

# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY



## SPRING 2012

### CITY OF COLUMBIA

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



**Mayor Hutchinson**

Spring has sprung and your City Council is refreshed and working hard. I could not be prouder of the city's department heads and appointed and elected officials. They are making the tough decisions in these difficult economic times. It is impressive to see the out of the box thinking and ideas allowing the city to accomplish more with fewer resources. Thank you department heads, Aldermen and your elected and appointed officials. Keep up the good work!

The city has contracted with Good Energy, L.P. to assist in reducing the cost of electricity for the city's residents and small commercial account customers. The initial step to allow this to occur will be in the form of a referendum on the March 20<sup>th</sup> ballot -- if passed (a majority of voters voting yes) the city will be allowed to select an electricity supplier for its residents and small commercial account customers (through a bidding process) resulting in reduced electricity costs; those not wishing to participate in the choice of the city selected provider will have the ability to "opt out" and select their own provider. You should be receiving information in the mail near the beginning of March through Good Energy's marketing and awareness campaign effort. Please get out and vote on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Updates on legislative issues from Springfield appear in my monthly newsletters; please feel free to contact me with your areas of interest. The Illinois Municipal League has launched a campaign asking state legislators to "Save our Cities". We are asking them to (i) pay local governments the state income taxes due them on a timely basis; (ii) consider pension reforms; the current plans are unsustainable and creating financial difficulties for the state and local governments; and (iii) discontinue mandates and additional programs for local governments (including school districts) that transfer financial burdens to local taxpayers. I applaud Senator Luechtefeld and Representative Costello for their support of local governments.

Do not miss out on upcoming events -- check out the city website calendar. Music at Metter starts in June, Recycle Day, Large Item Pick Up and many other events. If your group is having a major event, contact City Hall and get it on the city website calendar.

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

Sincerely, Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor  
"Get Out and Get Involved!"

#### Welcome New Businesses!

##### Becky Huffman Flowers LLC

126 S. Main St.  
Wedding floral design

##### ECF, Incorporated

1909 Westgate Dr.  
Specializing in liquid petroleum storage  
terminal design & construction

##### Lori Beckwith, MED LCPC

207 N. Main St., Suite 106  
Mental health counseling

##### Midwest Industrial Coatings

418 (Rear) N. Main  
Auto parts, bed liner installation  
and dent repair

##### Rouse's Resale Center

501 Old State Route 3  
Contractual sales, new & used  
antiques & collectables

##### Traube Awnings & Canvas Products

210 Southwoods Center  
Make/install awnings & canvas products

#### SOUTH MAIN STREET AND ILLINOIS ROUTE 3 CONSTRUCTION

The Illinois Department of Transportation received bids for the South Main Street and Illinois Route 3 Intersection Improvement Project. Baxmeyer Construction has been awarded a contract for the construction work. The project will widen South Main Street to provide two left turn lanes onto Southbound Illinois Route 3. As part of this project South Main Street will need to be closed for approximately eight (8) weeks. Although a definitive schedule has yet to be determined it is anticipated the work will take place beginning around or sometime after April 1<sup>st</sup>. A detour will be marked for Carl Street to Legion to Main Street. No commercial business drives will be disturbed with the construction and will remain open to traffic at all times. The City will be discussing ideas with Baxmeyer Construction and the Illinois Department of Transportation to aid in speeding the construction of the project in order to keep the closure of South Main Street to a minimum. The City of Columbia thanks everyone in advance for their patience and understanding as this construction project begins. For additional updates or questions please visit the city's website at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com) or call the Public Works Department at 281-4264.



## Recycle Your Income – Buy Local

In addition to recycling newspapers, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles, why not recycle your income by buying local whenever possible? Locally owned businesses typically recycle a much larger share of their revenue back into the local economy; therefore, the more money you spend locally, the more those dollars stay in our community.

Local businesses reinvest in their communities. They tend to bank locally, dine locally, hire local service providers and advertise in our local media. In addition, they are the major supporters of local charities, athletic programs, fundraisers and school activities.

Local businesses are typically owned and/or managed by people who live in our community. In addition, local businesses employ individuals who also live within the community.

Because they live here, they have a vested interest in our community's future and are less likely to leave. Their kids and grandkids go to our local schools. They attend our local churches, school programs and community events. They get to know their neighbors and their customers and are more attuned to what they need and want.

Traditionally, local businesses offer superior customer service. They take the time to build personal and lasting relationships with their customers. They know a lot about their business and their product lines and are able to help you find what you want.

Local businesses are an integral part of what makes our community a great place to live. When local businesses succeed, competition thrives. A thriving business community supports new business growth and leads to positive change that will make our community strong and sustainable. Let's start recycling today!

Source: Susan Odum, CED Program Coordinator, University of Illinois Extension

### REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE EVENT APRIL 21ST COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

#### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED:

**NICE TWICE:** (10 am—3 pm) Gently used clothing, shoes, furniture, toys and household items.

**COLUMBIA LIBRARY:** (10 am—3pm) Gently used books. Encyclopedias and text books will NOT be accepted.

**RELIABLE SANITATION:** (10 am—3pm) Providing trash truck for large non-recyclable items (not larger than a recliner) for City of Columbia residents only.

A recycle truck will also be available for glass, plastic, cardboard and aluminum.

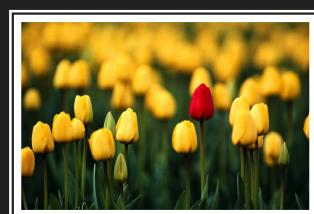
**WEB INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGIES (WITS):** (10 am—4pm) Computer equipment, TVs, phones, household electronics, audio/video equipment, lawn mowers & batteries. There is a suggested drop-off donation of \$5 for computer monitors, laptops and TVs. A \$5 fee is required for large appliances and all Freon-containing devices. Everything else may be dropped-off free of charge.

**DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION SERVICES:** (10 am—1pm) Shredding paper documents while you wait. Thanks to Columbia National Bank and Midland States Bank for sponsoring this service.

**NOT ACCEPTING:** Paints, household chemicals and tires.

#### 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.



### LANDSCAPE WASTE REMOVAL

Landscape waste removal is scheduled every Tuesday for the entire city from March through November.

- Bags for removal of the landscape waste can be purchased at the Market Place and Columbia Market (\$1.25/bag) or you may purchase your own landscape bags.
- A \$1.00 Reliable Sanitation trash sticker must be attached to each landscape waste bag. These stickers are sold at Columbia Market, Market Place, Columbia Ace Hardware and the Clerk's Office.
- Set bags out at the curb by 6:00 a.m.
- There is no landscape waste removal during the months of December, January & February.

### 2012 LARGE ITEM PICK-UP DATES & INFORMATION

JUNE 5 - SEPTEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 4

5 large items allowed.

No trash stickers are needed for the first 2 large items.

The next 3 large items will need 3 \$1.00 trash

stickers attached to each item.

See city website for more details.

### CITY WIDE YARD SALE — APRIL 20TH & 21ST

Yard sale permits are not required for yard sales on April 20th & 21st.

A "Yard Sale Directory" (listing yard sale addresses and items for sale) will be available on the city's website or a copy can be picked up at the Clerk's Office on April 19th, 20th or 21st during normal business hours.

If you would like to be included on the "Yard Sale Directory," please provide the information by April 12th to Clerk's Office personnel, or contact Jackie Hausmann (281-7144 ext. 106) or jackie@columbiaillinois.com.

Any unwanted, unsold items remaining from your yard sale may be taken to the "Recycle Event" at the High School on April 21st BEFORE 3 pm.



## In addition to answering your calls for help ...

Besides providing 24-hour EMS service to our community, the following are just some of the customer services we can provide at your request:

**Child Car Seat Safety Checks & Installations:** Call our office to arrange for one of our certified car seat technicians to check or install your child safety seat.

**CPR/AED/First-Aid Training:** If your group or organization within our EMS district would like to be trained and certified in CPR, AED use and/or First-Aid, please call and make arrangements for one of our instructors to prepare you to provide that critical first link in the chain of survival.

**Public Speaking Engagements:** We will graciously accept invitations to speak in front of your group or organization and/or display our equipment for demonstration. There have been many exciting advancements in pre-hospital care over the last few years that we would love to share with our citizens.

**Public Relations Events:** Columbia EMS takes a very positive approach to public relations and our staff would love to make your acquaintance! We attend almost every public event to provide first-aid, distribute public safety material and to get to know our customers. Stop by our location to meet your EMS personnel.

Never hesitate to call us if you have questions concerning your ambulance service or to request any of the above services. We would be happy to help! Our office phone number is 281-4163. If no answer, you may reach the communications center at 281-5151. **In an emergency, call 911.**

Ken Buss EMT-P, EMS Chief

## News from Columbia School District



Columbia Unit School District is proud to announce several recent accomplishments. The Illinois State Board of Education recently released the Academic Excellence Awards for schools showing exemplary results on the 2011 state tests. Parkview School (second year in a row) and Columbia Middle School were recognized for having 90 percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards in reading and math for the three most recent school years. This award defines the hard work displayed by the students, teachers, and parents. On the extra-curricular side, the Columbia cheerleading squad placed first at the IHSA and ICCA state competition for three straight years in a row. This "three-peat" is being celebrated by the entire school community!

Other developments include two facility projects that are underway. Under the direction of teacher Dan Young, the Construction Class is building a Press Box addition thanks to grant funding and donations from the Athletic Boosters and Music Boosters. In addition, through in-kind donations, private donations, and local school funds, the district will be replacing the existing football field with a multi-purpose field to be used by the CMS and CHS physical education department as well as football, soccer, and band programs. Over 1200 students will be able to use the new field on a regular basis. For more information on the multi-purpose field project, please visit the district's website at [www.chseagles.com](http://www.chseagles.com).

Planning for the 2011-2012 school year has already begun. Two agricultural classes will be offered at the high school which will allow our students to experience after school FFA activities. Eagleview Elementary will be offering two tuition based preschool programs next year – a morning program and a full day program for 4 and 5 year olds. Registration is now being accepted. The after school program, Eagle Zone, will also be an option for parents who need after school child care.

