

CITY OF COLUMBIA



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.**

Columbia Quarterly

www.columbiaillinois.com

208 S. RAPP AVENUE

WINTER 2008

From the desk of Mayor Hutchinson



The continued positive comments on this newsletter have been wonderful! Getting information from City Hall to you is always a challenge. We are always striving to improve communications, and I welcome any ideas you would like to share.

Community events keep getting better and better. These events make a city a better place to call home. In

2008, the City of Columbia, generous businesses and civic organizations sponsored and made it possible to enjoy the Music at Metter summer concert series, and Movies at Metter at beautiful Metter Park. The Chamber of Commerce once again sponsored a fun-filled afternoon of trick-or-treating on Main St. at the Halloween Hi-Jinx, and for the second year the City Hall court yard was home of the Halloween Scare Square & Pumpkin Glow which proved to be a very popular place to be. More holiday events are planned with the Columbia Christmas Cruise and

Scavenger Hunt, the Friends of the Library Holiday House Tour and don't forget to bring the kids by City Hall's Santa Hut so

they can share their wish list with Santa Claus. I love these events and look forward to doing even more in 2009 when Columbia will be celebrating it's 150th Anniversary! We are currently coordinating our efforts with the Celebration 2009 Committee to enhance our current events. This dedicated committee started working together one year ago and has even more great activities in store for Columbia in 2009.

Call me, write me, e-mail me, ask me to your group meetings or association gatherings. I want to hear your ideas, questions and comments; how can we better meet your needs and goals, I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Columbia Residents Urged to "Think Monroe County First!"

The City of Columbia joins the city of Waterloo, as well as the villages of Hecker, Red Bud and Valmeyer, in supporting the "Think Monroe County First! Campaign. Launched November 24th, this campaign's goal is to educate local consumers about the real and valuable benefits of spending first in their home county. The effort is sponsored by the Monroe County Economic Development Council.

Local businesses support our community through employment, sales and property taxes, community service contributions, donations, and more. Local business owners live in



our community, care about our community, and invest in our community. Studies show that 40 cents of every dollar spent locally has local benefits. These dollars finance our local quality of life, making every local purchase a good investment in our community.

If every household in Monroe County spends an additional \$3.50 per day—a couple of sodas, a really good cup of coffee, about a gallon of gas--that it is currently spending outside of the county, local business sales will increase by more than \$18.5 million per year. Monroe County and its municipalities will collect an additional \$232,792 per year in sales tax and (as of January 1st) an additional \$46,558 for levee repairs.

For more information about the benefits of "Thinking Monroe County First," or to find out ways to participate in the campaign, please visit the website www.thinkmonroecountyfirst.com.

Getting Ready for Snow ...



As the temperature begins to dip and the air becomes brisk the Public Works Department's attention turns to preparing for snow removal activities. Although there is not a great deal anyone can do about the weather, there are certain things to remember about the Public Works Department performing their snow removal activities. Here are a couple of highlights...

- * When snow is in the forecast, if at all possible please remove vehicles from the streets and roadways. In some areas with parked vehicles on the streets and roadways, attempting to navigate a large truck with a snow plow and salt spreader is nearly impossible. The more working room allowed for the trucks and equipment the faster the snow removal activities can take place.
- * Please do not push or throw snow from drives and walks into the street. This is just extra snow to manage plus it may result in calls to the Public Works Department to remove a potential hazard in the street or roadway meaning other snow removal activities have to be put on hold to take care of the potential hazard.
- * During a heavy snowfall event the Public Works Department's first priority is to keep the more heavily traveled streets and roadways open. Secondary and subdivision streets will be accomplished as snow removal activities continue and the rate of snowfall starts to subside.
- * Also during a heavy snowfall event clearing snow to the edge of the street and roadway will take place once the rate of snowfall starts to subside. Plowing and removing snow in cul-de-sac areas is time consuming and tedious and takes away from other snow removal activities. Cul-de-sac areas are one of the last areas to be fully cleared of snow.

The Public Works Department will have the trucks, plows, spreader and equipment ready and the City has already received its first shipment of salt with more to come. We will be ready...are you?



2009 will mark Columbia's 150th Anniversary, and the Celebration 2009 committee has been working hard and coordinating many special events and activities in honor this very extraordinary year for Columbia.

The 2009 New Year kicks-off with a bang! At midnight on January 1st, there will be a display of fireworks at Cemetery Hill and church bells throughout Columbia will be ringing to commence this significant celebration.

For all of you stamp collectors, you will want to stop by the Columbia Post Office on February 19th, marking Celebration 2009 Founders Day Commemorative Postmark.

On February 21st, there will be a Mardi Gras dinner and dance held at the Columbia Turner Hall. Festive Mardi Gras masks and beads galore, delicious food & drinks, and dancing to the Second Generation is sure to be a good time for all attending.

There is much more in store & details can be found on the back of this newsletter, on the city website or call 281-7144 ext. 106.

