

## Mayor's Report for November 2014

The City will receive a Safe Routes to School grant in the amount of \$158,949.00 from the Illinois Department of Transportation to add sidewalks, curb, and gutter along the existing street and also create a new trail to link Main Street and the Columbia Middle School to allow safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists.

City Engineer Ron Williams is resigning to take the position of County Engineer in Franklin County, Missouri. I want to thank him for his hard work and dedication to the City. He will be missed, and we wish him all the best.

The Planning Commission is putting together a Community Facilities Plan. This will outline all facilities in Columbia; how they are currently used; and how they may be better utilized in the future.

The Mayors of the Illinois Municipal League are happy to announce the water and sewer tap-on fee legislation sponsored by Senator Kyle McCarter removed municipalities from the legislation. As I have mentioned before, we currently charge new constructed buildings a tap-on fee for the increased burden placed on our existing water and sewer system. The proposed legislation would limit the tap-on fee amount which would result in an increase to existing users of the system. If passed in its previous form, this law would have increased your monthly water and sewer rates.

I attended the Monroe County YMCA annual dinner and auction at The Falls. It was a good time, and the money went to a great cause right here in Monroe County.

Once again, the Columbia High School and Middle School musical was a fantastic show with wonderful student performances. As always, the kids did an awesome job. I want to send thanks to our school district for their ongoing support of the arts and theater programs.

Congratulations to the Columbia High School Boy's Soccer team for winning the State Championship. What an accomplishment! I think it was the coldest day ever in Bloomington but the fans showed their Blue Pride support.

The crew of the U.S.S. Columbia (our namesake submarine) came back from a 6-month deployment. The Commander informed me the deployment went well and passed all tasks with flying colors.

Congratulations to five new eagle scouts from Troop 320. Tyler C. G. Wood, Alex J. Bell, Ryan M. Brennan, Shane A. Biffar and Brian J. Belaska.

With the holidays approaching, don't forget to shop local. We have many wonderful shops in Columbia to find that unique gift.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **December**

- 1: Winter Sparks Reading Program begins at the Library
- 2: Large item curb side pick-up
- 4: (5-8pm): Paint party – Monroe County Welcome Center
- 4: Historic Main Street – “Ladies Night” of shopping see website for participating retailers
- 5: Cookies with Santa – Monroe County YMCA
- 6 (9am – 3pm): Craft Fair – ICS Gym
- 6 (10-11 am): Santa visits the library, stories, treats & activities
- 6 (5pm): Bright Night Christmas Parade (Historic Main Street) followed by Turner Hall’s Christmas Social
- 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21 (1-4pm) and 18 (5-8pm): Visit with Santa – Monroe County Welcome Center
- 20 (11am): David Wolfe brings Abraham Lincoln to life at the Library.
- 20 (8am – 1pm): Electronics & appliance recycling at DOPW parking lot

Details can be found at <http://www.columbiaillinois.com/calendar.aspx> or City Hall.

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 (office) 281-7144 ext. 109, (home) 281-5199 or [khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com](mailto:khutchinson@columbiaillinois.com).

Sincerely,

Kevin Hutchinson, Mayor