

Columbia Quarterly

SPRING

CITY OF COLUMBIA

www.columbiaillinois.com



NOTE FROM THE MAYOR



Happy spring to all in the Columbia community! Yes, we are not just a city but a community. Wikipedia defines "community as a social unit of any size that shares common values". Columbians share the value of our parks and schools; we share the value of our churches and events; and we honor the values of our friends and neighbors. Columbia is a great community because we share great values through participation and volunteerism. Yes, we are a great community ... but I think we can do even better. I would like to challenge all of our citizens to get involved in a civic or social group; or volunteer at a church or nursing home, the possibilities go on. Let's make every Wednesday a "Kindness In Columbia" or (K.I.C.) day -- offering random acts of kindness for those around us for the rest of the year. Let me know if you offered or received a random act of kindness; I will be sure to fill you in on what I hear.

Don't forget to visit the city's website (www.columbiaillinois.com) to check out our upcoming events—if your group has an event planned, feel free to contact City Hall to have it listed on the city website calendar. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, comments or just want to chat, please contact me at 281-7144 ext. 109, at home at 281-5199 or khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com.

Remember if you are not involved, you are missing out. So GET OUT and GET INVOLVED!

God Bless you all, Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor

KHOURY LEAGUE PUTS A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT

Columbia Khoury League will be installing new professional grade high efficiency field lights on new poles on Fields 1, 2, 3 and 4 at American Legion Memorial Park this spring. The new lighting will support longer hours of play on the field.



The project, which is estimated to cost about \$180,000, has been made possible through a grant from the Sophia & Elmer Oerter Charitable Foundation in conjunction with efforts of the Columbia Athletic Association and with support from the City, Ameren Illinois, Reinhold Electric and Simply Bright Ideas. Fields 7 and 8 at the park will also be lighted using old light fixtures that are currently on Field 1, using new poles.

The mission of the Columbia Khoury League is to teach the youth involved the fundamental principles of baseball and softball and to channel this athletic knowledge in such a manner that every youth participating will perform to the best of his or her ability. Since 2010, the City has contracted with the Khoury League to manage scheduling of the baseball fields at American Legion Memorial Park in return for the group's ongoing capital investment in the facilities.

Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Referendum on April 7 Ballot

In the April 7 Consolidated Election, voters will be asked to approve a special sales tax of 0.25%. If approved, the "Non-Home Rule" sales tax would apply to general merchandise but would *not* apply to licensed property (e.g. automobiles), medicines, drugs, medical supplies, and most grocery items. The City plans to use the additional revenue to fund public infrastructure projects, such as streets, sidewalks, and park improvements. A public information meeting on the proposed sales tax will be held on **Tuesday, March 10, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, at City Hall. For more information, including a list of projects to be funded by the sales tax, please go to www.columbiaillinois.com.

Road Construction Ahead

With the start of spring right around the corner, the Public Works Department is gearing up for a busy construction season. The Illinois Department of Transportation recently accepted bids for the North Main Street Resurfacing – Phase 1 Project. This project will consist of resurfacing the asphalt surface of Main Street from Crestview Drive to Whiteside Street. As part of this project, the ADA ramps will be reconstructed to meet current standards and the side street approaches will be reconstructed as well. Although a definitive schedule has yet to be determined, it is anticipated the work will take place beginning around or sometime after May 1st. The City of Columbia thanks everyone in advance for their patience and understanding as this project begins construction. For additional updates or questions please visit the City's website at www.columbiaillinois.com or call the Public Works Department at 618-281-4264.



SPRING FORWARD ... CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS

**Daylight Savings Time Starts
Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 am**



**THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO CHANGE THE
BATTERIES IN THE SMOKE DETECTORS!**

REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE EVENT APRIL 17TH (10 am—2 pm)

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED:

NICE TWICE: Gently used clothing, shoes, furniture, toys and household items.

COLUMBIA LIBRARY: Gently used books.

NOT ACCEPTING: Encyclopedias and text books

RELIABLE SANITATION: Glass, plastic, cardboard, aluminum and large non-recyclable items (not larger than a recliner).

RNA WORLDWIDE:

Computer equipment, TVs, phones, household electronics, audio/video equipment, lawn mowers & batteries. No fee, donations accepted.

