



City of Columbia Press Releases

March 3-31, 2014

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Residents.....**page 93**



Press Release

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 03, 2014

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

Please review the attached agendas for tomorrow's Work Session and Council Meeting.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 04, 2014

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

Community Development to Host Financial Stability Workshop

Registration Now Open

The City of Columbia Community Development Department will host Access Columbia, the premier workshop on financial stability, on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Access Columbia is our effort to empower the community at-large with the financial information they need to build a better quality of life. Everyone needs basic financial tools in order to plan for major life decisions such as building a good credit history and buying a home. We want to provide this financial seminar to help families build a strong foundation for future generations," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Those interested can register online at <http://columbia.sc.gov/AccessColumbia> or by calling Community Development at 803-545-3373.

Classes range from budgeting to fair housing. Classes are available for children and teens. Participants can take up to two of the following classes:

- Give Credit ... When Credit is Due: Learn how to read a credit report and new tools to improve credit scores.
- Creating Cash on a Budget: Learn to manage money by creating a spending plan and find ways to limit spending and increase income.
- Why It's Best to Invest: Learn about the benefits of the stock market and how it can help your income.
- Cash 4 College: Learn about 529 college savings plans, benefits of the SC Educational Lottery and student loans.
- Teenagers and Money: Teens can learn about money saving tools, while still having fun with friends. This class is intended for youth grades 7th-12th.
- Climbing the Money Tree: Children can learn about money management, budgeting, savings and banking in a fun interactive class targeted for grades 1st-6th.
- The Search for Fair Housing: Learn about fair housing laws that prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, disability and familial status.

"Creating Cash on a Budget" will also be offered in Spanish.

There will be an informational fair with vendors ranging from banks, financial institutions and more.

For more information, please call Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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*Media Note: Please see attached flyer.



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2014

Contact: Public Relations @ 803-545-3020

The Gallery at City Hall Presents the #LoveColumbia Photo Winners

The #LoveColumbia Photo Contest is a City initiative that encouraged citizens of Columbia to submit photos via social media of the images they love in the City, including things and places.

The #LoveColumbia Photo Contest was promoted on the City's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites during December 2013 and January 2014, where citizens were tasked with submitting images, which included landscapes, structures, buildings, historical monuments and more.

The followers on each of the sites were asked to vote on their favorite images and the top five photos with the most votes on each social media site progressed to a second round of judging.

The following winners were announced during the City Council meeting on February 18, where their photos were unveiled to Mayor Benjamin and Council members:

- Ashley Concannon – Facebook Winner (Finlay Park at sunrise)
- Joshua Rue – Instagram Winner (Gervais Street Bridge)
- Frederick Austin – Twitter Winner (Main Street during the Christmas holiday)

There were over 300 submissions for the contest on social media. The winning photos will be on display at The Gallery at City Hall, 1737 Main St., for First Thursday on March 6, 2014.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Contact: Jada Hubbard at 803-545-3200

"March Membership Madness" Specials at Drew Wellness Center

The Charles R. Drew Wellness Center is offering springtime specials on new or renewal annual memberships during the month of March.

Annual memberships to the Drew Wellness Center include access to the Olympic-size indoor pool, basketball courts, unlimited group exercises classes, the walking and jogging track, personal training, fitness consultations, weights and cardio area.

For adults, ages 18-49, an annual membership will cost \$210. For seniors, over the age of 50, a membership will cost \$160 and for a family of up to four people, a membership will cost just \$325.

This offer is valid through Monday, March 31, 2014.

For more information, please call the Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

***Media Note: Please see attached flyer.**



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey at 803-545-3020

CITY OF COLUMBIA CHALLENGES CITIZENS TO #DRINKUPCOLUMBIAH2O

WHAT: In recognition of National Nutrition Month the City of Columbia is challenging citizens to “Drink Up,” which is the newest part of the Let’s Move! campaign. During the month of March the City of Columbia would like citizens to drink healthier by offering two challenges during March:

1. Drink only water during the month of March.
2. Add eight 8 oz glasses of water into your daily diet.

WHO: City of Columbia Citizens

Let us know how your commitment to the challenge is going! #DrinkUpColumbiaH2O on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook! Signup and pledge to Drink Up at

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AuBo_5yX3WdbdG1pNzNtUIFWeUFnaUINNjBQWINPX2c&usp=sharing#gid=0

WHEN: The Month of March

WHERE: Columbia, SC

MEDIA: Please see attached flyer for #DrinkUpColumbiaH2O

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2014

Contact: Public Relations @ 545-3020

City of Columbia To Participate in New Social Media Trend

The City of Columbia will be joining the growing trend of posting older images on social media for the weekly “throwback Thursdays” theme. Throwback Thursdays is the name given to the weekly posting of photos from the past. Beginning on Thursday, March 6, 2014, the City of Columbia's social media sites will have posts of the photos along with the familiar hashtag, #TBT.

“This is a great opportunity to showcase the growth and development of Columbia throughout the years,” stated City Manager Wilson.

Citizens that are interested in this trend can follow the City of Columbia on the social media sites listed below:

- Facebook - City of Columbia
- Twitter - @CityofColumbia
- YouTube – Columbia SC Government
- Pinterest – We Are Columbia
- Tumblr – The City of Columbia
- Google+ - We Are Columbia
- LinkedIn – City of Columbia
- Instagram – We Are Columbia

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 05, 2014

Contact: Marquitta Thomas at 803-691-9339

City Of Columbia Parks and Recreation Hosting St. Patrick's Day Celebration

On Thursday, March 13, 2014, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host the St. Patrick's Green Day Celebration from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lorick Park, located at 1600 Lorick Ave.

The celebration will include carnival-style games, fun activities and refreshments.

The celebration is free and open to the public.

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

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*Media Note: See attached flyer.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her March Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 from 5 p.m.—8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia To Host Women's Forum Event

The City and City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine are hosting a free event, **The Financial Status of Women in 2014**, on Thursday, March 6 at 6 p.m. at the Breed Leadership Center at Columbia College, 1301 Columbia College Drive, to honor Women's History Month and to highlight the findings in the recent Shriver Report.

The event will be moderated by Judi Gatson, news anchor at WISTV, and will include a panel of six women from the community discussing the topic.

"President Barack Obama moved the nation during his State of the Union Address when he focused on the financial status of women in our country," said Forum Host, Councilwoman Devine. "His words rang true when he referenced that when women succeed, America succeeds. That is true in Columbia as well, and it is time that we take a closer look at the conditions that impact the financial stability of women in our city and the surrounding communities."

The panelists at the event will include Dr. Linda Salane, Interim Director for the Cooperative Ministry; Representative Mia McLeod, House District 79; M. Malissa Burnette, Certified Specialist in Employment and Labor Law; Dr. Drucilla Barker, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina; Patricia Taylor, a formerly homeless woman working to support herself; Tanya Rodriguez Hodges, President and CEO of Latino Communications and Toni Lucas, married mother of three who struggled for many months to find employment.

Guests are also invited to attend the pre-forum reception at 5 p.m. at the Breed Leadership Center. Free City Info bags will be given to all attendees.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sugi Brown at subrown@columbiasc.net. Registration is not required, but an RSVP would be appreciated for planning purposes.

For more information, please contact lutsey@columbiasc.net or 803-545-3020



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2014

Contact: Public Relations @ 803-545-3020

The Gallery at City Hall Presents the #LoveColumbia Photo Winners

The #LoveColumbia Photo Contest is a City initiative that encouraged citizens of Columbia to submit photos via social media of the images they love in the City, including things and places.

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- Joshua Rue – Instagram Winner (Gervais Street Bridge)
- Frederick Austin – Twitter Winner (Main Street during the Christmas holiday)

There were over 300 submissions for the contest on social media. The winning photos will be on display at The Gallery at City Hall, 1737 Main St., today, March 6th for First Thursday.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2014

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

Advertisement for a Vacancy for the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism Board of Directors

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism Board of Directors. The mission of the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism includes: directing and managing the activities and mission of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Columbia Regional Sports Council and the Columbia Regional Visitors Center; and overseeing the development and operation of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center under a long-term management agreement for the benefit of the Governmental Entities: City of Columbia, Lexington County and Richland County.

We are seeking an individual to represent the lodging industry as required in this board's by-laws.

All applicants must work/reside within Columbia city limits.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than March 31, 2014, 5 p.m.

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

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2014

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or cflucius@columbiasc.net

Advertisement of Vacancies for the City of Columbia Boards & Commissions

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on a variety of boards and commissions. Participation is another way city residents can take part in their government. Below is a list of boards and commissions that currently have vacancies. I strongly urge interested persons to apply.

Central Midlands Council of Governments

Seeking two (2) Applicants.

The purpose of this Council is to prepare studies and make recommendations on matters affecting the public health, control, utilities, planning, development and such other matters as the common interest of the participating governments may dictate. Term – 3 years.

Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC)

Seeking Applicants from District 1, District 3 and an At-large for Appointment/Re-Appointment.

The purpose of the this committee is to recommend and oversee the development and implementation of mission-based programs and projects by developing and advocating a vision and strategy for becoming a sustainable community in partnership with key stakeholders and other communities. Term – 3 years.

Columbia Housing Authority

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

Responsible for the oversight of the Housing Authority and its Executive Director. Term – 5 years.

Columbia Museum of Art

Seeking two (2) Applicants.

Responsible for the governance, financial oversight, provide resources, prudent leadership and management, and for leading and ensuring successful operations of the Columbia Museum of Art. Term – 5 years.

Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee

Seeking three (3) Applicants for Appointment/Re-Appointment, two (2) seats represent At-large individuals and one (1) represents 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.

Greater Columbia Community Relations Council

Seeking six (6) Applicants for Appointment/Re-Appointment.

The purpose of the council is to submit recommendations and opinions regarding community relation matters that affect the Greater Columbia Area. They seek individuals with a desire to help the community develop better relations and provide objective goals to help foster good relations in our community. They serve as mediators, trainers and advocates for people who need assistance in our community. This Council provides an abundance of services including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) forums for the public, Fair Housing Education, as well as, programs aimed at helping develop strong interpersonal skills. Term – 5 years.

Parks and Recreation Foundation

Seeking two (2) 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. 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.

Planning Commission

Seeking one (1) Applicant for Appointment/Re-Appointment.

The purpose of this commission is to develop and maintain a continuing planning program which will benefit City of Columbia residents; to provide a mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and address local development issues and opportunities; to foster, develop and review policies, plans and priorities in order to insure orderly growth, development, conservation and preservation; to furnish technical assistance to city government and its agents; and to review and coordinate federal, state and local programs that have an impact on the city. The Commission also advises City Council on annexations, zoning changes and approves subdivision plats/large development plans.

Term – 3 years.

Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Seeking seven (7) Applicants for Appointment/Re-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.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than March 31, 2014, 5 p.m.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her March Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 from 5 p.m.—8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 7, 2014

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

City Council Committee Agenda

Please review the attached City Council Committee Agenda for March 11, 2014. For more information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045.

###



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Media Advisory

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March 7, 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, March 10, 2014 at 2 p.m.

Where: City Hall, located at 1737 Main Street (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.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2014

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

Mayor Benjamin encourage participation in ACA Day of Action

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin today encouraged Columbians to “Get Covered” and join neighbors and communities across America as they come together for tomorrow’s nationwide Affordable Care Act (ACA) Day of Action.

“The March 31st deadline is fast approaching,” said Mayor Benjamin. “This is our opportunity to prevent chronic conditions like diabetes or hypertension by helping everyone get to a doctor for regular check-ups. This is our opportunity to protect our children from dangerous illnesses like the measles and hepatitis by helping families afford the vaccines they need. This is our opportunity to make sure a trip to the emergency room doesn’t leave you with crippling long-term debt.”

“This is our opportunity to build a happier and healthier community by ensuring all of our families have access to the quality affordable healthcare they deserve.”

Residents can find out more about the Affordable Care Act and even sign up for health insurance at any of the multiple Day of Action events being held here in Columbia or across the state tomorrow or they can sign up for health insurance online by visiting www.signupsc.com.

Columbia ACA Day of Action events include:

Cooperative Ministry Healthcare Enrollment Event

WHEN: 10:00AM – 3:00PM Saturday, March 8, 2014

WHERE: This event will be held at three locations

- The Cooperative Ministry
- 3821 W. Beltline Blvd. Columbia, SC

- Turner Memorial AME Church
- 1122 Monticello St. West Columbia, SC

- Modjeska Simkins House
- 2025 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

Brookland Baptist Church Health Fair

WHEN: 10:00AM – 2:00PM Saturday, March 8, 2014

WHERE: Brookland Baptist Church
1066 Sunset Blvd. West Columbia, SC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 10, 2014

Contact: Randy Davis at 803-545-3100

City Of Columbia Parks and Recreation Swings Into Spring with Two Baseball and Softball Expos

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is swinging into spring with two youth baseball and softball expos.

The expos will feature clinics, games, music, food and more. There will be boys youth baseball for ages 9-14, girls youth softball for ages 8-14 and City Sluggers instructional baseball for ages 4-8.

The first expo will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014 from noon-4 p.m. at Hyatt Park, located 930 Jackson St. Transportation will be provided from Greenview and Lorick Parks.

The second expo will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from noon-4 p.m. at Pinehurst Park, located at 2300 Pinehurst Rd. Transportation will be provided from St. Anna's and Martin Luther King Parks.

Registration is \$25, and scholarships are available. Verification must be shown to receive assistance. The goal is to ensure every child plays. Equipment will be provided by the department.

Registration forms can be found online at www.columbiasc.net under "Parks and Recreation" or can be filled out at the Earlewood Park offices, located at 1111 Parkside Dr.

Those interested in being a coach should contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100.

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

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*Media Note: Please see attached flyers.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 from 5 p.m.—8 p.m.

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Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 10, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The City Of Columbia Loan Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 2 p.m. at 1225 Lady St. The agenda is attached.

###



We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

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

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



Press Release

We Are Columbia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2014

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

Mayor Benjamin calls for a more civil and respectful public dialogue

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin released the following statement today asking Council Members and citizens to join him in calling for a more civil and respectful public dialogue:

“Over the past several months the tone and tenor of our public discourse has left a great deal to be desired as passionate debate and constructive criticism has too often devolved into divisiveness, distrust and personal attack.

“Let me be clear: the responsibility to maintain a positive, civil dialogue rests with every single citizen of our city, public official and member of the press. But a higher duty is owed by our elected officials and you deserve better from us.

“The current atmosphere is more than simply distracting. It is destructive and, as your elected leaders, we must lead the way both in action and by example.

“I pledge to do just that and I’m asking every member of Council to join me.

“In a mature democracy, we must make every effort not only to accept and respect minority opinions and honest disagreement, but to embrace them, to encourage them and to use them to make our ideas, our

city and ourselves better. Most of all we must treat them with the same respect we wish for ourselves or we can expect neither.

“Let’s ratchet down the rhetoric and take a breath. Let’s start talking with each other instead of at one another. Let’s put aside whatever personal disagreements we may have and start respecting each other, if not as individuals then at least as those the people of Columbia have chosen to represent them.

“Let’s take a step back and remember why we’re here, why we chose to serve in the first place – to make our community a better place to live, work, worship, play and raise a family.

“In the coming days and weeks I want to hear your ideas on how we can help bring civility back to our civic discourse and I’ll be introducing a number of proposals as well including instituting new Citywide Civility Standard and Accord.

“But in the meantime, I am asking that we take next week’s regular meeting of City Council as an opportunity to clear the board. Let’s not take up any business that is not absolutely essential. That means no vote on baseball, no investigations, no discussion that isn’t positive, empowering or community building.”

“Let’s take this as an opportunity to come together not only as a Council, but as a community and elevate our dialogue to develop a collective vision for moving Columbia forward together.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

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

Please review the attached amended agenda. Please note that the meeting time has changed to 6 p.m.

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Media Advisory

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



Press Release

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Contact: Tina Herbert at 803-545-3950

City Of Columbia To Participate in Google's "Get Your Business Online Week"

The City Of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is urging all small businesses that do not have a website to participate in Get Your Business Online week sponsored by Google.

Google has dedicated Monday, March 24 to Friday, March 29 as Get Your Business Online Week to encourage small businesses across the United States to take advantage of the benefits of being online.

According to the BCG Report, "The Connected World: The \$4.2 Trillion Opportunity," over the next three years, businesses that make use of the web expect to grow 40 percent faster than those that don't.

The OBO offers assistance and training for small business owners in areas such as social media, business development and management training.

On Thursday, March 27, OBO will host a social media workshop from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at iT-Ology, located at 1301 Gervais St., on the 11th floor. To register, please visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/obo/calendar>.

For more information, please call the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 13, 2014

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

Community Development to Host Financial Stability Workshop

Registration Now Open

The City of Columbia Community Development Department will host Access Columbia, the premier workshop on financial stability, on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Access Columbia is our effort to empower the community at-large with the financial information they need to build a better quality of life. Everyone needs basic financial tools in order to plan for major life decisions such as building a good credit history and buying a home. We want to provide this financial seminar to help families build a strong foundation for future generations,” Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Those interested can register online at <http://columbia.sc.gov/AccessColumbia> or by calling Community Development at 803-545-3373.

Classes range from budgeting to fair housing. Classes are available for children and teens. Participants can take up to two of the following classes:

- Give Credit ... When Credit is Due: Learn how to read a credit report and new tools to improve credit scores.
- Creating Cash on a Budget: Learn to manage money by creating a spending plan and find ways to limit spending and increase income.
- Why It's Best to Invest: Learn about the benefits of the stock market and how it can help your income.
- Cash 4 College: Learn about 529 college savings plans, benefits of the SC Educational Lottery and student loans.
- Teenagers and Money: Teens can learn about money saving tools, while still having fun with friends. This class is intended for youth grades 7th-12th.
- Climbing the Money Tree: Children can learn about money management, budgeting, savings and banking in a fun interactive class targeted for grades 1st-6th.
- The Search for Fair Housing: Learn about fair housing laws that prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, disability and familial status.

“Creating Cash on a Budget” will also be offered in Spanish.

There will be an informational fair with vendors ranging from banks, financial institutions and more.

For more information, please call Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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*Media Note: Please see attached flyer.



Press Release

We Are Columbia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Contact: Jada Hubbard at 803-545-3200

Drew Wellness Center to Host Health and Wellness Fair

On Thursday, March 20, 2014, the Drew Wellness Center, located at 2101 Walker Solomon Way, will have a free health and wellness from 4-7 p.m.

The health fair will feature blood pressure, visual, cholesterol and BMI screenings.

There will also be vendors will information on nutrition, meal preparation, cancer awareness, health care reform, self-defense classes, fitness demonstrations and more.

The Drew Wellness Center has partnered with the USC School of Medicine's Student National Medical Association, Palmetto Health Office of Community Health, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, Consumers Choice Health Plan, Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, AARP Wallace Cunningham, the Columbia Police Department, the Lupus Foundation and the James R. Clark Sickle Cell Foundation.

For more information, please contact the Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200 or please visit www.columbiasc.net.

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***Media Note: Please see attached flier.**



Press Release

We Are Columbia

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For Immediate Release

March 13, 2014

City Manager Teresa Wilson Announces Appointment of Acting Police Chief

Interim Police Chief Submits Resignation

STATEMENT FROM CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON

Today, I received a resignation notice from former Interim Chief Ruben Santiago. Mr. Santiago has stepped down from his position as Interim Chief for the Columbia Police Department. We thank him for his service.

Effective immediately, Major Melron Kelly will serve as Acting Chief for the Columbia Police Department. Acting Chief Kelly will lead the daily operations for the Columbia Police Department and will work with the department's command staff and police officers to handle all public safety duties. Acting Chief Kelly will serve in this role until the effective appointment date of Columbia's new Police Chief.

I have made this comment several times before, but I cannot thank the men and women of the Columbia Police Department enough for their dedication and commitment to the department, our citizens and to the City of Columbia.

As we approach the culmination of a very intensive search process for a new Police Chief, I also want to thank the citizens of our great city for their input, participation and support of this endeavor. Please know that I consider the selection of our new Police Chief as one of the most important decisions that I will make in my role as City Manager. In closing, I also would like to thank City Council for their vote of confidence in both me and the Police Chief search process.

Thank you.

City Manager Teresa Wilson

Please see attached a bio and photo of Acting Chief Melron Kelly.



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We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2014

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

Mayor Benjamin issues statement on Interim Police Chief's resignation

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin today issued the following statement on Interim Chief Ruben Santiago's resignation and Major Melron Kelly's appointment as Acting Chief of Police:

"I want to thank Ruben Santiago for his service to the city and the people of Columbia and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

"I am certain Interim Chief Kelly will do an outstanding job. He has my full confidence and support and I am certain he will make us proud."

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Media Advisory

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

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

Please review the attached revised agenda.



Press Release

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 10, 2014

Contact: Randy Davis at 803-545-3100

City Of Columbia Parks and Recreation Swings Into Spring with Two Baseball and Softball Expos

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is holding the second youth baseball and softball expo on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from noon-4 p.m. at Pinehurst Park, located at 2300 Pinehurst Rd.

The expos will feature clinics, games, music, food and more. There will be boys youth baseball for ages 9-14, girls youth softball for ages 8-14 and City Sluggers instructional baseball for ages 4-8. Transportation will be provided from St. Anna's and Martin Luther King Parks.

Registration is \$25, and scholarships are available. Verification must be shown to receive assistance. The goal is to ensure every child plays. Equipment will be provided by the department.

Registration forms can be found online at www.columbiasc.net under "Parks and Recreation" or can be filled out at the Earlewood Park offices, located at 1111 Parkside Dr.

Those interested in being a coach should contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100.

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

###

*Media Note: Please see attached flier.



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

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 complete 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.

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***Media Note: Please see attached flier and application.**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Contact: Tina Herbert at 803-545-3950

City of Columbia Seeking Nominations for Business Spotlight Program

The City of Columbia is currently seeking nominations for the Business Spotlight Program. The goal of this program is to highlight and commemorate the accomplishments of exceptional local businesses.

Each quarter a Spotlight honoree will be selected for their achievements in growth of sales or employees, longevity, diversity, community contributions, innovations in products/services or a combination of these categories.

Businesses who are selected for the award will receive a variety of marketing and public relations opportunities including:

- Promoted on the City's website and email blasts
- A signed proclamation from City Council
- A complimentary one year membership to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce
- Invited to participate in a variety of networking opportunities.
- Three months of advertising space on the 1300 block of Main Street plus display space in the City's Office of Economic Development window in the Capital Center
- A 30-60 second commercial which will be featured on the City's website, YouTube Channel and Time Warner Cable Channel 2

Businesses eligible for recognition through the Business Spotlight Program should be located within the City of Columbia. In addition, applicants should also be privately owned with a minimum of two consecutive years of operation. All applicants should be in good standing with the Secretary of State's Office, the Better Business Bureau, and be current on their City/County taxes, business license and water/sewer fees.

Interested businesses are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Applications can be found online at www.columbiasc.net/obo.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities by calling 803-545-3950 or emailing obo@columbiasc.net.

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*Media Note: See attached flier.



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

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

City of Columbia Gears Up for 11th Annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week

The City of Columbia is proud to once again host the 11th annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week (NYVPW) from April 6–11, 2014, in order to raise awareness and educate students, teachers, school administrators and staff, school resource officers, parents and the public on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence.

“Youth violence is a national epidemic and we must start working on a local level to change this tragic cycle. Our young people are either committing crimes or are the victims of crimes and these incidents must stop. The time is now and we must work together as a community to make positive changes and save our youth,” Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated.

Councilwoman Devine initiated the City’s involvement with National Youth Violence Prevention Week.

The various planned activities will demonstrate the positive role young people can have in making their schools and communities safer. All events are free and open to the public.

On Sunday, April 6, the Candlelight Vigil for Peace will be held in Finlay Park at 5 p.m. This event is a memorial calling for an end to the violence in our city. Hear from the victims and the families that have been affected by youth violence.

On Monday, April 7, the Violence Prevention Fair will be held at the Earlewood Park Community Center, located at 1113 Parkside Dr., at 6 p.m. There will be dozens of agencies and organizations will provide information on a range of programs, resources, activities and events that are available to our youth.

On Wednesday, April 9, the “Man in the Mirror” Youth Panel will be held at City Hal, located at 1737 Main St., starting at 6 p.m. The panel will include the Insiders from D.J.J., a special group of juveniles who travel throughout the state promoting community awareness of the prevalence and consequences of juvenile crime, and members of the R.I.S.K. program of the Columbia Police Department.

On Friday, April 11, City Community Centers will operate on extended hours of play for “Game On!” night, so that Columbia’s youth may engage in positive activities. The following parks will close at 10 p.m.:

- Greenview Park- 6700 David St.

- Hyatt Park- 950 Jackson Ave.
- Martin Luther King Park- 2300 Greene St.
- Lorick Park- 1600 Lorick Ave.
- Pinehurst Park- 2300 Pinehurst Rd.
- Woodland Park- 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

In conjunction with the NYVPW activities, the City will be announcing various initiatives during the month of April that will focus on youth empowerment and youth development programs.

The Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department will also be working to form a Youth Empowerment Network and will be compiling contact information and resources that are available in the community for parents and youth. All youth advocates and those involved with youth organizations should send contact information to Sugi Brown at subrown@columbiasc.net or call 803-545-3020.

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

###

***Media Note: Please see attached flier.**



Press Release

We Are Columbia

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plo@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 20, 2014

Contact: Tina Herbert at 803-545-0170

Open Call for Presenters for Office of Business Opportunities Small Business Week Conference

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is pleased to issue a call for presenters for the Second Annual Small Business Week Conference to be held on May 14, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

As part of OBO's continuing efforts to promote the exchange of information and resources among small businesses, the annual Small Business Week Conference is designed to recognize the successes of local small businesses, provide businesses with management tools to be successful and networking opportunities.

The conference will include a keynote presentation, breakout sessions, networking and exhibitors.

OBO is looking for presentations that will build the capacity of small, minority and women owned businesses. Last year, presenters discussed effective uses of social media, what banks consider in reviewing loan packages and other relevant topics. Participants come from various industries, including construction, retail, food service, and professional services.

Those interested should contact the OBO at 803-545-0170 or email obo@columbiasc.net. Applications must be submitted no later than Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 5 p.m. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

For more information, please contact OBO at 803-545-0170 or email obo@columbiasc.net.

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***Media Note: Please see attached application.**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2014

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

Councilman Newman attends prestigious Brussels Forum

Columbia, SC. – Columbia City Councilman for District 2 Brian DeQuincey Newman traveled to Brussels, Belgium this week after being named to a select group of young elected leaders invited to attend the annual Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network’s (TILN) annual conference for leadership training and join the Young Professionals Summit of Brussels Forum.

“Across the world, a new generation of leaders is stepping forward to find new solutions to the challenges that face all of us,” said Councilman Newman who is one of only three members of the conference’s U.S. Delegation. “It’s a great honor to be part of that movement and a great opportunity to promote the great things happening here in Columbia and learn new strategies that will help us become a truly world-class city.”

Part of the prestigious German Marshall Fund, TILN is proving to be transformational by not only inspiring young leaders to run for higher office, but preparing them for the challenges of leadership. Prior TILN trainees are currently running for Congress and the EU Parliament, national parliaments, as well as for state level offices. In its third edition TILN 2014, 22 young diverse leaders – representing 17 different countries – will together explore inclusive leadership strategies.

The agenda features:

- Capacity building sessions: campaign and grassroots strategies, message framing and media outreach, vision statements, leadership portfolio development, reaching and transitioning to higher office, obstacles and opportunities for minority candidates
- High level, international engagement: discussions with Members of the European Parliament and U.S. Congress, and Brussels Forum senior policymakers, including opportunities for individual mentoring
- Peer-to-peer learning: exchanges of experience and best practices

“Councilman Newman has already proven himself to be a transformational leader both on City Council and in his role as Chairman of the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority’s Board of Directors,” said Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin. “We’re incredibly proud of him and look forward to hearing all the new ideas he brings back from this wonderful leadership opportunity.”

To learn more about TILN 2014 and the Brussels Forum, visit <http://brussels.gmfus.org/transatlantic-inclusion-leaders-convene/>.

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 21, 2014

Contact: Randy Davis at 803-545-3100

City Of Columbia Parks and Recreation To Host Second Baseball and Softball Expo Tomorrow

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is holding the second youth baseball and softball expo tomorrow, Saturday, March 22, 2014 from noon-4 p.m. at Pinehurst Park, located at 2300 Pinehurst Rd. Transportation will be provided from St. Anna's and Martin Luther King Parks.

The expos will feature clinics, games, music, food and more. There will be boys youth baseball for ages 9-14, girls youth softball for ages 8-14 and City Sluggers instructional baseball for ages 4-8.

Registration for the season is \$25, and scholarships are available. Verification must be shown to receive assistance. The goal is to ensure every child plays. Equipment will be provided by the department.

Registration forms can be found online at www.columbiasc.net under "Parks and Recreation" or can be filled out at the Earlewood Park offices, located at 1111 Parkside Dr.

Those interested in being a coach should contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100.

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

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*Media Note: Please see attached flier.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 21, 2014

Contact: Randy Davis at 803-545-3100

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Summer Camps Guide

Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreations Department offers summer day camps starting on Monday, June 2 and ending on Friday, August 15.

Camp programs are designed to help children develop to their fullest potential by focusing on education through recreation, team building and leadership, creativity and self-expression, physical fitness and independence and decision making. Camps are open to both city residents and non-city residents. The cost is \$55 per week and additional fee apply for field trips.

Day camps are offered for children ages 6-12 at the following parks:

- Emily Douglas Park- 2500 Wheat St.
- Greenview Park- 6700 David St.
- Hampton Park- 117 Brandon Ave.
- Heathwood Park- 800 Abelia Rd.
- Hyatt Park- 950 Jackson Ave.
- Lorick Park- 1600 Lorick Ave.
- Melrose Park- 1500 Fairview Rd.
- Martin Luther King Park- 2300 Greene St.
- Pinehurst Park- 2300 Pinehurst Rd.
- St. Anna's Park- 1315 Liberty Hill Rd.
- Sims Park- 3500 Duncan St.
- Woodland Park- 6500 Olde Knight Highway

Parks and Recreation also offers a Teen Camp for ages 13-16 at Booker Washington Heights Center, located at 2611 Grant Ave. The camp runs from June 2 to August 15. The cost is \$55 per week.

The Arts Camp will be held in one week sessions from June 18 through July 25. This camp is held in two sessions for ages 5-9 and 10-14 at the Art Center, located at 1928 Calhoun St., and costs \$85 per session. Camp is from 9 a.m. to noon. Campers have an option to select from painting and drawing, pottery and mixed media, which includes painting, related activities and clay.

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

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*Media Note: Please see attached brochure and flier.



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey at 803-545-3017

City Manager Teresa Wilson Introduces New Police Chief

The City of Columbia hosted an Introduction Ceremony for the new Police Chief today, March 21 at Police Headquarters, located at 1 Justice Square. Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council members, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Police Chief Search Committee members, Police Chief Search Community Stakeholders Panel, Law Enforcement Officials, Community Leaders and City staff were in attendance to welcome Chief William "Skip" Holbrook.

"I have been very impressed with Chief Holbrook personally and his remarkable career of accomplishments and I have no doubt that he will continue that record here," stated Mayor Steve Benjamin. "He can count on my full support and I look forward to working with him to make sure the men and women of the Columbia Police Department have everything they need to make ours a truly safe city."

Chief William "Skip" Holbrook currently serves as the Police Chief for the Huntington, West Virginia Police Department, where he manages 111 sworn and 15 civilian forces and a \$12 million dollar annual budget. Chief Holbrook will be sworn in as Columbia's new Police Chief on April, 11, 2014.

City Manager Teresa Wilson commented, "I am proud to welcome Chief Holbrook to the City of Columbia and look forward to working with him, the command staff and the men and women of the Columbia Police Department to take our public safety operations to the next level. Through Chief Holbrook's guidance, we will begin a new era of integrity and strong leadership."

The Columbia Police Department is comprised of 407 sworn officers and 91 non-sworn personnel for a total of 498 employees.

"I am committed to operational transparency in everything we will do at the Columbia Police Department. Transparency and accountability are imperative for ensuring public trust," said Chief Holbrook. "Together, our officers, citizens, city management, the mayor and council and our partnering agencies will find lasting solutions and build a world-class police department and a world-class city."

If you would like more information about the Columbia Police Department, please visit www.columbiapd.net or call 803-545-3500.

Media Note: Introduction Ceremony Press Packet attached.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 21, 2014

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

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will meet at 1225 Lady Street, Columbia, SC 29201 in the first floor conference room on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 10 a.m. Please see the attached agenda.

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Media Advisory

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 24, 2014

Contact: Tina Herbert at 803-545-3950

City Of Columbia To Participate in Google's "Get Your Business Online Week"

The City Of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is urging all small businesses that do not have a website to participate in Get Your Business Online week sponsored by Google.

Google has dedicated Monday, March 24 to Friday, March 29 as Get Your Business Online Week to encourage small businesses across the United States to take advantage of the benefits of being online.

According to the BCG Report, "The Connected World: The \$4.2 Trillion Opportunity," over the next three years, businesses that make use of the web expect to grow 40 percent faster than those that don't.

The OBO offers assistance and training for small business owners in areas such as social media, business development and management training.

On Thursday, March 27, OBO will host a social media workshop from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at iT-Ology, located at 1301 Gervais St., on the 11th floor. To register, please visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/obo/calendar>.

For more information, please call the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 24, 2014

Contact: Jada Hubbard at 803-545-3200

"March Membership Madness" Specials at Drew Wellness Center Ends in One Week

The Charles R. Drew Wellness Center is offering springtime specials on new or renewal annual memberships during the month of March.

Annual memberships to the Drew Wellness Center include access to the Olympic-size indoor pool, basketball courts, unlimited group exercises classes, the walking and jogging track, personal training, fitness consultations, weights and cardio area.

For adults, ages 18-49, an annual membership will cost \$210. For seniors, over the age of 50, a membership will cost \$160 and for a family of up to four people, a membership will cost just \$325.

This offer is valid through Monday, March 31, 2014.

For more information, please call the Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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***Media Note: Please see attached flyer.**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

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

City of Columbia to Hold Press Conference on Financial Stability and Access Columbia

WHAT: The City of Columbia will hold a press conference to discuss financial stability in the community and Access Columbia.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, Community Development staff, conference partners and community leaders.

