



Columbia

Quarterly

CITY OF COLUMBIA

www.columbiaillinois.com

We find ourselves approaching another fabulous fall season – soon to be surrounded by beautiful colors in our neighborhoods, parks and surrounding areas. Be sure to check out the events calendar portion of this newsletter. There are so many family-friendly, outdoor events in store -- Songs 4 Soldiers, Christian Music Festival, Movies at Metter, FestiFall and several Halloween activities to name a few.

We are excited to announce that you will be seeing a few new faces at City Hall. Nancy Long has been hired as a part-time Administrative Assistant & Events Coordinator. In addition, we will soon be welcoming a new City Administrator. I would like to give a big thanks to Al Hudzik who has held this position since December 2008. Al has done an amazing job for the citizens of Columbia and we wish him all the best as he retires.

I have recently attended several legislative sessions in Springfield and I am happy to report that progress has been made from a municipal standpoint. We were able to keep many of the proposed unfunded municipal mandates from being passed (those are laws or programs required by the state that place the financial burdens of providing those mandated programs onto cities like Columbia). We were also able to successfully navigate the passage of House Bill 0961 which provides direct deposit and quicker payment of the local share of state income taxes, thereby providing a more stable revenue stream for the funding of the city's daily operations.

Don't forget to check out our volunteer website (www.columbialvolunteers.org/ColumbiaILVolunteers/) for an opportunity to donate your talents to worthwhile organizations and make new friends and please take advantage of the special events and activities available right here in our charming city. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, give me a call (office: 281-7144 ext. 109 or home: 281-5199) or e-mail (khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com). Enjoy this fantastic fall season!



**Mayor
Hutchinson**

Sincerely, Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor



PLAY Foundation Offers Conduit for Giving to Local Parks & Recreation

Are you a fan of Columbia's growing system of parks & playgrounds? Want to leave a legacy to the next generation? Do you have a loved one you'd like to have remembered?

All of these are reasons to consider donating to the City of Columbia's parks & recreation program. A new not-for-profit group has been formed to serve as the conduit for private donations. Donations of all sizes, restricted and unrestricted, are being sought to help improve Columbia's parks and playgrounds.

The Columbia Parks & Leisure for Adults & Youth (PLAY) Foundation is an independent charitable organization that was created last year. The Columbia City Council recently adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes the Foundation as the venue for donations from citizens, corporations and other charitable groups, and the Foundation has applied for tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service.

The current Board of Directors for the Columbia PLAY Foundation includes: John Conrad, P. Michael Read, Lisa Schmidt, Randy Simmonds, Wendy Stevens and John Traube.

For more information about the Columbia PLAY Foundation, contact any of the Board Members, check out the group's Facebook page or visit the City's website.



Organization	Donation
Columbia Rotary Club	Handicapped Accessible Picnic Tables
Oerter Foundation	Shade Sail for Metter Park Playground (Fall 2014) \$12,000
Oerter Foundation	Refurbishing Tennis Court in Bolm-Schuhkraft Park (Fall 2014) \$20,500
Sesquicentennial Committee	Sesquicentennial Pavilion at Metter Park (June 2014) \$27,000

Need Business Assistance? Call Us Today!

Columbia Land Management is moving forward with development of a 21-acre site into a \$50 million commercial park at the entrance to the city. New owners of the former Video Exchange along Illinois Route 3 are working with the City to redevelop that currently blighted property. New businesses continue to sprout along Main Street, regional and national chain stores are seeking new sites here, and many local property owners are reviewing the potential use of undeveloped locations.

There's an upsurge in the economy and lots of opportunity in Columbia—don't let the rising tide leave your business plans high and dry! The City's Community & Economic Development Dept. (CEDD) can help you facilitate your next step(s):

Thinking about opening a business? CEDD can help you get started and provide technical assistance, even capital, to your enterprise—we also have an extraordinary list of local and regional contacts...

Considering expansion? CEDD can help you plan your growth, assist with navigating the regulatory process, and connect you with capital and technical assistance...

Establishing a branch or relocating? CEDD can help assist with navigating the regulatory process, help identify potential incentives, and connect you with capital and technical assistance...