Elected Officials and Staff

Elected Officials

Mayor: Kevin Hutchinson (khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com)

Ward I: James Agne (jim@columbiaillinois.com)

Fred Stumpf (fstumpf@columbiaillinois.com)

Ward III: Gene Ebersohl (gebersohl@columbiaillinois.com)

Brad Oberfell (boberfell@columbiaillinois.com)

Ward II: Jay Unnerstall (junnerstall@columbiaillinois.com)

Dan Row (drow@columbiaillinois.com)

Ward IV: Mary Ellen Niemietz (meniemietz@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!



Safety Tips for the Holidays from the Columbia Police Department

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To help ensure a safe Holiday season, the Columbia Police Department would like to provide you with some basic safety guidelines to follow.

If you're traveling:

- * Install an automatic timer for the lights in your house to give it the appearance that someone is home.
- * Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.
- * Make sure you lock all your doors and widows when you leave, even if it is for just a few minutes.
- * Contact the Columbia Police Department by calling 281-5151 and let us know the dates you will be gone so that we can provide extra patrol of your residence. Please be able to provide us with a phone number to contact you and an emergency contact name and number should we be unable to reach you.

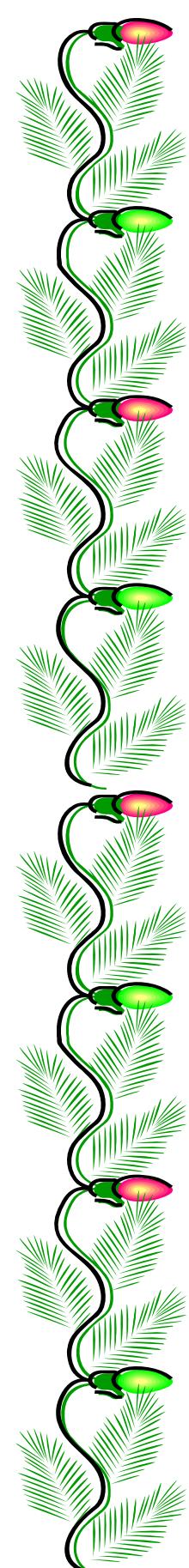
If you're shopping:

- * Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- * Park in a well lit space, close the windows, lock your car and hide shopping bags, gifts, and purses in the trunk.
- * If you carry a purse, keep it close to your body and not just dangling from a strap. Put your wallet in an inside pocket of your coat.
- * Don't overburden yourself with packages, but be aware of who is watching you when you are dropping packages off in your trunk to go back to your shopping.
- * If you are shopping with kids, teach them to call 9-1-1 or go back to a clerk or store security if you get separated.

If you're going out for the evening:

- * Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like you are home.
- * Be vigilant about locking all doors and windows when you leave, even if it is only for a few minutes.
- * Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.

No matter what time of the year it is, please immediately report any suspicious activity to the Columbia Police Department at 281-5151. Happy Holidays from the Columbia Police Department



Utility Billing Direct Debit Is Here!

As of October 15, 2008 your City of Columbia utility bill can be directly debited from your checking account each month. This easy and convenient service is free of charge—no more worrying about paying your monthly bill.

If you choose to utilize this service, you will continue to receive your statement around the first of each month showing all of your charges. Then, on the 15th of every month**, your checking account will be automatically debited for the exact amount on your bill.

To initiate this service, visit our website at www.columbiaillinois.com to obtain a form or call the City Clerk's office at City Hall and a form can be mailed to you. You can bring your form in person, submit by mail or put the form in the drop box outside of City Hall.

** If the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday the direct debit will take place on the following workday.

If you have questions, please contact Maria Todd at 281-7144 ext. 102.



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

Upcoming Events



The winter months bring many activity in Columbia. More details on items listed below can be found on the city website www.columbiaillinois.com or by calling 281-7144 ext. 106.

Christmas Scavenger Hunt

A group of Columbia businesses would like to invite you to the Christmas Cruise & Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, Nov. 30 from 11am—4pm. Santa will be cruising Columbia. For more details call 281-2299.

Breakfast with Santa

Free for the kids on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 8-11 am at the Immaculate Conception Gym—281-4325 for more details.



Santa Hut Hours

Every Saturday and Sunday, from Dec. 6 through Dec. 21, Santa will be at the City Hall Santa Hut from 1-4 pm to hear children's wish list.

Holiday House Tour

The Friends of the Library will host the Holiday House Tour on Sunday, Dec. 7 from 11 am—5 pm. This is a self-guided tour with six beautiful Columbia homes and one church. For more info 281-4613.



Holiday Outdoor Lights Contest

The Rotary Club will be sponsoring a Outdoor Holiday Lights & Decorating contest. Judging Dec. 19-21, prizes awarded. For more info 281-7101.



Ringing in the New Year

On Jan. 1st at midnight, local church's will ring their bells and a display of fireworks can be seen near Cemetery Hill—Let Celebration 2009 begin!

Large Item Pick-Up—Dec. 9th

Check the city's website or stop by the City Clerk's office for more information.

Mardi Gras Dinner & Dance

The Celebration 2009 Committee is planning a fun-filled evening of dining and dancing at Turner Hall on February 21st. Music will be provided by the 2nd Generation. Tickets are \$20/person; costumes are encouraged, but not mandatory. Call 281-5555 for more info.



*Happy Holidays
from all of us at the
City of Columbia*

