



Sims Park Playground Reopens



MLK Dream Keeper Scholarship



CPD Announces Job Opportunities

# City Connection



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL- YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FORUM

The Community Relations Council (CRC), in collaboration with the City of Columbia, will host a Youth and Community Leaders Forum on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Columbia Police Department (CPD) Headquarters, 1 Justice Square. The City's CPD and Parks and Recreation staff will participate and serve as subject matter experts in this forum.

"As a city, we are committed to providing quality resources and programs to our youth," City Manager Teresa Wilson stated. "Our staff are dedicated to serving our children and to offering opportunities to partner with local youth organizations."

"The roundtable discussion will bring both large, small, new and veteran youth organizations together to discuss youth advocacy, mentoring and youth job creation. The objective is to focus on creating a healthier and safer community for children and youth. This roundtable is the first of a series of Community Relations Council youth focus events to come," DeAnna Bookert, Program Manager, Community Relations Council.



# City Talk

**Tune in to City Talk today on WGCV 620 AM  
from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. to hear:**



**5:00 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.**

**Guest:** Shireese Bell, Sr. Public Information/Community Relations Specialist

**Topic:** MLK Dream Keeper Scholarship

**5:20 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.**

**Guest:** Brick Lewis, Public Information Officer, Columbia Fire Department

**Topic:** Escape Planning Tips

**5:40 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Guest:** Sam Yager, Recycling Coordinator

**Topic:** Recycling Initiatives

**For more information about today's topics, contact the  
Public Relations Department at 803-545-3020.**



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# The Week Ahead

## COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES

Chief William “Skip” Holbrook launches a major Recruitment and Retention Initiative today that will allow the Columbia Police Department to hire qualified applicants for 45 (forty-five) vacant law enforcement officer positions. The Department’s Plan also includes a 7% (seven percent) pay increase and a host of incentives to help recruit and retain law enforcement personnel.



These initiatives are critical to public safety, as the Columbia Police Department works to become fully -staffed and better positioned to compete with neighboring law enforcement agencies, whose salaries and incentives have historically given them a competitive advantage over the CPD--making it more difficult for the Department to recruit and retain good officers.

The Columbia Police Department hopes to change that. Beginning in 2015, positions that require specialized skills and training will receive additional pay for their expertise. Officers who live in the City can look forward to a \$500 annual Residency Bonus and Educational Pay Incentives will be available to all personnel who earn professional degrees while working with the Columbia Police Department. Incentives also include signing bonuses for qualified and certified (new) officers, as well as low interest home loan programs.

According to Chief Holbrook, “attracting and retaining law enforcement’s best and brightest will put the Columbia Police Department in a more competitive position and help to ensure our departmental transformation.”

These employment opportunities, as well as the Recruitment and Retention Incentives, will be widely publicized within the industry and are expected to attract candidates from across the Midlands and Southeastern United States.

For more information please contact:      or

**Columbia Police Department**  
**Office of Staff Development**  
**803-545-3552**

**City of Columbia**  
**Human Resources Department**  
**803-545-3010**



## ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HONOR THE DREAM FOOD DRIVE

Please join the City of Columbia and Richland School District One, as we help fight hunger in the Greater Columbia area. All food collected will benefit the Harvest Hope Food Bank. Listed are some requested items:

- canned fruit and vegetables
- dry goods
- oatmeal and other cereals
- pork and beans
- soup
- crackers
- canned meats
- peanut butter

Donations will be collected during normal business hours at most City Parks, City Hall, Washington Square, James E. Clyburn Golf Center, Columbia Tennis Center, City Human Resources, Public Works, Police Headquarters, Fire Department Headquarters, Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, Columbia Art Center and Main Street Ice. **Food Drive ends January 2, 2015**

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803.545.3100.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive Flyer - [Download PDF](#)

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## REGISTRATION PERIOD OPEN FOR MEN'S ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the Men's Adult Basketball League. Men ages 18 and older can participate. The fee to participate is 300 per team.

The last day to register is January 1, 2015. The Men's Basketball League season begins Sunday, January 25, 2015.

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

Registration forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. Forms must be returned to the administration office.