SECURE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION SERVICES:

Shredding paper documents while you wait. 5 box maximum please. Thanks to Columbia National Bank and Midland States Bank for sponsoring this service.

NOT ACCEPTING:
Paints, household chemicals and tires.



An Analysis of 2014 Traffic Data in Columbia

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) traffic statistics, approximately 30,550 cars travel through Columbia on Route 3 each day. The officers of the Columbia Police Department continue to focus on this busy part of the city in an effort to reduce traffic crashes, particularly ones that cause injuries and fatalities. In 2014, the officers handled 242 traffic crashes in the city which was an 8% increase from 2013. Of the 242 crashes, there were 62 injuries and two fatalities. Alcohol use was a direct factor for nine of the accidents. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identify motor vehicle crashes as being the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Every day seven teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 will die as a result of motor vehicle injuries. Per mile driven, teen drivers are nearly three times more likely than drivers aged 20 and older to be in a fatal crash (http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/index.html). This year, 156 students at the Columbia High School are enrolled in driver's education. It is imperative that all drivers, whether they are newly licensed or experienced, comply with the laws of the Illinois Vehicle Code. More specifically, the infractions which lead to increased traffic crashes are speeding, alcohol, seatbelt, distracted driving (cell phones) and traffic signal violations. Remember, there will be 156 new drivers on the roadways of our community, give them and yourself a brake! Drive safe.

Joseph A. Edwards,
Chief of Police



CITY WIDE YARD SALE

APRIL 17TH & 18TH

Yard sale permits are not required on April 17 & 18.



A "Yard Sale Directory/Map" (listing yard sale, time, location and items for sale) will be available on the city's website or a copy can be picked up at the Clerk's Office on April 15, 16 or 17 during normal business hours.

To be listed on the directory, please complete the "Directory Form" (available on the city's website www.columbiaillinois.com) and return it to the Clerk's Office or e-mail the form to Nancy Long nlong@columbiaillinois.com. Directory forms must be turned in by Friday, April 3 to be listed on the directory.

BUDGET TIME

The City is in the process of preparing the budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2015 and ending April 30, 2016. At Committee of the Whole meetings from now until mid-April, City Administrator James Morani and Accounting Manager Linda Sharp will discuss various components of the budget. Topics covered will include projected revenue, projected expenditures, capital projects, equipment purchases, cash flow projections and fee schedule adjustments. The budget will be posted for public inspection in early—mid April.



NEWS FROM COLUMBIA CUSD 4 – PARCC TESTING



For the first time, school districts in Illinois will be administering a new computer generated PARCC test for students in Grades 3 – 8 and high school students enrolled in Algebra II and English III. The state assessment requires the students to take two tests, the first being administered from March 3 – 27, while the end of year test is scheduled for May. The computer based PARCC assessment replaces the ISAT and PSAE tests and will test students in the areas of English/Language Arts and mathematics following the Common Core State Standards.

All tests will be taken in the computer labs instead of the classroom with several staff members on hand to resolve any troubleshooting issues during the test period. The students and teachers are currently preparing for the new test format as well as learning the various technology complexities required (i.e. managing multiple screens and tools to reach an answer). For example, students will be required to manipulate the math signs and symbols using the computer tools, as well as utilizing their keyboarding skills to complete the writing component. This is a learning experience for all involved. The teachers, students, and administrators are diligently preparing for the assessment with a great attitude and anticipation, for this is our first experience taking a state test on the computer.

For those wanting more information, PARCC stands for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and is one of two federally funded multistate consortia tasked with creating the new Common Core tests. To take a closer look at the new PARCC test and/or to have your child practice, please visit parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests or parcconline.org. On the Illinois State Board of Education website, information can be found at www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment.



CUSD 4: Dr. B Going Out in Style!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 14th, as plans are underway for a community wide celebration for Dr. Mike Beczkala as he officially retires from Columbia School District at the end of this school year. Dr. B has touched so many lives, and we want to make sure parents and students have an opportunity to say thank you and farewell! The “roast” or “story sharing” will be held at Turner Gym at Parkview School beginning at 6:00 P.M. This celebration is open to the public. If you would like to send Dr. B a message or share a favorite memory, please email: drbfarewell@columbia4.org

All messages will be compiled and presented to Dr. B as a keepsake.

