



### 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

2009



## From the desk of Mayor Hutchinson

### Celebration 2009

started on fire ... fireworks that is; February was not to be outdone as the Mardi Gras Dinner and Dance was a huge success! I expect the events will continue to get better and better during the remainder of the year. Watch the local papers and the city's website for upcoming events.

**Budget time** is upon us. Like everyone, the city is going to have to tighten its purse strings. We are lucky to have two financial masterminds working for the city. I have confidence that Linda Sharp, Director of Finance and Albert Hudzik, Interim City Administrator will find every dollar available. Thanks to the many generous donations from our local businesses, our community events will continue—Music & Movies at Metter,

Festifall, etc. are very important to our community. Unfortunately, tough times often result in budget cuts; however, we pledge to do our very best at keeping city services at the level Columbia residents have come to expect.

I have spent many hours in Springfield and in meetings with IDOT personnel, as well as members of the East West Gateway Council of Governments, pursuing federal stimulus funding for our city – I am proud to represent Columbia as a voting member of the Council. It's a challenge to obtain our fair share of state and federal funding when our population base is much less than many other cities and counties in the greater St. Louis region.

**The Senior Center** Paul Ellis and Linda Sharp are assisting me, in conjunction with the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council, the School District and other local businesses, in our search for a new center site. The Senior Nutrition Site is an extremely important service for our seniors. It provides solidarity, meals, Medicare and Medicaid education and assistance, friendship and so much more. This center is a must for the seniors of our community.

In conjunction with **Safe Routes to School** we are focusing on multi-use, safe pedestrian ways as connector routes to our parks, schools and other city locations.

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

## Landmark Buildings Gain New Purpose in 2009!

During this sesquicentennial year, two landmark properties in prime locations are under development as heritage sites to help Columbia's citizens remember—and celebrate—the city's long, proud history.

The Miller-Fiege Home at 140 S. Main St. was purchased by the City with proceeds from a recent bond issue. The structure dates from 1852 and is filled with antiques representing three periods in Columbia's past. The Columbia Heritage & Preservation Commission is leading an effort to put the home back into use as a historical museum.

The Shoemaker Schoolhouse at the intersection of IL 3 and Gall Road has also recently come into the City's possession. This building, which was moved to the site adjacent to the historic Stone Bridge, will need extensive restoration. Current plans call for its eventual use as a museum and a visitors center.

Both buildings are part of Columbia's heritage. Later this year, both buildings are expected to be added to the roster of historic sites, an open house will be planned for each building to re-introduce them to the public. Citizens who have information or artifacts related to either building should contact Paul Ellis at 281-7144 ext. 118.

Help Keep Columbia's History Alive! — Continued Page 3.



Miller-Fiege Home



Shoemaker Schoolhouse

## Roadway Construction Season Is Upon Us

With the anticipated start of warmer weather the Public Works Department's attention turns to construction, particularly roadway construction. On tap for the 2009 calendar year are two major roadway projects, Old Town Improvement Project-Phase I and the Legion Street Improvement Project. Both projects have been awarded to the successful low bidders, Veile Construction and Hank's Excavating and Landscaping, respectively. Both projects involve the total removal and replacement of streets. The Old Town Improvement Project-Phase I will involve the reconstruction of Cherry Street from just past Liberty to Longview and the reconstruction of Ferkel Street from Cherry to Centreville Road. The Legion Street Improvement Project will involve the reconstruction of Legion Street from Carl Street to Main Street. For both projects there will be portions of the roadway that will need to be closed and traffic detoured. For the Old Town Project, sections of Cherry and Ferkel will be closed to allow reconstruction work to occur. Once construction work is completed, the closed section will be opened and the next section will be closed for reconstruction. Work will progress in this manner until the project is completed. For the Legion Street Improvement, the entire roadway is allowed to be closed to thru traffic while work is taking place. Please be aware of construction signage and detours. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions concerning either of the projects, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Volkman, Assistant City Engineer at 618-281-4264 or by email at [cvolkman@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:cvolkman@columbiaillinois.com). Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding as work on these projects takes place.



