

# Columbia Quarterly

City of Columbia  
[www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com)



**Mayor Hutchinson**



The holiday season is when we take the time to reflect and be thankful for God's blessings.

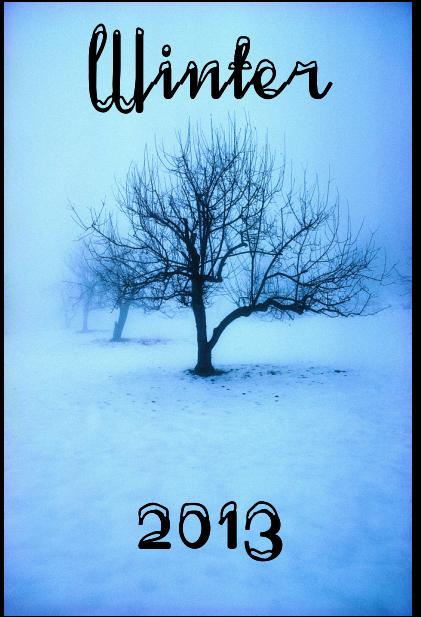
One thing I am thankful for is our charming city. We have been blessed with – great civic organizations, churches and businesses that support our community, excellent schools, great family friendly events, beautiful parks, interesting historical sites, and so much more.

I am most thankful for the people of Columbia. I am blessed with friendships and relationships that have made me a better mayor, father and husband.

Take the time and thank somebody you know for making a difference in Columbia or in your life.

May God bless you all and keep you safe this holiday season.

Mayor Kevin Hutchinson



## 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.

## COLUMBIA SISTER CITIES

Congratulations to the Columbia Sister Cities' organization for its selection as the 2013 Sister City of the Year by the Illinois State Sister Cities' Association. The selection committee was very impressed with the large number of Columbia Sister Cities' members who host visitors from Gedern, Germany and the exemplary student exchange program for the 24 Gedern students who attended CHS for three weeks this year. The continued strong partnership with our friends across the ocean is valued by our City Council and we will continue to encourage and support this important organization.

## COMMUNITY VISION

Columbia seeks a future in which growth is balanced with preservation of its community life and heritage. This future should be framed by goals and objectives which aim to preserve the architectural integrity and commercial vitality of Main Street, use smart growth techniques to manage residential density, encourage planned commercial growth along the 1-255 Corridor, enhance spaces defined for public use, support multiple modes of transportation, prepare for an increasingly older population, encourage quality in the built environment, and seek broad community engagement and collaboration with neighboring communities and groups—all as described in more detail on page 2.



## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Aunt Maggies on Main - Opening Dec. (Formerly The Lantern) 230 N. Main St. Family-style restaurant & weekend bakery	Merz on Main (Formerly Gruchalas) 210 S. Main St. Home-style cooking, bar & lottery sales
Aftermath Services, LLC 418 N. Main St. Crime & trauma scene clean-up company	H&R Block (new location) 311 Wedgewood Square Tax Prep—Accounting & Payroll Services



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

## Community Vision (continued)

Enhance the Main Street Experience

Preserve and enhance Main Street as a vibrant mixed use employment center with unique retail, residential, and historical assets offering a wide variety of activities, goods and services to which people can walk, ride bicycles, take transit or drive;

Provide for Balanced Growth & Encourage Quality Development

Promote planned urban growth to minimize sprawl by regulating residential densities, protecting environmentally sensitive areas, and encouraging appropriate development; guide new development and encourage redevelopment so as to foster the desired visual character for the community;

Support Appropriate Growth in the I-255 Corridor

Promote such commercial, industrial and business uses as will import dollars into the community;

Enhance Parks, Open Space & Public Facilities

Preserve and enhance natural features and public facilities that give Columbia character, such as hills, bluffs, trees, grasslands, prairies, parks, a community center, other public buildings, and natural drainage areas;

Provide for Efficient Private & Public Transportation

Ensure that Columbia's existing and future transportation corridors provide adequate levels of service for cars & trucks, buses, bicycles and pedestrians;

Prepare for an Aging Population

Determine how to meet an unprecedented, steadily increasing need for senior services along with rising expectations that reflect a desire and determination by our residents to live senior years to their fullest;

Seek Broad Community Engagement

Maintain effective means—and seek out new methods—for engaging all segments of the local community in decision-making;

Collaborate with Other Communities & Groups

Develop partnerships to collaborate with other jurisdictions and districts, non-profit organizations and other civic groups for the benefit of all.

