



February 1, 2016  
Contact: Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020

## Noise and Lighting Presentations | Multi-Use Entertainment Venue

The Noise and Lighting Studies for the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue are complete. In an effort to provide opportunities for the public to review the results and hear from the consultants that conducted the studies, the City invites property owners and/or residents from the surrounding neighborhoods; Booker Washington Heights, Cottontown, Earlewood, Elmwood and Robert Mills to attend a meeting on Feb. 1, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Earlewood Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive. This meeting is open to the general public.

On Tuesday, February 2, the City will host a public drop-in for citizens interested in receiving more details about the Noise and Lighting studies for the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue. The drop-in will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room, 1737 Main Street.

In addition, the consultants will discuss the analysis and results of the studies during the City Council meeting on Feb. 2, 2016 at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street.

The Noise and Lighting studies are attached below for your review.

[Sound Study](#) | [Lighting Study](#)



Monday, February 1, 2016  
Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

## Registration Period Open for Spring Adult Kickball and Softball Leagues

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's registration for the 2016 Spring Adult Softball and Adult Kickball leagues are now open.

The leagues are open to adults age 18 and over.

### Registrations are as follow:

#### Adult Softball for Men's, Coed and Law leagues

**FEE:** \$300 per team

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Friday, February 26

**SEASON BEGINS:** Games start the week of March 14

**COACHES MEETINGS:** Meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 8 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, at the following times: Coed, 6:30 p.m.; Men's, 7 p.m.; and Law, 7:30 p.m.

Games for the **Coed division** will be held on Sundays.

Games for the **Men's D division** will be held on Tuesdays.

Games for the **Law division** will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

#### Adult Kickball League

**FEE:** \$300 per team

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Friday, February 26

**SEASON BEGINS:** Games start the week of March 14

**COACHES MEETINGS:** Meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 9 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside

Drive, at the following times: Recreation, 6:30 p.m.; Premier, 7 p.m.; Competitive, 7:30 p.m.

Games for the **Recreation division** will be held on Mondays. Games for the **Competitive division** will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays. Games for the **Premier division** will be held on Wednesdays.

To download a registration form, visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Athletics" page online](#). Registration forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive.

The registration form and payment must be returned to the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or email [cetaylor@columbiasc.net](mailto:cetaylor@columbiasc.net).



Monday, February 1, 2016  
Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### **City of Columbia to Participate in National Wear Red Day | February 5, 2016**

**WHAT:** The public is invited to recognize National Wear Red Day to help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. The Go Red For Women movement encourages awareness of this issue and action to help save lives. A press conference and community photography session will be held and both men and women are encouraged to wear red. A special announcement will be made regarding the 2016 Go Red Columbia Fashion Show.

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (host), City Council members, City officials, American Heart Association representatives and leaders from local businesses, neighborhoods and civic organizations

**WHERE:** City Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street

**WHEN:** Friday, February 5, 2016 at 12 p.m.

For more information, please visit [columbiasc.net](http://columbiasc.net) or contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



Monday, February 1, 2016  
Contact: Marli Drum at (803)-776-PETS

### **Fur-Ever Yours Pet Adoption Special**

**WHAT:** The Columbia and Lexington Animal Services will be holding a Fur-Ever Yours pet adoption special for \$14 on February 12 – 15. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

**WHERE:** Columbia Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC and Lexington Animal Services, 321 Ball Park Rd, Lexington, SC

**WHEN:** Friday, February 12 - Monday, February 15, 2016

**Cost:** \$14 per pet

For more information about the adoption specials please call Columbia Animal Services (803)776-7387 or Lexington Animal Services (803) 785-8149.



February 1, 2016

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

**City of Columbia and the Central Carolina Community Foundation to Host Public Pop-Up Charrette Event**

**WHAT:** Public Pop UP - Collaborative Charrette

**WHO:** City of Columbia; Central Carolina Community Foundation; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

**WHERE:** Boyd Plaza - Main Street and Hampton Street

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 4, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information about the Public Pop-Up event, please contact John S. Fellows at 803-545-3215



Monday, February 1, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

**Puttin' on the Ritz Senior Talent Show**

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the Greenview Park Senior Club to host the **Puttin' on the Ritz Senior Talent Show** scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 2 p.m.

The showcase will feature the many talents of local seniors age 55 and older. Performance categories include: vocal, instrumental, dance, comedy, drama, rap, acrobatics, martial arts, juggling or poetry.

All contestants must register by **Saturday, February 27, 2016**. Space is limited.

**WHAT:** Puttin' On the Ritz Senior Talent Show

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Greenview Park 6700 David Street

**COST:** \$5

Tickets can be purchased at all City of Columbia recreation centers. Visit [ColumbiaSC.net](http://ColumbiaSC.net) for locations.

For more information, please call Tracy Chatman at 803-754-5223 or email [tcchatman@columbiasc.net](mailto:tcchatman@columbiasc.net).



Monday, February 1, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

**City's Pet of the Week: Meet Pennelope! (ID# A222192)**

Pennelope is a four year old white and tan American Staff. She is very affectionate and is looking for a forever home. Pennelope enjoys daily walks and would prefer a home with older children. She has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://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](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.



Monday, February 01, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Art Center Offers Spring Break Art Camp**

The Columbia Art Center is hosting a 4-day multimedia visual art camp to keep children engaged during the Spring Break.

The Spring Break Art Camp will be held on March 28-31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street. Youth ages 6-12 can participate.

