

City Manager's *Spotlight*

November 2015



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 November 2015 reflects on the City's Bronze Walk Friendly Community Designation, Memorial Service for Officer Stacey L. Case, OBO InnovateHER Business Challenge, Pet Adoption Specials, #SelfieSaturdays, 2015 Veterans Day Parade, Gratitude Month and more.



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MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD FOR COLUMBIA POLICE OFFICER STACY L. CASE

"It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the loss of fallen Columbia Police Department Officer Stacy L. Case. The end of service for Officer Case was on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Our deepest condolences are extended to her family and we will assist them as they deal with this tragedy. The impact on the Police Department and the City of Columbia has been severe and we ask for your support during this difficult time. As a City family, we will look to one another for solace and strength. Our officers are saddened by this loss, but they are resilient and dedicated. Chaplains have been assisting staff and will continue to provide their services as needed."

~Teresa Wilson



Officer Stacy L. Case

Stacy L. Case, a 4-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department died as a result of injuries sustained in a car crash at the intersection of College and Park Streets shortly before 10:30 p.m. on November 7, 2015. Officer Case was responding to a call for service on Lincoln Street at the time.

A memorial service was held in memory of Officer Stacy L. Case on Tuesday, October 10 at the Township Auditorium. The City of Columbia flags were flown at half-staff at all City facilities the week of November 9 in memory of Officer Case.

CITY OF COLUMBIA DESIGNATED WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



The City of Columbia has been designated as a Walk Friendly Community (WFC) by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. Walk Friendly Communities is a national recognition program aimed to encourage communities to establish or recommit to higher level of walking. A press conference was held at City Hall on Nov. 18, where the City was officially designated as a bronze level Walk Friendly Community.

The WFC program recognizes communities that are working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access and comfort. The WFC designation of honorable mention, bronze, silver, gold and platinum, is given to applicant communities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving and sustaining walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans and policies. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and FedEx.

An application for designation was submitted by the City's Planning and Development Services Department in the spring and a receipt of notification of the City's designation was received in early November. The City of Columbia is the first Bronze level community within the state and the only community within the state to receive designation at any level. Other communities within the southeast to receive awards in the past are Atlanta, GA, Charlotte, NC, Louisville, KY, Davidson, NC, and Cary, NC. A full list of comparison for each level can be found at walkfriendly.org/communities/list.cfm.



(L-R) John S. Fellows (Planning & Development Services), Richland County Councilman Paul Livingston, Andy Leaphart, (SCDOT), Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, Commissioner John N. Hardee (SCDOT), Reginald Simmons (CMCOG), Gene Bell (BPAC), Bob Schneider (The COMET) and Lucinda Statler (Planning & Development Services).

USC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON



City Manager, Teresa Wilson, recently sat down for an interview with the University of South Carolina Honors College. See a snapshot of the article below and read the full article at <http://schc.sc.edu/node/984>.

The honors have been stacking up recently for Teresa Wilson, Columbia's City Manager. Most relate to her business acumen. SouthEast Small Business Magazine inducted her into its 2014 Women's Hall of Fame and also named her a "Top Woman of Influence." In February 2015, the Palmetto Center for Women awarded her its Tribute to Women in Industry. Columbia Business Monthly ranked her one of the city's "50 Most Influential People" in 2011 and 2014. And yet, Wilson took plenty of philosophy and education courses during her undergraduate years as an English major. Those subjects—and how they were presented at the South Carolina Honors College—have made a difference along her career path to law school and into local government.

"Being in small classes gave me the opportunity to have thought-provoking conversations with professors and classmates," stated Ms. Wilson. "The rigor was there. In all my experiences, I had to push myself and work on an elevated level, and I do that every day with this job. I learned to think analytically, ask questions and form relationships."

Forming relationships is important when you attend community meetings almost every day. It's also important when you're guiding a team of city workers in a municipality that's changing as fast as Columbia. Wilson took time out to answer a few questions about her work, her life as a single mother to daughter Alex, and what she's learned in her years since graduation.

