

# columbia quarterly

## spring 2011



### CITY OF COLUMBIA

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

#### Mayor Hutchinson

Twelve issues of the Columbia Quarterly and going strong! As you know, getting information to the public is always a challenge, but I've had a lot of people complement the Columbia Quarterly Newsletter for the beneficial information it contains. The City news letter staff does a great job and I thank them for a job well done.

I also want to thank many of the others who serve our community. Public Works always does an awesome job clearing the roads of the ice and snow. Kudos are due the Fire and Ambulance crews for their life saving services and the Police for protecting our residents and solving crimes. I have met many employees from large and small cities and you will not find better public servants than the Columbia employees. They may not be perfect, but they are close to it. I may be a little partial but look around — it does not stop with the employees — Columbia has great citizens. Groups helping kids, saving animals, cleaning parks, fixing up landmarks, getting together to help others and improving the quality of life in Columbia for all to enjoy. Last year, Columbia was honored by the Governor with the first ever "Outstanding Community Volunteerism" award. This year let us all do more. You have a skill use it and make a difference in our community. Enjoy spring, be safe this summer and please get involved. My challenge to you this year is to "do something for others", you will love the feeling.

On a final note, I would like to encourage everyone to let your voice be heard on April 5th and remember to vote.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, comments or just want to chat, please contact me at City Hall (281-7144 ext. 109), or at home (281-5199) or [khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com).

God Bless You All!  
Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor



#### Annual Recycling Event Scheduled for April 16th



Here are two words to lift your spirits after all of this crazy cold weather — SPRING CLEANING! Tackling cluttered closets, basements and garages provide a great feeling of accomplishment! The city would like to help motivate citizens with the annual recycle event scheduled for Saturday, April 16th at the Columbia High School parking lot from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Here are a few opportunities and services the city will be providing to help gear-up residents:

- **City Wide Yard Sale:** No yard sale application is needed for residents planning a sale on April 15th or 16th. However, if you would like to be included on a list indicating the addresses of yard sales in Columbia, please contact Jackie Hausmann (see contact info below). The list will be posted on the city website or a copy can be picked up from the Clerk's Office at City Hall to help yard sale shoppers find your location.
- **Nice Twice:** Accepting gently used clothing, shoes, furniture, toys and other household items.
- **Columbia Library:** Accepting books.
- **Electronics & Appliances:** See article on page 3 of this news letter for a list of accepted items, fee info and dates for monthly electronics collection. Please note, the monthly electronics collection which normally takes place at the Department of Public Works on the third Saturday of the month will be held at the High School for the month of April ONLY.
- **Reliable Sanitation:** Two trash trucks will be on site—one truck for non-recyclable items not larger than a La-Z-Boy chair (for city residents only—ID may be requested) and one truck for recyclable items such as cardboard, glass, plastic & aluminum.
- **Document Shredding:** Available from 9 a.m. until noon ONLY.
- **Green Recycle Bin:** 1 free bin per household (while supplies last) to residents showing proof of address within the city limits.



2010 Volunteers  
from Faith Lutheran

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 or [jackie@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:jackie@columbiaillinois.com).

## ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 2011

Even with a harsher than normal winter the Public Works Department is already preparing for the upcoming construction season. In 2011 the city is planning two major roadway projects.

The improvement of Kunz Street from Main Street to Legion began in the late fall with installation of storm sewer. Baxmeyer Construction is the contractor for the project and it is anticipated work on the project will begin in earnest with the onset of weather more favorable for construction. The work consists of the complete removal of the existing roadway and its replacement with a concrete street with curb and gutter. This is an IDOT contract utilizing federal/state highway funding in addition to the funds provided by the City.

The improvement of Milton Street from Rapp to the dead end past Olympia is another project already underway. As weather permits storm sewer is being installed by City personnel. A contractor will be hired to construct the concrete curb and gutter and driveway approaches. City personnel will handle all the excavation work for the concrete work and will also be responsible for excavation of the existing pavement and construction of the rock and triple oil and chip surface. This project is being funded totally by the City of Columbia.

