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We Are Columbia

City eNews



City Receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Columbia by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The Award of Financial Reporting Achievement was presented on Tuesday, August 18 during the City Council meeting to the Finance Department's staff, who are primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR.

"It is an honor to be recognized for this accomplishment," said City Manager Teresa Wilson. "The dedication and hard work of the Finance Department continues to build on the strong financial foundation we have established in the City of Columbia."

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

Jonez of Columbia Grand Opening

Columbia's newest hotspot for live Jazz and fine dining, Jonez (Jone-Zee), had its grand opening on Wednesday, August 5, 2015. Mayor Steve Benjamin was in attendance.

Jonez is located in the Historic Congaree Vista district at 1004 Gervais Street. It is privately-owned and operated by Retired Military Commander Rodney Jones and his wife Evalena. Rodney was affectionately known as "Jonez" by many of his military buddies during his service. After he retired, Rodney partnered with his high school and college friends to establish Jonez of Columbia.

The restaurant includes a full-service bar and kitchen with a flexible dining capacity for 50 patrons. It also features live Jazz and Blues every Friday and Saturday nights.

For more information about Jonez of Columbia, visit www.jonezcolumbia.com.

Man Up Columbia

At the City Council meeting on August 18, the City announced its partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Great Columbia regarding a new City initiative, Man Up Columbia.

Man Up Columbia is a City initiative to recruit men of Columbia to become a mentor for a young boy. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia are currently in need of 50 men who can make a year long commitment to a child, only spending a minimum of five hours each month with the child.

The City encourages men in Columbia to "Man Up" to meet the rising need for Big Brothers.

If interested, please contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020. For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia visit, www.bbbsgc.org/ or call Jennifer Hodges at 803-691-5700.



(L-R)Rodney Jones, Evalena Rodney, and Mayor Steve Benjamin



Mayor Benjamin, Isaiah's mother, Big Brother Chis, Little Brother Isaiah, BBBSGC Director Cristy Marshall, BBBS Board members and Public and Media Relations Director Leshia Utsey

Conservation Education Mini-Grants Available for 2015-2016 School Year

Faculty and staff members of public, private, and alternative schools in Richland County are eligible to apply for Conservation Education and Clean Stream Columbia Mini-Grants (up to \$250 each) for campus conservation projects and youth environmental education initiatives. Two award cycles are available: applications received by October 15, 2015 will be considered for fall 2015 funding; applications received by February 16, 2016 will be considered for spring 2016 funding. Project work and the expenditure of funds must be completed by June 15, 2016.

Mini-Grants may be used to support conservation-related student projects including, but not limited to, outdoor classrooms, school gardens, nature trails, wildlife habitats, rain barrels, composting initiatives, air quality campaigns, litter clean-ups, rain gardens, erosion control, and stream bank restoration. Awards are competitive and proposals will be evaluated on the project's conservation impact, feasibility, student and community involvement, and educational outcomes.

All schools located in Richland County (including the City of Columbia) are eligible to compete for Conservation Education Mini-Grants; schools located in the City of Columbia are also eligible to compete for Clean Stream Columbia Awards for certain projects that promote, protect or improve water quality. Funding for these awards is provided by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Columbia. Download the application [here](#).

For more information, contact Chanda Cooper at (803) 576-2084 or cooperc@rcgov.us.

Registration Open for 9th Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence

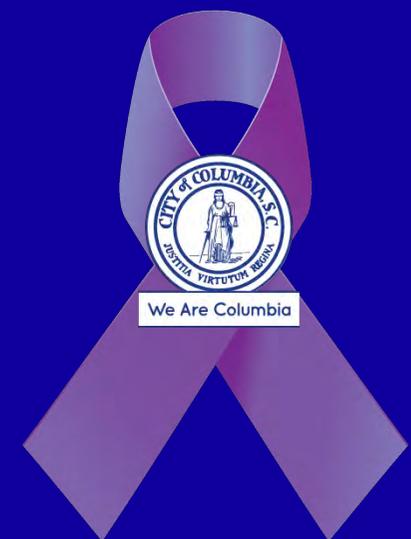
The 9th annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2015, beginning at 9 a.m. at Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street. Mayor Steve Benjamin, Chairperson Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, domestic violence advocates and supporters will be in attendance.

