:	Ron Colyer rcolyer@columbiaillinois.com
Treasurer:	Robert Naumann bob@columbiaillinois.com

Visit www.columbiaillinois.com/ward map or stop by the City Clerk's Office to obtain a copy of the City ward map!

HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Regular Friday Trash & Recycling - December 24th (Regular Schedule)

Regular Tuesday Trash & Recycling - December 28th - Columbia residents will be allowed three (3) additional 30 gallon containers/bags of trash in addition to the one (1) trash tote (4 total containers allowed - No \$1.00 extra trash stickers needed.)

Regular Friday Trash & Recycling - December 31st - Columbia residents will be allowed three (3) additional 30 gallon containers/bags of trash in addition to the one (1) trash tote (4 total containers allowed - No \$1.00 extra trash stickers needed.)

WARDS 1 - 4 ALDERMANIC PETITIONS

Petitions for the City of Columbia office of Alderman for each of Wards I, II, III and IV may be obtained at the City Hall Municipal Building, City Clerk's Office, 208 S. Rapp Ave., Columbia, Illinois between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday and on Saturday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This is for the Consolidated Election to be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011.

Petitions may now be circulated. The first date to file petitions is Monday, December 13, 2010 and the filing period continues through Monday, December 20, 2010.





A Message from the Columbia Police Department

Throughout the year there are a number of scams that individuals use in an attempt to take money from innocent victims. Unfortunately an increase normally occurs during the holiday season. I just wanted to take this opportunity and provide some information that individuals might be able to use to protect themselves.

E-mail scams usually come with a subject line titled “ALERT” or “Unpaid Account.” The message will usually 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 e-mail will usually ask the individual to send a specific amount of money to the scammer. 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. Please don’t ever send money to people you do not know. I encourage everyone to delete any e-mails they receive if they do not know the sender of the e-mail.

Please remember these are just a few of the scams currently in use on the internet. Please also remember not to give out your personal information over the phone or through the mail to people or companies that are not familiar to you. If you have any questions about e-mail scams, feel free to contact the Columbia Police Department or visit the FBI website at www.fbi.gov.

Also during the holiday season be sure to lock your doors and windows and report any suspicious activity you see in your neighborhood and community to the police department. We need the public’s assistance to help us prevent and reduce crime.

Joseph A. Edwards, Chief of Police



Shoemaker School is one of three historic schools raising additional funds through engraved pavers in the new plaza which will commemorate teachers and students who attended any of Monroe County’s schools. For more information about the commemorative effort, please contact Dennis Patton, chair of the Columbia Heritage & Preservation Commission at (314) 825-2242.

Did You Know!

In 1820, Columbia was plotted as a town and built on bluffs 500 feet above sea level to protect against the flooding of the Mississippi River. Columbia is a poetic name for the United States (America). In 1859, Columbia was incorporated as a town as a result of the growth from German immigration. In 1868, the first railroad tracks were laid in Columbia, and the town continued to grow and develop. In 1903 it changed to a village and in 1927 Columbia became a city.

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.



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the phone number of the Columbia Post Office? A: 618/281-5300

Q: What is the phone number of the Illinois Secretary of State Driver's License Facility? A: 618/939-3663 (Closed on Mondays)

Q: Where do I get a marriage license? A: Monroe County Court House Clerk's Office at 618/939-8681, ext. 305.

Q: Where do I get information on property taxes? A: Monroe County Court House Tax Assessor's Office at 618/939-8681, ext. 211

Q: What are the hours of the City Offices? A: The Clerk's Office is open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. The Department of Public Works and secretarial hours at the Police Department are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The City Hall Administrative and Building & Zoning Departments are open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Q: Where can I register to vote? A: The City Clerk's Office can register voters. Two (2) forms of identification are needed (e.g., current driver's license, state issued picture ID, utility bill, bank statement, any items that prove residency at that address).

Q: Can I make a park reservation for next year, 2011? A: The Clerk's Office will begin making park reservations for calendar year 2011 on Monday, January 3rd. Our office opens at 8:00 a.m.

Q: Can I reserve a pavilion at Metter Park? A: Not at this time. It is on a first come, first served basis.

Q: Where can I have a document notarized? A: The Clerk's Office except on Saturdays.

FYI: All forms and applications are on the City's website, www.columbiaillinois.com under Online Services and Documents - Permits and Applications.

J. Ronald Colyer, City Clerk





City of Columbia
208 S. Rapp Avenue
P.O. Box 467
Columbia, IL 62236

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Upcoming Events

There are a lot of great activities planned for the winter season. For more details on items listed below, call 281-7144 or visit the city website calendar at www.columbiailinois.com.



Santa Hut at City Hall

**Dec. 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19
1-4 pm:**

Santa will be available for kids to visit and share their Christmas wish list. Please bring your camera to capture the memory.

Large Item Trash Pick Up

Dec. 7 residential pick up:

See website for complete list of acceptable items.

Night Out In C-Town

2nd Thursday of each month:

December 9, January 13 & February 10. Visit some unique local businesses and earn chances to win nice prizes. Check the city website for starting locations.

Leaf Pick Up:

Extended thru Friday, Dec. 10th:

Please place leaves by the curb (not in the street). If possible cover the pile(s) of leaves so they do not get wet. Wet leaves are difficult to pick up with leaf vacuums.

COLUMBIA LIBRARY EVENTS

TOT TIME

2nd & 4th Thursday of every month

10:45—11:15 am:

A fun 30 minute program that incorporates stories, songs and crafts for children 3 and under. Registration required.*

STORY HOUR

1st & 3rd Thursday of every month

10-11 am:

Programs incorporate stories and activities for children 4 to 5 years of age. Registration required.*

SANTA VISITS THE LIBRARY

December 11, 10 am—Noon:

Join us and visit the jolly fellow himself—stories, crafts, and treats. Be sure to bring your camera and wish list.

STUDY NIGHT

December 16, 8-10 pm:

Columbia HS students who want to study for upcoming exams are welcome to attend. Student IDs will be required for admittance.

TEEN MOVIE MATINEE

December 29, 1-3 pm:

Join us for a movie and snacks. Must be 13 to 18 years of age. Registration required.*

* To register, please call 281-4237.



City Meeting Information

- City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7 pm in the 2nd 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.

Clerk's Office Closed

Christmas:

December 24th & 25th (Fri. & Sat.);

New Years:

December 31st & January 1st (Fri. & Sat.);

Presidents' Day:

February 21st (Mon.)