For both projects there will be times when traffic will be limited to local traffic only and closed to thru traffic. Please be aware of the signage and use caution when utilizing the roadways. Your patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments concerning either project please contact the Public Works Department at 281-4264.



### A Message from the Columbia Police Department—Beware of Phone Scams

Recently the Columbia Police Department received a complaint regarding a male caller who falsely claimed that he was employed by the Department of Law and Investigations ACS. The male caller told the victim she owed his company money do to a delinquent loan. He then told the victim she could resolve the issue over the phone if she wanted to settle it now. The victim knew she did not have a delinquent loan and demanded further information from the caller. The male caller became belligerent and informed the victim that deputies were going to show up at her residence and arrest her. The caller told the victim she would be receiving official correspondence from his office since they could not resolve the issue over the phone. The male caller was able to recite the victim's social security number; date of birth, and work address, as well as additional personal information one would need to open a credit card in the victim's name. The male caller ended the conversation by hanging up on the victim. At that point, no identity theft had occurred and it appears as if this male's incentive was to extort money from the victim.

There are a number of scams like this occurring on a regular basis. The callers use pressure tactics and threats to coerce the victims into following their directions. The Columbia Police Department would like to remind everyone not to converse with individuals over the phone concerning their personal and financial information. If anyone takes a phone call from an individual requesting this type of information and they are not sure who the person is, ask for a phone number to call the person back, and then contact the Police Department if you would like assistance. The officers of the Columbia Police Department are here to assist you with matters such as these.

Joseph A. Edwards—Chief of Police

### BUDGET TIME

The City is in the process of preparing the budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012. 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.

### 2011 LARGE ITEM PICK-UP DATES & INFORMATION

**MARCH 1, JUNE 7, SEPTEMBER 13, DECEMBER 6**

**5 large items allowed. No trash stickers are needed for the first 2 large times. The next 3 large items will need 3 \$1.00 trash stickers attached to each item. See City website for more details.**



### April 5, 2011 is Election Day

Items on the ballot will include (i) the election of one alderman from each of the city's four wards; and (ii) whether or not the city should annex into, and become a part of, the Columbia Rural Fire Protection District. Residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their aldermanic candidate(s) and the fire protection district issues, and to exercise their privilege to vote on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Voter registration for this election ends on March 8, 2011.

#### Elected Officials

**Mayor:** Kevin Hutchinson  
khutchison@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](http://www.columbiaillinois.com)/ward map or stop by the City Clerk's Office to obtain a copy of the City ward map.

## PARK RESERVATION PROCEDURES CHANGE

Columbia residents coming into the Clerk's Office to reserve parks & recreation facilities will find some changes recently enacted by the City Council upon recommendation of the Play Commission. The changes are being implemented to increase use of Columbia's parks & recreation facilities and help the City better track current and future use.

Reservation of park pavilions and other facilities will now also be available for A.C. Metter Memorial Park, adjacent to the Columbia Public Library. These facilities, along with those in Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park (also known as "city park"), may now be reserved on weekends and holidays for two periods each day--from opening until 2 p.m. and from 2 p.m. until closing. This change will provide more opportunities to use the facilities during periods of peak demand. Local residents may still use the pavilions, free of charge, if no one has reserved them during any given period.

The City has also established a new system for permitting special events. A special event is defined as any "outdoor or seasonal event including, but not limited to a picnic, parade, carnival, craft fair, art fair, bicycle/motorcycle/vehicle ride, run/walk, car show, wedding or other reception, or any other event held on public property which is open to attendance by the general public and/or may require special consideration from [the] City..." A one-time \$125 processing fee will be charged for each event application, which will cover review by all City departments. Special event organizers will be required to provide proof of insurance, submit a refundable security deposit, and be prepared to be responsible for any additional fees that may apply depending upon the services required.

The City has also reviewed and updated park rules. The new rules will be posted in all City parks later this spring. For more information about the proposed new rules, procedures and fees, please contact Paul Ellis at 281-7144 ext. 118 or via email at [pellis@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:pellis@columbiaillinois.com).



