

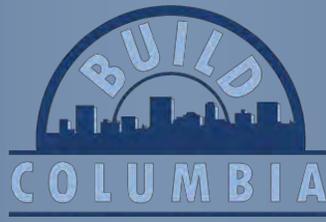
City Manager's *Spotlight*

August 2015



TERESA WILSON
CITY MANAGER

The City Manager's Spotlight provides details about what is happening in the City of Columbia in an effort to keep citizens informed about City operations. The City Manager's Spotlight on August 2015 reflects on the City's FoodShare Open House, City LIGHTs Recognition, Community Development Department's P.E.A.R Program, Conservation Mini-Grants for Local Teachers and more.



Run. Grow. Transform.



We Are Columbia

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CITY AND FOODSHARE COLUMBIA PARTNERS HOST OPEN HOUSE



The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine, the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities at USC, Richland Library, EdVenture Children's Museum and the Columbia Housing Authority have partnered to help increase access to affordable, fresh fruits and vegetables through a new program called FoodShare Columbia.

On Wednesday, August 19, FoodShare Columbia partners hosted an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker

Washington Heights Center for the community to learn about the benefits of the program and how to participate, as well as the importance of access to healthy foods.

The open house included a healthy cooking demonstration from EdVenture Children's Museum and Richland Library's Play Freely Bus.

For more information about FoodShare, please contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net.

LOCAL TEACHERS ELIGIBLE FOR CONSERVATION MINI-GRANTS

The City of Columbia is now supporting a new mini-grant geared towards clean water student projects such as rain barrels, composting initiatives, litter clean-ups, rain gardens, erosion control, stream bank restoration, and more. Awards are competitive and proposals will be evaluated on the project's water-quality impact, feasibility, student and community involvement, and educational outcomes.

Public, private, and alternative schools located in the City of Columbia can apply for Clean Stream Columbia or Conservation Education Mini-Grants up to \$250 each for campus conservation projects and youth environmental education initiatives.

For rules and to download the application, visit [Richland Soil and Water Conservation District's Mini-Grant Announcement](#). Two award cycles are available for both Mini-Grants. Applications received by October 15, 2015, will be considered for fall 2015 funding. Applications received by February 16, 2016, will be considered for spring 2016 funding. Projects must be completed by June 15, 2016.

Schools in the City of Columbia may apply for a Clean Stream Columbia Mini-Grant, funded by the City of Columbia. Schools in Richland County, including City schools, may apply for a Conservation Education Mini-Grant, funded by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District. This Mini-Grant supports conservation-related student projects such as outdoor classrooms, school gardens, nature trails, wildlife habitats, rain barrels, composting initiatives, air quality campaigns, litter clean-ups, rain gardens, erosion control, and stream bank restoration.

For more information, contact Chanda Cooper at 803-576-2084 or cooperc@rcgov.us.

CITY MANAGER'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM DESIGNATES ANOTHER CITY LIGHT



Mayor Benjamin, City Council, City Manager Wilson, Chief Holbrook, MPO Hardin and CPD Officers attend City Council meeting on Aug. 18, 2015.

City Manager Teresa Wilson recognized Master Police Officer (MPO) Josh Hardin as a City L.I.G.H.T. recipient on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 during a City Council meeting.

MPO Hardin and his partner pulled over a car for speeding on July 2, 2015. When they approached the car, they saw Asia Smalls and her baby Kalissa; the baby Kalissa had stopped breathing. MPO Hardin immediately began CPR on the baby and she began to breathe again after a few minutes. EMS arrived and transported her to the hospital, where she recovered.

"I am truly proud of our CPD officers for their sacrifice and commitment every day, but Officer Hardin's grace under pressure and willingness to go above and beyond are certainly worthy of special recognition," stated City Manager Teresa Wilson.

Smalls says she later learned her daughter was suffering from acid reflux, which had blocked her airway. On Wednesday, July 15, 2015, Asia Smalls was reunited with MPO Josh Hardin for the first time since he saved her baby's life. A local television station, WLTX, was there to witness the reunion. Click [HERE](#) to view the video.