For more information, please contact Corinn Taylor at 803-545-3109 or [cetaylor@columbiasc.net](mailto:cetaylor@columbiasc.net).



## THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

City Staff volunteered as bell ringers in efforts to raise money for the Salvation Army, including Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook, Sr. Assistant City Manager, Allison Baker and Assistant to City Council, Libby Gober.

The Red Kettle Christmas Campaign enables The Salvation Army to provide food, toys and clothing to over 6 million people during the Christmas season and helps more than 34 million Americans recovering from all kinds of personal disasters nationwide.

The Red Kettle campaign, first started in San Francisco in 1891, has traditionally been the Salvation Army's most prominent fundraiser.



Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook



Assistant to City Council, Libby Gober and Sr. Assistant City Manager, Allison Baker

## SIMS PARK PLAYGROUND REOPENS

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced the grand reopening of the playground area at Sims Park on Saturday, December 13, 2014. The playground was closed in November for the installation of new playground equipment.

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



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## CITY OF COLUMBIA ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE MLK DREAM KEEPER SCHOLARSHIP

The City of Columbia is accepting nominations for the 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards. The Dream Keeper Award recognizes exemplary displays of committed service to the tenets of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The ideals of social responsibility, political empowerment, diversity, racial harmony, nonviolence, and unselfish service must be demonstrated voluntarily by the nominee in support of his or her community and fellow citizens. The nominee must be age 18 or younger and enrolled in school with a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

Winners will be announced at the City of Columbia's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 19, 2015, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street. Nominees must attend the celebration.

Applications are available online for download or at any community center.

Applications must be returned in person or by mail to the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. **Applications must be postmarked by Friday, January 2, 2015.**

For more information, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net), or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

MLK Dream Keeper Scholarship Application – [Download PDF](#)

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### PARK OF THE WEEK: OWENS FIELD PARK

This 15,000-square-foot outdoor skate park is located at 1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard next to Owens Field Airport in downtown Columbia.

The skate park is free and open to individuals using skateboards, in-line skates and bicycles. Pads are required. The park features a street plaza, stairs, metal plated rails, and "pool" bowls ranging in depth from 4 to 12 feet.



Visitors can participate in a variety of outdoor activities at the park including an 18-hole disc golf course, 12 regulation size soccer fields for all ages and 3 T- Ball fields for youth play. Other sports that take place at the park consist of rugby, Pop Warner Football, Cross Country Track and Ultimate Frisbee League.

For more information about our parks, please visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's page online](#).



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# Columbia Animal Shelter

127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209

Phone: 803-776-PETS (7387)

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## Pet of the Week!

MEET Gracie! (ID# A208999)



Gracie is a six-year-old Siamese mix cat. She is very mature and perfect for a relaxed lifestyle. Gracie is spayed and microchipped. Visit her today to see if she is the right pet for you!

Visit Gracie and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://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](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

City of Columbia | Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department

Pet Tip:

Pets are a big commitment! Make sure if you're considering getting a pet for someone this holiday season that they're ready for the responsibility!



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# Make Your Hometown Your Destination This Weekend

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

## LIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS



The Zoo will light up each evening with more than one million twinkling lights and countless animated images representing some of Riverbanks' most loveable residents. Guests can roast marshmallows at the jingle bell bonfire, visit with Santa and enjoy the festive sounds of the Music in Motion lights spectacular. Riverbanks is also the only place in town where it snows every night!

**Location:** Riverbanks Zoo – 500 Wildlife Prkwy

**Time:** 5 – 9 p.m.

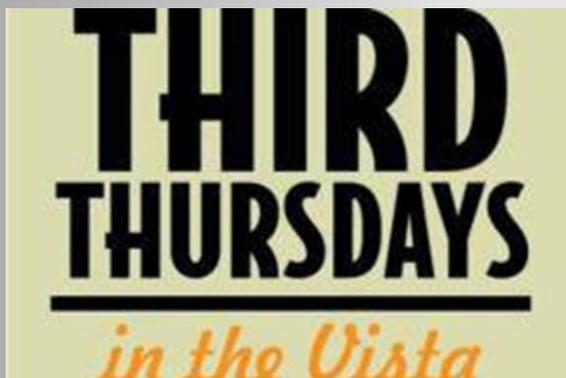
**Admission:** Adults: \$10; Children 2-12 \$8  
(Riverbanks members receive one free visit)

**Phone:** 803-602-0900

**Website:** <http://www.riverbanks.org/calendar.shtml>

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## THIRD THURSDAY IN THE VISTA



Vista Guild Hosts “Vista Nights,” Third Thursday in the Vista Shops and galleries in the Vista welcome shoppers and offer extended hours on the third Thursday of each month.