The camp will cover lessons on pottery, drawing and painting, and recycle art. **All materials are included in the registration fee of \$65.**

**The deadline to register is March 14.** The camp size is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

To download a registration form, visit the [City of Columbia Parks and Recreation's Cultural Arts page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.



February 1, 2016

Contact: Libby Gober 803-545-3061 or Ginger Fanning at 803-545-3048

### **City of Columbia Accepting Applications for Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Grants**

The City of Columbia is now accepting applications for Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Grants. At this time, there is no funding available for Community Promotions Grants. Application details are listed below:

- Accommodations Tax Grants provide financial support to non-profit organizations and their projects/events whose mission is to attract tourists by promoting overnight accommodations in the City of Columbia. To be eligible, your organization must be a nonprofit with documentation from the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office, with activities in the City of Columbia. It is the intent of this committee to fund the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau and Capital City Lake Murray for fiscal year 2016-2017.
  - Applications due by March 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. | Download [2016-2017 A-Tax Guidelines/Application](#)
- Hospitality Tax Grants provide financial support to non-profit organizations and their projects/events whose mission is to attract tourists by promoting dining in the City of Columbia. To be eligible, your organization must be a nonprofit with documentation from the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office, with activities in the City of Columbia.

- Applications due by March 25, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.  
| Download [H-Tax Guidelines/Application](#)

The City will hold a Hospitality Tax Grant workshop on Friday, February 12 at the Lourie Center, 1650 Park Cir., Columbia, SC 29201.

For information on guidelines, applications, workshops and more, please visit [Columbiasc.net/grants/offered](http://Columbiasc.net/grants/offered).



February 1, 2016

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

Please see the attached revised agenda for the City Council



AG\_02\_02\_2016\_AP  
1.pdf

meeting scheduled for February 2, 2016.



February 2, 2016

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

### Noise and Lighting Studies | Public Drop-in Feb. 2

The City of Columbia will host a public drop-in for citizens interested in receiving more details about the Noise and Lighting

studies for the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue today from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room, 1737 Main Street.

In addition, the consultants will discuss the analysis and results of the studies during the City Council meeting at 6 p.m., being held at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street.

The Noise and Lighting studies are attached below for your review.

[Sound Study](#) | [Lighting Study](#)



February 2, 2016

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

### February 2016 At-Large Open House

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and Councilman Howard Duvall, Jr.

**WHAT:** February 2016 At-Large Open House

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 from 5-8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** City Hall, 1737 Main Street

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



February 2, 2016  
 Contact: Amy Moore at (803) 545-3555

### **Design/Development Review Commission Subcommittee Meeting**

**WHO:** Design/Development Review Commission

**WHAT:** Subcommittee meeting will be held by the Design/Development Review Commission regarding a project at 3015 Amherst Avenue. This meeting is for discussion purposes only and no action will be taken. The meeting is open to the public.

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 3:00pm

**WHERE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room of 1136 Washington Street

For more information, please contact [Amy Moore](#) at (803)545-3555.



February 4, 2016  
 Contact: Brie Logue at 803-734-2732 or [bllogue@columbiasc.net](mailto:bllogue@columbiasc.net)

### **Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission Establishing Operations**

Dominion Resources, Inc., one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy, is expanding its operations in the Southeast. Dominion is committed to investing \$10.9 million and

relocating their Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission (DCGT) headquarters and operations to Columbia, South Carolina. DCGT owns and operates nearly 1,500 miles of interstate natural gas transmission pipelines in South Carolina and southeastern Georgia.

"Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission is proud to bring new jobs and infrastructure investments to the City of Columbia. We look forward to opening our headquarters in the county seat and state capital," said Keith Windle, General Manager for Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission. "We look forward to a long partnership with the City of Columbia, Richland County and partners throughout our entire DCGT footprint in South Carolina and Georgia."

Dominion's new facility, representing 120,000 square feet of office space located on nine acres, will now house operations and services for Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission. This move comes on the heels of Dominion's acquisition of Carolina Gas Transmission (CGT) from SCANA Corporation (NYSE: SCG) for approximately \$492.9 million in February 2015. "We are absolutely thrilled to have Dominion Resources joining our business family here in the City of Columbia. Their \$10 million investment and the influx of high-quality, high wage-paying jobs demonstrate the tremendous opportunities that are available when you are a business friendly city and home to world-class talent. We are excited to welcome them to Columbia and look forward to a bright and prosperous future together," said City of Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin.

For more information, contact Brie Logue, Marketing & Communications Manager City of Columbia Office of Economic Development at 803-734-2732 or [bllogue@columbiasc.net](mailto:bllogue@columbiasc.net)



Thursday, February 4, 2016

Contact: Paul Featheringill, Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3259

### **OBO Launches Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program**

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is launching the Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program. The Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program is designed to assist small businesses in the City of Columbia that have been impacted by the historic flood due to physical damage, lost revenue/ significantly reduced revenue or customers being unable to reach the business location.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be located in the City of Columbia
- Have applied to FEMA for assistance
- Have been in business for a minimum of two years
- Have suffered losses from the flooding not covered by any other insurance

Borrowers are eligible for loans of up to \$10,000 which can be used for inventory, equipment, clean-up and repair, payroll, and working capital. The loans will have a 3-month deferment followed by a 24-month repayment at 0% interest.

The deadline to apply for funding is **February 17, 2016**. Funding decisions will be made in February and funds will be disbursed in March, 2016.

For more information, please contact Paul Featheringill at (803) 545-3259 or [pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net](mailto:pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net). The application can be found [here](#).