Last but not least, the P.T.A. is sponsoring a trivia night and silent auction on March 31<sup>st</sup> at Columbia Turner Hall. Tickets are now on sale and proceeds will benefit student programs at Columbia School District. Please join the fun!

## BUDGET TIME

The City is in the process of preparing the budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013. 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 projections and fee schedule adjustments. The budget will be posted for public inspection in mid-April.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The members of the Columbia Police Department (CPD) are pleased that when people talk about our community, they talk about our low crime rate, outstanding schools, and the high quality of life. However, our community is not exempt from unfortunate events. February 8, 2012, should have been an eye opener for all the citizens of Columbia.

On February 8, 2012, the Columbia Police Department in cooperation with the United States Attorney's office in the Southern District of Illinois, charged thirty-one year old, Jacob Nelson, from Dupo, Illinois with one count of Distribution of a Controlled Substance Causing Death. We have alleged that Nelson provided a Columbia resident with heroin and that heroin caused our resident's death. Nelson was also charged with Maintaining Drug-Involved Premises and two additional counts of Possession of a Firearm by a User of Controlled Substances. Nelson is facing life in prison for these offenses.

The entire metropolitan region has seen an increase in drug overdoses, specifically heroin. This drug is killing both life-long and first-time users. In 2011, the CPD and the Columbia EMS Department responded to 10 drug overdose cases. Through January of this year we have already responded to 3 drug overdoses. If this trend continues we will see more than three times the number of overdoses we handled last year. If this occurs, the number of deaths will unfortunately increase.

We are asking our entire community to be aware of the signs of heroin use. Some of the changes you might see in someone using heroin include a **sudden change in behavior**. They might avoid interaction with former acquaintances, take unexplained trips, and have difficulty holding conversations. **Physical changes** may include dilated pupils, drooping eyelids, and vomiting. Their appetite may decrease and they may suddenly have a dramatic loss of weight. Additional signs may include coughing and sneezing, needle marks, runny nose, constant sniffing, and a slower rate of breathing. Because heroin can be injected, smoked, or snorted, you may also see **drug paraphernalia** on their person or in their immediate surroundings. This could include needles, spoons, glass pipes, razor blades and straws.

These are only a few signs of heroin use. We need your help to reduce and prevent heroin deaths and other drug overdoses. If you would like more information please contact the CPD at 281-5151 and request to speak with one of our police officers.

Joseph A. Edwards, Chief of Police





City of Columbia  
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Columbia, IL 62236

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## 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).

### NIGHT OUT IN C-TOWN

**March 8, 5-8 pm:** Visit our unique local businesses and earn chances to win nice prizes. Pick up your game sheet at Fashion Attic; ending the evening at Agnes Ross. Put on your green for a St. Patty's good time!



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

**March 11** (Spring forward)



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DOG PARADE

**March 17, 10 am:** Dress up your pooch for this fun St. Pat's Day parade starting at the ICS playground and ending at Metter Park. Humane Society adoption event & merchandise available. Sponsored by CROWN.



### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

**March 17 (10 am—4 pm)**

Drop-off located at the Public Works parking lot.



### CENTURY 21 EASTER EGG HUNT

**March 31: 10:30 am:** Visit the Easter bunny; Easter egg hunt (ages 10 & under) at the City Park.



### A CAUSE FOR PAWS

**March 24, 5:30 pm:** Auction & Dinner Dance at The Falls Sponsored by the Monroe County Humane Society



### CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED

**April 6 & 7:** Good Friday / Easter Holiday



### CITY WIDE YARD SALE

**April 20 & 21:**

See page 2 for details.

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE EVENT

**April 21, 9am—3pm:**

Columbia High School parking lot. See page 2 for details.



### NIGHT OUT IN C-TOWN

**May 10, 5-8 pm:** Join us for an 80's themed evening of shopping and prizes. Starting at Vida Verde and ending at Tiny's.

### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

**May 19 (10 am—4 pm)**

Drop-off located at the Public Works parking lot.



### LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK-UP

**June 5 - residential pick up:**

See website for complete list of acceptable items.

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### TOT TIME & STORY TIME



New session will begin March 1st. Registration is required. (18 months—5 yrs. of age)

#### LEGO STORY TIME

**Every Tuesday, 4-5 pm:** Come build a love for books. All ages that love to build are welcome.

#### ACTING OUT LOUD THEATER

**March 3, Show #1 (9:30-10:30); Show #2 (10:45—11:45):** K-2nd players present *Tales from the Barnyard*. A variety of skits, jokes and fun from the barnyard.

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

**April 9—14:** Fun & giveaways during the entire week. Go to [www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org) for more details.

#### LOCAL AUTHOR FAIR

**April 14, 10 am—2 pm:** Monroe County is blessed with a number of local authors; bringing them all together at the library.

#### CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

**May 7—12:** Giveaways and more during our celebration.

#### SUMMER READING 2012

Get ready for a summer program full of prizes and fun events. Registration begins May 14. Offered to children of all ages as well as teens and adults.

