



We Are Columbia

Together we will build a world-class city

City of Columbia Press Releases

July 1-31

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

Contact: Samantha Yager at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia's Annual National Night Out Kickoff Bringing Community Together

The City Of Columbia will be hosting the seventh annual National Night Out Kickoff on Saturday, August 2, 2014 at Finlay Park, located at 930 Laurel St., from 6-10 p.m.

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

This year's kickoff event will feature a variety of public safety vehicles, live entertainment, "Catch the Criminal" scavenger hunt, a neighborhood display contest, inflatable rides, home security displays and tons of family fun.

In conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Summer Concert Series, saxophonist Dante Lewis will take the stage at 8 p.m. and close out the night.

This event is free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, August 5, National Night Out will be celebrated in Columbia's neighborhoods with cookouts, community block parties and more. Details will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net/community-development.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 01, 2014

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Columbia Animal Services Celebrates Christmas in July with Adoption Special

Columbia Animal Services is celebrating Christmas in July from Thursday, July 24 through Saturday, July 26 with \$25 pet adoption fees.

All pets are eligible for this special and as an added bonus; new pet owners can take a free photo with Santa.

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. The shelter is located at 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209 and can be reached by calling 803-776-7387.

For more information or to view adoptable pets, please visit www.petfinder.com.



For Immediate Release

July 1, 2014

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

Mayor Benjamin to join Municipal Bonds 101 panel

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will help lead a panel of experts on Capitol Hill tomorrow, Wednesday, July 2nd for Municipal Bonds 101, an educational forum to help inform government leaders and finance professionals on the importance of preserving tax-exempt municipal bonds as the chief source of funding for infrastructure projects across the nation.

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin announced today that he has been chosen to lead Municipal Bonds for America (MBFA), a non-partisan coalition of state and local government officials, brokers and dealers from across the nation organized to protect tax-exempt municipal bonds, the chief tool used by state and local government to build and maintain roughly 75% of the nation's infrastructure.

Joining Mayor Benjamin on the panel will be Ronald P. Bernardi, Principal, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Bernardi Securities, Inc. and Kevin Burke, President and CEO, Airports Council International – North America. Together, they will help explain the “nuts and bolts” of municipal bonds in easy-to-understand terms to help translate the potential impact of federal legislation on communities across the nation.

Tax-exempt bonds help stimulate public and private investment in job creation, business, and industry expansion, economic and physical redevelopment, transportation and infrastructure, and

renewable energy production, among many other projects. In fact, tax-exempt bonds are issued by over 50,000 state and local governments and authorities representing a three trillion dollar industry.

WHAT: Municipal Bonds 101

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin

Ronald P. Bernardi, President and CEO, Bernardi Securities, Inc.

Kevin Burke, President and CEO, Airports Council International

WHEN: Wednesday, July 2nd from 2-3PM

WHERE: 2103 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

Municipal Bonds 101 is hosted by Municipal Bonds for America (MBFA), a non-partisan coalition of state and local government officials, brokers and dealers from across the nation organized to protect tax-exempt municipal bonds. Mayor Benjamin was chosen to help lead MBFA as its Chairman earlier this year.

For additional information visit www.munibondsforamerica.org/mbfa-to-hold-muni-bonds-101-seminar-on-capitol-hill/.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2014

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

City of Columbia to host Capital City Beach Party

WHAT: The City of Columbia is bringing the beach to the city this Saturday for the Capital City Beach Party. Finlay Park is being transformed into a beach for an evening of fun, music from The Episodes (formerly The Drifters), games, a treasure hunt, fireworks and more.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, July 5 from 4 to 10 p.m. (The Episodes are scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. Fireworks show begins at 10 p.m.)

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

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

City Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2014 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

All garbage and recycle routes will remain on schedule.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 02, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell, 803-545-3019 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Celebrate July 4th at Blues & BBQ on the River

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is hosting an evening of fun, food and blues this Friday at Blues & BBQ on the River from 6 to 10 p.m. at Coble Plaza.

Blues & BBQ on the River will feature music from Elliott & the Untouchables and Columbia's first fire display on the water.

Tickets are \$15 per person. No coolers will be permitted.

Blues & BBQ will be held at Coble Plaza, 211 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201 (Behind EdVenture Children's Museum).

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 02, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3019 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia to host Capital City Beach Party

WHAT: The City of Columbia is bringing the beach to the city this Saturday for the Capital City Beach Party. Finlay Park is being transformed into a beach for an evening of fun, music from The Episodes (formerly of The Drifters), games, a treasure hunt, fireworks and more.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, July 5 from 4 to 10 p.m. (The Episodes are scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. Fireworks show begins at 10 p.m.)

