



Together we will build a world-class city

City of Columbia Press Releases

April 1-30, 2015

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We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 02, 2015

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

Mayor Steve Benjamin and the City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! Columbia Easter Egg Hunt

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Columbia Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free and open to the public. The event will include "Eggs"ercises, an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Judge DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: 1-3 p.m. **tomorrow**, April 3, 2015

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

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For Immediate Release

April 2, 2015

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill

Elmwood Park

Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

Re-conductor Work

Shandon

Sherwood Forest

Wales Garden

Heathwood Park

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored 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.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

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

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

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

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 6, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Planning Commission Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2015

The Planning Commission will conduct a Work Session at 4:15 p.m. and a meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2015. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

###



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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 6, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Layla! (ID# A212169)

Layla is a three-year-old domestic short hair cat. She is very kind and perfect for a relaxed lifestyle. Layla is also spayed and micro-chipped.

Visit Layla and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

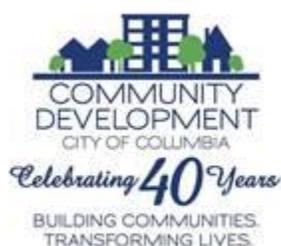
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 6, 2015

Contact: Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3383



Community Development to Celebrate 40 Years of Service to the Midlands

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department and the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods (CCN) will host an Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbia Marriot, 1200 Main Street. Congressman James E. Clyburn will be the keynote speaker.

The Annual Awards Banquet will highlight Community Development's 40 years of service to the Midlands and recognize local neighborhood leaders. Community Development will also unveil its video "40 years-- Building Communities and Transforming Lives".

Since its inception, Community Development has focused on making Columbia a better place to live, work and play. The department has supported the economic development of Columbia by providing façade loans, creating development corporations and outlining five federally targeted areas to provide benefits. Additionally, Community Development has addressed quality of life issues through park development.

For more information about the Annual Awards Banquet, please contact Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3383 or jlrainwater@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2015

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

My Brother's Keeper to host Local Action Summit for our Youth

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin announced today that the My Brother's Keeper Columbia initiative will host a Local Action Summit for Youth, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 11 at the South Carolina State House.

The Columbia community accepted the President's My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge in October. The Summit, which targets young men of color ages 11-21, will host a direct discussion with the youth on what their community can do to ensure their individual and collective success.

"Our youth need reassurance and evidence that our city is actively seeking ways to help them succeed," said Mayor Benjamin. "It is up to us to foster these discussions and give them the tools they need to achieve their goals. Columbia, please register any youth that you know."

The Summit will allow our young people to work in breakout sessions for further discussion on how Columbia and our regional partnerships can provide students the tools they need to succeed. The panels, facilitated by community leaders, will be broken up by age range (11-13, 14-17, 18-21).

This is the second Local Action Summit held in Columbia. The first was held in October when the community accepted President Obama's challenge. Parents are encouraged to tell their children about the event, which will be a fulfilling and influential day of discussion for Columbia's youth.

WHAT: My Brother's Keeper Columbia
Local Action Summit for Youth

WHEN: Saturday, April 11 2015
10:00AM to 1:00PM

WHERE: The South Carolina State House
(Attendees to meet in the Lobby)

Youth can register for the Local Action Summit for our Youth, by visiting the website at **bit.ly/registermbkcolumbia**. If you or a member of your organization is interested in volunteering to facilitate discussion, please contact Jasmine Dunlap at jadunlap@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Loan Committee Meeting Agenda

The Loan Committee will conduct a meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 1 p.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 08, 2015

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

Summer Youth Basketball League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its Summer Youth Basketball League.

Children ages 8-18 can play in the summer league. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is Friday, May 29, 2015. The Summer Youth Basketball League season begins Monday, June 8, 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 the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#).

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

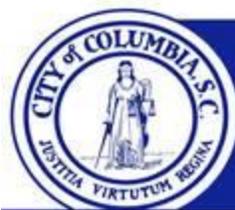
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Revised Loan Committee Meeting Agenda

The Loan Committee will conduct a meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 1 p.m. The revised agenda is attached for your review.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 08, 2015

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

James E. Clyburn Golf Center to Host Girls Golf Day

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is hosting a Girls Golf Day on Saturday, April 18, 2015 to help kick off the start of its girls golf program.

The Clyburn Golf Center has joined more than 270 communities across the United States who are recognized as a LPGA USGA Girls Golf program site. Girls Golf, which is the only national initiative of its kind, is administered through a partnership between The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Foundation and the United States Golf Association (USGA).

Girls Golf programs focus on inspiring girls to feel confident, build positive self-esteem, and live active and healthy lifestyles by incorporating the "Five E's of Girls Golf": Empower, Enrich, Engage, Exercise and Energize.

The free event is open to girls ages 5-17 and will feature coaching from collegiate and professional women golf players including participants from the Golf Channel's "The Big Break." Celebrity coaches include Chris Brady Wolfe ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon ("The Big Break"/Future's Tour Player), Ashley Prange ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player) as well as members of Columbia College's women's golf team.

The deadline to register is Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

WHAT: Girls Golf Day

WHO: Chris Brady Wolfe (Big Break/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon (Big Break/Future's Tour Player), and Ashley Prange (Big Break winner/LPGA Player); Columbia College women's golf team

WHERE: James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 1-4 p.m.

For more information or to register, please contact the James E. Clyburn Golf Center at 803-255-8920 or visit www.TheFirstTeeColumbia.org and click on the "Girls Golf Day" link.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Contact: Fred Delk at 803-988-8040

Palmetto Compress Groundbreaking

WHAT: The groundbreaking for the historic Palmetto Compress Warehouse will include the first chance to see the plans and tenant announcement for the redevelopment. The community will have a chance to meet the Palmetto Compress owners and development team.