**City of Columbia Regular Friday Trash and Recycling Removal Schedule Change**

**Due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, the regular Columbia trash and recycling removal scheduled for Friday, November 29 has been changed to Saturday, November 30.**



Patricia Riess is the Coordinator for the Monroe County Welcome Center, located at IL-3 & Gall Rd. in the former Shoemaker School. The visitor center and museum will be open this year through the end of December. To visit the one room school museum, schedule events or get tourist information, call Patricia at (618) 281-8812.



From the Columbia Police Department

This past fall you may have noticed the addition of speed monitored school safety zone signs on Main Street near Parkview and Immaculate Conception Schools. These signs were obtained via our Safe Routes to School Grant program provided by funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation. Because our department has been asked many questions regarding these signs since installation, below you will find the school zone speeding statute:

**625 ILCS 5/11-605**

*On a school day when school children are present and so close thereto that a potential hazard exists because of the close proximity of the motorized traffic, no person shall drive a motor vehicle at a speed in excess of 20 miles per hour while passing a school zone or while traveling on a roadway on public school property or upon any public thoroughfare where children pass going to and from school. For the purpose of this section a school day shall begin at seven ante meridian and shall conclude at four past meridian. (7am-4pm)*



Please be mindful of all routes children take to school, since many students will be walking to school or waiting for buses in low light conditions. Please be careful.

Chief Joseph A. Edwards, Columbia Police Department

Finance



Department

**UTILITY BILL DIRECT DEBIT**

Don't forget...

the City of Columbia offers direct debit payment of monthly utility bills. There is no charge for this service - it's free! The direct debit form is available at City Hall or on the city's website at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com).

For more information contact Michelle Brown, Accounting Specialist, at 281-7144 ext. 102.

## HERITAGE & PRESERVATION AWARD

Dennis Patton recently travelled to Chicago to receive Landmark Illinois' Dreihaus Preservation Award for the Education Category. Dennis, along with the Columbia Heritage & Preservation Commission, was recognized for identifying, documenting and promoting the Kaskaskia – Cahokia Trail, the state's first road. Countless hours of research into our local history and spreading this knowledge to folks are paying off with statewide recognition. Congratulations for a job well done!



News from Columbia Unit School District #4



Greetings from CUSD4! The school district was one of ninety-one school districts out of 866 in the state of Illinois to earn the 2013 Bright Star Award. The award criteria is based on those districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the upper one third of Illinois school districts, but whose expenditure per pupil ranks in the lower one-fourth of Illinois school districts. According to the most recent School Report Card ([www.columbia4.org](http://www.columbia4.org)), the school district spends \$7,949 per student to educate per year compared to the state average of \$11,842. This is the third year in a row the school district earned this recognition.

The faculty and staff are working on several initiatives during the school year. First, the teachers are working hard to implement the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and math. The Common Core stresses a higher level of critical thinking, cross curricular writing, non-fictional reading, academic vocabulary, and higher level thinking skills. Students will see less content covered than prior years, focusing on fewer units of study with more in depth analysis and exploration. In addition, the school district is in the planning stages of upgrading the technology infrastructure to prepare for increased use of technology in the classrooms. The goal is to provide a wireless learning environment in order to increase access to students and teachers to improve student achievement.

The school district would like to share our student successes with you. In November and December, the schools will host several holiday concerts and sporting events. The high school will be hosting the Columbia/Freeburg Invitational basketball tournament beginning December 26<sup>th</sup>. Please consider attending one of our many student centered events by accessing the district and school calendar on the website.

