



Summer 2013

Columbia Quarterly

CITY OF COLUMBIA



Mayor Hutchinson

www.columbiaillinois.com

ELECTED OFFICIALS



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City Clerk	Ron Colyer	rcolyer@columbiaillinois.com
Treasurer	Bob Naumann	bob@columbiaillinois.com

Smiles are everywhere for the summer break -- kids off school, vacations, and outdoor activities with family and friends. How about a mini vacation right here in your own backyard? Columbia has so many nice events planned for the summer and the library has a large list of activities to keep kids (and adults) entertained. A list of these events can be found on the back of this newsletter. We also have some very interesting historic sites to visit right here in Columbia and Monroe County. I invite you to take advantage of these great opportunities.

Remember, if your group has an event planned, feel free to contact City Hall to have it listed on the city website calendar.

To the left you will see the list of elected officials for the City of Columbia. Please welcome the city's newest Alderman - Steve Holtkamp – Ward 4. We all have a strong passion for this great community and we are here to serve you. If you are unsure of your Ward, visit the city's website or the Clerk's Office to obtain a copy of the ward map.

As always, please contact me with any questions, concerns or comments at 281-7144 ext. 109, at home at 281-5199 or khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com.

Sincerely, Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor

Old Route 3 is Becoming New Again

Columbia's Old Route 3 corridor, once a major thoroughfare until it was supplanted with the development of I-255 in the 1970s, is now becoming an economic center for the community.

After decades of decline, the Old Route 3 corridor's proximity to the interstate (which it parallels), the visibility of bordering properties, and the relatively large quantity of developable or redevelopable land are driving a commercial renaissance.

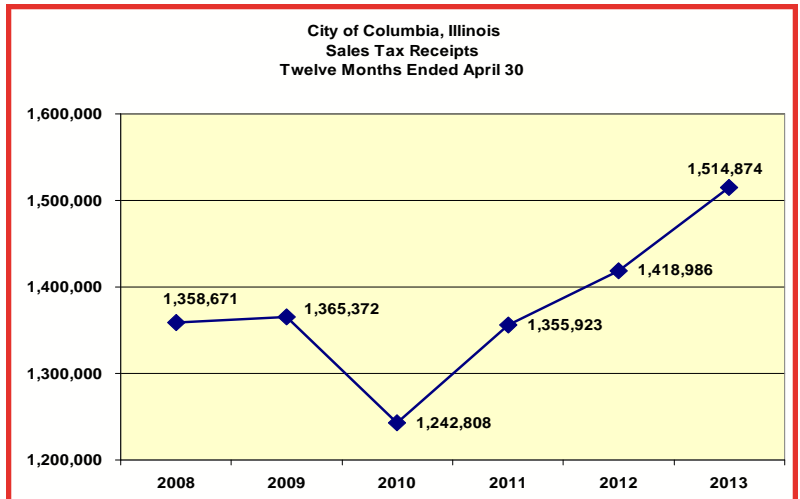
By far the most productive commercial property is the George Weber Chevrolet dealership, located on a narrow strip of property between I-255 and Old Route 3. Automobile sales, which dipped during the recent recession, have come back strong in the past two years, helping to produce historic high sales tax receipts for the City of Columbia (see graph). Weber has responded to the strong rebound in sales by expanding its building and deploying a record number of vehicles for sale on site.

In the past year, new businesses have begun purchasing other available parcels along Old Route 3. Electrico, an electrical contractor originally located near Millstadt, has purchased the former Rouse property next to Top Shooters for use as its corporate headquarters and operations center. Fuller Construction has purchased a parcel on the other side of the road, closer to town. Bob Brockland Buick GMC, currently located in Cahokia, has purchased farmland across Old Route 3 in the vicinity of Weber Chevrolet where it plans to construct a new, 16,000 square foot automobile dealership.

The 2020 Master Plan for Columbia (adopted in 2005) envisions increased economic development that will provide additional jobs for residents, expand commercial activity within the city and support a healthy local economy and stronger tax base. "It was planned that the Old Route 3 corridor would be one focus for commercial growth," observes Paul Ellis, Director of Community & Economic Development for the City, "and it's apparent that what was planned is now becoming more attractive to growing businesses."

Members of the Columbia Plan Commission, currently revising the City's Comprehensive Plan, believe that Old Route 3 will continue to be an attractive location for future commercial growth. They have proposed giving the corridor special attention as they help develop the next master plan for development, hoping to ensure that commercial and community goals can be aligned.

To find out more about the Old Route 3 corridor or other business opportunities in Columbia, contact Paul Ellis at City Hall.





News from Columbia School District



Columbia Unit School District #4 is proud to announce various accomplishments during the school year.

