

We Are Columbia

Together we will build a world-class city

City of Columbia Press Releases

August 1-31, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 01, 2014

Contact: Charmaine Clark at 803-545-3403

City of Columbia's Annual National Night Out Kickoff Lights Up the Night Tomorrow

The City of Columbia will be hosting the seventh annual National Night Out Kickoff tomorrow, Saturday, August 2, 2014 at Finlay Park, located at 930 Laurel St., from 6-10 p.m.

National Night Out, a yearlong community building campaign, is 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.

This year's kickoff event will feature a variety of public safety vehicles, live entertainment, "Catch the Criminal" scavenger hunt, Karaoke Idol, inflatable rides, home security displays and tons of family fun. Kiss FM will be live broadcasting from 5-7 p.m.

In conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Summer Concert Series, saxophonist Dante Lewis will take the stage at 8 p.m. and close out the night.

This event is free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, August 5, National Night Out will be celebrated in Columbia's neighborhoods with cookouts, community block parties and more. For more information, please contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net/community-development.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 1, 2014

Contact: Charmaine Clark or Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3373

Columbia Neighborhoods to Celebrate National Night Out

WHAT: National Night Out celebrations will be held on Tuesday, August 5 in many Columbia neighborhoods. National Night Out, a yearlong community building campaign, is 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.

WHO: Columbia City Council, Columbia neighborhoods and residents.

WHERE: Columbia neighborhoods- please see attached detailed list of event times and locations.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 5, 2014 beginning at 5 p.m.

For more information on the National Night Out celebrations, please contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 01, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Last Day to Register for 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin invites the public to register youth ages 6 to 17 for the 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics.

Drills & Skills offers a weeklong instructional clinic for youth to expand their skills in basketball, tennis and golf. The clinics, which run from August 4-8, ends with a skills competition on Friday, August 8. Clinics will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. **The clinics are free but registration is required.**

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Clinics

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Basketball Clinic

- Boys ages 6-9: Hyatt Park
- Boys ages 10-13: Greenview Park
- Boys ages 14-17: Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Girls ages 6-17: Drew Wellness Center

Tennis Clinic

- Boys & Girls ages 6-17: Columbia Tennis Center

No previous skills required. Personal equipment is welcomed. Please wear white loose fitting clothes, tennis shoes, hat or visor. (Space is limited. Register early.)

Golf Clinic

- Boys & Girls ages 6-17: James E. Clyburn Center

No previous skills required. Personal equipment is welcomed. Please wear comfortable clothes, tennis shoes, hat or visor. (Space is limited. Register early.)

Basketball skills competitions will be held on Friday, August 8 at Greenview, Hyatt and Martin Luther King Jr. parks from 6 to 8 p.m. School supplies will be given to those participating in the clinics.

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/> to download a registration form.



For Immediate Release

August 1, 2014

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Belmont

College Place

Gabel Oaks

Northwood Hills Organization

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 01, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (803) 545-3045

The agenda for next week's Work Session is attached. The meeting will begin at noon



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 4, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin to Kick Off 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics

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WHAT: Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will kick off the 5th Annual Mayor's Back-to-School Drills & Skills Clinics **today** at 11:30 a.m. Drills & Skills offers a weeklong instructional clinic for youth to expand their skills in basketball, tennis and golf. The clinics will be held this week, August 4-8, and end with a skills competition on Friday, August 8.

WHERE: James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue, Columbia, SC

WHEN: Monday, August 4, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please call 803-760-9125 or email smbell@columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 04, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on Thursday, August 7, 2014 at 9 a.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 04, 2014

Contact: Paul Featheringill at 803-545-3259

City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities Announces Additional Commercial Lending Funds

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is pleased to announce that additional funding is now available for commercial lending through the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund (CRLF). The additional funding comes through a grant to the City from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

These funds are intended to provide gap financing for projects which are unable to secure the full amount of financing needed through a private lending institution. The program requires bank participation in all projects funded.

Under this program, applicants are eligible for loans of up to 50 percent of their total project cost with a maximum of \$200,000, which may be used for property acquisition and upfit, purchase of inventory and equipment and working capital.

The program offers low interest rates, which is currently 4.25 percent, and terms of up to 20 years.

For more information or to apply for funding, contact Paul Featheringill, Commercial Loan Officer, at 803-545-3259 or pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Contact: Charmaine Clark or Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3373

Columbia Neighborhoods to Celebrate National Night Out

WHAT: National Night Out celebrations will be held today, Tuesday, August 5 in many Columbia neighborhoods. National Night Out, a yearlong community building campaign, is 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.

WHO: Columbia City Council, Columbia neighborhoods and residents.