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 City Hall.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Anne's Doggy Spa 1200 Columbia Centre Dr. Dog Groomer	Apexnetwork Physical Therapy 1005 S. Main St. Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy
Finderz Keeperz Vintage and Thrift 120 Columbia Centre Dr. Clothing, video games/systems & household items (2nd hand)	Image Nails & Spa 1550 N. Main St., Suite D Manicure & Pedicure Salon
Ki-Do Karate, Inc. 119 Southwoods Center Karate School	LaBella Rosa Boutique 140 Columbia Centre Dr. Women's Clothing, Jewelry & Accessories

2015 LARGE ITEM CURBSIDE REMOVAL DATES

FEBRUARY 24

JUNE 2

SEPTEMBER 8

DECEMBER 1

A maximum of five (5) large items are allowed. No trash stickers are needed for the first two (2) large items.

The next three (3) large items will need three (3) \$1.00 *trash stickers attached to each item.

Check the City website for items that are allowed and not allowed—www.columbiaillinois.com

***Stickers are sold at Schnucks, Columbia Market, Ace Hardware of Columbia and the Clerk's Office at City Hall.**

REMINDER: Please consider recycling all electronics, computers, appliances, batteries, lawn mowers, hot water heaters, treadmills (items with a motor or electrical cord) at the City of Columbia monthly collection site located at the Department of Public Works Parking Lot, 110 W. Sand Bank Road, Columbia, IL Open the 3rd Saturday of the month 8am – 1pm





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

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Upcoming Events

More details - ColumbiaIllinois.com

EAGLE SPRINT 5K

March 7, 8 am: Sponsored by Columbia Booster Club



TRIVIA NIGHT

March 21, 7 pm: Saturday Night Liive Trivia Night, sponsored by Columbia PTA at The Falls

TRIVIA NIGHT

March 21, 7 pm: Sponsored by Immaculate Conception School - ICS Gym

PLANNING COMMISSION

OPEN HOUSE March 23, 7-9 pm

HISTORIC MAIN ST. BUNNY SHOP

March 28: Free Easter egg with purchase at participating businesses (while supplies last). Each egg contains candy or a gift card!

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 28, 10:30 am: For kids 10 & under at the City Park sponsored by Century 21.

MO CO EXPO:

April 9, 5:30-8 pm: Check out a wide variety of fabulous Monroe County business, music, prizes and fun at the American Legion.



For more event information go to www.columbiaillinois.com or call 281-7144

A CAUSE FOR PAWS

April 11: A Masquerade Ball and Dinner Auction at the Falls benefiting Helping Strays HSMC.



CITY WIDE YARD SALE

April 17 & 18: Approx. 100 yard sales in town. Map/directory available April 15.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE EVENT

April 18, 10 am—2 pm: Collecting gently used clothing, toys, home décor, recycling appliances, electronics, paper shredding & more—HS parking lot.



MOUSE DERBY RACES

May 2: Sponsored by the Rotary Club at ICS Gym.



MOMS ON MAIN:

May 2: Find a perfect gift for Mom - prizes & special discounts.



MOVIES AT METTER

May 15 (dusk): Featuring Big Hero 6



MUSIC AT METTER

May 31, 6-8 pm: Vintage country & bluegrass by Highway 15. Sponsored by George Weber Chevrolet & Reliable Sanitation.

LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK-UP

June 2: Residential curbside pick up.

MONTHLY ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES RECYCLING

March 21 & May 17

8 am—1 pm:
Public Works parking lot



LIBRARY EVENTS



LEGO STORY TIME

Meets every Tuesday at 4 pm, come build a love of books with friends. All ages welcome.

INCOME TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

Available every Monday 1:00-5:30 pm until April 13th. Many qualify for free service, provided by AARP. No appt. necessary.

FIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

April 27, 7 pm: New members and ideas are welcome.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 13-18: Join us for a week of activities and give-aways. Food for fines will be taken this week.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

May 4-10: Food for fines will take place this week as well as a chance to win prizes.

SUMMER READING 2015

"Ready to the Rhythm" - time to start thinking about summer reading, lots of exciting programs are already planned.

columbialibrary.org — 281-4237

