



Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
Contact: Sabrina Odom at (803) 786-7232

## **City Welcomes Carolina Kernels to North Main with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

On Tuesday, March 1, Mayor Steve Benjamin and Councilman Sam Davis will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome Carolina Kernels to North Main St. The ribbon cutting will be held at 2720 Main St., and will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Carolina Kernels is a gourmet popcorn shop with over 60 flavors, to include: Cookies 'N' Cream, Key Lime, Chocolate Drizzle and Toffee. Carolina Kernels has also been selected as the Office of Business Opportunities' Business Spotlight for the month of February.

Many say that the gourmet popcorn shop is the best kept secret in Columbia and it is currently sold at the Colonial Life Arena during their basketball games. Carolina Kernels is a great place to spend time with family, ideal for parties and they even personalize popcorn for special occasions.

Geneva and Tamala are the mother/daughter duo behind the gourmet popcorn shop and their personable and friendly staff is what keeps customers coming back. They have also been recognized for having affordable prices and periodic specials. For more information, please contact Sabrina Odom, Executive Director of the North Columbia Business Association at (803) 786-7232 or email [sabrinaodom1@gmail.com](mailto:sabrinaodom1@gmail.com).



March 1, 2016  
Contacts:  
Joey Jaco - 803-545-3400  
Clint Shealy - 803-733-8336  
Jon Sherer - 803-733-8336

## **City Provides Water Safety Update**

In light of recent national and local concerns about lead levels in drinking water, the City of Columbia wants to reassure its customers that your drinking water is safe and meets all regulatory standards. In the early 1990s, the U.S. EPA introduced new guidelines for lead levels in drinking water, which took effect in the mid-1990s and was fully implemented by the late-1990s. Since 1998, water leaving City of Columbia customers' taps has consistently met these requirements. Lead levels in the water leaving the City's drinking water treatment plants are normally below detection levels, well below the maximum levels set by the EPA.

The City also actively works to protect customers from lead that might be in their own pipes. Typically, lead in drinking water comes from the water sitting for extended periods of time in lead service lines or homes plumbed with copper pipe and lead based solder. The City's corrosion control efforts create a protective barrier on these lines. "We consider our corrosion control efforts a great success. They have helped us keep lead levels down and have been part of our routine water treatment for almost 20 years", said Clint Shealy, Water Works Superintendent for the City of Columbia. And the few lead service lines that still remain in our system are replaced any time they are discovered.

The City also wants you to know what steps you can take to protect yourself and your family from lead in your drinking water. When water has been sitting in your home plumbing pipes for

several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned that your house may have copper pipes with lead based solder, the City will perform free lead testing.

For more information about how to minimize lead in your drinking water or to inquire about a water sample, please contact the City of Columbia Customer Care Center at (803) 545-3300.

Each year the City publishes the detected levels of lead in your drinking water in the Water Quality Report, which is posted at [www.COLACCR.com](http://www.COLACCR.com).



Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
 Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Art Center Offers Spring Break Art Camp**

The Columbia Art Center is hosting a 4-day multimedia visual art camp to keep children engaged during the Spring Break.

The Spring Break Art Camp will be held on March 28-31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street. Youth ages 6-12 can participate.

The camp will cover lessons on pottery, drawing and painting, and recycle art. **All materials are included in the registration fee of \$65.**

**The deadline to register is March 14.** The camp size is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

To download a registration form, visit the [City of Columbia Parks and Recreation's Cultural Arts page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.



Tuesday, March 01, 2016  
 Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Mayor Steve Benjamin and the City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! Columbia Easter Eggstravaganza**

**WHAT:** Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Columbia Easter Eggstravaganza. The event is **free** and open to the public. This year's event will include interactive games and inflatables, cooking demonstrations, edible garden workshops, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

**WHO:** Mayor Steve Benjamin, Judge DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

**WHERE:** Charles R. Drew Wellness Center green space, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email [kcmitchell@columbiasc.net](mailto:kcmitchell@columbiasc.net).



March 1, 2016  
 Contact: Zoning Division at (803) 545-3333

### Planning Commission Meeting Agenda for March 7, 2016

The Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016. The draft agenda is attached. This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at [www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas](http://www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas).

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact Zoning Division at 803-545-3333.



Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
 Contact: Paul Featheringill, Office of Business Opportunities 803-545-3259

### OBO Reopens Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) has reopened the Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program. The Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program is designed to assist small businesses in the City of Columbia that have been impacted by the historic flood due to physical damage, lost revenue/ significantly reduced revenue or customers being unable to reach the business location.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be located in the City of Columbia
- Have been in business for a minimum of two years
- Have suffered losses from the flooding not covered by any other insurance
- Have applied to FEMA for assistance

Borrowers are eligible for loans of up to \$10,000 which can be used for inventory, equipment, clean-up and repair, payroll, and working capital. The loans will have a 3-month deferment followed by a 24-month repayment at 0% interest.

The deadline to apply for funding is **March 18, 2016**. Funding decisions will be made in March and funds will be disbursed in April, 2016.

For more information, please contact Paul Featheringill at (803) 545-3259 or [pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net](mailto:pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net). The application can be found [here](#).



