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City eNews



Main Street ICE

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 opened Thanksgiving Day 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.

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.

Famously Hot New Year's Eve Carnival

Bring the whole family out for 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.



We Are Columbia

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.

City of Columbia Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday

City of Columbia offices will be closed on December 24—25, 2015 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Garbage collection is scheduled as follows: Thursday, December 24th will run on Wednesday, December 23rd. Friday, December 25th will run on Thursday, December 24th.

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

The FREE workshop 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.



OBO Announces Winners 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

City of Columbia Recognized for Flood Recovery Efforts

The City of Columbia was recognized by Palmetto Health on Tuesday, November 17 at Palmetto Health's Leadership Institute Workshop.

Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson and members of the City's management team were in attendance.

Palmetto Health's CEO Chuck Beaman thanked the City of Columbia, first responders and all local agencies for their dedication and hard work during the October 2015 Flood.

City Receives IABC SC Palmetto Award

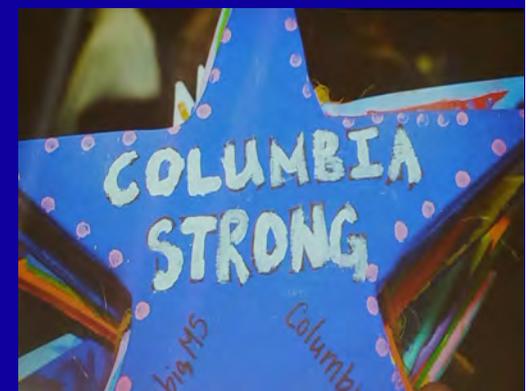
On Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at the City Council meeting the Public and Media Relations Department was recognized for their great accomplishment of receiving the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) SC Palmetto Award for their #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge initiative.



(L:R: Lesenta Lewis-Ellis, Anthony Ned, and Sherry Norris)



City officials and first responders



The #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge is an annual City initiative that encourages citizens to submit photos via social media of their favorite images taken within the City limits.

The Palmetto Awards were created 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.

African American History Calendar Honoree

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins was recognized for his achievements. Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins is featured in the 2016 SC African American History Calendar for the month of April.

The African American History Calendar which is presented by AT&T and partners, honors some extraordinary individuals with deep roots in our state, whose achievements have transformed our world and helped define who we are as South Carolinians.

In the pages of this 2016 edition, you will see men and women who have excelled in many fields, including education, medicine, business, and public service.

City of Columbia Recognizes Gratitude Month

Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia City Council proclaimed November as Gratitude Month on November 23, 2015 at City Hall.

Mayor Steve Benjamin announced a citywide communications campaign that allows citizens to express their gratitude to first responders and all City of Columbia employees for their tireless efforts during the October 2015 flood.

Citizens can leave notes of appreciation in the drop boxes labeled “Notes of Appreciation” at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Washington Square Payment Center, 1136 Washington Street
- Police Headquarters, 1 Justice Square
- Fire Headquarters, 1800 Laurel Street
- Eau Claire Town Hall, 3904 Monticello Rd



(L-R:)Mayor Steve Benjamin, Public and Media Relations Director Leshia Utsey, Councilman Moe Baddourah, Councilwoman Leona Plaugh, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and Councilman Sam Davis



(L:R) Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, Councilwoman Leona Plaugh, Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins, Councilman Moe Baddourah, Mayor Steve Benjamin and Councilman Sam Davis

Notes of appreciation can also be emailed to columbiacares@columbiasc.net . A Gratitude Board has been placed at Washington Square Payment Center, 1136 Washington Street for citizens who wish to express their gratitude. Citizens can drop off notes until December 31, 2015.

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

Advertisement of Vacancies on Various Boards

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill several vacancies on the following boards and commissions.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Seeking several Applicants.

The purpose of BPAC is to advise the Mayor and City Council Members, the City of Columbia transportation planning staff; community organizations; and partners on bicycling and pedestrian issues facing the city; to work toward development of bicycle/pedestrian master plan; to represent community and constituent interests in transportation planning decisions; and to provide feedback to staff on projects relating to walking and bicycling. Current appointees need to re-apply for consideration. Term - 2 years.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Seeking three (3) Applicants.