DATE: February 4, 2016

CONTACT: Connie Bailey, Office of the City Council at 803-545-4268

### **Advertisement of Vacancy on Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority (The COMET)**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on the Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority (The COMET).

The City is seeking individuals that use or have used the transportation system. Preference will be given to individuals that are currently using the system and have used for a number of years and have a wealth of ridership experience.

The purpose of this board is to promote transportation opportunities for all citizens within the service area which consists of Richland County and limited service into Lexington County. This is done by providing transportation services and encouraging the cooperation and coordination of existing transportation providers.

The term of office is three (3) years with the possibility of one (1) reappointment for a total of six (6) years of service.

**Deadline – Applications are due no later than February 11, 2016, 5 p.m.**

For more information, please contact Connie Bailey at 803-545-4268 or send an email to [cfbailey@columbiasc.net](mailto:cfbailey@columbiasc.net). Visit [ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions](http://ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions) to download an application.



Thursday, February 04, 2016  
 Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Black History Extravaganza**

**WHAT:** The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to celebrate Black History Month at the Black History Extravaganza on Monday, Feb. 15 at Greenview Park. The event will include exhibitors, vendors, live entertainment and more.

This year's guest speakers are Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, and radio and TV personality Cynthia Hardy. Councilwoman Devine is the first African-American female to serve on City Council and the first African-American to be elected At-Large.

**WHO:** The Black History Extravaganza is open to youth, adults and seniors age 55 and older.

**WHERE:** Greenview Park, 6700 David Street, Columbia, SC 29203

**WHEN:** Monday, February 15, 2016 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**COST:** Tickets are \$5 per person. Lunch will be provided. Tickets can be purchased at any recreation center or the Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive.

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



Thursday, February 04, 2016  
 Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or  
[smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Karamu Statewide Black History Parade and Festival**

**WHAT:** Celebrate Black History Month at the Karamu Statewide Black History Parade and Festival, which begins with a parade at the intersection of Harden and Gervais streets. National recording artist Angie Stone will be this year's grand marshal. The event continues at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park with the Black History Festival featuring gospel recording artist Joshua Rogers, contemporary history makers, live entertainment and more.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 6

#### **WHERE: Karamu Statewide Black History Parade**

Noon

Corner of Harden and Gervais streets (The parade will travel south on Harden Street and end at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.)

#### **Karamu Black History Festival**

1:15 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street

The event is free and open to the public.

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



Friday, February 5, 2016  
 Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

### **SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2016**

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

#### **Distribution Line Tree Trimming:**

Central Rosewood Neighborhood Association  
 South Waccamaw Neighborhood Association  
 South Kilbourne Neighborhood Association  
 Hyatt Park Neighborhood Association  
 Ridgewood/Monticello  
 Colonial Park Neighborhood Association  
 Windemere Springs Neighborhood Association  
 Riverside Apartments  
 Laurel Hill Homeowners Association  
 Earlewood Community Citizens Organization  
 Seminary Ridge Homeowners Association

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](http://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](mailto: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.



Friday, February 5, 2016  
 Contact: Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020

### **Columbia Goes Red for National Heart Month** *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Go Red Fashion Show Announced*

The City of Columbia kicked off National Heart Month on Friday, February 5 at the National Wear Red Day event. City Council members, citizens, business leaders and representatives from the American Heart Association gathered to honor and support women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. All in attendance wore red for the community photography session that

was held. The photos session included approximately 100 women and men who gathered at City Hall to support the city's efforts.

The event was hosted by Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine. "This cause is always so rewarding because through our efforts we are raising awareness about a prevalent disease that impacts the health of women in our city. By educating our community, we empower citizens with information that can have a positive impact on their heart health and overall wellness," Devine stated.

Councilwoman Devine announced that as of February 5, 2016, in honor of Wear Red Day and National Heart Month, City Hall will "Go Red" during evening hours to show the City's support of Heart Month. City Hall will have red spotlights that shine at night in order to illuminate the entrance to the building (on the Main Street side).

The highlight of the press conference was the announcement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show. The City of Columbia's Second Annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show is set to hit the stage on Friday, March 11, 2016 from 6- 8 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The fashion show will feature celebrity models, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors. Proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Jabber & Isaac Pa, 1419 Richland St
- Eventbrite.com: search Go Red Columbia Fashion Show

The Go Red For Women movement encourages awareness of this issue and action to help save lives.

For more information, contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020 or visit [columbiasc.net](http://columbiasc.net).



February 4, 2016

Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### **City to Present Palmetto Health Foundation with Donation for Bosom Buddies Fund**

**WHAT:** Mayor Steve Benjamin will announce and present the total funds collected for the Palmetto Health Foundation's Bosom Buddies Fund.

**WHO:** Mayor Steve Benjamin, Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook, Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins, City of Columbia Breast Cancer Committee, Samuel Tenenbaum, president of Palmetto Health Foundation and Katie Miller, director of Walk for Life/Race for Life

**WHEN:** Monday, February 8, 2016 at 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201



Monday, February 8, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Registration Period Open for Spring Adult Kickball and Softball Leagues**

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's registration for the 2016 Spring Adult Softball and Adult Kickball leagues are now open.

The leagues are open to adults age 18 and over.

**Registrations are as follow:**

**Adult Softball for Men's, Coed and Law leagues**

**FEE:** \$300 per team

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Friday, February 26

**SEASON BEGINS:** Games start the week of March 14

**COACHES MEETINGS:** Meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 8 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, at the following times: Coed, 6:30 p.m.; Men's, 7 p.m.; and Law, 7:30 p.m.

