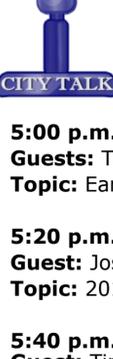


# CONNECTING COLUMBIA



April 21, 2014

## CITY TALK

Tune in to City Talk today on WGCV  
620 AM from 5 - 6 p.m. to hear:

**5:00 p.m.**

**Guests:** Tiffany A. Jaspers, Recycling Coordinator  
**Topic:** Earth Day: Recycling in the City of Columbia

**5:20 p.m.**

**Guest:** Josetra Robinson, Festival Marketing Representative  
**Topic:** 2014 Eau Claire Fest

**5:40 p.m.**

**Guest:** Tina Herbert, Office of Business Opportunities Director  
**Topic:** Upcoming Small Business Week Conference

# NEWS

## CITY OF COLUMBIA HOSTS PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS YOUTH SPORTS INITIATIVE

Mayor Steve Benjamin, elected City official, Parks and Recreation staff, players and community members gathered today at the press conference for the Youth Sports Initiative. The Youth Sports Initiative is a city-wide program designed to be meaningful and fun, most at little or no cost. The program presents opportunities for youth to learn something new, refine their skills or just meet new people.



The press conference was held at the Hyatt Park baseball field, 950 Jackson Ave., where Mayor Benjamin announced that the number of participants had doubled to over 550 kids participating in the City's Parks & Recreation Summer Youth Program.

For more information on the City's Youth Sports Initiative, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING ADOPTION SPECIALS TO COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES

During the month of April, any day that it rains adoption fees are waived for all cats and dogs that are one year or older.

This special is valid through **Wednesday, April 30**. For those who are looking to adopt and do not stop by the shelter on a rainy day, promotional code "rain check" can be used for additional discount offers.

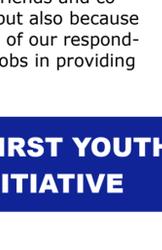
All animals are spay/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed. Canines are tested for heartworms and felines are tested for feline leukemia/aids.

The Columbia Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shelter is located at 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209 and can be reached by calling 803-776-7387.

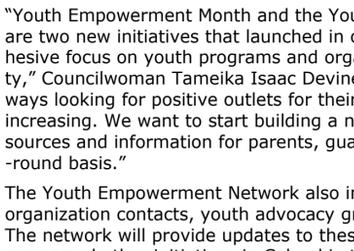
For more information or to view adoptable pets, please visit [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

## NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK 2014

Columbia-Richland Communications (CRC 911) celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 13-19. Telecommunications week, sponsored by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, and celebrated annually, honored the thousands of men and women who answer emergency and non-emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment, and render life-saving assistance to our citizens and first responders.



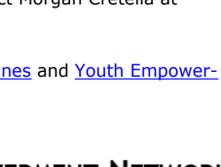
911 call takers and dispatchers across the Nation process thousands of 911 calls flawlessly every day. As citizens, they are our first connection to emergency services. They must quickly and accurately gather information from callers in every sort of crisis and emotional state, from injured to scared, to hysterical. It takes a special person to be ready and waiting day-in and day-out to help on what could be the worst day of any caller's life.



In addition to being a public safety link for our citizen callers, our 911 dispatchers provide a link to our on-scene responders as well. The safety of police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel is always forefront in the mind of a 911 dispatcher. This is not simply because they are their friends and co-workers, but also because the safety of our responders is fundamental to their ability to perform their jobs in providing service to our citizens.

## CITY OF COLUMBIA LAUNCHES FIRST YOUTH EMPOWERMENT NETWORK INITIATIVE

The City of Columbia is celebrating Youth Empowerment Month this month as part of their initiative to bring together more resources for the community's youth.



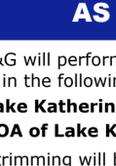
The initiative includes the creation of the Youth Empowerment Network, a cohesive resource available to youth and families that gives them access to events, activities and organizations within the community. The network includes a calendar of events for April that lists safe and fun activities for youth of all ages to enjoy. The city would like to continue this initiative through the summer months.

"Youth Empowerment Month and the Youth Empowerment Network are two new initiatives that launched in order to develop a more cohesive focus on youth programs and organizations in our community," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated. "Parents are always looking for positive outlets for their children and the needs are increasing. We want to start building a network that will provide resources and information for parents, guardians and youth on a year-round basis."

The Youth Empowerment Network also includes a database of youth organization contacts, youth advocacy group contacts and more. The network will provide updates to these youth groups about programs and other initiatives in Columbia throughout this month. The groups are also able to share information about their public events through the network.