- Columbia High School celebrates many academic accomplishments. Two students earned valedictorian honors from the graduating class of 2013. Please congratulate Zac Hollis and Nick Rodenberg. Also congratulations to salutatorian, Katherine Colbert. In addition, Kevin Hawickhorst was named a National Merit Scholar which is the highest academic honor a student can receive.
- Parkview School (third year in a row) and Columbia Middle School (second year in a row) received the Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education for consistently having high ISAT scores in reading and math.
- The school district congratulates Mrs. Charlotte McMahan (CMS Special Education) and Mrs. Bonnie Dalke (CHS Math) who are two educators retiring from CUSD4 this year. Both individuals have touched the lives of many students, and we wish them the best of luck!
- The school district, in partnership with the Agriscience Association, will be moving forward with constructing an educational greenhouse to provide an outside classroom for our science and agricultural education courses. The Agriscience Association has graciously agreed to fund more than half of the project, so the district would like to recognize this contribution as well as thank them for making the project possible.
- With that said, the first year of the high school's FFA program was very successful. After twenty years of not having a program, over seventy students were enrolled in an agriscience course with over fifty students being members of the FFA Chapter. The district is looking forward to continual growth for this program.
- The school district sponsors numerous summer programs for students. Parents are asked to access the district website for a listing of opportunities and registration information.
- All parents will need to register their student for the 2013-2014 school year. Entering kindergarten students should register at Eagleview as soon as possible. District wide Student Registration dates are July 24, July 25, and July 29. Student registration information and paperwork can be accessed on the district's website. Parents can copy and complete in advance. All parents must show one proof of residency (utility bill - water, gas, electric) when registering to verify continued residency within CUSD4 boundaries. For school district information, please access the district's website at www.chseagles.com. Have a great summer!

ANNOUNCING CREDIT CARD ACCEPTANCE

The City of Columbia offers credit and debit payment options through GovPayNet which accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover cards for payments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online (www.govpaynow.com) or by phone (1-888-604-7888). You may also make payments at various City offices or through the City's website; click on the GovPayNet logo and follow the instructions. A service fee to GovPayNet is assessed on each transaction.



UTILITY BILL DIRECT DEBIT

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.

ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Three major road and bridge projects are moving toward construction. First is the Cherry Street Improvement Phase 2 from South Main to Liberty. The improvement will include storm sewer, curb and gutter, concrete pavement and sidewalk. The project is scheduled for the May 24, 2013 Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) letting. Construction will take place in mid to late summer. Please be aware of road closures and detours in the area. The Valmeyer Road Bridge over Carr Creek Rehabilitation will be on the June 14, 2013 IDOT letting. The project will remove and replace the beams and deck of the bridge and rework the roadway approaches to the bridge. Valmeyer Road will be closed between Veterans Parkway and D Road for about two months. Motorists will need to utilize alternate routes during the closure. The last project is the first phase of the Main Street Streetscape. The project will create a "complete street" between Cherry and Oak with new sidewalk, enhanced radii on the corners for pedestrian safety, delineated crosswalks, improved street lighting, street trees and rain gardens for storm water management. Plans are being finalized and the project is anticipated to be placed on the August 2, 2013 IDOT letting meaning construction will take place in Fall 2013. At times there will be lane closures and restricted access to businesses in the immediate vicinity of construction. Provisions are being made to maintain access to businesses and not impede traffic flow on Main Street in this area. Your consideration and understanding while construction takes place on these improvement projects is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Ron Williams, City Engineer at 281-7144 ext. 107 or via email at ron@columbiaillinois.com or Tim Ahrens, Assistant City Engineer at 281-4264 ext. 304 or via email at tahrens@columbiaillinois.com. You may also visit the City's website at www.columbiaillinois.com for construction updates.



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 — please do 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 .

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 desserts from local businesses in Columbia. If you have a child that needs a helmet you can stop by the office of Dr. Cangas at 109 West Legion in Columbia 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



Playing It Forward

On May 7th, the City of Columbia was recognized for the fifth consecutive year as a Playful City USA, a national recognition program honoring cities and towns that make play a priority and use innovative programs to get children active, playing, and healthy. Columbia was the first community (in 2009) in the St. Louis metro region to win recognition through this program.



Playful City USA designees map local playgrounds, complete a needs assessment, and develop an action plan that identifies policies, programs, or initiatives aimed at increasing access to play at school, in neighborhoods, and through community engagement. In Columbia, these activities are facilitated through the Play Commission, a nine-member citizen group that advises the City Council.

“Becoming the ‘flagship’ Playful City USA in the St. Louis region has been invaluable to us for identifying our facilities, assessing local resources, developing an action plan and guiding our citizen advisory group,” observes Mayor Kevin Hutchinson. Columbia’s Park Pals program, which encourages children to explore local parks and play areas, has been recognized nationally as a “best practice” through the program.

