

Columbia Quarterly Fall 2011



Mayor Hutchinson



Summer is almost over, school is back in session and there is so much going on in our town. Fall brings many community events to Columbia: the car show in the park, Movies at Metter, Art Walk on Main Street, FestiFall, Halloween Hi Jinks, Scare on the Square & Pumpkin Glow and so much more. Information on these and other happenings in Columbia can be found in this newsletter, on the City's website calendar, at the library or at City Hall. These events, as well as many others held throughout Columbia, help showcase our town to its many visitors, as well as our residents.

For those of you who have not yet visited, I encourage you to stop by the Monroe County Welcome Center (see article below) - it contains a re-creation of an 1867 one room school, as well as informational offerings about Monroe County—this is a great opportunity to learn about our area's past and present.

I also encourage everyone to keep safety uppermost in your mind as you travel throughout Columbia. Construction continues south of town, school is back in session and children will be going to and from school, as well as playing in residential areas. Remember, it's against the law to talk on your cell phone in school zones and construction areas—be safe and slow down throughout Columbia—you do not want to meet anyone by "accident"!

Please be safe and get out and enjoy the events, activities and services our wonderful community has to offer. As always, contact me if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Mayor Kevin Hutchinson
City Hall: 618-281-7144 ext. 109
Home: 618-281-5199
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City Meeting Information

- City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7 pm 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.

This Old Schoolhouse

The City of Columbia has recently opened a new facility that will bridge time to connect this area's future with its heritage—the Monroe County Welcome Center.

The Welcome Center is a visitor information facility housed in a former one-room school, offering regional tourist data, business referrals and information about the area's heritage. Located in Stone Arch Park adjacent to Illinois Route 3, the Center is accessible to the travelling public. Developed by the City of Columbia, the Welcome Center will be managed under an intergovernmental agreement that also includes the City of Waterloo, Monroe County, and the villages of Maestown and Valmeyer.



The Welcome Center will be open from May through October, Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The building also houses a one-room school museum and boasts a brick plaza commemorating the 60 schools that once covered Monroe County, allowing no child to have to walk more than two miles to school.

Dedication for the facility took place on Saturday, July 23rd through a day-long series of events, culminating with the St. Louis area preview of "Country School," an award-winning documentary film. Filmmakers Kelly & Tammy Rundle presented the film and led a discussion that involved some of the former students from Shoemaker School, which closed in 1951.

For more information, check out the Welcome Center's page on Facebook under "Shoemaker School" or visit the City's website.

Volunteers Needed— The Monroe County Welcome Center will now be open regular hours thanks to the efforts of a collection of loyal volunteers. Positions are now open, and schedules are flexible.

Volunteers should be familiar with the Monroe County area and have past experience serving the public. Volunteers receive training from the Tourism Bureau *ILLINOISouth*, learn about local heritage and attractions, and may participate in special educational events.

To volunteer for the Monroe County Welcome Center, contact Paul Ellis at the City of Columbia, (618) 281-7144 x.118 or pellis@columbiaillinois.com.

Halloween Tips from the Columbia Police Department



- Always trick-or-treat in groups, never alone. Use flashing lights or jewelry to make your child stand out. Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Make sure your child's costume includes reflective material; a flash light or light will make them more visible at night.
- If they are carrying a prop such as a scythe or sword, make sure they are made out of a flexible plastic that will bend if fallen on. Most of the props available today are made of flexible plastic.
- If your child is wearing a mask, make sure that the eye holes are big enough to see not only in front but peripherally as well—you may have to enlarge them. If so, use some black or gray grease paint around the eye socket to cover skin.
- Remind your children not to eat any candy or other treats until you have had a chance to inspect it.
- Whether you're going to trick-or-treat in the City of Columbia or in another city, you should visit the Illinois State Police website at www.isp.state.il.us to review the location of sex offenders. The Columbia Police Department would like you to report any suspicious activity that you observe. This can be done by calling 281-5151 or in an emergency 911.

Have a fun and safe Halloween!

COLUMBIA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DELIVERY OPTION

In an effort to conserve tax dollars as well as "Think Green" by limiting the number of "hard copies" of the Columbia Quarterly printed every three months, we would like to urge everyone with internet access to take advantage of viewing the Columbia Quarterly online on the City's website. If you are currently not signed up for the City's E-News Flashes, please visit the City website at www.columbiailinois.com, click on the "E-News Sign Up", and follow the simple directions to be included on all future City notifications, which will include a link to the Columbia Quarterly every three months. If at any time you change your mind about receiving the e-mail notifications, simply follow the directions on the e-mail received; this will allow you to remove your name from the distribution list.

