

## October 2013 Press Releases



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Contact: Tezra Haire, 803.413.9165

**City Of Columbia Promotes National Visit a Park Day**

This Friday, October 4, 2013 is National Visit a Park Day, and City of Columbia Parks and Recreation is encouraging the public to get outdoors and enjoy the many benefits of the parks and green spaces in its park system.

This day provides the opportunity to take advantage of the recreation offerings and education within City of Columbia parks that can spark healthy habits, renew a sense of appreciation for nature and community, and inspire ongoing visitation of parks for life-long enjoyment.

The department maintains over 600 acres of land that includes walking and nature trails, tennis and basketball courts, disc golf courses, playgrounds, swimming pools, community gardens and several bark parks.

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

###



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 01, 2013

Contact: Charmaine Clark at 803.545.3043

**Community Development Announces New Grant Program for Neighborhoods**

The City Of Columbia's Community Development Department is proud to announce a new grant program called ACTION, which stands for "Assisting Citizens to Improve Our Neighborhoods," and will provide funds for aesthetic enhancements for the Columbia neighborhoods.

Eligible projects can include:

- Vacant lot clean up
- Litter removal
- Neighborhood signs
- Neighborhood meeting signs
- Graffiti removal
- Tree planting
- Community garden development
- Irrigation systems
- Neighborhood park improvements
- Overall beautification of neighborhood

Those interested in applying for grants for their neighborhood must attend a technical assistance training session. Community Development is offering two training sessions.

The first session will be on Monday, October 14 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Earlewood Park Community Center, located at 1111 Parkside Dr. The second session will be on Thursday, October 17 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Cecil Tillis Center, located at 2111 Simpkins Ln.

There are currently 110 certified neighborhoods within the City Of Columbia.

For more information, contact Charmaine Clark at 803-545-3373 or email [cdclark@columbiasc.net](mailto:cdclark@columbiasc.net).

###



**For Immediate Release**

October 1, 2013

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

**Advertisement of Vacancies for the City of Columbia Boards & Commissions**

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on several boards and commissions. Participation is another way city residents can take part in the functioning of their government. Below is a list of boards and commissions with upcoming vacancies. I strongly urge interested persons to apply.

**Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals**

*Seeking four (4) Applicants for Appointment 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. For more information on this board check [here](#).

**Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes**

*Seeking five (5) Applicants for Appointment.*

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes. Applicants being sought must meet the following criteria: an architect, a landscape or urban planner, an attorney, and an individual involved in real estate.

The purpose of the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes is to hear and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made the zoning administrator or the Consolidated Review Committee in the enforcement of the code when the property is governed by a form based code. Term – 3 years.

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

**Deadline – Open until filled.**

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to [cflucius@columbiasc.net](mailto:cflucius@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards> to download an application.



**For Immediate Release**

October 2, 2013

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

**Advertisement of a Vacancy for the City of Columbia Design/Development Review Commissions**

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on Design/Development Review Commission. Participation is another way city residents can take part in the functioning of their government. I strongly urge interested persons to apply.

**Design/Development Review Commission**

*Seeking four (4) Applicants for Appointment/Re-Appointment. Individual must be an architect.* The purpose of the Design/Development Review Commission (DDRC) is to review and approve work proposed within the City's historic districts, urban design areas, and upon designated landmarks. Term – 3 years. For more information check [here](#).

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

**Deadline – Applications are due no later than Friday, October 25, 2013, 5 p.m.**

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to [clucius@columbiasc.net](mailto:clucius@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards> to download an application.

###



**For Immediate Release**

October 2, 2013

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

**Advertisement of a Vacancy on the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill one (1) at-large vacancy on the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee.

This committee is tasked with reviewing applications for hospitality tax funds and making recommendations to Council for disbursement of those funds.

The term of office is two (2) years with the possibility of one (1) reappointment.

All applicants must reside and/or work within Columbia city limits.

**Deadline – Applications are due no later than October 18, 2013, 5 p.m.**

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to [cflucius@columbiasc.net](mailto:cflucius@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards> to download an application.

###



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, October 03, 2013

Contact: Angelo McBride at 545-3960.

