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We Are Columbia

City eNews



Run. Grow. Transform.



6th Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive

The 6th Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive will be held on Friday, February 26 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

All presenting donors at this blood drive will receive an American Red Cross T-shirt, a basketball stress reliever and be entered to win the RBC Heritage grand prize package—one lucky winner will be chosen to attend the RBC Heritage Golf Tournament in Hilton Head Island!

To schedule an appointment, Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: famouslyhot.

View ["Hoop it Up" Blood Drive PSA](#)

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 9th Midlands Class of The Riley Institute at Furman University's Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI).

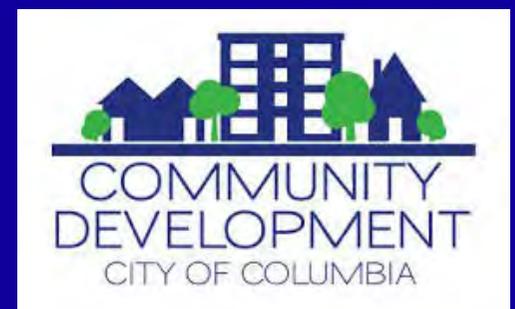
Over the course of five months, 42 leaders from across South Carolina, including Wilson and Holbrook, will participate in trainings and projects that will allow participants to gain knowledge on how to effectively lead and respond to issues in their communities. "I am honored to have been selected as 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 21st 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.

New Banking Program and Financial Empowerment Initiatives Launched by City Officials

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department has kicked off "Bank On" Columbia and three revamped financial empowerment initiatives. Mayor Steve Benjamin, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, City staff and partnering financial institutions were all in attendance to introduce the program and jumpstart the New Year with great initiatives. "We want to make sure that we run the gambit," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated, "and have a full array of services and products that will help empower our citizens, include our citizens and make sure that they have the tools necessary to be part of the economic vitality of the city of Columbia." The Community Development department went to great lengths to provide the citizens of Columbia with all of the tools they need to create a financially stable environment. "Bank On" Columbia, Start Fresh! Workshop series, Affordable Housing Loan Program and Individual Development Accounts all offer citizens the opportunity to gain financial literacy and each program provides something useful to all citizens.



“Bank On” Columbia is the City’s newest financial literacy program. It provides low-to-no cost checking and savings accounts to anyone who may be new to banking accounts or those in need of second chance accounts due to negative banking histories. “Bank On” Columbia is a great way for citizens to gain financial freedom and it costs less than a check cashing service. Anyone who is living within the City limits may participate in the banking program but there are certain restrictions that could prevent you from opening an account. In addition to “Bank On”, citizens will be advised to participate in the Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop Series. The Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop Series offers in depth information on banking, budgeting, saving, building credit, homeownership, and life skills. For more information about either of these programs please contact Ron King at (803) 545-0280.

Along with “Bank On” the City is also offering Individual Development Accounts. These specialized savings accounts are tailored according to each citizen’s developmental needs. The IDA program offers savings accounts with the option of going to school, capitalizing a small business and purchasing a home to individuals with limited means by supplementing an IDA participant’s savings deposits at a three to one savings match. To participate in the IDA program, applicants must have an income below 200% of the federal poverty limit with a net worth below \$10,000. Successful participants will be eligible for up to a \$3000 match. Mayor Benjamin stated, “Bank On and the IDA accounts are just another significant step forward to focusing again on financial empowerment, building individuals and families.” For more information or to get your Individual Development Account started, please contact Charmaine Clark at (803) 545-3403.

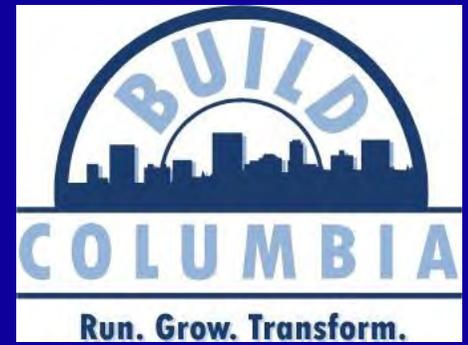
Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission Establishing Operations

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.