In addition, if you would prefer to have your address eliminated from the newsletter mailing list, please contact Jackie Hausmann to have your address removed from the distribution list. You can reach Jackie at jackie@columbiailinois.com or 281-7144 ext. 106.



NEWS FROM COLUMBIA SCHOOLS



It is hard to believe that the 2011-2012 school year is underway! The summer was busy and used to plan for a few changes within our school district. We are proud that Mr. Brad Landgraf is now at the helm of Eagleview Elementary as Principal. Dr. "B" is now at Parkview as the sole principal. Congratulations Mr. Landgraf! Both of these gentlemen will continue to take great care of our elementary students.

We have increased our programming offerings to parents. We have proudly opened an after-school care program called The Eagle Zone. The "Zone" is open to all Columbia students in Kindergarten through 4th grade. The program will offer homework assistance as well as developmentally appropriate activities. If you are interested in this program, please call your child's school office for more information.

We are excited that Columbia District #4 is also offering a tuition-based pre-school program at Eagleview. At this time there is *open* enrollment for any child who is currently 3 or will turn 3 during the school year. (You may register for the program at any time throughout the school year.) Please contact Mr. Landgraf if you would like to enroll your child to ensure "school readiness" for our curriculum as well as routine.

Additional changes that you will see progressing this school year will be made possible through a grant recently received. The district has received a \$25,000 vocational education grant through Archer Daniels Midland of St. Louis, MO through their "ADM Cares" social investment program. The CHS construction class, under the leadership of Dan Young, will renovate the press box at the football field. The class will also complete site-work for a long-awaited marquee to be located at the front of CHS that will be purchased through this funding. These initiatives would not be possible without this grant. We are excited for our vocational education students who will be exposed to these opportunities. We would like to publically thank ADM for their generosity and community outreach!

Welcome back and GO EAGLES!!!

PARKER'S

CORNER



Hello! Thanks for supporting your city parks by being a Park Pal. We hope you're having fun playing in one of the five active parks in town. Did you know that the City of Columbia has over 130 acres of owned or leased park land? 60% of that space is already in use! Be sure to visit the city website for fun activities and events happening in the parks and around town.

If you're not a Park Pal or know someone who would like to become one, just stop by City Hall and get signed up. It's easy.

Have fun and be safe! Parker.

DID YOU KNOW!

The warmest temperature ever recorded in Illinois is 117°F on July 14, 1954, in East St. Louis.

The coldest temperature ever recorded in Illinois is -36°F on January 5, 1999, in Congerville (Peoria metro area).

BUY LOCAL OR BYE BYE LOCAL

In this current economic crisis, it is more important than ever that we all make a conscious decision to support our local business community whenever possible. Community members don't like to see local businesses close their doors or to see vacant buildings scattered throughout the community; however, it is rare that community members consider that their own buying patterns may have contributed to the business' demise.

The money you spend to purchase even the smallest of items, such as a gallon of gas, a box of detergent or a carton of milk, can have a direct impact on our local economy. As cost conscious shoppers opt to drive out of the local community to save a few cents on items that can be purchased locally, they are unconsciously contributing to a downward cycle which negatively impacts the local business community, the local job market, local real estate markets and the local tax base.

Each of us needs to ask ourselves: how much of our income are we investing in the economic vitality of our community? While it is apparent that there are several things that one simply cannot buy in the "hometowns" here in rural Illinois, we need to look beyond the cost to consider the overall impact of our purchasing decisions on the local economy.

Is the bargain purchase really a bargain, if it negatively impacts local employment and wages, the local tax base, and ultimately even our local schools? Spending locally keeps money in the community; helps to retain existing jobs; creates an environment for new jobs; generates local sales tax revenue; provides support for local charities, schools and youth programs; gives people a reason to visit and spend money in our community; and contributes to further growth of our business community.

As consumers, we have the power to shape the future of our community. If we don't support our local business community, who will? Do your part to help shift market share back to locally owned businesses by buying local so it is not Bye Bye Local.

Source:

Susan Odum, CED Program Coordinator
University of Illinois Extension



WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Above & Beyond Design by Marla, Inc.
121 S. Main St. (opening soon)
Retail sales of cabinetry & countertops

Fabulous Finds
315 N. Main St. (opening soon)
Retail sales

Red Apple Restaurant
230 N. Main St.
Restaurant

Sleep Center Mattress
140 Columbia Centre
Retail mattress sales

Validus Partners
119 W. Gundlach, Suite 102
Executive recruiting

UTILITY BILL 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 available at City Hall.

