



# COLUMBIA QUARTERLY FALL 2017

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



## MAYOR'S MINUTE

Columbia was buzzing with excitement for the solar eclipse. A special shout out and thanks to Sue Spargo our Community Relations & Tourism Coordinator for doing a fabulous job orchestrating this event, as well as our other city events. She has a few more things up her sleeve this year — listed on the back calendar — don't miss out!



**Mayor Kevin Hutchinson**

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I hope you enjoy this season of cooler air, falling leaves and pumpkins. Speaking of pumpkins —  
Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

(A: See back page—bottom of Upcoming Events.)

## TOTAL ECLIPSE IN THE PARK — HUGE SUCCESS

"Columbia Nice"

"The most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life"

"I will carry this memory for the rest of my life"

"I cried for just a little bit" ... "An amazing gift"



The Total Eclipse brought thousands of people to our area and to Bolmer-Schuhkraft Park on Monday, August 21 to experience a rare phenomenon known as a total eclipse. The park opened at 6:00 a.m. and City staff and volunteers were excited to welcome and guide the visitors to their parking spaces. The crowd of more than 2,000 people enjoyed lunch from St. Louis and local food trucks at the City's first food truck event since our new food truck ordinance was created! Event goers listened and danced to the music of Gypsy Jones Band, purchased their eclipse t-shirts and glasses and consumed A LOT of water as the temperatures rose into the 90s. Then, at exactly 1:17 p.m., Columbia went dark for one minute and 48 seconds as the moon completely covered the sun. The temperature dropped, cicadas chirped and visitors from near and far screamed in amazement as they took off their eclipse viewing glasses to see the solar corona peeking out from the edges of the moon. Standing in darkness, our visitors saw the sunrise in the horizon from hundreds of miles away.



The experience was surreal and Columbia's location, in the path of totality, is a good reason why visitors came to visit us from places like: France, Ukraine, California, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, among others. Kudos go out to our City Hall staff, Police, EMS & Public Works for putting on a flawless event, and to our community for showing the world that Columbians aren't just nice, they're "Columbia Nice!"

## Columbia Sister Cities to Host Visitors From Gedern, Germany

Forty-five visitors from Columbia's Sister City of Gedern, Germany will be arriving October 6 for a ten-day visit. The Sister Cities of Gedern and Columbia take turns hosting the official visit every two years in alternating locations. Visitors learn about the culture, history and day-to-day American life by staying with their host family. This seventh visit from Gedern will honor the 24th year of the official partnership between Gedern and Columbia.

Sister Cities will be welcoming their guests with "A Night in Hollywood" dinner and dance event at Turner Hall in Columbia on Saturday, October 7. The event is open to the public. The doors will open at 5:30 pm with dinner served at 6:30 pm.

The band, Fanfare, will play from 8-11 pm. Tickets are \$20/person and must be purchased in advance. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Wednesday, September 27.

To purchase tickets, please contact

Sandy Petri at  
618-476-6150 or  
[petrix2@charter.net](mailto:petrix2@charter.net).



## News from Columbia Unit School District



Columbia Unit School District #4 would like to welcome returning and new students and families to the 2017-2018 school year! CUSD 4 currently serves roughly 2,000 students in Grades PreK-12.

Many new staff members have been added to the CUSD 4 family. Please welcome: Michelle Urke (Kindergarten), Jessica Imm (Kindergarten), Chelsey Adair (CHS Special Education), Jamie Rakers (CHS English), Amanda Bedard (CHS Health/CMS PE), Gail Hollis (Agriculture/FFA), Alycia Jones (Preschool), Jennifer Welker (Literacy Aide), Rebecca Henke (CMS Library), Dana Mehrmann (CHS Secretary), Sarah Cocos-Stumpf (CMS Secretary), teacher assistants: David Jackson (EV & PV), Tara Germain (CMS), Lori Dudley (CMS), and Sandra Hermann (CMS), and Shaun Williamson (Bus Driver).

Thank you, community members, for approving the 1 cent County School Facility Sales Tax for Monroe County school districts. The new revenue dedicated toward facility improvements has enabled the district to move forward on much needed projects to include: HVAC replacement with Geo Thermal System at Parkview School, concession stand/rest rooms at the multi-purpose field, window replacement at CMS, parking lot expansion at CHS, replacement of gym and cafeteria lights at Parkview, and improvements at the softball field at Eaglevew. In addition, a portion of the sales tax revenue was applied toward the district's debt which reduced the bond and interest tax levy as reflected on the school district's property tax rate.