Hear and decide appeals when someone claims that the Zoning Administrator had made an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination in enforcing the zoning ordinance; The Board of Zoning Appeals may grant special exceptions for uses that the City Council believes are generally permissible but require review and approval on a case-by-case basis to ensure secondary impacts do not adversely impact traffic; vehicle and pedestrian safety; adjoining property in terms of noise, lights, fumes, and air flow; the aesthetic character of the environs; and the orientation and spacing of buildings ; and may grant a variance to certain provisions of the Zoning Ordinance where a literal enforcement of the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship, provided that the spirit of the Zoning Ordinance shall be observed, public safety and welfare secured, and substantial justice done. Term - 3 years.

Climate Protection Action Committee

Seeking an At-large representative.

Identify measures that can be taken to reduce greenhouse gases. CPAC was initiated to impact climate change, but now also serves as the City's unofficial environmental clearing house, focusing on air quality, energy conservation, water conservation and recycling/waste reduction. Term - 2 years

Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee

Seeking one (1) Applicant. Individual must represent the restaurant industry. The purpose of this committee is to review applications for hospitality funding and make recommendations to Council for the disbursement of those funds. Term - 2 years.

Parks and Recreation Foundation

Seeking four (4) Applicants.

Columbia Parks and Recreation Foundation enhances the leisure service opportunities in the City of Columbia by improving the scope and quality of educational and human development programs.



We Are Columbia

It encourages, recruits, receives, and administers gifts, devises, and donations by deed, will or otherwise, for the advancement of the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department. Term - 3 years.

Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Seeking seven (7) Applicants who are qualified by experience and training (i.e. architect, contractor, engineer, property manager) to pass on matters pertaining to property maintenance.

The purpose of the Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals is to hear appeals of notices or decisions issued under the International Property Maintenance Code. Term - 3 years.

Richland County Board of Assessment Appeals

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

The Board of Assessment Appeals purpose is to equalize the value of the real and personal property of Richland County and to hear all grievances and appeals from the valuation and assessments by the Assessor. Term - 3 years.

Richland-Lexington Airport District Commission

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

The Commission has the functions of planning, establishing, developing, constructing, enlarging, improving, maintaining, equipping, operating, regulating, protecting and policing such airports and air navigation facilities as shall be necessary to serve the people of the Richland-Lexington Airport district and the public generally. To this end, the Commission shall be empowered. Term - 4 years

Transportation Penny Advisory Committee

Seeking one (1) Applicant for Re-Appointment/Appointment. Must be a city resident.

The mission of the Transportation Penny Oversight Committee will be to review, comment on, and provide recommendations on the Transportation Penny to Richland County Council. They will meet on a quarterly basis and may call special meetings as needed. Term - five (5) years.

Deadline - Applications are due no later than December 31, 2015, 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Connie Bailey at (803) 545-4268 or send an email to cfbailey@columbiasc.net. Visit ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions to download an application.



We Are Columbia

Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards

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.

Nominees must

Voluntarily demonstrate the ideals of:

- Social responsibility
- Political empowerment
- Diversity
- Racial harmony
- Nonviolence
- Unselfish service

Be 18 years old or younger

Be currently enrolled in school with a minimum 2.0 GPA

Apply Now

Applications are available online at ColumbiaSC.net or at any community center. Winners will be announced at the City of Columbia's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on **Monday, January 18, 2016.**

Return applications in person or by mail to

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 Shircesc M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or smbell@columbiasc.net, or visit www.columbiasc.net.

Parks and Recreation Department · 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203 · 803-545-3100 · www.ColumbiaSC.net

Food Drive

The City of Columbia's
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
Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Suggested items include:

- canned fruit and vegetables • pork and beans • canned meats • crackers • soup
- peanut butter • oatmeal and other cereals • dry goods (rice, pasta, etc.)

Donations will be collected during normal business hours at most City parks, City Hall, Washington Square, Columbia Tennis Center, Columbia Art Center, City Human Resources, Public Works, Columbia Police Department Headquarters, Columbia Fire Department Headquarters and the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

Food drive ends December 21, 2015

For more information, call 803.545.3100 or
visit www.columbiasc.net.



Main Street ICE

Main Street
ICE 

OPENS
THANKSGIVING DAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
5 - 10 PM

ADULTS
\$8

KIDS
(12 & under)
\$5

For more information, call the City of Columbia
Parks & Recreation Department
803.545.3100



Follow the City of Columbia on Facebook & Twitter for updates

Boyd Plaza

(Corner of Main & Hampton streets)

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY - THURSDAY • 4 - 9 PM

FRIDAY • 4 - 10 PM

SATURDAY • 10 AM - 10 PM

SUNDAY • 1 - 9 PM

HOLIDAY HOURS

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING • 1 - 10 PM

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1

MONDAY - THURSDAY • NOON - 9 PM

FRIDAY • NOON - 10 PM

Closed Christmas Day

Open late New Year's Eve (midnight)

ADULTS
\$10

KIDS
(12 & under)
\$8

MILITARY
(Active duty with ID)
\$8

SENIORS
(55 & older)
\$8

For additional discounts, visit www.ColumbiaSC.net.

