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We Are Columbia

City eNews



Run. Grow. Transform.



THE CITY OF COLUMBIA IS NOW ACCEPTING ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR PARKING CITATIONS

The City of Columbia Parking Services Department is working with T2 Systems and South Carolina Interactive to develop a real time payment system which offers those receiving citations to pay them online within minutes of receiving them.

Parking Services has installed new software and wireless citation writing devices to make payments easier for members of the public receiving citations.

Customers may go to www.columbiasc.net/parking for a link to the payment site or go directly to <https://columbiasc.t2hosted.com> to make payments. To pay a citation, the license tag of the vehicle and an unpaid citation number will be needed.

“This is a program we have been working on for some time,” said City Parking Services Director John David Spade. “We spent a lot of time working on a solution which is highly secure and which allows someone to pay a citation online within minutes of receiving one.”

When an enforcement monitor issues a citation, that data is transmitted wirelessly to T2 Systems, the cloud-based service provider used by the City. That citation may be paid at any time after it is written. Payments can be made online, by mail, or in person at 1136 Washington St. or 820 Washington St.

“The total price which will be charged to customers paying online includes funds used to develop, maintain, enhance and expand the electronic payment service they are being offered,” Spade said.

Additional enhancements for parking customers are scheduled to roll out in the coming months. By the end of June, Spade expects the pay by cell service offered by Passport Parking to be up and running. This will allow parkers to pay for metered parking spaces by phone or by using Passport’s phone app.

“We will also be adding features to our online payment system,” Spade said. “The first new feature will allow customers to log in to see their account history for the past three years.” Currently, only unpaid citations will be listed.

For those who have questions about these parking programs, Spade suggests calling the Parking Services Customer Center at 545-4015.

RED NOSE DAY

City Manager Teresa Wilson and daughter, Alex, participated in Red Nose Day on May 21, 2015.

Red Nose Day is a campaign dedicated to raising money for children and young people living in poverty by simply having fun and making people laugh. The inaugural Red Nose Day will be held in the US on May 21, 2015. People across the country came together to have fun and raise funds and awareness.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Red Nose Day.



We Are Columbia



CITY COUNCIL APPROVES CPD COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and City Council took another important step in what has become a series of bold public safety reforms designed to promote transparency and accountability when Council voted unanimously at their Work Session earlier today to establish the Community Police Advisory Board.

Made up of residents from across the city and representing Columbia's diverse demographic make-up, this 10-member board will be appointed by City Council in order to ensure community engagement and input in a broad spectrum of law enforcement operations and policies.

"From increasing public safety funding to leveraging new technologies, we've invested a lot over the past several years to ensure our citizens have a world-class police force," said Mayor Benjamin. "But all the new tools, training and technology in the world is no substitute for community trust and that's why this is so important.

"This has been a true citywide effort and I couldn't be more proud."

The latest in a series of law enforcement reforms, today's action comes after the landmark release of the Columbia Police Department's 2014 Internal Affairs Report last week and the launch of Mayor Benjamin's Justice for All initiative earlier this year.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

Registrations for the City's Parks and Recreation Department's summer camps are underway. Various summer camps will be held beginning Monday, June 1 and ending on Friday, August 14.

Click [here](#) to download a registration form.



SUMMER MOVIE SERIES RETURNS

Movies will be held on Friday nights during June and July.

The following movies are free and open to the public:

June 5: SpongeBob: Out of Water

June 12: Penguins of Madagascar

June 19: How to Train Your Dragon 2

June 26: Mr. Peabody & Sherman

July 3: Home

July 10: The Book of Life

July 17: Rio 2

July 24: Ferngully: The Last Rainforest

July 31: The Croods

There will be face painting, games and more fun prior to the start of the film at 7 p.m. Face painting will be available for a nominal fee.

Attendees can bring blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. No glass containers and alcoholic beverages allowed.

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

MAXCY GREGG POOL SUMMER HOURS

Maxcy Gregg swimming pool is open for the summer and will remain open until Monday, September 7, 2015. Maxcy Gregg Pool is located at 1655 Park Circle.

