

CONNECTING COLUMBIA



April 14, 2014

CITY TALK

Tune in to City Talk today on WGCV
620 AM from 5 - 6 p.m. to hear:

5:00 p.m.

Guests: Wanda Austin, Community Outreach Coordinator, Parks and Recreation
Topic: Spring Teen Retreat

5:20 p.m.

Guest: Kim Mitchell, Special Events Coordinator for Parks and Recreation
Topic: Let's Move! Columbia Easter Egg Hunt!

5:40 p.m.

Guest: Josetra Robinson, Festival Marketing Representative
Topic: 2014 Eau Claire Fest

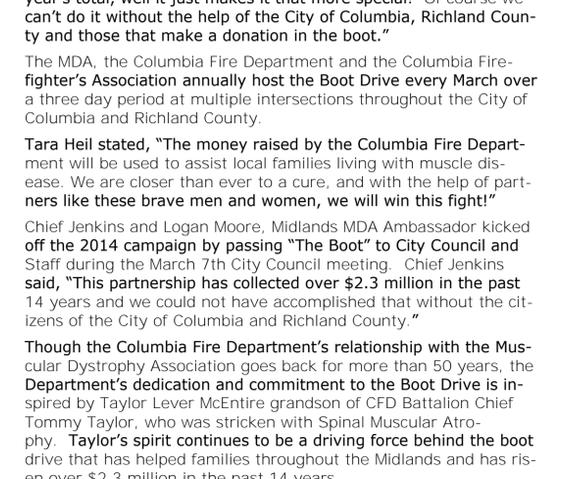
NEWS

COMMUNITY RECEPTION AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY HELD 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.

The community reception was held on Thursday, April 10, from 5-6:30 p.m. at Coble Plaza.

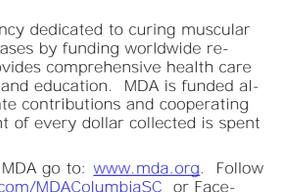
The official swearing-in ceremony was held on Friday, April 11, at 11 a.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.



To view more photos from the Community Reception and Official Swearing-in Ceremony for the new Chief of Police please click [HERE](#).

CFD RAISES OVER \$143K DURING 2014 MDA BOOT DRIVE

Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and members of the Columbia Fire Department were proud to present a check on Tuesday, April 8th, to Logan Moore, MDA Columbia District Ambassador and Tara Heil, Executive Director of the MDA Columbia District for \$143,214; total raised by CFD for the 2014 MDA Boot Drive.



(L-R): Battalion Chief J. Strohecker, Division Chief M. Cochran, Chief Jenkins, Logan Moore MDA Columbia District Ambassador, Tara Heil Executive Director MDA Columbia District, Assistant Chief J. Helms & Captain K. King

"CFD members look forward to this every year and when we are able to surpass our previous year's total, well it just makes it that more special! Of course we can't do it without the help of the City of Columbia, Richland County and those that make a donation in the boot."

The MDA, the Columbia Fire Department and the Columbia Fire-fighters' Association annually host the Boot Drive every March over a three day period at multiple intersections throughout the City of Columbia and Richland County.

Tara Heil stated, "The money raised by the Columbia Fire Department will be used to assist local families living with muscle disease. We are closer than ever to a cure, and with the help of partners like these brave men and women, we will win this fight!"

Chief Jenkins and Logan Moore, Midlands MDA Ambassador kicked off the 2014 campaign by passing "The Boot" to City Council and Staff during the March 7th City Council meeting. Chief Jenkins said, "This partnership has collected over \$2.3 million in the past 14 years and we could not have accomplished that without the citizens of the City of Columbia and Richland County."

Though the Columbia Fire Department's relationship with the Muscular Dystrophy Association goes back for more than 50 years, the Department's dedication and commitment to the Boot Drive is inspired by Taylor Lever McEntire grandson of CFD Battalion Chief Tommy Taylor, who was stricken with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Taylor's spirit continues to be a driving force behind the boot drive that has helped families throughout the Midlands and has risen over \$2.3 million in the past 14 years.

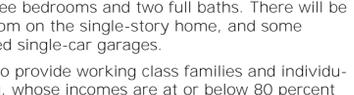
Taylor was an honorary member of the Columbia Fire Department, the South Carolina Fireman's Association and the Professional Fire-fighters' Local 793 of Columbia, S.C. He also was the spokesperson for MDA and the Firefighters. He was MDA's South Carolina Goodwill Ambassador and spoke at many events to help raise monies for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He was an Easter Seal's State Representative and helped raise money for the Buck A Cup campaign. He was the recipient of the first annual Taylor McEntire Courage Award, which is awarded to a CFD recruit at graduation.

MDA is the nonprofit health agency dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases by funding worldwide research. The Association also provides comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education. MDA is funded almost entirely by individual private contributions and cooperating organizations. Only nine percent of every dollar collected is spent on administrative costs.

For more information about the MDA go to: www.mda.org. Follow them on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MDAColumbiaSC> or Facebook: www.facebook.com/mdacolumbia.

COLUMBIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DEVELOPMENT 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.



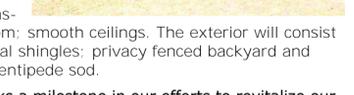
Mayor Steve Benjamin speaks during the Lyon Street ceremony.

"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 stated.

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.

These homes are needed to provide working class families and individuals with the HUD area median income, 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; tankless 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 hardi-board, architectural shingles; privacy fenced backyard and front yard irrigation with centipede sod.



"This groundbreaking marks a milestone in our efforts to revitalize our neighborhood," said Marvin Heller, Lyon Street Community Association president. "We are pleased and look forward to additional homes that will appeal to new homeowners of various incomes and ages. 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."

