

# 2016

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



**City of Columbia**

# Summer Columbia Quarterly

As always, I am working closely with our legislators in Springfield to protect our local funds, and I would be happy to discuss any questions you may have. I welcome your comments and concerns, so please do not hesitate to contact me at my office 281-7144 x 109, at home 281-5199 or [khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com).

**Mayor Kevin Hutchinson**



## ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM—UPDATE



For Ameren residential and small business customers participating in the City's Electric Aggregation Program, starting in June (July billing cycle for most), the new supply rate from Homefield Energy will be \$0.0595 per kWh. The term of the new contract is three years, which means those who did not opt out of the program will have this rate guaranteed through June 2019.

Please note that Ameren's rates are frequently subject to market conditions, and their rates will change between summer and winter months. Customers need to be cautious while comparing Ameren's seasonal rates to the three-year fixed rate with the aggregation program to properly evaluate their true savings over the three year period.

If you have any specific questions about the City's Electric Aggregation Program, please contact City Administrator Jimmy Morani at 281-7144 x 122.

## BUDGET INFORMATION

The budget was passed on April 18 with the general fund showing a surplus of revenue over expenditures and a fund balance that continues to grow judiciously to meet city needs. Sales tax and use tax which are indicators of the financial strength of the community have both grown by double digits over the past two years.





## News from Columbia Unit School District



As another school year closes, the school district would like to thank parents, students, and staff for making 2015-2016 a success!

COUNTY SCHOOL FACILITY SALES TAX – THANK YOU! The school district would like to thank community members for approving the sales tax referendum in support of funding school facilities. The board of education is committed to applying a portion of the sales tax revenue to abate property taxes in the debt service fund as well as fund a long list of facility needs and improvements. The one percent sales tax will be enacted on July 1st throughout the county with the school district receiving the first sales tax revenue payment in November. The abatement of the bond and interest levy will be applied to the 2016 tax levy collected in 2017. A link on the district website will soon be devised and updated so that community members will know exactly the amount of sales tax collected as well as how the sales tax revenue is spent. Again, thank you for supporting Columbia CUSD 4!

RETIREMENTS: The school district congratulates teachers Debbie Conrod, Sue Burke, Vicki Simpson, Marilyn Ziegler, Janice VanRiper, and Tom Detmer who are retiring from CUSD 4 at the conclusion of the school year. The teachers have a combined 154 years of service to the district!

STUDENT REGISTRATION: All parents will need to register their student for the 2016-2017 school year. Kindergarten registration is underway. Entering kindergarten students should not wait for the July registration dates and should register at Eagleview as soon as possible. District wide Student Registration dates are July 21, July 26, and July 27. Student registration information and paperwork can be accessed on the district's website. Parents can copy and complete in advance. All parents must show one proof of residency (utility bill – water, gas, electric) when registering to verify continued residency within CUSD4 boundaries. For school district information, please access the district's website at [www.columbia4.org](http://www.columbia4.org). Have a great summer!



### WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

<b>At the Barre Dance Academy Inc.</b> 124 S. Main Street Dance Studio	<b>Inspiranza Designs</b> 107 N. Main Street, Suite 3A Online Retailer—Jewelry Sales
<b>Kriter Kare's - Howliday Inn</b> 8802 Summer Road Dog Boarding & Day Care	<b>Uptown Hounds &amp; Company</b> 128 S. Main Street Pet Supply Boutique

### PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

#### Water Main Replacement

The Riebeling Street Water Main Replacement Project has begun. The project consists of replacing the existing 4" water main from Cherry Street to Centerville Avenue with a 6" water main. All water meters and fire hydrants will be replaced. The work is being installed by the City of Columbia Water Department. The construction will not be continuous due to the department's other routine responsibilities. The Department will do their best to minimize inconvenience to the residents. The area in which the department will be working has limited right-of-way with overhead electric lines throughout the project limits. These factors will also limit production. Residents and motorists are cautioned to watch for lane closures during the construction work.

#### North Main Resurfacing

The North Main Resurfacing Phase 2 project is anticipated to start construction at the end of May or beginning of June. Project limits are from Crestview Drive to IL Route 3. The project will take approximately 3 months to complete. 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 patience and cooperation are appreciated as these projects are performed.





## The "Move Over" Law (Scott's Law) – Protecting Our Emergency Responders on Our Roadways

Emergency responders are most at risk when they are performing traffic stops or providing roadside assistance to motorists. In Illinois, it is mandated that motorists proceed with due caution, change lanes if possible, and reduce their speed when approaching emergency response vehicles with flashing lights. Monroe County has high traffic counts with over 30,000 vehicles traveling on Illinois Route 3 and over 50,000 on Interstate 255 on a daily basis. When it isn't possible for motorists to change lanes, it is advised that you slow down to a safe speed and pass with extreme caution. Other drivers will take your lead, and together you will reduce the risk of a tragic accident.

Scott's Law was established after Lt. Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department was struck and killed by an intoxicated motorist as he was assisting a traffic crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway. Recently in our area a Missouri Department of Transportation worker was struck and killed on State Route 100 in Washington, Missouri. An authorized emergency vehicle under Scott's Law, includes ANY vehicle authorized by law to be equipped with oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights under Section 12-215 of this Code, while the owner or operator of the vehicle is engaged in his or her official duties. Our police officers as well as our community's fire fighters, ambulance personnel and public works employees are at an elevated risk when they are serving the public on our roadways.