**City of Columbia to Host Affordable Care Act Forum for Small Business Owners**

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will host two Affordable Care Act forums to educate small business of the requirements, opportunities and benefits of the new act. Small business owners with five or more employees are invited attend this free event.

Panelists from Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, Derrick, Stubbs and Stith, LLP, Total Financial Group and other organizations will discuss:

- What does the Affordable Care Act do and not do for small businesses?
- What will be the impacts on small businesses in South Carolina?
- How can small business owners save more money?
- What are the opportunities for small businesses in South Carolina?

The first session will be held on Thursday, October 17, from 9- 11 a.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St.

The second session will be held on Wednesday, October 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the Earlewood Community Center, located at 1111 Parkside Dr.

This seminar is free and open to small business owners and company decision makers.

Registration is required and can be found online at

<https://columbiaaffordablecareactforum.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, please contact Angelo McBride at [aamcbride@columbiasc.net](mailto:aamcbride@columbiasc.net) or 803-545-3960.

###



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, October 03, 2013

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

**Columbia Animal Services to Host Halloween Super Adoption Event**

Columbia Animal Services will run special adoption prices on all black and/or white cats and dogs for their Halloween Super Adoption event.

The Halloween Super Adoption event is happening Friday, October 25 through Thursday, October 31. All black and/or white pet adoptions will be \$31.

All animals are spay/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed. Canines are tested for heartworms and felines are tested for feline leukemia/aids.

The Columbia Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 803-776-7387 or visit [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

###



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 3, 2013

Contact: Tezra Haire, 803.413.9165

**CITY HOSTS WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation, along with Richland County First Steps and Eau Claire Promise Zone, will host a free Let's Move Columbia Professional Development Workshop for early child care providers and parents on Saturday, October 19, 2013, 10 a.m. at Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Ave.

The workshop will provide a wide range of information, helpful tools and resources that can be used to promote healthy environments for children in early care settings as well as at home. Local experts will conduct the workshop and will demonstrate how gardening can be used as a powerful avenue in teaching good nutrition and in promoting physical activity.

The workshop is free; however, registration is required by October 16. To register, email [jjwilliams@columbiasc.net](mailto:jjwilliams@columbiasc.net) (include your name, phone number with Let's Move Workshop in the subject line) or call City of Columbia Parks and Recreation at (803) 545-3100.

City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine is chair of the Let's Move Columbia initiative.

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

###



*We Are Columbia*

**News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 4, 2013**

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

**Mayor Benjamin receives Woodrow Wilson Award for Regional Cooperation**

COLUMBIA, SC – The Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce honored Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin for his unwavering commitment to building strong regional partnerships by presenting him with the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Regional Cooperation at the 2013 Columbia Chamber Annual Gala & Auction Thursday night.

"This is a truly great honor and I am humbled by it," said Mayor Benjamin. "We know that we must work together if we're ever going to realize our potential as a city and as a region. From starting a quarterly meeting of Regional Mayors and County leaders and standing up with our regional partners to support Amazon and protect Fort Jackson to passing a local preference policy to keep millions of dollars in city contracts right here in the Midlands, that's exactly what we've done over the past few years and I'm thankful for everyone who came together to make it possible."

The Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce created the Woodrow Wilson Awards thirteen years ago to honor individuals and organizations that go above and beyond the call of duty to foster regional cooperation. Former recipients include Riverbanks Zoo Executive Director Satch Krantz, New Carolina Executive Director Neil McLean and former Mayor Bob Coble.

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

###



**For Immediate Release**

October 4, 2013

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

**SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2013**

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Bradley Community Council  
Druid Hills  
Grove Park Neighborhood Association  
Heathwood West  
Historic Heathwood Neighborhood  
Historic Trenholm-Buchanan  
Kilbourne Park  
Martin Luther King Neighborhood  
Melrose Neighborhood Association  
Old Shandon Neighborhood

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

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

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

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

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



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 08, 2013

Contact: Angelo McBride at 803-545-3960

**City Of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities to Host Workshops on Commercial Real Estate**

The City Of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will host two workshops on commercial real estate in the month of October.