Marketing a commercial building or site? CEDD can provide technical assistance, help in marketing through the LocationOne Information System (LOIS) as well as local and regional contacts, and refer you to local real estate professionals...

Reviewing your options? CEDD can help you plan your growth, provide demographics and other business information, and connect you with technical assistance and contacts...

No request is too small and no job too big—CEDD can help! Contact Paul Ellis, Director of Community & Economic Development, to discuss your needs and goals—call him at (618) 281-7144 ext.118 or email him via pellis@columbiaillinois.com.

Did You Know?

The City of Columbia's Revolving Loan Program provided \$127,000 in new funding for local businesses last year



Second Open House – Comprehensive Plan Revision

Monday, September 22nd
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Columbia City Hall Auditorium

The Columbia Plan Commission invites the community to attend a second event to update the progress made on revising of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

This meeting will address:

- Goals (“community vision”) for the revised Comprehensive Plan
- Review of previous planning efforts
- Presentation of the Community Preservation Plan (Historic Preservation Element)
- Presentation of the Main Street District Plan
- Preview of future planning efforts

Community members may attend at any point during the open house, review information at various stations around the room, and provide input and/or ask questions.

Last revised in 2005, Columbia's Comprehensive Plan is the “master plan” document that guides future development; the plan is being updated to reflect changes in the community as well as in the local, regional and national economy.

**EXPIRED/UNWANTED
PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS
NATIONAL TAKE BACK DAY**



On Saturday September 27, 2014, from 10am - 2pm the Columbia Police Department, in combination with the DEA, will coordinate a collaborative effort focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from your medicine cabinets. This national take-back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment and business communities to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they live.

Although this event is the National Take Back Day, the Columbia Police Department offers this service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is a drop box located in the lobby of the Columbia Police Department to assist with disposing pharmaceuticals all year long.

Joseph A. Edwards, Chief of Police

North Main Resurfacing – Whiteside to Crestview

Bids were received on June 13, 2014 for the North Main Resurfacing Project. As with a large number of bids received on this Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) letting, the bids received exceeded the estimated amount by a substantial amount. In an attempt to have the project constructed in 2014 the project was again placed on the August 1, 2014 IDOT letting to see if additional bids more in line with the estimated amount would be received. Unfortunately the bids received did not change and the bid amounts still exceeded the estimated amount. Therefore the project will be re-evaluated and submitted for a future IDOT letting probably in January 2015. This means the project will not be constructed this calendar year. If an acceptable bid is received in January 2015 the project construction should start in Spring 2015.

Nancy Long Joins the City Team

Nancy Long is the latest addition to the staff at the City of Columbia. A Columbia resident, Nancy was selected from among 29 applicants to fill a part time position as Administrative Assistant & Events Coordinator.



She will be splitting duties with Jackie Hausmann, who is moving to part time employment with the City. Both Nancy and Jackie will work with the Mayor, City Administrator and Community & Economic Development Director. Nancy will spearhead most events for the City, expanding the City's outreach via social media and other administrative tasks.

Nancy has broad experience with publicity and event management in previous jobs with the St. Louis Post Dispatch and Brighton Advertising.



WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES



Clements Cleaning

101 McCrosky Professional Park
Cleaning Business

Fabulous Finds II

623 N. Main St.
New & repurposed furniture and
Household embellishments

Allstate Insurance

1260 Columbia Centre
Insurance Office

Edward Jones

Marty Newton (new location)
332 Wedgewood Square
Financial Services

NEWS FROM COLUMBIA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Columbia Unit School District #4 would like to welcome returning and new students and families to the 2014-2015 school year! Thus far, student enrollment for the district has remained stable.

