



Columbia Quarterly

SPRING 2016



CITY OF COLUMBIA

www.columbiaillinois.com

Spring brings a fresh sense of new life with rain showers, budding flowers and bright vibrant colors of the season. We are very excited about plans for new life to an area of Main Street rich with history. Coming this fall, Immaculate Conception Church will become home to the new Main Street Abbey event center. In addition, the rectory and convent will be transformed into charming loft apartments. Future plans (once a new school is built for ICS) include converting classrooms into lodging with a bed and breakfast feel, the gymnasium into a micro-brewery, and the cafeteria into a lovely garden restaurant. Stay tuned for some exciting changes!

We are making some revisions to our website to provide easier navigation to help you find the information you are looking for. Our new website should be up and running soon, so please be sure to use www.columbiaillinois.com as your resource to find the information you need to know.

The PLAY Foundation is accepting donations of all sizes to help improve Columbia's parks and playgrounds. The City recently received donations for a park table in memory of Linda Todd. In addition, the Columbia Rotary Club donated pet refuse stations. If you would like to make a commemorative or memorial donation, search "donate" on our website.

I continue to work closely with the legislation in Springfield to protect our local funds, and I would be happy to discuss any questions you may have. I welcome your concerns and comments, so please do not hesitate to contact me at 281-7144 ext. 109, at home at 281-5199 or khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com.



Mayor Hutchinson



**PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, MARCH 15
GENERAL ELECTION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**



Did you know that you can register to vote online at the State of Illinois State Board of Elections website? Their website is: www.elections.state.il.us

You may also check to see if you are currently registered to vote.

Please note, registration is open year around except during the 27 day period prior to an election and during the two (2) day period after each election. At this time the Clerk's Office cannot process voter registrations. On March 18, 2 days after the March 15 Primary Election, the City Clerk's Office may begin processing voter registrations.

You may also register to vote in person at the City Clerk's Office. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 4:30, phone 618-218-7144, ext. 100. Two (2) forms of identification are needed (i.e.-driver's license, bank statement, insurance card, utility bill, etc.) showing your current address.

From the Office of the Monroe County Clerk, Mr. Dennis Knobloch, early voting by mail and in person will be available at the County Clerk's Office from February 4 through March 14. Grace period registration and voting will be available in the County Clerk's Office beginning February 17, 2016. The Monroe County Clerk's Office phone number is 618-939-8681.



**Did you know ... the City Clerk's Office sells books, rolls and single postage stamps.
There are no extra fees charged for the sale of the stamps.**



**Single postage stamps—1 ounce = \$.49 Book of 20 postage stamps = \$9.80 Coil of 100 stamps = \$49.00
Cash or check only. Make check payable to the Postmaster or USPS (United States Postal Service).**

Message from Columbia Police—Warning of IRS Phone Scam Alert



Recently several Columbia residents received telephone calls from scam artists pretending to be Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employees. The caller will either demand money or state that you have a pending refund. The caller's main goal is to mislead you into sharing your private information with them. The con artist will sound convincing when they call and may even know various facts about you. Some con artists will alter the caller ID to make it look as if the IRS is calling. One of the calls was received by a Columbia Police officer's wife. After hanging up on the scam artist, she received another call where he yelled threatening statements that he would have her arrested for not sending money as he had previously instructed.

Here are five things the IRS will never do nor request of you:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call about taxes owed without first having mailed you an invoice.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

If you should receive a phone call from someone claiming to be an IRS employee that is requesting money, you should report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484 or www.tigta.gov.



Respectfully, Deputy Chief Jerald D. Paul, Columbia Police Department



NEWS FROM COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 4



On March 15, 2016, registered voters will determine if the Monroe School Facility Sales Tax will be approved. Columbia School District is conducting an informational meeting on Wednesday, March 9, at 7:00 pm to explain the relationship between the proposed County School Facility Sales Tax and its relation to property tax relief. The community meeting will be held in the board room at the District Office located at 5 Veterans Parkway. All welcome! General information is also posted on the district's website at www.columbia4.org.