The building was saved from demolition when the local community asked the Mayor and Columbia City Council to find ways to preserve the structure.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin and the Columbia Development Corporation

WHERE: 612 Devine Street

**Please enter from Huger or come down Devine Street. City staff will direct parking on the west side of the building.*

WHEN: Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 1:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Fred Delk at 803-988-8040.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 09, 2015

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

Greenview Park Pool Groundbreaking

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will hold a special groundbreaking ceremony for the pool area at Greenview Park. A reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

WHAT: Greenview Park Pool Groundbreaking

WHO: City Council members, City staff and Community leaders

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David Street

WHEN: Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 3 p.m.

For more information, call the Public Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, April 9, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin to Host Public Roundtable for Small Businesses

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin will host a Public Roundtable on Regulatory Enforcement with Brian Castro, Small Business Association's (SBA) National Ombudsman. Attendees will have the opportunity to give input on federal regulatory challenges facing small businesses.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, SBA National Ombudsman Brian Castro and Columbia small business owners.

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street in Council Chambers

WHEN: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 12:30 – 2 p.m.

COST: The event is free and RSVP is not required but preferred. Please RSVP to SBChamber@scsbc.org.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

**see attached for flyer*

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 09, 2015

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

Registration Period Open for Men's Adult Basketball League

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Men's Adult Basketball league is now open through May 15.

The league is open to males ages 18 and older. The fee to register is \$300 per team.

Games will be played on Sunday and Monday nights beginning May 31, 2015.

To register, please visit the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the department's ["Adult Sports" page online.](#)

The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia. Registrations will not be accepted without payment.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100.

###



For Immediate Release

April 10, 2015

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill

Elmwood Park

Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon

Sherwood Forest

Wales Garden

Heathwood Park

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored 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.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

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

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

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

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 10, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Agenda

The Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes>.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, April 11, 2015

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

Greenview Park Pool Groundbreaking

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will hold a special groundbreaking ceremony for the pool area at Greenview Park. A reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

WHAT: Greenview Park Pool Groundbreaking

WHO: City Council members, City staff and Community leaders

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David Street

WHEN: Today, April 11, 2015 at 3 p.m.

###



We Are Columbia

Public Notice

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 13, 2015

Contact: Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session and council meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 13, 2015

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

James E. Clyburn Golf Center to Host Girls Golf Day

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is hosting a Girls Golf Day on Saturday, April 18, 2015 to help kick off the start of its girls golf program.

The Clyburn Golf Center has joined more than 270 communities across the United States who are recognized as a LPGA USGA Girls Golf program site. Girls Golf, which is the only national initiative of its kind, is administered through a partnership between The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Foundation and the United States Golf Association (USGA).

Girls Golf programs focus on inspiring girls to feel confident, build positive self-esteem, and live active and healthy lifestyles by incorporating the "Five E's of Girls Golf": Empower, Enrich, Engage, Exercise and Energize.

The free event is open to girls ages 5-17 and will feature coaching from collegiate and professional women golf players including participants from the Golf Channel's "The Big Break." Celebrity coaches include Chris Brady Wolfe ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon ("The Big Break"/Future's Tour Player), Ashley Prange ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player) as well as members of Columbia College's women's golf team.

The deadline to register is Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

WHAT: Girls Golf Day

WHO: Chris Brady Wolfe (Big Break/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon (Big Break/Future's Tour Player), and Ashley Prange (Big Break winner/LPGA Player); Columbia College women's golf team

WHERE: James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 1-4 p.m.

For more information or to register, please contact the James E. Clyburn Golf Center at 803-255-8920 or visit www.TheFirstTeeColumbia.org and click on the "Girls Golf Day" link.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 13, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Snow! (ID# A212302)

Snow is a two-year-old domestic short hair cat. She is very playful and loves kids. Snow is also spayed and microchipped.

Visit Snow and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 13, 2015

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

Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day

In honor of the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! Initiative, join the City of Columbia for Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event for youth and their family to learn more ways they can live a healthier life.

The free event will feature a special appearance by **Marcus Lattimore**, former NFL and University of South Carolina player, as well as a variety of activities including an obstacle course, relay races, cooking demonstrations, an activity zone, health fair and more.

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fun Day

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way,
Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nonprofit health and wellness organizations interested in being an exhibitor can register for free.

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day or to register as an exhibitor, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 13, 2015

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

City Announces New Chair of Minority Business Advisory Council

The City of Columbia announces Greg Davis as the chair of the Mayor's Minority Business Council (MBAC). The MBAC assists the Mayor in coordinating the City's efforts to maximize the opportunities and growth of minority businesses.

Greg Davis has more than 20 years of experience with small business development and minority relations, including serving as the director of the South Carolina Minority Business Development Agency and the Small Business Development Manager for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Recently, he accepted the position as director of Minority and Small Business Affairs for the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Mayor Steve Benjamin established the MBAC in 2013. The MBAC is charged with collaborating with the Office of Business Opportunities to carry out responsibilities in the areas of economic development, employment, procurement, training and other matters affecting the economic vitality of the minority business community. The MBAC consists of nearly 20 minorities who are small business owners or individuals who consistently support the development of minority businesses through their work in private industry, government and academia.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 13, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052

Mayor Steve Benjamin to Hold SWELP Press Conference

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin will hold a Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP) press conference to announce the water bill check off to raise funds for the program and the application process.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin; J.T. McLawhorn, President and CEO of the Columbia Urban League; and a local youth who has gained experience and benefitted from the SWELP initiative.

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street in the Mayor's Conference Room

WHEN: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 11 a.m.

For more information, contact Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052

Mayor Steve Benjamin to Hold SWELP Press Conference

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin will hold a Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP) press conference to announce the water bill check off to raise funds for the program and the application process.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin; J.T. McLawhorn, President and CEO of the Columbia Urban League; and a local youth who has gained experience and benefitted from the SWELP initiative.

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street in the Mayor's Conference Room

WHEN: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 11 a.m.

For more information, contact Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 14, 2015

Contact: Samantha Yager at 803-331-2052

City of Columbia to Hold Informational Meeting on Columbiana Drive Resurfacing Project

WHAT: The City of Columbia will oversee the rebuilding and resurfacing of Columbiana Drive from Harbison Boulevard to Lake Murray Boulevard. The work is scheduled to start Monday, April 20, 2015 and will be performed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. to minimize congestion and inconvenience to area businesses.

