



Community Development
Celebrates 40 Years
P. 4



MDA Fill The Boot Campaign
P. 2



CPD's First Public
Command Staff Meeting
P.3



We Are Columbia

City eNews



Run. Grow. Transform.



LETS MOVE! EASTER EGG HUNT

Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free and open to the public. The event will include "Eggs"ercises, an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

Who: Mayor Steve Benjamin, First Lady DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

WHERE: Finlay Park

When: 1-3pm, Friday, April 3, 2015

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net

[Click here](#) to view City Talk Interview.

2015 MDA FILL THE BOOT CAMPAIGN

Chief Jenkins and Trent Tomco, SC MDA Ambassador kicked off this year's campaign by passing around the boot to City Council, City Staff and citizens during Tuesday night's Council meeting. Chief Jenkins said, "This partnership has collected over \$2.5 million in the past 15 years and we could not have accomplished that without the citizens of the City of Columbia and Richland County." Chief Jenkins continued to state "We hope to surpass last year's donations of \$143,214 and we will with everyone's help, so when you see a Firefighter please make a donation."

Tara Heil stated, "MDA is proud to partner again with these brave men and women of the Columbia Fire Department as we work together to impact the lives of the families living with neuromuscular disease in the Midlands."

MDA's relationship with the Columbia Fire Department goes back more than 50 years. The drive grew in the late 1990's when they were allowed to collect in the intersections and on duty. At that time, the department was inspired by the grandson of Retired Battalion Chief Taylor McEntire who was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. Taylor's spirit continues to be a driving force behind the drive that has helped families throughout the Midlands.

MDA is the nonprofit health agency dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases by funding worldwide research. The Association also provides comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education. MDA is funded almost entirely by individual private contributions and cooperating organizations. Only nine percent of every dollar collected is spent on administrative costs.

For more information about the MDA go to: www.mda.org. Follow them on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MDAColumbiaSC> or Facebook: www.facebook.com/mdacolumbia.



Photos Above: Mayor Steve Benjamin and City Council members make first donation to the CFD/MDA boot drive.



GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE PALMETTO COMPRESS BUILDING

Groundbreaking for Redevelopment of the Historic Palmetto Compress Warehouse will be held at 612 Devine Street on Thursday, April 16 at 1:30pm.

The groundbreaking will include the first chance to see the plans and tenant announcement for this \$50 million redevelopment. The community will have a chance to meet the Palmetto Compress owners and development team.

The building was saved from demolition when the local community asked the Mayor and Columbia City Council to find ways to preserve the structure.

This is sponsored by the Columbia Development Corporation.

CHIEF HOLBROOK HOSTS HIS FIRST PUBLIC COMMAND STAFF MEETING

Columbia Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook hosted his first Public Command Staff meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 9 a.m. Citizens from all across Columbia were in attendance.

In the meeting, command staff introduced themselves to citizens and discussed recent statistics in the areas they covered. Citizens were able to see crime statistics, planned improvements and solutions regarding crime concerns and the department’s overall progress.

Chief Holbrook plans to hold bimonthly Public Command Staff meetings for citizens to attend, focusing on his goal for transparency in the police department.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

The Community Development Department is celebrating its 40th anniversary, since being established at the City of Columbia. Through the years, the department has focused on making Columbia a better place to live, work and play.

“Community Development has achieved a milestone of 40 years of providing excellent service and programs that have built communities and transformed lives for the citizens of Columbia, South Carolina. We now embark upon our next 40 years with an expanded vision and belief that Columbia can be a place of opportunity for all,” said Deborah Livingston, director of Community Development. “We are proud of our many years of service and know that we have provided over one hundred and fifty million dollars into the local economy that has leveraged well over a billion dollars in investment.”

Community Development’s first efforts were with housing and have now provided more than 3,200 loans, including employee and City lender loans. The department has also supported the economic development of Columbia with providing façade loans, creating development corporations and outlining five federally targeted areas to provide benefits. Additionally, Community Development has addressed quality of life issues through park development. Nearly 60 parks have been built through Community Development funding.

The department will host a celebration on May 7, 2015.

CITY’S 1ST GO RED FASHION SHOW

The City of Columbia’s First Go Red Fashion Show was held on March 20 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Nearly one hundred local citizens gathered together for a night of RED to help honor and support those affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women. All proceeds benefitted the American Heart Association.

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine was the host for this event. The fashion show featured celebrity models, a “City Kids” segment and attire from local retail sponsors. The grand finale featured fashions by Sergio Hudson, a nationally renowned designer and winner of “Styled to Rock”. Special Entertainment was provided by Comedian Nikita B.

To view the City’s 1st Go Red Fashion Show, visit the [City of Columbia Youtube Page](#).



Photos Above: Columbia's First Lady DeAndrea Benjamin and Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine.



CITY TO HOLD HOW TO LAND A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WORKSHOP

The Office of Business Opportunities is hosting a How to Land a Government Contract Workshop on Thursday, April 16 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 1509 Lady Street. The guest speaker will be Scott H. Bellows, a member of the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC) and a former contracting officer with the Agency for International Development.

The goal is to help contractors understand what they need in order to land a government contract with an emphasis on state and federal contracting. Topics that will be covered include registering with the government, where to find bids and how to find subcontracting work.

Registration is \$15. To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950 or ColumbiaSC.net/obo.

APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

The Community Development Department is hosting events during April to celebrate National Fair Housing Month.

The South Carolina Fair Housing Center will initiate the activities by hosting the Second Annual National Fair Housing Month Community Fair on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 1 – 5 p.m. at Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive. Attendees will learn about fair housing rights while enjoying refreshments, entertainment, free books for youth and gathering information from community service providers.

Additionally, a National Fair Housing Month Legislative Update will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, 930 Richland Street.

Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 803-545-3373.



START FRESH LITERACY WORKSHOP

Learn the importance of banking, budgeting, saving and building your credit at City of Columbia's Community Development Financial Education Workshop.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 9 - 1:30am at 1225 Lady Street (Second Floor).

For more information or to register, call 803-545-0280 or visit columbi-asc.net

GIRLS GOLF DAY KICK-OFF

The Girls Golf Day Kick-Off will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue from 1—4pm.

The kick-off event will be open to all girls ages 5-18.

The celebrity coaching line-up will include Chris Brady Wolfe, Brenda McLarnon & Ashley Prange all former contestants on the Golf Channel's reality show, The Big Break, as well as members of the Columbia College Women's Golf Team. There will be golf and healthy snacks

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE IN OBSERVANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2015 in observance of Good Friday.

All garbage and recycle routes will remain on schedule.



You're Invited!



Greenview Park

Pool Groundbreaking Ceremony

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2015

GREENVIEW PARK, 6700 DAVID ST.

3 PM

A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY

For more information, call the City of Columbia Public Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

Curing Kids' Cancer Fire Truck Pull

WILL YOU PULL FOR US?



JOIN THE CURING KIDS CANCER 2015
"PULL FOR CURING KIDS CANCER"

FIRE TRUCK PULL

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2015

1800 LAUREL STREET COLUMBIA, SC.
AT THE MAIN FIRE STATION

Proceeds will benefit Palmetto Health Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Clinic

Sponsorships
Available



\$200 / Team
Registration Fee



Contact: gina@curingkidscancer.org or 803-238-1920
www.curingkidscancer.org/firetruckpull

Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



City Media

www.ColumbiaSC.net



TWC Ch.2

City Talk on SoundCloud

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
pio@columbiasc.net P: 803-545-3020 F: 803-343-8719