

City Manager's Spotlight



From the desk of City Manager Teresa Wilson

CITY MANAGER'S SPOTLIGHT ON MAY 2014

The purpose of the City Manager's Spotlight is to provide details about what is happening in the City and to stay connected with the community. The City Manager's Spotlight on May 2014 reflects information about Clean Water 2020, the Columbia Animal Shelter's Animal Cruelty Awareness Campaign, Police Department Promotional Ceremony, Public Safety Job Fair and additional City highlights and accomplishments.

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

- Columbia Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook proudly announced three significant promotions during the CPD Promotional Ceremony on May 14 at Columbia Police Headquarters. Most notably, he named his second in command.
- Chief Holbrook said, "These notable promotions mark a positive progression for the Columbia Police Department. These men and women have an exceptional level of law enforcement experience. Their advancements help CPD build upon its vision. Their proficiency will continue to benefit City of Columbia citizens."



(L-R) Deputy Chief Melron Kelly, Chief William Holbrook, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Captain Kellie Yates and Captain Tim Holbrook.

- Chief Holbrook has promoted Melron Kelly from Major to Deputy Chief, or second in command.
- Deputy Chief Kelly will continue to command the Uniform Operations Bureau which includes:

- Patrol Division
- Gang Unit
- Drug Suppression Team
- Pro-Active Community Enforcement
- K9 Unit
- Traffic Safety Unit
- Warrant Team
- Crime Prevention Unit
- School Resource Officers
- Community Safety Officers



Deputy Chief Melron Kelly is joined by his daughter during the promotional ceremony.

- Additionally, Kellie Yates has been promoted from Lieutenant to Captain of West Region which encompasses the Harbison area. As the commander Yates supervises up to twenty officers. The division is responsible for providing year round, twenty four (24) hour patrol services to the City of Columbia residents.
- Also, Tim Holbrook (No relation to Chief Holbrook) has been promoted from Lieutenant to Captain of North Region which encompasses North Columbia. As the commander he supervises up to sixty sworn officers and the division is responsible for providing year round, twenty four (24) hour patrol services to the City of Columbia residents.
- After the promotional announcements, Chief Holbrook awarded the following officers their service pins for their dedication to CPD:

➤ 5 Years:

- Blackwell, Christopher
- Brown, Carl
- Desrochers, Jr. Scott
- Gilbert, Kyle
- Green, Antonio
- Manning, Ronald
- Schaefer, Thomas
- Singleton, Kevin
- Viehweg, Anthony
- Weiler, Daniel
- White, John S.



➤ 10 Years:

- Mattier, Lawrence
- Narewski, Christopher
- Robinson, Paul E.
- Uhall, Robert
- Wilson, Ronda

➤ 15 Years:

- Fisher, James
- Scott, William
- Vanhouten, Jonathan

20 Years:

- Holmes, Mary
- Wise, George

CITY OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY JOB FAIR

- The City of Columbia held a Public Safety Job Fair on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Columbia Police Department. The job fair was a joint effort between the Columbia Police Department, the Columbia Fire Department and Columbia-Richland 911 Communications.



- Applicants were advised prior to the job fair that the City of Columbia was seeking qualified, productive and motivated police officers, firefighters and 911 call takers to provide efficient and effective services for our citizens. There were 125 attendees that participated in the job fair.
- The promotional ceremony and the public safety job fair were held during National Police Week, May 11-17, which memorializes law enforcement officers who laid down their lives in service to the nation.

COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES LAUNCHES ANIMAL CRUELTY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- Due to the number of animals suffering from abuse and neglect, Columbia Animal Services is launching an animal cruelty awareness campaign. The campaign is a part of Be Kind to Animals Week, an annual week that encourages compassion toward animals, but will be a continuing initiative in order to inform citizens to report animal abuse.



Did you know?

- Neglect and abandonment are the most common forms of companion animal abuse in the United States.
- Pit bull dogs are the most common victims of animal cruelty.
- 71% of domestic violence victims report that their abuser also targeted their animal.