Games for the **Coed division** will be held on Sundays.

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**Adult Kickball League**

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Games for the **Recreation division** will be held on Mondays.

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To download a registration form, visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Athletics" page online](#). Registration forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive.

The registration form and payment must be returned to the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or email [cetaylor@columbiasc.net](mailto:cetaylor@columbiasc.net).



Monday, February 8, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

**City's Pet of the Week: Meet Elisa! (ID# A221042)**

Elisa is a three year old brown and white domestic longhaired tabby mix cat. She loves for her hair to be brushed. Elisa is looking for a loving home. She has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://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](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.



February 8, 2016  
 Contact: Public and Media Relations Director at (803) 545-3020

### **City Manager and Police Chief Selected for the Riley Institute at Furman's Diversity Leaders Initiative**

City Manager Teresa Wilson and Chief William "Skip" Holbrook were both selected as members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Midlands Class of The Riley Institute at Furman University's Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI).

Over the course of five months, 42 leaders from across South Carolina, including Wilson and Holbrook, will participate in trainings and projects that will allow participants to gain knowledge on how to effectively lead and respond to issues in their communities. "I am honored to have been selected as a participant for the 9th Midlands class of the Riley Institute at Furman's DLI. As the Chief of Police in a multicultural city like Columbia, South Carolina, the knowledge gained through this experience will be invaluable to me both personally and professionally, and will enhance my ability to lead a diverse police force in meeting the challenges and opportunities of 21<sup>st</sup> century policing," Holbrook said.

Both of the city's leaders will have an opportunity to exchange ideas with other South Carolinians who are working to move our state forward and bring about positive changes in our communities. "I am honored that I was selected for Furman's Diversity Leaders Initiative and I am looking forward to working with other like-minded individuals who are focused on creating an environment that yields positive outcomes," Teresa Wilson stated.

For information on The Riley Institute at Furman, contact Michele Dodgens, Manager of Diversity Programs at (864) 292-3253.



February 8, 2016  
 Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

### **Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Agenda**

The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9th, at City Hall (City Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), 1737 Main Street.

This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here:

<https://columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes>.

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, or otherwise, please contact the Zoning Division at 803-545-3333.



Monday, February 8, 2016  
 Contact: Paul Featheringill, Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3259

### **OBO Launches Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program**

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is launching the Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program. The Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program is designed to assist small businesses in the City of Columbia that have been impacted by the historic flood due to physical damage, lost revenue/significantly reduced revenue or customers being unable to reach the business location.

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The deadline to apply for funding is **February 17, 2016**. Funding decisions will be made in February and funds will be disbursed in March, 2016.

For more information, please contact Paul Featheringill at (803) 545-3259 or [pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net](mailto:pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net). The application can be found [here](#).



Monday, February 08, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Provides Updates on Parks, Facilities Damaged During October Flood**

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department continues repairs at several parks and facilities that were damaged during the October 2015 flood.

Below is an update on the repair work that is underway at several parks and facilities in the City:

#### **CLOSURES**

#### **Riverfront Park**

Riverfront Park, located at 312 Laurel Street, remains closed to the public due to ongoing repairs.

Repairs have been made to the head gates at the north end of the canal and to the canal's embankment.

Guest may visit the following parks, with assigned walking trails, which are open Monday through Sunday from dawn to dusk:

- Granby Park, 100 Catawba St.
- Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Dr.
- Maxcy Gregg Park, 1651 Park Circle
- Drew Park, Beside the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Green Space**

The green space at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park **remains closed for special event usage**. The park is located at 2300 Greene Street.

The green space is still accessible for individual usage; however, no special events can be accommodated at this time.

The park's community center remains open to visitors. All activities scheduled inside the community center will continue as normal.

#### **James E. Clyburn Golf Center**

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center located at 2091 Slighs Avenue is closed for repairs until further notice.

#### **OPEN**

#### **NOMA Dog Park**

The NOMA Dog Park located at Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive, is open to members after repairs were made to the park's fencing.

#### **Granby Park**

Granby Park, located at 100 Catawba Street, is open to the public.



Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Contact: Samantha Yager at (803) 545-3803

### **City to Host North Main Improvements and Streetscape Open House**

The City of Columbia will hold an open house for residents, businesses, and stakeholders to learn about updates on the North Main Improvements and Streetscaping Project and related efforts on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 PM. The open house will take place at the Earlewood Park Community Center at 1113 Parkside Dr.

Councilman Sam Davis commented, "I encourage all residents and business owners in North Columbia and along the North Main corridor to attend this public meeting in order to get updated information about the status of this project. This meeting will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to interact with city staff and get their questions answered. This is an important process and we want our citizens involved in the future planning for North Main."

City representatives will be on hand to answer questions about a variety of topics, including the North Main Improvements and Streetscaping Project. Richland County representatives will also be available to talk about Penny Tax projects at work in the City of Columbia.

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Department of Utilities and Engineering at 545-3400.

*If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's Department of Utilities and Engineering, visit [www.columbiasc.net/utilities-engineering](http://www.columbiasc.net/utilities-engineering).*



February 9, 2016

Contact: Krista Hampton at 803-545-3425

### **The City of Columbia to Host Community Meeting Regarding New Zoning Ordinance**

**WHAT:** The City of Columbia is rewriting its Zoning and Land Development Ordinance. The process began in 2014 when the City of Columbia and Richland County gathered extensive community input to shape long-term plans for growth. The rewrite will ensure the City's regulations are aligned with those plans, reflect contemporary zoning best practices, and are more user-friendly.

