

# Columbia Quarterly



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

## WINTER

# 2014

As we near the end of 2014, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the City of Columbia employees, council members, as well as our commission and committee members for all they do for the City of Columbia. I would also like to give a big thanks to our civic organizations and churches that volunteer their time and energy toward our city. We have a winning combination that has put us on the map as a great place to live and raise a family. Our list of special events throughout the year continues to grow — so many great family activities. Don't forget to take the kids to visit Santa at the Welcome Center! Our retailers and restaurants have so many options for your Christmas gift list and holiday needs. Please remember to shop local.

If the wooly worm and persimmon predictions are correct, we will be in for an interesting winter, but our DOPW guys are ready to take care of our streets. Please drive safe!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Mayor Kevin Hutchinson

### City of Columbia's New City Administrator James Morani, ICMA-CM, IPMA-CS

James "Jimmy" Morani has over 12 years' experience in state and local government. For the past 4 ½ years, Morani has served as Village Administrator for the Village of New Baden, Illinois. He previously held the position of City Administrator for the City of Vandalia, Illinois, and has worked as a policy analyst for the Illinois House of Representatives. Morani holds a Bachelor's in Political Science and Master's in Public Administration from SIUE. He has been designated as a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and a Certified Specialist by the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR)



Morani, who currently resides in Oakville, Missouri (South County), is a former 13-year resident of the Metro East. He is married to Becky, who is a registered nurse at Memorial Hospital. Together they have two children, Jacob (8) and Leah (6). Morani and his family plan to relocate to Columbia.

#### Statement from Jimmy Morani:

I am excited about the opportunity to work for the City of Columbia and I look forward to working with Mayor Hutchinson, the City Council, and staff. Columbia is a great place to live and work and I plan to help continue the City's efforts to enhance the quality of life for its residents and strengthen the local economy.

#### WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

<b>Boundless Spatial, Inc.</b> 107 N. Main St., Suite 3A Software Development Company	<b>B's License Service / Ellis Insurance</b> 319 N. Main St. Title & License Service / Auto Insurance
<b>Bob Brockland Buick GMC, Inc.</b> 580 Old State Route 3 Auto Sales and Services	<b>Joe's Pizza &amp; Pasta</b> (formerly Jonny's Pizza) 117 N. Main Street Pizza & Pasta Restaurant



## DISTRACTED DRIVING

Studies have shown that distracted driving is an increasing problem on the roadways throughout the nation. During traffic crash investigations in Columbia, our officers are finding distracted driving is becoming much more prevalent as a contributing factor to traffic crashes. Illinois has enacted a law effective January 2014, that attempts to deter drivers from operating a vehicle while distracted by electronic communication devices.



“Electronic communication device” means an electronic device, including but not limited to a hand-held wireless telephone, hand-held personal digital assistant, or a portable or mobile computer, but does not include a global positioning system or navigation system or a device that is physically or electronically integrated into the motor vehicle.

The new law has several exemptions with one being a driver using an electronic communication device in hands free or voice operated mode which may include the use of a headset. We encourage everyone to read the entire new law by researching “625 ILCS 5/12-610.2”

In order to combat the problem our officers are conducting “Distracted Driving Initiatives” looking for offenders in areas identified by a higher concentration of traffic crashes.

Chief Joseph A. Edwards

## FAREWELL TO RON WILLIAMS — CITY ENGINEER / PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

City Engineer and Public Works Director Ron Williams is resigning from his employment with the City of Columbia effective December 5.

“It is with deepest regret that I am tendering my resignation from the Office of City Engineer and the position of Public Works Director,” stated Williams in a letter addressed to Mayor Kevin Hutchinson. “I have accepted the position of County Engineer for the County of Franklin, Missouri.”

Williams, who resides with his wife in Franklin County, Missouri, expressed a desire to be closer to home. He has served as Columbia’s City Engineer and Public Works Director since 2006. Prior to arriving in Columbia, he was City Engineer and Public Works Director for the City of Sunset Hills, Missouri, for 11 years.

For the past 8 years, Ron has been integral to the community’s growth and ensuring proper maintenance of the City’s infrastructure. He also played an important role in the expansion of our park facilities. “His professionalism and expertise will be missed, but we wish him the best of luck in his new position” said Mayor Hutchinson.

The City has not yet determined a time frame on filling Williams’ position, but it is likely that a permanent replacement will be hired sometime next year.

Mayor Hutchinson noted that he will be working closely with the City Council and City Administrator to determine our next step; stating “we have very capable staff who will ensure things run smoothly during this transition period.”



## CITY OF COLUMBIA—APRIL 7, 2015—CONSOLIDATED ELECTION ALDERMEN ELECTION INFORMATION—PRE-FILING NOTICE



Notice is hereby given that the Office of Wesley J. Hoeffken, City Clerk and Local Election Official in and for the City of Columbia, will be open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Monday, December 15, 2014 through Monday, December 22, 2014 for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Election to be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 for the following offices:

Alderman Ward 1 .....4 Year Term  
Alderman Ward 3.....4 Year Term

Alderman Ward 2.....4 Year Term  
Alderman Ward 4.....4 Year Term

Petitions may be obtained and circulated beginning Tuesday, September 23, 2014 from the City Hall Municipal Building, City Clerk’s Office, 208 S. Rapp Ave., Columbia, Illinois. Our hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

As part of our plan to be more transparent, the Finance Department is now placing the Vouchers to be Paid list on the City’s website under the City Government tab.

On October 20, 2014, the City’s independent auditors, Schorb & Schmersohl, LLC, presented the financial statement for the City’s fiscal year ended 4/30/2014. The City received an unqualified opinion “clean opinion” on the financial statements. The financial statements can also be found on the City’s website under the Finance Department tab.

