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We Are Columbia

# City eNews



Run. Grow. Transform.



## 2015 SMOKE ALARM BLITZ

Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and the Columbia Fire Department held its “2015 Smoke Alarm Blitz” on Saturday, January 24, 2015 in the Standish Acres community. Chief Jenkins said, “We are excited to be a recipient of this year’s Smoke Alarm Blitz and I would like to thank State Fire Marshal Bert Polk and his office for their continued efforts to save lives by placing smoke alarms in homes across South Carolina.”

The Columbia Fire Department was one of ten fire departments selected to participate in the grant-funded “2015 Smoke Alarm Blitz” by the South Carolina Division of Fire and Life Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The OSFM was awarded by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Chief Jenkins said, “The goal of the “Smoke Alarm Blitz” is to save lives.” Chief Jenkins continued to state “We, as a Department, responded to six residential fires that resulted in seven deaths in 2014 and of those fires only one residence had a working smoke alarm. This is why we urge citizens to install smoke alarms and to check them monthly to ensure they are working and if they are more than ten years old to replace them.”

The Columbia Fire Department distributed 400, 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms and over 100 carbon monoxide alarms to the Standish Acre community. The Standish Acres community was selected based on National Fire Incident Reporting System (NIFRS) data, social vulnerability index score, fire fatalities (per capita) and other application information. If residents were not home, during the blitz, information was left at their residence that explains how to schedule a fire alarm installation.

Chief Jenkins would like to thank all of our partners in this life-saving endeavor: South Carolina Division of Fire and Life Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, American Red Cross, Charles Divita Firehouse Subs Owner and Chick-fil-a Five Points.

For additional information or questions please contact the Columbia Fire Department’s Public Fire Education Division at 803-545-3717 or to request a smoke alarm installation visit [columbiarichlandfire.net/request-a-smoke-alarm/](http://columbiarichlandfire.net/request-a-smoke-alarm/).



Photo Above: The 400, 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms that were installed.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD “HOW TO PURCHASE A HOUSE ON A BUDGET” WORKSHOP

Learn about the mortgage process, the benefits of homeownership and what to do after closing at Community Development’s “How to Purchase a House on Budget” Workshop.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015 from 9-11 a.m.

**WHERE:** Earlewood Park 1119 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29201

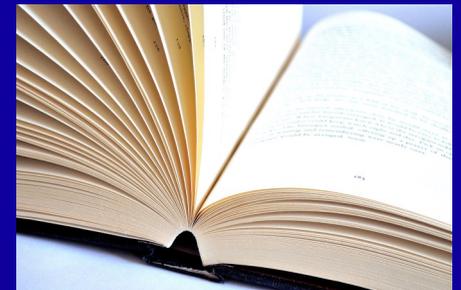
For more information or to register, contact Felicia Wilks at 803-545-3373

## TOGETHER WE CAN READ

The City of Columbia and Richland School District One to Hold Seventh Annual “Together We Can Read” Initiative. The City of Columbia and Richland School District One will hold their seventh annual “Together We Can Read” reading blitz on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 at 9 a.m. This initiative is founded and led by Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine.

“Together We Can Read” is a reading day program that encourages children to read and brings government, business and neighborhood leaders from across Columbia into the classrooms. Studies show that children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are more likely to drop out of school.

A press conference will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 2:30 p.m. to reveal this year’s book.



“Together We Can Read” reading blitz will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 at 9 a.m.

## 2015 LIFESAVERS BLOOD DRIVE

This basketball season, Mayor Steve Benjamin, the City of Columbia and the American Red Cross invite you to join a lifesaving team by giving blood. The fifth annual Columbia Lifesavers “Hoop it Up” blood drive is 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln St.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. There is no substitute. Hospitals and patients depend on the generosity of volunteer blood donors. In just about an hour, blood donors can score a three-pointer: Each donation can help save the lives up to three patients.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code famouslyhot. All presenting donors will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, a basketball stress reliever and a bag of Starbucks coffee, while supplies last.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Mayor Benjamin, the City of Columbia and the South Carolina Region Board of Directors to raise awareness in the Columbia community about the need for blood,” stated Ryan Corcoran, South Carolina Region Community Chief Executive Officer. “The Columbia Lifesavers blood drive is a wonderful opportunity for us to work together to save lives. Every pint of blood collected is a chance to help three patients in need.”

