

# City Manager's Spotlight



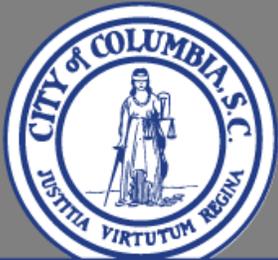
The City Manager's Spotlight provides details about what is happening in the City of Columbia in an effort to keep citizens informed about City operations. The City Manager's Spotlight on July 2015 reflects on the City's participation in a National Public Safety Initiative, #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge Winners, Heat Wave Safety Tips, Recycling Roll Carts, National Picnic Month and more.



**TERESA WILSON**  
CITY MANAGER



Run. Grow. Transform.



We Are Columbia

JULY 2015

CITY ANNOUNCES #LOVECOLUMBIA PHOTO CHALLENGE WINNERS	1
CITY RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN FINANCIAL REPORTING	2
CITY PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE	2
CITY TOSSES THE BIN FOR NEW RECYCLING ROLL CARTS	3
CITY TAKES STEPS TO HELP CITIZENS STAY COOL DURING HEAT WAVE	4
NATIONAL PICNIC MONTH IN THE CITY	5



(L-R) City Manager Teresa Wilson, Salley Rickenbacker, Tony Claremont, Councilman Sam Davis, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, Frederick Austin, Councilman Brian DeQuincey Newman and Councilman Runyan.

## CITY ANNOUNCES #LOVECOLUMBIA PHOTO CHALLENGE WINNERS

The #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge is a City initiative that encouraged citizens of Columbia to submit photos via social media of the images they love in the City. Through the photo challenge, citizens were invited to explore our picturesque city.

The photo challenge began in 2014 as a way to increase community engagement, expand public knowledge of the City's social media sites and increase the use of technology to interact with citizens.

The #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge was promoted on the City's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter sites during May 2014, where citizens were tasked with submitting images, which included landscapes, structures, buildings, historical monuments and more. Based on the total number of "likes, favorites, retweets, etc.," there were three photos chosen from each social media account. The voting process was driven by citizen participation, which included the option to vote and comment on the photo of their choice.

With over 400 votes placed online, the participation this year helped make the #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge a success.

The following winners unveiled their images on July 21, 2015, during the City Council meeting.

- Facebook – Frederick Austin
- Instagram – Tony Claremont
- Twitter – Sally Rickenbacker

The winning photos and biography for each winner will be featured in the City of Columbia's Report to the Community, the City's website, in the Public and Media Relations Department's publications and on display in the Gallery at City Hall.

### CITY OF COLUMBIA RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The City of Columbia has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL and Washington, D.C.

### CITY PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE: NNO KICKOFF

The City of Columbia partnered with neighborhoods across Columbia to host its eighth annual National Night Out Kickoff event on Thursday, July 30, 2015 from 4-9 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. This year's kickoff featured activities from Columbia Police Department (CPD), Columbia Fire Department (CFD), Community Development Department, Columbia-Richland 911 Communications and the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods (CCN).

"The annual National Night Out celebrations are collaborative efforts between the City of Columbia and the many strong neighborhoods throughout our community. During both the citywide kickoff and the neighborhood events, citizens, city staff, community leaders and public safety officials have opportunities to network and engage each other in order to build closer working relationships," said City Manager Teresa Wilson. "By working together, we will make strides to keep our communities safe, strong and viable not only now, but for future generations."



Special guests included Columbia City Council members, City staff and Oprah Winfrey Network's 2 Fat 2 Fly co-owners. Additionally, there was free food and exhibitors from various City departments, the Blythewood Jazz Orchestra and national recording artist Dante Lewis provided live entertainment.

National Night Out is a yearlong community-building campaign designed to: (1) heighten crime prevention awareness, (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs, (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

On Tuesday, August 4, 2015, participating Columbia neighborhoods will have their own National Night Out activities. They will join communities across the country in hosting block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and other various community events in an effort to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

For more information, please contact the Columbia Police Department at 803-545-3500, Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit [www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net).

## CITY OF COLUMBIA TOSSES THE BIN FOR RECYCLING ROLL CARTS

On Tuesday, July 14, at a press conference, the City of Columbia Solid Waste Division announced that the curbside recycling program will be upgraded from the 18-gallon bins to 95-gallon roll carts for residents.

