

City Manager's Spotlight



From the desk of City Manager Teresa Wilson

CITY MANAGER'S SPOTLIGHT ON APRIL 2014

The purpose of the City Manager's Spotlight is to provide details about what is happening in the City and to stay connected with the community. The City Manager's Spotlight on April 2014 reflects information about the Police Chief Swearing-in Ceremony, implementation of a public art program, ground breaking of Lyon Street Redevelopment and additional City highlights and accomplishments.

COMMUNITY RECEPTION AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

- Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson, City staff, Police Chief Search Committee and Community Stakeholders Panel, law enforcement officials, and Columbia's citizens gathered to attend the City of Columbia's Community Reception and Official Swearing-in Ceremony for the new Chief of Police.



City Manager Teresa Wilson introduces Chief Holbrook at the Community Reception

- The City of Columbia invited everyone to attend the Community Reception on April 10 from 5:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. at Coble Plaza, located behind the EdVenture Museum.

- The next day on April 11 at 11:00 A.M., the Official Swearing-in Ceremony took place at City Hall, where Police Chief William Holbrook was sworn in as Columbia’s Police Chief. City Council Members, City Manager Teresa Wilson, City Staff, Police Chief Search Committee, Community Stakeholders Panel and law enforcement officials were all present and City Manager Wilson said a few words about Columbia’s new Police Chief at both events.
- Columbia Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook’s first day at the job was on Monday, April 14th. He leads the Columbia Police Department after serving at the Huntington, West Virginia Police Chief for a number of years.



Chief Holbrook’s wife, Michelle, pins his uniform during the Swearing-in Ceremony.



Chief Holbrook with members of the Columbia Police Department staff.

- View more photos from these events by clicking on the corresponding link: [Community Reception](#) and [Official Swearing-in Ceremony](#)

COLUMBIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW HOMES IN LYON STREET COMMUNITY

- On Thursday, April 10, the Columbia Housing Development Corporation and its Board of Directors celebrated the ground breaking of Lyon Street Redevelopment, its newest homeownership project near Gervais St.

“This is a great project not only for the Lyon Street community, but also for the City of Columbia. When there is an opportunity to build new homes and provide quality housing for potential homeowners, it is beneficial for both our city and our citizens. I want to commend staff for continuing to find new ways to strengthen our neighborhoods through homeownership.”

~City Manager Teresa Wilson

- The Lyon Street Redevelopment will consist of six new single-family homes. The first two houses will be constructed at 2521 Washington St. and 2533 Washington St. Four additional houses will be constructed at 1302 McDuffie St., 1312-14 McDuffie St., 1318 McDuffie St. and 1320-22 McDuffie St. The two-story floor plan, priced at \$123,000, will have 1,475 sq. ft. and comprise three bedrooms and two and one-half baths. The single-story floor plan, priced at \$118,000, will have 1,375 sq. ft. with three bedrooms and two full baths. There will be six elevations to choose from on the single-story home, and some homes will include detached single-car garages.



Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson and City staff break ground during ceremony for new homes in Lyon Street Community.

- These homes are needed to provide working class families and individuals with workforce housing, whose incomes are at or below 80 percent of the HUD area median income. Contracts written and closed no later than September 30, 2014 may be eligible for \$10,000 in G.A.P. down payment assistance and other low interest rates through the City of Columbia’s loan program and their partner banks.
- All homes will meet ENERGY STAR Version 3 Certification to provide lower energy consumption cost for homeowners. Other specifications include: appliance packages to include washer and dryer; over the range microwave; tank-less water heater; kitchen backsplash and cultured marble bathroom counter tops; crown molding in master bedroom and great room; smooth ceilings. The exterior will consist of hardiboard, architectural shingles; privacy fenced backyard and front yard irrigation with centipede sod.
- The residents in the Lyon Street Community are ready for change. The Lyon Street Redevelopment is located one mile northeast of downtown Columbia, and young professionals and empty nesters who are looking to downsize will find the location convenient to entertainment districts, sports venues, hospitals and public transportation routes.
- The City of Columbia Community Development Department is providing \$564,779 in federal HOME dollars to finance this project.

ACCESS COLUMBIA: OPENING DOORS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

- On Saturday, April 5, the City of Columbia presented Access Columbia, a free financial literacy expo, to Columbia residents to help them get a better understanding of financial procedures. The event was held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center and was open to all ages, even kids.
- Calvin H. Elam, CEO and Senior Financial Consultant of Elam Financial Group, was this year’s keynote speaker and spoke with attendees about the importance of financial literacy in businesses and in households. There were also many vendors on the lobby of the Convention Center that also stressed the importance of knowing what to do with your money.
- City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine was involved in the development of the expo and stated, “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.”
- Participants in the expo had the chance to take up to two of the following classes at the event:



The Access Columbia Financial Literacy expo was open to all ages, even kids.

- 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

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK 2014

- Columbia-Richland Communications (CRC 911) celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 13-19. Telecommunications week, sponsored by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, and celebrated annually, honored the thousands of men and women who answer emergency and non-emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment, and render life-saving assistance to our citizens and first responders.



Columbia-Richland Communications (CRC 911) dispatchers

- 911 call takers and dispatchers across the Nation process thousands of 911 calls flawlessly every day. As citizens, they are our first connection to emergency services. They must quickly and accurately gather information from callers in every sort of crisis and emotional state, from injured to scared, to hysterical. It takes a special person to be ready and waiting day-in and day-out to help on what could be the worst day of any caller's life.
- In addition to being a public safety link for our citizen callers, our 911 dispatchers provide a link to our on-scene responders as well. The safety of police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel is always forefront in the mind of a 911 dispatcher. This is not simply because they are their friends and co-workers, but also because the safety of our responders is fundamental to their ability to perform their jobs in providing service to our citizens.

