CITY OF COLUMBIA

Columbia Quarterly

www.columbiaillinois.com

208 S. RAPP AVENUE

FALL 2008

City Meeting Information

- **City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7:00 p.m. 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.**

From the desk of Mayor Hutchinson

It's hard to believe it has already been three months since the first edition of the Columbia Quarterly was printed. The positive feedback on the inaugural edition has been extremely encouraging and we are already working to incorporate some of the wonderful suggestions we have received since its distribution.

Additionally, I am glad to already see positive effects from this newsletter. The increased interest and turnout in the June 7th Recycle Day event must be partially attributed to its front page exposure in the Summer 2008 newsletter. Additionally, over 200 new emails have registered to the "Notify Me" lists on the City's website, allowing the City to more quickly and directly communicate with those registered residents. Finally, numerous residents have expressed interest in serving on City boards, commissions, and committees. Compiling a list of interested residents prior to any vacancies should make filling any positions a much simpler and efficient process in the future.

Whether you skim through these pages or read each article beginning to end, please be sure to look to the back page of this and future editions for upcoming events. These events are often a great way to support our local civic organizations and businesses while enjoying a family-friendly gathering close to home!

Mayor Hutchinson can be reached at khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com or (618) 281-7144 ext. 109.

Something for Everyone at Festifall

The City of Columbia has scheduled another fun-filled fall event at Metter Memorial Park. On Sunday, September 21st from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. there will be activities for all ages to enjoy at the Columbia "Festifall."

George Weber Chevrolet, Columbia Turner Hall, and the new Columbia Hampton Inn will be sponsoring an exciting musical performance by The Smash Band featuring lead singer, Smash – a.k.a popular MY 103.3 FM radio personality Asher Benrubi. The Smash Band is known to rock the new tunes, but also swings the oldies while adding a touch of the big band era.

Vendors will be located along the Oerter Promenade to present their handcrafted jewelry, crafts, and art for sale. In addition, area restaurants and civic organizations will offer menu specialties, while wine

(continued on next page…)

Ward 1 Alderman Jim Agne demonstrates wood turning on a replica of a 16th century lathe to a group of children at last year's Festifall

Festifall (cont'd from front page)

tasting and cold beverages will also be available. A kid's activity area is in the planning stages with pumpkin & face painting, a bounce house and games.

Space is currently available for artists, crafters, restaurants and non-profit organizations. The City of Columbia would like to encourage local businesses to provide activities in our kid's activity area. Anyone interested in participating in the Columbia Festifall can contact Jackie Hausmann at 281-7144 ext. 106 or jackie@columbiaillinois.com for more information.

"Smash" jokes with two of the twist contestants during Festifall 2007

Buy Stamps at City Hall!

Consolidate your errands by purchasing stamps the next time you stop by City Hall! Since 2003, the City Clerk's office has operated the Ed Ghent contract postal unit. This satellite Post Office sells stamps of many denominations and can accept letters and larger envelopes for mailing. At this time, the Ed Ghent postal unit does not accept packages for mailing and asks that residents deliver these types of items to the main Post Office. Limited specialty services (i.e. certified mailings, etc.) are also available. For more information on the City's postal unit and services offered, please contact the City Clerk's office at 281-7144 ext. 100.

Old Town Project Update

After much anticipation, the City is pleased to announce the Old Town Improvement Project will soon be underway. The focus of the project will be improvements to Cherry and Ferkel Streets.

Currently, all needed easements have been acquired from property owners in the area. With all the easements obtained, plans and contract documents can now be finalized. The necessary bids will then be solicited and the project will be awarded .

The City expects to have a contractor selected and under contract to perform the work no later than October 2008, with work commencing soon thereafter. Though fall is not a prime construction period, there will be work underway throughout the winter period, such as construction of storm sewer.

Once a contractor is selected, timetables and construction schedules can be finalized. Residents and property owners in the area will be sent updates as the project moves forward. Updates will also be available on the City's website.