Please remember to drive safely, be aware of any approaching roadside situations and avoid distractions that may lead to accidents and traffic violations. We ask that you proceed with caution around emergency vehicles and in work zones. [Reference: 625 ILCS 5/11-907]

### CITY WEBSITE

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website. Revisions were made for easier navigation, making information easier to find. If you have any questions or suggestions please call 281-7144 x 106.

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



### Clerk's Office Information

#### Utility Bill Payment Options



Did you know there is a drive up utility bill (water, sewer and trash) drop box in front of City Hall for payments? This is only for payments made with a check, money order or cashier's check. No cash please. City Hall correspondence may also be dropped off. Enter from the Cedar Street side of City Hall. The box is emptied daily, Monday through Friday.

#### Direct Debit

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.

#### Street Lights

If a street light is burned out in your area, you can call Ameren Illinois directly at 800/755-5000 - just follow prompts.



#### Postage

Postage stamps decreased from \$0.49 to \$0.47 for a first class mail letter (1 oz.); postcard stamps decreased from \$0.35 to \$0.34. This was effective April 10, 2016.



### Residential Landscape Waste Removal

Landscape waste removal is every Tuesday for the entire city from March through November. Set bags out at the curb by 6:00 a.m. The landscape waste will be picked up by a separate truck.

Bags for removal of the landscape waste may be purchased from Reliable Sanitation. They are sold at Columbia Market and Schnucks grocery stores at a cost of \$1.25/bag.

You may also purchase your own landscape waste bags, however a \$1.00 Reliable Sanitation trash sticker must be attached to each bag. These stickers are sold at Columbia Market, Schnucks, Columbia Ace Hardware and the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

Questions? Call the City Clerk's Office at 281-7144 x 100.

### WATER REPORT

In 2015, as in previous years, the City of Columbia tap water met all USEPA and state drinking water health standards. Our system safeguards its water supply, and we are happy to report that the water department had no violation of a contaminant level or of any other water quality standard in the previous year. The Water Quality Report summarizes the quality of water that we provided in 2015, including details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. If you need copies, feel free to contact us At 281-4264 or find it online at [www.columbiaillinois.com/CCR](http://www.columbiaillinois.com/CCR).





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### LIBRARY EVENTS

June 9, 11 am **Ageless Grace**  
June 13, 10:30 am **Juggling Jeff**  
July 20, 10 am: **Cut & Draw Stories with Ms. Syndy (Ages 4-8)**  
June 16, 10:30 am **Yoga+Creativity = Fun (Ages 6-10)**\*  
June 21, 10:30 am **Magic Show**\*  
June 23, 10:30 am **Secret Life of Bees**  
June 27, 11 am **Circus Kaput**  
June 30, 10:30 am **Forest Park Owls (Ages 8-adult)**  
June 30, 1:30 pm **Things Come Apart, Exploring Computers (Ages 10 & up)**\*  
July 11, 11 am **Eco Bot Challenge (Ages 8-12)**\*  
July 12, 11 am **Tales to Tails read to a Furry Friend**\*  
July 14, 11 am **Fred and His Feathered Friends**   
July 18, 11 am **Nature Detectives (Ages 8-12)**\*  
July 21, 10:30 am **Babaloo Musical Fun**  
July 23 Last day to turn in reading logs.

\* Registration Required

More info visit: [columbiaillinois.org](http://columbiaillinois.org)

### Upcoming Events

More details — 281-7144  
[www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com)



June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, 8 am-Noon:  
**APPLIANCE & ELECTRONIC RECYCLING**  
DOPW parking lot

June 12, 6 - 8 pm  
**MUSIC AT METTER PARK**  
Waterloo German Band—  
Sponsored by Garden Place Sr.  
Living and Joe & Patty Koeppes

June 18, 9 am  
Fraternal Order of Police  
5K Run/Walk 1/2 mile fun run  
Borsch Park, Valmeyer

June 26, 6 - 8 pm  
**MUSIC AT METTER PARK**  
Trophy Mules: Sponsored by  
HTC and Republic-Times

July 3, 10 am - 2:30 pm  
**BICENTENNIAL TRACTOR & FARM EQUIPMENT SHOW & THRESHING DEMO**  
Borsch Park, Valmeyer

### July 4: 10 am - noon **BIKE PARADE**

ICS to Metter Park. Decorate  
your bikes & show your  
patriotic spirit. Games,  
prizes, music & food after the parade,  
awards for best decorated bikes.



### 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

American Legion Bingo,  
Kloepfer, washers  
tournament, food, drinks, &  
Fabulous fireworks!

July 10, 6 - 8 pm  
**MUSIC AT METTER PARK**

Fanfare: Sponsored by Mozel  
and George Weber Chevrolet



July 24, 6 - 8 pm  
**MUSIC AT METTER PARK**  
Second Sojourn: Sponsored by  
Reliable Sanitation and  
Joe & Patty Koeppes

August 6, 10 am-11 pm:  
**BICENTENNIAL—PALOOZA**

August 19 & 20, 4 pm-11 pm:  
**COLUMBIA DAYS** - Amusement  
rides & games, music, food & fun!  
Parade: Sat.—4pm on Main St.



August 21, Dusk  
**MOVIE AT METTER PARK**  
Featuring The Lego Movie



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