WHERE: Columbia neighborhoods- please see attached **updated** list of event times and locations.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 5, 2014 beginning at 5 p.m.

For more information on the National Night Out celebrations, please contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 4, 2014

Contact: Virginia Bedford at (803)546-1482

City Resident to Celebrate 100th Birthday at National Night Out

WHAT: This year's National Night Out is extra special for one Earlewood resident. Lib Davis, long-time resident, will be celebrating her 100th birthday at the Earlewood Community National Night Out party on Tuesday, August 5. Davis has lived at the corner of Clark and Union Streets for the majority of her life and the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department created a garden in front of the new Earlewood Park Community building in honor of her community involvement.

WHO: Councilman Sam Davis, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, honoree Lib Davis, Earlewood friends and neighbors.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 5, 2015 from 6-8 p.m.

**The cake and proclamation presentation will happen around 6:45 p.m.*

WHERE: Earlewood Park

1111 Parkside Dr.

Columbia, SC 29201



For Immediate Release

August 5, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Council adopts Mayor Benjamin’s “Refugee Children” resolution

Columbia, SC. – Columbia City Council today adopted a resolution proposed by Mayor Steve Benjamin that welcomes unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children placed with sponsor families in the city and calls on local, state and federal officials to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

“When the City of Columbia was founded in 1786, Senator John Lewis Gervais said that he hoped ‘the oppressed of every land might find a refuge under the wings of Columbia.’ Today, City Council lived up to that vision and I couldn’t be more proud.”

Furthermore, today’s resolution called on Congress “to enact a comprehensive immigration reform plan that secures our borders, grows our economy and gives undocumented youth and their families the chance to earn their citizenship.”

Today’s resolution follows recent news that 350 children detained by immigration authorities were released to sponsors, typically relatives, in the State of South Carolina between January 1, 2014 and July 7, 2014 to be cared for while their immigration case is processed.

These 350 refugee children, who had no parent or guardian available to care for them when they were taken into custody, represent less than 1.2% of the 30,340 displaced children released to sponsor families across the nation.

“Many of these children have come to our country fleeing violence, abuse and narco-terrorism or as victims of human trafficking,” said Mayor Benjamin. “These aren’t criminals and their not statistics. They’re children and we can’t let divisive political rhetoric blind us to their struggle.”

Moving forward, City Council is expected to put together a workgroup tasked with finding additional ways the City can help meet the needs of refugee children placed in Columbia and urges other leaders to do the same as the nation responds to what is a growing humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

The full resolution can be found at http://www.columbiasc.net/depts/city-council/docs/2014/08_05_2014/resolution_2014_074_refugee_children_immigration.pdf

For more information, contact Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 06, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department Sponsors Back-to-School Pool Party

WHAT: Celebrate the beginning of a new school year at the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's Back-to-School Pool Party. Teens ages 13 to 17 are invited out for an evening of games, food, giveaways, contests and live entertainment. Appropriate swim attire must be worn for entry.

WHERE: Maxcy Gregg Pool, 1655 Park Circle

WHEN: Friday, August 15, 2014 from 7 to 10 p.m.

COST: \$5 admission (includes everything)

For more information, please contact Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3100 or kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 06, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Registration Underway for City of Columbia Youth and Adult Sports Leagues

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is accepting registrations for several youth and adult sports leagues for the fall season.

Participants in the city-wide leagues have the opportunity to play, practice good sportsmanship and expand their athletic skills.

Youth Sports

WHAT: City Soccer League (ages 3-14)

FEE: \$25 per individual (Scholarships are available.)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 15

SEASON BEGINS: September 15

-

Adult Sports

WHAT: Adult Kickball League (ages 18 and up)

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 8

SEASON BEGINS: September 9

Games will be played on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at the following locations:

- Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive
- T.S. Martin Park, 1810 Germany Street
- Pacific Park, 200 Wayne Street

WHAT: Men's D League Softball (ages 18 and up)

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 29

SEASON BEGINS: September 9

Games will be played at T.S. Martin Park, 2700 Edison Street. Coaches must attend the coaches meeting on September 2 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive.

WHAT: Coed Softball (ages 18 and up)

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 29

SEASON BEGINS: September 14

Games will be played on Sundays at T.S. Martin Park, 1810 Germany Street. Coaches must attend the coaches meeting on September 4 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive.

To register, please visit Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. To download a registration form, visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation. The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David St.