EMISSIONS TESTING

Save time and gas! Did you know that Royal Gate Dodge Chrysler Jeep of Columbia can do emissions testing on your vehicle? Appointments may be scheduled Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8am and 3pm. Just call Royal Gate at (618) 281-3000.

They are located at 500 Admiral Weinel Boulevard in Columbia.



Smoke Detectors Save Lives

When you turn your clock back
change the battery in the smoke alarm!

Daylight Savings Ends November 6 at 2:00 am

STORMWATER IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN

Did you know the City of Columbia has a permit from IEPA and EPA for stormwater discharges? Such permits are mandated under IEPA and EPA regulations developed under the Clean Water Act. The City must maintain certain records, perform certain tasks and make certain inspections. Part of the program is public awareness. You can help keep the City's stormwater flow clean. Do not allow chemicals to flow into inlets that flow into the storm sewer system that ultimately flows into creeks and drainageways. Pick up pet waste, it is the second highest contributor to stormwater pollution. Recycle everything you can. The more you recycle the less likely pollutants will get into the stormwater flow. Awareness really can make a difference in helping to keep stormwater clean.

Elected Officials



Mayor: Kevin Hutchinson
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Ward I: James Agne
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Steven Reis
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John Piazza
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City Clerk: Ron Colyer
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Treasurer: Robert Naumann
bob@columbiaillinois.com



Visit [www.columbiaillinois.com/ward map](http://www.columbiaillinois.com/ward%20map) or stop by the City Clerk's Office to obtain a copy of the City ward map!



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Columbia, IL 62236

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Upcoming Events

For more details on events call 281-7144 ext. 106 or visit the city website calendar at www.columbiaillinois.com.

Kiwanis Car Show

September 3, 9am—3:30pm:
Bolm-Schuhkraft Park (Rain date 9/4)

Clerk's Office Closed

September 3 & 5 (Labor Day)
November 24, 25 & 26 (Thanksgiving)



Children's Dept. Open House

September 9, 5-8pm: Come celebrate changes at the library; fun giveaways! Be sure to check out Movies at Metter after the open house!

Movies at Metter

September 9, at dusk: Free movie under the stars featuring "The Rookie" at Metter Park.



Night Out In C-Town

November 10, 5-8pm: Visit some unique local businesses and earn chances to win many nice prizes. Safari Theme!

Large Item Trash Pick Up

September 13: residential pick up

Electronics & Battery Recycling

Sept. 17, Oct. 15 & Nov. 19
Public Works Parking Lot (110 W Sand Bank)

Mutt & Me 5K Run/Walk

September 25, 9am:
Bolm-Schuhkraft Park



Columbia FestiFall

September 25, 1-6pm:
Music by the Smash Band, delicious food, wine tasting, unique merchandise and many fun fall activities for the kids!

Book Talk/Signing

September 27, 6:30-8pm: Local author David Norman discusses his new title "Following Josh" at the library.

Art On The Bluffs Art Walk



October 1, 10am-4pm: Stroll Main St. and visit a wide variety of artists offering their creations; kid's activities, food, music & more!

Movies at Metter

October 7, at dusk: Free outdoor movie at Metter Park featuring "How to Train Your Dragon".

Halloween Hoopla at the Library

October 25, 10-11am:
Stories, fun, games, treats.
Registration required; ages 2-5

Halloween Hi Jinks

October 29, 10am-1pm:
Main Street businesses welcome trick-or-treaters followed by a kid's parade.



Halloween Scare Square & Pumpkin Glow

October 31, 5:30-8:00pm:

Stop by City Hall Fountain Park for some free hotdogs, hot chocolate & trunk-or-treating. Enter & vote for your favorite carved or decorated pumpkin.



Daylight Savings Ends

November 6, 2am:
Set clocks back one hour!



Family Reading Night

November 17, 6:30-7:30pm:
Reading, games and giveaways at the library!

Veteran's Day

November 11, 11am:
Dedication ceremony at American Legion.



Christmas Cruising in Columbia

November 27, 11am-4pm:

Take a local cruise in your car and get a head start on holiday shopping at our convenient & unique businesses in town; chances to win nice prizes too!

Bright Night Christmas Parade

December 3, 5pm:

Gather your family & friends for the beautiful & festive display of lighted Christmas floats & unique entries on Main St.



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

