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**February
2016**

and more >>>

City Manager's Spotlight



TERESA WILSON
COLUMBIA CITY MANAGER

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

Columbia City Manager Teresa Wilson and Police 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).

Carefully selected, established leaders from all sectors of South Carolina society take part in the Riley Institute at Furman's DLI, a unique, highly interactive, multi-award winning program that imparts deep knowledge and skills to effectively manage and lead increasingly diverse workers, clients and constituents.

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.

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.

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



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City Participates in National Wear Red Day



The public was invited to recognize National Wear Red Day with the City of Columbia 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 was held and both men and women were encouraged to wear red. A special announcement was made regarding the 2016 Go Red Columbia Fashion Show, which will be held on March 11, 2016. For more details, visit ColumbiaSC.net/GoRed.

City of Columbia Public Safety Departments Receive Yellow Jasmine Award

The 2nd Annual Yellow Jasmine Awards, presented by Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P. A., celebrate organizations and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to our region. This year, the City of Columbia's Public Safety Departments received the Community Impact Award.



Columbia-Richland 911 Communications
Director Kimberly Gathers



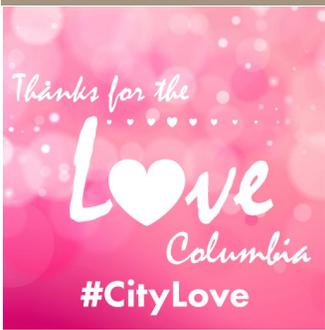
Columbia Fire Chief
Aubrey Jenkins



Columbia Police Chief
William "Skip" Holbrook

Thanks for the Love Columbia

THANKS COLUMBIA FOR SHOWING YOUR LOVE IN NOVEMBER 2015 FOLLOWING THE CITYWIDE COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL GRATITUDE MONTH.



Thanks Columbia for showing your love in November 2015 following the citywide communications campaign announced in recognition of National Gratitude Month. Your expressions of gratitude to first responders and all City of Columbia employees for their efforts during the October 2015 flood were greatly appreciated.

During the month of February, we wanted to say thanks for showing your love by sharing some of the notes we received throughout the campaign.

Each week from the Gratitude Month campaign, notes of appreciation were highlighted on social media and the City's website. We also shared letters that we received during the last few months that express appreciation from our citizens. Since February is the month that is focused on love, we wanted to share some of the "love" that has been shown for the City of Columbia.

City of Columbia Accepting Applications for Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Grants

The City of Columbia began accepting applications for Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Grants on Feb. 1, 2016. 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](#)



For information on guidelines, applications, workshops and more, please visit Columbiasc.net/grants/offered.

Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program



The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) launched the Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program in February to assist small businesses in the City that were impacted by the historic flood. Borrowers were 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.

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

City of Columbia Black History Extravaganza

On Feb. 15, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department celebrated Black History Month at the annual Black History Extravaganza. The event was held at Greenview Park, and included exhibitors, live entertainment and more.

This year's guest speakers were Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, and radio and TV personality Cynthia Hardy.

View more photos from this event at <http://thecityofcolumbia.tumblr.com>.



Guest Speakers: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and radio and TV personality Cynthia Hardy.

Noise and Lighting Presentations for Multi-Use Entertainment Venue



A public drop-in was held at City Hall on Feb. 2 to allow citizens the opportunity to review the noise and lighting studies.

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 invited property owners and local residents from the surrounding neighborhoods - Booker Washington Heights, Cotton-town, 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. The meeting was open to the general public.

On Tuesday, February 2, the City hosted 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 was held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at City Hall.

In addition, the consultants discussed the analysis and results of the studies during the City Council meeting on Feb. 2, 2016.

The presentations and studies can be viewed below or visit the City's website at www.columbiasc.net/bull-street-redevelopment for the latest news on the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue.

CITY DONATES \$8,000 TO PALMETTO HEALTH FOUNDATION



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

Presentations & Studies

To view the presentations and studies for the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue from Feb. 1 - 2, 2016, see links below:

Noise and Lighting Presentations

[Spirit Communications Park Lighting Study Presentation](#)

[Spirit Communications Park Sound Presentation](#)

[Spirit Communications Park Staff Presentation](#)

Noise and Lighting Studies

[Sound Study](#)

[Lighting Study](#)



City of Columbia and Richland School District One Celebrate 8th 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 on February 17, 2016. 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.”

Author Katie Stagliano is now 17 years old and 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.



Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (TWCR Coordinator), Katie Stagliano (author) and Karen Heid (illustrator).

“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.”

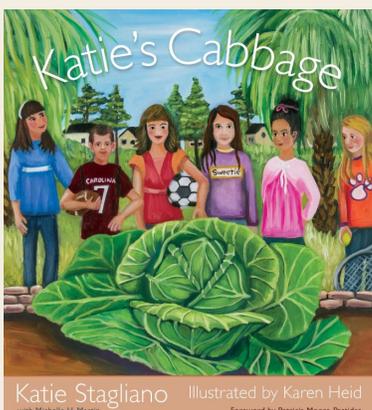
~Katie Stagliano

Over the years “Together We Can Read” has impacted over 16,000 third grade students at 29 schools and approximately 800 guest readers have volunteered their time and effort to this initiative.

“Together We Can Read has a lot of impact in our community on several different levels; it’s not just about going into the school for one day and reading but it is encouraging a level of reading, encouraging families to do creative things together and helping to build a long life of literacy.”

~Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

On February 18, the guest readers traveled to every elementary school in Richland School District One to read “Katie’s Cabbage” to every 3rd grader in the district. To view images from reading day, visit the City’s photo gallery at thecityofcolumbia.tumblr.com.



Katie’s Cabbage

#TWCR2016 Book Selection

“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. In her own words, Katie shares the story of the little cabbage seedling and the big ideas of generosity and service that motivated her to turn this experience into Katie’s Krops, a national youth movement aimed at ending hunger one vegetable garden at a time. Katie’s Cabbage reminds us of how small things can grow and thrive when nurtured with tender loving and care and of how one person, with the support of family, friends, and community, can help make a powerful difference in the lives of so many. Katie’s Cabbage was illustrated by Karen Heid, associate professor of art education at the University of South Carolina School of Visual Art and Design.

Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive

The City of Columbia and the American Red Cross encouraged citizens to participate in 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 was held 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 received an American Red Cross T-shirt, basketball stress reliever, and were 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.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, there were 167 pints of blood collected at the #ColumbiaLifesaversBloodDrive!

For more information about the American Red Cross, visit redcrossblood.org.



Blood Drive Photo Gallery



Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission Establishing Operations in Columbia



Dominion

DOMINION CAROLINA GAS TRANSMISSION



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.

For more information, contact Brie Logue, Marketing & Communications Manager, Office of Economic Development at 803-734-2732 or blogue@columbiasc.net.

About Teresa Wilson

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