The first workshop is specifically designed for commercial property owners or landlords to learn about improving relationships with tenants, get a refresher on market demand, access, finances and learn how to improve their client base. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 15 at the Earlewood Park Community Center, located at 1111 Parkside Dr. The workshop will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Those interested can register online at <https://commercialpropertyownersmanagers.eventbrite.com>.

The second workshop is for small business owners looking to rent or lease their first storefront or business owners who would like to receive more information on contracts and landlord requirements. This workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 29 at the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, located at 930 Richland St. The workshop will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Those interested can register online at <https://realestatefundamentalstenantsconnection.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net) or contact Angelo McBride, Business Administrator, at 803-545-3960 or [aamcbride@columbiasc.net](mailto:aamcbride@columbiasc.net).

###



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday, October 09, 2013  
Contact: Samantha Yager at 545-3016

**Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence This Saturday**

The City of Columbia will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence on this Saturday, October 12, 2013 at Finlay Park, located at 930 Laurel St., in honor of the fallen, to support the fights and to admire the survivors. There will be an information fair beginning at 8 a.m. with vendors ranging from victims' assistance to support groups.

"Awareness and education are important tools in the campaign against domestic violence. The annual walk provides a forum for increasing awareness about agencies and resources available to help victims of domestic violence," commented Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine. "We invite and encourage the entire community to become our partners and join us for the walk." Councilwoman Devine serves as chairperson of the City of Columbia's Domestic Violence Task Force.

A recent study released by the Violence Policy Council has ranked South Carolina first in the nation for the number of women killed by men. The report is based on 2011 data and there were 61 females killed in South Carolina, with a 2.54 homicide rate per 100,000 women. The full report can be found online at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2013.pdf>.

Registration is free and those interested in participating can register online at <http://columbia.sc.gov/StopTheViolence>. There will be late registration on-site the day of the walk.

For more information, please contact the Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department at [pio@columbiasc.net](mailto:pio@columbiasc.net) or 803-545-3020.

###



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Contact: Tezra Haire, 803.413.9165

**City Of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Annual Halloween Carnival**

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation will host its annual Halloween Carnival, Thursday, October 31, 5 to 9 p.m. at Dutch Square Mall.

Parents and children of all ages are invited to come out for a fun-filled evening in a safe and friendly environment. There will be exciting games and haunting challenges, a costume contest, hay ride, haunted house, entertainment, giveaways and more.

For more information, call City of Columbia Parks and Recreation at (803) 545-3100.

###



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Saturday, October 12, 2013  
Contact: Samantha Yager at 545-3016

**2013 Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence Huge Success**

Over 1,200 supporters from all over the state joined today's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence in Finlay Park. The walk is to honor of the taken, to support the fights and to admire the survivors.

Mayor Steve Benjamin, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, Richland County Councilwoman Julie Ann Dixon, Interim Police Chief Rueben Santiago, Sistercare board member Antjuan Seawright and a representative from the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitors Office all gave a few remarks to the crowd.

Verizon Wireless presented Sistercare with \$2,000 to go towards victim services and will be collecting wireless phones at City Hall throughout October in conjunction with Verizon's HopeLine program. Citizens can donate any old and unused wireless phones between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at City Hall, located at 1737 Main St. For more information about HopeLine, visit [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com).

For more information, please contact the Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department at [pio@columbiasc.net](mailto:pio@columbiasc.net) or 803-545-3020.



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, October 14, 2013

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

**City Of Columbia Collecting Unused Wireless Phones to Support Sistercare**

From now until Thursday, October 31, the City Of Columbia will be collecting old or unused wireless phones for survivors of domestic violence through Verizon Wireless' HopeLine program.

To support this program, please bring in old wireless phones, batteries and accessories in any condition from any wireless carrier and drop them in the collection bins at City Hall, located at 1737 Main St., between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

HopeLine® from Verizon supports the domestic violence community by providing wireless phones and cash grants to local shelters and non-profit organizations throughout the country that focus on domestic violence prevention and awareness. HopeLine locally supports Sistercare.

Phones that are collected are refurbished or recycled in an environmentally sound way. Refurbished phones, complete with 3,000 minutes of wireless service, are provided to domestic violence organizations for use by survivors.