Several evening performances are scheduled to celebrate the young talent of Columbia students. Take a look at our March events: CHS choir students present the Sweetheart Cabaret from March 11 through March 13 at CMS. In the drama department, CHS students will be on stage March 18 – 20, while the CMS drama students perform Lion King, Jr. on March 31 through April 3. The CHS "Pops" band concert is scheduled for Thursday, March 17 at 7:00 pm. The performing arts department would love to see community members attend one or all of these events.

BUDGET TIME

The City is in the process of preparing the budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2015 and ending April 30, 2016. At Committee of the Whole meetings from now until mid-April, City Administrator James Morani 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 early-mid April.



NORTH MAIN RESURFACING PHASE 2 TO OCCUR IN SUMMER 2016



The City will be undertaking the resurfacing of North Main from Crestview to IL Route 3 in the summer of 2016. Bids will be received on March 4, 2016 with construction work expected in May, June and July of 2016. The project will remove the existing asphalt surface, have repair work performed on the underlying concrete pavement and replace the asphalt surface. The work will also include having all sidewalk curb ramps brought up to current accessibility standards. Side road entrances onto Main Street that are not concrete at this time will have concrete entrances constructed. Residents and motorists are cautioned to watch for detours and lane closures during the construction work. As always, your cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated as the roadway improvement project is performed.





STARS

Special Needs Tracking and Awareness Response System

In cooperation with Cardinal Glennon Hospital, Columbia Ambulance Service has joined the STARS program. This program will enable us to be better prepared to take care of special needs children in our district through 21 years of age should an emergency arise. The program is titled STARS (Special needs Tracking and Awareness Response System).

Each child that is entered into STARS has a form detailing his or her medical history, medications, allergies, baseline vital signs, baseline neurological status and common medical emergencies that is kept in each ambulance. Children who especially benefit are those with significant developmental delay, seizure disorders, cardiac history, cerebral shunts, tracheotomies and any atypical diseases or syndromes.

To enroll your child, a paramedic from Columbia EMS will make an appointment to come to your home, or you may come to our office to discuss your child's needs, fill out the STARS form and answer any questions you may have about our services.

If you know someone with a special needs child or have a special needs child and are interested in learning more about the program, please contact the ambulance service at 281-4163. More information can be found at:
<http://www.cardinalglennon.com/pages/stars-special-needs-tracking-awareness-response-system.aspx>

Interim Chief Shannon Bound



CODE RED

Keeping citizens informed.

In an effort to warn citizens of oncoming emergencies we would like to remind and encourage everyone to sign up for the CodeRED system "Weather Alerts" which provides the ability to sign up for emergency notifications. These notifications can be delivered by phone through a landline or a cell phone. In addition, notifications can be delivered by a text message or email.

This system will make the emergency weather notifications, including warnings for tornados, severe thunderstorms and flash floods, by using the National Weather Services "polygon" method. This means the notifications will better target the areas of the county affected by severe weather, while those not under an immediate threat will not be sent a notification unless the situation changes for their area. This system allows each residence/business to choose which type of weather alerts they receive.

All Monroe County citizens are urged to sign up for CodeRED. To sign up, verify or update your contact information, please log onto your city's website or the Monroe County website:

<http://www.monroecountyil.org>
<http://www.columbiaillinois.com>



Follow the link to the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" or "Weather Alert" link. Those without internet access or for more information, call the City Hall or the Monroe County EMA office at 618-939-8681, etc. 231.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

BriteWorX Car Washery 123 Admiral Trost Dr. Carwash	Mokka Café (new ownership) 180 Columbia Centre Breakfast, Lunch & Catering
Bad Sister Boutique 1005 S. Main St.. Women's Clothing & Accessories	Southern Illinois Pediatric Dentistry 1320 Columbia Centre Pediatric Dental Office
Kimela Kluthe, LMFT 634 N. Main St. Psychotherapist - Marriage, Couples, Teens & Family Therapy	Fashion Attic & Fashion Attic 4 Kids (Combined—New Location) 126 S. Main Street Resale Clothing Boutique



REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE EVENT APRIL 9TH (10 am—2 pm) COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT



THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED:

NICE TWICE: Gently used clothing, shoes, furniture, toys and household items.

