

We Are Columbia

Together we will build a world-class city

City of Columbia Press Releases

Aug. 1-31, 2015

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Monday, August 3, 2015

Contact: City of Columbia Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

City to Announce New Pay by Phone Parking App

WHAT: The City of Columbia Parking Services Department will announce a new pay by phone parking application from Passport.

With Passport's mobile payment system, residents and visitors can use mobile parking payment technology in all of the City's 5,000 parking spaces. The app, developed by Charlotte, NC-based Passport, is free to download and gives users a much simpler option than paying at the parking meter.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson, City staff and members of the Passport team.

WHERE: City Hall (front steps)
1737 Main St. Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Monday, August 3, 2015 at 10 a.m.

###

About Passport

Passport is the industry-leading mobile payments company specializing in integrated urban mobility solutions. The company provides feature rich software platforms that offer parking and transit agencies a more effective and efficient way to manage their operations and serve their customers. Passport's mobile payment systems are deployed in over 1,000 locations in 43 states and provinces across the US and Canada, with clients such as Chicago, Toronto and Boston.

Headquartered in Charlotte, NC, Passport is backed by a highly respected group of investors, including Grotech Ventures and Relevance Capital. For more information, please visit www.gopassport.com.



PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 03, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia to Host 2015 Back-to-School Bash

The City of Columbia's 2015 Back-to-School Bash — a free event for elementary, middle and high school students — will be held on Saturday, August 8 at Finlay Park.

The bash will feature a book bag and school supply giveaway, health screenings, a health and wellness zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, exhibitors and more! Children must be present to receive a book bag and school supplies.

The event is free and open to the public.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, please call 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 3, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

The City's Pet of the Week: Julia! (ID# A215543)

Julia is a loving two-year-old domestic short hair cat. She's the perfect feline companion and definitely best friend material. Julia is also spayed and microchipped.

Visit Julia and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 3, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City Kickers Soccer League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its City Kickers Soccer League.

Children ages 3-14 can play in the youth soccer program. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available to those who qualify.

The last day to register is Sunday, August 16, 2015. The City Kickers Soccer League season begins the week of September 14, 2005.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#) and click on "Youth Registration Form."

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

###



For Immediate Release

August 3, 2015

Contact: Public & Media Relations at 803-545-3020

Passport Mobile Payment App Revamps Parking in the City!

Columbia, SC - Drivers in the City of Columbia can now pull out their phones to park! With Passport's mobile payment system, residents and visitors can use mobile parking payment technology in all of the City's 5,000 parking spaces. The app, developed by Charlotte, NC-based Passport, is free to download and gives users a much simpler option than paying at the parking meter.

"This installation of Passport is a large component of the City's initiatives to revamp our parking program," said John Spade, Parking Director for the City of Columbia. "We know that parkers in Columbia will embrace this upgrade in technology, and it will make the process of parking one less thing to stress about."

After thoroughly researching various mobile payment providers through a competitive bidding process, the City selected Passport, the industry leader in mobile payments for parking and transit to provide this service. Passport has successfully launched its mobile payment platform in cities like Chicago, Boston, Tucson, and even nearby in Charleston, SC.

Passport has also launched the City of Columbia's custom transit mobile ticketing system, called "Catch the Comet," throughout the City's bus lines. Through Passport's partnership with Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority, bus riders are able to pay for their bus pass and display payment directly from the Catch the Comet app on their phone.

"It's very exciting to bring our service to the City of Columbia's parking program," said Nate Berry, Vice President of Sales at Passport. "We're very proud to be making the process of getting around the City as convenient as possible, whether it be paying for parking or riding the bus."

Drivers can begin taking advantage of this cutting edge technology today! Besides paying to park through the app, users can receive a reminder notification before their

session expires, extend their parking session up until the maximum allotted time, and validate their parking at participating locations.

The Passport mobile app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play. The City's parking meters will also display signage instructing users to download the PassportParking app. Smartphone users can also use the new service by going to <https://m.ppprk.com> to create their account.

For more information visit www.columbiasc.net or call Parking Services at 803-545-4015.