The pool will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. from Tuesday, May 26 through Thursday, May 28.

Regular hours for recreational swimming, which begin on Saturday, May 30, are as follows:

Monday through Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m.

Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sundays from 2 to 6 p.m.

The pool will be closed on Fridays for maintenance.

Swim lessons are offered during the months of June and July.



Fees

Per visit: \$3 (ages 12 and under), \$4 (ages 13 and over)

Season tickets: \$80 (ages 12 and under), \$120 (ages 13 and over)

Group passes: \$75 (child), \$100 (adults)

Swim Lessons: \$35 per session

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

FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES RETURNS TO FINLAY PARK

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's free Summer Concert Series will kick off on Saturday, June 6 in Finlay Park located at 930 Laurel Street.

The Summer Concert Series will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. on the following dates:

June 6: Dante Lewis featuring Kevin Whalum

June 20: The Palmetto Latin Orchestra

June 27: The 246th Army Band (South Carolina Army National Guard)

July 4: The Original Tams (Capital City Beach Party)

July 18: Glenn Jones

August 1: LTD

August 15: Midnight Star

All concerts are free and open to the public.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs. No pets allowed. Vendors will be available.

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



We Are Columbia



FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE AND FOCUSED ON MANY MORE

The Community Development Department commemorated 40 years of service to the Midlands with events during the month of May.

In conjunction with the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods, the Community Development Department held a banquet to celebrate their 40th anniversary. More than 400 people attended, which included Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson and Congressman James E. Clyburn, who served as the keynote speaker.

“I must salute Terry Bott, the first Community Development Director,” said Deborah Livingston, director of Community Development Department. “Because of his leadership, we are sustainable today.”

Initially, the Community Development Department purpose was to rehabilitate housing and clear slums, while preserving the residential heritage of the city. Four decades later, it has done that and a lot more. The Community Development Department has used more than \$200 million to leverage well over \$1 billion in investments throughout the city. This includes residential and business loans, funding for parks and comprehensive training programs for Columbia citizens.

The Community Development Department also held a public screening of their documentary “40 years-- Building Communities and Transforming Lives” at the Nickelodeon Theatre. The documentary showed the transformation of Columbia over the last 40 years and included perspectives from loan recipients, former Community Development Department staff members and Columbia City Council.

“I am honored to be able to come to work every day with a dedicated team. It is our plan to continue to ‘Build Communities and Transform Lives’,” said Deborah Livingston.



COLUMBIA PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL ANNOUNCES AFFILIATION WITH NEW YORK METS

Hardball Capital, the New York Mets and the City of Columbia today announced that Columbia's new Minor League Baseball team will be the South Atlantic League affiliate of the New York Mets. The Mets affiliate currently plays in Savannah, GA. While located in Savannah, the team has won ten South Atlantic League titles, most recently in 2013, and developed over 100 future major leaguers.

Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson was on hand for the announcement. "We are excited about returning to Columbia where we had a presence for over two decades (1983-2004)," said Alderson. "So many of the top Mets stars, like current team captain David Wright, got their start in Columbia. The plans for Spirit Communications Park look spectacular, and we can't wait to develop the next generation of Mets Major Leaguers here."

As members of the South Atlantic League, Columbia's newest home town team will play against rivals such as the Greenville Drive, Charleston River Dogs, Rome Braves, Augusta Greenjackets and Greensboro Grasshoppers.

Spirit Communications Park, the new home of the team, is currently under construction and slated to open in March of 2016. In addition to Spirit Communications Park, Columbia Common will be home to residential and office buildings as well as retail and hotel uses. The first commercial project is under construction along the first base line of the ballpark. It was recently announced that the entire Columbia Common development will be a "gigabit community" with ultra high-speed data service provided by Spirit Communications.

"We're very excited because not only is today about welcoming Minor League Baseball back to the City of Columbia, it's about celebrating the new spirit of energy and enthusiasm sweeping across our city like never before," said Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin. "Something special is happening in Columbia and this team is a big part of it."

Later this summer and through the fall and winter, the team will be "staffing up" in anticipation of the opening of Spirit Communications Park. "We are building our Columbia operation as we speak, and will be expanding our full-time staff to approximately 30 before Opening Day," said Freier.



COLUMBIA URBAN LEAGUE NEEDS HELP PUTTING MORE STUDENTS TO WORK

The Columbia Urban League receives nearly four times more applications for its summer work program than they have jobs for each year. In order to put more students to work, the Columbia Urban League is seeking the community's help.

In April, the Columbia Urban League launched its fundraising campaign for its Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP). The water bill campaign gives Columbia water customers the opportunity to donate to the program by adding a donation of their choice to their monthly water bill. Additionally, people can also donate directly through the Columbia Urban League's website www.colaurbanleague.weebly.com. The goal is to provide more students with jobs this summer.

SWELP is an evidence-based career development program for youth ages 14-19. SWELP provides youth with valuable work experience that helps foster responsibility, a strong work ethic and self-esteem. The purpose of this program is to provide primarily disadvantaged youth with summer work experience and service learning in an effort to help them gain the necessary fundamental skills they will need to ensure future employment opportunities.

For more information, call the Columbia Urban League at 803-799-8150.



Click [here](#) to view City Talk interview.

Support Summer Employment!
Your contribution can make a difference in the life of a child!

Select your Summer Work Experience Leadership Program donation amount below:

\$1.00 \$10.00
 \$5.00 _____

Monthly donations will be added to the primary account holder's water bill.

Signature for Authorization _____



SMALL BUSINESS WEEK CONFERENCE DRAWS LARGE CROWD AND LOCAL CELEBRITIES

The Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) held its third annual small business week conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Nearly 200 people attended, including Columbia City Council members, City Manager Teresa Wilson, small business owners and local celebrities. The theme of the conference was innovation.

OBO's small business week conference is designed to provide insight and resources to current and potential small business owners, while providing the opportunity to network with their peers. Attendees were also able to hear from National InnovateHER finalist, Gabby Goodwin, and Oprah Winfrey Network's 2 Fat 2 Fly.

Additionally, Mayor Steve Benjamin and William Kirkland, from the University of South Carolina's Office of Economic Engagement spoke at the conference. OBO also highlighted their Quarterly Business Spotlight Honoree, Alala, LLC, who shared their story with attendees.

For more information about OBO's events, contact their office at 803-545-3950.

ANNUAL FILL THE TRUCK FUNDRAISER BRINGS SUPPLIES TO ANIMAL SHELTER

Columbia Animal Shelter held their seventh annual Fill the Red Truck event on May 16-17, 2015. More than 1,500 pounds of dog and cat food was donated.

"This was a great weekend for donations," said Marli Drum, Columbia Animal Services Superintendent.

Other donations included cat litter, paper towels, bleach, garden hoses, nozzles, crates, toys, towels, blankets, beds and more than \$1,500.

For more information or to donate to the Columbia Animal Shelter, call 803-776-PETS.



OWNING A FRANCHISE: AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO START A SMALL BUSINESS

The Office of Business Opportunities, in conjunction with the International Franchise Association (IFA), hosted an all-day franchising seminar on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Earlewood Community Building. Nearly 40 people attended to learn the ins and outs of owning and managing a franchise, including Mayor Steve Benjamin.

“Franchising is a great way to create new opportunities throughout our community,” said Mayor Benjamin. “This seminar was about helping give our citizens the tools to leverage that opportunity and build new, successful small businesses in every corner of Columbia.”

Other special guests included Miriam L. Brewer, CFE, senior director of education and diversity, IFA; Cathy Petkash, franchise specialist, FranNet; and a panel of pros from local franchising chains.

Chris Smith, owner of 14 Moe’s across the Carolinas, revealed that you don’t have to have a lot of money or experience when buying into a franchise. Smith and his partner split the costs when they opened their first Moe’s and have grown exponentially since then.