Reading now: *Unfortunately I don't get to read as much; I love to read. On my nightstand now is "Bringing Up Girls" by Dr. James Dobson, because of where I am, raising a preteen little girl.*

Most recent concert: *Earth Wind and Fire at the Township Auditorium. There was a really diverse Columbia crowd, and it sold out.*

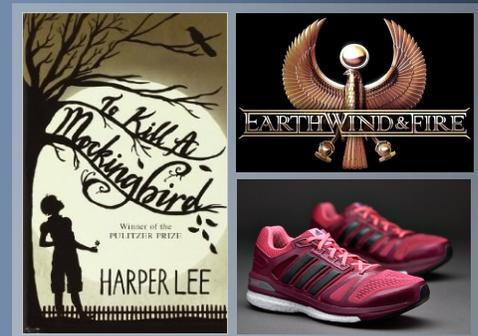
Favorite movie: *"To Kill a Mockingbird," which is also my favorite book.*

For fun: *I love spending time with family and friends. I love to exercise. My daughter runs track so I'm getting into that by default with her.*

What you do that you never said you would: *If anyone asked me if I'd be city manager in my hometown, I would have never thought that. But I'm so happy I fell into local government. It's extremely rewarding. Now I really wouldn't see myself doing anything else.*

See more at <http://schc.sc.edu/node/984>.

#AlumniSpotlight



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAYS: #SELFIESATURDAYS



The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities partnered with local shopping districts for Small Business Saturdays during the month of November. Citizens who shopped in one of the seven designated districts and participated in #SelfieSaturdays became eligible to win a \$50 gift card.

To participate citizens visited any of the seven business districts, made a purchase from any locally-owned, participating businesses and took a creative "Selfie" in front of the store's sign or logo with their receipt. They tweeted the photo using, "#SelfieSaturdays." All winners will be notified by Friday, December 4, 2015.

The seven participating business districts:

- Devine Street: Jennifer@youreventstaff.com
- Five Points: Amybeth@fivepointscolumbia.com
- Main St & City Center: info@citycentercolumbia.sc
- North Columbia: Info@northcolumbiabusinessassociation.com
- Rosewood: Rosewoodmerchants@gmail.com
- Two Notch: Mcgraw00@yahoo.com
- Vista: Meredith@vistacolumbia.com

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950 or visit www.ColumbiaSC.net/OBO.

OBO ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF INNOVATEHER BUSINESS CHALLENGE

On Thursday, November 12, the Office of Business Opportunities in partnership with Columbia College, the USC-Columbia Technology Incubator and the SC Women's Business Center announced the winner of the local InnovateHER Business Challenge.

InnovateHER is a national women's business challenge sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The business challenge provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. Products or services must have a measurable impact on the lives of women and families, have the potential for commercialization and fill a need in the marketplace. The winners are as follows:



*1st Place: Anthony Ned
Rooster Booster*



*2nd Place: Lesenta Lewis-Ellis
Need-A-Lift Transportation Services, LLC*



*3rd Place: Sherry Norris
Alala, LLC*

Eight finalists were chosen to present their innovative products or services but only the winner of the challenge will compete against other winners nationally, for the opportunity to pitch their business idea in Washington, DC at the national InnovateHER: Innovating for Women Business Summit on March 17, 2015 for the chance to win up to \$40,000.

PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT RECEIVES IABC SC PALMETTO AWARD

The City of Columbia's Public and Media Relations Department was awarded the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) SC Palmetto Award for their #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge initiative. IABC held their annual awards ceremony on November 3, 2015 at the Palmetto Club.

"We are thrilled to present an opportunity that allows our citizens to share what they love about Columbia," stated Leshia Utsey, Public and Media Relations Director.



Leshia Utsey

The #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge is an annual City initiative that encourages citizens to submit photos via social media of their favorite images taken within City limits. Three individual photos are selected as winners from the City's official Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts through citizen participation and voting.

The Palmetto Awards were created in 1999 to recognize the outstanding work in the communications field and foster professional development among communicators. The awards provide the opportunity for communicators to display their talents in communication planning, publication writing and design, feature writing, electronic communication, and public relations and crisis communication campaigns.

