



### City Meeting Information

- City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the second 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.**



Please remember to  
RECYCLE.

# Columbia Quarterly

WINTER 2009

208 S. RAPP AVENUE

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



## From the desk of Mayor Hutchinson



What a year full of celebrations and festive events. The sesquicentennial celebration is almost over but never forgotten. Fireworks, parties, dances, visitors from Gedern, Hollywood productions, concerts, festivals and so much more. A huge "THANK YOU" to the committee and all who gave numerous hours to make Columbia's 150th birthday a blast through the past and one for the history books. But there's more - in December there will be the Friends of the Library Holiday House Tour and the Columbia Rotary Club's Outdoor Holiday Lights & Decorating Contest. And Santa is coming to town and will stick around on weekends from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. In con-

clusion of the Celebration 2009 festivities, a fireworks display can be seen near Cemetery Hill starting at 11:30 p.m. on New Years Eve with the final blast ending at midnight.

I have been busy regionally and throughout the state. The Southwest Illinois Council of Mayors and the IML Legislative committee are keeping a watchful eye on upcoming legislation. They need to stop spending and asking cities like ours to fund the bill. We are actively fighting unfunded mandates protecting your hard-earned dollars.

This time of year I thank God for many things but I am sending special prayers and thanks to the hard working folks

that keep Columbia a great place. In no particular order thanks and prayers to the Ambulance, Police, Fire, Community & Economic Development, Finance, Streets, Water, Sewer and Parks Departments; to the Library, City Hall and the many Commissions & Boards, schools, civic organizations, churches and more. Too often your hard work and dedication goes unnoticed and without praise. I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart.

Be safe, friendly and get involved — it's your community. I look forward to seeing you around town.

*Mayor Hutchinson can be reached at 618/281-7144 ext. 109 or [khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com).*

### COLUMBIA'S LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Celebration 2009 Committee and Columbia's Resourceful Organization of Women Networking (C.R.O.W.N) have jointly announced plans for a Christmas parade on Main Street. On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m., local businesses, churches and organizations will be participating in this holiday parade to welcome the Christmas season. Many lighted floats, festively decorated vehicles, strolling carolers and bands will brighten Main Street. In addition, the Celebration 2009 Sängerbund singers will be riding on the Greatting Horse Farm horse-drawn lighted trolley. The parade will travel South on Main Street -- beginning at the Old Distillery Building (Gundlach St.) and ending at City Hall (Cedar St.).

Gather your family and friends; snuggle up in your coats & mittens; bring your blankets and get ready for a delightful event. "Since this is a chilly time of the year, we plan to keep it to about a 40 minute parade" noted Jackie Hausmann, Event Coordinator with the City of Columbia. To help keep the crowd warm, some of our businesses along the parade route will be offering free hot beverages. This will also be a great opportunity for attendees to check out some of our Main Street merchants' holiday specials and stick around for a nice dinner in Columbia after the parade.

Greatting Horse Farm will also have the honor of escorting some very special guests into town. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving at the end of the parade via horse and carriage and will be dropped off at the City Hall Santa Hut. Upon his arrival at the Santa Hut destination, he will be available until 7:30 p.m. for those children ready to share their Christmas wishes. Everyone is invited for free hot chocolate and treats at the end of the parade complements of Hospice of Southern Illinois and Garden Place Senior Living.

For more information please contact Jackie Hausmann at the City of Columbia (618-281-7144 ext. 106) or [jackie@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:jackie@columbiaillinois.com).



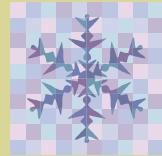
## Columbia Plan Commission Considers Impacts of Aging

Increased life expectancy is creating record numbers of people aged 65 and older. While this age group represented only 13% of the population in 2000, it will comprise about 21% of the population in 2030. The group expected to grow most rapidly in the next 30 years is the one aged 85 years and older. What does this demographic shift mean for Columbia in the future?

Members of the Columbia Plan Commission are undertaking an assessment to focus upon the Columbia community and its readiness for the impact of an aging population upon various aspects of community life. In this task, the Commission is using assessment tools provided by the Area Agency on Aging of Southwestern Illinois. The Plan Commission expects to complete their assessment and have it ready for public review by April, 2010. In the meantime, public input is encouraged as the Commission reviews each area of interest. While identifying challenges confronting Columbia in the various areas as assessed, the Commission also hopes to identify many of the positive features that already make this city a very desirable community for the aged—and for other citizens—now and in the future.

For a schedule of meetings and additional information, please visit the City of Columbia's website or contact staff for the Plan Commission:

Paul Ellis, (618) 281-7144 x.118 or [pellis@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:pellis@columbiaillinois.com)  
 Ron Williams, (618) 281-7144 x.107 or [ron@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:ron@columbiaillinois.com)



### COLUMBIA WATER SYSTEM FYI

Did you realize the City of Columbia utilized over 400 million gallons of water over the past year and the largest one day total of water utilized was 1.4 million gallons? To supply that amount of water the City has two pumping stations and four storage reservoirs/tanks on the system; an average of over one million gallons of water is supplied daily. It can be noted a recent Illinois EPA audit of the water operations and system has yielded no substantial comments or corrective items. Upgrading and maintaining the water system will allow the City to continue to supply the water necessary for its residents and businesses.