## CITY OF COLUMBIA HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS

**Regular Tuesday Trash & Recycling will be held as usual on Christmas Eve, December 24 and New Year's Eve, December 31.**

### Regular Friday Trash & Recycling December 27 -

Columbia residents will be allowed three (3) additional 30 gallon containers/bags of trash in addition to the one (1) trash tote (4 total containers allowed - No \$1.00 extra trash stickers needed.)

### Regular Tuesday Trash & Recycling December 31 -

Columbia residents will be allowed three (3) additional 30 gallon containers/bags of trash in addition to the one (1) trash tote (4 total containers allowed - No \$1.00 extra trash stickers needed.)

### NEW YEAR'S

**Regular Friday Trash & Recycling will be January 3 (Extra trash will require the \$1.00 per container trash stickers.)**

### Regular Tuesday Trash & Recycling will be January 7 (Extra trash will require the \$1.00 per container trash stickers.)

### LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Live Christmas tree recycling drop off will be held at the Bolm-Schuhkraft City Park parking lot next to the Parkview School on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Any questions, call the City Clerk's Office at 618/281-7144, ext. 100.

2014 LARGE ITEM CURBSIDE REMOVAL DATES: February 25—June 3—September 9—December 2

## STORMWATER CLEANLINESS IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Did you know the City of Columbia has a permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for storm water discharge throughout the City? The City is mandated by the permit to monitor and maintain the quality of storm water flow. Residents of the City can play a large part in preventing pollutants from entering storm water flow and ultimately ending up in lakes, streams and rivers. Here are some things to remember about storm water and facilities that handle storm water. Never place liquids such as antifreeze or paint or items such as yard waste into a storm sewer inlet, drain or into a creek or stream. Pollutants can end up in waterways and items can clog the storm sewer inlets or lines causing issues with the flow and disposal of storm water. Pet waste is the second largest cause of pollutants entering storm water flow. Picking up after your pet is one of the most effective ways of preventing pollutants from entering storm water flow. Lawn pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, when used in overabundance and with a heavier rainfall event will just run off the lawn and into the storm water flow. Go easy on lawn additives to allow the additive to soak into your lawn and keep the additives out of the storm water flow. For more information on storm water management, please visit the City's website [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com). Your help and attention to storm water will aid the City in meeting its mandates for storm water management.



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## Upcoming Events

For more details on items listed below, call 281-7144 or visit the city website calendar at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com).



### SANTA VISITS THE LIBRARY

December 7, 10am—Noon:  
Activities & fun with Santa—picture time!

### BRIGHT NIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 7, 5 pm: Join us for a bright night of Christmas lights down Main St. Parade starts at Rueck Road and ends at Cherry St. Bundle up and enjoy this special event full of Christmas spirit. The festivities continue after the parade at Turner Hall's Christmas Social.



1st Place—2012  
Beds & Boarders



### TURNER HALL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

#### December 7, 5-10pm:

Stop by for some chili and Christmas cheer. Kids can visit with Santa and enjoy face painting, a balloon artist, and lively music to top off the evening. Parade winners will also be announced. Collecting for food pantry.

#### VISIT WITH SANTA

#### Dec. 8, 14, 15, 21 & 22, 1-4 pm

**Monroe County Welcome Center:** Santa will be setting up shop for kids to visit this year in a new location (corner of Route 3 & Gall Road—across from DQ) instead of the Santa Hut at City Hall. The former schoolhouse will be an excellent place to capture a special memory—don't forget your camera.



#### LEAF PICK-UP:

#### Through Friday, December 7th:

Please place leaves by the curb. Continuous trips will be made through the city

#### LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK-UP

Dec. 3 & Feb. 25 residential pick up

#### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Dec. 21, Jan. 18 & Feb. 15,  
8am-1pm DOPW Parking Lot



## Elected Officials



Mayor: Kevin Hutchinson  
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Ward I: James Agne  
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Steven Reis  
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Ward IV: Mary Ellen Niemietz  
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City Clerk: Ron Colyer  
[rcoleyer@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:rcoleyer@columbiaillinois.com)

Treasurer: Robert Naumann  
[bob@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:bob@columbiaillinois.com)



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