



City of Columbia Press Releases

Nov. 1-31, 2015

Table of Contents

City of Columbia Municipal Election Tuesday, November 3, 2015	9
Pet of the Week: Meet Kingston! (Petfinder ID# A219024)	10
City of Columbia Municipal Election Tuesday, November 3, 2015	11
Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Pool Area to Close for Renovations	12
InnovateHER: City's Call for Entries	13
Elmwood/Roy Lynch Park to Close for Construction	14
Housing Division of Community Development Loan Committee Meeting	15-16

City of Columbia’s Main Street ICE Opens Thanksgiving Day	17-18
Midlands Area Treasured Trees Program 2015 Accepting Nominations	19-20
Small Business Saturdays: #SelfieSaturdays	21-22
City of Columbia Runoff Election	23
Housing Division of Community Development Loan Committee Meeting	24-25
City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission Meeting	26
City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission Meeting	27
Councilwoman Devine to give presentations at National League of Cities’ 2015 Conference of Cities	28
City of Columbia’s 37 th Annual Veterans Day Parade	29
Unveiling of the 2015 “Official City Ornament”	30
Several Pets Found Homes this Past Weekend with Pet Adoption Specials	31

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Agenda
.....32

Municipal Board of Canvassers
.....33

City of Columbia Accepting Nominations for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards
.....34

Small Business Saturdays: #SelfieSaturdays
.....35-36

Register for the Youth Winter Basketball League
.....37

City of Columbia Community Gardening Workshop
.....38

James E. Clyburn Golf Center Closed for Repairs
.....39

Design/Development Review Commission Meeting Agenda
.....40

Unveiling of the 2015 "Official City Ornament"
.....41

City's Pet of the Week: Meet Jake! (ID# A212175)
.....42

Memorial Service to be Held in Memory of Columbia Police Officer Stacy L. Case
.....43

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election Tuesday, November 17, 2015	44
Columbia City Council - Cancellation of Meetings	45
City of Columbia’s 37 th Annual Veterans Day Parade	46
City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election Tuesday, November 17, 2015	47
City of Columbia’s 37 th Annual Veterans Day Parade	48
City Receives IABC SC Palmetto Award	49
InnovateHER: 2016 Innovating for Women Business Challenge	50
Flood Repair Permitting Open House	51
Unveiling of the 2015 “Official City Ornament”	52
What You Need to Know to Dispel Myths About City Flood Repair Permitting	53
City of Columbia Community Gardening Workshop	54
Register for the Youth Winter Basketball League	55

Temporary Water Disruption for City Customers on Garners Ferry at Caughman Pond
.....56

Unveiling of the 2015 "Official City Ornament"
.....57

Support Babcock Center and Get a Great Gift for Under \$20!
.....58

InnovateHER: 2016 Innovating for Women Business Challenge
.....59

City Officials to be Designated as a Bronze Level Walk Friendly Community
.....60

Mayor Benjamin to present Stevie Wonder with Key to the City
.....61

Register for the City's Instructional Cheerleading Program
.....62

City of Columbia Community Gardening Workshop
.....63

Small Business Saturdays: #SelfieSaturdays
.....64-65

City Kicks Off Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive
.....66-67

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election Tuesday, November 17, 2015
.....68

City's Pet of the Week: Kirby! (ID# A218804)
.....69

City of Columbia Accepting Nominations for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards
.....70

OBO Announces Winner of InnovateHER Business Challenge
.....71

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election Tuesday, November 17, 2015
.....72

Columbia City Council Special Called Meeting
.....73

Mayor Benjamin to recognize American Indian Heritage Month
.....74

City of Columbia Designated Walk Friendly Community
.....75-76

City of Columbia Designated Walk Friendly Community
.....77-78

Mayor Benjamin to recognize American Indian Heritage Month
.....79

City of Columbia Advises Removal of Political Sign – Deadline November 24
.....80

City of Columbia Designated Walk Friendly Community
.....81

City of Columbia’s Main Street ICE Opens Thanksgiving Day
.....82-83

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election Results
.....84

City of Columbia Advises Removal of Political Signs – Deadline November 24
.....85

Mayor Benjamin welcomes Inaugural AAMA Leadership Summit to Columbia
.....86-87

Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia City Council to Proclaim November as
Gratitude Month
.....88

Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia City Council to Proclaim November as
Gratitude Month
.....89

City to Observe Thanksgiving Holiday *Garbage Collection Schedule Changes*
.....90

City’s Pet of the Week: Meet Daboo! (ID# A220874)
.....91

City of Columbia’s New Year’s Eve Carnival
.....92

City of Columbia’s Main Street ICE Opens Thanksgiving Day
.....93-94

City Accepting Donations for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive
.....95-96

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center to Close for Thanksgiving Holiday
.....97

City to Observe Thanksgiving Holiday *Garbage Collection Schedule Changes*
.....98

City of Columbia’s Main Street ICE Opens Thanksgiving Day
.....99-100

Home Buying Workshop: How to Purchase a House on a Budget
.....101

FEMA Disaster Assistance | Registration Extension Granted
.....102-103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 2, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043

City of Columbia Municipal Election Tuesday, November 3, 2015

The Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Office reminds citizens that November 2, 2015 is the last day for absentee voting for the City of Columbia Municipal Election. To review the fifteen (15) qualifications for absentee voting visit www.scvotes.org.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. All voting precincts have been inspected by Richland County and no changes have been made to your precinct location. To view a list of precincts visit www.columbiasc.net/elections. To verify the location of your precinct, visit www.scvotes.org.

Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Office

2020 Hampton Street

Columbia, SC 29204

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)

Phone: (803)576.2240

Email: absenteeballots@rcgov.us

Precinct Search: www.scvotes.org

For additional information please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545-3045 or visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 2, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Meet Kingston!

(Petfinder ID# A219024)

Kingston is a one-year-old gray and white short-haired cat. He is very friendly and would make a great addition to any home! Kingston has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit 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

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043

City of Columbia Municipal Election Tuesday, November 3, 2015

The Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Office reminds citizens that the City's Municipal Election Day hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. today. All voting precincts have been inspected by Richland County and no changes have been made to your precinct location. To view a list of precincts visit www.columbiasc.net/elections. To verify the location of your precinct, visit www.scvotes.org.

Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Office

2020 Hampton Street

Columbia, SC 29204

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)

Phone: (803)576.2240

Precinct Search: www.scvotes.org

For additional information please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545-3045 or visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 03, 2015

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

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Pool Area to Close for Renovations

The pool area at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center will be closed for renovations beginning Monday, Nov. 9.

The remainder of the facility will remain open to the public during renovations, which includes installation of a new Pool Pak unit, pool liner and lockers, as well as painting.

All regularly scheduled classes will continue on schedule. The fitness area, multi-purpose rooms and gymnasium will maintain normal operations.