- The goal of this campaign is to encourage Columbia citizens to call Columbia Animal Services or their local animal control if they suspect animal neglect or abuse. Additionally, the shelter wants to provide tips on proper feeding and care for animals. In many cases, we find that simple education and a few adjustments in the animal's environment is all that is needed.
- If you know of a dog, a cat or any animal that is suffering, please contact your local animal control at 803-776-7387 or animal@columbiasc.net.

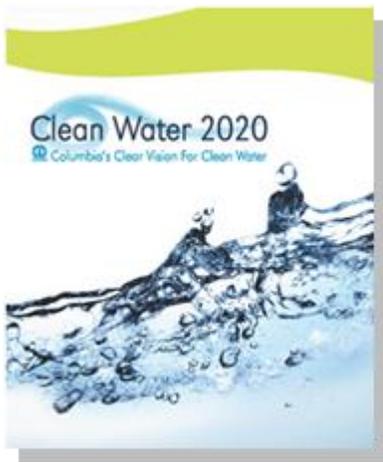
CLEAN WATER 2020 UPDATE: CITY MAKING STRIDES IN SYSTEM-WIDE SEWER OVERHAUL

- During May 2014, the Utilities and Engineering Department distributed an update to citizens regarding the Clean Water 2020 initiative.
- On July 9, 2013, the City launched the Clean Water 2020 program – an overarching revamping and revitalization of its wastewater collection and treatment system. This program builds on major upgrades and rehabilitation work that began as early as 2005 as part of the City's dedicated effort to improve its entire sewer system.
- So what has the City been up to since then? The City has already evaluated a significant portion of its sewer lines and manholes. Since 2009, the City has assessed approximately 15% of its 1,100 mile system. "This puts us well on our way to meeting our goal of assessing the entire system in 10 to 15 years," says Bill Davis, City of Columbia Wastewater Engineer. According to Davis, "This work is critical for the rest of the Clean Water 2020 program because it allows us to prioritize exactly where work needs to be done. Some older areas will require major rehabilitation while other, newer areas are still in good condition."



- The City has also completed work on four of its five major pump stations, with the fifth due for completion in Summer, 2014. Its most recently completed pump station, the West Columbia Pump Station, is also its largest. Designed to withstand 100-year floods, it has a back-up generator large enough to run a small wastewater treatment plant. This generator will start up within seconds of a power failure and, since it runs on natural gas, can run indefinitely even under flooded conditions.

- But the City's efforts don't just stop when construction ends. "How staff manages and operates the system on a daily basis is critical to protecting our investment, which is why training is so important," says Davis. The City is modernizing its operation and maintenance practices—from formalizing design and construction standards for contractors to developing standard operating and maintenance manuals for staff. And staff is benefitting, too, with training to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. In 2013, the City began an Apprenticeship Program where wastewater collection system and wastewater plant operators can earn certifications and licenses in their fields of expertise.
- The City is also working with citizens to protect our investment. Through its Commercial Fats, Oils and Grease Program, staff is working with local food service establishments like restaurants and hotels to keep sewer-clogging grease out of the sewer system. The City has also launched the "Trash the Grease" and "Trash the Wipes" public service announcements to educate residents on how everyone can help protect our sewer system.
- So what effect is all this work having on sanitary sewer overflows? The City began tracking sanitary sewer overflows on a fiscal year basis (July 1-June 30) in 2008. In 2008/2009, the City experienced 455 overflows. By 2012/2013, the number of overflows had been reduced by over 70%. According to Davis, though, "The extreme wet weather this year has been a challenge." Over two-thirds of the overflows seen in 2013/2014 so far can be attributed to wet-weather conditions. However, on the upside, grease-related overflows continue to show a decline, meaning the City's continued efforts in implementing the Commercial Fats, Oils & Grease Program are paying off.
- For more details on Clean Water 2020, [sign up for alerts today!](#)



- Check out the latest videos from the Utilities and Engineering Department below:

- [Only Columbia Tap Water Delivers](#)
- [Trash The Wipes](#)
- [See It Smell It Tell It](#)
- [My River Starts Here](#)
- [Trash The Poop](#)

CITY OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES HOSTED SECOND ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK CONFERENCE

- The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities hosted its second annual Small Business Week Conference on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.
- More than 200 local business owners and leaders attended this year's conference. One business owner even traveled from Conway, SC to learn how Columbia is supporting local business. The purpose of this conference was to recognize the successes of local small businesses, provide management tools to be successful, and, of course, provide networking opportunities for attendees.



