



TERESA WILSON
CITY MANAGER

City Manager's Spotlight



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 April 2015 reflects on the National Telecommunicators Week, IDA Program, Utility Billing Migration Project, Earth Day 2015, OBO's How to Land a Government Contract Workshop and more.



Run. Grow. Transform.



We Are Columbia

**APRIL
2015**

CITY SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR NUSA NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AWARD	1
UTILITY BILLING MIGRATION PROJECT	1
LAND A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WORKSHOP	2
LOCAL FINALIST SELECTED FOR INNOVATEHER COMPETITION	2
CITY RECEIVED ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR IDA PROGRAM	3
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK	3
EARTH DAY 2015	4

CITY SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR NUSA NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AWARD



The City's Community Development Department was selected as a finalist for the 2015 Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Best Neighborhood Program Award for its Access Columbia Financial Literacy Conference.

The purpose of the conference was to provide attendees with financial knowledge in a fun environment. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in sessions including how to improve their credit, creating cash on a budget and the importance of investing. Community Development will present its program at the 40th Annual Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Houston, TX on Friday, May 22, 2015.

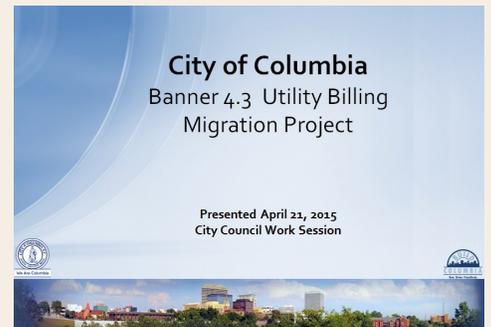
Neighborhoods, USA is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood.

CITY OF COLUMBIA BANNER 4.3 UTILITY BILLING MIGRATION PROJECT

On April 21, the Banner 4.3 Utility Billing Migration Project was presented during the City Council Work Session. The presentation provided an overview of the upcoming changes to the Utility Billing system.

City services will be available during the migration, and customers will have multiple payment options, including online payments through SC.gov, the City's online payment partner. The Customer Care Center will also be available to answer billing questions or process requests for services.

To learn more about the Utility Billing Migration Project, click [HERE](#) to download the presentation.



COLUMBIA ENTRY SELECTED AS FINALIST IN NATIONAL INNOVATEHER COMPETITION



Rozalyn Goodwin and her daughter Gabby with the GaBBY bows at Walgreens.



The Small Business Association (SBA) announced that Columbia's InnovateHER submission has been selected as a finalist for its national competition. Rozalyn Goodwin will be presenting her pitch, GaBBY, along with nine other finalists during SBA's National Small Business Week event on May 8, 2015 in Washington D.C.

GaBBY bows are a double-face, double-snap barrette engineered to prevent hair slippage and perfect for pigtails, braids and twists. It was invented by Rozalyn Goodwin and her daughter to save families time, money and frustration.

InnovateHER provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. As a finalist, GaBBY is eligible to compete for InnovateHER's top three awards and a total of \$30,000 in prize money.



CITY'S OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTS LAND A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WORKSHOP



The Office of Business Opportunities hosted the How to Land a Government Contract Workshop on Thursday, April 16 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 1509 Lady Street. The guest speaker was Scott H. Bellows, a member of the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC) and a former contracting officer with the Agency for International Development.

The goal of the workshop was to help contractors understand what they need in order to land a government contract with an emphasis on state and federal contracting. Topics included registering with the government, where to find bids and how to find subcontracting work.

CITY RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM

The Assets for Independence Program, a division of the Federal Health and Human Services, announced a \$75,000 grant that will be matched by the City with an additional \$75,000 for a total of \$150,000 for the City's IDA program.

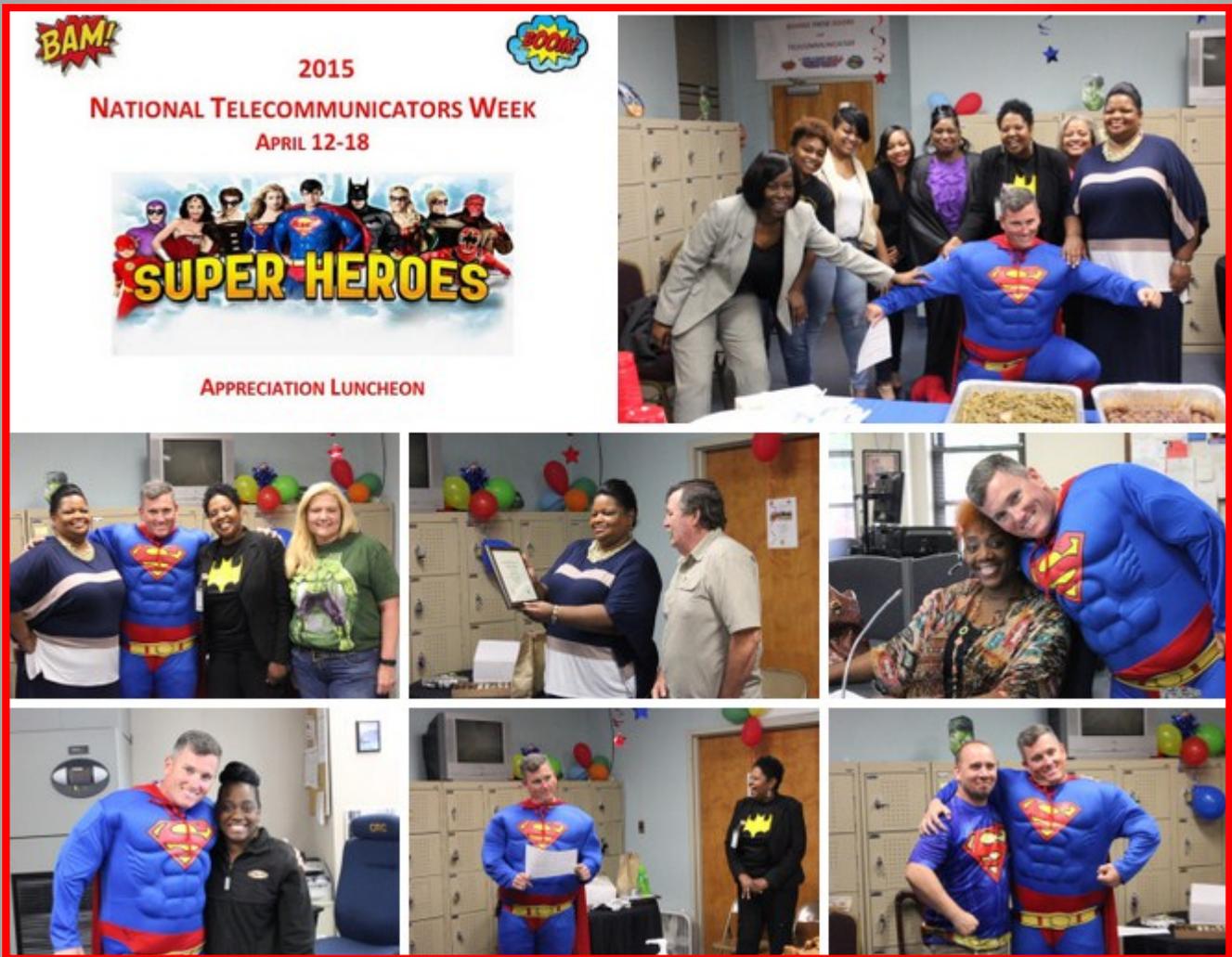
The IDA program is a three to one matched savings account that allows individuals to use their savings and match money toward a home, a small business or post-secondary education.