WHERE: City Hall, Council Chambers
1737 Main St.
Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

Access Columbia, the premier workshop on financial stability, will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St., from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Access Columbia is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Those interested can register online at <http://columbia.sc.gov/AccessColumbia> or by calling Community Development at 803-545-3373.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 27, 2014

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

City of Columbia to Hold Press Conference on Financial Stability and Access Columbia

WHAT: The City of Columbia will hold a press conference to discuss financial stability in the community and Access Columbia.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, Community Development staff, conference partners and community leaders.

WHERE: City Hall, Council Chambers
1737 Main St.
Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Today, Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 27, 2014

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

Access Columbia Being Held to Help Improve Financial Stability of Columbia's Residents

In a press conference held today in Columbia Council Chambers, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and City staff discussed financial stability in the community and benefits of Access Columbia.

"Hundreds of families across the Midlands live on the financial edge, just one unexpected setback from a major financial crisis. For low-income families already struggling to meet basic needs, such occurrences can trigger a devastating chain of events that leads to unemployment, homelessness and family instability. The City can help families and neighborhoods become more economically secure by developing strategies to address their financial needs," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated.

According to the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, South Carolina has more residents living in poverty than in 2000.

The U.S. Census Bureau goes on to report that the number of people living below poverty in Columbia is 23.4 percent. That is compared to the state of South Carolina rate of 17.6 percent and the national rate of 14.9 percent.

"Access Columbia is our effort to empower the community at-large with the financial information they need to build a better quality of life. Everyone needs basic financial tools in order to plan for major life decisions such as building a good credit history and buying a home. We want to provide this financial seminar to help families build a strong foundation for future generations," Devine stated.

Access Columbia will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Calvin H. Elam, CEO and Senior Financial Consultant of Elam Financial Group, is this year's keynote speaker. Elam will be addressing the participants at 9:30 a.m. and will also be doing a book signing.

Access Columbia is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Those interested can register online at <http://columbia.sc.gov/AccessColumbia> or by calling Community Development at 803-545-3373.

There will be an informational fair with vendors ranging from banks, financial institutions and more. Limited daycare services will be available for children ages 2-5 years old.

Participants can take up to two of the following classes:

- Give Credit ... When Credit is Due
- Creating Cash on a Budget (offered in Spanish)
- Why It's Best to Invest
- Cash 4 College
- Teenagers and Money
- Climbing the Money Tree
- The Search for Fair Housing

For more information, please call Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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***Media Note: Please see attached flier and photos.**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

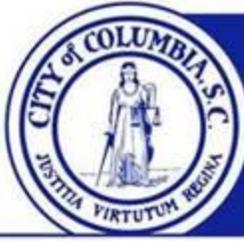
WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his March Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2014 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



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UPDATED: PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL DETAILS THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY BOTH THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2014

Contact: Chief Aubrey Jenkins @ 730-6399 and Acting Chief Melron Kelly at 960-8582

City's Public Safety Officials Conduct Safety Checks in Hospitality Districts

Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins and Acting Police Chief Melron Kelly have announced the results of joint public safety checks that were conducted over the weekend in various hospitality districts. The public safety checks involved a collaborative effort between the Columbia Police Department and the Columbia Fire Department.

The following information provides details regarding the results of the safety checks conducted, including violations:

Group Therapy

2107 Green Street

The violation observed/noted was overcrowding.

There were 276 people in the club. The club was shut down for the night.

Twist (formerly known as The Library)

805 Harden Street

The violation observed/noted was for a locked and obstructed exit. The club was shut down, pending further inspections.

T & T Lounge

3003 Colonial Drive

The Columbia Police Department was called to the club for a disturbance and upon arrival officers cleared the club of all patrons. Columbia Fire Department officials observed/noted violations for an exit light that was out and combustible materials that were stored in an electrical room. The club was shut down, pending further inspections.

Palace II

6820 Main Street

The violation observed/noted was overcrowding.

There were 321 people in the club. The club was shut down for the night.

Jet

700 Gervais Street

The violation observed/noted was an obstructed exit. Immediate action was taken to correct the violation, however since this violation has been previously observed/noted at this facility an official citation will be issued.

Per Chief Aubrey Jenkins, official citations will be issued by the Columbia Fire Marshal for all of the violations observed at all of these facilities. Follow-up inspections will be conducted at facilities as referenced on the list above.

For questions or more information, please contact Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins and/or Acting Police Chief Melron Kelly at the mobile phone numbers listed above.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 31, 2014

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

Please review the attached agendas and let us know of any questions or concerns.

- **Finance, Audit and Budget Committee at 8:30 a.m., Parking Services Conference Room, 820 Washington Street**
- **Work Session at 2 p.m., City Hall, 1737 Main Street**
- **Council Meeting at 6 p.m., City Hall, 1737 Main Street**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Access Columbia to Help Improve Financial Stability of Columbia's Residents

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- The Search for Fair Housing

For more information, please call Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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*Media Note: Please see attached flier.