### WELCOMING NEW BUSINESSES TO COLUMBIA

<b>Fashion Attic:</b> 128 S. Main St. Women's Clothing Consignment	<b>Foot &amp; Ankle Associates:</b> 278 Southwoods Center Podiatry Office
<b>Edward Jones:</b> 117 W. Gundlach Financial Services	<b>Salon 415:</b> 415 S. Main St. Beauty Salon

*Please remember to support our local businesses when shopping .*



### Announcing Columbia's Monthly Electronics & Appliance Recycling

The City of Columbia is happy to announce that a monthly electronics and appliance drop off location will be available at the Department of Public Works parking lot, located at the corner of Route 3 and Sand Bank Road. This recycling opportunity will take place the third Saturday of every month (except for January and December) from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. beginning Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. The city encourages all residents and businesses in the area (not just Columbia) to take advantage of this convenient and responsible recycling opportunity.

This service is being offered by Web Innovations Technology (WITS), the organization used by the City for its annual recycle event. This is a great opportunity for everyone who typically stores items for months in anticipation of the annual recycle event. The monthly collection has proved to be much needed service as the annual event has been very popular and the amount of electronics and appliance collected by WITS increases every year.

Items for recycling include computers, monitors, other computer hardware including cables, office/business equipment and machinery, telecommunications equipment including phones and clocks, televisions, VCRs, stereos, cameras, other audio/video equipment, data storage devices including CDs, VHS tapes and computer software, home electronics, blenders, toasters, irons, washing machines and dryers, dishwashers, furnaces, hot water heaters, home medical equipment, industrial machinery, lawn mowers, tillers, tools, air conditioners, refrigerators, humidifiers, old motors, transformers, electrical equipment, power supplies, and car & household batteries. Unacceptable items for recycling include tires, wood furniture, other wood products, paint and paint cans, and household and industrial chemicals.

There are suggested drop-off donations (\$5 each) for computer monitors, laptops and televisions and a \$5.00 fee is required for large appliances and all Freon-containing devices. Everything else may be dropped off free of charge. WITS is a not-for-profit, community agency in the greater St. Louis region. All donations of reusable items are tax-deductible and will be refurbished when possible and given to programs such as Kids for Kancer, Free Computer Program or Veteran Technology.



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

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## 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



- Good Friday:**  
April 22nd & 23rd (Fri. & Sat.)  
**Memorial Day:**  
May 28th & 30th (Sat. & Mon.)

## Upcoming Events

For more details on items listed below, call 281-7144 or visit the city website calendar at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com).

 **Daylight Savings Begins**  
March 13 (Spring forward)

 **Electronics & Appliance Recycling**  
March 19 & May 21,  
10 am - 4 pm  
Department of Public  
Works Parking Lot  
See Page 3 for details.



**Aldermanic City Election:**  
April 5

 **Recycle Event & City Wide Yard Sale**  
April 16, 9 am - 2 pm:  
Columbia High School Parking Lot  
See Page 1 for details.

**Easter Sunday:**  
April 24

 **Night Out In C-Town**  
May 12, 5 - 8 pm:  
Visit local businesses and earn  
chances to win nice prizes.  
Starting at Dear Diva Desserts.

### **Maifest**

**May 29, 1 - 6 pm:**  
German music (1-4pm),  
Sofa Kings (4-6pm)  
Food, refreshments &  
good times at Metter Park.



### **Memorial Day: May 30**

**Large Item Trash Pick Up**  
June 7: See website for list of  
accepted items.

### **2011 Music at Metter Schedule:**

**June 12:** Butch & the Polka Kings



**June 16:** Second Sojourn

**July 10:** Randy Webb Band

**July 24:** Dynamic Combo

**August 7:** Silverback

Gather your friends and family  
for a relaxing evening of music at Metter  
Park from 6-8pm. Bring your lawn chair.

## COLUMBIA LIBRARY EVENTS

### **LEGO STORY TIME**

**Every Tuesday (through April 12),  
4 - 5 pm:** Come build a love of reading.  
All ages that love to build are welcome to  
attend.

### **BABYGARTEN**

**Every Tuesday (through March 29),  
10:30 - 11:15 am:** Incorporating rhymes,  
songs, books, music & motion.

