



# Columbia Quarterly

CITY OF COLUMBIA

[www.columbiaininois.com](http://www.columbiaininois.com)

Mayor Hutchinson



The fall season is full of fun and excitement in Columbia! The City and many local groups and businesses are having special events around town. Information on these and other happenings can be found on the back of this newsletter, on the City's website or at the Library or City Hall.

Don't forget to come to the American Legion Hall on Veteran's Day November 11th at 11:00 AM. The Legionnaires always have a great program and we need to thank and recognize those who fought for our freedom.

We are raising funds for our next Columbia K-9 Officer. Donations can be made at City Hall or the Columbia Police Department—checks should be made payable to "City of Columbia—K-9 Fund". On October 25th a "Mouse Races" fundraiser will be held at the Falls Banquet Center with proceeds going to the K-9 Fund.

Construction around town — yes it is inconvenient, makes a mess and you want more information. Check out the city's website under the Community Resources tab for Department of Public Works construction projects updates.

Remember, it's against the law to talk on your cell phone in school zones and construction areas—be safe and slow down throughout Columbia. Also, do not text and drive— it can wait!

Please be safe and get out and enjoy the events, activities and services our wonderful community has to offer. As always, contact me if you have questions, comments or concerns at 281-7144 ext. 109, at home at 281-5199 or [khutchinson@columbiaininois.com](mailto:khutchinson@columbiaininois.com).

Sincerely, Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor

Fall  
2013

## CITIZENS URGED TO SIGN UP & UPDATE CURRENT EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

In an effort to improve the timeliness and effectiveness that Monroe County uses to warn citizens of oncoming emergencies, the county and all of its municipalities have contracted with new company. Emergency Communications Network will provide its CodeRED high-speed notification solution to Monroe County. The county had used Global Connect since 2010.

"The CodeRED system provides officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire county" said Ryan Weber, Monroe County's Director of Emergency Management.

Weber added he believes county citizens will prefer the new CodeRED system. The main change is that this system will make the emergency weather notifications, including warnings for tornados, severe thunderstorms and flash floods, by it using the National Weather Services "polygon" method. This means the notifications will better target the areas of the county affected by severe weather, while those not under an immediate threat will not be sent a notification unless the situation changes for their area. Weber feels this new system will be more accurate than what has been done in the past.

In addition, the new system also allows each residence to choose which weather alerts they receive. "If someone wants to be notified about a tornado warning and nothing else, then they can," said Weber. "Or they can choose to receive any and all types of weather alerts."

The means of notifying citizens of approaching emergencies has also expanded. The notifications can be delivered by phone, through a landline or a cell phone. In addition, notifications can be delivered by a text message or email—it will be your choice.

Weber also wanted to state that regular weather warning alerts will no longer originate from the EMA office at the Monroe County Courthouse. In special circumstances, the local EMA will be able to send out a warning.

All Monroe County citizens are urged to immediately sign up for CodeRED. The county's current alert notification database through the Global Connect system has been moved to CodeRED, "but no one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included" said Weber.

To sign up, verify or update your contact information, Weber requests that all individuals and businesses log onto their city's website or the Monroe County website, <http://www.monroecountyil.org>. Follow the link to the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page. Those without Internet access may call their city hall or the Monroe County EMA office at 618-939-8681, ext. 231. If no one answers, please leave a message and someone will return your call.

The CodeRED system allows geographically based delivery, which means street addresses are required to ensure the proper individuals in any given situation receive emergency notification calls.

"The system works for cell phones as well, but you will need to provide an associated street address to properly receive relevant messages" said Weber. He added that, in the future, those who move to another location in the county will need to update their location on the CodeRED database.

Weber assures folks that CodeRED's database and website are easy to navigate and the information you provide is secure. The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes. Additional information is available by calling Ryan Weber at the Monroe County EMA office, 618-939-8681, ext. 231.



### CHPC Pursues Historic Preservation Plan

Columbians are proud of the community's history, and rightly so. Although incorporation of the village of Columbia took place in 1859, settlement in this location dates back to the late 1700s and the very beginnings of the Illinois territory.

Working through the Columbia Heritage & Preservation Commission (CHPC), the City of Columbia seeks to establish the best possible foundation for future preservation efforts. A recent grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) will help identify and evaluate current preservation efforts, recommend future efforts, and delineate how best to reach preservation goals.

The City has contracted with Historical Foundations, Inc. to develop a Comprehensive Community Preservation Plan to assemble resources such as the following:

- Landmarks designated for local recognition;
- Proposal(s) for historic district(s) ;
- Sites & structures preserved in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS);
- Study of American home styles;
- Survey of tin roof homes;
- Survey of Sears homes;
- Survey of double door homes;
- Documents, genealogies, and other materials.



The CHPC has established a documents center, where staff and volunteers are currently reviewing the collection of records previously maintained by the Columbia Historical Society, and the City is seeking funding from the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) to augment ongoing archival work.

Consultants from Historical Foundations, the CHPC and City staff will review and evaluate these materials, culminating in a preservation planning document that will guide community efforts and be incorporated into the City's revised Comprehensive Plan.



### Illinois Planners Conference Here September 25—27

The American Planning Association's Illinois State Section (ISS) will hold its fall conference for the first time in Columbia at The Falls Reception & Conference Center. This conference will draw professional planners from across Illinois outside the Chicago metro area, as well as from Missouri.

Attendees will enjoy and learn from several highlight activities, including:

- A pre-conference bicycle tour along the American Bottom route cited as "best in Illinois" by *Bicycling* magazine;
- Presentation from Becky McCray, a dynamic presenter who speaks nationally on social media, small business, social networking and new technologies, economic development, and marketing;
- Two mobile workshops: Main Street in Columbia and the Rock City complex in Valmeyer;
- Receptions at Reifschneider's Grill & Grape and the Monroe County Welcome Center;
- Time to network, catch up with colleagues, and interact with conference presenters and sponsors.

Please welcome guests attending this conference. For more information about the event, visit the Illinois APA website: <http://www.ilapa.org>.



#### Smoke Detectors Save Lives

When you turn your clock back  
change the battery in the smoke alarm!

Daylight Savings Ends November 3 at 2:00 am





**THAT TIME OF THE YEAR FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE WORK**

There will be three major road and bridge projects taking place late summer into fall in Columbia. The first one to start will be the improvement of Cherry Street from Main Street to Liberty Street. Hank's Excavating and Contracting was awarded the contract with a start date of August 19<sup>th</sup>. Work prior to the contractor starting work has been utility relocations necessary for the roadway improvements to take place. There will be street closures and detours as the construction work progresses. The schedule is for the construction work to take approximately two months to complete. The Valmeyer Road Bridge will be rehabilitated this fall. Keller Construction has been awarded the contract. The construction work will remove and replace the bridge deck and beams. A section of Valmeyer Road between D Road and Veterans Parkway will need to be closed to traffic to facilitate the work. A detour will not be marked as Bluff Road will be the only access to D Road. Construction work is anticipated to take about two months. The last improvement project is the Main Street Streetscape from Cherry to north of Oak. Keller Construction was the low bidder with a contract being prepared and signed. Although no schedule has been submitted at this time the contract calls for the project to be complete no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. Main Street will remain open to traffic although the sidewalk and side roads will be closed at times for construction work. Your patience and understanding as these projects are undertaken is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Ron Williams, City Engineer at 618-281-7144 ext. 107, ron@columbiaillinois.com or Tim Ahrens, Assistant City Engineer at 618-281-4264 ext. 304, tahrens@columbiaillinois.com. Information on construction projects is available on the City's website at www.columbiaillinois.com/projects.



**NEW BUSINESSES**

**New 2 You**—235 N. Main St.  
Retail—clothing resale shop

**Rabbit & Rags**—124 C S. Main  
Vintage clothing, jewelry, furniture & décor

**Smiling Ma**—207 N. Main, Suite 103D  
On-line sales

**Synergy Therapeutics & Smileology Dental**  
106 Veterans Parkway  
Dental Office & treatment of TMJ dysfunction

**A Wellness Within You by Dawn LaFata**  
109 W. Gundlach  
Massage therapy & reflexology

**Seeds of Fire Ministries**—207 N. Main St.  
Missions, teaching, bible college & church meeting/party room rental available

**Benchmark Auto Protection**  
1320 Columbia Centre  
Administrative & sales office

**Columbia Marine Service, LLC**  
7 Hill Castle Lane  
Tug boat charter office

**NEWS FROM COLUMBIA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Columbia Unit School District #4 would like to welcome returning and new students and families to the 2013-2014 school year! Comparing last year's student enrollment, the district enrolled over twenty new students who joined our student body bringing our total enrollment to 2,062 students. Other district news:



- Teachers are working hard toward implementing the Common Core State Standards which have been adopted by over 45 states. Students and parents will recognize a curricular shift whereby units will be fewer and studied at much greater depth. The new national standards were devised to align toward college and career readiness.
- A new greenhouse to support the Agriscience Department as well as general science classes will soon be completed at the high school. One will easily see the new greenhouse located next to the multi-purpose field. The greenhouse is an outside academic center that will provide hands-on learning opportunities and improve knowledge and skills in the horticulture area. Please join us for an evening "open house" at the greenhouse on September 13<sup>th</sup> which is also the evening of the Dupo football game and FFA Pork Chop Dinner fund raiser. The district would like to thank the Agriscience Association consisting of area farmers and FFA supporters for their commitment toward assisting the district in funding this new learning lab.
- For sport fans in the community, a family season pass can be obtained at the high school office. The cost for the season pass is \$100.00 which will allow family entry at all CMS and CHS athletic events. Go Eagles!
- The school district would also like to welcome new teachers to the district: Kelly Briesacher, Mark Franke, Monica Mize, Rebecca Roth, Ana Salina, Wendy Stevens, Michael Stratton, and Jan Whitman. In addition, the district would like to congratulate Bonnie Dalke and Charlotte McMahan who joined the life of retirement!

For school district and contact information, please access the district's website at [www.chseagles.com](http://www.chseagles.com). Thank you!



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

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## Upcoming Events

For more event details, call 281-7144 ext. 106 or visit the city website calendar at [www.columbiaillinois.com](http://www.columbiaillinois.com).

**Electronics & Appliances Recycling**  
Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 (new time)  
8am-1pm: DOPW Parking Lot, collecting electronics, appliances, batteries & more!



**Songs4Soldiers**  
Sept. 14, 4-11pm:

A benefit concert for our veterans at the Market Place parking lot.

**Mutt & Me 5K Run & Fun Walk**  
Sept. 21, 9am: Fundraiser for Helping Strays the Humane Society of Monroe Co. starting at Bolm-Schuhkraft park.

**Art On The Bluffs Art Walk**  
Sept. 21, 10am-6pm:

Amazing artists offering their creations; student gallery, kid's activities, food, music & more!



**Columbia FestiFall**  
Sept. 29, 1-6pm:

Music by Well Hungarians, food, wine tasting, unique merchandise and lots of fun for the kids!

**Movies at Metter**

Oct. 4, at dusk—Metter Park:  
Free outdoor movie featuring "Secondhand Lions".



**ICS Halloween 5K Fun Run**  
Oct. 19, 9am: starting at ICC



**Mouse Races**

Oct. 25, at the Falls:  
Proceeds benefiting K-9 officer for Columbia.



**Halloween Hi Jinks**

Oct. 26, 10am-1pm:  
Participating businesses on Main St. welcome trick-or-treaters.



**Halloween Scare Square & Pumpkin Glow**

Oct. 31, 5:30-8pm: Stop by City Hall Park for food, fun, trunk-or-treating & more! Enter / vote for your favorite glowing pumpkin.



**Veteran's Day**

Nov. 11, 11am: Celebration ceremony at American Legion.



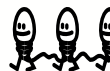
**Upcoming Holiday Events:**

**Holiday Cruise**

**NEW DATE** Nov. 23 & 24, Take a cruise in your car and get a head start on shopping for holiday gifts. Lots of fabulous shops right here in town; chances to win nice prizes too!



**Bright Night Lighted Christmas Parade on Main**  
December 7, 5pm



## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES



**Story Hour**

Begins September 5,  
10-11am: 1st and 3rd Thurs.  
of each month, Ages 3 1/2—5.\*



**Preschool**

Begins September 11,  
9:30—11am : Meets every  
Wed. Ages 3—5.\*

**Tot Time**

Begins September 12

2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.  
1st session 10-10:30am;  
2nd session 10:45-11:15am  
Ages 18 months — 3 1/2.\*



**Babygarten**

Begins September 17

Meets every Tuesday 9:15—10:30am  
Ages 1—23 months.\*



**Lego Story Time**

Begins September 17,  
4—4:45pm Meets every Tues.  
for kids that love to build.\*

**Sensory Story Time**

Sept. 25, Oct. 9 & 23,  
Nov. 13 & Dec. 11, 4pm  
Ages 2-4 \*



\* Registration Required