Members will be provided with a membership verification letter to present at the designated alternative locations during the renovation period.

The following locations will honor the wellness center's membership for pool activities:

- **YMCA locations**
 - o Downtown YMCA, 1420 Sumter Street
 - o Jeep Rogers Family YMCA at Lake Carolina, 900 Lake Carolina Drive
 - o Northwest Family YMCA, 1501 Kennerly Road

Only the pool and locker rooms will be available for use at the alternative pool locations. The wellness equipment, group exercise classes (other than water aerobics), basketball court, or child care services will not be available for use at the YMCA facilities.

The pool area is expected to be closed until June 2016.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday November 3, 2015

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

InnovateHER: City's Call for Entries

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO), in partnership with Columbia College, USC-Columbia Technology Incubator, and SC Women's Business Center, is calling for entries for the 2016 Innovating for Women Business Challenge.

InnovateHER is a national women's business challenge sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The business challenge provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. Products or services must exhibit the following:

1. Have a measureable impact on the lives of women and families (30%)
2. Have the potential for commercialization (40%)
3. Fill a need in the marketplace (30%)

To participate, applicants must complete the InnovateHER interest application and submit a business plan, including an executive summary, no later than 12:00 pm, **Thursday, November 5, 2015**.

The pitch competition will be held on **Thursday, November 12, 2015**, at 6 pm, at the Darla Moore School of Business.

The application can be found at columbiasc.net/OBO. For additional questions or information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

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

Elmwood/Roy Lynch Park to Close for Construction

Elmwood/Roy Lynch Park, located at 900 Abbeville Street, will close beginning Monday, Nov. 16 for construction, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced.

Phase 1 of the master plan calls for a new splash pad, game board plaza, pergola, walking paths, amphitheater/picnic shelter, butterfly garden, green space, and a nature-themed playground.

The .79 acre park currently consists of a splash pad, playground, picnic shelter, and common green space.

Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed by June 2016.

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Housing Division of Community Development Loan Committee Meeting

WHAT: Housing Division of Community Development Loan Committee Meeting

WHO: Housing Division of Community Development

WHERE: 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102

WHEN: Thursday, November 5 at 8:30 A.M.

The meeting will address the following:

I. CALL TO ORDER AND SIGN IN

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for **October 1st, 2015** Loan Committee Meeting

III. DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOAN COMMITTEE

- Ratify-Request six month extension - Midland Housing Trust Fund
- Approval of Housing Program Policy and Procedure Manual (if all members are present)

IV. *EXECUTIVE SESSION – Financial and Personal information of a sensitive nature will be considered and discussed.

Presentation of the following Residential Loans for Loan Committee’s review and approval:

- MAP @ 2219 Hurst St., Columbia, SC 29203, for \$18,980
- Citi-Lender II @ 1016 Elm Ave., Columbia, SC 29205 a 2nd Mortgage for \$20,900
- Affordable Housing Pre-Approval @ 1322 McDuffie Street, Columbia SC 29203 a 1st mortgage for \$119,500
- P.E.A.R @ 3217 Howell Avenue (Booker Washington Heights Community)

For more information, please contact the Community Development Housing Division at 803-545-3373.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

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

City of Columbia's Main Street ICE Opens Thanksgiving Day

Grab your family and friends, and head down to Boyd Plaza for the opening day of Main Street ICE! 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.

Main Street ICE opens Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 5 to 10 p.m., and will remain open until January 18, 2016. Opening day price is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 12 and under. The rink will be open from 1 to 10 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving.

Fees

Opening Day

- \$8 for adults
- \$5 for children ages 12 and under

Monday through Wednesday (Discount Days)

- \$8 for adults
- \$5 for children ages 12 and under

Thursday through Sunday (Regular Price)

- \$10 for adults
- \$8 for children ages 12 and under

Active Duty Military with ID and Seniors age 55 and up

- \$8 (Thursday through Sunday)

The ice rink will be open seven days a week at the following hours of operation:

- Monday-Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.
- Friday, 4 to 10 p.m.

- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sunday, 1 to 9 p.m.

Main Street ICE will have special operating hours December 21 through January 1, from 12 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 10 p.m. on Friday. Saturday and Sunday hours will remain the same.

The rink will be closed on Christmas Day and will be open until 12 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

For more information or to reserve your group reservations, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media, 803-545-3020

Midlands Area Treasured Trees Program 2015 Accepting Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the Treasured Trees Program. The Treasured Trees Program seeks to document and preserve trees that have significant value to the greater community, and promote the awareness, benefit and value of trees to the community.

Selection Criteria:

- Trees of superior size or stature
- Trees associated with historical events
- Trees noteworthy for their aesthetic or sentimental value, their scarcity, or even because they are great trees to climb or swing from can be nominated.
- Trees with environmental benefits and value
- Groups of trees will also be considered for designation when their plurality contributes to their significance

Nominated trees can be located on public or private property and can be nominated by anyone. Trees should be located in the Greater Columbia Metropolitan Area, and preference will be given to trees in locations accessible for public viewing. Nominations of trees located on private property require the signature of the property owner granting the Treasured Trees program access to the property in order to evaluate and photograph the nominated tree.

The owner/caretaker of each selected tree will receive a certificate or award at a public Arbor Day celebration at the Governor's Mansion, and some of the trees may be publicized in The State newspaper.

Nominations are due by November 15, 2015. Participants should provide their name and contact information along with a description, location and photograph of the tree. If available, please include significance or history related to the tree. Nominations may be delivered or emailed to:

City of Columbia

Forestry & Beautification Division

Treasured Trees

2910 Colonial Drive

Columbia, SC 29203

Office: 803.545.3860

Fax: 803.733.8648

forestry@columbiasc.net

This program is a joint project of the City of Columbia, Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission, and Columbia Garden Club.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 04, 2015

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

Small Business Saturdays: #SelfieSaturdays

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities is partnering with local shopping districts for Small Business Saturdays. Citizens who shop in one of the seven designated districts and participate in #SelfieSaturdays could win a \$50 gift card!

To participate citizens must go to any of the 7 business districts, make a purchase from any locally-owned, participating businesses and take a creative Selfie in front of the store's sign or logo with their receipt. The citizen must then tweet the photo to @ColumbiaOBO using the #SelfieSaturdays hashtag.

The participating districts are:

Devine Street:

Jennifer@youreventstaff.com

Five Points:

Amybeth@fivepointscolumbia.com

Main St & City Center:

info@citycentercolumbia.sc

North Columbia:

Info@northcolumbiabusinessassociation.com

Rosewood:

Rosewoodmerchants@gmail.com

Two Notch:

Mcgraw00@yahoo.com

Vista:

Meredith@vistacolumbia.com

#SelfieSaturdays will be held every Saturday in the month of November. Winners will be notified by Friday, December 4, 2015.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950 or go to www.ColumbiaSC.net/OBO.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043

City of Columbia Runoff Election

The City of Columbia Municipal Election was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. The unofficial results can be viewed online at www.columbiasc.net/elections.