Columbia Goes Red for National Heart Month

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 2nd 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



We Are Columbia



Mayor Steve Benjamin and City Manager Teresa Wilson

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.



Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine



We Are Columbia

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 for locations.

For more information, please call Tracy Chatman at 803-754-5223 or email tcchatman@columbiasc.net.



Fur-Ever Yours Pet Adoption Special

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

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

Black History Extravaganza

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to celebrate Black History Month the Black History Extravaganza on Monday, Feb. 15 at Greenview Park from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. The event will feature radio and TV personality Cynthia Hardy as the guest speaker, exhibitors, vendors and more. Councilwoman Tameika IsaacDevine will be a guest speaker.

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 or to purchase tickets, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

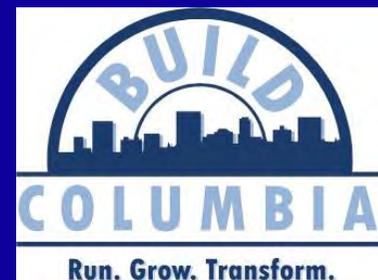
City Presents Palmetto Health Foundation with Donation for Bosom Buddies Fund

Mayor Steve Benjamin announced and presented the total funds collected, \$8,000, for the Palmetto Health Foundation's Bosom Buddies Fund.

Mayor Benjamin, Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook, Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins, Samuel Tenenbaum, president of Palmetto Health Foundation and Katie Miller, director of Walk for Life/Race for Life joined together on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016 for the check presentation.