March 2, 2016  
 Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

### March 2016 At-Large Open House

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and Councilman Howard Duvall, Jr.

**WHAT:** March At-Large Open House

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 5 - 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** City Hall, 1737 Main Street

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 803-545-3061.



Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
 Contact: Connie Bailey, Office of the City Council at 803-545-4268

### **Advertisement of Vacancies on the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill several vacancies on the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee.

#### **Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee:**

*Seeking four (4) restaurant industry applicants for appointment/re-appointment and three (3) at-large Applicants for appointment/re-appointment.*

The purpose of this committee is to review applications for hospitality funding and make recommendations to Council for the disbursement of those funds. Term – 2 years.

#### **Deadline – Applications are due no later than March 18, 2016, 5 p.m.**

For applications and more information contact Connie Bailey at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to [cfbailey@columbiasc.net](mailto:cfbailey@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards-commissions> to download an application.



Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
 Contact: Pamela Jones at (803) 743-1181

### **City to Host Upcoming Mentor-Protégé Training Series**

**WHAT:** The City will host a Mentor-Protégé Training Series on Thursday, March 3, 2016 from 9-5 pm at the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. The March 3rd training topics will include:

- Confined Space Entry Hazards: This program will provide instructions on how to recognize hazardous conditions in confined space entry within your workplace.
  - Employee training in oxygen deficiency
  - Conditions involving immediate danger to life and health
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Safety Procedures
- Excavation and Trenching: This program provides the attendees with basic hazard recognition, knowledge of the standard, protective systems, sloping of trenches and safe use of equipment around excavations.
  - Recognize need for protection from falling materials
  - Recognize requirements addressing stability of adjacent structures
  - Identify interim fall protection requirements
  - Understand rescue requirements standard

**WHO:** City of Columbia, SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation: SC Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

**WHERE:** Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc., 1509 Lady Street, Columbia, SC 29201

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 3, 2016 from 9-5 PM

To register, please contact Pamela Jones at (803) 743-1181 or email [pjones@columbiambdcenter.com](mailto:pjones@columbiambdcenter.com).



March 3, 2016

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

### Street Division Wins SCAPA Award

On February 23, 2016, the City of Columbia's Street Division was awarded the 2015 Project Delivery Award by the South Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association (SCAPA) for the Columbiana Drive Reconstruction Project.

According to SCAPA, the Project Delivery Award highlights projects that were completed in a timely and efficient manner, and the owner/agency was extremely pleased with the expedited delivery of the project. These projects typically are completed ahead of schedule, constructed with minimal traffic delay and congestion. Additionally, the surrounding businesses and homeowners appreciate the partnering efforts of the contractor and owner to ensure exceptional delivery of the projects.

The Columbiana Drive project took 12 weeks to complete from April through July 2015. The City worked with Lane Construction to ensure there would be no traffic disruptions and the project would not interfere with the businesses. The team held a pre-construction meeting with local business owners to go over project details and answer any questions. Then, on a weekly basis, the City of Columbia sent an email that provided an overview of work that happened each week and what was planned to be done in the following week.

Lane Construction and the City of Columbia were awarded the 2015 Project Delivery Award for their efforts on the Columbiana

Drive Reconstruction. The City of Columbia, Town of Irmo, Columbiana Mall and the numerous businesses in the area worked together with Lane and the City to make a much needed road improvement with minimal business and traffic disruption.



Friday, March 4, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### The City of Columbia's Second Annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show

**WHAT:** The City of Columbia's Second Annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show is set to hit the stage on Friday, March 11, 2016. Help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women, at the Go Red Columbia Fashion Show. All proceeds from the Go Red Columbia Fashion Show will be donated to the American Heart Association.

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine is the host for this event. The fashion show will also feature celebrity models, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors.

**WHERE:** Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street

**WHEN:** Friday, March 11, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**COST:** \$25 per person.

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Jabber & Isaac Pa, 1419 Richland St
- Eventbrite.com: search Go Red Columbia Fashion Show

For more information, please visit [columbiasc.net](http://columbiasc.net) or contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



Friday, March 4, 2016

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

### **SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2016**

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

#### **Distribution Line Tree Trimming:**

Brandon Acres/Cedar Terrace Neighborhood  
 Shandon Neighborhood Council  
 Central Rosewood Neighborhood Association  
 South Waccamaw Neighborhood Association  
 South Kilbourne Neighborhood Association  
 Hyatt Park Neighborhood Association  
 Ridgewood/Monitcello  
 Colonial Park Neighborhood Association  
 Windemere Springs Neighborhood Association  
 Riverside Apartments  
 Laurel Hill Homeowners Association  
 Earlewood Community Citizens Organization  
 Seminary Ridge Homeowners Association

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit [www.sceg.com/treetrimming](http://www.sceg.com/treetrimming).

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email [SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com](mailto:SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com).

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.



Friday, March 4, 2016

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950

### **Advertisement of Vacancy on Façade Improvement Review Committee**

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities is accepting applications to fill the Architect vacancy on the Façade Improvement Review Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to review, score, and approve/deny façade improvement project applications.