A detailed project overview will be provided at a meeting to be held for Irmo Chamber of Commerce members. The media is invited and encouraged to attend.

WHO: City of Columbia staff and contractor representatives.

WHERE: Carolina Ale House, 277 Columbiana Dr. Columbia, SC 29212

WHEN: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 10 a.m.

For more information, call Street Division at 803-545-3790.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

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

The City to Host Small Business Week Conference

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) will host its annual Small Business Week Conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street. This year, the conference will focus on innovation.

The goal of the conference is to highlight the impact and successes of the City's outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners. This year's keynote speaker is William D. Kirkland, executive director of the University of South Carolina's Office of Economic Engagement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn helpful business tips, network with their peers and participate in the following breakout sessions:

- Are Trade Shows Right for You?
- Share your story, Don't Sell Your Story!
- What Happened? You're not the Person I Hired!
- Legal tips for Business Owners
- Meet InnovateHER finalists

Tickets for the event are \$50 and sponsorship opportunities are available. To purchase a ticket, click [here](#).

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

###

**please see flyer attached*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052

Mayor Steve Benjamin Announced SWELP Fundraising Campaign

Mayor Steve Benjamin announced the Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP) fundraising campaign today at City Hall.

"We're looking to increase SWELP jobs from 250 to 1000 this summer," said Mayor Benjamin. "We have to keep making deposits into the bank for our youth."

The campaign will start this week and citizens will be able to contribute by checking off the amount they wish to donate on an information insert that will be included with their water bill. Their donation will automatically be added to their monthly bill.

"Studies show that giving teens work experience is an investment for our future," said J.T. McLawhorn, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia Urban League, Inc.

For more than 15 years, SWELP has been providing employment opportunities to teens. Santora Byrd, a freshman at Spring Valley High School, shared her SWELP experience and how she looks forward to working with the program again this summer.

"My job last summer helped me with communications skills and learning how to work with others," said SWELP participant Santora Byrd. "I plan on working with the SWELP program as long as I can."

Applications will be available on the first week of May and can be picked up at the Columbia Urban League, Inc, City parks and the Columbia Police Department. All applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2015.

SWELP is an evidence-based career development program for youth ages 14-19. SWELP provides you with valuable work experience that helps foster responsibility, a strong work ethic and self-esteem. The purpose of this program is to provide primarily disadvantaged youth with summer work experience and service learning in an effort for them to gain the necessary fundamental skills they will need to ensure future employment opportunities.

For more information about SWELP, contact the Columbia Urban League at (803) 799-8150.

###

**please see attached for the water bill insert*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Committee Meeting Agenda

The Columbia City Council will conduct a committee meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 8 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052

Council adopts Mayor Benjamin's revenue plan

Proposal reduces water/sewer rate increase, secures public safety funding and cuts taxes

Columbia City Council voted 5-2 to adopt Mayor Steve Benjamin's comprehensive proposal to secure funding for public safety, reduce the proposed Water/Sewer rate increase and cut city property taxes by more fairly spreading the cost of city government among tax exempt properties which benefit from city services without sharing in the costs during budget discussions at a Council Work Session yesterday.

"Right now our taxpayers shoulder a disproportionate burden because so much of our property in our city isn't on the tax rolls," said Mayor Benjamin. "If we're going to truly move forward, then everybody has to pay their fair share. This proposal is a major step in that direction while promoting fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency and I'm proud this Council supports it."

Passed by a vote of five to two, Mayor Benjamin's proposal:

- Provides relief to city taxpayers and more fairly distributes the cost of government among tax exempt properties which benefit from city services without sharing in the costs by raising the SCANA Franchise Fee from 3% to 5% with a corresponding a two mill city property tax rollback for city taxpayers.
- Reduces a proposed 12.1% Water/Sewer rate increase to 9.5% by eliminating \$1.6 million in Water/Sewer operations costs currently used to fund the City's Office of Business Opportunities and Development Corporations and absorbing those costs into the General Fund.
- Promotes fiscal responsibility, transparency and increased funding for Public Safety by eliminating the open-ended \$4 million General Fund Transfer from Water and Sewer revenues and instituting instead a dedicated 2% Public Safety Transfer the necessity of which will be reevaluated annually.

"Public safety has and continues to be our top priority and that's why we've increased our General Fund budgets for public safety by more than \$11.6 million over the past five years," said Mayor Benjamin. "In fact, last year alone our police, fire and 911 budgets grew by a combined \$3.3 million while all other General Fund spending decreased by \$500,000."

"This is a dedicated and transparent revenue stream that can only be used to fund the men and women that keep our citizens safe without further burdening our taxpayers."

In addition, in order to protect low-income and elderly residents from potential cost increases, Mayor Benjamin's proposal calls on the City to aggressively promote its Maintenance Assistance Program which helps those residents who need it most pay for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements significantly lowering their power bills and offsetting any additional costs.

For more information, contact Michael Wukela via email at mcwukela@columbiasc.net.

Full motion as made by Mayor Steve Benjamin on April 14, 2015

(Adopted by Columbia City Council by a vote of 5 to 2):

In keeping with our strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and public safety, we direct the City Manager and Staff to bring back a proposal that:

- *Removes the appearance that Water and Sewer funds will ever be used for "pet projects" or anything that isn't a true priority for our city and region by eliminating the \$4 million General Fund Transfer from Water and Sewer.*
- *Recognizes the fact that this Council has increased Public Safety funding for our Police, Fire and 911 services by more than \$11.6 million over the past five years and that last year alone we increased to Public Safety funding \$3.3 million dollars outpacing total General Fund growth by roughly half a million dollars demonstrating this Council's strong commitment to Public Safety and its impact both to our city and to our region and – in keeping with that commitment - institutes a designated 2% Public Safety Transfer from Water and Sewer the necessity of which will be reevaluated annually.*
- *Brings the proposed Water/Sewer rate increase down from 12.1% to 9.5% by eliminating the roughly \$1.6 million combined Development Corporations and OBO budgets from our Water/Sewer Operations and Maintenance budget and absorbing those costs in our General Fund.*
- *Provides relief to our city taxpayers and more fairly distributes the cost of government among tax exempt properties which benefit from city services without sharing in the costs by raising the SCANA Franchise Fee from 3% to 5% and instituting a two mill city property tax rollback FOR OUR CITY TAXPAYERS.*

- *Aggressively promotes Community Development's Maintenance Assistance Program, launched earlier this month, providing a total \$500,000 in grants for a variety of maintenance costs including weatherization and can be utilized by low-income and elderly citizens to offset any potential cost increases resulting from the franchise fee increase.*

###



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober @ 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host April Open House

What: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his April Open House.