A Run-off Election will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the following offices:

At Large Councilmember

Howard Duvall

Andy Smith

District II Councilmember

Ed McDowell

Aaron Bishop

For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Housing Division of Community Development Loan Committee Meeting

WHAT: Housing Division of Community Development Loan Committee Meeting

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I. CALL TO ORDER AND SIGN IN

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III. DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOAN COMMITTEE

·Ratify-Request six month extension - Midland Housing Trust Fund

·Approval of Housing Program Policy and Procedure Manual- (if all members are present)

IV. *EXECUTIVE SESSION – Financial and Personal information of a sensitive nature will be considered and discussed.

Presentation of the following Residential Loans for Loan Committee’s review and approval:

· MAP @ 2219 Hurst St., Columbia, SC 29203, for \$18,980

· Citi-Lender II @ 1016 Elm Ave., Columbia, SC 29205 a 2nd Mortgage for \$20,900

· Affordable Housing Pre-Approval @ 1322 McDuffie Street, Columbia SC 29203 a 1st mortgage for \$119,500

· P.E.A.R @ 3217 Howell Avenue (Booker Washington Heights Community

For more information, please contact the Community Development Housing Division at 803-545-3373.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043

City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission Meeting

WHO: City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission

WHAT: The City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission will meet to review and certify the November 3, 2015 election results.

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Office, 2020 Hampton Street

For any inquiries, please contact Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043 or cityclerk@columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043

City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission Meeting

WHO: City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission

WHAT: The City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission will meet to review and certify the November 3, 2015 election results.

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Office, 2020 Hampton Street

For any inquiries, please contact Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043 or cityclerk@columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2015

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

**Councilwoman Devine to give presentations at National League of Cities' 2015
Conference of Cities**

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will give presentations and participate in discussions on Friday November 6th and Saturday November 7th at the National League of Cities' 2015 Conference of Cities. Devine was invited to the conference due to her outstanding leadership role in the community as a local elected official.

On Friday at 12 PM Devine will participate in a roundtable, discussing how city leaders can promote income equality within communities. She is also participating in another panel discussion on Friday at 2:45 PM discussing the innovative things the City of Columbia is doing to encourage homeownership, financial education, banking and saving through IDA accounts.

On Saturday at 9 AM she will give her last presentation and discuss how she focuses her efforts on making the lives of Columbia's families better through Let's Move! Columbia, programming in our parks and partnerships.

The National League of Cities' Conference is the largest gathering of local elected officials and staff in the country, and is intended to offer exceptional educational and networking opportunities to increase the effectiveness of local leaders.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 05, 2015

Contact: Parks and Recreation Department at (803)-545-3100

City of Columbia's 37th Annual Veterans Day Parade

Celebrate Veterans Day at the City of Columbia's 37th Annual Veterans Day Parade on Wednesday, November 11, 2015.

Known as one of the Southeast's largest Veterans Day Parade, the event will kick off at 11 a.m. from the intersection of Sumter and Laurel streets, and travel southbound on Sumter Street ending at Pendleton Street near the State House.

The Veterans Day Parade is hosted by the City of Columbia and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Contact: Carrie Deaton at (803)-799-1970

Unveiling of the 2015 “Official City Ornament”

WHAT: Each year, the Mayor of Columbia unveils the Babcock Center Foundation’s “Ornament of Opportunity” and proclaims the ornament the “Official City Ornament”

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin & Babcock Center Foundation

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

Mayor’s Conference Room

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 10:00 AM

For more information, please contact Carrie Deaton, Babcock Center at Office: 803-799-1970; Mobile: 803-586-1473.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Several Pets Found Homes this Past Weekend with Pet Adoption Specials

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter wants to send a very big thank you to the citizens of Columbia and Richland County. This past weekend, during the Super Sale Cat/Kitten Adoption Special and Howl'oween Spooktacular Adoption Special, 61 cats/kittens and 14 dogs found homes.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you! We love our community. We asked for your help and you answered in a big way”, stated Marli Drum, Animal Shelter Superintendent.

The Columbia Animal Shelter is committed to serving the Columbia community and is constantly working to provide safe homes for pets through pet adoptions and various animal services.

Visit 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.

For updates about the Columbia Animal Shelter, you can also go to their [Facebook page](#).

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Agenda

The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 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

November 5, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545-3043

Municipal Board of Canvassers

Provisional Ballot Hearing

The City of Columbia Municipal Board of Canvassers (*Municipal Election Commission*) met on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 2:10 p.m. to conduct a Provisional Ballot Hearing.

- Six (6) Failsafe Ballots were accepted.
- Five (5) Failsafe Ballots were rejected.

The City of Columbia Municipal Board of Canvassers also certified the results of the City of Columbia Municipal Election held on Tuesday, November 5, 2015.

A Runoff Election will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the following offices:

At Large Councilmember

Howard Duvall (3,454 votes / 38.64%)
Andy Smith (2,321 votes / 25.96%)

District II Councilmember

Ed McDowell (679 votes / 37.91%)
Aaron Bishop (616 votes / 34.39%)

The official election results can be viewed online at www.columbiasc.net/elections.

For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 6, 2015

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

City of Columbia Accepting Nominations for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards

The City of Columbia is accepting nominations for the 2016 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 18, 2016, 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, December 18, 2015**.

For more information, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or smbell@columbiasc.net, or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 06, 2015

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

Small Business Saturdays: #SelfieSaturdays

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities is partnering with local shopping districts for Small Business Saturdays. Citizens who shop in one of the seven designated districts and participate in #SelfieSaturdays could win a \$50 gift card!

To participate citizens must go to any of the 7 business districts, make a purchase from any locally-owned, participating businesses and take a creative Selfie in front of the store's sign or logo with their receipt. The citizen must then tweet the photo to @ColumbiaOBO using the #SelfieSaturdays hashtag.

The participating districts are:

Devine Street:

Jennifer@youreventstaff.com

Five Points:

Amybeth@fivepointscolumbia.com

Main St & City Center:

info@citycentercolumbia.sc

North Columbia:

Info@northcolumbiabusinessassociation.com

Rosewood:

Rosewoodmerchants@gmail.com

Two Notch:

Mcgraw00@yahoo.com

Vista:

Meredith@vistacolumbia.com

#SelfieSaturdays will be held every Saturday in the month of November. Winners will be notified by Friday, December 4, 2015.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950 or go to www.ColumbiaSC.net/OBO.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 06, 2015

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

Register for the Youth Winter Basketball League

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Winter Basketball Program is open.

The program is open to boys and girls ages 9-17. There is a \$25 fee per participant.

