



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

SUMMER 2009



From the desk of Mayor Hutchinson

It's summertime again. Flowers are in bloom, gardens are growing and the 150 year celebration of Columbia gets better and better. Hale Columbia II the Dramical came to the main stage June 11th through the 14th. The Music at Metter summer concerts are scheduled on the first and third Sundays of June and July as well as the first Sunday of August, and many activities are planned for the 4th of July weekend at the American Legion. And don't forget Columbia Days on Aug 14th & 15th. The Kiwanis car show is scheduled for the Saturday before Labor Day. Check out the city website and the paper for up coming events. There is so much happening in Columbia this summer Disneyland is jealous.

There are new and exciting things happening at the Columbia Library. Stop by and say "Hi." WIFI is available, so you can get on line while the kids can enjoy the library and Metter Park. There are some

great programs and events scheduled for the kids. Best of all it is air conditioned. So take a break and cool off this summer at the Columbia City Library. Tell them the Mayor sent ya.

The city is moving right along — we will not let the economy get us down. Department heads are getting more accomplished with less and doing a good job. We are constantly seeking and finding other revenue to help relieve your tax burden. More grant applications have crossed my desk than ever before.

Road replacement and restoration projects are under way. I know it is an inconvenience, but please work with the Department of Public Works and be patient. Slow down in the construction zones and be safe.

Public safety.... I tip my hat to the Columbia Police, Fire and Ambulance Departments. Even though the important work

they do has become more difficult due to our limited resources, they continue to do a stellar job. The next time you see a police officer, fire fighter or emergency medical service person give them a big hug..... well if you are not comfortable with the hug look them in the eye and say THANK YOU!

Speaking of safety, be safe this summer when you are on vacation. Prepare for your trips, bring a first aid kit, pack an auto emergency kit and have your car safety inspected. Water safety is even more important, wear your life jackets, familiarize yourself with the areas where you are swimming or boating and don't forget the sun screen. Have a great time on vacation and hurry back home so you don't miss out on the fun in Columbia.

Don't forget if you have any questions or concerns or just want to chat, give me a call, send me a note or zip me an email. I would love to hear from you. Have a great summer, be safe and have fun.



Summertime Safety For Children



Summertime is here! One of the most common sights around the City of Columbia during the summer months is children riding bikes and skateboards. The Columbia Police Department would like to remind everyone to use caution when riding anything with wheels and remind everyone to respect other people's property and not ride where it is posted or prohibited. It is our goal to reduce the number of injuries to children in our community by encouraging them to wear helmets anytime they ride anything with wheels on it.

With the assistance of local pediatrician Dr. Joe Cangas and his Helmets First organization, the officers of the Columbia Police Department will be looking for children riding bikes and wearing their helmets. When officers locate these children they will give them a reward from Dr. Cangas and Helmets First. The rewards include baseball tickets, football tickets, tickets for free stays at vacation spots, along with free food and deserts from local businesses in Columbia. If you have a child that needs a helmet you can go by the office of Dr. Cangas, 107 North Main Street, Suite 2B, Columbia, IL 62236 or call him at 281-4325.

The Columbia Police Department would like to thank Dr. Cangas and Helmets First for their dedication to the safety of children. We look forward to giving away a lot of rewards this year. Have a safe summer!

Joseph A. Edwards, Chief of Police

Play Commission Begins Serious Work

While the name sounds like fun, Columbia's new Play Commission has some very serious work ahead. Play is disappearing from the lives of more and more children--for many, there is simply no safe or engaging place to play in their neighborhood. Most people don't realize the costs of this "play deficit" on the health and well being of young people from obesity, attention deficit disorder, even violence. Members of the Play Commission will work to counter this national trend.

The nine-member group was formed last month to lead local efforts to improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of unstructured playspaces in Columbia's parks and other public areas. Over the next few months, the Play Commission will design an annual action plan for play, organize community activities in support of an annual "Play Day," and perform other tasks as requested by the City Council from time to time.