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 4, 2014

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

Celebrate July 4th at Blues & BBQ on the River

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is hosting an evening of fun, food and blues today at Blues & BBQ on the River from 6 to 10 p.m. at Coble Plaza.

Blues & BBQ on the River will feature music from Elliott & the Untouchables and Columbia's first fire display on the water at 8:30 p.m.

Admission to Coble Plaza is FREE. \$15 tickets, which include food, beverages and access to terrace seating, are available for purchase. No coolers will be permitted.

Blues & BBQ will be held at Coble Plaza, 211 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201 (Behind EdVenture Children's Museum).



For Immediate Release

July 7, 2014

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

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

Belmont

College Place

Gabel Oaks

Northwood Hills Organization

Lake Katherine

POA of Lake Katherine

Heyward Park Neighborhood

Crosshill Neighborhood

Kilbourne Park Neighborhood Association

Heathwood Park 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.

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

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

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

Drew Wellness Center Partners with Healthways SilverSneakers to Offer Senior Fitness Program

The City of Columbia's Charles R. Drew Wellness Center has partnered with Healthways SilverSneakers in offering senior citizens a fitness club membership at Drew Wellness Center through approved Medicare programs.

Drew Wellness Center offers group exercise classes for all fitness levels, an indoor heated pool, fitness equipment, full sized basketball court, locker rooms and showers. For class schedules or more information on the center's amenities, please visit drewwellnesscenter.com.

Make Drew Wellness Center your headquarters for fitness and let SilverSneakers help you get fit your way!

Find participating health plans at silversneakers.com or call 1-888-423-4632. You can also contact your health care provider.

For more information about the Drew Wellness partnership, please contact Sterling Dye at 803-545-3200.



For Immediate Release

July 10, 2014

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

Mayor Benjamin attends workgroup on Protecting America's Waters

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin commented on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule as part of the today’s EPA Local Government Advisory Committee workgroup meeting on Protecting America's Waters in Atlanta, GA.

“As a city of three rivers and the region’s primary water provider, we are fully committed to protecting our rivers, streams and wetlands,” said Mayor Benjamin. “This rule should help us meet that commitment keeping all of our waterways and the headwaters that feed them safe and clean not just this year or the next but for generations to come.”

Under Mayor Benjamin’s leadership, the City of Columbia has made protecting our waterways a true priority by investing hundreds of millions of dollars in rehabilitating and upgrading our water and wastewater systems and helping reduce sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) over 71% since FY 2008/2009. More recently he hosted city’s first Famously Hot Climate Action Summit and, as a U.S. Conference of Mayors Trustee, helped renew that organization’s longstanding commitment to fighting climate change by reducing carbon emissions, promoting energy independence and efficiency and developing renewable energy.

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) is a 28-Member Committee made up of elected and appointed officials of state, local and tribal governments which gives advice to the

EPA Administrator on issues affecting local governments and small communities providing the public engagement necessary to help shape public policy and make decision-making work better for everyone.

Announced jointly by the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in March, the proposed WOTUS rule clarifies protection under the Clean Water Act for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources. The proposed rule will benefit businesses by increasing efficiency in determining coverage of the Clean Water Act.

Specifically, the purpose of WOTUS is to clarify that under the Clean Water Act:

- Most seasonal and rain-dependent streams are protected.

- Wetlands near rivers and streams are protected.

- Other types of waters may have more uncertain connections with downstream water and protection will be evaluated through a case specific analysis of whether the connection is or is not significant.

For more information on the proposed WOTUS rule, visit [epa.gov/uswaters](https://www.epa.gov/uswaters).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 11, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3019 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Dance South Inc. and the City of Columbia Host 2014 Dance Competition

WHAT: Dance South Inc. and the City of Columbia invite the public to watch dance teams heat up the stage at the 2014 Dance Competition.

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

WHEN: Friday, July 11 from 8 to 11 p.m.

The competition is held in conjunction with Primetime in the Parks, a late-night teen program that provides a free, fun and safe environment for youth ages 13-18.

For more information, please call Booker Washington Heights at 803-255-8161.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2014

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

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

Belmont

College Place

Gabel Oaks

Northwood Hills Organization

Lake Katherine

POA of Lake Katherine

Crosshill 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.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 14, 2014

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

Please review the attached agendas for the City Council meetings on Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

Public Meeting- District 2 30-Jul 11:30am- 1:30 pm Capstone (Campus
Room) 898 Barnwell Street

Public Meeting- District 3 30-Jul 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm MLK Park
Community Center 2300 Greene Street

Public Meeting- District 4 31-Jul 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm Woodland Park
Community Center 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

For more information about the project call the City of Columbia Planning Department at 545-3181 or visit www.walkbikecolumbia.org.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 18, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey at 803-422-3057

**City Manager Teresa Wilson to speak at the Columbia
2014 University of Phoenix Graduation Ceremony**

WHAT: The University of Phoenix has invited City Manager Teresa Wilson to serve as the keynote speaker for their 2014 Commencement Ceremony.

WHO: City Manager Teresa Wilson

WHERE: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

1101 Lincoln Street

Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, July 19, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information please call 803-545-3020 or visit <http://www.columbiasc.net>.



Friday, July 18, 2014

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

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

Belmont

College Place

Gabel Oaks

Northwood Hills Organization

Lake Katherine

POA of Lake Katherine

Sherwood Forest

Heathwood Park

Strathaven Forest

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.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 18, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on Monday, July 21, 2014 at 9 a.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 18, 2014

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

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 10 a.m. Please review the attached agenda.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 18, 2014

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

City of Columbia Bull Street Commission to Hold Meeting

Who: Members of the City of Columbia Bull Street Commission

What: The Bull Street Commission will hold a meeting.

When: Monday, July 21, 2014 at 2 p.m.

Where: City Hall, located at 1737 Main St. (Mayor's Conference Room)

The Bull Street Commission is comprised of seven members serving in an advisory role to the City in advancing the vision and the goals articulated by City Council in achieving quality development on Bull Street, including funding issues, benchmarks and development activities.

The Bull Street Commission will meet at least every other month and report to Council at least twice a year.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 21, 2014

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Columbia Animal Services Celebrates Christmas in July with Adoption Special

Columbia Animal Services is celebrating Christmas in July from Thursday, July 24 through Saturday, July 26 with \$25 pet adoption fees.

All pets are eligible for this special and as an added bonus; new pet owners can take a free photo with Santa.

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. The shelter is located at 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209 and can be reached by calling 803-776-7387.

For more information or to view adoptable pets, please visit www.petfinder.com.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 21, 2014

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

Registration Underway for Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin invites the public to register youth ages 6 to 17 for the 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics.

Drills & Skills offers a weeklong instructional clinic for youth to expand their skills in basketball, tennis and golf. The clinics, which run from August 4-8, ends with a skills competition on Friday, August 8. Clinics will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. **The clinics are free but registration is required.** The deadline to register is August 1.

Clinics

-

Basketball Clinic

- Boys ages 6-9: Hyatt Park
- Boys ages 10-13: Greenview Park
- Boys ages 14-17: Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Girls ages 6-17: Drew Wellness Center

Tennis Clinic

- Boys & Girls ages 6-17: Columbia Tennis Center

No previous skills required. Personal equipment is welcomed. Please wear white lose fitting clothes, tennis shoes, hat or visor. (Space is limited. Register early.)

Golf Clinic

- Boys & Girls ages 6-17: James E. Clyburn Center

No previous skills required. Personal equipment is welcomed. Please wear comfortable clothes, tennis shoes, hat or visor. (Space is limited. Register early.)

Basketball skills competitions will be held on Friday, August 8 at Greenview, Hyatt and Martin Luther King Jr. parks from 6 to 8 p.m. School supplies will be given to those participating in the clinics.

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



For Immediate Release

July 21, 2014

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

Mayor Benjamin joins President for “My Brother’s Keeper” roundtable

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will join President Barack Obama and community and business leaders from across the nation at the White House on Monday for a special briefing and roundtable discussion about the President’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative launched earlier this year.

Announced in February as a part of President Obama’s broader commitment to advance opportunity for all Americans, the “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative is focused on taking action with foundations, businesses and others to implement strategies that are proven to get results and ensure that every young man of color who is willing to work hard and lift himself up has an opportunity to get ahead and reach his full potential.

“I and many like me have lived the American Dream because of the men and women who gave their all to give us opportunities they could never have dreamed of,” says Mayor Benjamin. “This initiative is our chance not only to honor their sacrifice, but to preserve their spirit by standing up for a generation of children who are facing some very serious challenges.”

“We stand on the shoulders of giants from generations past and now it’s our turn to offer our shoulders for those generations yet to come.”

Honored and excited to join the President in this groundbreaking effort, Mayor Benjamin launched his own effort in January working with business leaders, non-profits, academia and the faith community locally and throughout the Midlands to develop a Center of Excellence for Black Male Achievement so Columbia can establish itself as a model for thoughtful solution-oriented ideas that improve the lives of all of our children.