###

About Passport

Passport is the industry-leading mobile payments company specializing in integrated urban mobility solutions. The company provides feature rich software platforms that offer parking and transit agencies a more effective and efficient way to manage their operations and serve their customers. Passport's mobile payment systems are deployed in over 1,000 locations in 43 states and provinces across the US and Canada, with clients such as Chicago, Toronto and Boston.

Headquartered in Charlotte, NC, Passport is backed by a highly respected group of investors, including Grotech Ventures and Relevance Capital. For more information, please visit www.gopassport.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 3, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The City is Accepting Applications for its P.E.A.R Program

The City's Community Development Department is accepting applications for its Property Enhancement Assistance for Rental Housing (P.E.A.R) program. Eligible investors can borrow up to a \$50,000 with a fixed interest-rate of three percent to be paid back over 30 years.

P.E.A.R is designed for investors seeking to obtain a low-interest and fixed loan to improve their rental property. To be eligible, the rental property must be located in a designated [target area](#) within the City limits and renters must be 80 percent below the median income.

For more information or to apply, call 803-545-3373 to schedule an appointment with a loan officer.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 3, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3960

Jonez of Columbia Ribbon Cutting

WHAT: The City of Columbia, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, will host a ribbon cutting for Jonez of Columbia restaurant located in the Historic Vista District.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council members, City Staff, Chamber of Commerce representatives and community stakeholders.

WHERE: 1004 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC

WHEN: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3960 or visit www.jonezcolumbia.com.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia Neighborhoods to Host National Night Out Activities

WHAT: City of Columbia neighborhoods will host National Night Out Activities tonight beginning at 5 p.m. City officials will visit various neighborhoods hosting events. ***In addition to music, food and networking in several neighborhoods, the Edgewood neighborhood will host a ribbon cutting for the first bike boulevard in the Midlands at 6 p.m. at Drew Wellness' Green Space, 2101 Walker Solomon Way.***

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council members, City Manager Teresa Wilson and City staff

WHERE: City of Columbia Neighborhoods **See attached list*

WHEN: Tonight at 5 p.m.

National Night Out is a yearlong community-building campaign designed to: (1) heighten crime prevention awareness, (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs, (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 05, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3960

Jonez of Columbia Ribbon Cutting

WHAT: The City of Columbia, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, will host a ribbon cutting for Jonez of Columbia restaurant located in the Historic Vista District.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council members, City Staff, Chamber of Commerce representatives and community stakeholders.

WHERE: 1004 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC

WHEN: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3960 or visit www.jonezcolumbia.com.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 06, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia to Host 2015 Back-to-School Bash

The City of Columbia's 2015 Back-to-School Bash — a free event for elementary, middle and high school students — will be held on Saturday, August 8 at Finlay Park.

The bash will feature a book bag and school supply giveaway, health screenings, a health and wellness zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, exhibitors and more! Children must be present to receive a book bag and school supplies.

The event is free and open to the public.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, please call 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin to launch Breast Cancer Awareness fundraising campaign

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will be joined by Police Chief Skip Holbrook, Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins and others for a City Hall news conference Monday, August 10, at 1:00 PM to launch this year's Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt Fundraiser leading up to the 2015 Mayor's Campaign Against Breast Cancer Isabel Law Breakfast.

WHAT: Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser Launch

WHEN: 1:00 PM on Monday, August 10, 2015

WHERE: City Hall
1737 Main Street
Columbia, SC

All proceeds from t-shirt sales will go to Bosom Buddies, a 501(c)3 charity that assists women who need mastectomy bras or have other needs after surgery.

For additional information, please contact the Michael Wukela at 803.413.5052.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 06, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City Kickers Soccer League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its City Kickers Soccer League.

Children ages 3-14 can play in the youth soccer program. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available to those who qualify.

The last day to register is Sunday, August 16, 2015. The City Kickers Soccer League season begins the week of September 14, 2005.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#) and click on "Youth Registration Form."