WHEN: Monday, August 25, 2014 from 5 p.m.—8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2014

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

The Gallery at City Hall Presents A Benedict College and Columbia College Faculty Exhibition

WHAT: The Gallery at City Hall presents the new exhibit, A Benedict College and Columbia College Faculty Exhibition. Benedict College and Columbia College are small, private colleges that share a passion for the liberal arts tradition in education. This means that the teaching faculties at both institutions approach the education of the art student within that liberal arts tradition. This broad vision is reflected in the range of work that the faculty members pursue in their personal art practices. From painting to clay, from printmaking to fibers, these artists share the common goal of creating meaningful visual expression in their work.

WHO: City of Columbia, One Columbia Arts and History, Benedict College and Columbia College

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Thursday, August 7, 2014 from 6 p.m.—8 p.m.

*The Gallery at City Hall is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.



For Immediate Release

August 8, 2014

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

POA of Lake Katharine

Cross Hill Neighborhood Association

Heathwood Park Neighborhood Association

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treertrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 8, 2014

Contact: Michael Strange at 803-733-8438

Eau Claire Development Corporation to Hold Ribbon Cutting for New Homes in Burton Heights Neighborhood

WHAT: The Eau Claire Development Corporation will host a ribbon cutting for new the new homes built in the Burton Heights neighborhood. There will be tours of the three new homes. The homes are 1,300-1,600 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, all major appliances and one car garage.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Councilmembers, Eau Claire Development Corporation staff, City staff and community leaders.

WHERE: 155 Burton Heights Circle
Columbia, SC 29203

WHEN: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 11 a.m.

For more information about the Eau Claire Development Corporation, please call 803-733-8438 or visit www.columbiasc.net/ecdc.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her August Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 from 5 p.m.— 8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Contact: Michael Strange at 803-733-8438

Eau Claire Development Corporation to Hold Ribbon Cutting for New Homes in Burton Heights Neighborhood

WHAT: The Eau Claire Development Corporation will host a ribbon cutting for new the new homes built in the Burton Heights neighborhood. There will be tours of the three new homes. The homes are 1,300-1,600 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, all major appliances and one car garage.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Councilmembers, Eau Claire Development Corporation staff, City staff and community leaders.

WHERE: 155 Burton Heights Circle
Columbia, SC 29203

WHEN: **Today**, Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 11 a.m.

For more information about the Eau Claire Development Corporation, please call 803-733-8438 or visit www.columbiasc.net/ecdc.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David St.

WHEN: Monday, August 25, 2014 from 5 p.m.—8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Concert Series Performances Rescheduled

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department has announced that the Summer Concert Series will continue through August 29 at Finlay Park located at 930 Laurel Street. Two performances that were cancelled due to inclement weather have been rescheduled.

Summer Concert Series Schedule

- Horizons-Saturday, August 16 from 7 to 10 p.m.
- Dante Lewis-Rescheduled for Sunday, August 17 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Mike Stone & The Kritikal Band-Rescheduled for Friday, August 29 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Karaoke Idol finals will be held on Friday, August 29.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. The Summer Concert Series is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Registration Underway for City of Columbia Youth and Adult Sports Leagues

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is accepting registrations for several youth and adult sports leagues for the fall season.

Participants in the city-wide leagues have the opportunity to play, practice good sportsmanship and expand their athletic skills.

-

Youth Sports

WHAT: City Soccer League (ages 3-14)

FEE: \$25 per individual (Scholarships are available.)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, August 15

SEASON BEGINS: September 15

-

Adult Sports

WHAT: Men's D League Softball (ages 18 and up)

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 29

SEASON BEGINS: September 9

Games will be played at T.S. Martin Park, 2700 Edison Street. Coaches must attend the coaches meeting on September 2 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive.

WHAT: Coed Softball (ages 18 and up)

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 29

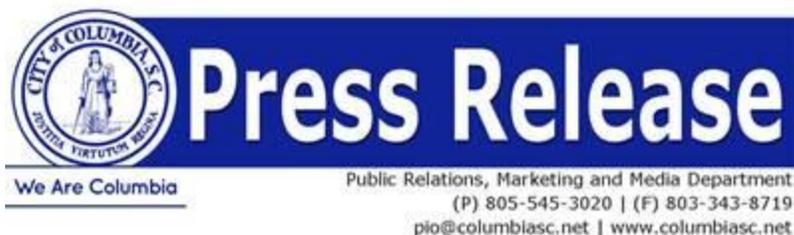
SEASON BEGINS: September 14

Games will be played on Sundays at T.S. Martin Park, 1810 Germany Street. Coaches must attend the coaches meeting on September 4 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive.

To register, please visit Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. To download a registration form, visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation.

The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100.



For Immediate Release

August 12, 2014

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

Advertisement of Vacancies for the City of Columbia Boards & Commissions

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on a variety of boards and commissions. Participation is another way city residents can take part in their government. Below is a list of boards and commissions that currently have vacancies. I strongly urge interested persons to apply.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Seeking one (1) District 1 Applicant.