Over the years, the Columbia Lifesavers blood drive has resulted in 1,154 pints donated, potentially helping to save the lives of 3,462 individuals.

“Every year I’m blown away by how many people come out to participate in this wonderful initiative and we expect this year to be better than ever,” said Mayor Benjamin. “This event saves lives because every two seconds someone needs blood somewhere in America and there’s only one place to get it: volunteers like you.”

**LIFE + SAVER**  
American Red Cross

5th Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive



We Are Columbia

## CITY OF COLUMBIA RECOGNIZED WINNERS, SPONSORS OF DREAM KEEPER SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

Columbia City Council recognized the winners and sponsors of the 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarships during its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2015.

Winners were announced on Monday, January 19, 2015 at the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park located at 2300 Greene Street. Hundreds of people gathered to commemorate the life and legacy of the of late civil rights leader and recognize those who are committed to serving others.

Thirty-three nominations were received for the Dream Keeper Scholarships Program, which recognizes exemplary displays of voluntary service and academic achievement. A total of \$4,000 was donated to this year's scholarships program, a banner year for scholarship donations. Last year, \$2,450 was awarded to Dream Keeper recipients. Thanks to an increase in sponsorships, 14 students were able to receive awards.

The winners of the Dream Keeper Scholarships are:

Ravyn Neosha Cunningham, a student at A. C. Flora High School; \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Grace Church of Columbia and David Day  
Kierra Alayah Jackson, a student at Ridge View High School; \$500 scholarship sponsored by Alpha Psi Lambda Chapter & Omicron Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Tykira Smalls, a student at W.J. Keenan High School; \$500 scholarship sponsored by Councilman Moe Baddourah Gabrielle Cummings, a student at Dreher High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by Cromartie Law Firm, LLC. Eboni Tytiana Georges, a student at Airport High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by Troubleshooter A/C Heating and Refrigeration Alyssa Brunson, a student at Spring Valley High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by Gamma Nu Omega of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Taylor Cunningham, a student at A.C. Flora High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by Henri Baskins JaLyn Nicole Johnson, a student at Blythewood High School;



Photo Above: The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship winners and sponsors.



\$250 scholarship sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation

The following students received \$100 awards:

Princess Anderson, a student at W.G. Sanders Middle School; sponsored by Vincent A. Gatling, Jr. Lauren Elizabeth Gantt, a student at Hand Middle School; sponsored by Durham E. Carter Imani T. Osborne, a student at W.G. Sanders Middle School; sponsored by S. Allison Baker Gregory A. Jackson, a student at East Point Academy; sponsored by Carolyn Gleaton

A new scholarship program was announced at the celebration, the Josiah Caden Jenkins Memorial Scholarships. Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins established the scholarship in memory of his great-nephew Josiah Caden Jenkins. The annual scholarship of \$350 will be awarded to two elementary school students.

Recipients of the 2015 Josiah Caden Jenkins Memorial Scholarships are:

Journei Simmons, a student at Round Top Elementary School; \$250 scholarship Harmonie Jade Frederick, a student at Polo Road Elementary School; \$100 scholarship Mayor Steve Benjamin also made a surprise announcement during last Monday's celebration. Twenty-one additional students will receive a \$100 award thanks to donations from the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager. Nineteen of the students were Dream Keeper nominees who did not receive scholarships and two of the students were program participants during the City's annual celebration.

Winners of the annual Honor the Dream Food Drive, a collaborative effort between the City and Richland School District One, were also announced during the annual celebration. More than 15,000 pounds of food were collected for Harvest Hope Food Bank. Richland School District One collected more than 12,500 pounds and the City collected 2,558 pounds.