Elected Officials

Elected Officials

Mayor:	Kevin Hutchinson (khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com)		
Ward I:	James Agne (jim@columbiaillinois.com)	**Ward III:**	Gene Ebersohl (gebersohl@columbiaillinois.com)
	Fred Stumpf (fstumpf@columbiaillinois.com)		Brad Oberkfell (boberkfell@columbiaillinois.com)
Ward II:	Jay Unnerstall (junnerstall@columbiaillinois.com)	**Ward IV:**	Mary Ellen Niemietz(meniemietz@columbiaillinois.com)
	Dan Row (drow@columbiaillinois.com)		Candace Hejna (chejna@columbiaillinois.com)
City Clerk:	Wes Hoeffken (whoeffken@columbiaillinois.com)	**Treasurer:**	Robert Naumann (bob@columbiaillinois.com)

Unsure which ward you live in? Visit www.columbiaillinois.com/wardmap or stop by the City Clerk's office to obtain a copy of the City ward map!

CVFD - Recruits, New Truck, and October Activities

The Columbia Volunteer FD is currently accepting applications. Certification as Firefighter II with the State Fire Marshal's office must be obtained within two-year probation period. Email cvfd@htc.net for more information.

The CVFD is also eagerly awaiting its newest piece of equipment, a 100' platform truck, currently being manufactured to the Department's specifications by Pierce Manufacturing.

As part of National Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5-11), the Fire Prevention Committee will visit all schools and pre-schools in Columbia teaching fire prevention activities.

To conclude Prevention Week, CVFD will host a BBQ beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 11th at the Fire House. Hamburgers, bratwurst, hot dogs, and pork steaks will be available for purchase.

Halloween Safety Tips from the Columbia Police Department

The Columbia Police Department offers the following tips to help keep Columbia's ghosts, goblins, princesses, and ballerinas safe when trick-or-treating this Halloween:

- **Wear costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement, or contact with flame.**
- **Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.**
- **As masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic and hypoallergenic make-up or a decorative hat as safe alternatives.**
- **When shopping for costumes, wigs, and accessories, purchase only those with a label indicating they are flame resistant.**
- **Use flashlights with fresh batteries or light sticks for all children and their escorts.**
- **Always trick-or-treat in groups, never alone.**
- **Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.**
- **Remind children not to eat any candy or other treats until a responsible adult has had a chance to inspect it.**
- **Whether trick-or-treating in Columbia or elsewhere, parents should visit the Illinois State Police website at www.isp.state.il.us to review the location of sex offenders in the area.**

Accounting Department News

As is evident by the new utility bills leaving City Hall, the major components of the City's accounting software conversion are complete. Credited with spearheading the project is Accounting Specialist Maria Todd who, in less than 18 months with the City, is already racking up quite an impressive list of accomplishments.

Also deserving of recognition is Accounting Manager Linda Sharp's recent appointment to the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council Board. The City is pleased to share Ms. Sharp's expertise with this valuable community-focused organization.

City of Columbia
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Upcoming Events

Fall is full of activity in Columbia. Mark your calendars for these family-friendly events:

Movies at Metter
Pack up the lawn chairs, blankets, and kids to watch a family-friendly movie in the park! Bring your own drinks and snacks or purchase your refreshments from local civic organizations. All movies begin at dusk.

September 12th—Cars

October 10th—Back to the Future

Festifall—September 21st
An exciting event for all ages! See front page article for more information.

Large Item Pick-Up—September 30th
Check the City's website (www.columbiaillinois.com) or stop by the City Clerk's office for more information.

Columbia Volunteer Fire Department BBQ—October 11th
See page 3 article for details.

Halloween Hi-Jenks Parade and Trick-or-Treating—October 25th
Trick-or-treating begins at participating Main Street businesses at 9 a.m.; costume judging begins at 12:30 p.m. on the Immaculate Conception School playground; parade will follow shortly thereafter at approximately 1p.m. This Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event will also feature a scarecrow contest—all children, civic groups, businesses, and adults are welcome to enter. Scarecrows will be displayed on Main Street light poles.

Scare Square, Pumpkin Glow, Trunk or Treat—October 31st
Stop by the City Hall parking lot for a safe and entertaining Halloween night. Kids will enjoy the Trunk or Treat event while all ages can vote for their favorite carved pumpkin. There will be a bon fire and hot chocolate (provided by the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department) to keep everyone warm!

"Fall Back" - November 2nd
Remember to set clocks back one hour (officially at 2 a.m.). The CVFD also reminds residents this is the perfect time to change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and to make sure such devices are functioning properly.

Dracula visited last year's Pumpkin Glow to vote for his favorite carving