For more information about the HopeLine program, visit [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com).



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Contact: Ray Borders Gray at 803-545-3779

**Announcing Call for Dream Keeper Nominations**  
*More than two thousand dollars in scholarships to be awarded*

Nominations are being accepted for the 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarships. 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.

The nominee **must** be a student 18 years or younger with at least a 2.0 grade point average and a minimum of one year of documented community service.

Winners will be announced at the City of Columbia's annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration Monday, January 13, 2014 at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Park and Community Center, 2300 Green Street.

Applications must be returned by Friday, January 6, 2014 to the City of Columbia Governmental Affairs and Community Relations, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

Established in 1990, the Dream Keeper scholarships encourage youth in grades 6 through 12 to commit themselves to the tenets of Dr. King, which includes community involvement, social responsibility and human service.

Applications are available online at <http://www.columbiasc.net> and at neighborhood parks. For more information call 803-545-3000.



**For Immediate Release**  
October 16, 2013  
Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

### **Advertisement of a Vacancy on the Commercial Revolving Loan Review Board**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Commercial Revolving Loan Review Board. Individuals applying for this board must be a licensed commercial contractor.

The purpose of this committee is to review and approve/disapprove applications for loans from the City of Columbia Commercial Revolving Loan Fund.

The term of office is two (2) years.

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

**Deadline – Applications are due no later than November 1, 2013, 5 p.m.**

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to [cfucius@columbiasc.net](mailto:cfucius@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards> to download an application.



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Contact: John Fellows at 803-545-3215

**Devine Street, Fort Jackson Commercial Node Plan Public Meeting**

The City of Columbia SC, Planning and Development Services Department will be hold a public input meeting on the Devine Street, Fort Jackson Commercial Node Plan. Planning Commission Members have been invited to attend. One or more Planning Commissioner may attend these meetings. As such a quorum of the Planning Commission may occur during these public input meetings. This Public notice is to comply with Section 30-4-80 of the State Statutes of South Carolina. No action or formal agenda is planned for the following public input meeting.

**Thursday, October 17, 2013**

**6 pm -8 pm**

Sherwood Forest ARP Church, 4325 Wilmot Ave., Columbia, SC  
(Beltline Blvd. between Wilmot Ave. and Azalea Dr.)

The meeting is a follow-up to the August 15th meeting. A consultant will be presenting more refined plans prior to moving forward with formal recommendations to the City.

For more information visit the [project's web site](#) or contact: John Fellows, City of Columbia, at 803- 545-3215 | [jfellow@columbiasc.net](mailto:jfellow@columbiasc.net)



**We Are Columbia**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, October 21, 2013

Contact: Samantha Yager at 803-545-3020

**City Of Columbia Community Development Department to Host Free Financial Seminar**

The City Of Columbia's Community Development Department will host a free financial seminar on Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. for anyone looking to learn about banking.

Topics of discussion will include:

- Banking - purpose of a bank and how banking should work for you
- Savings- importance of savings and creative strategies to save on a limited budget
- Budgeting- budgeting activity and reviewing the overall picture of your budget
- Building Credit- how to build a solid financial background
- Types of Loans- smart ways of borrowing and is borrowing a smart way of building your wealth
- Repairing Derogatory Credit- how to repair damage that has been done to your credit
- Credit Scams- how to recognize unlawful collection activities
- Fair Housing Laws-equal rights and housing discrimination

The free seminar will be held at Community Development, 1225 Lady St. on the second floor. Parking will be available in the back of the building.

All those interested must call 803-545-3373 and ask for Felicia Wilks or Tracey Brown. Early registration is a must due to limited seating.



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, October 21, 2013

Contact: Wanda Austin at 803.545.3111

**City Of Columbia Announces Re-opening of Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker  
Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center**

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is proud to announce the re-opening of the Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center. The center will offer services and programs to citizens of all ages. The 29203 area has a disproportionate rate of health disparities in which the center will be a focal point for resources and services that they otherwise would not have immediate access.

**WHAT:** Grand re-opening celebration will feature games for children, program demonstrations, a bike parade, a farmer's market and door prizes.