The term of office is three (3) years. Meetings are 10:00 am in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month.

All applicants must reside or work within Columbia city limits.

**Deadline - Applications are due no later than 12:00 pm, March 18, 2016.**

For applications and more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950, or send a request to [obo@columbiasc.net](mailto:obo@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/obo/commercial-loans-grants/facade-improvement> for more information on the present target and past performance of the Façade Improvement Program.



Date: March 7, 2016  
Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

### **At-Large Open House | March 9**

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and Councilman Howard Duvall, Jr.

**WHAT:** March At-Large Open House

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 5 - 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** City Hall, 1737 Main Street

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 803-545-3061.



Monday, March 7, 2016  
Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

### **City's Pet of the Week: Meet Brady! (ID# A223043)**

Brady is a seven month old orange domestic long haired Tabby mix. Brady weighs about seven pounds and has really long fluffy hair. Brady is very affectionate and enjoys taking naps. He has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://www.columbiasc.net/animal-services) or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.



Monday, March 07, 2016  
Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Mayor Steve Benjamin and the City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! Columbia Easter Eggstravaganza**

**WHAT:** Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Columbia Easter Eggstravaganza. The event is **free** and open to the public. This year's event will include interactive games, cooking demonstrations, edible garden workshops, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

**WHO:** Mayor Steve Benjamin, Judge DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

**WHERE:** Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email [kcmitchell@columbiasc.net](mailto:kcmitchell@columbiasc.net).



Monday, February 7, 2016  
Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

Community Development to Hold Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop Series

The City's Community Development department will hold a FREE financial education workshop series. During the workshops, participants will learn the importance of banking, budgeting, saving, building credit, homeownership and life skills.

The workshops will be held on March 19, 26 and April 2 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive Columbia, SC 29203, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Gift cards will be awarded to participants upon completion and lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register, please call (803) 545-3373 or email [RPKing@columbiasc.net](mailto:RPKing@columbiasc.net).



March 8, 2016  
Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

### **City Council to Tour Flood Impacted Areas within City Limits**

Members of the Columbia City Council will tour areas within city limits that were impacted by the flood on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 2 p.m. Please note, this is not a Work Session and no official City Council action or votes will be taken on the tour. The tour media advisory is attached.



March 8, 2016  
Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### **City Releases Traffic Analysis Study for Bull Street Redevelopment Project**

A Traffic Analysis Study for the Bull Street Redevelopment project is now available. This report pertains to the entire development and is not specific to the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue. The study reflects a phased implementation plan based on the multiple phases of the development. To view the report and executive summary, visit [www.columbiasc.gov/bull-street-redevelopment](http://www.columbiasc.gov/bull-street-redevelopment) or click the links below to download the report and summary.

[Download Traffic Analysis Study](#) (27MB)

[Download Traffic Analysis Study Executive Summary](#) (4MB)

The purpose of this Traffic Analysis Study is to review vehicular traffic impacts as a result of the proposed Multi-Use Entertainment Venue. The study has been submitted to SCDOT for review and approval, please consider this a draft until approved. There may be modifications made prior to the final approved version.

The objectives of the study are:

- To estimate trip generation and distribution for the proposed development.
- To perform capacity analyses for the identified study area.
- To determine the potential traffic impacts of the proposed development.
- To develop recommendations for needed roadway and operational improvements to accommodate the proposed development's traffic impacts while being sensitive to the existing land uses, roadway network and surrounding neighborhoods.

For more information, contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



March 9, 2016

Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

### **Design/Development Review Commission Meeting**

The Design/Development Review Commission will hold a meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10th, at City Hall (City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor), 1737 Main Street. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here:

<http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/ddrc/agendas-minutes>.

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact Planning Division at 803-545-3222.



March 10, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020

### **City to Host Public Meeting Regarding Traffic Analysis Study for Bull Street Redevelopment Project**

The City will host a public meeting on Wednesday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street, to present and discuss the Bull Street Traffic Analysis Study. This report pertains to the entire development and is not specific to the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue. The study reflects a phased implementation plan based on the multiple phases of the development. To view the report and executive summary, visit [www.columbiasc.gov/bull-street-redevelopment](http://www.columbiasc.gov/bull-street-redevelopment) or click the links below to download the report and summary.

- [Download Traffic Analysis Study](#) (27MB)
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For more information, contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



Thursday, March 10, 2016  
 Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### Portions of Riverfront Park to Reopen for Public Use

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced that portions of the walking trails at Riverfront Park, located at 312 Laurel Street, will reopen for public use on Tuesday, March 15.

Visitors will have access to 2 ½ miles of the walking trail between the Broad River and Columbia Canal to the Diversion Dam. This section extends from the main parking lot entrance at 312 Laurel Street to the Diversion Dam and fish passage at the north end of the park.

Visitors can use the parking lot at the Laurel Street entrance of the park to access the trail.

The trail near the Broad River Bridge is open to walkers, runners and bicyclists. Portions of the trail at the bridge are not ADA compliant at this time.