The purpose of BPAC is to advise the Mayor and City Council Members, the City of Columbia transportation planning staff; community organizations; and partners on bicycling and pedestrian issues facing the city; to work toward development of bicycle/pedestrian master plan; to represent community and constituent interests in transportation planning decisions; and to provide feedback to staff on projects relating to walking and bicycling. Current appointees need to re-apply for consideration. Term - 2 years.

Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes

Seeking five (5) Applicants.

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes. *Applicants being sought must meet the following criteria: an architect, a landscape or urban planner, an attorney, and an individual involved in real estate.*

The purpose of the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes is to hear and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made the zoning administrator or the Consolidated Review Committee in the enforcement of the code when the property is governed by a form based code. Term – 3 years.

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Columbia Housing Authority

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

Responsible for the oversight of the Housing Authority and its Executive Director. Term – 5 years.

Historic Columbia Foundation

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

Historic Columbia Foundation’s mission is to nurture, support and protect the historical and cultural heritage of Columbia and its environs through programs of advocacy, education and preservation. Term – 4 years.

Parks and Recreation Foundation

Seeking two (2) Applicants.

Columbia Parks and Recreation Foundation enhances the leisure service opportunities in the City of Columbia by improving the scope and quality of educational and human development programs. It encourages, recruits, receives, and administers gifts, devises, and donations by deed, will or otherwise, for the advancement of the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department. Term – 3 years.

Planning Commission

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

The purpose of this commission is to develop and maintain a continuing planning program which will benefit City of Columbia residents; to provide a mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and address local development issues and opportunities; to foster, develop and review policies, plans and priorities in order to insure orderly growth, development, conservation and preservation; to furnish technical assistance to city government and its agents; and to review and coordinate federal, state and local programs that have an impact on the city. The Commission also advises City Council on annexations, zoning changes and approves subdivision plats/large development plans.

Term – 3 years. For more information check [here](#).

Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Seeking seven (7) Applicants for Appointment/Re-Appointment who are qualified by experience and training (i.e. architect, contractor, engineer, property manager) to pass on matters pertaining to property maintenance.

The purpose of the Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals is to hear appeals of notices or decisions issued under the International Property Maintenance Code. Term – 3 years.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than August 29, 2014, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <https://columbiasc.gov/boards-commissions> to download an application.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her August Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 from 5 p.m.— 8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

Contact: Sabrina Odom at 803-786-7232

City of Columbia and North Columbia Business Association to Host Annual Mayor's Economic Development Luncheon

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities and the North Columbia Business Association (NCBA) will host the fourth annual "Grow Your City" Mayor's Economic Development Luncheon on Friday, September 12, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 2 pm. This annual event will be held at Michael's Café and Catering in the Hampton Room, located at 1620 Main St.

Workshops for attendees will begin at 8 a.m. and this year's presenters are:

- Jason Freier, CEO of Hardball Capital
- Mel Wallace, consultant and small business advocate
- Bob Hughes, developer

The luncheon and workshops give business owners, community leaders and municipal government leaders an opportunity to showcase projects currently under development from their areas and to learn about ongoing projects in the Midlands.

Tickets for this event are \$50 and can be purchased at the NCBA office, located at 1013 Duke Ave., or by calling 803-786-7232

For more information, please visit www.northcolumbiabusinessassociation.com or call 803-786-7232.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David St.

WHEN: Monday, August 25, 2014 from 5 p.m.—8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 15, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Last Day to Register for City Soccer League

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the City Soccer League for boys and girls ages 3 to 14 through **today**.

The league is an opportunity for all youth to play, learn new skills and good sportsmanship. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available.

Register your child at any community center or at Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

The City Soccer League season begins September 15, 2014.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 15, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia to Host 2014 Back-to-School Bash on Saturday

WHAT: The 2014 Back-to-School Bash—a free event for elementary, middle and high school students—will be held **tomorrow**. The bash will feature music from recording artist Mike Jay, health screenings courtesy of Walgreens, book bag giveaways, a Health & Fitness Zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, vendors, exhibitors, face painting and more.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, August 16, from 12 to 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3100 or kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.



For Immediate Release

August 15, 2014

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Belmont

College Place

Gabel Oaks

Northwood Hills Organization

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 15, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on Monday, August 18, 2014 at 9 a.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 15, 2014

Contact: Ryan Coleman at (803) 734-2700

City of Columbia Office of Economic Development and Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce to Announce Joint Business Retention and Expansion Initiative

WHAT: The City of Columbia and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce are kicking off a new business retention and expansion initiative to show that it is a well-known fact that the foundation of a strong economic development program is built on the cornerstone of a successful and prosperous existing business community.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Chamber President and CEO Carl Blackstone, City staff, Chamber staff and business leaders.