The registration period will close Friday, November 13, 2015. League play begins Monday, November 30, 2015.

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

Registration forms are also available at any community center or at Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 06, 2015

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

City of Columbia Community Gardening Workshop

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a Community Gardening Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 14 for beginner gardeners to learn how to maintain their soil to guarantee the health of their plants.

The **FREE** workshop will feature live demonstrations on soil sampling, information on the importance of healthy soil and a presentation from Reginald Hall, a natural resources specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

WHAT: Community Garden Workshop

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 06, 2015

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

James E. Clyburn Golf Center Closed for Repairs

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is temporarily closed for repairs, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced.

Following an external damage assessment of the facility, the decision was made to close the center to repair damages caused by the October 2015 flood.

The golf center will be closed for at least 30 days.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2015

Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

Design/Development Review Commission Meeting Agenda

The Design/Development Review Commission will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 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

Monday, November 9, 2015

Contact: Carrie Deaton at (803)-799-1970

Unveiling of the 2015 “Official City Ornament”

WHAT: Each year, the Mayor of Columbia unveils the Babcock Center Foundation’s “Ornament of Opportunity” and proclaims the ornament the “Official City Ornament”

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin & Babcock Center Foundation

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

Mayor’s Conference Room

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 10:00 AM

For more information, please contact Carrie Deaton, Babcock Center at Office: 803-799-1970; Mobile: 803-586-1473.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 9, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

City's Pet of the Week: Meet Jake! (ID# A212175)

Jake is a one-year-ten-month-old Labrador Retriever mix. He is a sweet and submissive dog who plays well with others but is afraid of cats. Jake is also a volunteer favorite! He has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit 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, November 9, 2015

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

Memorial Service to be Held in Memory of Columbia Police Officer Stacy L. Case

WHAT: A memorial service will be held in memory of Columbia Police Department Officer Stacy L. Case. Officer Case's end of watch was on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Stacy L. Case (DOB: 12-14-1977), a 4-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department died as a result of injuries sustained in a car crash at the intersection of College and Park Streets shortly before 10:30 p.m. on November 7, 2015. Officer Case was responding to a call for service on Lincoln Street at the time.

WHO: The family of Officer Stacy L. Case, Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council members, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook, CPD Command staff, City officials/staff, law enforcement officers, community leaders and citizens.

WHERE: The Township Auditorium, 1703 Taylor Street.

WHEN: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 2 PM. The memorial service will begin at 2 PM. Doors will open to the public at 1 PM for seating.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 9, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545.3043

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC – Absentee voting for the Runoff Election began on Friday, November 6, 2015 and will end on Monday, November 16, 2015.

To view a list of precincts visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

To verify the location of your precinct visit www.scvotes.org.

Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Office

2020 Hampton Street

Columbia, SC 29204

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)

Phone: (803)576.2240

Email: absenteeballots@rcgov.us

Precinct Search: www.scvotes.org

For additional information please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545.3045 or visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 545-3045

Columbia City Council - Cancellation of Meetings

Due to the tragic death of Columbia Police Department Officer Stacy L. Case, the City Council Work Session and Meeting scheduled for today, November 10, 2015 have been cancelled. Out of respect for Officer Case's family and in honor of her memory, the City Council meetings have been postponed until a later date.

A special memorial service will be held today, at 2 p.m., at the Township Auditorium, for Officer Case. City of Columbia officials will be assisting family members while they are in Columbia.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Contact: Parks and Recreation Department at (803) 545-3100

City of Columbia's 37th Annual Veterans Day Parade

Celebrate Veterans Day at the City of Columbia's 37th Annual Veterans Day Parade on Wednesday, November 11, 2015.

Known as one of the Southeast's largest Veterans Day Parade, the event will kick off at 11 a.m. from the intersection of Sumter and Laurel streets, and travel southbound on Sumter Street ending at Pendleton Street near the State House.

The Veterans Day Parade is hosted by the City of Columbia and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545.3043

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC – Absentee voting for the Runoff Election began on Friday, November 6, 2015 and will end on Monday, November 16, 2015.

To view a list of precincts visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

To verify the location of your precinct visit www.scvotes.org.

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For additional information please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545.3045 or visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Contact: Parks and Recreation Department at (803) 545-3100

City of Columbia's 37th Annual Veterans Day Parade

Celebrate Veterans Day at the City of Columbia's 37th Annual Veterans Day Parade **today**, November 11, 2015.

Known as one of the Southeast's largest Veterans Day Parade, the event will kick off at 11 a.m. from the intersection of Sumter and Laurel streets, and travel southbound on Sumter Street ending at Pendleton Street near the State House.

The Veterans Day Parade is hosted by the City of Columbia and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

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

City Receives IABC SC Palmetto Award

The City of Columbia's Public and Media Relations Department was awarded the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) SC Palmetto Award for their #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge initiative. IABC held their annual awards ceremony on November 3, 2015 at the Palmetto Club.

"We are thrilled to present an opportunity that allows our citizens to share what they love about Columbia," stated Public and Media Relations Director Leshia Utsey.

The #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge is an annual City initiative that encourages citizens to submit photos via social media of their favorite images taken within City limits. Three individual photos are selected as winners from the City's official Twitter, Instagram and Facebook through citizen participation and voting.

The Palmetto Awards were created in 1999 to recognize the outstanding work in the communications field and foster professional development among communicators. The awards provide the opportunity for communicators to display their talents in communication planning, publication writing and design, feature writing, electronic communication, and public relations and crisis communication campaigns.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

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

InnovateHER: 2016 Innovating for Women Business Challenge

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO), in partnership with Columbia College, the USC-Columbia Technology Incubator and the SC Women's Business Center is hosting the 2016 InnovateHER pitch competition on **Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 6pm** at the Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina.

There were a total of 14 applications submitted from which 8 finalists were chosen to participate in the challenge. The winner of this challenge will compete against other local winners nationally, for the opportunity to pitch their business idea in Washington, DC for the chance to win up to \$40,000.

The previous winner GaBBY Bows was selected to pitch in Washington, DC where she placed 4th in the national competition and was featured on C-Span and in the Washington Post.

InnovateHER is a national women's business challenge sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The business challenge provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. Products or services must exhibit the following:

1. Have a measureable impact on the lives of women and families.
2. Have the potential for commercialization.
3. Fill a need in the marketplace.

For additional questions or information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950, or at columbiasc.net/OBO

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015, 2015

Contact: Victoria Kramer at 803-240-9207

Flood Repair Permitting Open House

The City of Columbia will partner with Richland County to hold two Open Houses to answer questions about the City's flood repair and rebuilding permitting process.

·Monday, November 16 – 5:30pm-7:30pm – St. Andrews Park, 920 Beatty Road

·Monday, November 23 – 10:00 am-2:00 pm – Richland County Council Chambers, 2020 Hampton Street

The Flood Repair Permitting Open Houses are designed to answer homeowner and contractor questions about the permitting application process in a one-on-one setting.