Columbia is part of the KaBOOM! National Campaign for Play, a movement that asks cities to make five commitments to support play in their communities:

- * Create a local play commission;
- * Design an annual action plan for play;
- * Conduct a playspace audit of all publicly accessible play areas;
- * Identify current spending on capital projects and maintenance of playspaces; and
- * Proclaim and celebrate an annual "KaBOOM! Play Day".

STORM WATER IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Most of the time storm water is an afterthought as once rain falls to the ground it is either absorbed into the ground or runs off into storm sewer or creek systems. The only time storm water becomes a concern is if it causes damage to property or becomes a flood situation due to the amount of storm water flowing. Federal regulations now require storm water to be managed to prevent contamination of waterways. The City of Columbia is part of a consortium of cities that have a discharge permit for storm water. To meet the requirements of the discharge permit for storm water the City requests property owners and residents to help. Please do not dispose of any unwanted liquids or materials in a storm drain or creek. Properly dispose of liquids or materials by recycling or following the disposal method for the liquid or material. The second largest cause of storm water pollution is pet waste. Please clean up all pet waste in your yard or when you walk your pet. Lastly, it is requested any disturbed yard area have proper erosion control and is restored with vegetation as soon as possible. Dirt, soil and contaminants can get into the storm water via runoff from disturbed yard areas. Your consideration in helping to keep storm water clean and uncontaminated is in everyone's interest. Thank you for doing your part.

ART ON THE BLUFFS ART WALK AND COLUMBIA FESTIFALL

The Art on the Bluffs committee along with the Celebration 2009 members are happy to announce plans for the first Columbia Art Walk on Main Street. This event will bring a diverse representation of the arts to the City of Columbia, show the many wonderful artists that live here and surrounding areas. The Art on the Bluffs art walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd from 10 am—4 pm. Artists interested in participating can pick up an application from City Hall, or e-mail artonthebluffs@hotmail.com.

Also, save the date - Sunday, October 4th for the annual Columbia Festifall at Metter Park featuring the SmashBand.

Elected Officials

Mayor: Kevin Hutchinson (khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com)

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

Fred Stumpf (fstumpf@columbiaillinois.com)

Ward II: Dan Row (drow@columbiaillinois.com)

Mark Roessler (mroessler@columbiaillinois.com)

City Clerk: Ron Colyer (rcolyer@columbiaillinois.com)

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

Brad Oberkfell (boberkfell@columbiaillinois.com)

Ward IV: Mary Ellen Niemietz (meniemietz@columbiaillinois.com)

Candace Hejna (chejna@columbiaillinois.com)

Treasurer: Robert Naumann (bob@columbiaillinois.com)



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

Metter Memorial Park ... Where the Action / Relaxing Is !



Activities at Metter Park are in full swing, already hosting the Maifest German celebration, "Rock the Joints" benefiting the Arthritis Foundation and the first Music at Metter summer concert featuring the Waterloo German Band. (See the back page "Upcoming Events" for future dates.) Concerts are scheduled every other Sunday and are a great place to kick back and catch up with friends and family or simply enjoy a nice hometown, kid-friendly activity.

Looking for action? If you

have not had the opportunity to visit Metter Park, it truly is a must see — one of Columbia's treasures, located between the Columbia Library and Turner Hall. There are two pavilions with BBQ grills if you are looking for a gathering place with a nice playground located right by the pavilions so it is easy to keep an eye on the little ones. For the older kids (and aren't we all kids at heart) looking for more of a challenge or maybe just wanting to burn a few calories, there is a tennis court and a basketball court. Plenty of green, grassy, open space to throw the frisbee or play catch is available as well.

