

City Manager's *Spotlight*

December 2015



TERESA WILSON
CITY MANAGER

The City Manager's Spotlight provides details about what is happening in the City of Columbia in an effort to keep citizens informed about City operations. The City Manager's Spotlight on December 2015 reflects on the Home Buying Workshop, Famously Hot New Year Celebration and Carnival, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive, Richland Northeast High School's Symphonic Band Holiday Concert, the Holiday Pop-Up Shop and more.



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HOME BUYING WORKSHOP: HOW TO PURCHASE A HOUSE ON A BUDGET

The Community Development Department hosted a home buying seminar on how to purchase a home on a budget. The seminar was geared towards first time buyers, those who are on a budget and even flood victims who may have lost their homes.

“This workshop was a great opportunity to find out the simple way to buy a home.” stated Felicia Wilks, Community Development Loan Officer



Participants learned tips about achieving homeownership.

During the workshop, participants learned how to purchase a home on a budget, the benefits of homeownership, budgeting tactics, loan requirements, what to do after closing, how to decorate with limited funds and much more.

The workshop was sponsored by South State Bank and was held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Richland County Cooper Branch Library.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HONOR THE DREAM FOOD DRIVE

The City of Columbia, Richland School District One and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation held the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive benefiting Harvest Hope Food Bank, which ended December 21, 2015. The food drive is held each year to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy of community service. The total amount of food collected and winners will be announced during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Jan. 18, 2016. Click [HERE](#) for details about the upcoming celebration.

RICHLAND NORTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL’S SYMPHONIC BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Richland Northeast High School Symphonic Band, directed by Mr. Roderick Henderson, presented a Holiday Concert on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers prior to the Council meeting.



THE 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 Dec. 11 – 13 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, Hot Topic, Gerber Childrenswear, IKEA, Melissa & Doug and Toys R Us provided these items free of charge.

By the Numbers:

Friday, Dec 11 – 244

Saturday, Dec 12 – 465

Sunday, Dec 13 – 244

Total = **953 Households**

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 products 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.

There was an average of **46** volunteers per day, who assisted with checking in shoppers, serving as personal shoppers/department managers, setup and more.

CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON NAMED ONE OF THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE MIDLANDS



Columbia City Manager Teresa Wilson has been named one of the 50 Most Influential People in the Midlands by the Columbia Business Monthly magazine. The magazine honors the 50 Most Influential individuals annually based on their impact specific to business, government, education, legal, economic development and non-profit sectors. Honorees are chosen based on a nomination process and interviews. The contributions made by the individuals selected, shape the community's present landscape and future.

"It is an honor to be recognized for this award. The City of Columbia's growth and development for the present and future generations is one of my top priorities."

~City Manager Teresa Wilson

MIDLANDS MINORITY BUSINESS OWNER FINDS \$50,000 LENDER AT SC LENDER MATCHMAKER EVENT



Tammy Orr, owner of A+ Asphalt Seal Coat and Line Striping, LLC., received a \$50,000 line of credit with TD Bank as a result of the 2015 South Carolina Lender Matchmaker Access to Capital Symposium. A+ Seal Coat and Line Striping, LLC., is a small, family owned business that was initiated 10 years ago but had not seen any growth. Tammy started working with the City's Office of Business Opportunities and they provided a wealth of options for her, of which the SC Lender Matchmaker event was ideal.

The SC Lender Matchmaker Symposium is a joint local, State and Federal event that links lending organizations and small business owners. It is a unique opportunity designed to help small businesses assess their lending options in the most efficient way. This year, the event consisted of two matchmaking sessions, allowing for one-on-one (15 minute) meetings with up to 18 lending organizations.

Tammy stated that before she came to the event she didn't know lenders were attainable. She was paying for everything on her own, and getting equipment transported for different jobs was a nightmare.

After the event, TD Bank showed interest in the company and contacted her about applying for a loan. TD Bank made getting a loan an easy and simple process for her.

As a result of the \$50,000 loan, A+ Seal Coat and Line Striping, LLC., has been able to buy new equipment and Tammy Orr hopes to see continued growth and business expansion.

For more information about the company, visit www.asphaltprotector.com/line-striping.html or contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950.

FAMOUSLY HOT NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION AND CARNIVAL ON MAIN STREET



Famously Hot New Year has grown to be the largest free New Year's Eve celebration in South Carolina and boasts the largest New Year's fireworks display in the two Carolinas. People gathered again this year on Columbia's Main Street for an unforgettable, secure and exciting experience. In addition, the City's annual Famously Hot New Year's Eve Carnival, a family-friendly event, featured carnival rides, inflatables, games, face painting, food vendors, ice skating and more prior to the concert!



ABOUT TERESA WILSON

Teresa Wilson is the City Manager for the City of Columbia, SC. For more details on the City Manager, visit www.ColumbiaSC.net/City-Manager. For more information about the City of Columbia, visit www.ColumbiaSC.net.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

All my best,

Teresa Wilson



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