The top winners of the food drive are:

Richland One

First Place (tie): Carver-Lyon and Brennen elementary schools-1,895

City of Columbia

First Place: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park-1,272 pounds



To view photos of the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, please visit the City of Columbia's [Tumblr page online](#).

# National Wear Red Day



*Join Us*  
On February 6th  
**Wear Red**



Celebrate **National Wear Red Day** to help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. The **Go Red For Women** movement encourages awareness of this issue and action to help save lives.

This movement challenges women to know their risk for heart disease and take action to reduce personal risk. It also gives them the tools they need to lead a heart healthy life.



Hosted by:

City Councilwoman  
**Tameika Isaac Devine**

Please join us for our **2015 Go Red Day event on February 6, 2015 at 12 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers**, located at 1737 Main Street.

A press conference and community photography session will be held and we invite you to wear red attire (both men and women are welcome).

We will also make an announcement regarding a special inaugural Go Red event in the City of Columbia.

RSVP to Sugi Brown-Washington at [subrown@columbiasc.net](mailto:subrown@columbiasc.net)  
or call Public Relations at  
803-545-3020.



**It's time to  
Go Red.**

# Financial Education Workshop



"BANK ON"  
COLUMBIA



***YOU'RE INVITED!***

**MANAGE YOUR MONEY - MANAGE YOUR LIFE**

**City of Columbia  
Community Development**

## **Start Fresh!** **Financial Education Workshops**

Having trouble managing your budget or paying down debt? Let us help you take control.

**Learn the importance of:**

- Banking
- Budgeting
- Saving
- Building your Credit



Workshops will be held 9-11:30 a.m. at 1225 Lady Street on the following Saturdays:

**February 21 | March 21**

To register, call 803-545-0280 or email [rpking@columbiasc.net](mailto:rpking@columbiasc.net)



# Community Listening Session



## WE NEED YOU TO SAVE OUR FORT!

Fort Jackson is being threatened  
with headcount reductions.

What does losing **HALF** of the jobs at Fort Jackson mean?

- Inability to train soldiers
- \$189 million immediate economic impact
- \$2.6 billion future economic impact
- Business closures
- Jobs lost

...Columbia no longer exists as we currently know it.

## Let your voice be heard!

Your presence speaks loudly and lets the United States Army know just how critical Fort Jackson, our soldiers, their families, civilian employees and our military partners are to our nation's defense and the greater Midlands community.

Help us prove that we are the  
"Most Military Friendly Community in America"

## U.S. Army Community Listening Session

Thursday,  
February 26, 2015

Shandon Baptist Church  
5250 Forest Dr.  
Columbia, SC 29206

### Agenda

2 PM Doors Open  
*Musical Entertainment*

3 PM Program  
*w/ Governor Haley*

4 PM Comments from the  
General Public

Let us know if we  
can count on you!

[tinyurl.com/SaveOurFort](http://tinyurl.com/SaveOurFort)

*there is no cost to attend*

### For More Information:

[columbiachamber.com](http://columbiachamber.com)

[@colascchamber](https://twitter.com/colascchamber) #SaveOurFort

[colascchamber.wordpress.com](http://colascchamber.wordpress.com)

[facebook.com/ColumbiaChamber](https://facebook.com/ColumbiaChamber)



# Home Buying Workshop

## How to Purchase a House on a Budget



### Home Buying Workshop

How to purchase a house on a budget

City of Columbia

Community Development Department

Earlewood Park - (1113 Parkside Drive)

**Date of Scheduled Class**

**February 7, 2015**

**Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

Benefits of Homeownership

Budgeting

New construction verses Existing Homes

Resources/Mortgage Programs

Loan Requirements

Mortgage Process

What to do after closing

***Call to reserve your seat at:***

**(803) 545-3373**

Sr. Loan Officer, Felicia Wills

Loan Officer, Tracey Brown & Bryan Graves



# SC Corn Bread Festival



**SAVE THE DATE!**



**Saturday, March 28, 2015**

2500 Block of North Main and Newman Streets

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

\$5 Admission/ Kids 12 & under FREE!