The walk is free and registration can be found online at <http://gate.columbiasc.gov/mayorswalk/>. Registration is also open for team captains and exhibitors. Participant deadline is **October 9**. Exhibitor deadline is **September 10**.

For more information about registration for the 9th Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence, visit columbiasc.net or call the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



We Are Columbia



#TakingSteps2015

For more information about registration for the 9th Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence, visit columbiasc.net or call the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

City of Columbia Breast Cancer T-Shirt Sale

The City of Columbia is proud to sell shirts again to raise money for the citizens in our community who are diagnosed with breast cancer.

The cost is \$15 for short sleeve shirts.

The cost is \$20 for long sleeve shirts. (available in police and fire styles only)

Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts can be purchased at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Washington Square Payment Center, 1136 Washington Street
 - Police Headquarters, 1 Justice Square
 - Fire Headquarters, 1800 Laurel Street

Orders are due by September 18.

All proceeds from t-shirt sales will go to Bosom Buddies, a 501(c)3 charity that assists women who need mastectomy bras or have other needs after surgery.

For additional information, please contact Galena Alford at 803-545-3360.



(L-R) Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook, Mayor Steve Benjamin and Fire Chief Aubrey D, Jenkins



City and FoodShare Columbia Partners Hold Open House

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine, the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities at USC, Richland Library, EdVenture Children's Museum and the Columbia Housing Authority have partnered to help increase access to affordable, fresh fruits and vegetables through a new program called FoodShare Columbia.

On Wednesday, August 19, FoodShare Columbia partners hosted an open house at the Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights Center for the community to learn about the benefits of the program and how to participate, as well as the importance of access to healthy foods.

The open house included a healthy cooking demonstration from EdVenture Children's Museum and Richland Library's Play Freely Bus.

For more information, please call 803-255-8161.

The City Announces CAPER Public Comment Period

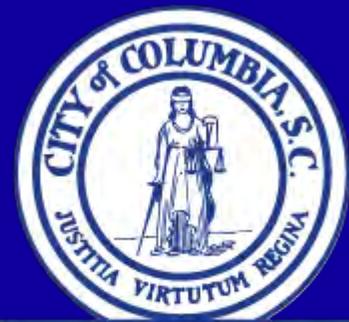
In accordance with federal regulations, the City of Columbia's Community Development Department is announcing a 30-day public comment period to review the draft of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Citizens will have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed draft by attending public hearings or submitting comments through September 21, 2015.

The purpose of the comment period is to allow citizens an opportunity to review and comment on progress, achievements and expenditures of federally-funded programs in the City of Columbia. Public Hearings will be held at 6 p.m. on:

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

A draft summary of the CAPER report can be found at www.ColumbiaSC.net/communitydevelopment. A summary of citizen comments will be included in the 2014-2015 CAPER that will be submitted to HUD.

Public comments regarding the CAPER report should be sent to Dollie Bristow, Community Development Department at 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29201, emailed to ddbristow@columbiasc.net or faxed to 803-255-8912



We Are Columbia

NASCAR Executive to Keynote the City of Columbia's 2015 Green Business Conference

NASCAR Vice President for Green Innovation Dr. Michael Lynch will deliver the keynote address at the ninth annual Green is Good for Business Conference on Tuesday, September 29 to share the successful story of NASCAR Green, one of the most powerful sustainability platforms in the country.

NASCAR's three massive green programs are among the largest in sports, and the sanctioning body serves as a proving ground to validate new technologies.

As part of the program, NASCAR:

- Operates the largest renewable energy projects in sports
- Manages the largest waste diversion program in sports
- Serves as a proving ground to validate new technologies
- Collaborates with the industry and other organizations that care deeply about sustainability
- Champions sustainable behavior to millions of fans align with NASCAR fan values

"NASCAR Green is a game changer. It is a model sustainability program and has successfully engaged some of the very people green businesses want to engage," said Mary Pat Baldauf, City of Columbia Sustainability Facilitator.