WHERE: BB&T Building, Suite 250

1201 Main St.

Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Monday, August 18, 2014 at 11 a.m.

For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (803) 734-2700 or visit www.columbiasc.net/economic-development.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 15, 2014

Contact: Public Relations at (803) 545-3020

City Issues Statement Regarding Permits for Vehicles for Hire

The City of Columbia has issued the following statement regarding the process for issuing permits for vehicles for hire:

Currently, Columbia permits vehicles for hire compliant with the regulations found in Chapter 24 of the City's Code. The ride-sharing platform utilized by entities such as Uber and Lyft, does not comply with those regulations and as such would not be permitted in the City. We are aware that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff has filed an action with the Public Service Commission seeking to determine whether those entities would be considered a Passenger Carrier in SC with a public hearing scheduled for September 18, 2014. In the City, taxicab companies are required to be approved by the ORS and PSC before a business license can be issued. We will be unable to license ridesharing services until the PSC and ORS have made a decision on how to regulate ridesharing services and provide the companies with the approvals needed for a City business license. The City will review its Ordinances in light of any Commission determination as may be appropriate. The City wants to remind its citizens that the safety of the consumer has always been, and will continue to be, of paramount importance in any vehicle-for-hire regulation in Columbia's Code.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, August 16, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia to Host 2014 Back-to-School Bash Today

WHAT: The 2014 Back-to-School Bash — a free event for elementary, middle and high school students — will be held **today**. The bash will feature music from recording artist Mike Jay, health screenings courtesy of Walgreens, book bag giveaways, a Health & Fitness Zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, vendors, exhibitors, face painting and more.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, August 16, from 12 to 5 p.m.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 18, 2014

Contact: Ryan Coleman at (803) 734-2700

City of Columbia Office of Economic Development and Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce to Announce Joint Business Retention and Expansion Initiative

WHAT: The City of Columbia and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce are kicking off a new business retention and expansion initiative to show that it is a well-known fact that the foundation of a strong economic development program is built on the cornerstone of a successful and prosperous existing business community.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Chamber President and CEO Carl Blackstone, City staff, Chamber staff and business leaders.

WHERE: BB&T Building, Suite 250

1201 Main St.

Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Today, Monday, August 18, 2014 at 11 a.m.

For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (803) 734-2700 or visit www.columbiasc.net/economic-development.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 18, 2014

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

City of Columbia to Launch Fundraising Campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia Police Department Chief Skip Holbrook, Columbia Fire Department Chief Aubrey Jenkins and City staff.

WHAT: The City of Columbia Police Department and Columbia Fire Department will launch the sale of Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts. Mayor Benjamin, Chief Holbrook, and Chief Jenkins will all be wearing the t-shirts available for purchase. All proceeds will go to Bosom Buddies, a 501(c)3 charity that assists women who need mastectomy bras or have other needs after surgery.

WHEN: **Today**, Monday, August 18, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: City Hall (Front Steps)

1737 Main Street



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 18, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (803) 545-3045

Columbia City Council will hold a work session and a Council meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2014. The agendas are attached for your review.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 18, 2014

Contact: Ryan Coleman at (803) 734-2700

City of Columbia Office of Economic Development moves forward with “Business in Motion”

The City of Columbia’s Office of Economic Development has announced the kickoff of their “Business in Motion” program, an extension of their ongoing partnership with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce focused on the retention and expansion of existing local businesses.

“Business Retention and Expansion Programs are vital to building and maintaining a strong and viable economy in our community. The City of Columbia is committed to retaining and expanding local businesses. Through the continued growth of local businesses, our citizens will benefit from the availability of jobs and an enhanced quality of life. The long range impact of these types of programs will help to build a better financial forecast for entrepreneurs, business owners and residents not only today, but for future generations. We are all working collectively to build a brighter future for our city, our community and our region. Business retention and expansion is a prime example of the Build Columbia management model, which focuses on efficient ways to run, grow and transform our city.” -**Teresa Wilson, Columbia City Manager**

Each year, existing businesses typically account for 60-80 percent of job growth and investment in their local communities. Not only do strong business retention and expansion programs benefit the local business community, but they also provide a solid foundation for the growth of other economic development initiatives such as stronger recruiting and entrepreneurship programs.

