



**Mayor's Holiday Pop-Up Shop Brings the Spirit of the Holiday Season**  
P.2



**Women's Free Self-Defense Class**  
P. 4



**New Year's Resolution Yearly Membership Special**  
P.5



# City eNews



## **28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

The City of Columbia's 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be held on Monday, January 18, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street.

The celebration will also include a Wreath Laying Ceremony to commemorate the historic marker honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 3:06 p.m. at the corner of Harden and Greene streets. Members of the Alpha Psi Lambda and Omicron Iota Lambda chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will lead the ceremony.

For more information about the 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net), or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net)

## Mayor Benjamin Visits Spring Valley High School

Mayor Steve Benjamin visited the Spring Valley High School JROTC students on Monday, December 15, 2015

Mayor Benjamin also spoke to the kids about leadership, the successes of the students at Spring Valley and how they will shape the future.

Mayor Benjamin was also presented with a special military jacket by the students.



## The Mayor's Holiday Pop-Up Shop Brings the Spirit of the Holiday Season

More than 3,526 adults and children were positively impacted by the Mayor's Holiday Pop-Up Shop held this weekend at Dutch Square Mall. The Holiday Pop-Up Shop, a joint initiative between the City of Columbia and K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers, was designed to bring the spirit of the holiday season to those affected by October's historic thousand year flood and help them rebuild their lives.

This event served as a resource for flood survivors from across the Midlands, including Dorchester, Clarendon, Sumter, Lee, and Horry Counties, to find brand new items in apparel and home furnishings for the entire family. Top brands like Aeropostale, Free People, GAP, Gerber Childrenswear, Hot Topic, IKEA, Melissa & Doug and Toys R Us provided these items free of charge.

K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers gathers new product donations from suppliers and retailers in the fashion, home and children's industries, then delivers them to people in need. Recognizing that new products donated will go far in helping the people of South Carolina rebuild their lives during the months ahead, K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers secured at least \$1.3 million in new product donated for South Carolina relief efforts to date, including new furniture, comforters and bedding items, books, toys and apparel. Read more about K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers at [www.DonateProduct.com](http://www.DonateProduct.com).

### The Mayor's Holiday Pop-Up Shop By the Numbers:

- Friday, Dec 11 - 244
- Saturday, Dec 12 - 465
- Sunday, Dec 13 - 244

Total = 953 Households

The Mayor's Holiday Pop-Up Shop averaged 46 volunteers per day, who assisted with checking in shoppers, serving as personal shoppers/department managers, setup and more.



*Mayor's Holiday Pop-Up Shop Volunteers*



*Lisa Gurwitsch, President and CEO of K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers and Mayor Steve Benjamin*

## Advertisement of Vacancy on the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill the vacancy of a Developer/Realtor on the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission.

The mission of the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission is to protect, enhance and promote the City of Columbia's natural resources and visual beauty. The purpose of the commission is to oversee the development and implementation of the beautification plan.

All applicants must reside within the city limits.

The term of office is three (3) years.

Deadline - Applications are due by 5 p.m. on January 8, 2016.

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.

## January 2016 At-Large Open House

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

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

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 13, 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.

## Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop Series

The City's Community Development department will hold three FREE financial education workshops. During the workshops participants will learn the importance of banking, budgeting, saving, building credit and homeownership.

The workshops will be held on January 23rd, 30th and February 6th at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive Columbia, SC 29203, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Gift cards will be awarded to participants upon completion and lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register, please call (803) 545-0280 or email [RPKing@columbiasc.net](mailto:RPKing@columbiasc.net).



We Are Columbia



## Women's Self-Defense Class

The Charles R. Drew Wellness Center is hosting two Women's Self-Defense classes for women and girls ages 13 and up. Conducted by the Columbia Police Department

The FREE classes will be held at the wellness center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, from 5:30 - 8 p.m. on the following days: Thursday, Jan. 7 and Thursday, Jan 21.

