

Mayor's Report for February 2014

I continue to meet with state legislators on a variety of municipal related bills. The Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors and the Illinois Municipal League are paying close attention to a variety of bills currently in various legislative committees. If you would like to see IML's position on bills being monitored (as well as read a short synopsis), you can go to <http://legislative.iml.org/ams/tl.cfm?job=half&ga=98&year=2> or the IML website <http://www.iml.org/> -- click the legislative tab and then click on "tracked bills".

I attended the ICS Fathers' Club annual Texas Hold'em Tournament. It was a great night despite the fact that I was out early. I am not going on the Hold'em tour any time soon.

I also attended the Illinois Public Affairs Network gathering with Congressman Rodney Davis, Senator David Luechtefeld and Representative Jay Hoffman. I had a chance to discuss various legislative issues and the need for infrastructure assistance for the City of Columbia.

I was honored to emcee the Columbia PTA's annual trivia night. It is amazing what the PTA does for the students of Columbia.

We honored the Columbia city workers at the city's annual employee appreciation gathering. We are fortunate to have employees who care and do such a great job for our city.

The YMCA HTC Center is now part of the Greater St. Louis YMCA organization. They are working out all of the specifics but you will soon be given the opportunity to have one membership for use at the Illinois and Missouri YMCAs in the St Louis Area.

I, along with other city representatives, attended the annual meeting of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. It was a great event and Joe Koppeis was recognized for his innumerable contributions to our community throughout many years.

The state still owes the City of Columbia (and its taxpayers) over \$94,000 in past due income tax monies. It is unfortunate that the state continues to avoid its financial responsibilities and puts the burden back on the local community taxpayer. We (the Mayors of the Illinois Municipal League) continue to fight for your tax dollars and against unfunded mandates.

Upcoming events include:

March

22: (7pm): CVFD Mouse Races - Turner Hall

22 (8am): Men's Retreat - Bethany United Methodist

24, 31 (2pm): Tax Aide - Columbia Library

29 (9am): ICC 5K Fun Run & Walk - Immaculate Conception Church

April

5 (5:30pm): Helping Strays Dinner Auction at the Falls. Music by the Sofa Kings

7, 14 (2pm): Tax Aide – Columbia Library

10 (6-9pm): Mo Co Expo, check out some of Monroe County's finest businesses - American Legion. Music by Silverback, food, wine tasting, prizes & lots of fun in store.

12 & 13: Historic Main Street Bunny sHOP – Shop 'til you HOP ... prizes & special discounts.

12 (10am-4pm): Garden Conservancy's Open Day

12 (10:30am): Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Century 21 – Bolm-Schuhkraft park

25 & 26: City Wide Yard Sale (80+ sales)

26 (10am-2pm): Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Day - Columbia High School parking lot

Additional details can be found on the city's website – www.columbiaillinois.com - calendar.

Remember if you are not involved, you are missing out. So GET OUT and GET INVOLVED!

Columbia is the “Outstanding Community Volunteerism” 2010 Governor's Cup Winner.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or just want to chat please contact me at 281-7144 ext. 109, khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com or home at 281-5199

Sincerely,

Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor