

Two Notch Rd. Businesses to Get Upgrade

BY: Savannah Levins, WLTX 8:06 p.m. EST February 2, 2015

Columbia, SC (WLTX) - Columbia's Façade Improvement Program has just kicked off its third phase along Two Notch Road.



Virginia Spigner remembers when she first heard about the Façade improvement program. "In the end we ended up with a new building," she said. "Or at least what looks like a new building."

That was back when the program was focused on North Main Street. Now, businesses on Two Notch Road have a change to renovate the outside of their own buildings, using what Columbia's Director of Business Opportunities, Tina Herbert, calls "free money."

"It's almost literally free money that we're giving away," she said. "Every year that the building is maintained the way we fixed it and you're up to date on your bills, we will forgive your loan."

The project is a taxpayer-funded initiative to make Columbia's streets and businesses more appealing. Herbert says businesses can receive up to \$25,000 from the program. Applicants pay 20 percent of the project costs, and the city covers the remaining 80%.

"It's really important for the revitalization of our commercial corridors," Herbert said. "These are corridors where people work, spend money, and travel through so the better they look the more business they have, the more funds they generate, and that helps us have healthy communities."

Spigner says she is thankful there is a program in place to help small business owners like herself. "Thank you, Columbia, for looking out for poor little old me and taking care of my business," she said.

To learn more, call the Columbia Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3381 or access the online application form www.columbiasc.net/obo .