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August, 6, 2015

Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

Design/Development Review Commission Meeting Agenda

The Design/Development Review Commission will meet at 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 13th, at City Hall (City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor), 1737 Main Street. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact the Planning Division at 803-545-3222.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 07, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia to Host 2015 Back-to-School Bash

The City of Columbia's 2015 Back-to-School Bash — a free event for elementary, middle and high school students — will be held on Saturday, August 8 at Finlay Park.

The bash will feature a book bag and school supply giveaway, health screenings, a health and wellness zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, exhibitors and more! Children must be present to receive a book bag and school supplies.

The event is free and open to the public.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, please call 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###



For Immediate Release

Friday, August 7, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization

Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization

Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

Pinehurst Community Council

Midland Terrace Neighborhood

Druid Hills Neighborhood Association

Forest Hills North

Rochelle Heights/Victory Gardens

Bradley Community Council

Godbold Place Homeowners

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon

Wales Garden

Bradley Community Council

Godbold Place Homeowners

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.

###



Friday, August 7, 2015

Contact: City of Columbia Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

City Cautions Drivers to avoid Flood Prone Streets and Intersections

The City of Columbia urges drivers to use caution when driving during severe weather. The following streets and intersections are prone to flooding during heavy rain events. Please avoid these areas during and immediately after heavy rains.

Main and Whaley

Wheat and Amherst

Gervais and Laurens

Adger and Devine

Blossom and Henderson

Bull and Laurel

Blossom and Saluda

Franklin and Marion

Harden and Santee

Duncan (entire block)

Monroe and Maple

Monroe (entire block)

If you encounter a flooded street or intersection, turn around; do not attempt to drive through it. Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide many hazards (i.e. sharp objects, washed out road surfaces, electrical wires, chemicals, etc). A vehicle caught in swiftly moving water can be swept away in a matter of seconds. Twelve inches of water can float a car or small SUV and 18 inches of water can carry away large vehicles.

Stay away from storm damaged areas to include damaged or downed trees and power lines to keep from putting yourself at risk from the effects of severe thunderstorms.

Continue to listen to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio or to local radio and television stations for updated information or instructions, as access to roads or some parts of the community may be blocked.

Help people who may require special assistance, such as infants, children and the elderly or disabled.

Stay away from downed power lines and report them immediately.

To assist with keeping the storm drainage system working properly, [Public Works](#) asks yard debris and other items not be placed adjacent or next to drainage structures.

For additional safety tips on driving when streets are flooded, click [here](#).

If you notice a storm drain blocked by debris, please notify the Public Works Street Division at 545-3780 during regular business hours and Customer Care at 545-3300 after 5:00 pm.

###



PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, August 8, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia to Host 2015 Back-to-School Bash

The City of Columbia's 2015 Back-to-School Bash — a free event for elementary, middle and high school students — will be held **today**, August 8 at Finlay Park.

The bash will feature a book bag and school supply giveaway, health screenings, a health and wellness zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, exhibitors and more! Children must be present to receive a book bag and school supplies.

The event is free and open to the public.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: **Today**, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 10, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City Kickers Soccer League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for its City Kickers Soccer League.

Children ages 3-14 can play in the youth soccer program. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available to those who qualify.

The last day to register is Sunday, August 16, 2015. The City Kickers Soccer League season begins the week of September 14, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#) and click on "Youth Registration Form."

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin to launch Breast Cancer Awareness fundraising campaign

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will be joined by Police Chief Skip Holbrook, Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins and others for a City Hall news conference Monday, August 10, at 1:00 PM to launch this year's Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt Fundraiser leading up to the 2015 Mayor's Campaign Against Breast Cancer Isabel Law Breakfast.

WHAT: Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser Launch

WHEN: 1:00 PM on Monday, August 10, 2015

WHERE: City Hall
1737 Main Street
Columbia, SC

All proceeds from t-shirt sales will go to Bosom Buddies, a 501(c)3 charity that assists women who need mastectomy bras or have other needs after surgery.