MPO Hardin began his career in law enforcement with the Columbia Police Department in August 2009. He was assigned to the Metro D squad for two and half years, where he received the Rookie of the Year Award for the Metro Region as well as obtaining Master Patrolman in 2011. He joined the K-9 unit in June 2012.

"Officer Hardin exemplifies that of a hero, a true guardian of our community and all that is expected of a Columbia Police officer," said Columbia Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook.

City LIGHTs is a platform for recognizing employees who engage in random acts of kindness and go above and beyond the call of duty to help those in need or exceed expectations as an employee and ambassador for the City of Columbia. LIGHT is an acronym that represents the values of the program. Employees are recognized for displaying **Leadership**, **Integrity** and **Generosity** or for having a **Helpful** attitude and sharing their **Talent** to help others or benefit the community.

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BEYOND THE BADGE COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE

Chief William "Skip" Holbrook welcomed five new police officers to the Police Department on Friday, August 7, 2015.

The officers graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and have received their new regional assignments. Their first task involved a week-long community service initiative called, "Beyond the Badge."

The goal of this initiative is to engage CPD officers with the citizens they will serve and protect, while appreciating the various outreach services Columbia has to offer. The initiative also serves as a lesson on the true meaning of public service, compassion and goodwill.

During August 10 through 14, the officers visited and served at the following locations:

- *Harvest Hope Food Bank*
- *Palmetto Health Children's Hospital*
- *Epworth Children's Home*
- *Transitions Homeless Shelter*
- *United Way of the Midlands*
- *Palmetto Place Children's Shelter*
- *Washington St. United Methodist Church – Soup Kitchen*
- *Oak Read High Rise – Bingo Night*



Officers pictured L-R: J. Triplett, C. Starling, R. Madron, Deputy Chief Kelly, G. Brown and M. Frier.

For more information about the Columbia Police Department, please visit ColumbiaPD.net.

CITY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS P.E.A.R PROGRAM

Property Enhancement Assistance for Rental Housing



The City's Community Development Department is accepting applications for its Property Enhancement Assistance for Rental Housing (P.E.A.R) program. Eligible investors can borrow up to \$50,000 with a fixed interest-rate of three percent to be paid back over 30 years.

P.E.A.R is designed for investors seeking to obtain a low-interest and fixed loan to improve their rental property. To be eligible, the rental property must be located in a designated target area within the City limits and renters must be 80 percent below the median income.

For more information or to apply, please call 803-545-3373 to schedule an appointment with a loan officer.

COLUMBIA ANIMAL SHELTER'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL ADOPTION SPECIALS

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter, in conjunction with Lexington and Richland Counties, offered half off of adoptions for cats and dogs on August 20 - 22. Nearly 30 pets were adopted from the Columbia Animal Shelter, which included 15 cats and 14 dogs. Additionally, Lexington County Animal Services had 12 cats and 13 dogs adopted.



"I am very happy about the number of pets that found homes during our Back-to-School special," said Marli Drum, Columbia Animal Services Superintendent. "Our community is doing a great job at helping us achieve our goal of becoming a No Kill Columbia Animal Community."

The Columbia Animal Shelter is committed to becoming a No Kill Columbia Animal Community by 2018. To achieve this goal, they have partnered with local advocates and animal agencies to form a committee to set goals toward this effort.

For more information about pet adoptions and the Columbia Animal Shelter, visit their [Facebook page](#) or call 803-776-PETS.

View the City Talk interview about the Back-to-School Adoption Specials on [YouTube](#) or listen on [SoundCloud](#).

ABOUT TERESA WILSON

Teresa Wilson is the City Manager for the City of Columbia, SC. For more details on the City Manager, visit www.ColumbiaSC.net/City-Manager. For more information about the City of Columbia, visit www.ColumbiaSC.net.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

All my best,

Teresa Wilson



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