We Are Columbia

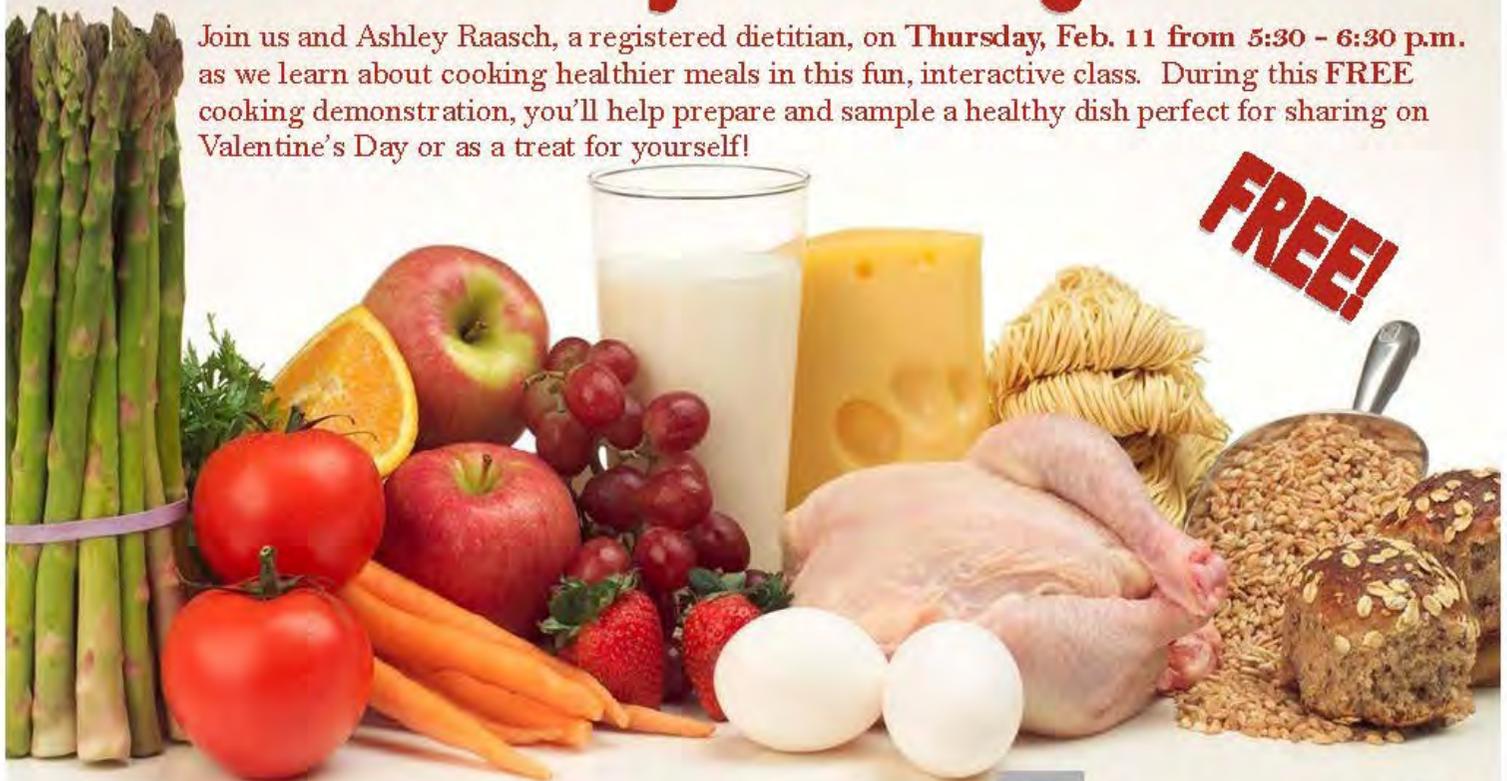


Heart Healthy Cooking

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center presents

Heart Healthy Cooking for Two

Join us and Ashley Raasch, a registered dietitian, on Thursday, Feb. 11 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. as we learn about cooking healthier meals in this fun, interactive class. During this **FREE** cooking demonstration, you'll help prepare and sample a healthy dish perfect for sharing on Valentine's Day or as a treat for yourself!



Space is limited, reserve your space today!
Visit drewwellnesscenter.com to RSVP or call 803-545-3200.



Charles R. Drew Wellness Center • 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204 • 803-545-3200 • www.drewwellnesscenter.com

Affordable Housing Loan Program

Affordable Housing Loan Program

FOR A LIMITED TIME

Based on available funding

This is the first time the City of Columbia will be offering to all individuals interested in purchasing a home ANYWHERE in the City within income guidelines. The required down payment is only \$500.00 and the City will finance the remaining purchase price at 3.00% with NO Private Mortgage Insurance.



Why rent when you can own?



For more information , please call (803) 545-3373
and ask for a loan officer.

Bank On Columbia



"BANK ON"
COLUMBIA

"Bank On" Columbia provides Columbia's un-banked and under-banked residents access to low-to-no cost checking and savings accounts along with access to in-depth financial education.



Why do I need a bank account?

IT COSTS LESS THAN A CHECK-CASHING SERVICE

Check-cashing stores charge a steep fee for their service – anywhere from 2.5% to 10% of your monthly income.

Who is eligible for "Bank On" Columbia?

Any individual living within the City Of Columbia limits is eligible to participate in the "Bank On" Columbia program but there are certain restrictions that could prevent you from opening an account.

For more information, please call Ron King at (803) 545-0280.



Individual Development Accounts

Individual Development Accounts



These specialized savings accounts are tailored according to each citizen's developmental needs. The IDA program offers savings accounts with the option of going to school, capitalizing a small business and purchasing a home to individuals with limited means by supplementing an IDA participant's savings deposits at a three to one savings match. For every one dollar that is saved, the City will add 3 dollars to the participant's savings account.

*Open your own
business*

*Own your first
home*

*Get back into
school*



Successful participants will be eligible for up to a \$3000 match.



For more information or to
**Start your IDA
today**

Call 803-545-3373

Love Shouldn't Hurt

Love Shouldn't Hurt

 A Safe Relationship Conversation....

Saturday, February 13, 2016



Guest Speaker: Melissa Holmes

Domestic Violence Survivor, New York

Performance By:
The Empowerment Corp
Production Team



This is a **FREE** Event
for Men, Women and
Adolescents.

Refreshments will
be served!