For additional information, please contact the Michael Wukela at 803.413.5052.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 10, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

The City's Pet of the Week: Guss! (ID# A213322)

Guss is a friendly one-year-old Chinese Shar-Pei mix that is in need of a patient owner who can show him the ropes. He's the perfect addition to any family and he gets along well with other pets. Guss is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Guss and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 10, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

James E. Clyburn Golf Center to Host Girls Golf Clinics

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center, a LPGA-USGA Girls Golf site, is hosting free golf clinics for girls ages 5-18 **through October 31**. The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is located at 2091 Slighs Avenue.

The Girls Golf Clinics will be held from 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. every other Saturday until October 31. Clinics will not be held if the Saturday falls on a holiday.

Girls Golf Clinics will be held on the following dates:

- August 15
- August 29
- September 12
- September 19
- October 3
- October 17
- October 31

Attendees will learn the fundamentals, etiquette and rules of golf. No equipment is necessary.

To register, please call the Clyburn Golf Center at 803-255-8920, email smmcdaniel@columbiasc.net or visit the center's page online, <http://www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation/athletics/golf>.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August, 8, 2015

Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Agenda

The Design/Development Review Commission will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11th, at City Hall (City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor), 1737 Main Street. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact the Zoning Division at 803-545-3333.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 10, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Back-to-School Adoption Specials

WHAT: Columbia Animal Shelter is teaming up with Richland and Lexington Counties to offer half off of adoptions for cats and dogs. Selected Teacher's Pets will be free. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

WHERE: Columbia Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC and Lexington Animal Services, 321 Ball Park Rd, Lexington, SC

WHEN: August 20 – August 22, 2015

COST: Half-off

For more information about Columbia Animal Services' adoption specials, visit their Facebook [page](#) or call Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS.

**For Immediate Release**

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Contact: Public & Media Relations at 803-545-3020

Registration Begins for 9th Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence

The 9th annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2015, beginning at 9 a.m. at Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street. Mayor Steve Benjamin, Chairperson Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, domestic violence advocates and supporters will be in attendance.

The walk is free and registration can be found online at <http://gate.columbiasc.gov/mayorswalk/>. Registration is also open for team captains and exhibitors.

For more information about registration for the 9th Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence, visit columbiasc.net or call the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August, 12, 2015

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 545-3020

Local Teachers Eligible for Conservation Mini-Grants

The City of Columbia is now supporting a new mini-grant geared towards clean water student projects such as rain barrels, composting initiatives, litter clean-ups, rain gardens, erosion control, stream bank restoration, and more. Awards are competitive and proposals will be evaluated on the project's water-quality impact, feasibility, student and community involvement, and educational outcomes.

Public, private, and alternative schools located in the City of Columbia can apply for Clean Stream Columbia or Conservation Education Mini-Grant up to \$250 each for campus conservation projects and youth environmental education initiatives.

For rules and to download the application, visit [Richland Soil and Water Conservation District's Mini-Grant Announcement](#). Two award cycles are available for both Mini-Grants. Applications received by October 15, 2015, will be considered for fall 2015 funding. Applications received by February 16, 2016, will be considered for spring 2016 funding. Projects must be completed by June 15, 2016.

Schools in the City of Columbia may apply for a Clean Stream Columbia Mini-Grant, funded by the City of Columbia.

Schools in Richland County, including City schools, may apply for a Conservation Education Mini-Grant, funded by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District. This Mini-Grant supports conservation-related student projects such as outdoor classrooms, school gardens, nature trails, wildlife habitats, rain barrels, composting initiatives, air quality campaigns, litter clean-ups, rain gardens, erosion control, and stream bank restoration.

For more information, contact Chanda Cooper at (803) 576-2084 or cooperc@rcgov.us.

#



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 13, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Southeast Park Pond to be Drained for Repairs

The pond at Southeast Park will be drained to allow for repairs to the spillway and areas along the boardwalk, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced.

Parks and Recreation staff has begun to drain the pond and relocate resident fish to nearby waters. The pond is expected to be drained by Friday, August 21.

The project includes repairs to the dam drain valve and boardwalk.

The pond will be restocked, which will make for better fishing and improvement to the overall health of the pond's ecosystem.

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 13, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City's Annual Summer Concert Series

The City of Columbia's annual Summer Concert Series will end on **Saturday, August 15** with a performance by R&B/electro-funk band Midnight Star.