Please visit the Columbia School District Foundation website at [www.csdf4.org](http://www.csdf4.org). The Foundation website showcases various needs of the school district and would like to spread the word to community members, family members, and CUSD 4 alumni to consider making a tax exempt charitable donation to fund one or more of the projects or to honor an individual. The following projects were funded by donations to the foundation last school year: CHS sound system upgrade, special education materials, digital scorer's table at CHS, and Hokki Stools for Parkview. In addition, a mobile concession stand is currently close to reaching its goal to purchase.

### BOLM-SCHUHKRAFT CONNECTOR TRAIL

The City of Columbia has been awarded approximately \$230,000 from an IDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant to construct a bike trail from the former Department of Public Works (DOPW) building near Monroe Street to the existing Bolm-Schuhkraft Park Trail. The project also includes sidewalk improvements along Monroe Street from the old DOPW property to Main Street. The project is consistent with the City of Columbia's "Explore Columbia" Plan. The Bolm-Schuhkraft Connector Trail is one of the plan's top priorities. Design of the project should begin in 2018 with construction in 2019. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Chris Smith, City Engineer, at 281-7144 X107 or via e-mail at [csmith@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:csmith@columbiaillinois.com).



### LIMB AND LEAF PICK UP

The limb pick up service for Fall 2017 will take place the weeks beginning on October 2 and October 9. If you have limbs to be picked up, please have them by the curb in front of your residence by 6:00 a.m. on either Monday, October 3 or Monday, October 10.

The leaf pick up service will begin on Monday, October 16 and continue until Friday, December 1. You may place your leaves by the curb but not in the street at any time. Continual sweeps will be made through the city to pick up the leaves. It is recommended (if possible) you cover the pile(s) of leaves so they do not get wet which makes the leaves difficult to pick up. Piles of leaves shall be free of grass clippings, limbs, branches and twigs, acorns, gumballs or anything other than leaves. The leaf vacuums cannot pick up these types of items.

If you have any questions about the leaf and limb pick up service please do not hesitate to contact City Hall at 281-7144.

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

<b>ARCH Speech Therapy</b> 207 N. Main St., Suite 109C Speech & Language Therapy	<b>Gateway Fabrication Solutions</b> 1000 Eleven South, Suite 3E Consulting Service for Manufacturing	<b>Mid America Contracting Inc.</b> 107 N. Main, Suite 3A Commercial General Contractor
<b>Columbia Kinder College: New Beginnings</b> 1550 N. Main St., Suite B Infant/Toddler Daycare	<b>Home Town Mattresses</b> 1005 Main St., Suite A Mattress Store	<b>Red Bud Clinic Corp.</b> 1000 Eleven South, Suite 2F Physician Office
<b>Eleven South Medical Pharmacy</b> 1000 Eleven South, Suite 2B Pharmacy (opening soon)	<b>Memorial Medical Group</b> 200 Admiral Trost Road, Suite 1A Physician Office	<b>View Eleven South</b> 1000 Eleven South, 5th Floor Event Space

### BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

With the arrival of a new school year, there are many situations children may face. Educating your children about general safety rules can greatly add to their physical and mental well-being. Parents are the most important resource in the educational process, which should begin at home. Please take advantage of any safety programs offered by your school district. We offer the tips below in an effort to maintain a safe environment for your children during the school year.



#### REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Occasionally, children may see something that they consider odd or suspicious during the school day. Instruct your children to immediately inform school authorities of any criminal or suspicious activity they may witness. Informing your local police department or school about each incident can prove helpful in dealing with these situations, and may help resolve a potential problem. If you or your children see any suspicious activity while it is occurring dial 911 immediately.

#### KNOW YOUR CHILDREN'S FRIENDS

Parents should become familiar with their children's acquaintances. This is a continuing process because children make new friends during each school year. Children should also be taught to keep parents informed of their whereabouts. They may become distracted on the way home from school and end up at a friend's house without telling a parent. Knowing your children's friends will help you to know where to look for them in the event they fail to come home from school on time.