Flood Repair Permitting Open House attendees can learn whether their property is in a floodplain, pick up the permit application packet, determine their property value, and have any questions regarding the application process answered. No permits will be issued at these meetings. Permits can only be issued from the City at Washington Square (1136 Washington Street).

City of Columbia residents can find out more about the City's floodplain permitting policy at <http://www.columbiasc.net/headlines/100420151500-flood>.

To determine if you are eligible to receive disaster assistance, please go to <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Contact: Carrie Deaton at (803)-799-1970

Unveiling of the 2015 “Official City Ornament”

WHAT: Each year, the Mayor of Columbia unveils the Babcock Center Foundation’s “Ornament of Opportunity” and proclaims the ornament the “Official City Ornament”

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin & Babcock Center Foundation

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

Mayor’s Conference Room

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 10:00 AM

For more information, please contact Carrie Deaton, Babcock Center at Office: 803-799-1970; Mobile: 803-586-1473.

###

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015, 2015

Contact: Victoria Kramer at 803-240-9207

What You Need to Know to Dispel Myths About City Flood Repair Permitting

The City of Columbia has published City Flood Repair Myths & Facts: What You Need to Know to dispel myths about City flood repair permitting, give property owner the real facts, and provide additional information flood victims might find useful.

Myths dispelled include the rumor that some homeowners are allowed to follow different rules than the rest of the City – they are not, one that owners must wait for FEMA go-ahead to start rebuilding – they do not have to, and another that property owners must use the damage estimate provided by FEMA or the flood inspector – they can use a repair estimate from a state-licensed general contractor.

In addition, City staff will be part of two upcoming open houses held jointly with Richland County to answer questions and help property owners through the Flood Hazard Permit Application process. These open houses will be:

·Monday, November 16 – 5:30pm-7:30pm – St. Andrews Park, 920 Beatty Road

·Monday, November 23 – 10:00 am-2:00 pm – Richland County Council Chambers, 2020 Hampton Street

City of Columbia residents can find out more about the City's floodplain permitting policy at <http://www.columbiasc.net/headlines/100420151500-flood>.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

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

City of Columbia Community Gardening Workshop

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a Community Gardening Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 14 for beginner gardeners to learn how to maintain their soil to guarantee the health of their plants.

The **FREE** workshop will feature live demonstrations on soil sampling, information on the importance of healthy soil and a presentation from Reginald Hall, a natural resources specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

WHAT: Community Garden Workshop

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

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

Register for the Youth Winter Basketball League

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Winter Basketball Program is open.

The program is open to boys and girls ages 9-17. There is a \$25 fee per participant.

The registration period will close Friday, November 13, 2015. League play begins Monday, November 30, 2015.

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

Registration forms are also available at any community center or at Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2015

Contact: Victoria Kramer at 803-545-3227

**Temporary Water Disruption for City Customers on Garners Ferry at
Caughman Pond**

City of Columbia crews are responding to a 16" water main break on Garners Ferry Road near Caughman's Pond. Customers in the area should expect low pressure and water disruption during the repair.

It has not been determined yet if a boil water advisory is needed or if repairs can be made without requiring one. Any required notifications will be provided once the determination has been made.

The City of Columbia apologizes for the inconvenience. Customers who require any additional information can contact Customer Care at 545-3300.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 12, 2015

Contact: Carrie Deaton at (803)-799-1970

Unveiling of the 2015 “Official City Ornament”

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WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin & Babcock Center Foundation

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

Mayor’s Conference Room

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 10:00 AM

For more information, please contact Carrie Deaton, Babcock Center at Office: 803-799-1970; Mobile: 803-586-1473.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 12, 2015

Contact: Carrie Deaton at (803)-799-1970

Support Babcock Center and Get a Great Gift for Under \$20!

This year's "Official City Ornament" as proclaimed by Mayor Steve Benjamin depicts the Spirit Communications Park, the future home of the Columbia Fireflies. This is the 23rd ornament in the collectors' series. Each ornament is beautifully crafted 24-karat gold on brass and comes in a felt case. All proceeds from the sales of the ornament benefit the Babcock Center Foundation, a private, non-profit organization that supports more than 800 individuals with lifelong disabilities in Richland and Lexington counties.

Ornaments cost \$15 and may be purchased at the Babcock Center Foundation Office at 2725 Banny Jones Avenue, West Columbia, and the Columbia Visitor's Center or by calling 803-799-1970. Ornaments may be purchased online at www.babcockcenter.org. Order forms may also be downloaded at the website and mailed to the Foundation at PO Box 3608 West Columbia, SC 29171.

For more information, please contact Carrie Deaton, Babcock Center at Office: 803-799-1970; Mobile: 803-586-1473.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 12, 2015

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

InnovateHER: 2016 Innovating for Women Business Challenge

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO), in partnership with Columbia College, the USC-Columbia Technology Incubator and the SC Women's Business Center is hosting the 2016 InnovateHER pitch competition on **Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 6pm** at the Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina.

There were a total of 14 applications submitted from which 8 finalists were chosen to participate in the challenge. The winner of this challenge will compete against other local winners nationally, for the opportunity to pitch their business idea in Washington, DC for the chance to win up to \$40,000.

The previous winner GaBBY Bows was selected to pitch in Washington, DC where she placed 4th in the national competition and was featured on C-Span and in the Washington Post.

InnovateHER is a national women's business challenge sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The business challenge provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. Products or services must exhibit the following:

1. Have a measureable impact on the lives of women and families.
2. Have the potential for commercialization.
3. Fill a need in the marketplace.

For additional questions or information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950, or at columbiasc.net/OBO

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 13, 2015

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

City Officials to be Designated as a Bronze Level Walk Friendly Community

WHAT: The City of Columbia has been designated as a Bronze Level Walk Friendly Community (WFC) by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center.

Walk Friendly Communities is a national recognition program aimed to encourage communities to establish or recommit to higher level of walking.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia City Council Members, City Staff

WHERE: City Hall, Front Steps (Rain Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor)
1737 Main St. Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Wednesday, November 18, 2015
1 PM

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin to present Stevie Wonder with Key to the City

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will present the Key to the City to music legend Stevie Wonder as part of the “Rocking 4 Relief” benefit concert held from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm Sunday, November 15, at the Historic Columbia Speedway.

Organized to help raise funds for those devastated by the recent flooding in Columbia and across South Carolina and to remember the victims of the June 17th shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church, “Rocking 4 Relief” will feature a number of world-class performers in addition to Stevie Wonder including ZZ Top front man Billy F. Gibbons, Lyfe Jennings, Benton Blount, Kimberly Nichole, Candice Glover, Malina Moye, Martin Guigui, Tal Bergman, Carmine Rojas, Ron DeJesus and Columbia’s own Benedict College Gospel Choir.