- Attendees heard from panelists and speakers on ways to secure a contract with the City, technology resources and business creation and sustainability.
- City Manager Teresa Wilson gave opening remarks and highlighted the importance of small businesses and their impact on the success and growth of Columbia.
- Mayor Steve Benjamin presented Jamie Scott, owner of Jamie Scott Fitness, with a proclamation for the Business Spotlight Program. Mr. Scott was named the Business Spotlight Honoree for the first quarter of 2014. Mr. Scott opened Jamie Scott Fitness, a gym offering unique group fitness classes, personal training, nutrition services and more, in 2008. He is truly passionate about not only providing a great service to the people of Columbia, but also about making Columbia a healthier, fitter city.



- Dr. Louis B. Lynn, president of ENVIRO Ag Science, was this year's keynote speaker. Dr. Lynn established ENVIRO Ag Science, Inc. in 1985, which has become the largest African-American owned landscape firm in South Carolina.
- The City of Columbia has partnered with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce to host events and workshops throughout Small Business Week to ensure that all tools are provided to local small business owners.
- Small businesses drive the U.S. economy by providing jobs for over half of the nation's private workforce. Yet small businesses also face many obstacles that stall or prevent their growth and development, including access to capital, effective marketing strategies, adequate accounting systems, and comprehensive business plans.

- The Office of Business Opportunities has three divisions that are designed to help meet the needs of small, minority and women owned businesses in the City of Columbia: (1) Commercial Lending; (2) Technical Assistance, Education and Advocacy; and (3) Contractor and Supplier Diversity.
- The Office of Business "Opportunities" uses several economic development tools to provide creative business opportunities to address many of the obstacles that face small businesses.

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FAN THE HEAT PROGRAM

- Columbia Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook announced that the Columbia Police Department began accepting donations for the Annual 'Fan the Heat' Program.
- Since its inception in 1995, the Fan the Heat program has assisted more than 7,000 Columbia citizens. The program is primarily designed for senior citizens, residents with medical concerns/ disabilities and families with small children.
- In order to make this year's event a success, donations from the public are needed. In particular, CPD will be collecting fans, air conditioning units and financial contributions for worthy citizens until Saturday, August 30. Air conditioning units are of greater need.



CPD Officers assist with donations from 2013 'Fan the Heat' program.

- Donations can be dropped off at CPD Headquarters located at #1 Justice Square. Citizens who wish to make a monetary donation can make a check payable to: The Columbia Police Municipal Funds. (Note "Fan the Heat" Program on the check.)
- Eligibility requirements include:
 - Citizens must be 55 years-old or older
 - Citizens must provide name, address, telephone number (to ensure that the fan or air conditioner is delivered to the correct address)

Exception:

- If person has respiratory problem or a major illness, he or she can bring in a doctor's statement regardless of age to receive assistance.
- If a citizen needs assistance from the Fan the Heat program, they can call the Crime Prevention Unit at 545-3555; or CPD's Telephone Response Unit at 545-3500.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL RECEIVES THE PRESERVATION/RESTORATION AWARD

- To celebrate the accomplishments of local architectural, construction and rehabilitation projects, Historic Columbia Foundation held its annual Preservation Awards Luncheon on Thursday, May 8 at 701 Whaley.



Before and after photos of the renovations completed in Council Chambers.