**Location:** The Vista

**Time:** 5 - 8 p.m.

**Admission:** Free (vendor prices vary)

**Phone:** 803-269-5946

**Website:** <http://www.vistacolumbia.com/vistanights.aspx>



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

## MEMBER POLAR EXPRESS PARTY



All museum members are invited to hop on board the Polar Express for a special members-only Polar Express Party! Enjoy 50% OFF tickets to The Polar Express 4D Experience, free cookies, popcorn, hot chocolate and a special visit from Santa. Be sure to wear your most comfortable PJs and members can bring a non-member buddy for \$5.

**Location:** SC State Museum – 301 Gervais St.

**Time:** 6 - 9 p.m.

**Admission:** Members Only

**Phone:** 803-898-4921

**Website:** <http://scmuseum.org/calendar/member-polar-express-party/>

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## MAIN STREET ICE

Bring your family and friends to Main Street ICE at Boyd Plaza! The City of Columbia's outdoor ice skating rink, located at the corner of Main and Hampton streets, returns for another year of fun for the whole family.



**Location:** Boyd Plaza – 1515 Main St.

**Time:** 4 – 10 p.m.

**Admission:** \$8 children (age 12 and under), \$10 adults

**Phone:** 803-545-3100

**Website:** [ColumbiaSC.net](http://ColumbiaSC.net)



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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**

## **CHRIS BROWN– X TOUR LIVE**



Grammy award-winning Chris Brown brings the X Tour Live to the Colonial Life Arena. Show features August Alsina and emerging artists D LUX and Jackie Michaels.

**Location: Colonial Life Arena – 801 Lincoln St.**

**Time: 7 p.m.**

**Cost: \$37 and up**

**Phone: 803-576-9200**

**Website: <http://www.coloniallifearena.com/events/eventpages/532.asp#.VHyNm-PIZUM>**

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## **MIDLANDS WINTER FAMILY EXPO**



Visit over 100 booths featuring local businesses sharing their products and services. Families encourage to come play and learn about helpful community resources and aspects of raising happy, healthy kids.

**Location: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center**

**Time: 10 a.m.— 3 p.m.**

**Admission: Free**

**Phone: 803-800-2044**

**Website: <http://scfamilyexpos.com/>**

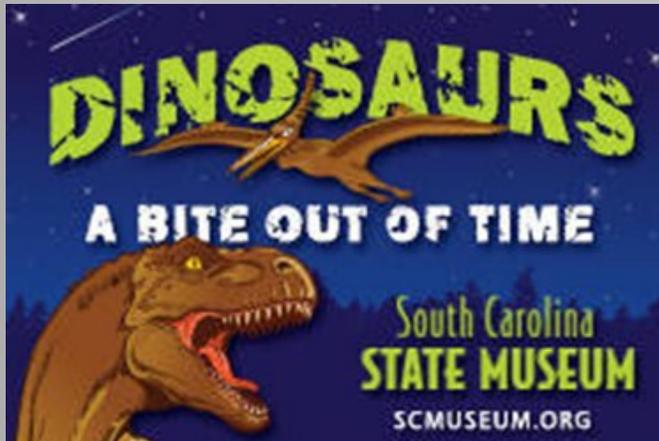


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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**

## **DINOSAURS: A BITE OUT OF TIME**



Take a journey back in time when monsters walked the earth, swam in the seas and soared through the skies in Dinosaurs: A Bite Out of Time at the South Carolina State Museum. The blockbuster exhibit features robotic dinosaurs and strange creatures from prehistoric times, including the ferocious Tyrannosaurus rex, the massive Stegosaurus, the long-necked Elasmosaurus and the flying Pteranodon.