The park will operate normal hours from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

The parking lot at the north end of the park, which is located near River Drive, **will remain closed to the public.** The south end section between the Columbia Hydroelectric plant and the main entrance to Riverfront Park will **remain closed** indefinitely.



Parks and Recreation

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 11, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### City of Columbia Accepting Submissions for Praise Fest for Peace and Youth Violence Prevention Expo

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting submissions for the Praise Fest for Peace concert and the Youth Violence Prevention Expo, both of which will be held during National Youth Violence Prevention Week in April.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Columbia Police Department have partnered to host a series of youth violence prevention activities during the week of April 3-8.

The concert is scheduled for Sunday, April 3 from 4-6 p.m. and the expo will be held on Monday, April 4 from 6-8 p.m. Both events will be held at Dutch Square Mall, 421 Bush River Road.

Gospel choirs, praise dancers and/or mime ministries are encouraged to participate.

The Parks and Recreation Department is also accepting submissions for exhibitors. The Youth Violence Prevention Expo is open to agencies and organizations that support programs, resources, activities and events encouraging youth to make better life choices.

The deadline to apply for both events is Friday, March 25.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.



Tuesday, March 14, 2016  
Contact: Marli Drum at (803)-776-PETS

### **St. Patrick's Day Pet Adoption Special**

**WHAT:** The Columbia and Lexington Animal Services will be holding a St. Patrick's Day pet adoption special for \$17 on March 14 - 19. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

**WHERE:** Columbia Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC and Lexington Animal Services, 321 Ball Park Rd, Lexington, SC

**WHEN:** Monday, March 14 – Saturday, March 19, 2016

**Cost:** \$17 per pet

For more information about the adoption specials please call Columbia Animal Services (803)776-7387 or Lexington Animal Services (803) 785-8149.



Monday, March 14, 2016  
Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **South East Park Clay Tennis Courts Closed for Maintenance**

The clay tennis courts at South East Park will be closed until **Wednesday, March 23** for resurfacing, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced.

The park's 12 hard courts are open to the public. South East Park is located at 951 Hazelwood Road and is open Monday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.



March 15, 2016  
Contact: Dolly Bristow at (803) 545-3371

### **Civil Rights: It Still Matters Fair Housing Conference**

**WHAT:** Continuing Legal Education workshop training classes will be held on **Friday, April 8 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** at **Earlewood Park**. The event is free to attendees who are not seeking CLE credits; however, all must complete a registration form. Attendees

seeking CLE credits must purchase a ticket at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-fair-housing-continuing-legal-education-workshop-tickets-21355322344>.

The Fair Housing Conference will be held on **Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** at **EdVenture Children’s Museum**. The winner of the Modjeska Monteith Simkins Award will be announced at the luncheon. Registration for the conference is mandatory and can be completed at

<http://www.rcgov.us/Portals/0/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/Docs/April%20is%20Fair%20Housing%20Month%20Registration%20Form.pdf>. **The deadline to register is March 31, 2016.**

**WHO:** City of Columbia, Richland County, Lexington County, Equal Housing Opportunity, SC Human Affairs Commission

**WHEN:** April 8-9, 2016

**WHERE:** Earlewood Park Community Center, 1111 Parkside Dr, Columbia, SC 29203

EdVenture Children’s Museum, 211 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201

“Civil Rights: It Still Matters” is designed to educate our community about the basic right and foundation to barrier-free housing for all, creating a path to healing the history of discrimination.

For more information about any of the Fair Housing Month events, contact Dolly Bristow at (803) 545-3371.



Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

### **City’s Pet of the Week: Meet Pistachio! (ID# A221002)**

Pistachio is a one year old brown greyhound mix. He is very well-behaved. Pistachio has grasped the meaning of "no" & has learned to

"sit" for treats! He is a quick learner. Pistachio has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://www.columbiasc.net/animal-services) or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.



March 17, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### **City of Columbia Urges Recognition of Earth Hour**

The City of Columbia urges citizens to participate in Earth Hour at 8:30p.m. - 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 19. Joining hundreds of millions of other cities, businesses and organizations across the globe. The City Of Columbia has also encouraged all employees to turn off all non-essential lights and equipment when leaving their work sites on Friday, March 18 in order to help observe Earth Hour the following day. Citizens are also encouraged to join in the effort to increase energy by turning off lights and unplugging nonessential appliances using electricity in their homes.

For more information, contact Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020.



Friday, March 18, 2016

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

### **SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2016**

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

#### **Distribution Line Tree Trimming:**

Hyatt Park Neighborhood  
 Seminary Ridge Homeowners Association  
 Eau Claire Community Council  
 Brandon Acres/Cedar Terrace Neighborhood  
 Shandon Neighborhood Council  
 Central Rosewood Neighborhood Association  
 South Kilbourne Neighborhood Association  
 Riverside Apartments  
 Laurel Hill Homeowners Association  
 Earlewood Community Citizens Organization

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet

below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit [www.sceg.com/treetrimming](http://www.sceg.com/treetrimming).

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email [SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com](mailto:SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com).

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.



Friday, March 18, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125

### **Puttin' on the Ritz Senior Talent Show**

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the Greenview Park Senior Club to host the **Puttin' on the Ritz Senior Talent Show** scheduled for **Saturday, March 19, 2016** at 2 p.m.