To qualify for the program, applicants must:

- Reside within the City's limits
- Must be 200 percent of Federal Poverty and have \$10,000 or less in household assets
- Must save \$1000 over a minimum of six months and attend financial literacy and asset training

Successful participants will be eligible for a \$3000 match to purchase their first home, start a small business or go back to school. Interested residents can apply until the funds are committed.

2015 NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



The City of Columbia celebrated National Telecommunicators Week, April 12 - 18, with an appreciation luncheon for the Columbia Richland 9-1-1 Communications Center staff.

CITY OF COLUMBIA ENCOURAGED CITIZENS TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2015



Earth Day was founded on April 22, 1970, to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution. Earth Day aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for earth's environment.

Here are some ways to celebrate Earth Day every day :

- Keep your “gently used” shoes out of the landfill by donating them to Keep the Midlands Beautiful for reuse in developing countries. For more information on the shoe recycling drive, which will last through May 11., visit www.keepthemidlandsbeautiful.org/
- Reduce your energy consumption by unplugging items that you don't use often, adjusting your thermostat several degrees and/or using cold water in your washer.
- There's no time like Earth Day to make your world a little greener—in a literal sense. Planting trees, bushes and any plant life at all not only beautifies your home space, but also absorbs some of the CO2 from the air. If you plant a tree, be sure to register it in our 10,000 Trees Program.
- Shop at a farmers market. In addition to getting some of the freshest food in town, you'll also be supporting local farmers and keeping the money you spend in the Midlands. Plus your food won't have to travel thousands of miles to get to you!
- Recycle your electronic waste! You can drop off anything with a plug at the City's Public Work Facility, and it will be recycled for free. Visit columbiasc.net/solid-waste details about how to recycle your e-waste, as well as other nonstandard items like cooking oil and clothing.
- Enjoy Nature's bounty by having a picnic in one of the City's 60 parks! Make it Earth-friendly by using reusable containers and utensils.
- Change a Light! Replace your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR. If every American home did this, we would save \$8 billion each year in energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases emissions equivalent to those from about 10 million cars!
- Clean up some trash on your block or street. All you need is a plastic bag and your walking shoes. If you want to organize a neighborhood cleanup, contact Keep the Midlands Beautiful for free supplies.

If you have questions or want to know more information, please visit www.columbiasc.net/solid-waste.



GO RED FASHION SHOW YIELDS \$3500 FOR AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION



The City of Columbia presented a check for \$3,500 to the American Heart Association during the City Council meeting held on April 22. The donated funds were from the proceeds from the City of Columbia's Inaugural Go Red Fashion Show. The fashion show was held on March 20, 2015 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Local citizens, professional models and City of Columbia officials gathered together for a night of red fashions on the runway to help support those affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women.

"The city of Columbia and the American Heart Association have had a relationship over the last few years and we have worked together to increase awareness of heart disease and prevention in the community. This year we wanted to step it up to the next level and the fashion show was a great way to heighten awareness and also raise money that could be used here in our community to help support a worthy cause," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated. Councilwoman Devine was the host for the inaugural Go Red Fashion Show.

The fashion show featured celebrity models, which included local elected officials, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors. The grand finale featured fashions by Sergio Hudson, a nationally renowned designer and winner of "Styled to Rock". Special entertainment was provided by Comedian Nikita B. The Inaugural Go Red Fashion Show was a success and brought awareness to heart disease.

Approximately 10 retail sponsors, 21 volunteers, 6 makeup artists and 28 models either donated clothes or volunteered their time to support this one of kind event.

Councilwoman Devine commented, "The true spirit of Columbia's residents and business owners was truly displayed during the planning for the fashion show. Everyone we contacted agreed to help and we garnered an overwhelming amount of pro bono services and in kind support for the event. We live in a city that is filled with caring people who support their community."

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!

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