Who: Councilman Cameron Runyan

When: Monday, April 27, 2015

Where: City Hall, 1737 Main Street from 5 – 7 p.m.

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

#

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Kids Day Wet N' Wild

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a day of water fun at Kids Day Wet n' Wild on Saturday, May 2 at Finlay Park.

The event will feature water slides, water games, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, exhibitors, food vendors and more! Guests can also bring their super soakers and get ready for a battle in the water play area.

Admission is FREE. There are fees for face painting, food vendors, carnival games, the petting zoo and pony rides.

WHAT: Kids Day Wet N' Wild

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.

For more information about the event or how to be a vendor, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

Revised City Council Committee Meeting Agenda

The Columbia City Council will conduct a committee meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 8 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Contact: Fred Delk at 803-988-8040

Palmetto Compress Groundbreaking

WHAT: The groundbreaking for the historic Palmetto Compress Warehouse will include the first chance to see the plans and tenant announcement for the redevelopment. The community will have a chance to meet the Palmetto Compress owners and development team.

The building was saved from demolition when the local community asked the Mayor and Columbia City Council to find ways to preserve the structure.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin and the Columbia Development Corporation

WHERE: 612 Devine Street

**Please enter from Huger or come down Devine Street. City staff will direct parking on the west side of the building.*

WHEN: Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 1:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Fred Delk at 803-988-8040.

###

**please see attached for flyer*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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

City Receives Additional Funding for Individual Development Account Program

The Assets for Independence Program, a division of the Federal Health and Human Services, announced a \$75,000 grant that will be matched by the City with an additional \$75,000 for a total of \$150,000 for the City's IDA program.

The IDA program is a three to one matched savings account that allows individuals to use their savings and match money toward a home, a small business or post-secondary education.

To qualify for the program, applicants must:

- Reside within the City's limits
- Must be 200 percent of Federal Poverty and have \$10,000 or less in household assets
- Must save \$1000 over a minimum of six months and attend financial literacy and asset training

Successful participants will be eligible for a \$3000 match to purchase their first home, start a small business or go back to school. Interested residents can apply until the funds are committed.

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

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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

City Council Recognized Top Recruiters for Lifesavers Blood Drive

Last night, Columbia City Council recognized the top three City staff recruiters who served as team captains for their departments during the annual blood drive, the Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive. Together, the three employees recruited a total of 50 blood donors, which could potentially save up to 150 lives.

Stephanie Belvin, with Parks & Recreation, recruited 23 presenting donors, Gina Sample, in Public Works, had 14 presenting donors and Paul Eller with Parking Services had 13 presenting donors. All three recruiters received a \$25 gift card from Di Pratos and the top recruiter, Stephanie Belvin, also received a signed basketball from Tevin Mack, a local high school superstar player, and a gift certificate for a free dress from Fashion Forward Mobile Boutique.

In addition to the donations from the sponsors, the employees will also be able to will have lunch with Mayor Steve Benjamin for their high ranking recruitment efforts.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the American Red Cross collected 237 pints of blood at this year's Columbia Lifesavers blood drive, bringing the five-year event total to 1,391 pints of blood.

The City of Columbia thanks the sponsors who donated the generous gifts for the top recruiters.

To view additional photos from last night's Council meeting, visit our [Tumblr page](#).

###

**please see attached for photo*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin releases statement on former Mayor Coble's hospitalization

Columbia, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin released the following statement today in response to former Mayor Bob Coble being transported to Providence Hospital after becoming ill at the South Carolina Statehouse earlier today:

"Bob Coble is probably the most beloved local official this city has had in a generation and I know he can feel our prayers at his back. He has continued to serve the people of this city as a tireless economic, cultural and community leader as well as a trusted mentor and cherished friend to me personally.

"Mayor Coble's family tells me that he is alert and in good spirits and we will all continue to pray from his full and speedy recovery."

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Contact: Fred Delk at 803-988-8040

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The building was saved from demolition when the local community asked the Mayor and Columbia City Council to find ways to preserve the structure.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin and the Columbia Development Corporation

WHERE: 612 Devine Street

**Please enter from Huger or come down Devine Street. City staff will direct parking on the west side of the building.*

WHEN: Today at 1:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Fred Delk at 803-988-8040.

###

**please see attached for flyer*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 16, 2015

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

Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting Agenda

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will conduct a meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 17, 2015

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

James E. Clyburn Golf Center to Host Girls Golf Day

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is hosting a Girls Golf Day on Saturday, April 18, 2015 to help kick off the start of its girls golf program.

More than 70 girls registered for the free event that will feature coaching from collegiate and professional women golf players including participants from the Golf Channel's "The Big Break."

Celebrity coaches include Chris Brady Wolfe ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon ("The Big Break"/Future's Tour Player), Ashley Prange ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player) as well as members of Columbia College's women's golf team.

WHAT: Girls Golf Day

WHO: Chris Brady Wolfe (Big Break/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon (Big Break/Future's Tour Player), and Ashley Prange (Big Break winner/LPGA Player); Columbia College women's golf team

WHERE: James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 1-4 p.m.

For more information, please contact the James E. Clyburn Golf Center at 803-255-8920.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, April 17, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober @ 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host April Open House

What: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his April Open House.

Who: Councilman Cameron Runyan

When: Monday, April 27, 2015

Where: City Hall, 1737 Main Street from 5 – 7 p.m.

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

#



For Immediate Release

April 17, 2015

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization
 Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District
 Pinehurst Community Council
 Midland Terrace Neighborhood
 Druid Hills Neighborhood Association
 Community Improvement Cooperative Council
 Edgewood Neighborhood Floral Club
 Celia Saxon Neighborhood Association
 Barhamville Estates
 Jaggars Plaza Community
 Jones McDonald Community Club
 Eva P. Trezevant Neighborhood Organization

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon
 Sherwood Forest
 Wales Garden
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners
 Lake Katherine
 Martin Luther King Neighborhood

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored 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.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

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

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

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

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 17, 2015

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

City selected as Finalist for NUSA Neighborhood Program Award

The City's Community Development Department was selected as a finalist for the 2015 Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Best Neighborhood Program Award for its Access Columbia Financial Literacy Conference.

The purpose of the conference was to provide attendees with financial knowledge in a fun environment. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in sessions including how to improve their credit, creating cash on a budget and the importance of investing. Community Development will present its program at the 40th Annual Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Houston, TX on Friday, May 22, 2015.

Neighborhoods, USA is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood.

###

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 17, 2015

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

Second Annual National Fair Housing Month Community Fair

WHAT: The City's Community Development Department and the South Carolina Fair Housing Center are hosting their Second Annual National Fair Housing Month Community Fair. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about fair housing rights while enjoying refreshments, entertainment, books for youth and gathering information from community service providers. The event is free and open to the public.

WHO: City of Columbia, South Carolina Fair Housing Center and Columbia citizens

WHERE: Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 1-5 p.m.

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

###

**please see attached for flyer*



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

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00AM MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

April 17, 2015

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

HUD officials to make major announcement Monday

Columbia, SC. – Representatives from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will hold a press conference on Monday, April 20, 2015 in order to make major announcement. The press conference will be held inside Council Chambers at City Hall (1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC).

WHAT: Major HUD Announcement

WHEN: 11:00AM Monday, April 20, 2015

**WHERE: City Hall
(Council Chambers)
1737 Main Street
Columbia, SC**

For information, contact Michael Wukela at mcwukela@columbiasc.net or 803-413-5052.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, April 18, 2015

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

James E. Clyburn Golf Center to Host Girls Golf Day

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is hosting a Girls Golf Day on Saturday, April 18, 2015 to help kick off the start of its girls golf program.

More than 70 girls registered for the free event that will feature coaching from collegiate and professional women golf players including participants from the Golf Channel's "The Big Break."

Celebrity coaches include Chris Brady Wolfe ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon ("The Big Break"/Future's Tour Player), Ashley Prange ("The Big Break"/LPGA Player) as well as members of Columbia College's women's golf team.

WHAT: Girls Golf Day

WHO: Chris Brady Wolfe (Big Break/LPGA Player), Brenda McLarnon (Big Break/Future's Tour Player), and Ashley Prange (Big Break winner/LPGA Player); Columbia College women's golf team

WHERE: James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 1-4 p.m.

For more information, please contact the James E. Clyburn Golf Center at 803-255-8920.

###



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

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WHO: City of Columbia, South Carolina Fair Housing Center and Columbia citizens

WHERE: Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: TODAY from 1-5 p.m.

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

###

**please see attached for flyer*



We Are Columbia

Public Notice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Meetings

The Columbia City Council will conduct the following meetings on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street:

- Environment & Infrastructure Committee Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
- Work Session at 12:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The agendas are attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 20, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Butch! (ID# A213451)

Butch is a two-year-old Boston Cattle Dog. He is very energetic and loving. Butch is also neutered and micro-chipped.

Visit Butch and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



Press Release

We Are Columbia

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 20, 2015

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

Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day

In honor of the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative, join the City of Columbia for Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event for youth and their family to learn more ways they can live a healthier life.

The free event will feature a special appearance by **Marcus Lattimore**, former NFL and University of South Carolina player, as well as a variety of activities including an obstacle course, relay races, cooking demonstrations, an activity zone, health fair and more.

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fun Day

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nonprofit health and wellness organizations interested in being an exhibitor can register for free.

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day or to register as an exhibitor, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 20, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Registrations for the 2015 Senior Trips Program

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the 2015 Senior Trips program.

Adults age 50 and older can travel by charter bus to several locations throughout the year. The charter bus departs from the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204.

Registrations should be submitted **no later than three weeks in advance** of the day of the trip, unless otherwise noted. Early registration is advised.

Trips are as follows:

Washington, DC

WHEN: Friday, July 17-Tuesday, July 21, 2015

FEE: \$369 per person, double occupancy

INFO: Visit the nation's capital to see a variety of local attractions including the U.S. Capitol, the Smithsonian and the Arlington National Cemetery. A tour of the White House will be held depending on availability or lottery system. A \$50 deposit is required. Payments are accepted.

Fee due by May 27, 2015

Apple picking in Hendersonville, NC

WHEN: Tuesday, September 15, 2015

FEE: \$34 (does not include cost of meal at local restaurant)

INFO: Pick apples in Hendersonville, NC, and visit the North Carolina State Farmer's Market during this one-day trip.

Senior Beach Retreat (Sponsored by the S.C. Recreation and Parks Association)

WHEN: Monday, September 28, 2015-Thursdays, October 1, 2015

FEE: Fee based on room occupancy

INFO: Join us for four days of fellowship, fun and relaxation at the Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach. The fee includes transportation, lodging, meals and activities.
Registration due by July 31, 2015.

Western North Carolina

WHEN: Tuesday, October 13, 2015-Thursday, October 15, 2015

FEE: \$265 per person, double occupancy

INFO: Spend two nights at the Cherokee Indian Casino, take a half-day trip on the Great Smokey Mountain Railroad and sift through a bucket of rocks to find hidden gems (rubies, sapphires, emeralds and more) during this three-day excursion. The fee includes price of charter bus, two nights of lodging, train tickets, and a bucket of rocks/gems. Meals are not included. A \$50 deposit is required to reserve your space.

Full payment is due by September 1, 2015.

Charlotte Christmas Show

WHEN: Tuesday, November 17, 2015

FEE: \$17

INFO: Get a jumpstart on your Christmas shopping at the 12 Days of Christmas show held at The Park Expo and Conference Center in downtown Charlotte, NC.

Myrtle Beach Holiday Show

WHEN: Tuesday, December 8, 2015

FEE: \$75 per person

INFO: Enjoy the holidays with a Christmas musical experience at The Carolina Opry Theater. The fee includes price for charter bus, tickets to the matinee show and dinner at a local restaurant. **Registrations are due by November 1, 2015.**

The trip fee includes transportation and admission fees. Unless otherwise noted, meals are considered an extra fee and the responsibility of the participant. Full payment is required at the time of registration. Partial payments are accepted only for multi-day trips (Washington, DC, Western North Carolina and the Senior Beach Retreat).

To download a registration form, please visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Trips" page online](#). Registration forms are available at all City recreation centers and at the Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Registrations can be made in person at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office. Registrations can be mailed to the Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office.

For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email jmsorensen@columbiasc.net.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 20, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin to Host Public Roundtable for Small Businesses

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin will host a Public Roundtable on Regulatory Enforcement with Brian Castro, Small Business Association's (SBA) National Ombudsman. Attendees will have the opportunity to give input on federal regulatory challenges facing small businesses.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, SBA National Ombudsman Brian Castro and Columbia small business owners.

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street in Council Chambers

WHEN: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 12:30 – 2 p.m.

COST: The event is free and RSVP is not required but preferred. Please RSVP to SBChamber@scsbc.org.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

**see attached for flyer*

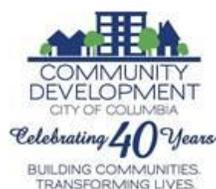
###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 20, 2015

Contact: Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3383



Community Development to Celebrate 40 Years of Service to the Midlands

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department and the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods (CCN) will host an Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbia Marriott, 1200 Main Street. Congressman James E. Clyburn will be the keynote speaker.

The Annual Awards Banquet will highlight Community Development's 40 years of service to the Midlands and recognize local neighborhood leaders. Community Development will also unveil its video "40 years-- Building Communities and Transforming Lives".

Since its inception, Community Development has focused on making Columbia a better place to live, work and play. The department has supported the economic development of Columbia by providing façade loans, creating development corporations and outlining five federally targeted areas to provide benefits. Additionally, Community Development has addressed quality of life issues through park development.

For more information about the Annual Awards Banquet, please contact Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3383 or jlrainwater@columbiasc.net.

###

**please see attached for flyer*



We Are Columbia

Public Notice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

Updated City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct the following meetings on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street:

- Environment & Infrastructure Committee Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
- Work Session at noon.
- Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The updated agendas are attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

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

Registration Period Open for Men's Adult Basketball League

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Men's Adult Basketball league is now open through May 15.

The league is open to males ages 18 and older. The fee to register is \$300 per team.

Games will be played on Sunday and Monday nights beginning May 31, 2015.

To register, please visit the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the department's ["Adult Sports" page online.](#)

The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia. Registrations will not be accepted without payment.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

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

Summer Youth Basketball League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its Summer Youth Basketball League.

Children ages 8-18 can play in the summer league. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is Friday, May 29, 2015. The Summer Youth Basketball League season begins Monday, June 8, 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 the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#).

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

###

****Please see the attached flyer***

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by May 1, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

Please see the attached flyer and registration form.



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host April Open House

What: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his April Open House.

Who: Councilman Cameron Runyan

When: Monday, April 27, 2015

Where: City Hall, 1737 Main Street from 5 – 7 p.m.

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

#

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Kids Day Wet N' Wild

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a day of water fun at Kids Day Wet N' Wild on Saturday, May 2 at Finlay Park.

The event will feature water slides, water games, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, exhibitors, food vendors and more! Guests can also bring their super soakers and get ready for a battle in the water play area.

Admission is FREE. There are fees for face painting, food vendors, carnival games, the petting zoo and pony rides.

WHAT: Kids Day Wet N' Wild

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.

For more information about the event or how to be a vendor, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at (803) 545-3020

Go Red Fashion Show Check Presentation Scheduled for Today

WHAT: The City of Columbia will present a check to the American Heart Association from the proceeds from the City of Columbia's Inaugural Go Red Fashion Show. The fashion show was held on March 20, 2015 and it was the first of its kind in Columbia.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, fashion show host, City Council members and American Heart Association representatives.

WHERE: City Council Chambers at 1737 Main Street (Third Floor)

WHEN: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit columbiasc.net or call the Public Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at (803) 545-3020

Go Red Fashion Show Yields \$3500 for American Heart Association

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and the City of Columbia presented a check for \$3,500 to the American Heart Association during the City Council meeting held this evening. The donated funds were from the proceeds from the City of Columbia's Inaugural Go Red Fashion Show. The fashion show was held on March 20, 2015 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Local citizens, professional models and City of Columbia officials gathered together for a night of red fashions on the runway to help support those affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women.

"The city of Columbia and the American Heart Association have had a relationship over the last few years and we have worked together to increase awareness of heart disease and prevention in the community. This year we wanted to step it up to the next level and the fashion show was a great way to heighten awareness and also raise money that could be used here in our community to help support a worthy cause," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated. Councilwoman was the host for the inaugural Go Red Fashion Show.

The fashion show featured celebrity models, which included local elected officials, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors. The grand finale featured fashions by Sergio Hudson, a nationally renowned designer and winner of "Styled to Rock". Special Entertainment was provided by Comedian Nikita B. The Inaugural Go Red Fashion Show was a success and brought awareness to heart disease.

Approximately 10 retail sponsors, 21 volunteers, 6 makeup artists and 28 models either donated clothes or volunteered their time to support this one of kind event.

Councilwoman Devine commented, "The true spirit of Columbia's residents and business owners was truly displayed during the planning for the fashion show. Everyone we contacted agreed to help and we garnered an overwhelming

amount of pro bono services and in kind support for the event. We live in a city that is filled with caring people who support their community.”