PETS FIND FOREVER HOMES DURING ADOPTION SPECIALS



The City's Columbia Animal Shelter wants to send a very big thank you to the citizens of Columbia and Richland County. During the Super Sale Cat/Kitten Adoption Special and last month's Howl'oween Spooktacular Adoption Special, 61 cats/kittens and 14 dogs found their forever homes.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We love our community. We asked for your help and you answered in a big way", stated Marli Drum, Animal Shelter Superintendent.

The Columbia Animal Shelter is committed to serving the Columbia community and is constantly working to provide safe homes for pets through pet adoptions and various animal services.

Visit pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

For updates about the Columbia Animal Shelter, visit their [Facebook page](#).

CITY OF COLUMBIA'S ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE

The City of Columbia celebrated Veterans Day with the 37th Veterans Day Parade on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. The annual parade, which is known as one of the Southeast's largest Veterans Day parades, featured local high school bands, military bands, military vehicles, City officials and more.



WAR DOG MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT MEMORIAL PARK



A new monument has found its home at Memorial Park. On Wednesday, November 11, 2015, the South Carolina Memorial Park Commission unveiled the War Dog Memorial, which is a bronze statue of a kneeling soldier and his German Shepherd.

Renee Bemis, an artist from St. Charles, Ill., sculpted the monument. The monument is located at Memorial Park, 700 Hampton Street.

NOVEMBER PROCLAIMED AS GRATITUDE MONTH

Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia City Council proclaimed November as Gratitude Month on November 23, 2015 at City Hall.

Mayor Steve Benjamin announced a citywide communications campaign that allows citizens to express their gratitude to first responders and all City of Columbia employees for their tireless efforts during the October 2015 flood.

Citizens can leave notes of appreciation in the drop boxes labeled “Notes of Appreciation” at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Washington Square Payment Center, 1136 Washington Street
- Police Headquarters, 1 Justice Square
- Fire Headquarters, 1800 Laurel Street
- Eau Claire Town Hall, 3904 Monticello Rd

Notes of appreciation can also be emailed to columbiacares@columbiasc.net.

A Gratitude Board has been placed at Washington Square Payment Center, 1136 Washington Street for citizens who wish to express their gratitude.

For more information, please contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.



PABPG ANNUAL BEAUTY AND BUSINESS BRUNCH

On November 18, City Manager Teresa Wilson was a guest panelist at the annual PeekABoo PrettyGirl Foundation (PABPG) Beauty and Business Brunch. The event brought together successful businesswomen from the Columbia area and 30 extremely career driven young ladies for an afternoon of entrepreneurship, networking and great food.

“All of the ladies had crucial information to share. From finding a mentor to keeping your circle close, these ladies had an amazing amount of insight to share with our attendees. Aside from their point about entrepreneurship, each woman was able to elaborate on stereotypes and obstacles plaguing them in their respective fields.”

~Kayla Alexander, PABPG Staff Writer



Guest Panelists (L-R): Allyce Bailey, Teresa Wilson, Jessica Tee (PABPG Founder), Denise Bradley and Katera Anderson

MAIN STREET ICE RETURNS FOR 2015 WINTER SEASON

The City of Columbia's outdoor ice skating rink, located at the corner of Main and Hampton Streets, has returned for another year of fun for the whole family. Main Street ICE reopened on Thanksgiving Day.

It's not too late to plan a visit to Main Street ICE; it will be open through January 2016. In addition, there are special operating hours December 21 through January 1, from noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 10 p.m. on Friday.

Please see the Main Street ICE fee list below:

Monday through Wednesday (Discount Days)

\$8 for adults

\$5 for children ages 12 and under

Thursday through Sunday (Regular Price)

\$10 for adults

\$8 for children ages 12 and under

\$8 Active Duty Military with ID and Seniors age 55 and up

Hours of operation:

Monday–Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.

Friday, 4 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, 1 to 9 p.m.

Reminders:

*Closed on Christmas Day

*Open until 12 a.m. on New Year's Eve

For more information or to make group reservations, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 545-3100.



*Grab your family and friends,
and head down to Boyd Plaza!*



Main Street ICE at Boyd Plaza

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



City Manager Teresa Wilson, Mayor Steve Benjamin and City staff attended a ceremony hosted by Palmetto Health on November 17 to recognize the City of Columbia for their efforts during the flood. #SCSTRONG

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