For More Info & to Register:

www.loveshouldnthurtsc.eventbrite.com

803-609-9621

Katheryn M. Bellfield Booker Washington Heights

Cultural Arts Center

2611 Grant Street Columbia, SC 29203

11:30am - 3:30pm

Hosted By:

The Empowerment Corp LLC

The EmPOWERment Corp
LLC

City of Columbia PR Department will have staff on site to handle registration for 2016 Domestic Violence Walk.

Spring Adult Kickball

City of Columbia Parks & Recreation **SPRING ADULT KICKBALL**



Fall 2015 Adult Kickball (1st & 2nd place winners)

**REGISTRATION ENDS
Friday, Feb. 26**

- \$300 per team
- Open to ages 18 & over
- Games begin week of March 14

COACHES MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Earlewood Park Community Center

1113 Parkside Drive

6:30-7:30 p.m.

3 DIVISIONS

- Recreation-Mondays
- Competitive-Mondays & Wednesdays
- Premier-Wednesdays

Visit ColumbiaSC.net to download an application



We Are Columbia

For more information, please contact:
Corinn Taylor
803-545-3109 or cetaylor@columbiasc.net

Solarize Columbia

This event is FREE!
General admission to the The South Carolina State Museum is \$5 during Second Shift Tuesdays until 8pm

Solarize Columbia!

Solar Makes Sense.



We Are Columbia

FEBRUARY
23
TUESDAY

Solarize Columbia Info Session: **Solar Basics, Energy Efficiency, and Incentives**

5:30-7:00 pm

**The South Carolina
State Museum**



301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC
5:30pm-7:00pm

Join Mayor Steve Benjamin at The South Carolina State Museum for a Solarize Columbia update and presentations on the basics of solar energy, energy efficiency measures you can take in your home, and

incentives from SCE&G for going solar and being energy efficient. We will have refreshments and installers available to answer your solar energy questions.

Solarize South Carolina is a program of SmartPower, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help Americans make smart energy choices through education and outreach.

Solarize
SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA

www.SolarizeSC.org



Go Red Fashion Show

THE CITY OF COLUMBIA PRESENTS THE SECOND ANNUAL

Proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association.

Celebrity Emcee and Host

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

GO RED Columbia Fashion Show

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016 AT 6 P.M.

RECEPTION - 5 P.M. / FASHION SHOW - 6 P.M.

FEE: \$25.00

CONVENTION CENTER, 1101 LINCOLN STREET

COLUMBIA, SC 29201

Tickets can be purchased online at _____ or at the following locations:

- City Hall - 1737 Main St
- Jabber and Isaac Law Firm - 1419 Richland St



We Are Columbia



#GoREDColumbia



For more information, visit www.ColumbiaSC.net or call the Public and Media Relations Dept. at 803-545-3020.

Black History Extravaganza

Black History Extravaganza

Join the City of Columbia in celebrating the contributions and achievements of African Americans



Guest Speaker
Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine
City of Columbia

Monday, February 15, 2016

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Greenview Park, 6700 David Street

\$5 per person*

(Lunch will be provided)

Open to youth, adults and seniors age 55 & older



Guest Speaker
Cynthia Hardy
Radio/TV Personality

*Tickets can be purchased at any recreation center or the Parks and Recreation
Department Administration Office.



We Are Columbia

For more information, please call 803-545-3100 or visit ColumbiaSC.net.

Parks & Recreation Department • 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203 • 803-545-3100 • www.ColumbiaSC.net

Meetings

| DATE/TIME | TYPE OF MEETING | LOCATION |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| February 9 at 10:00 a.m. | Board of Zoning Appeals (BoZa) Meeting | City Council Chambers City Hall |
| February 11 at 4:00 p.m. | Design/Development Review Commission (DDRC) | City Council Chambers City Hall |
| February 16 at 2:00 p.m. | City Council Work Session | Mayor's Conference Room City Hall |
| February 16 at 6:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting | City Council Chambers City Hall |
| February 17 at 12 p.m. | CEZ, Inc. Board of Directors Monthly Meeting | Conference Room 1509 Lady Street |
| February 23 at 12 p.m. | ECDC, Inc. Board of Directors Monthly Meeting | Hopkins/Manley Town Hall Conference Room 3905 Ensor Avenue |

Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719 | pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net