**Come out for a good 'ole time and enjoy music, fun, dancing and old fashioned cornbread! Bring your chairs and enjoy live entertainment and more!**

Cornbread Cook-Off Contest!

Classic & Contemporary Car Show!

Cornbread Eating Contest!

Corn hole Classic Tournament -NEW!

Live Entertainment!

SC Cornbread Festival Pageant!

Karaoke!

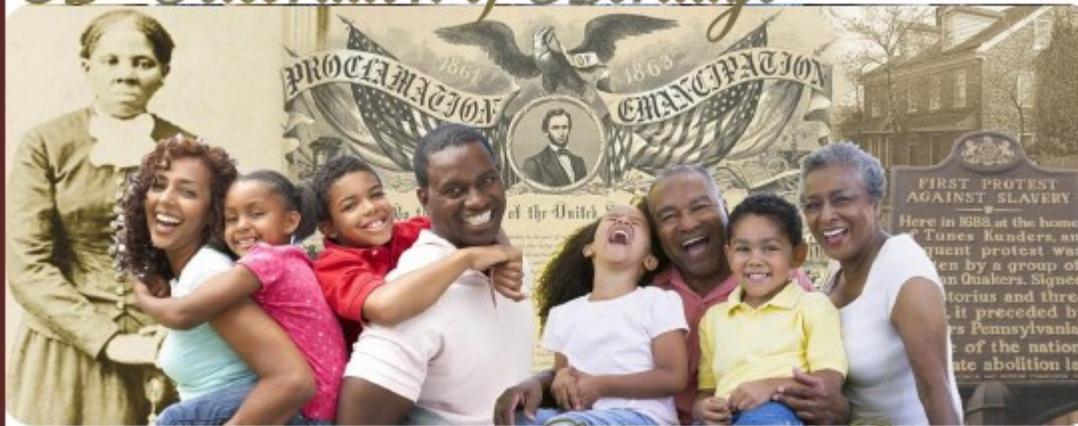
Corn Muffin Play land...and MORE!

**For More Information Please call (803) 786-7232**

**Visit [www.sccornbreadfestival.com](http://www.sccornbreadfestival.com)**

# Black History Extravaganza

## *A Celebration of Heritage*



## *from Generation to Generation*

A Black History Extravaganza

Monday, Feb. 16, 2015

Greenview Park

6700 David Street, Columbia, SC

10am - 3pm

\$5 adults & \$2 children (12 & under)

(Deadline to purchase tickets: February 11th)

Join us as the elders and the youth of our time come together to celebrate the African-American culture through song, dance, games, prizes, exhibitors & more! Lunch will be provided.



Guest Speakers:  
Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers, Jr.  
& The Honorable Bakari Sellers



Sponsored by  
City Parks & Recreation

For tickets see your park representative or contact  
City Parks & Recreation at 803.545.3100

# Lifesavers Blood Drive

## LIFE SAVER

American Red Cross

5th Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive

**SAVE THE DATE**

Friday, February 27

7 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

To schedule your donation appointment, please visit  
[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS.



Sponsored by Mayor Steve Benjamin, the City of Columbia and the American Red Cross S.C. Region Board of Directors

# Heart Health Month



Charles R. Drew Wellness Center  
2101 Walker Solomon Way  
Columbia, SC 29204  
(803) 545-3200  
[www.drewwellnesscenter.com](http://www.drewwellnesscenter.com)

## February is Heart Health Month

Join Ashley Raasch, a registered dietitian, for a free cooking class that will teach you how to prepare heart-friendly meals. Show off this flavorful, healthy meal and dessert for Valentine's Day, or just treat yourself!



Location: Drew Wellness Center

Date: Monday, February 9

Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

**FREE to  
the public!**

For more information or to RSVP, call the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200.



We Are Columbia

[www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net)

# Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



# City Media

[www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net)



TWC Ch.2

City Talk on SoundCloud

**We Are Columbia**

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