Registration for the conference is \$50 per person. Online registration is available at <http://greenisgoodforbusiness.eventbrite.com>. Exhibit space and sponsorships are also still available at <http://supportgreenbusiness.eventbrite.com>.

Report to the Community: 2014-15 Fiscal Year

The Report to the Community for fiscal year 2014 - 2015 is provided to citizens for information purposes in order to share accomplishments and highlights related to the City of Columbia's operations from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Please note that due to the volume of daily activities required to run, grow and transform our city, this report does not encompass all relevant outcomes during this period of time however, it provides various snapshots from departments across the City of Columbia's organizational structure.

The Report to the Community for Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015 is a publication from the City of Columbia Public and Media Relations Department.

[View the Report to the Community](#)



City Manager's Employee Recognition Program Designates Another City LIGHT

City Manager Teresa Wilson recognized Master Police Officer (MPO) Josh Hardin as a City L.I.G.H.T. recipient on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 during a City Council meeting.

MPO Hardin and his partner pulled over a car for speeding on July 2, 2015. When they approached the car, they saw Asia Smalls and her baby Kalissa; the baby Kalissa had stopped breathing. MPO Hardin immediately began CPR on the baby and she began to breathe again after a few minutes. EMS arrived and transported her to the hospital, where she recovered.

"I am truly proud of our CPD officers for their sacrifice and commitment every day, but Officer Hardin's grace under pressure and willingness to go above and beyond are certainly worthy of special recognition," said City Manager Teresa Wilson.

Smalls says she later learned her daughter was suffering from acid reflux, which had blocked her airway. On Wednesday, July 15, 2015, Asia Smalls was reunited with MPO Josh Hardin for the first time since he saved her baby's life. A local television station, WLTX, was there to witness the reunion. [Click here to view the video.](#)

MPO Hardin began his career in law enforcement with the Columbia Police Department in August 2009. He was assigned to the Metro D squad for two and half years, where he received the Rookie of the Year Award for the Metro Region as well as obtaining Master Patrolman in 2011. He joined the K-9 unit in June 2012.

"Officer Hardin exemplifies that of a hero, a true guardian of our community and all that is expected of a Columbia police officer," said Columbia Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook.

City LIGHTs is a platform for recognizing employees who engage in random acts of kindness and go above and beyond the call of duty to help those in need or exceed expectations as an employee and ambassador for the City of Columbia. LIGHT is an acronym that represents the values of the program. Employees are recognized for displaying **Leadership**, **Integrity** and **Generosity** or for having a **Helpful** attitude and sharing their **Talent** to help others or benefit the community.

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Hold September Open House

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will hold her September Open House on Wednesday, September 9 from 5-8p.m. at City Hall (1737 Main Street).

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Libby Gober at 803-545-3061.



Register for the City Hoops Instructional Basketball Program

The registration period for City Hoops, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth basketball program for boys and girls ages 3 through 8, will begin Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn basketball fundamentals.

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. **The last day to register is Friday, October 23.** The City Hoops clinics begin Saturday, November 14, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. To download a registration form, visit Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#) and click the "Instructional Sports" link.

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

16th Annual Eau Claire Unity Festival

The 16th annual Eau Claire Unity Festival will kick off Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the corner of Main Street and Monticello Rd. This year's annual event is being re-launched with the "unity" theme which will begin with a multi-cultural and denominational Unity Circle featuring the singing of "We are the World"!

The Eau Claire Community Council, which sponsors the festival has planned a full day of family-friendly events that bring together the diversity of the North Columbia Neighborhood. Everyone in Metro can enjoy delicious food, various vendors and children of all ages will have fun with the mascots, games and activities in the Kids Zone. The Eau Claire Unity Festival is a Music Lovers paradise where everyone can find their favorite Bands playing Gospel, Latin, Jazz, Rock, Folk and Country.