Participants can choose which day they want to attend. Wear comfortable clothes. Space is limited. Click [here](#) to reserve your space today or call 803-545-3200.

## "Bank On Columbia" Press Conference

The City of Columbia Community Development Department will kick off the "Bank On" Columbia program on January 13 at 9:30 a.m.. The press conference will be held at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.

The press conference is open to the public.

For more information, contact Ron King at 803-545-0280 or email [Rpking@columbiasc.net](mailto:Rpking@columbiasc.net).

## NxLevel Micro Entrepreneur Series

The NxLevel Micro Entrepreneur series module focuses on teaching "self-sufficiency through self-employment." Participants will learn how to choose a business idea, develop a marketing plan, explore financing options, develop a customer service philosophy, as well as other relevant entrepreneurial skills. For growth and development, this training can prepare you for the NxLevel.

**Cost:** \$150

**Date:** Thursday, January 21 2016 - Thursday, April 21, 2016 (Every Thursday for 14 weeks)

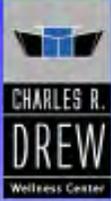
**Time:** 6:00PM - 9:00 PM

**Location:** Earlewood Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC

For more information, contact Angelo McBride at [amcbride@columbiasc.net](mailto:amcbride@columbiasc.net) or call 803-545-3960.



# Membership Special



## New Year's Resolution Yearly Membership Special



For a limited time, the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center is offering a **New Year's Resolution membership special** on **YEARLY MEMBERSHIPS**. Special runs from **January 1-31**.

Yearly Membership	Regular Rate (Resident/Non-Resident)	New Year's Special
<b>ADULT (18-49)</b>	<del>\$264/\$304</del>	\$210
<b>SENIOR (50+)</b>	<del>\$198/\$228</del>	\$160
<b>FAMILY (Up to 4 people)</b>	<del>\$396/\$456</del>	\$325



For more information, please contact the Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200.

# Art Workshops

## Columbia Art Center January-February Workshops



### Polymer Clay Workshop (Instruction by Sharon Funderburk)

January 23, 2016 (Saturday)

Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street, Columbia, SC 29201

10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This one-day workshop will allow participants to create a variety of objects from sculpted valentines to jewelry and gifts. All materials and tools are included in registration fee. Appropriate for ages 8-10 (accompanied by an adult) and up. Registration fee: \$60; Registration deadline: Saturday, January 9, 2016; Maximum class size: 12 participants



### Basket Weaving Workshop: Heart (Instruction by Bonnie Geiger)

January 30, 2016 (Saturday)

Edisto Discovery Park, 1914 Wiley Street, Columbia, SC 29205

9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Learn how to weave a beautiful heart basket to give to a loved one on Valentine's Day. The basket is 7" x 11". All materials and tools included in registration fee. All materials and tools included in registration fee. Registration fee: \$85; Registration deadline: Saturday, January 9, 2016. Minimum in workshop: 5; maximum in workshop: 12. Make checks payable to Bonnie Geiger.



### Wire Gem/Bead Tree Workshop (Instruction by Sharon Funderburk)

February 6, 2016 (Saturday)

Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street, Columbia, SC 29201

10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The creation of sculpted wire trees adorned by beads and gems is one of the newer art forms to become popular. Registration fee: \$80 includes materials and supplies; Registration deadline: Saturday, January 23, 2016. Appropriate for ages 14 and up.



### Glass Fusion Workshop (Instruction by Steve Hewitt)

February 20 and 27, 2016

Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street, Columbia, SC 29201

12 - 3 p.m.