The project team has completed an assessment of the current regulations and has proposed a direction for the new regulations. Come learn about the effort and share your thoughts on how to improve the regulations that govern how and where we develop.

**WHO:** City of Columbia Planning and Development Services

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** Earlewood Park Community Room (1113 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203)

For more information and to view the assessment, visit [www.weplantogether.org](http://www.weplantogether.org) or call Planning and Development Services at 803-545-3222.



Tuesday, February 9, 2016

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

### **City of Columbia and Richland School District One to Kick Off Eighth Annual "Together We Can Read" Initiative**

**WHAT:** City of Columbia and Richland School District One will kick off their Eighth annual "Together We Can Read" initiative with a press conference to announce this year's book. The citywide reading initiative will impact over 2,000 third-grade students and involve more than 100 celebrity/guest readers.

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (Together We Can Read Coordinator); City Council Members and City staff; Richland School District One Board Members, Superintendent and staff; the author and illustrator of this year's featured book and celebrity readers.

**WHERE:** City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main St.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.  
For more information on the "Together We Can Read" initiative, contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Fishing Restricted at South East Park Pond Until 2017**

Fishing at South East Park pond has been restricted until 2017, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced. The pond has been closed to the public since August 2015 due to repairs to the spillway, dam drain valve and the boardwalk. Invasive aquatic plants were also removed.

The pond has been restocked with Blue Gill, Red Ear Bream and Channel Catfish. In the spring, the pond will be stocked with Largemouth Bass.

The pond will be closed for fishing until May 2017. No fishing will be permitted in order to allow time for the fish to grow and spawn. Restocking the pond will create a better fishing experience and improve the overall health of the pond's ecosystem.

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



Thursday, February 11, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Register for the City's Youth Baseball and Softball Programs**

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's Youth Baseball and Softball Programs are underway.

Boys and girls ages 4-14 can participate in the program. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

**The last day to register is Friday, March 4, 2016.** The Youth Baseball and Softball season begins Monday, April 4, 2016.

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

Registration forms are also available at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

For more information, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email [olfrancis@columbiasc.net](mailto:olfrancis@columbiasc.net).



Friday, February 12, 2016  
Contact: Marli Drum at (803)-776-PETS

### **Fur-Ever Yours Pet Adoption Special**

**WHAT:** The Columbia and Lexington Animal Services will be holding a Fur-Ever Yours pet adoption special for \$14 on February 12 – 15. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

**WHERE:** Columbia Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC and Lexington Animal Services, 321 Ball Park Rd, Lexington, SC

**WHEN:** Friday, February 12 - Monday, February 15, 2016

**Cost:** \$14 per pet

For more information about the adoption specials please call Columbia Animal Services (803)776-7387 or Lexington Animal Services (803) 785-8149.



Friday, February 12, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

### **Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program Public Service Announcement**

If you are a small business owner whose business was impacted by the 2015 flood, you may qualify for a Disaster Recovery Loan. The deadline is February 17<sup>th</sup> and you can apply for a loan by calling (803) 545-3259 or visiting our website at [columbiasc.net/obo](http://columbiasc.net/obo). Apply today before time runs out!



Friday, February 12, 2016

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

### **SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2016**

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

**Distribution Line Tree Trimming:**

Central Rosewood Neighborhood Association  
 South Waccamaw Neighborhood Association  
 South Kilbourne Neighborhood Association  
 Hyatt Park Neighborhood Association  
 Ridgewood/Monitcello  
 Colonial Park Neighborhood Association  
 Windemere Springs Neighborhood Association  
 Riverside Apartments  
 Laurel Hill Homeowners Association  
 Earlewood Community Citizens Organization  
 Seminary Ridge Homeowners Association

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](http://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](mailto: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.



Monday, February 15, 2016  
 Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

**City Council Agendas for February 16, 2016**

The Columbia City Council will meet on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. for the Work Session Meeting and 6:00 p.m. for the Regular Meeting.

The agendas are attached for your reference.



AG\_02\_16\_2016\_AP WS\_02\_16\_2016\_AP  
 .pdf .pdf





Monday, February 15, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

### **City's Pet of the Week: Meet Anne Bonnie! (ID# A209458)**

Anne Bonnie is a two year old tan and brown German Shepard mix dog. She loves to play. Anne Bonnie is very affectionate and energetic. She has been spayed and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://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](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.



February 15, 2016

Contact: Krista Hampton at 803-545-3425

### **Planning Commission Work Session | Feb. 16**

The City of Columbia Planning Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parking Services

Conference Room, 820 Washington Street. The agenda for the meeting is attached.



PC\_2016-02-16\_Agenda.pdf



February 15, 2016

Contact: Krista Hampton at 803-545-3425

### **The City of Columbia to Host Community Meeting Regarding New Zoning Ordinance**

**WHAT:** The City of Columbia is rewriting its Zoning and Land Development Ordinance. The process began in 2014 when the City of Columbia and Richland County gathered extensive community input to shape long-term plans for growth. The rewrite will ensure the City's regulations are aligned with those plans, reflect contemporary zoning best practices, and are more user-friendly.

The project team has completed an assessment of the current regulations and has proposed a direction for the new regulations. Come learn about the effort and share your thoughts on how to improve the regulations that govern how and where we develop.

**WHO:** City of Columbia Planning and Development Services

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** Earlewood Park Community Room (1113 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203)

For more information and to view the assessment, visit [www.weplantogether.org](http://www.weplantogether.org) or call Planning and Development Services at 803-545-3222.



Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
 Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

### Community Outreach Meeting | Woodland Terrace Apartments

**WHAT:** Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will meet with contractors as they are work to restore homes, lodging and more for residents of Woodland Terrace Apartments affected by the October 2015 flood.

**WHO:** Mayor Steve Benjamin, City staff, Jonathan Paquin, owner and president of Contractor Linc., Inc. Heating and Air Conditioning and residents.

**WHERE:** Woodland Terrace Apartments, 320 S Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC 29205

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.



Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
 Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department at 803-545-3020

### The City is Excited to Welcome the Author and Illustrator for this Year's Together We Can Read Book

**WHAT:** City of Columbia and Richland School District One will kick off their Eighth annual "Together We Can Read" initiative with a press conference to reveal this year's book. The citywide reading initiative will impact over 2,000 third-grade students and involve more than 100 celebrity/guest readers.

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (Together We Can Read Coordinator); City Council Members and City staff; Richland School District One Board Members, Superintendent and staff. Another factor that will add to the excitement this year is the involvement of both the author and illustrator of this year's featured book, along with the celebrity readers from throughout the region.

**WHERE:** City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main St.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

For more information on the "Together We Can Read" initiative, contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



February 16, 2016  
 Contact: Krystal Overmyer at (803) 251-6034 or [krystal.overmyer@redcross.org](mailto:krystal.overmyer@redcross.org)

### American Red Cross, City of Columbia calls on Columbia to give blood

The American Red Cross is calling on the Columbia community to join a lifesaving team by giving blood. Mayor Steve Benjamin, the City of Columbia and the American Red Cross is encouraging people to score one for life at the Sixth Annual Columbia Lifesavers "Hoop it Up" blood drive on Friday, Feb. 26, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center on 1101 Lincoln Street.

The blood drive comes at a critical time for the Red Cross. Even as basketball courts heat up, winter and cold weather take a toll on

blood donation. Severe weather and seasonal illnesses can mean fewer people give blood. But no matter the season, patients in South Carolina rely on blood donors to make sure the blood they need is available. Accident and burn victims, heart surgery patients, organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease may all need blood. Presenting donors at the blood drive will receive an American Red Cross T-shirt and a basketball stress reliever, while supplies last, and be entered for a chance to win the RBC Heritage grand prize package which awards one donor a pass to the RBC Heritage Golf Tournament on Hilton Head Island.

"The American Red Cross fulfills a vital role in our community by preventing and alleviating suffering in the face of disaster and is a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit of the American people," said Mayor Benjamin. "It speaks to the heart of our community and without a doubt confirms we are One Columbia."

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code, famouslyhot.



February 16, 2016  
Contact: Chanique Belton (803) 545-3075

### **City Council votes to end Water/Sewer Transfer**

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia City Council made good on its commitment to eliminate the process of transferring money out of the City of Columbia's Water/Sewer Fund responsibly without raising taxes, limiting services or cutting funds to public safety at a Council Work Session today.

The motion, made by Mayor Benjamin and passed by Council with a unanimous 5-0 vote, commits the city to:

- Eliminate transfers to the General Fund from the Water and Sewer Fund except for those costs which are periodically measured and determined to be actual costs incurred by the General Fund but attributable to operation of the Water and Sewer systems;
- Determine a source of funding to offset any previous transfers from the Water and Sewer Fund to the General Fund; and
- Keep whole or increase public safety funding in FY 2016-2017 budget.

"This is a proud moment for all of us, but it didn't happen overnight," Mayor Benjamin said outlining the series of steps the City has taken over the past several years eliminating nearly \$6.1 million in undedicated transfers and indirect cost and replacing it with a roughly \$2.6 million dedicated public safety transfer.

"It hasn't always been easy or popular and there have been those who have opposed us every step of the way. But it has always been the right thing to do."

"Thank you to Mayor Benjamin and Council for addressing this issue," said Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Carl Blackstone. "Protecting the city and its infrastructure are both critically important. However, it's also imperative that in doing so, we maintain both accountability and transparency."



February 17, 2016  
Contact: Calvin Wise at (803) 926-1600

### **Stamped Asphalt Work Will Be Done in Downtown Columbia Areas**

The following locations will have work occurring on February 19-21, 2016 weather permitting. Stamped asphalt work will be occurring at:

- Read Street and Oak Street intersection
- Read Street and Heidt Street intersection
- Read Street and Waverly Street intersection

For more information, please contact Calvin Wise at 803-926-1600.



Wednesday February 17, 2016

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

### **City Of Columbia and Richland School District One Celebrate Eighth Annual "Together We Can Read" Initiative**

The City of Columbia and Richland School District One held the eighth annual "Together We Can Read" press conference this afternoon. City Council Members, Richland District One Board Members, Author and Illustrator and 101 guest readers all gathered at City Hall to announce this year's book.

Each year a book is chosen that highlights Columbia or South Carolina to give children the opportunity to identify with their local culture. This year's selected book is, "Katie's Cabbage." "Katie's Cabbage," is the inspirational true story of how Katie Stagliano, a third grader from Summerville, South Carolina, grew a forty-pound cabbage in her backyard and donated it to help feed 275 people at a local soup kitchen. Katie Stagliano, who is now 17 years old, also spoke at the press conference. She is the founder of Katie's Krops, a not-for-profit organization with the mission to start and maintain

vegetable gardens of all sizes and donate the harvest to help feed people in need, as well as to assist and inspire others to do the same. Katie stated, "I think that the Together We Can Read Program is very inspiring because it connects South Carolina stories with kids and I hope that 'Katie's Cabbage' will inspire them to make a difference."