To find out more about the Playful City USA program, the Play Commission or Park Pals, contact Paul Ellis at City Hall.

Program Spotlight — Loans to Local Small Businesses

The City’s Community & Economic Development Department (CEDD) administers a revolving loan fund established through a grant provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Low interest, fixed-rate loans are available to SBA-defined small businesses located within the city limits. The primary purpose of the loan program is to create employment for persons of low or moderate income.

This revolving fund currently has more than \$200,000 available to lend. Loan amounts may not be less than \$15,000 or more than \$150,000 per loan (subject to availability of funds), and loans may not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost. Preference may be given to retention and expansion of existing businesses, start-ups, female & minority-owned firms, projects located on Main Street, and projects demonstrating a high potential for job creation.

A Revolving Loan Review Committee has been appointed by the City Council to review all loan requests. To find out more about Columbia’s revolving loan program for small businesses, contact Paul Ellis at City Hall.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Check out Columbia’s new volunteer matching website, developed by the City in cooperation with local churches and civic groups: <http://www.columbiailvolunteers.org>

The Monroe County Welcome Center (former Shoemaker School) is now open for the season! Located at Gall Road & Illinois Route 3, the Welcome Center offers information about tourist attractions, community services and business amenities throughout Monroe County—and beyond!

Expecting visitors this summer? Treat them to a tour of Shoemaker School, a 19th century one room school preserved within the Monroe County Welcome Center and discover other places to visit and enjoy in Monroe & Randolph counties along the historic Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trails.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

2nd Cup 1200 Columbia Centre Coffee Shop & Cafe	Ole Tin Roof (Opening soon) 207 N. Main, Suite 104 Crafts, antiques & home decor
McUSA, Inc 510A DD Road Environmental remediation technologies	Missouri Energy 311 Wedgewood Square Mgmt/records office of out of state retail operations



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COLUMBIA LIBRARY EVENTS

SWORDS & ROSES PIRATE SHOW

June 13-1 pm Swashbuckling silliness.

YO-YO-OLOGY June 19, 11am:

Ian Cole engages his audience with the science and history of yo-yos.

YOGA STORYTIME June 20,

1&2pm: Kids learn yoga poses through storytelling, music, fun & games

MONSTER TRUCK MADNESS

June 25, 10:30am: Test your toy truck on the outdoor obstacle course.

TALES TO TAILS June 26, July

10&24-11am: Meet Millie & Bella—read to a therapy dog program.

SKETCHING WITH ELIZABETH

June 27, 10:30am: Learn techniques of figure drawing with chalk.

AUTHOR VISIT—E. WALTER

June 27, 6:30pm: Barefoot in the Rubble

ABE LINCOLN July 2, 11am:

Learn how Mr. Lincoln changed American History. 

ANIMALS UNDERGROUND

July 15, 7pm: You will get up close and personal with some amazing animals.

LAUGHING MATTERS July 22,

11am: Juggling, mime, magic and other nonsense.




Upcoming Events

More details — 281-7144 or
www.columbiaillinois.com (calendar)

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, 10am-4pm: DOPW Parking Lot, collecting electronics, appliances, batteries, etc. 

RADTOUR CYCLING EVENT

June 22, 10am: Kids fun bike ride and 25, 40 or 60 mile scenic route rides starting at Dave Sinclair Ford. 

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

11am: Bike Parade - ICS (down Main St.) to Metter Park: Decorate your bikes & show your patriotic spirit. Free games, music, yoga and refreshments after the parade. Prizes for the best decorated bikes. 

American Legion

Bingo, Kloeppe, washers tournament, music, food, drinks, family fun & FIREWORKS!

COLUMBIA DAZE

August 16 & 17, 4pm-Midnight: Games, rides, music, food - Metter Park. Main St. parade Saturday at 5pm.

MUSIC AT METTER CONCERT SERIES:

Gather your family and friends for a relaxing evening of music at **Metter Park from 6-8pm**. Brats, hot dogs and ice cold refreshments available.

June 9: Dynamic Combo Band

(Polkas, Waltz's, Big Band & More) Sponsored by: Garden Place & Reflections Senior Living

June 23: Randy Webb Band

(Classics & Variety) Sponsored by: Reliable Sanitation and Crown Linen

July 7: Tools of the Trade

(50's and 60's Pop, Country Rock, Folk & Blues) Sponsored by: George Weber Chevrolet and HTC

July 21: Sofa Kings

(Acoustic Mix of Blues, Country, Folk Rock & More) Sponsored by: Taake Insurance and 1st National Bank of Waterloo

August 4: San An Tones

(Classic Country, Polkas & More) Sponsored by: Khoury Pharmacy & George Weber Chevrolet

Thanks to our sponsors, all performances are FREE to the public!



The City of Columbia is proud to print the Quarterly on recycled paper