The free concert will be held at Finlay Park located at 930 Laurel Street.

The annual concert series showcases a variety of musical acts, providing entertainment for a diverse audience. The concert will be held from 8-10 p.m.

Attendees can bring blankets and lawn chairs. No pets, glass containers, tents or alcoholic beverages allowed.

Vendors will be available.

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 14, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

2015-16 After-School Program Registration Now Open

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's 2015-16 After-School Program is now open.

The program is open to youth ages 6-12. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in sports, games, arts & crafts, field trips and appearances from special guests on a weekly basis.

The program begins August 17, 2015, and will run from 2 to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, during the school calendar year. (The program follows the Richland School District 1 school calendar).

Children must be between ages 6-12 as of July 19, 2015, to participate.

The cost for the program is \$30 per week, per child. Snacks will be provided. Special activities may include an additional fee.

All payments are to be made at the site of the participant's program. Each week's fees are due prior to the participant's week of care.

After-School locations

Emily Douglas Park

(Teen Program Grades 6th -8th)

2500 Wheat Street

803-733-8531

Hampton Park

117 Brandon Avenue

803-776-9082

Heathwood Park

800 Abelia Road

803-733-8446

Melrose Park

1500 Fairview Road

803-733-8493

Sims Park

3500 Duncan Street

803-733-8451

Woodland Park

6500 Olde Knight Parkway

803-776-1096

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 14, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

City to Host Strategic Sourcing Summit

The City of Columbia, in partnership with U.S. Communities, will host a Strategic Sourcing Summit on Monday, August 17, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Agape Conference Center, 1620 Main Street. Mayor Steve Benjamin will serve as the keynote speaker.

The Strategic Sourcing Summit is an educational seminar designed to teach public agencies and nonprofits how to maximize their time and budget through the U.S. Communities program. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with other local agencies currently using cooperative purchasing, meet their local U.S. Communities Program Manager and speak with U.S. Communities' suppliers.

The summit is free but registration is required. Visit www.uscommunities.org/summit to register.

U.S. Communities was founded in 1996 as a partnership between the Association of School Business Officials, the National Association of Counties, the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors. U.S. Communities is the leading national government purchasing cooperative, providing world class government procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education institutions, and nonprofits looking for the best overall supplier government pricing.

###



For Immediate Release

Friday, August 14, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization

Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization

Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

Pinehurst Community Council

Midland Terrace Neighborhood

Druid Hills Neighborhood Association

Forest Hills North

Rochelle Heights/Victory Gardens

Bradley Community Council

Godbold Place Homeowners

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon

Wales Garden

Bradley Community Council

Godbold Place Homeowners

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 14, 2015

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session and meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 14, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City and FoodShare Columbia Partners to Hold Open House

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine, the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities at USC, Richland Library, EdVenture Children's Museum and the Columbia Housing Authority have partnered together to help increase access to affordable, fresh fruits and vegetables through a new program called FoodShare Columbia.

On Wednesday, August 19, FoodShare Columbia partners will host an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Center for the community to learn about the benefits of the program and how to participate, as well as the importance of access to healthy foods.

The open house includes a healthy cooking demonstration from EdVenture Children's Museum and Richland Library's Play Freely Bus. Participants of the program also will be on site to pick up their fresh food box. Refreshments also will be served.

WHAT: FoodShare Columbia Open House

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin; City officials; City staff; Regina Williams, vice president of the Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Association; and FoodShare Columbia partners and participants

WHERE: Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Center, 2611 Grant Street

WHEN: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information, please call Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, August 15, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia's Summer Concert Series Finale

R&B Band Midnight Star to Perform

The City of Columbia's annual Summer Concert Series will end **today, August 15** with a performance by R&B/electro-funk band Midnight Star.