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FROM THE COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets which can overheat and start a fire.
- Make sure that extension cords do not run under furniture or carpeting.
- When working outdoors, use only weather-resistant, heavy gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use." These cords have added safeguards designed to withstand the outdoor environment.
- Make sure all heaters are at least three feet away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, curtains, furniture and rugs.
- When plugging in a space heater, make sure that the circuit can adequately and safely handle the added demands.
- Turn off, unplug, and safely store portable space heaters when not in use.
- Never leave a child unsupervised while cooking or when an electric or gas stove is within reach. Unattended cooking is one of the leading causes of home fires during the holidays.
- When visiting the homes of others, remember they may not be childproofed. Be wary of any obvious safety hazards to your child.
- Select a fresh Christmas tree and keep it in water at all times. Needles on fresh trees should be green and should not fall off easily.

### 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 the City Clerk's office at City Hall.



**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON**



## Columbia Police Department



The Columbia Police Department (CPD) is in the process of completing the installation of our new Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) system. This system will allow emergency vehicles to be dispatched over a computer mounted inside the vehicle. There are a number of benefits to having this system. A couple of the benefits are that the CAD system will identify the closest emergency vehicle to the scene of the call so that the response time is quicker, give the driver turn by turn directions to the address, and provide a history of calls for service at that address.

The Illinois General Assembly recently passed Public Act 096-0788 which is known as the Illinois Premise Alert Program (PAP) Act. This Act seeks to afford people with disabilities or special needs, or both, the same access to public safety services provided to all citizens. This Act requires public safety agencies who utilize a CAD system to maintain a database of individuals with:

“Disabilities” - defined as physical or mental impairments that substantially limit one or more of the major life activities; the agency must also keep a record of such impairment, or when the individual is regarded as having such impairment.

“Special needs” - defined as those individuals who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by individuals generally.

This Act requires us to notify the public that we will maintain this database and ask parents, guardians, family members, or a caregiver of the individual who meets either of these definitions to provide us with the necessary information to populate this database.

The information needed for the database consists of the individual’s name, date of birth, phone number, and residential address or place of employment. No individual may be entered into a PAP database unless the special need has been verified by one of the following: family members, friends, caregivers, or medical personnel familiar with the individual. We will also ask for written permission from a parent, guardian, family member, or caregiver of the individual prior to entering information into the database.

If you would like to provide the CPD with information regarding individuals who meet the requirements of this Act, you may do so by filling out the PAP Notification Form and returning it to the CPD. Forms are available at the CPD, City Hall, or the City of Columbia website [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com).

If you would like to view this Act you can do so by going to [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) and viewing Public Act 096-0788.

Joseph A. Edwards,  
Chief of Police



Please remember to support our local businesses when shopping for the holidays and throughout the year.



## Elected Officials

<b>Mayor:</b>	Kevin Hutchinson (khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com)
<b>Ward I:</b>	James Agne (jim@columbiaillinois.com) Fred Stumpf (fstumpf@columbiaillinois.com)
<b>Ward II:</b>	Dan Row (drow@columbiaillinois.com) Mark Roessler (mroessler@columbiaillinois.com)
<b>City Clerk:</b> Ron Colyer (rcolyer@columbiaillinois.com)	

<b>Ward III:</b>	Gene Ebersohl (gebersohl@columbiaillinois.com) Brad Oberfell (boberfell@columbiaillinois.com)
<b>Ward IV:</b>	Mary Ellen Niemietz (meniemietz@columbiaillinois.com) Candace Hejna (chejna@columbiaillinois.com)

**Treasurer:** Robert Naumann (bob@columbiaillinois.com)



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

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 5584  
St. Louis, MO



## Upcoming Events

Details regarding events listed below can be found on our website [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com) or call 281-7144 ext. 106.

### **LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE**

**December 5, 5pm:**

Traveling south on Main Street (from Old Distillery to City Hall). Lighted floats, music and more will bring out the Christmas spirit in everyone. Santa will arrive at the end of the parade & be dropped off at City Hall's Santa Hut to visit with the kids.

### **HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR**

**December 6, 1-5 pm:**

Tour festively decorated homes throughout Columbia. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, tickets may be purchased at the Columbia Library.



### **SANTA HUT AT CITY HALL**

**December 6,  
12, 13, 19 & 21,  
1:00—4:00 pm:**

Santa will be available for children to visit and share their Christmas wish list. A free treat and Polaroid photo will be available, or you are welcome to bring your own camera to capture the moment.



### **LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK-UP December 8:**

Residential pick-up.



### **SANTA VISITS THE LIBRARY**

**December 12, 10 am—Noon:**

A morning of fun and treats; visit Santa Claus. Bring your camera.

### **OUTDOOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS & DECORATING CONTEST**

**December 18-20:**

Homes will be judged the weekend of Dec. 18-20. Great prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place.



Sponsored by the Columbia Rotary Club.

### **NEW YEARS EVE FIREWORKS**

**December 31, 11:30 pm:**

A display of fireworks can be seen near Cemetery Hill marking the end of Columbia's 150th birthday celebration. The last of the fireworks will conclude at midnight.



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