To view the City’s 1st Go Red Fashion Show, visit the City of Columbia [YouTube](#) Page.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin to Host Public Roundtable for Small Businesses

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin will host a Public Roundtable on Regulatory Enforcement with Brian Castro, Small Business Association's (SBA) National Ombudsman. Attendees will have the opportunity to give input on federal regulatory challenges facing small businesses.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, SBA National Ombudsman Brian Castro and Columbia small business owners.

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street in Council Chambers

WHEN: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 12:30 – 2 p.m.

COST: The event is free and RSVP is not required but preferred. Please RSVP to SBChamber@scsbc.org.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

**see attached for flyer*

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The City is Accepting Applications for its Maintenance Assistance Program

The City's Community Development Department is accepting applications for its Maintenance Assistance Program. This program is designed to help applicants improve their homes by providing forgivable loans. The program is only designated for the following areas: Booker Washington Heights Redevelopment Area, King/Lyon Street Redevelopment Area, Edisto Court Community, Eau Claire Redevelopment Area and the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (starting from Olympia to Elmwood covering most of downtown, the East side of Two Notch Road and both sides of Farrow Road).

To be eligible to apply, homeowners must:

- Live in a single-family home
- Must be their primary residence, located in targeted areas only within the corporate City of Columbia limits
- Household income must not exceed 80 percent median income
- Homeowners may not own any other improved property
- Must occupy their home for a minimum of ten years after the completion date of repairs

Interested applicants must call 803-545-3373 to schedule an appointment with a loan officer.

**please see attached for Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area map*

###



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 23, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Hold Ribbon Cutting for New Tennis Courts at Woodland Park

WHAT: The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new tennis courts at Woodland Park.

WHO: City Council members, City staff and community leaders

WHERE: Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2015

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

###

****Please see the attached invite***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 24, 2015

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

The City to Host Small Business Week Conference

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) will host its annual Small Business Week Conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street. This year, the conference will focus on innovation.

The goal of the conference is to highlight the impact and successes of the City's outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners. This year's keynote speaker is William D. Kirkland, executive director of the University of South Carolina's Office of Economic Engagement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn helpful business tips, network with their peers and learn more about:

- National InnovateHER Finalist GaBBY Bows
- Are Trade Shows Right for You?
- Share your story, Don't Sell Your Story!
- 2fat2fly from OWN's Network
- What Happened? You're not the Person I Hired!
- Innovation through Collaboration

Tickets for the event are \$50. To purchase a ticket, click [here](#).

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

###



For Immediate Release

April 24, 2015

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization
 Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District
 Pinehurst Community Council
 Midland Terrace Neighborhood
 Druid Hills Neighborhood Association
 Community Improvement Cooperative Council
 Edgewood Neighborhood Floral Club
 Celia Saxon Neighborhood Association
 Barhamville Estates
 Jagers Plaza Community
 Jones McDonald Community Club
 Eva P. Trezevant Neighborhood Organization

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon
 Sherwood Forest
 Wales Garden
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners
 Lake Katherine
 Martin Luther King Neighborhood

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored 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.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

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

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

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

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 24, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct the following committee meetings on Tuesday, April 28, 2015:

- Public Safety Committee at 9:00 a.m.
- Economic & Community Development Committee at 2:00 p.m.

The updated agendas are attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, April 27, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober @ 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host April Open House

What: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his April Open House.

Who: Councilman Cameron Runyan

When: Monday, April 27, 2015

Where: City Hall, 1737 Main Street from 5 – 7 p.m.

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

#



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 27, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Planning Commission Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2015

The Planning Commission will conduct a meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2015. The draft agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 27, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Ashley! (ID# A210478)

Ashley is a gray and white six-year-old domestic short hair cat. She is very low maintenance and extremely loving. Ashley is also spayed and microchipped.

Visit Ashley and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 27, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Hold Ribbon Cutting for New Tennis Courts at Woodland Park

WHAT: The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new tennis courts at Woodland Park.

WHO: City Council members, City staff and community leaders

WHERE: Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2015

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

###

****Please see the attached PDF***



For Immediate Release

April 27, 2015

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

Advertisement of Vacancies on the Commercial Revolving Loan Review Board

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Commercial Revolving Loan Review Board. Individuals applying for this board must be a Community Banker or a Small Business Owner.

The purpose of this committee is to review and approve/disapprove applications for loans from the City of Columbia Commercial Revolving Loan Fund.

The term of office is two (2) years.

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than May 15, 2015, 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 <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards-commissions> to download an application.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Kids Day Wet N' Wild

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a day of water fun at Kids Day Wet n' Wild on Saturday, May 2 at Finlay Park.

The event will feature water slides, water games, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, exhibitors, food vendors and more! Guests can also bring their super soakers and get ready for a battle in the water play area.

Admission is FREE. There are fees for face painting, food vendors, carnival games, the petting zoo and pony rides.

WHAT: Kids Day Wet N' Wild

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.

For more information about the event or how to be a vendor, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

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

NCBA to Announce Rebranding of North Columbia

WHAT: The North Columbia Business Association (NCBA) will announce the plans to rebrand North Columbia and kickoff National Small Business Week.

WHO: NCBA members, Councilman Sam Davis and North Columbia community members

WHERE: Trestle Building, 2965 North Main Street, Columbia, SC, 29203

WHEN: Monday, May 4, 2015 at 10 a.m.

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

###

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by Friday, May 1, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

**Please see the attached flyer and registration form.*



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Hold Ribbon Cutting for New Tennis Courts at Woodland Park

WHAT: The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new tennis courts at Woodland Park.

WHO: City Council members, City staff and community leaders

WHERE: Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: 6 p.m. **today**, April 28, 2015

###

****Please see the attached PDF***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin Joins National Panel on Fiscal Leadership

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin joined some of the nation's foremost experts on public finance in Boston, Massachusetts today to discuss how the City of Columbia is using new ideas to meet new challenges as a panelist for Boston University's Fiscal Leadership and the Modern City conference.

Fiscal Leadership and the Modern City, the third city leadership summit hosted by the Initiative on Cities at Boston University, is a two day summit bringing together current and former mayors, chief financial officers, city and town managers, financial professionals and scholars to evaluate sound fiscal leadership strategies and modern financial innovations that are contributing to prosperous communities.