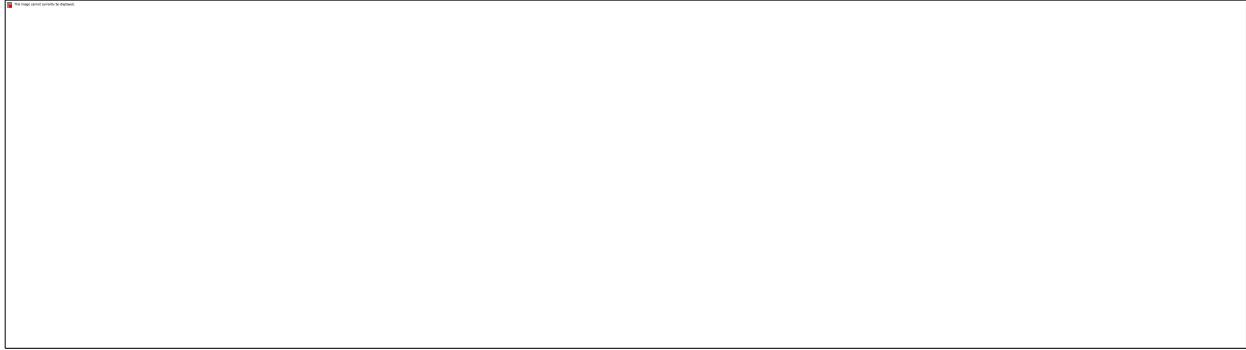
The free concert will be held at Finlay Park located at 930 Laurel Street.

The annual concert series showcases a variety of musical acts, providing entertainment for a diverse audience. The concert will be held from 8-10 p.m.

Attendees can bring blankets and lawn chairs. No pets, glass containers, tents or alcoholic beverages allowed.

Vendors will be available.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2015

Contact: Public and Media Relations Department @ 803-545-3020

City Receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Columbia by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The Award of Financial Reporting Achievement will be presented on Tuesday, August 18 during the City Council meeting to the Finance Department's staff, who are primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR.

"It is an honor to be recognized for this accomplishment," said City Manager Teresa Wilson. "The dedication and hard work of the Finance Department continues to build on the strong financial foundation we have established in the City of Columbia."

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 17, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

The City's Pet of the Week: Reagan! (ID# A217282)

Reagan is a four-month-old domestic short hair cat. He's shy at first but he's very loving once he gets to know you. Reagan is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Reagan and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: Monday, August 24, 2015 at 5 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 17, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

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On Wednesday, August 19, FoodShare Columbia partners will host an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Center for the community to learn about the benefits of the program and how to participate, as well as the importance of access to healthy foods.

The open house includes a healthy cooking demonstration from EdVenture Children's Museum and Richland Library's Play Freely Bus. Participants of the program also will be on site to pick up their fresh food box. Refreshments will be served.

WHAT: FoodShare Columbia Open House

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin; City officials; City staff; Regina Williams, vice president of the Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Association; and FoodShare Columbia partners and participants

WHERE: Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Center, 2611 Grant Street

WHEN: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information, please call Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

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The summit is free but registration is required. Visit www.uscommunities.org/summit to register.

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###



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The program is open to youth ages 6-12. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in sports, games, arts & crafts, field trips and appearances from special guests on a weekly basis.

The program begins today, August 17, 2015, and will run from 2 to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, during the school calendar year. (The program follows the Richland School District 1 school calendar).

Children must be between ages 6-12 as of July 19, 2015, to participate.

The cost for the program is \$30 per week, per child. Snacks will be provided. Special activities may include an additional fee.

All payments are to be made at the site of the participant's program. Each week's fees are due prior to the participant's week of care.

After-School locations

Emily Douglas Park

(Teen Program Grades 6th -8th)

2500 Wheat Street

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Hampton Park

117 Brandon Avenue

803-776-9082

Heathwood Park

800 Abelia Road

803-733-8446

Melrose Park

1500 Fairview Road

803-733-8493

Sims Park

3500 Duncan Street

803-733-8451

Woodland Park

6500 Olde Knight Parkway

803-776-1096

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 17, 2015

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session and meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. The updated agendas are attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 17, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Offers Back-to-School Membership Special

The Charles R. Drew Wellness Center is offering a back-to-school membership special on new or returning annual memberships now through August 31.