The showcase will feature the many talents of local seniors age 55 and older. Performance categories include: vocal, instrumental,

dance, comedy, drama, rap, acrobatics, martial arts, juggling or poetry.

**WHAT:** Puttin' on the Ritz Senior Talent Show  
**WHEN:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Greenview Park 6700 David Street  
**COST:** \$5

Tickets can be purchased at all City of Columbia recreation centers. Visit [ColumbiaSC.net](http://ColumbiaSC.net) for locations.

For more information, please call Tracy Chatman at 803-754-5223 or email [tcchatman@columbiasc.net](mailto:tcchatman@columbiasc.net).



Friday, March 18, 2016  
Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

**Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting  
Agenda for Wednesday, March 23, 2016**

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee (CRLF) meeting will be held at the Office of Business Opportunities – First Floor Conference Room, 1225 Lady St. on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 10 a.m. Should you have questions regarding items on the agenda, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950.



March 21, 2016  
Contact: Columbia Animal Services at 803-776-7387 or [animal@columbiasc.net](mailto:animal@columbiasc.net)  
**Columbia Animal Services to Hold its First Donation Shower**

Columbia Animal Services will hold a donation baby shower on April 7-9, 2016 at 127 Humane Lane. Animal Services will be accepting items including but not limited to, pet food, toys, blankets, and litter boxes. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent to an orphaned, sick, or injured cat/kitten, dog/puppy, you may fill out a foster application. "Each Spring we get our share of very young puppies and kittens, and injured/sick animals, that really need to be in foster homes instead of a shelter environment to have the best chance for survival. We hope to collect enough supplies in advance so when they do come in we are ready to hand them over to a foster parent along with everything needed for their care. We don't want to burden our foster homes with those expenses when they are already gracious enough to accept that pet into their home." says Marli Drum, Superintendent of Animal Services. "It also frees up space as we start to fill up with warmer weather."

For more information on the April Donation Shower or foster applications, please contact Columbia Animal Services at 803-776-7387 or [animal@columbiasc.net](mailto:animal@columbiasc.net).



Parks and Recreation

Monday, March 21, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **City of Columbia Accepting Submissions for Praise Fest for Peace and Youth Violence Prevention Expo**

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting submissions for the Praise Fest for Peace concert and the Youth Violence Prevention Expo, both of which will be held during National Youth Violence Prevention Week in April.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Columbia Police Department have partnered to host a series of youth violence prevention activities during the week of April 3-8.

The concert is scheduled for Sunday, April 3 from 4-6 p.m. and the expo will be held on Monday, April 4 from 6-8 p.m. Both events will be held at Dutch Square Mall, 421 Bush River Road.

Gospel choirs, praise dancers and/or mime ministries are encouraged to participate.

The Parks and Recreation Department is also accepting submissions for exhibitors. The Youth Violence Prevention Expo is open to agencies and organizations that support programs, resources, activities and events encouraging youth to make better life choices.

The deadline to apply for both events is Friday, March 25.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.



Monday, March 21, 2016  
Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125

### **City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Summer Camps Guide**

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreations Department is accepting registrations for its 2016 Summer Camp program. Various summer camps will be held beginning Tuesday, May 31 and ending on Friday, August 12.

#### **Day Camps**

Camp programs focus on education through recreation, team building and leadership, creativity and self-expression, physical fitness and decision making. Camps are open to both city residents and non-city residents. The cost is \$55 per week. Additional fees may apply for field trips.

Camps are held from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. for children ages 6-12 (as of July 1) at the following parks:

- **Emily Douglas Park**- 2500 Wheat St., 803-733-8531
- **Greenview Park**- 6700 David St., 803-754-5223
- **Hampton Park**- 117 Brandon Ave., 803-776-9082
- **Heathwood Park**- 800 Abelia Rd., 803-733-8446
- **Hyatt Park**- 950 Jackson Ave., 803-733-8445
- **Lorick Park**- 1600 Lorick Ave., 803-691-9339
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park**- 2300 Greene St., 803-733-8452
- **Melrose Park**- 1500 Fairview Rd., 803-733-8493
- **Pinehurst Park**- 2300 Pinehurst Rd., 803-733-8449
- **St. Anna's Park**- 1315 Liberty Hill Rd., 803-733-8450
- **Sims Park**- 3500 Duncan St., 803-733-8451
- **South Edisto (Edisto Discovery Center) Park**, 1914 Wiley Street, 803-255-8103
- **Woodland Park**- 6500 Olde Knight Highway, 803-776-1096

#### **Teen Camp**

The Parks and Recreation Department also offers a Teen Camp for children in grades 6-10 at the KMB Booker Washington Heights

Community Center, located at 2611 Grant Ave. The camp runs from May 30 to August 12, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. The cost is \$55 per week. For more information, please call 803-255-8161.

### **Sports Camp**

Children in grades K-6 can participate in a summer Sports Camp held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street. The camp is held from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cost of the camp is \$55 per week.