Vendor applications are still being accepted. Interested persons should contact Kathy Brown at (803) 479-0663 (Cell) or kathybrown47@gmail.com by **September 7, 2015.**

Area Churches are encouraged to gather their congregations to participate in the Unity Circle. Its family fun for everyone so make plans to attend the 16th Annual Eau Claire Unity Festival .

For more information call the Eau Claire Community Office at (803) 691-1168 or visit their facebook page.



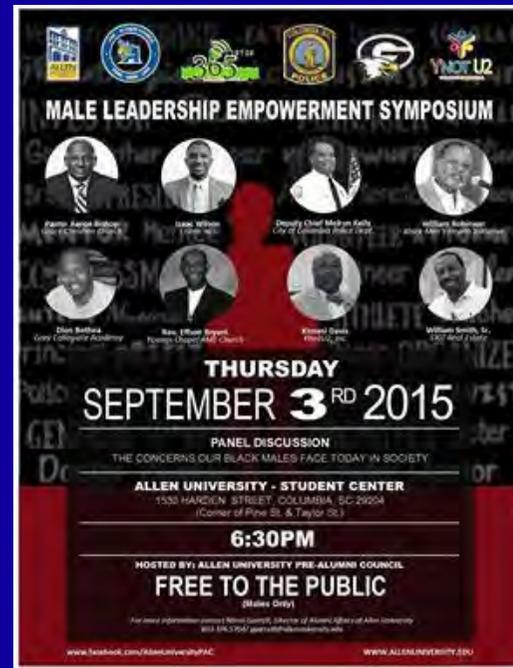
1st Male Leadership Empowerment Symposium

Allen University's Pre-Alumni Council will be hosting their 1st Male Leadership Empowerment Symposium in collaboration with the City of Columbia Police Department, Black Men's Health Initiative, YNotU2 Inc., Listen 365, and many more local organizations. The symposium will be held on **Thursday, September 3, 2015** at 6:30pm in the John Hurst Adams Gymnasium - Student Activity Center, 1517 Pine Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

This symposium will cover diverse topics such as leadership, best practices when encountering law enforcement, preventing acts of violence, understanding health disparities, mentoring programs, entrepreneurial practices, and career exploration.

We encourage "Males Only" to join us for a thought provoking, unmatched learning opportunity to network, and to make a difference in your communities.

For further information about the forum, please, contact Mr. Nimai Garrett, Director of Alumni Affairs at 803.376.5704, ggarrett@allenuniversity.edu



Greenview Park Tennis Courts Closed for Maintenance

The tennis courts at Greenview Park will be closed until Friday, September 18 for resurfacing, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced.

There are seven additional locations in the City that are open for recreational and league play. Those locations are:

Columbia Tennis Center, 1635 Whaley St.

- Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Sunday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Monday – Sunday, 7 a.m. – 9 p.m

South East Park, 951 Hazelwood Rd.

- Monday – Sunday, 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

The following locations are open Monday through Sunday from dawn to dusk:

- Earlewood Park - 1111 Parkside Dr.
- Mays Park - 4100 Trenholm Rd.
- Hampton Park - 117 Brandon Ave.
- Heathwood Park - 800 Abelia Rd.
- Woodland Park - 1500 Olde Knight Parkway

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



We Are Columbia

Lender Matchmaker

Lender Matchmaker : Access to Capital Symposium

Attention All South Carolina Small Business Owners

Are you looking for capital to start or expand your business?

Then attend a workshop addressing current lending practices, with one-on-one lender networking.

- **Thursday, September 24th, 2015**
 - 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Registration
 - 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Symposium
- **The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center**
 - 1101 Lincoln Street
 - Columbia, SC 29201
- **Event will kick-off with a lender led panel discussion**
 - Nonprofit Lenders
 - Traditional and Non-Traditional Lenders
- **Matchmaking sessions will allow one-on-one meetings**
 - Register for your Matchmaking Sessions online
 - Portal opens on September 10, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Register**
 - \$25 per participant
 - **Click here to register:** <https://2015-south-carolina-lender-matchmaker.eventbrite.com>
 - **For more information contact** Angelo McBride, (803) 545-3960
Aamcbride@columbiasc.net or Tessa Monahan, (803) 737-1336
Tmonahan@sccommerce.com

Hosted By:



South Carolina
Department of Commerce
Just right for business.