Save up to 30 percent when you sign up as a new or returning member. The special is open to adults age 18-49, seniors age 50 and older and families of up to four people.

Back-to-School Membership Special Rates

ADULT (18-49): \$210

SENIOR (50+): \$160

FAMILY (Up to 4 people): \$325

For more information, please call the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City and FoodShare Columbia Partners to Hold Open House

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The open house includes a healthy cooking demonstration from EdVenture Children's Museum and Richland Library's Play Freely Bus. Participants of the program also will be on site to pick up their fresh food box. Refreshments will be served.

WHAT: FoodShare Columbia Open House

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin; City officials; City staff; Regina Williams, vice president of the Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Association; and FoodShare Columbia partners and participants

WHERE: Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Center, 2611 Grant Street

WHEN: **Today**, August 19, 2015 from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information, please call Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 19, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Back-to-School Adoption Specials

WHAT: Columbia Animal Shelter is teaming up with Richland and Lexington Counties to offer half off of adoptions for cats and dogs. Selected Teacher's Pets will be free. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

WHERE: Columbia Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC and Lexington Animal Services, 321 Ball Park Rd, Lexington, SC

WHEN: August 20 – August 22, 2015

COST: Half-off

For more information about Columbia Animal Services' adoption specials, visit their Facebook [page](#) or call Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The City Announces CAPER Public Comment Period

In accordance with federal regulations, the City of Columbia's Community Development Department is announcing a 30-day public comment period to review the draft of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Citizens will have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed draft by attending public hearings or submitting comments from August 19 through September 21, 2015.

The purpose of the comment period is to allow citizens an opportunity to review and comment on progress, achievements and expenditures of federally-funded programs in the City of Columbia. Public Hearings will be held at 6 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Earlewood Park Community Center

1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

A draft summary of the CAPER report can be found at www.ColumbiaSC.net/communitydevelopment. A summary of citizen comments will be included in the 2014-2015 CAPER that will be submitted to HUD.

Public comments regarding the CAPER report should be sent to Dollie Bristow, Community Development Department at 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29201, emailed to ddbristow@columbiasc.net or faxed to 803-255-8912.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: Monday, August 24, 2015 at 5 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting Agenda

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will conduct a meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



For Immediate Release

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Contact: Victoria Kramer, Utilities and Engineering at 803-545-3227

GET WET, PROTECT THREE RIVERS AT UPCOMING WATER FESTIVAL

Saturday, August, 22nd, the City of Columbia, Lexington County and Richland County will host the 6th annual Summer Celebration of Water Festival! This **FREE family friendly** event will be held at **Riverfront Park in Columbia from 10 am to 2 pm on August 22, 2015!**

Have fun with the free stand-up paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking and tubing in the Columbia Canal. There will also be waterslides and face painting for the kids.

Learn about the importance of clean rivers and streams in our everyday lives and what you can do to help protect them.

For details, visit www.SummerCelebrationOfWater.com.

#



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Loan Committee Meeting Agenda

The Loan Committee will conduct a meeting on Monday, August 24, 2015 at 9 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

For Immediate Release

Friday, August 21, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization

Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization

Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

Pinehurst Community Council

Midland Terrace Neighborhood

Druid Hills Neighborhood Association

Forest Hills North

Rochelle Heights/Victory Gardens

Bradley Community Council

Godbold Place Homeowners

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon

Wales Garden

Bradley Community Council

Godbold Place Homeowners

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.

###



PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 21, 2015

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Agenda

Members of Columbia City Council will conduct an Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The agenda is attached.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: Monday, August 24, 2015 at 5 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 24, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

The City's Pet of the Week: Key! (ID# A217317)

Ready for a game of tug-a-war? Grab a rope toy and come play with Key! Key is a one-year-old American Pit bull Terrier mix. She's full of energy and needs a big yard to play in. She already knows how to sit so training her won't be hard. Key is also spayed and microchipped.

Visit Key and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 24, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Many Pets Find Homes During Back-to-School Adoption Special

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter, in conjunction with Lexington and Richland Counties, offered half off of adoptions for cats and dogs on August 20 – 22. Nearly 30 pets were adopted from the Columbia Animal Shelter, which included 15 cats and 14 dogs. Additionally, Lexington County Animal Services had 12 cats and 13 dogs adopted.