## City of Columbia Election ... Tuesday, April 7

All City of Columbia residents are encouraged to vote in the local election on Tuesday, April 7th. If you are not a registered voter, you may register at the City Hall Clerk's Office no later than Tuesday, March 10th.

Candidates for this election are as follows:

**Mayor:** Kevin Hutchinson, Harold R. McCarty, Jr., and Dennis Patton  
**City Clerk:** Wesley J. Hoeffken and Ron Colyer  
**City Treasurer:** John W. Coats and Robert W. Naumann  
**Alderman, Ward I:** James H. Agne and Jim Ash  
**Alderman, Ward II:** Mark Roessler and Jay Unnerstall  
**Alderman, Ward III:** Eugene J. Ebersohl and Robert Schaefer  
**Alderman, Ward IV:** Mary Ellen Niemietz and Randall G. Mathews

If you are unsure of which Ward you live in, please call the Clerk's Office (281-7144 ext. 100).



## Elected Officials

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Mayor:</b> Kevin Hutchinson ( <a href="mailto:khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com">khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com</a> )   |  |
| <b>Ward I:</b> James Agne ( <a href="mailto:jim@columbiaillinois.com">jim@columbiaillinois.com</a> )<br>Fred Stumpf ( <a href="mailto:fstumpf@columbiaillinois.com">fstumpf@columbiaillinois.com</a> )            | <b>Ward III:</b> Gene Ebersohl ( <a href="mailto:gebersohl@columbiaillinois.com">gebersohl@columbiaillinois.com</a> )<br>Brad Oberkfell ( <a href="mailto:boberkfell@columbiaillinois.com">boberkfell@columbiaillinois.com</a> ) |
| <b>Ward II:</b> Jay Unnerstall ( <a href="mailto:junnerstall@columbiaillinois.com">junnerstall@columbiaillinois.com</a> )<br>Dan Row ( <a href="mailto:drow@columbiaillinois.com">drow@columbiaillinois.com</a> ) | <b>Ward IV:</b> Mary Ellen Niemietz ( <a href="mailto:meniemietz@columbiaillinois.com">meniemietz@columbiaillinois.com</a> )<br>Candace Hejna ( <a href="mailto:chejna@columbiaillinois.com">chejna@columbiaillinois.com</a> )   |
| <b>City Clerk:</b> Wes Hoeffken ( <a href="mailto:whoeffken@columbiaillinois.com">whoeffken@columbiaillinois.com</a> )  | <b>Treasurer:</b> Robert Naumann ( <a href="mailto:bob@columbiaillinois.com">bob@columbiaillinois.com</a> )  |

Visit [www.columbiaillinois.com/wardmap](http://www.columbiaillinois.com/wardmap) or stop by the City Clerk's office to obtain a copy of the City ward map!



# Columbia Police Department

*“The Mission of the Columbia Police Department, in Cooperation with our Community, is to Protect Life, and Property, and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Our Citizens”*

The 2008 yearly police report is in — we are very proud of some areas of this report, and are very concerned about other areas.

Speeding citations were down by 42% from 2007. This was somewhat expected, because there is one less officer than 2007. Domestic violence reports are at their lowest since 2004. Sex offense reports have also dropped by a considerable number in 2008. Due to education and awareness, we are extremely glad to see this drop and will continue providing classes to our community to help prevent these crimes from occurring. Offenses against children are also lower than they have been for

the last five years. In 2008 the PD investigated 6 cases involving children compared to 11 in 2007. These cases involve a high number of investigative hours by members of the PD. We will do everything in our power to protect and seek justice for all citizens and people who visit our community.