Famously Hot New Year



[Download - Famously Hot New Year Info Sheet](#)

Holiday Pet Adoption Specials

Home for the
Holidays

WHETHER YOU'RE
ADOPTING A NEW PET
OR
RECLAIMING A LOST PET
THE FEE IS ONLY \$40

(*DURING PROMOTIONAL PERIOD, MAXIMUM REDEMPTION FEE WILL NOT EXCEED \$40)

FOR THE ENTIRE
MONTH OF DECEMBER!

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



We Are Columbia

ColumbiaSC.net

Go To
Petfinder
To View Our
Adoptable Pets



rcgov.us

**Lexington
Animal Services**
(803) 785-8149
321 Ball Park Road



Lex-Co.SC.gov

Home Buying Workshop



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

- Benefits of homeownership
- Budgeting
- Resources/Mortgage Programs
- Loan Requirements
- Mortgage process
- What to do after closing
- Ideas for decorating a home with limited funds

The **FREE** workshop will be held at the Richland County Library (Cooper Branch), 5317 North Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206 on December 10, 2015 from 6-8 PM.

Please call (803) 545-3373 to reserve your seat or for additional information.



Sponsored by:



Holiday Safety



COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Policing Excellence through Community Partnerships"

Holiday Safety **Don't Let Someone Steal Your Holiday**



Chief William "Skip" Holbrook and the Columbia Police Department want you to have a safe holiday season.

Below are a few crime prevention tips to avoid being victimized:

While you are away

- Get automatic timers for your inside room lights
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home
- Ask someone to collect your mail
- Call the Columbia Police Department at 545-3500 for a Special Property Check

While you are out for the evening

- Turn on lights, a radio or the TV so it looks like you are home
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside

While you are shopping

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Park in well-lit areas in parking lots or on the street
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- If you are with children, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if they get separated from you.

For additional crime prevention tips, visit our website at www.columbiapd.net



Christmas Tree Safety

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Columbia Fire Department

www.columbiarichlandfire.net

Winter Holiday Safety



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Nearly half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Columbia Fire Department

www.columbiarichlandfire.net

Cooking Safety

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"COOK WITH CAUTION"

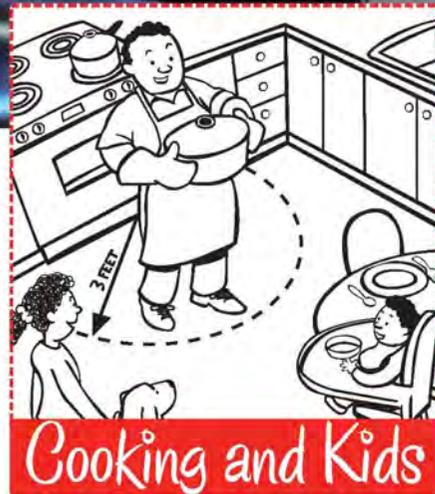
- » Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- » Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- » If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- » Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- » On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- » For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- » Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- » Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.



Columbia Fire Department

www.columbiarichlandfire.net



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Councilwoman Devine Holiday Drop-In

Happy Holidays

Celebrate the season with Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine



Annual Holiday Drop-In

Wednesday, December 9

5 - 8 PM

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center

Elise Jones Martin Multipurpose Room

2101 Walker Solomon Way

Columbia, SC 29204

For more information, please call 803-545-3061.

Meetings

DATE/TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION
December 7 at 5:15 p.m.	Planning Commission (PC) Meeting	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
December 8 at 10:00 a.m.	Board of Zoning Appeals (BoZa) Meeting	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
December 10 at 4 p.m.	Design/Development Review Commission (DDRC)	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
December 15 at 2 p.m.	City Council Work Session	1737 Main Street City Hall
December 15 at 6 p.m.	City Council Meeting	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
December 24—25	City Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday	All City Offices

Garbage collection is scheduled as follows: Thursday, December 24th will run on Wednesday, December 23rd. Friday, December 25th will run on Thursday, December 24th.

Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719 | pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net