CITY OF COLUMBIA LAUNCHES FIRST YOUTH EMPOWERMENT NETWORK INITIATIVE

- The City of Columbia is celebrating Youth Empowerment as part of the initiative to bring together more resources for the community's youth. The initiative includes the creation of the Youth Empowerment Network, a cohesive resource available to youth and families that gives them access to events, activities and organizations within the community. The Youth Empowerment Network was launched in April and due to the community's response it will be extended into the summer. The network includes a calendar of events that lists safe and fun activities for youth of all ages to enjoy.



- The Youth Empowerment Network also includes a database of youth organization contacts, youth advocacy group contacts and more. The network will provide updates to these youth groups about programs and other initiatives in Columbia throughout this summer. The groups are also able to share information about their public events through the network.
- Visit ColumbiaSC.net to view the Guidelines and Youth Empowerment Initiative Calendar of Events.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Columbia Police Chief William H. Holbrook announced that the Columbia Police Department would be a designated "drop-off" site for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day that was held on Saturday, April 26.
- The event was sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in an effort to provide a venue for persons who want to properly dispose of unwanted and unused prescription medicines. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.
- Columbia residents were urged to drop off their unwanted and unused prescription medicines at #1 Justice Square – Columbia Police Headquarters.
- The Department's vision of recruitment and retention has been presented to include expanded Hospitality Unit coverage. It includes some of the following Public Safety Initiatives: increasing undercover operations; parking patrol cars in high visibility; introducing nuisance ordinances; underage drinking enforcement; controlling parking lots and cuts; and communicating incidents immediately.
- The first ever Hybrid marked police vehicle was issued to Officer Jennifer Jordan in Special Events. The vehicle is a Kia Optima Hybrid from Galeana KIA of Columbia. The fuel rating is 36 city/40 hwy.



- A Statewide Polygraph Information Network (SPIN) of the PD website has been developed as an information hub for polygraphers throughout the state of SC. It will help share information between law enforcement (LE) polygraph programs regarding pre-employment polygraph reports.
- To view the Public Safety Initiative report, click [HERE](#).

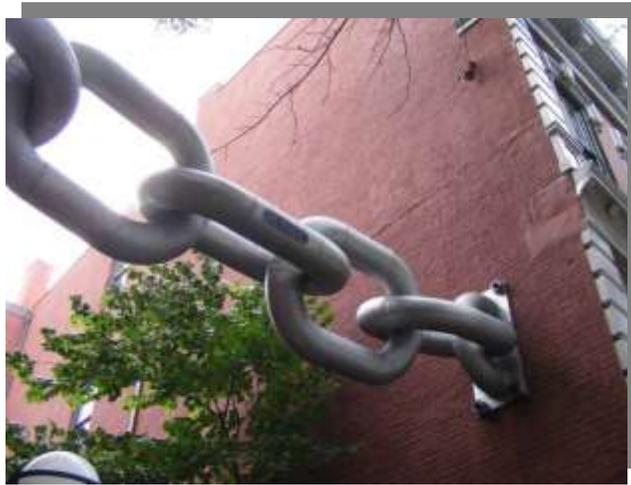
HUMAN RESOURCES: COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION STUDY

- The City has contracted with Evergreen Solutions, LLC, a consulting firm out of Tallahassee, Florida, to conduct a comprehensive classification and compensation study. The study will be conducted in 5 phases and will include the following:
 - A review of current job categories and positions within the City
 - An evaluation and building of a projected classification plan
 - The revision of job descriptions and Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Determinations
 - A market comparison of salaries of comparable jobs
 - Development of a compensation philosophy to provide equitable pay and reward high performance while attracting and retaining the most talented employees
 - An implementation strategy that is fiscally responsible
- The study will also include the development of a performance management system and performance appraisal instrument. The project is scheduled to take between 6 and 9 months from start to completion.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MAIN STREET PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

- The City of Columbia is planning for the implementation of a public art program. “Public Art” or “Public artworks” are meant to be enduring original artworks of the highest quality and craftsmanship. The artworks should be an integral part of the landscaping, streetscaping, and/or architecture of a building or other site, considering the historical, geographical and social/cultural context of the site.
- Encroachment Process:
 - All installations are required to obtain permission through the encroachment ordinance, and shall comply with the insurance requirements of the encroachment ordinance (\$600,000.00 liability policy), and will be the responsibility of the applying entity. All installations shall have all applicable insurance coverage prior to installation.

- All applicable City of Columbia ordinances shall be satisfied prior to installation of artwork and/or supporting structures/lighting.



"Neverbust" by Blue Sky (located on Main Street)

- A Public Art Committee process will be utilized for review and approval of all installations.
- For more details on the Main Street Public Art Program, please click [HERE](#).

NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

- The City of Columbia was proud to host the 11th annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week (NYVPW) from April 6–11, 2014. NYVPW raises awareness and educates students, teachers, school administrators and staff, school resource officers, parents and the public on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence. The following activities were held during National Youth Violence Prevention Week:
 - **Candlelight Vigil for Peace** was held at Finlay Park. This event is a memorial calling for an end to the violence in our city. Victims and the families that have been affected by youth violence shared their stories.
 - **Violence Prevention Fair** was held at the Earlewood Park Community Center. There were dozens of agencies and organizations providing information on a range of programs, resources, activities and events that are available to our youth.
 - **"Game On!" night** was held at City Community Centers, which operated on extended hours of play so that Columbia's youth could engage in positive activities.
 - **"Man in the Mirror" Youth Panel** was held at City Hall. The panel included 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 Operation R.I.S.K (Rescuing Inner City Students and Kids) program of the Columbia Police Department.



Photos from the "Man in the Mirror" Youth Panel

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

All my best,



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