Announced in his State of the City Address, this initiative is working hand-in-hand with “My Brother’s Keeper” to meet the growing challenges currently facing young black men.

“Right now our children are struggling and if we don’t do everything we can to engage them, challenge them and protect them then we’re going to lose them,” said Mayor Benjamin. “This is our chance to do more to develop new strategies and solutions that put children who may fail on the path to success and children who already succeed on the path to being superstars enriching this great city and nation for generations to come.”

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 21, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 1 p.m.

PLACE: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln St.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER: Overview of culinary operations and tour of culinary facility

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that members of the Columbia City Council are invited to the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center for a tour of the culinary facility and review the culinary operations. A luncheon will be provided by the staff.

For more information, call Libby Gober at 803-545-3061.

*In the event of a change or cancellation, notice will be published at the earliest practical time on the City of Columbia's website at www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 21, 2014

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

Registration Open for City Soccer League

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the City Soccer League for boys and girls ages 3 to 14.

The league is an opportunity for all youth to play, learn new skills and good sportsmanship. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available.

Register your child at any community center or at Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. The deadline to register is August 15.

The City Soccer League season begins September 15, 2014.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

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

Maxcy Gregg Pool to Close Friday for Maintenance

Maxcy Gregg Pool will close Friday, July 25, 2014, for routine pool maintenance.

The pool will reopen for normal hours on Saturday, July 26, at 10 a.m.

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Contact: Samantha Yager at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia's Annual National Night Out Kickoff Brings Community Together for Safety

The City Of Columbia will be hosting the seventh annual National Night Out Kickoff on Saturday, August 2, 2014 at Finlay Park, located at 930 Laurel St., from 6-10 p.m.

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

This year's kickoff event will feature a variety of public safety vehicles, live entertainment, "Catch the Criminal" scavenger hunt, Karaoke Idol, inflatable rides, home security displays and tons of family fun. Kiss FM will be live broadcasting from 5-7 p.m.

In conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Summer Concert Series, saxophonist Dante Lewis will take the stage at 8 p.m. and close out the night.

This event is free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, August 5, National Night Out will be celebrated in Columbia's neighborhoods with cookouts, community block parties and more.

For more information, please contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net/community-development.



For Immediate Release

July 24, 2014

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

Former Mayor's Fellow chosen for Foreign Affairs Fellowship

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin today congratulated former Mayor's Fellow and Columbia native Sheimaliz Glover for being selected as a recipient of the 2014 Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship.

Glover graduated this past May from University of South Carolina's Moore School of Business. She received a BS in Business Administration, majoring in International Business and Marketing, and plans to continue at the University of South Carolina for her Master's degree in International Business.

“We are very proud of Sheimaliz and this remarkable achievement,” said Mayor Benjamin. “She is an example of the deep pool of talent we have here in Columbia and we look forward to great things she and all of our Mayor's Fellows accomplish in the years to come.”

The prestigious Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowships, administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, develops a source of men and women whose academic backgrounds fulfill the skill needs of the State Department and who are dedicated to representing America's interests abroad. Pickering Graduate Fellows receive financial support

towards a two-year, full time master's degree program in a field related to international affairs and diplomacy.

Fellows participate in two internships, one domestic and one overseas and commit to a minimum of five years of service as a Foreign Service Officer upon completion of a master's degree.

Mayor Benjamin launched the Mayor's Fellows program shortly after taking office in 2010 and, since then, the program has welcomed well over 100 students from a variety of academic backgrounds. It is open to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students and provides an opportunity to actively participate in the municipal government process.

Students that are interested in applying or would like additional information can access the program online at <http://www.columbiasc.net/mayor/get-involved/mayors-fellows> . For any questions regarding the program, please contact Sam Johnson at 803.545.3075 or spjohnson@columbiasc.net.



For Immediate Release

July 25, 2014

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

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

Belmont

College Place

Gabel Oaks

Northwood Hills Organization

Crosshill Neighborhood Association

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/treertrimming.

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

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 28, 2014

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

Register for 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin invites the public to register youth ages 6 to 17 for the 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics.

Drills & Skills offers a weeklong instructional clinic for youth to expand their skills in basketball, tennis and golf. The clinics, which run from August 4-8, ends with a skills competition on Friday, August 8. Clinics will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. **The clinics are free but registration is required.** The last day to register is **Friday**.