“For a man like Stevie Wonder to donate his time and his remarkable talent to helping us overcome two of the most devastating tragedies this community and this state have ever known is truly humbling,” said Mayor Benjamin. “Not only has his music defined a generation, but his sense of service and charity inspires us all.”

“Being able to recognize him and personally thank him for his efforts is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a true honor.”

For more information about “Rocking 4 Relief” or to purchase tickets, visit www.rocking4relief.com.

Anyone interested in donating to SC Flood Relief Fund can do so online at www.yourfoundation.org/scfloodrelief.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 13, 2015

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

Register for the City’s Instructional Cheerleading Program

The registration period for the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation’s Cheerleading program is open for girls ages 5-13. The last day to register is Sunday, November 15.

The cheerleading program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn cheerleading fundamentals. **There is no fee to participate.**

Practices will be held on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, November 17. Practices will be held at Greenview Park, 6700 David Street. Performances will be held on Saturdays at various city parks during the Youth Winter Basketball season.

To register online, visit <http://gate.columbiasc.gov/cheer/>.

Registration forms are also 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 during regular business hours.

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 13, 2015

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

City of Columbia Community Gardening Workshop

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a Community Gardening Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 14 for beginner gardeners to learn how to maintain their soil to guarantee the health of their plants.

The workshop will feature live demonstrations on soil sampling, information on the importance of healthy soil and a presentation from Reginald Hall, a natural resources specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

WHAT: Community Gardening Workshop

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, November 14, 2015

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

Small Business Saturdays: #SelfieSaturdays

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities is partnering with local shopping districts for Small Business Saturdays. Citizens who shop in one of the seven designated districts and participate in #SelfieSaturdays could win a \$50 gift card!

To participate citizens must go to any of the 7 business districts, make a purchase from any locally-owned, participating businesses and take a creative Selfie in front of the store's sign or logo with their receipt. The citizen must then tweet the photo to @ColumbiaOBO using the #SelfieSaturdays hashtag.

The participating districts are:

Devine Street:

Jennifer@youreventstaff.com

Five Points:

Amybeth@fivepointscolumbia.com

Main St & City Center:

info@citycentercolumbia.sc

North Columbia:

Info@northcolumbiabusinessassociation.com

Rosewood:

Rosewoodmerchants@gmail.com

Two Notch:

Mcgraw00@yahoo.com

Vista:

Meredith@vistacolumbia.com

#SelfieSaturdays will be held every Saturday in the month of November. Winners will be notified by Friday, December 4, 2015.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950 or go to www.ColumbiaSC.net/OBO.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 16, 2015

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

City Kicks Off Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive

The City of Columbia, Richland School District One and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation have kicked off the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive benefiting Harvest Hope Food Bank. **The food drive ends Monday, December 21, 2015.**

The food drive is held each year to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of community service. Some requested items include canned fruit and vegetables, dry goods and canned meats.

The public can drop off donations at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Columbia Tennis Center, 1635 Whaley Street
- Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way
- Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive
- Emily Douglas Park, 2500 Wheat Street
- Greenview Park, 6700 David Street
- Hampton Park, 117 Brandon Avenue
- Heathwood Park, 800 Abelia Road
- Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue
- Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center, 2611 Grant Street
- Lorick Park, 1600 Lorick Avenue
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street
- Melrose Park, 1500 Fairview Road
- Pinehurst Park, 2300 Pinehurst Road

- St. Anna's Park, 1315 Liberty Hill Avenue
- Sims Park, 3500 Duncan Street
- Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway
- City Human Resources, 1225 Lady Street
- Columbia Fire Department Headquarters, 1800 Laurel Street
- Columbia Police Department Headquarters, 1 Justice Square
- Public Works, 2910 Colonial Drive

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 16, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545.3043

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

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To view a list of precincts visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

To verify the location of your precinct visit www.scvotes.org.

Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Office

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Columbia, SC 29204

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)

Phone: (803)576.2240

Email: absenteeballots@rcgov.us

Precinct Search: www.scvotes.org

For additional information please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545.3045 or visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 16, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

City's Pet of the Week: Kirby! (ID# A218804)

Kirby is a one-year-three-month-old Tabby & Calico cat. She is playful, affectionate and independent. Kirby has been spayed and is also micro-chipped.

Visit 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, November 16, 2015

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

City of Columbia Accepting Nominations for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards

The City of Columbia is accepting nominations for the 2016 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 18, 2016, 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, December 18, 2015**.

For more information, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or smbell@columbiasc.net, or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 16, 2015

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

OBO Announces Winner of InnovateHER Business Challenge

On Thursday, November 12, 2015 the Office of Business Opportunities in partnership with Columbia College, the USC-Columbia Technology Incubator and the SC Women's Business Center announced the winner of the local InnovateHER Business Challenge.

InnovateHER is a national women's business challenge sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The business challenge provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. Products or services must have a measureable impact on the lives of women and families, have the potential for commercialization and fill a need in the marketplace. The first, second and third place winners are as follows:

1st Place: Anthony Ned, Rooster Booster

2nd Place: Lesenta Lewis-Ellis, Need-A-Lift Transportation Services, LLC

3rd Place: Sherry Norris, Alala, LLC

Eight finalists were chosen to present their innovative products or services but only the winner of the challenge will compete against other winners nationally, for the opportunity to pitch their business idea in Washington, DC at the national InnovateHER: Innovating for Women Business Summit on March 17, 2015 for the chance to win up to \$40,000.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

To view a list of precincts visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

To verify the location of your precinct visit www.scvotes.org.

Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Office

2020 Hampton Street

Columbia, SC 29204

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)

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Email: absenteeballots@rcgov.us

Precinct Search: www.scvotes.org

For additional information please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545.3045 or visit www.columbiasc.net/elections.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

Columbia City Council Special Called Meeting

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the 2nd floor conference room at City Hall, 1737 Main Street. Please see the attached agenda for additional details.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin to recognize American Indian Heritage Month

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will be joined by local leaders and representatives of Columbia’s Native American community at City Hall tomorrow, November 18th, at 1:30pm for the proclamation and observance of American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Columbia.

Tomorrow’s observance will include performances of traditional Native American music and dance following Mayor Benjamin presentation of a proclamation designating the month of November as American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Columbia as well as recognizing the tremendous impact Native American’s have had on our local, state and national culture.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin and Native American leaders

WHAT: American Indian Heritage Month

Proclamation and Observance

WHEN: Thursday, November 18, at 1:30pm

WHERE: City Hall (Council Chambers)

Third Floor

1737 Main Street

Columbia, South Carolina

For additional information, please contact the Michael Wukela at 803.413.5052 or via email at mwcwukela@columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Contact: John Fellows at 803.545.3215 or jfellows@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Designated Walk Friendly Community

The City of Columbia has been designated as a Walk Friendly Community (WFC) by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. Walk Friendly Communities is a national recognition program aimed to encourage communities to establish or recommit to higher level of walking.