**Location: South Carolina State Museum**

**Time: Sun. 12 p.m.— 5p.m.**

**Admission: General Admission: Adults 13+: \$8.95; Seniors 62 & over: \$7.95; Children 3-12: \$6.95; Infants 2 and under: FREE; The military discount is \$1 off**

**Phone: 803-898-4946**

**Website: <http://scmuseum.org/explore/exhibits/>**

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## **WINTER FEST**



Two weeks of exciting activities and programs. Different activities will take place each day during WinterFest, so visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) for details. WinterFest is included with membership or general admission. Planetarium and 4D shows are an additional price. Ends Jan. 3.

**Location: SC State Museum – 301 Gervais St.**

**Time: Daily activities; check website for details.**

**Admission: General Admission: adults \$8.95; seniors \$7.95; children 3-12 \$6.95; children 2 and younger free**

**Phone: 803-348-8861**

**Website: <http://scsm.tpgserver.net/events/signature-events/>**



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# Save the Date



## RING IN 2015 AT FAMOUSLY HOT NEW YEAR, THE LARGEST FREE NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA!

- Join tens of thousands for the street party of the year featuring R&B legends **The O'Jays**, as well as opening acts **MisterWives** and **Lefty at the Washout**. Concert starts at 7:30 p.m., and the O'Jays will keep the "Love Train" rolling well before and just after midnight at Main and Gervais Streets.
- Top off the celebration with the most colossal New Year's Eve fireworks show in the Carolinas, at midnight above the picturesque South Carolina State Capitol.
- Enjoy free parking, Alert Cab discounts, special COMET bus service and the Comfort Zone with regional food & drink.
- Come to Main Street for early evening happenings including the Main Street Crit road race (starts 3 p.m.) and the WOW NYE Kids Carnival with rides, face painting, bounce houses and more (5 p.m. - 11 p.m.).
- Upgrade from the free street party to the elegant VIP Crescent Lounge, with open bar, catering, indoor restrooms and exclusive parking.
- Experience the New Year in a comfortable, safe setting and check out Columbia's downtown dining and shopping districts, all within walking distance of Famously Hot New Year and multiple hotels.
- Stick around all weekend and check out unmatched area attractions like Riverbanks Zoo and Garden and the South Carolina State Museum's brand new Planetarium.

Registration, transportation, parking, lodging, VIP tickets, hotel package giveaways and more at [FamouslyHotNewYear.com](http://FamouslyHotNewYear.com). @FamouslyHotNYE #FHNY #GiveAToast



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# \$25 Pet Adoptions

*Home* for the  
*Holidays*

DECEMBER

15<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> | 2014

**\$25 PET ADOPTIONS**

ALSO

Want to give the gift of a new companion to a friend or family member? Gift Certificates can be purchased to put towards the adoption of a pet to ensure that the right pet gets into the right home!

Go To  
**Petfinder**  
To View Our  
Adoptable Pets



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Columbia Animal  
Services  
803-776-PETS (7387)  
127 Humane Lane

[www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net)



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# Walk Bike Columbia



## WALK BIKE COLUMBIA

A PROJECT OF THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND CITY OF COLUMBIA, SC

*What will walking, bicycling, and transit in Columbia look like in 10 years?*

### Join us for a public meeting

to share the draft pedestrian and bicycle master plan for the City of Columbia.



**Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

*(Presentation at 6 PM)*

**EdVenture Children's Museum**

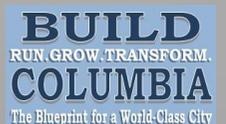
*(Canal Room)*

211 Gervais St,

Columbia, SC 29201

[www.walkbikecolumbia.org](http://www.walkbikecolumbia.org)

For questions or assistance with special needs, contact: City of Columbia Planning Department at (803) 545-0229.



# Meetings/Closings

- The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 2 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Columbia City Council will conduct a Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Columbia Art Center will be closed for a Christmas break from Monday, December 22-28, 2014. The center will reopen Monday, December 29, 2014, at 9 a.m.

## Garbage Collection Schedule Changes

Garbage/Recycling pickup scheduled for Thursday, December 25, 2014 will be rescheduled for Wednesday, December 24, 2014. Normal schedule will resume on Friday, December 26, 2014.



# City Media

[www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net)



TWC Ch.2 City Talk

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