- The restoration of the third floor council chambers in City Hall began as a small project intended to repair historic plaster and paint. As City of Columbia staff removed ceiling tiles, they uncovered a long-hidden skylight, prompting City Council to increase the project's scope. The final restoration came to also include new lighting, a new audio/visual system and the complete restoration of the historic skylight. Previous renovations to Council Chambers had severely damaged the original plaster ceiling and parts of the walls; the specialists in historic plaster restoration at Dillon Construction addressed structural concerns, restored damaged plaster and replicated missing decorative elements to bring the room back to its original appearance. The project was completed with a historically-sensitive color palette and subtly selected modern bench and carpet fabrics.
- For decades Historic Columbia has recognized local projects that have maintained or added to the historical, architectural and cultural heritage throughout Columbia and Richland County by presenting recent preservation projects with awards in Preservation Leadership, Preservation/Restoration, Adaptive Use and New Construction in a Historic Context.
- To view more photos of the renovations in Council Chambers, click [HERE](#).

CITY OF COLUMBIA ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCH OF WALK BIKE COLUMBIA

- The City of Columbia has partnered with the Central Midlands Council of Governments to develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and Bike Share Plan, called Walk Bike Columbia, with funding provided in part by the Federal Transit Administration, Palmetto Health, and Abacus Planning. The planning process was kicked off at a press conference on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 and will extend through April 2015. The project will recommend a network of complete streets for the City of Columbia, as well as biking and walking related programs and policies. The completion of this Plan will set the stage for the City of Columbia achieving a higher national designation as a [Bicycle Friendly Community](#) and becoming the first nationally designated [Walk Friendly Community](#) in South Carolina!
- In recent years, the City of Columbia and partners have taken steps to improve its multi-modal network and advance the culture of bicycling and walking and transit. Examples include additions to the Three Rivers Greenway, the completion of Phase I of the Vista Greenway, installation of bicycle corrals and the first HAWK pedestrian signal in South Carolina, as well as successful programs like Bike and Walk to School Day, “handlebar happy

hours,” and the creation of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). In 2008, Columbia earned the national designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community and in 2012, the University of South Carolina became the first Bicycle Friendly University in the state and one of only a few dozen around the country.



Bike racks located in front of City Hall.

- Columbia, however, like many communities, can be challenging to navigate on foot and by bike. In some cases, even transit is difficult to access. Columbia’s streets need to be designed to move people, regardless of their choice of travel mode, and to remove barriers to pedestrian and bicyclist mobility. Creating active transportation and transit access to destinations in Columbia will improve the quality of life for residents, enhance the experience of visitors, and positively impact the region’s health and economic vitality.
- With the launch of the walkbikecolumbia.org website citizens will be able to learn about the planning process, find out about public meetings and important project dates, suggest walking and bicycling improvements, and review draft materials from the Plan.
- In addition to the launch of the new website, the City announced the expansion of its expanding Employee Bike Share Program. City employees will be able to reserve bikes at the three City locations.

GIRLS WHO DREAM EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

- City Manager Teresa Wilson spoke to young ladies in grades four and five in the Girls Who Dream Symposium at her alma mater, Leaphart Elementary School. Ms. Wilson did her presentation about “girls who rock,” featuring influential women such as Susan B. Anthony, Michelle Obama, Ashley Tisdale and several others. She showed quotes attributed to these women and spoke with the students about how they can create their own legacy. Additionally, Ms. Wilson shared her personal journey about becoming the City Manager of Columbia.



City Manager Wilson is pictured with participants from the Girls Who Dream Symposium at her alma mater, Leaphart Elementary School.

- Wilson talked to the group about breaking barriers and taking responsibility. “Always remember that you can be anything and do anything if you are willing to work hard and always focus on doing the right thing,” she said, adding details about her role at the City of Columbia. “Doing the right thing is hard sometimes, but it pays off. You will sleep very well at night, knowing that you have done the right thing.”



City Manager Wilson and student interact during program at Leaphart Elementary.
(photo by Rachel Ham)

- Leaphart Elementary School is the only engineering magnet school for elementary students in the Midlands. Girls Who Dream is a celebration of the individuality and strength of these girls and a challenge for them to take ownership of their success and to dream of all that can be accomplished.

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,



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