Looking for relaxing? The Oerter Promenade long path stretches between the tranquil reading pavilion and the soothing park fountain. As you stroll down this path you will see commemora-

tive bricks with messages creating lasting memories of special dates of loved ones — birthdays, anniversaries, other occasions and memorable dates. Commemorative bricks make wonderful gifts and are only \$50.00. A commemorative brick form can be picked up at City Hall. There are also memorable park donation opportunities such as park benches (\$900), vintage lights (\$1,500) and picnic tables (\$400).

So if you are looking for a little action or a little relaxing — Metter Park is a great place to be!



UTILITY BILL DIRECT DEPOSIT

Just a reminder you can still 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 the City Clerk's office at City Hall.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

The City of Columbia has over three hundred fifty residents and businesses that have over \$100.00 that is being held in their name by the State of Illinois as unclaimed property. At two upcoming late summer events, the City of Columbia and the State of Illinois Treasurer's Office will have a booth set up to help you claim your money. Look for more information to be posted on the City website or you may call, Linda Sharp at 281-7144 Ext. 112.

Ameren Illinois Utilities is offering an energy assistance program. Please check the city website for information on how to apply.

COLUMBIA CENSUS BEGINS APRIL 1, 2010

Census Day is April 1, 2010. It is important that everyone, no matter what age, be counted. Approximately \$300 billion in federal and state money will be distributed annually based on data collected in the 2010 census. That amounts to approximately \$1,000 for each individual (man, woman, or child) each year. The City's population determines the City's representation in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, as well. A short questionnaire filled out by the head of each household will ensure that the City of Columbia receives its appropriate share of revenue and representation. Your cooperation in completing and returning the census information will greatly benefit the City of Columbia.





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

Upcoming Events

The summer months in Columbia bring many great activities. For more details on the events listed below call 281-7144 ext. 106 or go to the city website www.columbiaillinois.com.

Music at Metter/Father's Day

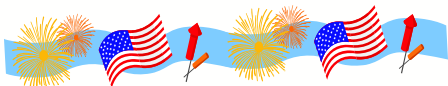
June 21, 6-8pm: Metter Park Classic country music performed by the San An Tones. Sponsored by: Maverick Technologies & Royal Gate Dodge.

4TH OF JULY WEEKEND CELEBRATION



Hail Columbia Postmark

July 3, 8:30am-5pm: Collect your Celebration 2009 "Hail Columbia" commemorative postmark at the Columbia Post Office.



4th of July—Celebration 2009



July 3 (4-11pm) and July 4 (11am-11pm):

American Legion, Carnival & helicopter rides, food & drinks, dancing & music.

Fri.: 8 pm— Music by Where's Charlie; Sat.: Noon bingo & washers tournament. 2pm—Music by Two Grumpy Old Men; 4pm—Belleville Community Band; 7:30pm—Father Jack; 9:15pm Fireworks Display. (Rain date—July 5).

Music at Metter

July 5, 6-8pm: Metter Park Music by Michael Lacey and his New Orleans Swing. Sponsored by Charlie's CARSTAR & George Weber Chevrolet.

Music at Metter

July 19, 6-8pm: Metter Park Music by Rich Cullen and his Dynamic Combo. Sponsored by: Reliable Sanitation and Crown Linen.



Monroe County Fair

July 19-26: Please visit the Monroe County Fair website www.monroecounty-fair.org for a complete listing of events, rules and entry form.

Music at Metter

Aug. 2, 5-8pm: Metter Park 5pm Morland Drive & 6:30pm Sofa Kings. Sponsored by: Ron's Pharmacy & First National Bank of Waterloo.



Columbia Daze

Aug. 14 & 15, 4pm-midnight Carnival games & rides, food & drinks.
Friday 8pm Music by Out of Focus.
Saturday 8am Optimist 5K/10 Run/Walk, Historic Trolley Tours, 5pm Parade, 8pm Music by Aftershock.

Kiwanis Classic Car Show

Sept. 5, 9am-3pm: Main St.

Movies at Metter

Sept. 11 & 25, dusk: Metter Park
Movie titles to be announced.