The WFC program recognizes communities that are working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access and comfort. The WFC designation of honorable mention, bronze, silver, gold and platinum, is given to applicant communities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving and sustaining walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans and policies. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and FedEx.

An application for designation was submitted by the City in the spring and a receipt of notification of the City's designation was received in early November. The City of Columbia is the first Bronze level community within the state and the only community within the state to receive designation at any level. Other communities within the southeast to receive awards in the past are Atlanta, Charlotte, Louisville, Davidson, NC, Cary, NC. A full list of comparison for each level can be found at walkfriendly.org/communities/list.cfm.

Nationwide announcements of the designation will occur Tuesday October 13, 2015. Planning Staff has been coordination a formal press release, press conference and other announcements items with the City Public Relations Department. These events will occur in the upcoming weeks so this fantastic news is not lost within the ongoing weather related news. Planning staff has reached out to the Walk Friendly Communities staff and they are interested in coming to Columbia to present the award along with their sponsor FedEx. We hope this announcement will occur towards the end of October or early November based upon schedules and availability.

If you should have any questions about the award, please contact John Fellows, at jfellows@columbiasc.net or 803.545.3215.

Presentation of Award

WHAT: The City of Columbia has been designated as a Bronze Level Walk Friendly Community (WFC) by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council Members, City Staff, BPAC, SCDOT and The COMET

WHERE: City Hall, Front Steps (Rain Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor), 1737 Main St.
Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 1 PM

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WHERE: City Hall (Council Chambers)

Third Floor

1737 Main Street

Columbia, South Carolina

For additional information, please contact Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052 or via email at mwcwukela@columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Contact: Planning and Development Services at 803-545-3420

City of Columbia Advises Removal of Political Sign – Deadline November 24

To keep our community free of clutter and litter, candidates and anyone responsible for placing political campaign signs, are reminded to remove the signs from private property and public right-of-ways. Tuesday, November 24, is the deadline by which all campaign signs must be removed. Any such sign that is not removed by the deadline shall be subject to a monetary fine and loss of the signs.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015

Contact: John Fellows at 803.545.3215 or [jsfellows@columbiasc.net](mailto:jfellows@columbiasc.net)

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WHAT: The City of Columbia has been designated as a Walk Friendly Community (WFC) by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. Walk Friendly Communities is a national recognition program aimed to encourage communities to establish or recommit to higher level of walking.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council Members, City Staff, BPAC, SCDOT and The COMET

WHERE: City Hall, Front Steps (Rain Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor), 1737 Main St. Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 1 PM

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

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

City of Columbia's Main Street ICE Opens Thanksgiving Day

Grab your family and friends, and head down to Boyd Plaza for the opening day of Main Street ICE! 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.

Main Street ICE opens Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 5 to 10 p.m., and will remain open until January 18, 2016. Opening day price is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 12 and under. The rink will be open from 1 to 10 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving.

Fees

Opening Day

- \$8 for adults
- \$5 for children ages 12 and under

Monday through Wednesday (Discount Days)

- \$8 for adults
- \$5 for children ages 12 and under

Thursday through Sunday (Regular Price)

- \$10 for adults
- \$8 for children ages 12 and under

Active Duty Military with ID and Seniors age 55 and up

- \$8 (Thursday through Sunday)

The ice rink will be open seven days a week at the following hours of operation:

- Monday-Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.
- Friday, 4 to 10 p.m.

·Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

·Sunday, 1 to 9 p.m.

Main Street ICE will have special operating hours December 21 through January 1, from 12 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 10 p.m. on Friday. Saturday and Sunday hours will remain the same.

The rink will be closed on Christmas Day and will be open until 12 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

For more information or to reserve your group reservations, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803)545.3043

City of Columbia Municipal Runoff Election Results

The City of Columbia Municipal Board of Canvassers (*Municipal Election Commission*) met on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 2:02 p.m. to certify the results of the Municipal Runoff Election.

The results are as follows:

At Large Councilmember

Howard Duvall (4,895 votes / 66.16%)

Andy Smith (2,504 votes / 33.84%)

District II Councilmember

Ed McDowell (820 votes / 51.60%)

Aaron Bishop (769 votes / 48.40%)

The official election results can be viewed online at www.columbiasc.net/elections.

For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (803)545.3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.net.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 20, 2015

Contact: Planning and Development Services at 803-545-3420

City of Columbia Advises Removal of Political Signs – Deadline November 24

To keep our community free of clutter and litter, candidates and anyone responsible for placing political campaign signs, are reminded to remove the signs from private property and public right-of-ways. Tuesday, November 24, is the deadline by which all campaign signs must be removed. Any such sign that is not removed by the deadline shall be subject to a monetary fine and loss of the signs.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 20, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin welcomes Inaugural AAMA Leadership Summit to Columbia

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin proudly welcomes mayors, business leaders and policy experts from across the nation as they converge on Columbia today and tomorrow for the Inaugural African American Mayors Association (AAMA) Leadership Summit.

“Our cities are facing some serious challenges,” says Mayor Benjamin. “The AAMA Leadership Summit is our opportunity to bring some of the top minds in the nation together and find new, creative ways to meet those challenges with solutions and secure a better, brighter future for all.”

“We’re proud to welcome these remarkable men and women to our great city and we look forward to a great summit.”

With meetings, presentations and roundtable discussions covering a variety of topics from Healthcare and Justice Reform to Broadband Policy and Emergency Preparedness, the AAMA Leadership Summit provides a unique environment where AAMA members can connect with other thoughtful leaders and nationally recognized subject matter experts to discuss strategic objectives and policy goals.

In addition to Mayor Benjamin, who was elected AAMA President in May, presenters include:

- Mayor William A. Bell (Birmingham, AL)
- Mayor Sly James (Kansas City, MO)
- Mayor Toni Harp (New Haven, CT)
- Mayor Tony Yarber (Jackson, MS)
- Mayor Hardie Davis (Augusta, GA)
- Mayor William V. Bell (Durham, NC)
- Mayor Jacqueline Goodall (Forest Heights, MD)
- Mayor William Johnson (Holly Hill, SC)
- Mayor Oliver Gilbert (Miami Gardens, FL)

- Mayor Helen Carson Peterson (St. Mathews, SC)
- Mayor Johnny Ford (Tuskegee, AL)
- Mayor Vivian Covington (University Park, IL)
- U.S. Senator Cory Booker (NJ)
- Scott Davis (Region IV Air Planning Branch Chief, EPA)
- Mike Moore (Federal Coordinating Officer, FEMA)
- Dr. Pamela Roshell (Regional Director of Region IV, HHS)
- Antoinette Malveaux (Managing Director, Casey Family Programs)
- Dr. Bryant Marks (Director, Morehouse Male Initiative)
- Kimberly Marshall (Commercial Product Manager, Uber)
- Pete Meadows (Director of External Affairs, AT&T)
- Mary O'Brien (Chief Marketing Officer, Advanced Disposal)
- Anthony Smith (CEO, Cities United)
- Antonio Williams (Senior Director of Government and External Affairs, Comcast)

Click [HERE](#) for the full agenda of the Inaugural AAMA Leadership Summit's or to learn more about the African American Mayors Association visit <http://www.ourmayors.org>.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 20, 2015

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

**Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia City Council to Proclaim November as
Gratitude Month**

WHAT: November will be proclaimed as Gratitude Month in the City of Columbia. An announcement will be made about a citywide communications campaign that citizens can participate in until the end of December 2015. The campaign is focused on assisting those who wish to express their gratitude to first responders and all City of Columbia employees for their tireless efforts during the October 2015 flood.