"I am very happy about the number of pets that found homes during our Back-to-School special," said Marli Drum, Columbia Animal Services Superintendent. "Our community is doing a great job at helping us achieve our goal of becoming a No Kill Columbia Animal Community."

The Columbia Animal Shelter is committed to becoming a No Kill Columbia Animal Community by 2018. To achieve this goal, they have partnered with local advocates and animal agencies to form a committee to set goals toward this effort.

For more information and updates about the Columbia Animal Shelter, visit their [Facebook page](#).

###



PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Register for the City Hoops Instructional Basketball Program

The registration period for City Hoops, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth basketball program for boys and girls ages 3 through 8, will begin Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn basketball fundamentals.

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is Friday, October 23. The City Hoops clinics begin Saturday, November 14, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#) and click the "Instructional Sports" link.

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Offers Back-to-School Membership Special

The Charles R. Drew Wellness Center is offering a back-to-school membership special on new or returning annual memberships now through August 31.

Save up to 30 percent when you sign up as a new or returning member. The special is open to adults age 18-49, seniors age 50 and older and families of up to four people.

Back-to-School Membership Special Rates

ADULT (18-49): \$210

SENIOR (50+): \$160

FAMILY (Up to 4 people): \$325

For more information, please call the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200.

###



For Immediate Release

August 27, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 545-3013

City Offices Closed In Observance of Labor Day

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2015, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Garbage and recycling pick up will remain on schedule.

###



For Immediate Release

Friday, August 28, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

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Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization

Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization

Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

Pinehurst Community Council

Midland Terrace Neighborhood

Druid Hills Neighborhood Association

Forest Hills North

Rochelle Heights/Victory Gardens

Bradley Community Council

Godbold Place Homeowners

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon

Wales Garden

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The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 28, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803.413.5052

Mayor Benjamin to launch "Play Ball" Initiative

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will be joined by representatives from the Columbia Fireflies and area youth at Hyatt Park tomorrow (Saturday, August 29th) for a news conference at 11:30 AM in order to launch Columbia's new "Play Ball" youth sports initiative.

WHAT: Play Ball Initiative Launch

WHEN: 11:30 AM on Saturday, August 29, 2015

WHERE: Hyatt Park Ball Field

950 Jackson Ave.

Columbia, SC

For additional information, please contact Michael Wukela at 803.413.5052.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, August 29, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803.413.5052

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 31, 2015

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session and meeting/public hearing on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 31, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Register for the City Hoops Instructional Basketball Program

The registration period for City Hoops, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth basketball program for boys and girls ages 3 through 8, will begin **Tuesday, September 1, 2015**.

The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn basketball fundamentals.

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is Friday, October 23. The City Hoops clinics begin Saturday, November 14, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#) and click the "Instructional Sports" link.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 31, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

The City's Pet of the Week: Fluffy! (ID# A210909)

Fluffy is a two-year-old domestic short hair cat. Her green eyes will surely make you fall in love with her! Fluffy is also spayed and microchipped.

Visit Fluffy and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 31, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The City Announces CAPER Public Comment Period

In accordance with federal regulations, the City of Columbia's Community Development Department is announcing a 30-day public comment period to review the draft of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Citizens will have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed draft by attending public hearings or submitting comments through September 21, 2015.

The purpose of the comment period is to allow citizens an opportunity to review and comment on progress, achievements and expenditures of federally-funded programs in the City of Columbia. Public Hearings will be held at 6 p.m. on:

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

A draft summary of the CAPER report can be found at www.ColumbiaSC.net/communitydevelopment. A summary of citizen comments will be included in the 2014-2015 CAPER that will be submitted to HUD.

Public comments regarding the CAPER report should be sent to Dollie Bristow, Community Development Department at 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29201, emailed to ddbristow@columbiasc.net or faxed to 803-255-8912.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 31, 2015

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

Updated City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session and meeting/public hearing on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. The updated agendas are attached for your review.

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