COLUMBIA LIBRARY: Gently used books. Not accepting encyclopedias and text books.

RELIABLE SANITATION: Glass, plastic, cardboard, aluminum and large non-recyclable items (not larger than a recliner).

RNA WORLDWIDE: Computer & audio/video equipment, flat screen TVs & monitors, lawn equipment, appliances, & electronics. **Tube TVs and monitors will not be accepted.**

SECURE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION SERVICES: Shredding paper documents while you wait. 5 box maximum please. Thanks to Columbia National Bank and Midland States Bank for sponsoring this service.

NOT ACCEPTING: Paints, light bulbs, household chemicals and tires.

City Wide YARD SALE

APRIL 8TH & 9TH

A "Yard Sale Directory/Map" (listing yard sale, time, location 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 5—8 during normal business hours.

A yard sale permit is not required, however, to be listed on the directory, please complete the "Directory Form" (available on the city's website www.columbiaillinois.com) and return it to the Clerk's Office or e-mail the form to Sue Spargo spspargo@columbiaillinois.com.

**Forms must be turned in by Wed.,
March 23 to be listed on the directory.**



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

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Upcoming Events



MO. CO. COALITION FOR DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

March 10, 5:45pm: Drug Forum - Hope Church

HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART CABARET

March 11 & 12, 7 pm;
March 13, 2 pm:

Performances at the Middle School



RUMMAGE SALE:

March 19, 8 am—Noon:
Proceeds for Post Prom Party - High School



EASTER EGG HUNT

March 19, 1:30 pm: For kids 10 & under Sponsored by Century 21 - Bolm-Schuhkraft Park

HISTORIC MAIN ST. SIDEWALK SALE:

April 8 & 9, 10 am—4 pm



CITY WIDE YARD SALE

April 8 & 9:
Approx. 100 yard sales

RECYCLE EVENT

April 9, 10 am—2 pm:

Collecting gently used clothing, toys, home décor, recycling appliances, electronics, paper shredding & more - HS parking lot.



A CAUSE FOR PAWS

April 9, 5-11 pm: Helping Strays Dinner Auction - The Falls



MOMS ON MAIN

May 5, 5-9 pm: Girl's night out with food, drinks & prizes!



KENTUCKY DERBY MOUSE RACES

April 30, 6-10 pm:
Sponsored by the Rotary Club - ICS Gym

TICKET TO THE BEATLES

May 7, 3-7 pm: Sponsored by Historic Main Street - Metter Park



RELAY FOR LIFE

May 14, 3-11pm:
Gather a team; come out to support, honor and remember those affected by cancer. Sponsored by the American Cancer Society - Metter Park



MOVIES AT METTER

May 20, dusk:
Featuring Field of Dreams

LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK-UP

May 31: Residential curbside pick up.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mo. Co. Welcome Center will open in April. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sue Spargo 281-7144 ext. 134 or sspargo@columbiaillinois.com.

MONTHLY ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES RECYCLING

March 12 & May 14 8 am—Noon:
Public Works Parking Lot
Tube monitors/TVs not accepted.



MUSIC AT METTER SUMMER CONCERTS

Lots of great music is in store at Metter Park this summer. Save the date from 6-8 pm!

May 29: Sofa Kings

Acoustic mix—Blues, Country & Rock

June 12: Waterloo German Band

Songs of German American Heritage

June 26: Trophy Mules

Rock, Classic Country & Folk

July 10: Fanfare

Motown, R&B, Country & Big Band



July 24: Second Sojourn

All styles of danceable music.

Thanks to our sponsors:

Columbia Chamber of Commerce, HTC, Joe Koppeis, 1st Nat. Bank of Waterloo, Garden Place, Mozel, Republic Times, George Weber Chevrolet

All performances are **FREE** to the public.