An increase in drug cases — possession of cannabis charges rose by 64% from 42 in 2007 to 69 in 2008; possession of drug paraphernalia rose by 39% from 36 in 2007 to 50 in 2008. There was a 100% increase in arrests for weapons totaling 14 in 2008 compared to 7 in 2007. The overall number of criminal arrests rose by 28% from 649 in 2007 to 828 in 2008. This causes great con-

cern—while officers are investigating these crimes, they are not available to perform our high visibility, preventative patrols that help reduce crime. As Columbia’s population and the population of our neighboring communities grow, and with the troubled economic times that we are experiencing, we need to find resources to increase the number of officers on the street.

We would like to encourage everyone to contact the PD when you see suspicious activity. We need the community’s support and assistance in order to keep Columbia a wonderful and safe place to live, work and visit.

Joseph A. Edwards  
Chief of Police

## CROSSWALK SAFETY REMINDER

The Officers of the Columbia Police Department would like to remind motorists of the numerous crosswalks in the downtown district of Main Street and throughout the city. The Illinois Vehicle code states - *The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk .* Simply stated, you must stop to allow a person to cross the street before you drive through the crosswalk. However, a pedestrian should not suddenly leave a curb and walk/run into the path of a moving vehicle. Columbia Police Officers will continue to monitor crosswalk intersections, along with crossing guards and various school officials. Please use the necessary care when approaching all crosswalks.



## HELP KEEP COLUMBIA'S HISTORY ALIVE!

The Columbia Heritage & Preservation Commission (CHPC) is in search of motivated individuals to fill two vacant seats. The CHPC is a group of citizens appointed by the Mayor and City Council to preserve the history of Columbia through community education, research and landmark designation. The CHPC meets once a month and is involved in projects such as developing re-use plans for the Miller-Fiege Home and Shoemaker Schoolhouse, categorizing building styles, preserving documents, restoring cemeteries, conducting historical surveys and putting on seminars. Interest in Columbia’s heritage is as important as technical expertise and education, but individuals with specific areas of knowledge are encouraged to apply.

## City of Columbia Operates Within Budget.

The City of Columbia just completed a nine month budget review for the period from May 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009. During this period, the City of Columbia operated within its budget. Expenses are being monitored and revenues, while declining, have not fallen abruptly. The City is also in the process of preparing a budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2009 and ending April 30, 2010. If you are interested in attending the budget meetings, they will be held in Committee of the Whole meetings scheduled in March.





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

## Upcoming Events

Spring weather is around the corner and many activities are planned right here in Columbia. For more details on events listed below call 281-7144 ext. 106 or go to the city website [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com).

### Combined School Music Concert

**March 22, 3-4:30 pm:** Columbia band members from the High School, Middle School and ICS will be performing at the High School. This free concert is sponsored by Celebration 2009.



### Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra

**April 26, 3-5 pm:** Celebration 2009 is proud to present the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra. Enjoy music from your favorite movies and songs of German heritage. This free concert will be at the Columbia Middle School.

### Columbia Maifest

**May 24, 12-6pm:**

Metter Park  
 Celebrating Columbia's Heritage with some great German food, beer and music by Die Spitzbuam.



### Memorial Day

**May 25, 11:00 a.m.**  
 American Legion Service

### Recycle Day

**May 30, 9am-3pm:**

This year's recycling event will be at the Columbia High School parking lot. Reliable Sanitation, Nice Twice and Web Innovation Tech. will again be collecting recyclable materials and gently used items. In addition, a shredding service will be on site to destroy sensitive documents. (City of Columbia residents only).



### Music at Metter

**June 7, 6-8 pm:** Metter Park  
 Celebrating German Heritage Week  
 Music by the Waterloo German Band  
 Sponsored by: HTC, Conrad Press, Conrad Travel and the Independent.

### Celebration 2009—Pageant

**June 12, 13 & 14:**

A production highlighting Columbia's 150 year history. Performances will take place at the Columbia Middle School. More details to come.



### Kiwanis Chicken & Beer Dance

**June 27:** American Legion