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## NEWS FROM COLUMBIA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #4



It is hard to believe that we are already into the second quarter of the 2014-2015 school year. It is true, "Time flies when you are having fun!" Columbia CUSD4 welcomed four new teachers to the faculty in August. They have proven to be great additions to our current staff. The new teachers include:

<b>CAREY BURTON (CHS Math)</b> College: SIUE Major: Secondary Education/Chemistry/Math Years in Education: 3	<b>MATT KENDALL (CMS Math)</b> College: McKendree University Major: Elementary Education/Math Years in Education: 0
<b>RYAN HAMPTON (CHS Voc. Ed.)</b> College: Illinois State University Major: Technology Education Years in Education: 9	<b>ERIN PECHACEK (Speech)</b> College: SIUE Graduate: SIUE Major: Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Years in Education: 7

We are off to a great start and look forward to another successful year with our students and staff! Go Eagles!



### CITY OF COLUMBIA HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

#### CHRISTMAS



##### **Regular Friday Trash & Recycling will be on Saturday, December 27**

Columbia residents will be allowed 3 additional 30 gallon containers/bags of trash in addition to the 1 trash tote—4 total containers allowed, no extra trash stickers needed.



##### **Regular Tuesday Trash & Recycling will be on Tuesday, December 30 (No Schedule Change)**

Columbia residents will be allowed 3 additional 30 gallon containers/bags of trash in addition to the 1 trash tote—4 total containers allowed, no extra trash stickers needed.

#### NEW YEARS



##### **Regular Friday Trash & Recycling will be on Saturday, January 3**

Extra trash will require the \$1.00 per container trash stickers.



##### **Regular Tuesday Trash & Recycling will be January 6 (No Schedule Change)**

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 10, 2015 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Any questions, call the City Clerk's Office at (618) 281-7144 x 100.

#### Consider Holiday Giving to Local Parks & Recreation

The Columbia Parks & Leisure for Adults & Youth (PLAY) Foundation is an independent charitable organization that was created last year to serve as the conduit for private donations. The Columbia City Council has established the PLAY Foundation as the venue for donations from citizens, corporations and other charitable groups, and the Foundation has received tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Donations of all sizes are being sought to help improve Columbia's parks and playgrounds; as you consider end-of-year charitable gifts, please keep the Foundation in mind for the following:

- Unrestricted gifts to help defray expenses of the all volunteer Foundation;
- Unrestricted gifts to support local parks & recreation programs and facilities;
- Restricted gifts to underwrite costs for specific improvements, such as donating a park bench (which may be memorialized with a plaque) a catalog of potential donation items is available on the City's website; or
- Restricted gifts for items not specifically denoted but which are consistent with park master plans or designs.

Donations can be made any time through checks made out to "PLAY Columbia Parks and Recreation Foundation" and gifts are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. For more information about the PLAY Columbia Foundation, contact Paul Ellis at (618) 281-7144 x 118 or via email: [pellis@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:pellis@columbiaillinois.com).

More Information (if needed).

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 these individuals, check out the group's Facebook page, or visit the City's website.



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## Upcoming Events

For more info call (618) 281-7144 or visit [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com) –calendar.

### Electronics & Appliances Recycling

3rd Sat. - Dec. 20, Jan. 17 & Feb. 21  
(8am-1pm): DOPW Parking Lot, collecting electronics, appliances, batteries & more!

### VISIT SANTA

Dec. 7, 13 14, 20 & 21 (1-4 pm) and Dec. 18 (5-8pm): Santa will be available at the Monroe County Welcome Center for kids to visit and share their Christmas wish list.



### Dec. 20 (11 am):

David Wolfe brings Abraham Lincoln to life at the Library. Best suited for children 7 and up. Library will provide drinks and chips.



### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Jan. 26 (7 pm): Our organization provides an important source of assistance to enhance the library. To find out more, feel free to join us at any of our quarterly meetings. New members are always welcome.



### ICS DINNER AUCTION

**Feb. 7:** The Mad Hatters Ball at The Falls. Oral & silent auction, raffles, wine pull and more. No costumes required.

### CHICKEN & BEER DANCE

**Feb. 7 (5:30pm doors open, 6pm dinner):** Music by Rhythm Rockers Sponsored by the Columbia Quaterback Club at Turner Hall.

### TRI-ART-ATHON

**Feb. 21 (6:30 pm doors open, 7pm start):** Come out for a fun night of trivia and more at ICS gym—Art on the Bluffs fund raiser.

### BUTCH WAX & THE HOLLYWOODS

**Feb. 28 (8-11:30pm):** Best of the oldies - Rock n' Roll music sponsored by Turner Hall & Columbia Jaycees at Turner Hall.

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

2015



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



### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

#### **Mayor:** (618) 281-7144 x 109

-Kevin Hutchinson  
khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com

#### **Ward I:**

-James Agne  
jim@columbiaillinois.com  
-Steven Reis  
aldermansreis@columbiaillinois.com

#### **Ward II:**

-TJ Mathews  
aldermantjmathews@columbiaillinois.com  
-Mark Roessler  
mroessler@columbiaillinois.com

#### **Ward III:**

-Gene Ebersohl  
gebersohl@columbiaillinois.com  
-Jeff Huch  
aldermanjhuch@columbiaillinois.com

#### **Ward IV:**

-Mary Ellen Niemietz  
meniemietz@columbiaillinois.com  
-Steve Holtkamp  
sholtkamp@columbiaillinois.com

#### **City Clerk:**

-Wes Hoeffken  
woeffken@columbiaillinois.com

#### **Treasurer:**

-Robert Naumann  
bob@columbiaillinois.com