“My ultimate goal is to own 50 franchises by the time I’m 50 years old,” said Chris Smith.

Additionally, Marble Slab franchise owner, Geri D. Fields, spoke of the importance of location when opening a franchise.

“Look to open franchises in an area you have connections,” said Geri D. Fields.

Attendees also received information about the value of a franchising coach and a franchising guide that breaks down the requirements and cost for each franchising listed.

“Small businesses are what make America great! Franchising is a way to own one without reinventing the wheel,” said Geri D. Fields.



CHA Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday
June 5, 2015
9:00 am
Shotgun Start



For more
Information contact
Donna Gilbert
dgilbert@chase.org
Call (803) 376-6161

Captain's Choice



Cobblestone Park Golf Club

Cobblestone Park Golf Club
1298 University Parkway
Blythewood, SC 29016
Entry Fee: \$400 per team



Click [here](#) to view City Talk interview.

Hiring Our Heroes



HIRING OUR HEROES[®]

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

2015 Hiring Our Heroes – Columbia SC

*A Free Hiring Fair for Veterans,
Transitioning Service Members, and Military Spouses*

Solomon Center

6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd.

Fort Jackson, SC 29207

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 8:30 a.m.

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

A **Workshop** for job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 8:30 a.m.

EMPLOYERS

Must register for **FREE** at HiringOurHeroes.org/events

JOB SEEKERS

Register for **FREE** at HiringOurHeroes.org/events

Thanks to our local partners:

- Columbia Chamber
- Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS)
- South Carolina Committee of the Employer Support for Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
- SC DEW
- SC Works
- And all of our other local partners

For registration questions, please email hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.



HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG

Find Hiring Our Heroes online:     

Download the free *Hiring Our Heroes* mobile app! All our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.



Click here to view City Talk interview.

Eat 2 Win



June 13 2015 • 9:00am-2:30pm

IRMO HIGH SCHOOL
6671 St. Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29212

Join Langston Moore and the South Carolina All-Stars for a football **FUN**damental camp for kids 9-17.

- College Coaches
- NFL Players
- Professional Football Instruction
- Motivational Speakers
- Sports Performance Coaching
- Concussion Awareness
- Diabetes Testing
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Vision Testing
- BMI Measurements
- Endoscopy Consulting
- Nutritional Coaching

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL OR EMAIL
803-586-6796 or Eat2Wincamp@gmail.com
or visit eat2wincamp2015.eventbrite.com

NCBA Fish Fry

North Columbia Business Association



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SOCIAL

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Benefiting the Buddy & Benjamin Literacy Program

FOOD-FUN-MUSIC-DOOR PRIZES-ENTERTAINMENT
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IN SUPPORT OF LITERACY

JUNE 12 | 6 PM - 9 PM | DONATION \$25

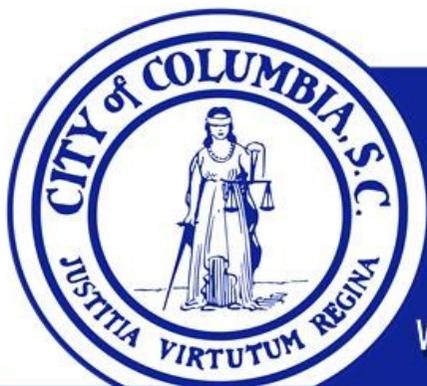
CORNER OF DUKE AND ARLINGTON AVENUES

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT NCBA AT (803) 786-7232
VISIT WWW.NORTHCOLUMBIABUSINESSASSOCIATION.COM

Meetings

DATE/TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION
June 1 at 5:15 pm	PLANNING COMMISISON MEETING	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
June 2 at 1 pm	CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION	1737 Main Street
June 2 at 6 pm	CITY COUNCIL MEETING	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
June 9 at 10 am	BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING	1737 Main Street Council Chambers

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TWC Ch.2

City Talk on SoundCloud

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
pio@columbiasc.net P: 803-545-3020 F: 803-343-8719