- The school district would like to welcome new faculty and staff to the district: Ryan Hampton (Voc Ed), Erin Pechacek (Speech), Matt Kendall (CMS Math), Carey Burton (CHS Math), Eileen Jenson (Agriscience), Lisa Fallon (CMS Secretary), and Ken Hines (Custodian).
- The district would like to congratulate with much appreciation recent retirees: Dan Young, Del Hanegan, and Paul Ives who retired after the conclusion of the school year.
- CHS Homecoming Week is September 22 – 27 with the annual parade scheduled for September 24th, football game on September 26th, and dance on September 27th.
- The school district is very pleased to report that the Multi-Purpose Field is due to be paid in full on November 1st. The school district raised \$350,000 of monetary contributions along with over \$200,000 of in-kind donations from local contractors which enabled the district to construct the new field in 2012. School district operational funds were not utilized for this acquisition. The school district truly thanks all of the supporters who made this dream a reality. The field is used constantly and has proven to be an asset to the district. Please visit the field's entry way to view the plaque recognizing the contributors.
- The FFA would like to thank the community for supporting the school district's first annual flower sale utilizing the new greenhouse. Columbia School District would also like to thank the Agriscience Association for their commitment toward assisting the school district with financially supporting the construction of the greenhouse. The Agriscience Association meets monthly and welcomes community members to become new members. Please contact Roger Schaefer or the district office for more information.

For sports fans in the community, a family season pass can be obtained at the high school office. The cost for the season pass is \$100.00 which will allow family entry at all CMS and CHS athletic events. Go Eagles!

For school district and building contact information, please access the district's website at www.columbia4.org. Thank you!



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Upcoming Events

For more info call 281-7144 or visit www.columbiailinois.com—calendar

Electronics & Appliances Recycling
(3rd Sat.) - Sept. 20, Oct. 18,
Nov. 15 8am-1pm: DOPW
Parking Lot, collecting electronics,
appliances, batteries & more!

Songs4Soldiers

Sept. 6, 4-11pm: Concert (4
bands) benefiting Iraq veterans—
Market Place Centre/Schnucks parking lot.



Large Item Trash Pick Up Sept. 9:
Residential curbside pick up.

Movies at Metter Park
Sept. 12, dusk: Free
outdoor movie featuring
“The Shaggy Dog”

Mutt & Me 5K Run / Walk

Sept. 13, 9am: Fundraiser for Helping
Strays of Monroe County starting at Bolm-
Schuhkraft Park.

Christian Music Fest

Sept. 13, Noon - 8pm: Music by 8 local
churches and featuring Matt Vollmar & the
Great Romance. Family fun, food & unity.

Open Air Fair Sept. 14, 12 - 4pm:
Vendors/food & En Plein Aire artists at the
Monroe County Welcome Center.

Art on the Bluffs Sept. 20: Cancelled

FestiFall Sept. 28, 1-6pm:
Music by Well Hungarians, food,
wine tasting, unique merchandise
and kid's fall fun at Metter Park!



Witches Ghoulish Night Out Oct. 9: Witches costume
contest, shop, food & brew —
a wicked good time on Main St!

Movies at Metter Park

Oct. 10, at dusk: Free outdoor
movie featuring “Cloudy with a
Chance of Meatballs I”



Halloween Hi Jinks

Oct. 25, 10am-1pm:
Participating businesses on Main St.
welcome trick-or-treaters.

Halloween Scare Square & Pumpkin Glow

Oct. 31, 5:30-7:30pm: Trunk-or-treating
& more for the kids! Enter/vote for your
favorite glowing pumpkin.

Veteran's Day

Nov. 11, 11am: Celebration
ceremony at American Legion.



Monroe County Scavenger Hunt

Nov. 15, Explore what Monroe County
has to offer—fun & prizes!

Holiday Hunt Nov. 22 & 23:
Aim for great deals; chances to win
nice prizes too!

Bright Night Christmas Parade

December 6, 5pm Historic Main St.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Library Friends Pre-K

Begins September 3, 9:30:
Meets every Wed. Ages 3—5.



Story Hour

Begins September 4,
10-11am: 1st and 3rd Thurs.
of each month, Ages 3 1/2—5.

Tot Time

Begins September 11
2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
1st session 10am; 2nd session 10:45
Ages 18 months — 3 1/2 yrs.

Tweengarten

Begins September 15, 10 am
Meets every Monday.



Babygarten

Begins September 16
Meets every Tuesday at 10 am
Ages 4—18 months.

Green Halloween Swap & Shop

Oct. 11, 10 am—Noon
Donate gently used costumes and/or pick
up a new costume.

Halloween Hoopla

Oct. 24, 10:30 am—11:30 am

Lego Halloween Hoopla

Oct. 28, 4 pm

Family Reading Night

Nov. 20, 4—7 pm