For more information about the Youth Empowerment Month calendar or to submit information, please contact Morgan Cretella at [mocretella@columbiasc.net](mailto:mocretella@columbiasc.net).

Click the following links to view the [Guidelines](#) and [Youth Empowerment Month Calendar](#) of Events.



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT NETWORK CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2014

### April 20-30

- April 20 - Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 21 - Badges to Baseball - Greenview Park, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Fun Zone - Greenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 22 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Diamonds and Pearls Girls Mentoring Program - Hyatt Park, 7 p.m.
- Ripples of Hope Gala\* - Capital City Club, Governor's Ballroom, 6 p.m.
- City Year - Rachol Defoo, [rdefoo@cityyear.org](mailto:rdefoo@cityyear.org) or 803-727-1578
- April 23 - Fun Zone - Greenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 24 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Eastside Basketball Athletics - Greenview Park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 25 - Kids' Ceramics Class - MLK Park, 4-6 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 6 p.m.
- April 26 - Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 27 - Youth Instructional Chess - Pinohurst Park, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Double Dutch Forces - MLK Park, 4:30 p.m.
- April 28 - Badges to Baseball - Greenview Park, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Youth Chess - Hyatt Park, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Fun Zone - Greenview park, 6-8 p.m.
- April 29 - Midday College Break - MLK Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Diamonds and Pearls Girls Mentoring Program - Hyatt Park, 7 p.m.
- April 30 - Fun Zone - Greenview park, 6-8 p.m.

### May

- May 6 - Aug. 19 - Strengthening Families Program\* - Edgewood Foundation Center, Tuesdays 6 p.m.
- City Year - Rachol Defoo, [rdefoo@cityyear.org](mailto:rdefoo@cityyear.org) or 803-251-8465

\*Note: These events are not sponsored by the City of Columbia. For more information, contact the organization directly.

## 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 week:

- Lake Katherine
- POA of Lake Katherine

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 trimming of trees and other vegetation, visit [www.sceg.com/treetrimming](http://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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

## WHY GREEN IS GOOD FOR YOUR COLUMBIA BUSINESS

In honor of Earth Day, which will be recognized on **April 22**, the City's Recycling Coordinator, Tiffany Jaspers, will discuss how businesses can participate in the City's free commercial recycling program on **April 24, from 3-4p.m.** She will also talk about the City's Green Business membership and why city businesses should become a member. A free registration will be given away to the City's Green is Good for Business Conference, scheduled for September 30 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Please click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

# MEETINGS

## CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING DATE	TYPE OF MEETING	DEADLINES FOR AGENDA ITEMS
APRIL 22	BUDGET WORKSHOP / WORK SESSION / COUNCIL MEETING	APRIL 11
APRIL 29	BUDGET WORKSHOP / WORK SESSION / COUNCIL MEETING	APRIL 18

- The Columbia City Council will conduct a Budget Workshop on **Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.** at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.
- The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session on **Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.
- The Columbia City Council will conduct a meeting on **Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.
- **For more information regarding the City Council meetings, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 545-3045.**

## COMMERCIAL LOAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will meet on **Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 10 a.m.** at the Office of Business Opportunities, First Floor Conference Room, 1225 Lady Street.

# EVENTS

## IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS AT THE COLUMBIA ANIMAL SHELTER



FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, WHENEVER IT'S RAINING, \*ADULT CAT & DOG ADOPTION FEES ARE 1/2 OFF!  
\*applies to pets 1 year or older

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO WEATHER THE STORM, COME IN ANY DAY — RAIN OR SHINE — FOR ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT OFFERS  
\*MENTION PROMO CODE: "RAINCHECK"

View Our Adoptable Pets: [Petfinder](http://www.petfinder.com) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/columbiasc)

COLUMBIA HUMANE SERVICES  
127 HUMANE LANE  
COLUMBIA, SC 29209  
803-776-7387



## MAY16th2014 BIKETOWORKDAY MAY7th2014 BIKETOSCHOOLDAY



## BicycleSkillsClinic & TourdeCureMayorsBikeRide

MAY3rd2014

- free breakfast · bicycling skills
- safety obstacle course
- bicycling safety check & tune up · family bike ride

Robert Mills House, 1615 Blanding Street 9:30am

Bring your own bicycle and helmet to participate. Register at [www.columbia.org/bikerodeo](http://www.columbia.org/bikerodeo)



Sponsored By: **Regions Bank**. Presented by: American Diabetes Association, City of Columbia Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center, Safe Kids, and Palmetto Conservation Foundation.



# City Media

[www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net)



We Are Columbia

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