“We are delighted to join with the City of Columbia and the Office of Economic Development to launch the newest phase of the ‘Business in Motion’ program. This program supports our overall mission to make our community one of the most economically prosperous regions in the United States. The Chamber strives to create a climate conducive to growth and development for our partners.” **-Carl Blackstone, President and CEO, Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce**

“Today, we are proud to launch a new phase of our successful existing industry program, because we understand being a world class leader in economic development begins at home - right here in our backyard - by taking care of our local business community and building strong, long lasting relationships that will lay the ground work for the economic development efforts of tomorrow. If we want to create real sustainable growth, we have to invest in local ideas, local talent and local businesses because they are the bedrock upon which all of this is built. That’s what today’s all about. That is why we’re here- because we refuse to wait for fortune to shine upon us - because leaders don’t wait for opportunity, they create it.” **–Mayor Steve Benjamin**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City Soccer League Registration Period Extended

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department has extended the registration period for City Soccer League through **Friday, August 22**.

Boys and girls ages 3 to 14 can participate in the program designed to give youth an opportunity for all to play, learn new skills and good sportsmanship. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are still available.

To register, visit any community center or Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

The City Soccer League season begins September 15, 2014.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at (803) 545-3020

Registration Open for 8th Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence

WHAT: The annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014. The walk is free and registration can be found online at www.columbisc.net. Registration is also open for team captains and exhibitors. South Carolina is currently ranked first in the nation for women killed by men and nearly one in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, domestic violence advocates and supporters.

WHERE: Finlay Park
930 Laurel St.
Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 9 a.m.

For more information, please call Public Relations, Marketing & Media at (803) 545-3020 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Contact: Sabrina Odom at 803-786-7232

City of Columbia and North Columbia Business Association to Host Annual “Grow Your City” Economic Development Luncheon

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin will host the North Columbia Business Association’s (NCBA) fourth annual “Grow Your City” Economic Development Luncheon on Friday, September 12, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 pm. This annual event will be held at Michael’s Café and Catering in the Hampton Room, located at 1620 Main St.

Workshops for attendees will begin at 9 a.m. and this year’s presenters are:

- Jason Freier, CEO of Hardball Capital
- Mel Wallace, consultant and small business advocate
- Bob Hughes, developer

The luncheon and workshops give business owners, community leaders and municipal government leaders an opportunity to showcase projects currently under development from their areas and to learn about ongoing projects in the Midlands.

Tickets for this event are \$50 and can be purchased at the NCBA office, located at 1013 Duke Ave., or by calling 803-786-7232. For more information, please visit www.northcolumbiabusinessassociation.com or call 803-786-7232.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David St.

WHEN: Monday, August 25, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Let's Move! Columbia GameDay

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia GameDay is back to offer a fun day of activities for the entire family. There will be a 3K race, field games, scavenger hunt, local dance and step teams, exhibitors and more! Attendees also have the chance to learn more about ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle. GameDay also includes a celebrity flag football game.

WHERE: Drew Wellness Center Green Space, 2101 Walker Solomon Way

WHEN: September 20, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Nonprofit health and wellness organizations interested in being an exhibitor can register for free.

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia GameDay or to register as an exhibitor, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-255-8161 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 10 a.m. Please review the attached agenda.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David St.

WHEN: Monday, August 25, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



For Immediate Release

August 22, 2014

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Belmont

College Place

Gabel Oaks

Northwood Hills Organization

Kilbourne Park

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 22, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Last Day to Register for City Soccer League

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department has extended the registration period for City Soccer League through 5 p.m. **today, August 22.**

Boys and girls ages 3 to 14 can participate in the program designed to give youth an opportunity for all to play, learn new skills and good sportsmanship. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are still available.

To register, visit any community center or Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

The City Soccer League season begins September 15, 2014.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 22, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Labor Day Weekend Concert Showcase

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department invites the public to bring their blankets, lawn chairs and dancing shoes to Finlay Park for the Labor Day Weekend Concert Showcase.

Concert Schedule

- The Terrence Young Experience-Sunday, August 31 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- The Coconut Groove Band-Monday, September 1 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Both concerts, which are free and open to the public, will be held at Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street.

For more information, please call Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 22, 2014

Contact: Tina Herbert at (803) 545-3950

City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities to Reveal New Business Loan Program

WHAT: The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will reveal a new business loan program for the downtown Main Street area. The winner of the naming contest will also be announced.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, City elected officials, OBO staff, Bourbon representatives, business and community leaders.

WHERE: Bourbon Columbia

1214 Main St.

Columbia, SC

WHEN: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 2 p.m.

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 25, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host August Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his August Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David St.

WHEN: Monday, August 25, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



For Immediate Release

August 25, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 545-3013

City Offices Closed In Observance of Labor Day

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2014, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Garbage and recyclables schedule will be as follows:

Monday: Off

Tuesday (September 2nd): Will be running Monday's Schedule

Wednesday (September 3rd): Will be running Tuesday's schedule

Thursday and Friday will remain on regular schedule.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 25, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

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For more information, please call Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 25, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Concert Series Ends with Mike Stone & the Kritikal Band

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department Summer Concert Series ends Friday, August 29, with a performance from Mike Stone & the Kritikal Band.