*"The City of Columbia has taken a major step toward expanding our efforts to build a greener community. The new recycling roll carts will not only be beneficial to our citizens, but they will also enhance the city's ability to significantly increase the amount of recyclable items collected in our recycling program. These types of initiatives are good examples of the Build Columbia platform and help us to run, grow and transform our city."*

*~ City Manager Teresa Wilson*

The new changes were made possible in part by the Recycling Partnership. The Recycling Partnership uses public-private partnerships to help local governments get the most out of the recycling program. The City applied for the grant early in 2014 and was announced a winner in September 2014.

The Recycling Partnership has invested \$300,000 in the City's recycling program and has provided integral technical assistance to better enhance the program. Columbia is one of four inaugural cities in the grant program.

"The Recycling Partnership is very proud to partner with the City of Columbia as an inaugural city partner. The City has all the pieces in place to drive a dramatic increase in material recovery. We especially appreciate the commitment of City officials and staff and resident's readiness to embrace a modern recycling program," says Executive Director Keefe Harrison.

With the roll cart upgrade, citizens will have five times the capacity for recycling and projections show a 500 percent increase in pounds per household collected. Currently, City residents average 75 pounds per household in recycling. The new roll carts also present the expectation that the garbage tonnage will decrease.



95-gallon recycling roll carts for residents were unveiled during a press conference on July 14.

Carts will start being delivered on Monday, July 27, 2015. The delivery process will take approximately two weeks. The delivery crew will work Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents will receive an information packet with the cart that contains a letter, kitchen magnet and service card. Once residents receive the new cart, the new collection schedule will be effective immediately. Residents can keep the blue bin for indoor use or recycle it in the new cart.

Recycling will now be collected twice per month. Garbage and yard waste will remain on a weekly collection schedule. Beginning July 27, residents can visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net) to download a collection calendar and sign up for reminder notifications or download the free Columbia, SC Solid Waste app on their smartphone. The mobile app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

The City's curbside recycling program began in 1991 with the 18-gallon bins. Throughout the past 24 years, the City has expanded its recycling program to businesses, restaurants and bars. Ongoing education and outreach efforts are targeted to increase the recycling participation rate and bring awareness to how recycling benefits the community.

For more information about the City of Columbia's recycling program, please visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net) or call Samantha Yager at 803-545-3803. To learn more about The Recycling Partnership's work in the community, please visit [www.recyclecurbside.org](http://www.recyclecurbside.org).

## CITY TAKES STEPS TO HELP CITIZENS STAY COOL DURING HEAT WAVE

In response to the dangerously hot temperatures during July, the City of Columbia took steps to assist the community in keeping cool. The City of Columbia Fire Department along with Parks and Recreation set up misting stations from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on the days when the heat index reached 90 degrees or higher.

Anyone can be affected by the heat of the summer sun and the Columbia Fire Department encourages citizens to follow the heat wave safety tips below:



### Heat Wave Safety Tips:

- ◆ Drink plenty of water.
- ◆ Supervise children – children rely on adults to tell them when to come inside, when to drink water, and what sort of clothing to wear. It doesn't take long for a child's small body to become overheated.
- ◆ Never leave a child or pet in the car while you run to do a quick errand!
- ◆ Dress lightly and when sleeping use lightweight breathable covers.
- ◆ People who live in homes with no air conditioning should keep blinds closed from morning until the late afternoon to block extra direct heat from sunlight. Also, stay on the lowest level of your home.
- ◆ If you see any of the exhaustion signs listed below get out of the heat immediately. Give the person plenty of cool fluids and wipe them down with cool cloths. If they don't improve rapidly call 911.

### Signs of major heat stroke:

- ◆ High body temperatures – (over 103 degrees F)
- ◆ Confusion
- ◆ Poor breathing – if you can't hear a person breathing it can indicate a problem
- ◆ Seizures
- ◆ The person has stopped sweating
- ◆ Weak pulse
- ◆ Hot dry skin to the touch
- ◆ Fainting or total loss of consciousness

### Signs of heat exhaustion:

- ◆ Clammy skin
- ◆ Loss of color in skin
- ◆ Sweating
- ◆ A tired, overestimated look on someone's face
- ◆ Dry mouth
- ◆ Headache

For more information concerning staying safe in the heat, visit the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SCDHEC) website, <http://www.scdhec.gov>. For information on heat warnings, visit National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service's website at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/index.shtml>.



### NATIONAL PICNIC MONTH IN THE CITY

The City of Columbia celebrated National Picnic Month, July 1 - 31. Citizens were encouraged to share photos of their picnics within the City limits, using #citypicnic2015 on social media.

There are many locations in the City to host a picnic including City parks, neighborhood green spaces or your own backyard. Visitors are always welcome at one of the 60 City parks and/or green spaces. To find a park location near you, click [HERE](#).



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,

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