Councilwoman Tameika Issac Devine, who spearheads the annual reading initiative, also recognized readers at the press conference and thanked them for volunteering their time to this meaningful educational effort.

"The idea for Katie's crops began when Katie was in the third grade and so therefore, you can tell when I say that we can teach our third graders what they can become. At third grade she got the idea for a not for profit and then she's gone on to start that not for profit and written a book that has been published," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, stated.

On tomorrow, February 18, the guest readers will travel to every elementary school in Richland School District One and enter classrooms to read "Katie's Cabbage" to every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in Richland School District One. City Council members and City of Columbia officials will be reading as well at the following elementary schools:

- Deputy Chief Melron Kelly- Greenvew
- Councilman Sam Davis- Arden
- Battalion Chief George Adams- Hopkins
- Chief Aubrey Jenkins & Councilwoman Devine- Horrell Hill
- City Manager Teresa Wilson- EE Taylor
- Chief Skip Holbrook- Brockman
- Councilman Moe Baddourah- South Kilbourne

For additional information, please contact Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020.



DATE: February 18, 2016  
 CONTACT: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

### **Façade Improvement Review Committee Architect Vacancy**

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities is accepting applications to fill the Architect vacancy on the Façade Improvement Review Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to review, score, and approve/deny façade improvement project applications.

The term of office is three (3) years. Meetings are 10:00 am the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month.

All applicants must reside or work within Columbia city limits.

**Deadline – Applications are due by noon on March 18, 2016.**

For applications and more information, visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/obo/commercial-loans-grants/facade-improvement> or contact the Office of Business Opportunities by phone 803-545-3950 or email [obo@columbiasc.net](mailto:obo@columbiasc.net).



Friday, February 19, 2016  
 Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

### **Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee (CRLF) meeting will be held at the Office of Business Opportunities – First Floor Conference Room, 1225 Lady St. on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 10 a.m. Should you have questions regarding items on the attached agenda, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950.



Friday, February 19, 2016  
 Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

### **SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2016**

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

#### **Distribution Line Tree Trimming:**

Central Rosewood Neighborhood Association  
 South Waccamaw Neighborhood Association  
 South Kilbourne Neighborhood Association  
 Hyatt Park Neighborhood Association  
 Ridgewood/Monitcello  
 Colonial Park Neighborhood Association  
 Windemere Springs Neighborhood Association  
 Riverside Apartments  
 Laurel Hill Homeowners Association  
 Earlewood Community Citizens Organization  
 Seminary Ridge Homeowners Association

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](http://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](mailto: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.



Friday, February 19, 2016  
Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

### **City Council Committee Agenda for February 22, 2016**

Please note that Members of City Council will conduct an Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street. Please see the attached agenda.



ECD\_02\_22\_2016.pdf

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Friday, February 19, 2016  
Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **Mayor Steve Benjamin and the City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! Columbia Easter Eggstravaganza**

**WHAT:** Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Columbia Easter Eggstravaganza. The event is **free** and open to the public. This year's event will include interactive games, an Easter bunny costume contest, cooking demonstrations, edible garden workshops, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

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

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

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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



February 22, 2016  
 Contact: Chris Segars at 803-545-4143

### Recreational Trails Program Grant Review | Public Input Opportunity

The City of Columbia is soliciting public comment on its application to the FY2015-2017 SCPRT Recreational Trails Program. All interested citizens are invited to provide input and comments by attending the City Council meeting on March 1 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.

The City is applying for \$100,000 in grant funds. These funds would be used for the construction of the Greenway-Esplanade Connector, a ramp connecting Riverfront Park to the City Esplanade.



Monday, February 22, 2016  
 Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS  
**City's Pet of the Week: Meet Ann! (ID# A220409)**

Ann is a four year old black and white Tabby cat. She is looking for a forever home. Ann is very independent but loves getting attention. She has been spayed and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://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](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.



Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
 Contact: Pamela Jones at (803) 743-1181

### City to Host Upcoming Mentor-Protégé Training Series

**WHAT:** The City will host a Mentor-Protégé Training Series on Thursday, March 3, 2016 from 9-5 pm at the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. The March 3<sup>rd</sup> training topics will include:

- **Confined Space Entry Hazards:** This program will provide instructions on how to recognize hazardous conditions in confined space entry within your workplace.
  - Employee training in oxygen deficiency
  - Conditions involving immediate danger to life and health
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Safety Procedures
- **Excavation and Trenching:** This program provides the attendees with basic hazard recognition, knowledge of the standard, protective systems, sloping of trenches and safe use of equipment around excavations.
  - Recognize need for protection from falling materials
  - Recognize requirements addressing stability of adjacent structures

- Identify interim fall protection requirements
- Understand rescue requirements standard

**WHO:** City of Columbia, SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; SC Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

**WHERE:** Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc., 1509 Lady Street, Columbia, SC 29201

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 3, 2016

**TIME:** 9-5 PM

To register, please contact Pamela Jones at (803) 743-1181 or email [pjones@columbiambdcenter.com](mailto:pjones@columbiambdcenter.com).



Tuesday, February 23, 2016

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

### **Office of Business Opportunities Call for Presenters for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Week**

The Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is pleased to issue a Call for Presenters for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Week Conference to be held at the Spirit Communications Ballpark on May 5, 2016.