The event is held from 7 to 10 p.m. at Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street.

Karaoke Idol finals will be held on Friday.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. The Summer Concert Series is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 25, 2014

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

Please see the updated agenda for the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee that will meet on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 10 a.m.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 25, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 2 p.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 25, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Registration Continues for Adult Softball Leagues

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is still accepting registrations for two adult softball leagues for the fall season until Friday, August 29.

Participants in the city-wide leagues have the opportunity to play, practice good sportsmanship and expand their athletic skills.

WHAT: Men's D League Softball (ages 18 and up)

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 29

SEASON BEGINS: September 9

Games will be played at T.S. Martin Park, 1810 Germany Street. Coaches must attend the coaches meeting on September 2 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive.

WHAT: Coed Softball (ages 18 and up)

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 29

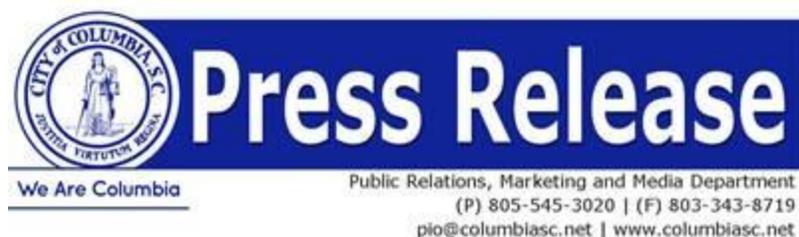
SEASON BEGINS: September 14

Games will be played on Sundays at T.S. Martin Park, 1810 Germany Street. Coaches must attend the coaches meeting on September 4 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive.

To register, please visit Parks Administration at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. To download a registration form, visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation.

The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 26, 2014

Contact: Tina Herbert at 803-545-3950

City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities Reveals “Main Street Capital” Loan Program

At a press conference, held today at Bourbon Columbia, the City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities revealed their new business loan program called “Main Street Capital...Creating More Feet on Main Street”.

“With nearly \$1 billion in new investment in less than three years and landmark successes like the Hub and Agape, there’s no doubt that something special is happening in Downtown Columbia,” says Mayor Benjamin. “This new initiative will help us take that momentum and create a critical mass of activity that raises Main Street to the next level.”

The Main Street Capital program will offer loans up to \$50,000 for new businesses locating to Main Street or existing businesses expanding on Main Street. To be eligible, businesses must be located on Main Street between Gervais Street and Elmwood Avenue. There will be special consideration given to businesses locating in the 1300-1600 blocks of Main Street.

“This program will help us continue to grow Main Street beyond the 9 to 5 crowd, and create a good atmosphere for weekends and evenings,” says Tina Herbert, executive director of the Office of Business Opportunities.

Funds may be used for exterior building improvements, interior space improvements, purchase of equipment and/or inventory and working capital. The interest rate for the loans will be the prime rate quoted in the Wall street Journal plus one. All loans will have a 10-year term. After five years, if all requirements of the program have been met, the remaining loan balance will be forgiven.

Based on the Downtown Market Analysis, The City of Columbia is seeking a particular retail mix for Main Street. Priority will be given to the following types of businesses:

- Eateries
- Apparel and accessories
- Home décor and furnishings
- Arts and culture

Applications will be accepted between September 1, 2014 and December 1, 2014 and funds will be awarded in January 2015.

Business owners interested in applying for the Main Street Capital program should contact Paul Featheringill, Business Loan Officer, at 803-545-3259 or pafeatheringill@columbiasc.net.

For more information about business loans or opportunities, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950 or visit www.columbiasc.net/obo.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin releases statement on Ethics Commission ruling

Columbia, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin released the following statement today in response to the South Carolina State Ethics Commission’s unanimous ruling that Mayor Benjamin was correct to not amend his 2010-2011 ethics filings:

“The South Carolina Ethics Commission’s unanimous decision has concluded what I have always maintained: that I complied with the law. I respect their decision and the rule of law.

“At the end of the day I’m proud of the fact that when faced with wild speculation and innuendo we stood up for the facts and, when it was over, the truth won out.

“I am deeply humbled and grateful by the support I’ve received from my family, friends and the people of Columbia as we continue to move forward in serving them and making our city the very best it can be.”



For Immediate Release

August 28, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin to host Ferguson Town Hall with Columbia Youth

Columbia, SC. –Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin announced today that he and community leaders will come together on Tuesday, September 2, for a town hall meeting with local youth to discuss the recent events in Ferguson, Missouri and what lessons we can apply here in Columbia.

