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March 2016

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City Manager's Spotlight

Teresa Wilson
Columbia City Manager

BUILD COLUMBIA
Run. Grow. Transform.

CITY of COLUMBIA, S.C.
We Are Columbia

Office of the City Manager

P.O. Box 147, Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-545-3026

Fax: 803-545-3051

E-mail: CityManager@ColumbiaSC.net

HUD Awards $157 Million in Disaster Recovery Funds in SC

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro announced on March 1, that $157 million will be awarded to South Carolina communities for disaster recovery efforts following significant rainfall and flooding in October 2015. The funds will help to meet remaining unmet housing, economic development, and infrastructure needs that resulted from thousands of homes and small businesses being damaged or destroyed.

"After disaster strikes, the most important task is getting folks back to a safe home quickly, so they can return to their daily lives," said Secretary Castro. "With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters, we must take every opportunity to plan better and ensure faster recovery for communities across the nation. With this $142 million disaster recovery investment, we uphold our commitment to helping these communities recover stronger and be better prepared for future disasters."

The disaster recovery funds announced will be allocated to the following grantees for long-term disaster recovery efforts:

Grantee	Allocation
Lexington County	$16,332,000
Columbia	$19,989,000
Richland County	$23,516,000
State of South Carolina	$96,827,000
TOTAL	$156,664,000

Congress appropriated $300 million to address the unmet recovery needs in communities that were most impacted and distressed by a major flooding disaster in 2015. It was determined that communities in South Carolina and Texas, will receive recovery funds due to them having significantly higher unmet needs than jurisdictions impacted by other eligible disasters last year. With these funds, HUD is also encouraging grantees to incorporate resilience measures into their local action plans to ensure communities are more prepared for the next storm. Since Hurricane Sandy, HUD has taken significant steps to encourage resiliency planning and disaster preparedness in communities nationwide, including the $1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition.

HUD allocates CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds based on the best available data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration disaster loan programs to identify the areas of greatest need in the impacted region. Following a Presidential disaster declaration, CDBG-DR funds may be made available to states, local governments, and insular areas that have significant unmet recovery needs and the capacity to carry out a disaster recovery program.

The City Manager's Spotlight provides details about what is happening in the City in an effort to keep citizens informed about City operations.

City of Columbia Street Division Wins SCAPA Award

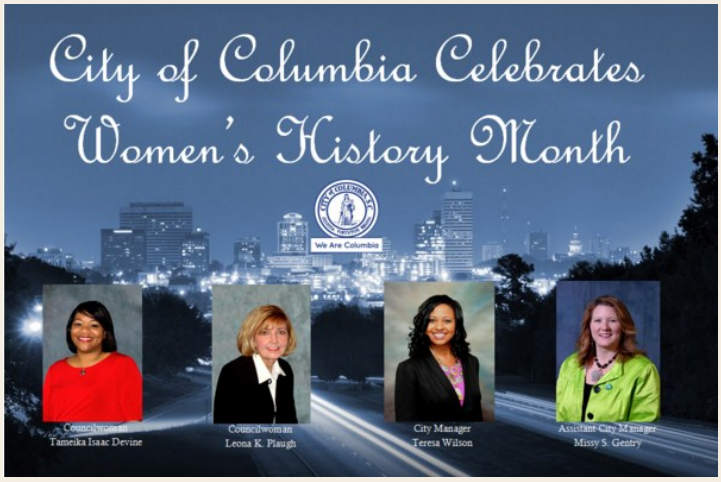
The City of Columbia's Street Division has been recognized by the South Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association (SCAPA) for the Columbiana Drive Reconstruction Project. They recently received the 2015 Project Delivery Award.

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 home-owners 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.

City Celebrates Women's History Month



Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. The United States has observed it annually throughout the month of March since 1987.

View profiles of the City Leaders featured above at ColumbiaSC.net/CelebrateColumbia.