#### SAFETY AT HOME

Have a plan in place for your children to follow if they get home from school and no adult is at home. You should have a list of emergency phone numbers available for your child. These should be numbers of people they know and can call, either for advice or during emergencies. You should also have a well-defined list of what your children can and cannot do while they are home alone. Some topics you should consider making rules about are:

- ◆ Are they allowed to leave the house? If so, where are they allowed to go?
- ◆ Are they allowed to have anyone come into the house? If so, whom?
- ◆ What cooking appliances or electrical equipment may they use?
- ◆ What should they say when they answer the phone and someone asks to speak to a parent who is not at home?

#### WALKING TO SCHOOL OR TO THE BUS STOP

As a parent, you should:

- ◆ Know the routes your children take.
- ◆ Instruct them to travel with others.
- ◆ Tell your children to stay away from strangers and strange vehicles.
- ◆ Periodically review general pedestrian safety rules, such as: walk on sidewalks; when there are no sidewalks, walk in single file on the side of the road; cross the street at intersections only; follow instructions of school crossing guards.



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Know Columbia



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## Upcoming Events

For more info call 281-7144 or visit [www.columbiailinois.com](http://www.columbiailinois.com)—calendar

**Sept. Wednesday Workouts**  
6:30—7:30 pm Metter Park 

**Arts & Artisans on Main**  
Sept. 16: Artists & artisans displaying and selling their wears. 

**Songs4Soldiers — 2 Day Event**  
Sept. 22, 6 pm: Featuring Bret Michaels, Jeremiah Johnson Band and Dazed N Confused 

**Sept. 23, 1:30 pm:**  
Music by ClusterPluck, The Dave Glover Band, PettyCash Junction, Joe Dirt, Dazed N Confused, Where's Charlie? and Superjam. 

Kids' zone, food & beverage vendors. Proceeds benefit combat veterans - Bolm-Schuhkraft Park.

**FestiFall Oct. 1, 1-6 pm:**  
Smash Band, food, wine tasting, unique merchandise. Rock climbing wall, inflatable, bubble bus, pumpkin & face painting, balloon artist and more fun for kids - Metter Park. 

**Tree Limb Pick-Up**  
Weeks of Oct. 2 & 9: 

Place limbs near curb by 6 am.

**Mike Dailey Kiwanis Radtour**  
Oct. 7, 8 am: 7 mile fun ride or 25, 40 & 60 mile scenic bike ride routes Schnucks Market Place.

**A Night in Hollywood**  
Oct. 7, 5:30 pm: Dinner/dance sponsored by Columbia Sister Cities—Turner Hall

**Witches Ghoulish Night Out**  
Oct. 12, 5-9 pm: Adult witches costume contest, shop, food & brew on Main St. 

**Leaf Pick-Up Oct. 16 through Dec. 1:**  
Place leaves by curb (not in street). Continual sweeps will be made. 

**Halloween Hi-Links**  
Oct. 28, 10 am-12:30 pm: Participating Main St. businesses Welcome trick-or-treaters. Trunk-or-treating & activities—City Hall parking lot. 

**Veterans Honor-Que**  
Nov. 3 & 4: BBQ competition Fri. & Sat.; BBQ & Beer dance Fri. night—American Legion 

**Veteran's Day Nov. 11, 11 am:**  
Ceremony at American Legion. 

**Holiday Hunt Nov. 18 & 19:**  
Shopping, fun & prizes—Main St.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

**Wiggle Worms** \*  
Sept.—Oct. 1st & 3rd Fri., 10 am

**STEAM Explorers** \*  
Sept.—Oct. 1st & 3rd Tues., 4 pm

**LEGO Club** \*  
Sept.—Oct. 1st & 3rd Tues., 4 pm

**Murder Mystery Book Club** \*  
Sept.—Nov. 1st Tues., 6:30 pm

**Pizza and Paperbacks** \*  
Sept.—Nov. 2nd Tues., 5:30 pm

**Medicare Education** \*  
Sept. 11, 20 & Oct. 2 & 18, Time varies 

**Teen Advisory Board**  
Sept.—Nov. 1st Wed., 3:30 pm

**Rock Painting Party**  
Sept. 22, 3 pm

**Fall Book Sale** Oct. 1, 1 pm

**Shred Event** Oct. 7, 9 am

**Stranded Flat Tire** \* Oct. 7, 1 pm

**Animal Tales: Creepy Critters** \*  
Oct. 9, 10 am

**HallowEve Escape Room** \*  
Oct. 30, 6:30 pm 

\*Registration Required  
For details: [www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org)

A: Pumpkin Pi.

The City of Columbia is proud to print the Quarterly on recycled paper