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

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

Council Chambers

WHEN: Monday, November 23, 2015 at 11:00 AM

For more information, please contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 23, 2015

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WHEN: Monday, November 23, 2015 at 11:00 AM

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###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 23, 2015

Contact: Solid Waste Division at 803-545-3800

City to Observe Thanksgiving Holiday

Garbage Collection Schedule Changes

The City of Columbia will observe the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27. Most administrative offices will be closed on both days. Emergency police, fire and rescue services may be reached by calling 9-1-1.

Garbage, recycling and yard waste scheduled for collection on Thanksgiving Day will be picked up on Wednesday, Nov. 25. Regularly scheduled collection services will resume on Friday, Nov. 27.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 23, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

City's Pet of the Week: Meet Daboo! (ID# A220874)

Daboo is a seven month old Catahoula Mix. He is not a dog for a couch potato. Daboo enjoys long walks and would need to play with a ball in a fenced in yard. Daboo has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit 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, November 23, 2015

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

City of Columbia's New Year's Eve Carnival

WHAT: Ring in the New Year with the entire family at the City of Columbia's New Year's Eve Carnival. This family-friendly event features carnival rides, inflatables, carnival games, face painting food vendors and ice skating!

WHERE: Main and Hampton streets

WHEN: Thursday, December 31, 2015 from 6-11 p.m.

COST: Admission to the New Year's Eve Carnival is **free**. **There is a fee for carnival rides, inflatables, face painting and food vendors.** Prices will vary.

NOTE: Main Street ICE will be open from 12 p.m. to midnight on New Year's Eve. The fee to skate is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children (age 12 and under) and \$8 for active duty military with ID and seniors (55+). The fee includes skate rentals.

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 23, 2015

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

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Monday through Wednesday (Discount Days)

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Thursday through Sunday (Regular Price)

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Active Duty Military with ID and Seniors age 55 and up

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The ice rink will be open seven days a week at the following hours of operation:

- Monday-Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.
- Friday, 4 to 10 p.m.

·Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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The rink will be closed on Christmas Day and will be open until 12 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

For more information or to reserve your group reservations, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 23, 2015

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

City Accepting Donations for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive

The City of Columbia, Richland School District One and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation have kicked off the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive benefiting Harvest Hope Food Bank. **The food drive ends Monday, December 21, 2015.**

The food drive is held each year to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of community service. Some requested items include canned fruit and vegetables, dry goods and canned meats.

The public can drop off donations at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Columbia Tennis Center, 1635 Whaley Street
- Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way
- Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive
- Emily Douglas Park, 2500 Wheat Street
- Greenview Park, 6700 David Street
- Hampton Park, 117 Brandon Avenue
- Heathwood Park, 800 Abelia Road
- Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue
- Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center, 2611 Grant Street
- Lorick Park, 1600 Lorick Avenue
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street
- Melrose Park, 1500 Fairview Road
- Pinehurst Park, 2300 Pinehurst Road

- St. Anna's Park, 1315 Liberty Hill Avenue
- Sims Park, 3500 Duncan Street
- Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway
- City Human Resources, 1225 Lady Street
- Columbia Fire Department Headquarters, 1800 Laurel Street
- Columbia Police Department Headquarters, 1 Justice Square
- Public Works, 2910 Colonial Drive

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

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

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

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center to Close for Thanksgiving Holiday

The Charles R. Drew Wellness Center will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27.

The wellness center will reopen for regular hours on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 8 a.m.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Contact: Solid Waste Division at 803-545-3800

City to Observe Thanksgiving Holiday

Garbage Collection Schedule Changes

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For more information or to reserve your group reservations, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2015

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

Home Buying Workshop: How to Purchase a House on a Budget

Community Development is hosting a home buying seminar on how to purchase a home on a budget. The seminar is geared towards first time buyers, those who are on a budget and even flood victims who may have lost their homes. Loan Officer, Felicia Wilks, states that the workshop will be a “Great opportunity to find out the ease of buying a house, the simple way of buying a home.”

During the workshop participants will learn how to purchase a home on a budget, the benefits of homeownership, budgeting tactics, loan requirements, what to do after closing, how to decorate with limited funds and much more. Light refreshments will also be provided.

The workshop is sponsored by South State Bank and will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Richland County Library (Cooper Branch), 5317 North Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206 from 6 to 8 PM.

For more information, or to reserve your seat please call Community Development at (803) 545-3373.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 30, 2015

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

FEMA Disaster Assistance | Registration Extension Granted

Flood survivors in need of FEMA disaster assistance now have until January 3, 2016 to apply. A 30 day extension was granted for the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Individual Assistance registration period. **To register for assistance, please call 1-800-621-FEMA, visit www.disasterassistance.gov or email FEMA-ContactUs@fema.dhs.gov**(responses take 1 to 2 business days). Renters are eligible if they resided in a disaster area prior to the event.

Disaster assistance applicants who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585. Those who use 711 or Video Relay Service may call 800-621-FEMA (3362). The toll-free telephone numbers will operate 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

A Disaster Recovery Center is a readily accessible facility where applicants may go for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs. Please visit one of the following FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers for assistance:

Main Library - 1431 Assembly St, Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 799-9084

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Fri – Sat: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sun: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

South East Library - 7421 Garners Ferry Rd, Columbia, SC 29209

Phone: (803) 776-0855

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Fri – Sat: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sun: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Irmo Library - 6251 St Andrews Road, Columbia, SC

Phone: (803) 353-8584

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sat: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sun: CLOSED

Blaney Fire Department - 1200 Rose Street, Elgin, SC

Phone: (803) 353-8584

Hours of Operation:
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sun: CLOSED

Temple of Faith Church - 2850 Congaree Rd, Gadsden, SC
Phone: (803) 353-8584
Hours of Operation:
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sun: CLOSED

For more information, please visit www.disasterassistance.gov.

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