Know Your City Campaign

How well do you know your city?

On March 29, the City's 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.

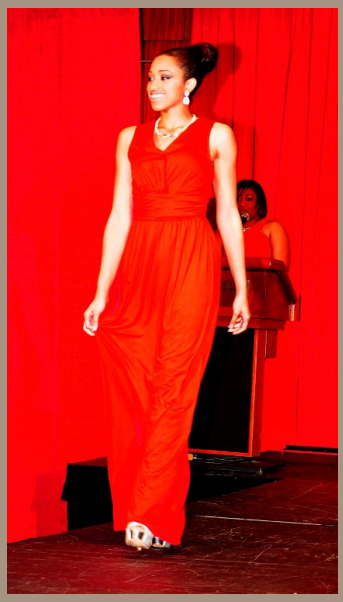
Learn more about the City at www.columbiasc.net/knowyourcity.

2nd Annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show

To help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the number #1 killer of women, the City of Columbia hosted the 2nd annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show on Friday, March 11 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. All proceeds from the Go Red Columbia Fashion Show benefit the American Heart Association.

The fashion show featured celebrity models, a "City Kids" segment, attire from local retail sponsors and entertainment. The event was hosted by Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine.

Go Red Columbia Fashion Show Photo Gallery



To view more images from the Go Red Columbia Fashion Show, visit the City's photo gallery at [go-red-columbia-fashion-show-2016].

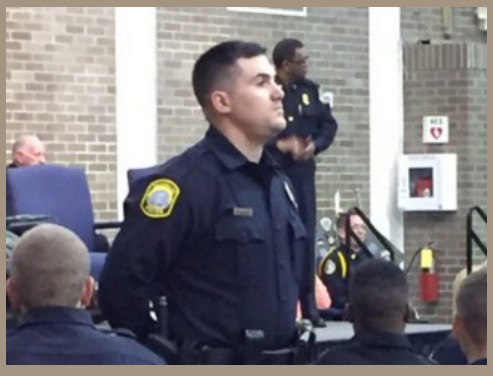
Columbia Police Department Welcomes New Officers

Chief William "Skip" Holbrook attended the Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) graduation ceremony on Friday, March 4 to welcome new officers to the Columbia Police Department.

OFFICER HIGHLIGHTS

New CPD Officer and USC graduate K. Davis interned with the department prior to attending CJA. He is pictured below with his family vising from Maryland.

During the ceremony, CPD Officer D. Neuman was recognized for being a Criminal Justice Academy Class Leader.



See more photos from this event at https://twitter.com/ColumbiaPDSC

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.

Puttin' on the Ritz Senior Talent Show at Greenview Park

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

The showcase featured the many talents of local seniors age 55 and older. There were 10 performances, which included monologues, singing, dancing, comedy, instrumental (guitar), oratorical speech, poem and a Black History skit.

Talent show winners from left to right:

1st place: Inez Bush, monologue

2nd place: Patricia Sutton Dease, singing

3rd place: Josephine Hall, monologue

Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop Series

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF COLUMBIA

The City's Community Development department hosted a free financial education workshop series beginning March 19 at Earlewood Park Community Center. During the workshops, participants learned the importance of banking, budgeting, saving, building credit, homeownership and life skills.

For more information about the Financial Education Workshop Series, please call (803) 545-3373 or email RPKing@columbiasc.net.

Columbia Fire Department's 2016 MDA Boot Drive

The Columbia Fire Department (CFD) announced the 2016 Muscular Dystrophy Association's Boot Drive on March 14. MDA's relationship with the CFD goes back more than 50 years. The drive grew in the late 1990's when they were allowed to collect in the intersections and on duty. At that time, the department was inspired by the grandson of Retired Battalion Chief Taylor McEntire who was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. Taylor's spirit continues to be a driving force behind the drive that has helped families throughout the Midlands.

For more information about the MDA, visit www.mda.org.

About Teresa Wilson

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