### **Tennis Camp**

The Columbia Tennis Center located at 1635 Whaley Street, is hosting a summer Tennis Camp for children ages 6-14. The camp will focus on stroke production and techniques, drills, match competition and more.

The camp will be held on the following dates from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.:

- June 13-17
- June 27-July 1
- July 11-15
- July 25-29

The cost of the camp is \$55 per week. Make checks payable to the Columbia Tennis Center.

Applications are available at the Columbia Tennis Center. Registrations will be taken until the first day of camp.

For more information, please call the tennis center at 803-733-8440.

### **Golf Camp**

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is hosting a summer golf camp for children ages 8-16 who are interested in improving their golf skills or learning the fundamentals of the game, etiquette and

course management. The camp is open to new, intermediate and experienced golfers.

No equipment is needed. The fee to participate is \$55 per week.

The camp will be held at the golf center located at 2901 Slighs Avenue from 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m. on the following dates:

- June 20-24
- June 27-July 1
- July 18-22
- July 25-29

To register, [click to submit an application online](#).

For more information about the summer golf program, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email [smmcdaniel@columbiasc.net](mailto:smmcdaniel@columbiasc.net).

### **Art Camp**

Let your child explore their creative side through painting, drawing, pottery and more at the Art Center's summer Art Camp. The camp will be held from June 13 through July 29 in two sessions for ages 5-9 and 10-15. Sessions will be held at the Art Center, located at 1928 Calhoun St. The camp costs \$85 per session. Camp is held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Registration is limited to 10 participants per session.

- **Session 1**-June 13-17 (ages 5-9) (registration deadline June 2)
- **Session 2**-June 20-24 (ages 10-15) (registration deadline June 9)
- **Session 3**-July 18-22 (ages 5-9) (deadline June 30)
- **Session 4**-July 25-29 (ages 10-15) (deadline July 7)

Campers ages 5-9 can participate in a Mixed Media session. Children ages 10-14 can participate in Pottery Explorations.

For more information, please call the Art Center at 803-545-3093.

Registration forms are available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located inside Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive, and at the parks listed above.

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department's summer programs, please call at 803-545-3100 or visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Summer Camp"](#) page online.



March 21, 2016

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

**City of Columbia Notice of Public Hearing  
Adoption of Ordinance No.: 2015-099**

Public notice is hereby given that the Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina, to receive public comment on an amendment to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbia, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VIII, Absentee Landlord Regulation Program.

A copy of Ordinance No.: 2015-099 in its entirety may be obtained on line at <http://columbiasc.gov/city-council/public-notices> or by contacting the City Clerk, City Hall, 3rd Floor, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201; (803) 545-3045; [cityclerk@columbiasc.net](mailto:cityclerk@columbiasc.net).



March 21, 2016

CONTACT: Connie Bailey at 803-545-4268

**Advertisement of Vacancies on Criminal Domestic Violence Taskforce**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill nine (9) vacancies on the Criminal Domestic Violence Taskforce

The purpose of this board is review strategies and creative ways to address the issue of Criminal Domestic Violence within the City of Columbia.

The term of office is three (3) years with the possibility of one (1) reappointment for a total of six (6) years of service.

**Deadline – Applications are due no later than April 8, 2016, 5 p.m.**

For applications and more information contact Connie Bailey at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to [cfbailey@columbiasc.net](mailto:cfbailey@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards-commissions> to download an application.



Monday, March 21, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations (803) 545-3020

**City Offices Closed in Observance of Good Friday | Mar. 25, 2016**

The City of Columbia offices will be closed on Friday, March 25, 2016 in observance of the Good Friday holiday. There will be no change in garbage, trash or recycling collection.



Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

**Community Development to Hold Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop Series**

The City's Community Development department will hold a FREE financial education workshop series. During the workshops, participants will learn the importance of banking, budgeting, saving, building credit, homeownership and life skills.

The workshops will be held on March 19, 26 and April 2 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive Columbia, SC 29203, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Gift cards will be awarded to participants upon completion and lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register, please call (803) 545-3373 or email [RPKing@columbiasc.net](mailto:RPKing@columbiasc.net).



Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Contact: Tina N. Herbert, Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3259

**Minority Business Opportunity Conference (Minority BOC)**

The City of Columbia has consistently shown its commitment to the economic growth of all of its communities by providing opportunities for small and minority businesses to succeed. To help further this goal, the Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) will host its first Minority Business Opportunity Conference (Minority BOC) on April 6, 2016.

This **FREE** event will be held from 8 am- 2 pm at the Agape Conference Center, 1624 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

Participants will hear from city leaders, learn about the City's procurement procedures and special programs, and they will also get to meet individuals who purchase goods and services for the city on a regular basis.

Participants can register [here](#), for more information contact Erica Wade at (803) 545-4433 or email [ebwade@columbiasc.net](mailto:ebwade@columbiasc.net).



Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803)545-3020

**City to Host Press Conference to Kick-Off National Community Development Week**

**WHAT:** Mayor Steve Benjamin, City council members and the Community Development department staff will hold a press conference to kick-off National Community Development Week in the city of Columbia and recognize all of the programs and projects that were made possible by the Community Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program.