Girls Golf Clinics

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center
presents **Girls Golf Clinics**



The **Girls Golf Clinics** are **FREE** clinics held every other Saturday until October 31 at the James E. Clyburn Center, a LPGA-USGA Girls Golf site. The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is located at 2091 Slighs Avenue.



The clinics will be held from 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., and attendees will learn the fundamentals, etiquette and rules of golf. No equipment is necessary. The **Girls Golf Clinics** are open to girls ages 5-18.



To register, visit <http://www.columbiasec.net/parks-recreation/athletics/golf>.



For more information, please call 803-255-8920.



Click [here](#) to view City Talk interview.

Save the Date!

SAVE THE DATE

9/11/2015

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center at 5:00 p.m.
(Family Members Gather and Prelude Begins at 4:30 p.m.)



Please plan to join us for the 9/11 Annual Evening of Remembrance at the South Carolina Midlands Historic 9/11 First Responder and Military Service Member Remembrance Memorial adjacent to the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Major General Roger L. Cloudier Jr.,
Commanding General, U.S. Army Training Center & Fort Jackson,
will provide the keynote address.

Formal invitation to follow in two weeks.

For more information: www.scremembers911.com or monicakscott@gmail.com

Jubilee: Festival of Heritage



JUBILEE

FESTIVAL OF HERITAGE

Saturday

Sept. 19
11 am - 6 pm

MANN-SIMONS SITE
1403 Richland St.
Columbia, SC



College Campus Fire Safety

College Campus Fire Safety



College students living away from home should take a few minutes to make sure they are living in a fire-safe environment. Educating students on what they can do to stay safe during the school year is important and often overlooked.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
- » Make sure you can hear the building alarm system when you are in your dorm room.
- » If you live in a dormitory, make sure your sleeping room has a smoke alarm, or your dormitory suite has a smoke alarm in each living area as well as the sleeping room. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the dormitory suite should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- » If you live in an apartment or house, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- » Test all smoke alarms at least monthly.
- » Never remove batteries or disable the alarm.
- » Learn your building's evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
- » If you live off campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.
- » When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- » Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
- » Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit, or chimenea.
- » Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

Smoking Sense

If you smoke, smoke outside and only where it is permitted. Use sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays. Don't smoke in bed or when you've been drinking or are drowsy.

Candle Care

Burn candles only if the school permits their use. A candle is an open flame and should be placed away from anything that can burn. Never leave a candle unattended. Blow it out when you leave the room or go to sleep.



FACT

- ! Fires in dormitories are more common during the evening hours, between 5–11 pm, and on weekends.
- ! Roughly five out of six fires in dormitories are started by cooking.



Your Source for
SAFETY Information

www.nfpa.org/education

NFPA Public Education Division | 1 Battery March Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Photo Gallery

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2015

COLONIAL PLACE



COTTONTOWN



DREW PARK





Photo Gallery

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2015

HAMPTON PARK



HOLLYWOOD PARK



SEMINARY RIDGE





We Are Columbia



Run. Grow. Transform.

Photo Gallery

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2015

ROBERT MILLS



ROY LYNCH PARK



FOODSHARE COLUMBIA OPEN HOUSE



Meetings

DATE/TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION
September 7	City Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day	City of Columbia Offices
September 8 at 10am	BoZa Meeting	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
September 10 at 4pm	Design/Development Review Commission Meeting	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
September 14 at 10am	City Council Finance, Audit and Budget Committee Meeting	1737 Main Street City Hall
September 14 at 5:15pm	Planning Commission Meeting	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
September 15 at 2pm	City Council Work Session	1737 Main Street City Hall
September 15 at 6pm	City Council Meeting	1737 Main Street Council Chambers

Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
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