Clinics

Basketball Clinic

- Boys ages 6-9: Hyatt Park
- Boys ages 10-13: Greenview Park
- Boys ages 14-17: Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Girls ages 6-17: Drew Wellness Center

Tennis Clinic

- Boys & Girls ages 6-17: Columbia Tennis Center

No previous skills required. Personal equipment is welcomed. Please wear white lose fitting clothes, tennis shoes, hat or visor. (Space is limited. Register early.)

Golf Clinic

- Boys & Girls ages 6-17: James E. Clyburn Center

No previous skills required. Personal equipment is welcomed. Please wear comfortable clothes, tennis shoes, hat or visor. (Space is limited. Register early.)

Basketball skills competitions will be held on Friday, August 8 at Greenview, Hyatt and Martin Luther King Jr. parks from 6 to 8 p.m. School supplies will be given to those participating in the clinics.

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/>.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 28, 2014

Contact: Lucinda Statler, Urban Design Planner, at 545-0229

City of Columbia to Host Walk Bike Columbia! Input Meetings

WHAT: The City of Columbia will host four public meetings in July to gather input for the initial phase of the Walk Bike Columbia! planning process. Each meeting will be a drop-in format and will provide the same information and opportunity to gather input from residents and citizens in each District. Alta Planning + Design has overwhelming expertise in this area and is on board to take the City through this process over the next several months; the plan is being jointly sponsored by Columbia BPAC, City of Columbia, Central Midlands Council of Governments, Palmetto Health, Abacus Planning, USC, and the Comet.

Walk Bike Columbia! is a comprehensive effort to address the pedestrian, bicycle, and transit needs of the City of Columbia through detailed analysis, public participation, and interagency collaboration. The website for the project is www.walkbikecolumbia.org and includes an interactive map where users can pinpoint specific locations where they would like to see infrastructure improvements, a 5-minute user survey, and other documents and project briefings that are updated regularly.

WHO: City of Columbia, Columbia Bicycle, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Central Midlands Council of Governments, Palmetto Health, Abacus Planning, USC, and the Comet.

WHEN: Public Meeting- District 1 29-Jul 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm Eau Claire Print
Building 3907 Ensor Street

Public Meeting- District 2 30-Jul 11:30am- 1:30 pm Capstone (Campus
Room) 898 Barnwell Street

Public Meeting- District 3 30-Jul 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm MLK Park
Community Center 2300 Greene Street

Public Meeting- District 4 31-Jul 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm Woodland Park
Community Center 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

For more information about the project call the City of Columbia Planning Department at 545-3181 or visit www.walkbikecolumbia.org.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 28, 2014

Contact: Aubrey Jenkins at 803-545-3700

The Fire Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at 1 p.m. at 1800 Laurel St. in the 2nd floor conference room. Please see attached agenda.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Contact: Lucinda Statler, Urban Design Planner, at 545-0229

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For more information about the project call the City of Columbia Planning Department at 545-3181 or visit www.walkbikecolumbia.org.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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

2014-15 After-School Program Registration Now Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation has announced that the public can begin registering youth ages 6-12 for the 2014-15 After-School Program.

Youth registered for the program will have the opportunity to take part in sports, games, arts & crafts, field trips and appearances from special guests on a weekly basis.

The program begins August 18, 2014, and will run from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school calendar year. (The program follows the Richland School District 1 school calendar).

Children must be between ages 6-12 as of July 19, 2014, to participate.

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

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

After-school locations

-

Edisto Park

1914 Wiley Street

803-255-8103

Emily Douglas Park

(Teen Program Grades 6th -8th)

2500 Wheat Street

803-733-8531

Hampton Park

117 Brandon Avenue

803-776-9082

Heathwood Park

800 Abelia Road

803-733-8446

Melrose Park

1500 Fairview Road

803-733-8493

Sims Park

3500 Duncan Street

803-733-8451

Woodland Park

6500 Olde Knight Parkway

803-776-1096

For more information, please contact Parks Administration at 803-545-3100 or visit <http://www.columbiasc.net>.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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

Welcome the New School Year at the City of Columbia's 2014 Back-to-School Bash

WHAT: The 2014 Back-to-School Bash — a free event for elementary, middle and high school students — will be held on August 16. The bash will feature health screenings courtesy of Walgreens, book bag giveaways, a Health & Fitness Zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, vendors, exhibitors, face painting and more. The bash is presented by BlueChoice HealthPLan Medicaid.

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

WHEN: August 16, 2014, from 12 to 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3100 or kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 31, 2014

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

Register for 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics

Last Day to Register is Tomorrow

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin invites the public to register youth ages 6 to 17 for the 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics.

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For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/> to download a registration form.