This year marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the CDBG program. The CDBG program provides grants to over 1,200 local governments to create neighborhood approaches that improve the physical, economic and social conditions in communities. The HOME program, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, provides grants to over 600 local participating jurisdictions to create safe, sanitary and affordable housing in communities nationwide.

During the press conference City officials will announce plans for a week-long celebration (March 28-April 2) that will bring citizens, government officials, businesses, media and non-profit organizations events to showcase the impact of CDBG and HOME in our community. National CD Week also serves as a venue for educating the public about the many programs that the City has to offer.

**WHO:** Mayor Steve Benjamin, City council members, S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager & Community Development Staff

**WHEN:** Monday, March 28 at 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Earlewood Park (fountain), 1113 Parkside Dr. Columbia, SC

The press conference will be held in front of the Earlewood Park Community Center by the fountain. This location was selected because the construction of the Earlewood conference room, which is a part of the community center, and the playground were funded by the CDBG Program.

For more information, please call the Community Development Department at 803-545-3373.



Thursday, March 24, 2016

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

### **SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2016**

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

#### **Distribution Line Tree Trimming:**

Hyatt Park Neighborhood  
 Seminary Ridge Homeowners Association  
 Eau Claire Community Council  
 Brandon Acres/Cedar Terrace Neighborhood  
 Shandon Neighborhood Council  
 Central Rosewood Neighborhood Association  
 South Kilbourne Neighborhood Association  
 Riverside Apartments  
 Laurel Hill Homeowners Association  
 Earlewood Community Citizens Organization

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet

below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit [www.sceg.com/treetrimming](http://www.sceg.com/treetrimming).

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email [SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com](mailto:SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com).

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.



Monday, March 28, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### **City Celebrates National Community Development Week: March 28-April 2**

Community Development will host National Community Development Week from March 28-April 2, 2016. During the week the Community Development department will be hosting different activities to recognize all of the programs and projects that were made possible by the Community Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, as well

as provide information on current programs that the City has to offer.

This year marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the CDBG program. The CDBG program provides grants to over 1,200 local governments to create neighborhood approaches that improve the physical, economic and social conditions in communities. The HOME program, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, provides grants to over 600 local participating jurisdictions to create safe, sanitary and affordable housing in communities nationwide. Every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages another \$4.07 in other funding; bringing additional vital resources to communities and every \$1.00 of HOME leverages an additional \$4.06 in other funding. Both programs are administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Almost every neighborhood has been touched by our CDBG programs. When you look at the Vista, Earlewood Park, Elmwood Park, Lyon Street through our fantastic support that we received through the CDBG relief funding now every neighborhood in Southeast Columbia and across the city will benefit from it," said Mayor Steve Benjamin. "It has been a life blood, the renaissance, the revitalization that the City has gone through over the last two decades and we are so proud to come together as one great community to celebrate 42 years of the CDBG program."

During the press conference held this morning, City officials announced the following plans for a week-long celebration (March 28-April 2) that will bring citizens, government officials, businesses, media and non-profit organizations events to showcase the impact of CDBG and HOME in our community:

#### **Tuesday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Pop-Up Station- Drew Wellness Center 10:30a-12:30p  
2101 Walker Solomon Way

#### **Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Pop-Up Station- Washington Square 10:30a-12:30p  
1136 Main St.

#### **Thursday March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Pop-Up Station- City of Columbia Human Resources 10:30a-12:30p  
1225 Lady St.

### **Saturday April 2nd, 2016**

Neighborhood Leadership Summit & Community Development Week Celebration

Pop-Up Station- Martin Luther King, Jr. Park 9:00a-1:30p  
2300 Greene St.

For more information, please contact Community Development at (803) 545-3373. To register for the Neighborhood Leadership Summit, click [here](#).



Monday, March 28, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **James E. Clyburn Golf Center Accepting Registrations for Girls Golf Clinics**

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center, a LPGA-USGA Girls Golf site, will host free golf clinics for girls ages 5-17 beginning in April. The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is located at 2091 Slighs Avenue.

The Girls Golf program will teach participants the fundamentals, etiquette and rules of golf. No equipment is necessary.

Two clinics will be held this year: Junior Girls Clinics also known as LadyBugs (ages 5-9) and Senior Girls Clinics also known as FireFlies (ages 10-18).

The LadyBugs level is open to girls ages 5-9 and will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month beginning May 7 until October 1.

The Fireflies level is open to girls ages 10-18 and will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month beginning April 16 until October 15.

Clinics are limited to 20 participants.

The golf center also offers participants an opportunity to become a member of the National LPGA\*USGA program for a one-time fee of \$16.

For more information on the Girls Golf Program or how to be a National LPGA\*USGA member, please visit the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's "[Golf](#)" page or email [smcdaniel@columbiasc.net](mailto:smcdaniel@columbiasc.net).



March 29, 2016

Contact: Public & Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### **City Announces Know Your City Campaign**

On March 29, 2016, the City of Columbia Public and Media Relations Department announced the new public education campaign, Know Your City. This campaign is geared towards effectively educating citizens by sharing information regarding city services and programs, including details about frequently asked questions and more.