This two-day workshop will guide the participant through making a slumped dish as a final product. All materials will be provided as part of the registration fee of \$50. Minimum in workshop: 6; maximum in workshop: 8. Registration deadline: Saturday, February 6, 2016



We Are Columbia

Parks and Recreation

Art Center  
1928 Calhoun Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone: 803-545-3093  
Email: [bloliver@columbiasc.net](mailto:bloliver@columbiasc.net)

### Registration Information

Name _____	Workshop	Day	Fee
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Polymer Clay Workshop	January 23	\$60
City, State _____ Zip Code _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Basket Weaving: Heart **	January 30	\$65
Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire Gem/Bead Tree	February 6	\$60
Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass Fusion	Feb 20 & 27	\$50
		Total: _____	

Please make check or money order payable to the City of Columbia. Mail registration form and payment to the Art Center. \*\* Payable to Bonnie Geiger

[Download](#)

# Young Ambassadors for Justice



## Young Ambassadors for Justice Student Roundtable

This series of forums are designed to promote a mutual dialogue between law enforcement and high-school students.

### Topics of discussion will include:

#### Personal Safety

— self-defense, crime prevention tips

#### Issues of Violence

— school violence, teen dating violence, sexual assault, bullying

#### Relational Issues

— respecting others, peer pressure, teen/parent relationships

#### Substance Abuse Awareness

— negative effects of alcohol & drug abuse

#### Legal Issues

— youth & the legal system, long-term consequences of arrest

#### Current Events

— trends, contemporary developments affecting their lives

For more information contact, Deputy Chief Melron Kelly at [mjkelly@columbiasc.net](mailto:mjkelly@columbiasc.net) or (803)-545-3509.

# Repack The Backpack



It's a School Jam Fest

## And you're invited!

### Repack the Backpack Community Event

Blue® has got you covered with games and freebies to get you excited for the school season.

- Stock up on school supplies  
*(while supplies last)*
- Refreshments *(while supplies last)*
- Health Screenings
- Win prizes and more....

All at **NO COST** to you

A BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid representative will be available to share important health information and to answer questions about our benefits and services.

**Sunday, January 31, 2016 • 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Martin Luther King Park**

2300 Greene Street • Columbia, SC 29205

RSVP Line: (803) 382-5817



BlueChoice HealthPlan is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Healthy Connections is administered for BlueChoice HealthPlan by WellPoint Partnership Plan, LLC, an independent company.



For more information about BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid, please call 1-800-574-8864. Or visit our website at [www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com](http://www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com).

For general Medicaid questions, contact Healthy Connections at 1-877-552-4642 or TTY 1-877-552-4670.

January 2016

# At Large Open House

JANUARY 2016 AT-LARGE OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 13

5:00-8:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1737 Main Street



**Councilwoman**

**Tameika Isaac Devine**



**Councilman**

**Howard Duvall, Jr.**

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



The Swearing-in ceremony and reception for District III Councilman Moe Baddourah (Re-elected), At Large Councilman Howard E. Duvall, Jr. (Councilman –elect) and District II Councilman Edward H. McDowell, Jr. (Councilman –elect) was held on Tuesday, December 29, 2015.



# Photo Gallery

## SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



# Meetings

DATE/TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION
January 4 at 5:15 p.m.	Planning Commission (PC) Meeting	City Council Chambers City Hall
January 5 at 2:00 p.m.	City Council Work Session	Mayor's Conference Room City Hall
January 5 at 6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Council Chambers City Hall
January 6 at 3:00 p.m.	Design Development Review Commission Sub- Committee	1136 Washington Street 3rd floor conference room
January 12 at 10:00 a.m.	Board of Zoning Appeals (BoZa) Meeting	City Council Chambers City Hall
January 14 at 4:00 p.m.	Design/Development Review Commission (DDRC)	City Council Chambers City Hall
January 19 at 2:00 p.m.	City Council Work Session	Mayor's Conference Room City Hall
January 19 at 6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Council Chambers City Hall
January 19 at 7:00 p.m.	Zoning Public Hearing	City Council Chambers City Hall
January 20 at 12 p.m.	CEZ, Inc. Board of Directors Monthly Meeting	Conference Room 1509 Lady Street
January 26 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](mailto:pio@columbiasc.net) | [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net)