The OBO uses several economic development tools to provide creative business opportunities to address many of the obstacles that face small businesses in the City of Columbia. OBO has three divisions that are designed to help meet the needs of small, minority, and women owned businesses, in the City of Columbia: (1) Commercial Lending; (2) Technical Assistance, Education and Advocacy; and (3) Contractor and Supplier Diversity.

As part of our continuing efforts to promote the exchange of information and resources among small businesses, we sponsor our annual Small Business Week Conference, which is designed to recognize the successes of local small businesses, provide businesses with management tools to be successful, and networking opportunities. Our Conference includes a keynote presentation, breakout sessions, networking and exhibitors.

Call for Presenters: In crafting your presentation proposal, [note that we are looking for presentations that will build the capacity of small, minority and women owned businesses.](#)

**The deadline is Friday, February 26, 2016 at 5:00 pm.** Please complete the form online, print, scan and email to [ofo@columbiasc.net](mailto:ofo@columbiasc.net), or US Mail to Office of Business Opportunities, 1225 Lady Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Attn: OBO, Columbia, SC 29201.

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



Friday, February 26, 2016

Contact: Sabrina Odom at (803) 786-7232

### **City Welcomes Carolina Kernels to North Main with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

On Tuesday, March 1, Mayor Steve Benjamin and Councilman Sam Davis will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome Carolina Kernels to North Main St. The ribbon cutting will be held at 2720 Main St., and will begin at 11:00 am.

Carolina Kernels is a gourmet popcorn shop with over 60 flavors, to include: Cookies 'N' Cream, Key Lime, Chocolate Drizzle and Toffee. Carolina Kernels has also been selected as the Office of

Business Opportunities' Business Spotlight for the month of February.

Many say that the gourmet popcorn shop is the best kept secret in Columbia and it is currently sold at the Colonial Life Arena during their basketball games. Carolina Kernels is a great place to spend time with family, ideal for parties and they even personalize popcorn for special occasions.

Geneva and Tamala are the mother/daughter duo behind the gourmet popcorn shop and their personable and friendly staff is what keeps customers coming back. They have also been recognized for having affordable prices and periodic specials. For more information, please contact Sabrina Odom, Executive Director of the North Columbia Business Association at (803) 786-7232 or email [sabrinaodom1@gmail.com](mailto:sabrinaodom1@gmail.com).



Friday, February 26, 2016  
Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

### **City Council Retreat Agenda for February 29, 2016 & Council Agenda for March 1, 2016**

Please note that City Council will conduct **Part Two of the Governance Retreat on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** at the University of South Carolina Alumni Center, 900 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

**On Tuesday, March 1, 2016**, City Council will tour areas within city limits that were impacted by the flood **at 3:00 p.m.**, will meet in **Executive Session at 5:00 p.m.** and will conduct a **Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

The agendas are attached for your review.



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Retreat\_Agenda\_02\_29\_2016.pdf



February 29, 2016  
Contact: Dolly Bristow at (803) 545-3371

### **Civil Rights: It Still Matters Fair Housing Conference**

**WHAT:** Continuing Legal Education workshop training classes will be held on **Friday, April 8 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** at **Earlewood Park**. The event is free to attendees who are not seeking CLE credits; however, all must complete a registration form. Attendees seeking CLE credits must purchase a ticket at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-fair-housing-continuing-legal-education-workshop-tickets-21355322344>.

The Fair Housing Conference will be held on **Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** at **EdVenture Children's Museum**. The winner of the Modjeska Monteith Simkins Award will be announced at the luncheon. Registration for the conference is mandatory and can be completed at <http://www.rcgov.us/Portals/0/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/Docs/April%20is%20Fair%20Housing%20Month%20Registration%20Form.pdf>. **The deadline to register is March 31, 2016.**

**WHO:** City of Columbia, Richland County, Lexington County, Equal Housing Opportunity, SC Human Affairs Commission

**WHEN:** April 8-9, 2016

**WHERE:** Earlewood Park Community Center, 1111 Parkside Dr, Columbia, SC 29203

EdVenture Children's Museum, 211 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201

"Civil Rights: It Still Matters" is designed to educate our community about the basic right and foundation to barrier-free

housing for all, creating a path to healing the history of discrimination.

For more information about any of the Fair Housing Month events, contact Dolly Bristow at (803) 545-3371.



Monday, February 29, 2016

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

### City to Receive Funds from HUD for Flood Recovery

Please see the attached release from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding disaster recovery funds being allocated for South Carolina.



U.S. Dept of Housing  
& Urban Development



Monday, February 29, 2016

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

### The City of Columbia's Second Annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show

**WHAT:** The City of Columbia's Second Annual Go Red Columbia Fashion Show is set to hit the stage on Friday, March 11, 2016. Help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women, at the Go Red Columbia Fashion Show. All

proceeds from the Go Red Columbia Fashion Show will be donated to the American Heart Association.

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine is the host for this event. The fashion show will also feature celebrity models, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors.

**WHERE:** Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street

**WHEN:** Friday, March 11, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**COST:** \$25 per person.

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Jabber & Isaac Pa, 1419 Richland St
- Eventbrite.com: search Go Red Columbia Fashion Show

For more information, please visit [columbiasc.net](http://columbiasc.net) or contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



Monday, February 29, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

### City's Pet of the Week: Meet Ileana! (ID# A222455)

Ileana is a three year old tan Labrador Retriever mix. She is ready to settle down in a loving home. Ileana only has three legs so she is in need of a patient owner. She has been spayed and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://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](https://www.petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