**WHO:** City leaders, City staff and community members.

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center  
2611 Grant St.  
Columbia, SC 29203

The center will focus on the whole family in an effort to reduce health disparities and cultivate a variety of cultural experiences, as well as introducing them with a variety of cultural experience. The City Of Columbia is working to foster a healthier community by reaching one family at a time.

For more information about the center or the re-opening event, call Parks and Recreation at 803-255-8166.

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We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Contact: Angelo McBride at 803-545-3960

**City Of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities to Host Famously Hot Real Estate Fundamentals Workshop**

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will host the Famously Hot Real Estate Fundamentals workshop on Tuesday, October 29 for commercial property tenants.

The workshop will be held at the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, located at 930 Richland St., and will be offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Questions and topics that will be covered include the following:

- Do you know how to manage an effective relationship with your landlord?
- Do you clearly understand your lease agreement?
- Do you know how to negotiate a commercial lease?
- Do you know all about expenses, maintenance and repairs?
- How to protect your business?
- What if you are in default?

The workshop is free and open to all commercial property tenants. Online registration can be found at <http://realestatefundamentaltenantsconnection-eorq.eventbrite.com/>.

For more information, contact Angelo McBride, Business Administrator, at [aamcbride@columbiasc.net](mailto:aamcbride@columbiasc.net) or 803-545-



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

**Columbia Animal Services to Partner with Petsense to Increase Pet Adoptions**

Petsense, a nationwide pet store, will open its doors in Columbia and will be partnering with Columbia Animal Services to increase the amount of adoptions.

**WHAT:** Grand opening of Petsense and announcement of partnership with Columbia Animal Services.

**WHO:** Mayor Steve Benjamin, elected City officials, City staff and pet lovers.

**WHERE:** Petsense  
7408 Garners Ferry Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29209

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 9 a.m.

Columbia Animal Services will be able to house up to six cats at the Petsense store and facilitate more adoptions through the store. The partnership and program will help the Columbia Animal Services become a no kill shelter within the next five years.

For additional information, please contact Marli Drum, Animal Services Superintendent, at 803-545-7387 or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

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We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Contact: Marsheika Martin at 803-545-3767

**City of Columbia Accepting Applications for Work It Up Job Training Program**

The City Of Columbia is currently accepting applications for the Work It Up job training program for citizens who are unemployed or underemployed.

Citizens who are eligible for the program must be unemployed or underemployed, defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as total household income is 80 percent or below the Area Median Income (AMI).

To apply for the program, please visit <http://columbia.sc.gov/jobtraining> or call the TN Development Corporation at 803-545-3767. All applicants will be subject to an interview, criminal background checks, drug testing and a WorkKeys assessment.

The program launched in April 2013 and is a grant funded program designed to help individuals gain job training through the Midlands Technical College QuickJob Courses.

For more information about Work It Up, please contact Marsheika Martin at 803-545-3767 or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Contact: Tezra Haire, 803.413-9165

**CITY OF COLUMBIA HOSTS ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE**

Veterans from across the state will gather in downtown Columbia on Monday, November 11, 2013 for the City of Columbia's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade, one of the Southeast's largest Veterans Day parades.

Brigadier General, Bradley A. Becker, the 46<sup>th</sup> commanding general at Fort Jackson, will be this year's grand marshal for the parade and will lead over 80 participants from various national guard units, veterans' groups, boys and girls scout troops, high school ROTC groups and marching bands from across the state. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. from the intersection of Sumter and Laurel Streets and travels northbound on Sumter Street, ending at Pendleton Street near the State House.

Free parking will be offered by the City of Columbia at the Sumter Street parking garage until 3 p.m.

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

For more information on the 2013 Veterans Day Parade, contact City of Columbia Parks and Recreation at (803) 545-3100.

###



**We Are Columbia**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 29, 2013

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

**Mayor's Panel on Violent Crime and Bond Reform to Release Recommendations**

COLUMBIA, SC – Members of the Mayor's Panel on Violent Crime and Bond Reform is expected to release a series of recommendations aimed at keeping career violent criminals in jail and off the street at their meeting today at 11:00 AM at City Hall.