CITY OF COLUMBIA LAUNCHES FIRST YOUTH EMPOWERMENT NETWORK INITIATIVE

The City of Columbia is celebrating Youth Empowerment Month this month as part of their 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 network includes a calendar of events for April that lists safe and fun activities for youth of all ages to enjoy. The city would like to continue this initiative through the summer months.

"Youth Empowerment Month and the Youth Empowerment Network are two new initiatives that are launching in April in order to develop a more cohesive focus on youth programs and organizations in our community," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated. "Parents are always looking for positive outlets for their children and the needs are increasing. We want to start building a network that will provide resources and information for parents, guardians and youth on a year-round basis."

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 month. The groups are also able to share information about their public events through the network.

For more information about the Youth Empowerment Month calendar or to submit information, please contact Morgan Cretella at mcoretella@columbiasc.net.

Click the following links to view the [Guidelines](#) and [Youth Empowerment Month Calendar](#) of Events for April.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT NETWORK CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2014

April 13-19

- April 13 - Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 14 - Spring Break Games - Hyatt Park, 11:00-2 p.m.
- Badges to Baseball - Groenview Park, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Fun Zone - Groenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- Strengthening Families Program Open House* - Edgewood Foundation Center, 6 p.m.
- City Year - Rachel Dofoe, rdofoe@cityyear.org or 803-251-8465
- April 15 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Spring Break Games - Hyatt Park, 11:00-2 p.m.
- Diamonds and Pearls Girls Mentoring Program - Hyatt Park, 7 p.m.
- April 16 - Spring Break Games - Hyatt Park, 11:00-2 p.m.
- Fun Zone - Groenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 17 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt - Lorick Park, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 6 p.m.
- Eastside Basketball Athletics - Groenview Park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 18 - Spring Break Games - Hyatt Park, 11:00-2 p.m.
- Mayor's Let's Move Easter Egg Hunt - Drew Wellness Center, 4-6 p.m.
- Kids' Ceramics Class - MLK Park, 4-6 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 6 p.m.
- Friday Night Hunt - MLK Park, 8-10 p.m.
- April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt (Grace Church) - Pinohurst Park, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- #TeensWorkColumbia* - Earlewood Park Community Center, 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

April 20-30

- April 20 - Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 21 - Badges to Baseball - Groenview Park, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Fun Zone - Groenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 22 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Diamonds and Pearls Girls Mentoring Program - Hyatt Park, 7 p.m.
- City Year - Rachel Dofoe, rdofoe@cityyear.org or 803-727-1578
- April 23 - Fun Zone - Groenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 24 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Eastside Basketball Athletics - Groenview Park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 25 - Kids' Ceramics Class - MLK Park, 4-6 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 6 p.m.
- April 26 - Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 27 - Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 28 - Badges to Baseball - Groenview Park, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Fun Zone - Groenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 29 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Diamonds and Pearls Girls Mentoring Program - Hyatt Park, 7 p.m.
- April 30 - Fun Zone - Groenview park, 6-8 p.m.

May

- May 6 - Aug. 19 - Strengthening Families Program* - Edgewood Foundation Center, Tuesdays 6 p.m.
- City Year - Rachel Dofoe, rdofoe@cityyear.org or 803-251-8465

*Note: These events are not sponsored by the City of Columbia. For more information, contact the organization directly.

SCE&G TO PERFORM TREE TRIMMING ACTIVITIES AS SCHEDULED FOR 2014

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

- Lake Katherine
- POA of Lake Katherine

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

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

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

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the trimming of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/tree trimming.

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

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

WHY GREEN IS GOOD FOR YOUR COLUMBIA BUSINESS

In honor of Earth Day, which will be recognized on **April 22**, the City's Recycling Coordinator, Tiffany Jaspers, will discuss how businesses can participate in the City's free commercial recycling program on **April 24, from 3-4 p.m.** She will also talk about the City's Green Business membership and why city businesses should become a member. A free registration will be given away to the City's Green is Good for Business Conference, scheduled for September 30 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Please click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

| COUNCIL MEETING DATE | TYPE OF MEETING | DEADLINES FOR AGENDA ITEMS |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| APRIL 22 | BUDGET WORKSHOP / WORK SESSION / COUNCIL MEETING | APRIL 11 |
| APRIL 29 | BUDGET WORKSHOP / WORK SESSION / COUNCIL MEETING | APRIL 18 |

- The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on **Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.** at 1225 Lady St.
- Budget Workshops held on April 22 and 29, are at 11 a.m.
- Work Sessions held on April 22 and 29, are at 2 p.m.
- Council Meetings held on April 22 and 29, are at 6 p.m.

• For more information regarding the City Council meetings, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 545-3045.

EVENTS

Mayor Steve Benjamin and Family invite you to the...
City of Columbia's "Let's Move!"
Easter Egg Hunt
Friday, April 18th
4pm - 6pm
Finlay Park - Main Stage
930 Laurel Street

Join Bethany and Jordan Grace in a day of "egg"venture!
Fun "eggs"ercises! Easter Egg and Prize Hunt!
Refreshments for the Kids! Prizes and Surprises!

(3 age groups: 3-5, 6-9, 10-13)

Sponsored by:

IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS AT THE COLUMBIA ANIMAL SHELTER



FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, WHENEVER IT'S RAINING, *ADULT CAT & DOG ADOPTION FEES ARE 1/2 OFF!
*applies to pets 1 year or older

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO WEATHER THE STORM, COME IN ANY DAY - RAIN OR SHINE - FOR ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT OFFERS MENTION PROMO CODE: "RAINCHECK"

View Our Adoptable Pets:

COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES
127 HUMANE LANE
COLUMBIA, SC 29209
803-776-7387

City Media

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