"Every month, we will focus on a specific topic of interest about the City of Columbia and share facts, statistics and details that citizens may not know about our city," stated Public and Media Relations Director Leshia Utsey.

In addition, there will be monthly Know Your City feature departments selected to highlight details about each City department. The feature departments this month are Community

Development and Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications Center.

This week, from March 28 – April 2, the City recognizes National Community Development Week. During the week the Community Development Department will host pop-up stations in each district to showcase projects and programs funded by CDBG and HOME dollars. The celebration kicked off with a press conference on Monday at Earlewood Park to proclaim March 28 – April 2 as National Community Development Week in the City of Columbia.

National Community Development Week also serves as a venue for educating the public about the programs made possible the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. The goal of the week-long celebration is to bring awareness of these programs to the communities, citizens, government officials, businesses, media, and non-profit organizations.

During April 10 – 16, the City will celebrate National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week with the Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications Center. This week-long event honors telecommunications personnel in the public safety community. The Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications Center provides 24/7/365, 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch and Public Service response to citizens and user agencies for both the City of Columbia and Richland County.

Learn more about the Know Your City Campaign at [www.columbiasc.net/knowyourcity](http://www.columbiasc.net/knowyourcity).



Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

### **Planning Commission Meeting Agenda**

The Planning Commission will meet at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, April 4, at City Hall (City Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), 1737 Main Street. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: [www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas](http://www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas).

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact the Zoning Division at 803-545-3333.



Thursday, March 31, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803)545-3020

### **National Community Development Week Celebration Cookout Today**

The Neighborhood Leadership Summit that was scheduled for Saturday, April 2 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park has been cancelled. In Lieu of the Neighborhood Leadership Summit, the Community Development department will hold a celebratory cookout today from 11 am-1 pm at 1225 Lady St. The cookout will include this week's last pop-up station with helpful information and goodies, along with hamburgers and hotdogs.

For more information, please call Community Development at (803)545-3373.



Thursday, March 31, 2016

Contact: Jennifer Satterthwaite at 803-545-0184

### **Storm Drain Marking Month Kick-off Event Scheduled for April 6**

Columbia, SC – March 22, 2016 – The City of Columbia and Richland County will kick off Storm Drain Marking Month on Wednesday April 6th at 10:00am at the corner of Holt and Laurie Streets in the Rosewood neighborhood. City and County stormwater staff will discuss the importance of keeping trash, lawn debris, and other pollutants out of our storm drains. A marking demonstration will be conducted before heading out to mark the surrounding area.

Storm Drain Marking Month runs throughout the month of April. Both the City and the County will be sending out neighborhood volunteers to place markers on storm drains as part of the month-long campaign.

Water that flows into storm drains does not get treated or cleaned. Any pollutants that go into a storm drain flow directly into our waterways. These stormwater pollutants negatively affect water quality for people, fish, and animals.

Therefore, we use drain markers as visual reminders to City and County residents that storm drains lead directly to local waterways. The City of Columbia and Richland County use weatherproof medallions with the image of a fish and water, along with "No Dumping/Drains to River" stamped in large letters.

For more information or to volunteer to mark storm drains in your neighborhood visit us online at [www.MyRiverStartsHere.org](http://www.MyRiverStartsHere.org).

For more information about the event, please contact Jennifer Satterthwaite at [jdsatterthwaite@columbiasc.net](mailto:jdsatterthwaite@columbiasc.net) or 803-545-0184.



Thursday, March 31, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020

### **City of Columbia's #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge Returns for Spring 2016**

The City of Columbia's photo challenge, #LoveColumbia, will begin accepting submissions on Friday, April 1, 2016. #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge encourages residents to submit photos expressing what they love about the City. This annual initiative helps increase community engagement, expand public knowledge of the City's social media sites and increase interaction with citizens via the use of technology.

The City invites local residents to capture the best of Columbia with a photo taken within city limits. Suggested entries include images of landscapes, structures, buildings, historical monuments, etc. This annual community photo challenge is sponsored by the City's Public and Media Relations Department.

"We are excited to begin the process for this year's photo challenge. Every year our citizens submit beautiful photos of fantastic locations around the city and these images portray what they love about Columbia. It is a way for everyone to share their favorite landmarks and iconic sites," Leshia Utsey, Director of Public and Media Relations, stated.

Entries will be accepted April 1-30, 2016. Citizens may participate by submitting their photos with hashtag, #LoveColumbia2016, on the City's following social media sites:

- **Facebook** ([CityofColumbia](#))

- Instagram ([WeAreColumbia](#))
- Twitter ([@CityofColumbia](#))

Voting will be open for the public to pick their favorite photos from May 8 – 21, 2016. The photos with the most votes from each social media site will determine the winners.

First place photos will be featured in the City of Columbia's Annual Report to the Community, with a bio and photo of each winner.



Thursday, March 31, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125

### **Greenview Pool Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pool facility at Greenview Park.

**WHAT:** Greenview Pool Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**WHO:** City Council members, City staff and Community leaders

**WHERE:** Greenview Park, 6700 David Street

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 10 a.m.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.