**WHAT: Mayor's Panel of Violent Crime and Bond Reform**

**WHEN: 11:00 AM Today, October 29, 2013**

**WHERE: City Hall  
(The Mayor's Conference Room)  
1737 Main Street**

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin created the Mayor's Panel on Violent Crime and Bond Reform following several high profile incidents in the City of Columbia were perpetrated by individuals who had already been arrested on multiple previous occasions and were out on bond awaiting trial.

"We have shut the revolving door that puts violent offenders who terrorize our community back on the street as quickly as we arrest them," Mayor Benjamin said. "Our officers are doing their jobs risking their lives every day to put dangerous career criminals where they belong – behind bars. Our job is to make sure they stay there."

For additional information please contact Michael Wukela at 803.413.5052 or via email at [mcwukela@columbiasc.net](mailto:mcwukela@columbiasc.net).

###



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Contact: Tezra Haire, 803.413.9165

**NOTICE OF PARK CLOSING**

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation will close St. Anna's Park from Thursday, October 31, through Friday, November 8, in order for contractors to begin concrete flatwork.

Closing the park will allow the department to have this work completed, part of the overall park improvement plan, without compromising the safety of park patrons.

St. Anna's Park is located at 1315 Liberty Hill Avenue.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL PARKS AND RECREATION AT 803-545-3100.**

###



We Are Columbia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Contact: Tezra Haire,  
803.413.9165

**CITY PARTNERS FOR ANNUAL HONOR THE DREAM FOOD DRIVE**

Harvest Hope donation boxes will soon be popping up across the city as the City of Columbia, Richland One School District and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation kick off their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive on Monday, December 2, 2013.

The public is invited to drop off their non-perishable food items at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way
- City Water Customer Service, Washington Square, 1339 Main Street
- City Human Resources Office, 1225 Lady Street
- James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue
- Columbia Tennis Center, 1635 Whaley Street
- City Parks and Recreation sites (visit [www.columbiasc.gov/parks-recreation/facilities](http://www.columbiasc.gov/parks-recreation/facilities) for facility names and addresses)

Donations will be accepted throughout the holiday season, ending on January 3, 2014.

The food drive is held annually to honor Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of community service and helping others. Donations will be presented to the Harvest Hope Food Bank and will aide those in need in and around the Midlands.

For more information on the food drive, contact City of Columbia Parks and Recreation at (803) 545-3100.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 31, 2013

Contact: Victoria Kramer ([vlkramer@columbiasc.net](mailto:vlkramer@columbiasc.net)) at 545-3227

**City to Hold Flood Insurance Information Sessions for Property Owners**

*Columbia, SC* – The City of Columbia will hold two public information sessions for property owners who have or are considering flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These meetings will be held:

- Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 PM at the Eau Claire Print Building at 3907 Ensor Ave.
- Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM at the Lourie Center (formerly the Capital Senior Center) at 1650 Park Cir.

The City of Columbia's Floodplain Manager will be on hand to inform the public about:

- Recent changes to the Federal laws governing the NFIP,
- How property owners can learn more about flood insurance premiums through the NFIP,
- And how property owners may be able to save on their NFIP premiums by getting an elevation certification.

The City of Columbia participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. This allows qualified property owners in the City to purchase this federally-backed flood insurance and potentially qualify for disaster relief following severe flooding. For more information on the City of Columbia's Floodplain Management Program, visit [www.ColumbiaSC.Gov/Floodplain](http://www.ColumbiaSC.Gov/Floodplain). For more information on the federal National Flood Insurance Program, visit [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).

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*Please contact the City of Columbia Department of Utilities and Engineering at 545-3400 or Victoria Kramer ([vlkramer@columbiasc.net](mailto:vlkramer@columbiasc.net)) at 545-3227 if you have questions. If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's Floodplain Management Program, visit [www.ColumbiaSC.Gov/Floodplain](http://www.ColumbiaSC.Gov/Floodplain). If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's Department of Utilities and Engineering, visit [www.ColumbiaSC.Gov/Utilities-Engineering](http://www.ColumbiaSC.Gov/Utilities-Engineering).*