"It's humbling to participate in a discussion like this alongside some of the brightest and most innovative financial leaders our country has to offer," Mayor Benjamin said of today's panel on "Financing the Modern City," hosted by *Governing Magazine* Publisher Mark Funkhouser. "It's a true honor and further proof that Columbia is leading the way nationally in setting a new standard for fiscal responsibility and leadership."

In addition to Mayor Benjamin, today's panel participants include:

- **Meredith Weenick** – Former CFO, City of Boston and Vice President, Harvard University
- **June Matte** – Managing Director, Public Financial Management
- **Thomas H. Green** – Managing Director and Head, Infrastructure Group Citi U.S. Public Finance

Since taking office in July 2010, Mayor Benjamin has helped usher in an impressive string of fiscal accomplishments which include making historic investments in public safety and infrastructure while securing years of budget surpluses, improving the city's credit rating twice and receiving the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the first time in nearly a decade.

Last year alone the City of Columbia, under Mayor Benjamin's leadership, increased public safety funding by over \$3.3 million while reducing non-public safety General Fund spending by nearly half a million dollars. And earlier this month City Council voted 5-2 to adopt Mayor Benjamin's plan to secure funding for public safety, reduce the proposed Water/Sewer rate increase, eliminate the long-standing General Fund Transfer from Water and Sewer revenues and cut taxes by more fairly spreading the cost of city government including government properties.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Boston University's [Fiscal Leadership and the Modern City](#) conference.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about [Mayor Benjamin's Revenue Plan](#).

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

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

The City's National Small Business Week Kick-Off Press Conference

WHAT: The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities in conjunction with Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Richland County will kickoff National Small Business Week with a press conference.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia Chamber of Commerce CEO Carl Blackstone, Richland County Officials and U.S. Small Business Administration South Carolina District Director Elliott Cooper.

WHERE: Columbia Chamber, 930 Richland Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Monday, May 4, 2015 at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

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

9th Annual Vietnam Veterans Survivors and Remembrance Day Celebration

Join the South Carolina Combat Veterans Group for the 9th Annual Vietnam Veterans Survivors and Remembrance Day Celebration on Friday, May 1 at 11 a.m. at the Vietnam Memorial in Memorial Park.

The celebration will feature a wreath laying ceremony, remarks from city, county and state officials, and guest speaker retired Maj. James B. Harris, USMC.

Prior to the start of the ceremony, a motorcade will depart the Dorn VA Medical Center located at 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209 at 8:30 a.m. and will travel to Memorial Park.

WHAT: 9th Annual Vietnam Veterans Survivors and Remembrance Day Celebration

WHO: Veterans, Mayor Steve Benjamin, County and State leaders

WHERE: Memorial Park, 700 Hampton Street (Vietnam Memorial)

WHEN: Friday, May 1, 2015 at 11 a.m.

A reception will be held following the ceremony in the auditorium at the Dorn VA Medical Center, 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209

For more information, please contact Renee Joye at 404-450-5817 or reneejoye48@gmail.com; Dianne Butler at 803-705-9182 or didu8@yahoo.com.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Planning Commission Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2015

The Planning Commission will conduct a meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2015. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia's Social Media Photo Challenge Returns
#LoveColumbia

The City of Columbia's social media photo challenge, #LoveColumbia, will begin accepting submissions on Friday, May 1, 2015. #LoveColumbia invites the citizens of Columbia to submit photos of what they love about the City. The purpose of this initiative is to increase community engagement, expand public knowledge of the City's social media sites, and increase the use of technology to interact with citizens.

The #LoveColumbia photo challenge is open to local residents and photos must be taken within the City of Columbia limits. The photos can display images of landscapes, structures, buildings, historical monuments, etc. that represent citizens' love for Columbia. The hashtag, "#LoveColumbia," must be included on all submissions to be considered for entry.

To participate, citizens can submit photos or vote for their favorites by visiting the following social media sites:

- **Facebook (CityofColumbia)**
- **Instagram (WeAreColumbia)**
- **Twitter (@CityofColumbia)**

Submissions will be accepted May 1 – 31, 2015. The public will be able to vote on their favorite photos from June 1 - 7, 2015. The top three users with the most votes on each site will be entered into the second round, and a panel of invested members of the City's art community will select the winning photo for each site. The winners will be announced June 2015.

The winning photos will be featured in the City of Columbia's Annual Report to the Community, with a bio and photo of each winner.

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Press Release

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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For Immediate Release

April 30, 2015

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.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Seeking several Applicants.

The purpose of BPAC is to advise the Mayor and City Council Members, the City of Columbia transportation planning staff; community organizations; and partners on bicycling and pedestrian issues facing the city; to work toward development of bicycle/pedestrian master plan; to represent community and constituent interests in transportation planning decisions; and to provide feedback to staff on projects relating to walking and bicycling. Current appointees need to re-apply for consideration. Term – 2 years. (**Deadline:** Open till filled)

Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission

Seeking one (1) At-Large Applicant for Appointment.

The purpose of this commission is to protect, enhance and promote the City of Columbia's natural resources and visual beauty. They oversee the development of a master plan for the beautification of the City of Columbia and its implementation. Term – 2 years. (**Deadline:** Open till filled)

Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism

Seeking one (1) Applicant for Appointment. Individual must represent the lodging industry.

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. Term – 5 years. (**Deadline:** May 15, 2015, 5 p.m.)

Parks and Recreation Foundation

Seeking six (6) 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. (**Deadline:** Open till filled)

Planning Commission

Seeking one (1) Applicant for 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. (**Deadline:** May 15, 2015, 5 p.m.)

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:** Open till filled)

Richland County Board of Assessment Appeals

Seeking one (1) Applicant for Appointment.

The Board of Assessment Appeals purpose is to equalize the value of the real and personal property of Richland County and to hear all grievances and appeals from the valuation and assessments by the Assessor. Term – 3 years. (**Deadline:** May 15, 2015, 5 p.m.)

Please note deadlines vary for each board/commission. They are notated after each board description.

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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