“So much of what we see and hear on the news especially coming out of Ferguson is framed in terms of ‘Us against Them’ when really it’s ‘Us against Us,’” says Mayor Benjamin. “That’s the conversation we’re trying to promote here in Columbia recognizing that the challenges we face are shared and the only way we can move past them is by doing it together.”

The event, scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Eau Claire High School Auditorium (4800 Monticello Rd.), is co-sponsored by the Community Relations Council and will feature representatives from across Columbia including local law enforcement, educators and community leaders in addition to Mayor Benjamin and Richland County School District One Chairman Rev. Aaron Bishop.

“The purpose of this Town Hall is to have a courageous conversation about sustainable actions and behavior as we move forward,” says Chairman Bishop. “This tragic incident indirectly impacted the

entire nation therefore each community must responsibly move forward from the moment to a movement.”

“Ferguson isn’t a situation, it is a symptom of a systematic illness that is plaguing this nation. We as a society must come together to have some truth telling with hope that Columbia will never experience Ferguson frustration.”

"Together, we must develop strategies to respond to contentious social and political issues," Say Henri Baskins, Executive Director of the Community Relations Council. "We are pleased that Mayor Benjamin and community leaders recognize this fact and are committed to beginning discussions that will aid in finding appropriate responses to the issues facing our community. Involving our youth is a critical part of this process."

Anyone who is unable to attend but would still like to participate can submit a relevant question or comment can do so by emailing it to spjohnson@columbiasc.net or via Twitter using the hashtag #OneCity.

For more information, contact Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052.

WHAT: Ferguson Town Hall

WHEN: Tuesday, September 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Eau Claire High School Auditorium

4800 Monticello Road

Columbia, SC 29203



For Immediate Release

Thursday, August 28, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department at 803-545-3020

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).

“This is the first time that the City has been awarded the certificate since 2005,” said Jeff Palen, Chief Financial Officer. “The return of the City to receiving this award is the culmination of the work and effort of many individuals over the past five years.”

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 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the result of a collaborative effort between city leaders, management and staff working together on a common goal of fiscal responsibility. A stable financial structure is one of the main principles of the Build Columbia management concept and it is an integral part of achieving our goals as we continue to work to effectively run, grow and transform our city. I commend our staff in the Finance Department and other supporting areas on a job well done,” said City Manager Teresa Wilson.

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.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 28, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Concert Series Ends with Mike Stone & the Kritikal Band

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department Summer Concert Series ends **tomorrow, August 29**, with a performance from Mike Stone & the Kritikal Band.

The event is held from 7 to 10 p.m. at Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street.

Karaoke Idol finals will be held Friday.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. The Summer Concert Series is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Cameron Runyan to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his September Open House.

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Jim Hamilton - L.B. Owens Airport Terminal, 1400 Jim Hamilton Blvd.

WHEN: Monday, September 29, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 28, 2014

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

Advertisement of Vacancies on the Riverbanks Park Commission

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill one (1) vacancy on the Riverbanks Park Commission.

The purpose of this commission is to establish and operate “public recreation and zoo facilities” (including any botanical garden and aquarium established as a part of the zoological park).

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than September 12, 2014, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards-commissions> to download an application.



For Immediate Release

Thursday, August 28, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department at 803-545-3020

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 transformation of our city’s finances over the past five years including years of budget surplus and improved credit ratings speaks volumes about our firm commitment to fiscal discipline,” said Mayor Steve Benjamin. “I could not be more proud of our staff, our finance staff in particular, for continuing to exceed our expectations every year.”

“This is the first time that the City has been awarded the certificate since 2005,” said Jeff Palen, Chief Financial Officer. “The return of the City to receiving this award is the culmination of the work and effort of many individuals over the past five years.”

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 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the result of a collaborative effort between city leaders, management and staff working together on a common goal of fiscal responsibility. A stable financial structure is one of the main principles of the Build Columbia management concept and it is an integral part of achieving our goals as we continue to work to effectively run, grow and transform our city. I commend our staff in the Finance Department and other supporting areas on a job well done,” said City Manager Teresa Wilson.

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For Immediate Release

Friday, August 29, 2014

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2014

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

North Columbia Civic Club (Greenview)

Hampton Ridge

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, August 31, 2014

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Labor Day Weekend Concert Showcase

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department invites the public to bring their blankets, lawn chairs and dancing shoes to Finlay Park for the Labor Day Weekend Concert Showcase.

Concert Schedule

- The Terrence Young Experience-Sunday, August 31 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- The Coconut Groove Band-Monday, September 1 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Both concerts, which are free and open to the public, will be held at Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street.