



Together we will build a world-class city

City of Columbia Press Releases

February 1-28, 2015

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....1-4

City’s Office of Business Opportunities to Launch Two Notch Road Façade Improvement Program.....5

Pet of the Week: Copper! (ID# A208131).....6

Community Forum hosted by Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah.....7

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center to Host Heart-Friendly Cooking Class.....8

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House.....9

Columbia Art Center to Offer Children’s Pottery Workshop.....10

“A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza”.....11

City Council Special Called Meeting Agenda.....12

Columbia Animal Services to Offer Fur-Ever Yours Adoption Specials.....13

Community Forum hosted by Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah.....14

City Extends Deadline To Submit Water Sewer Public Private Partnership Ideas.....15-16

National Wear Red Day - February 6, 2015.....17

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House.....18

Community Forum hosted by Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah.....19

Community Development to Hold “How to Purchase a House on a Budget” Workshop.....	20
National Wear Red Day - February 6, 2015.....	21
Mayor Benjamin welcomes new Mayor’s Fellows to City Hall.....	22-24
City of Columbia Mourns the Loss of Employee.....	25
City Council Agendas.....	26
Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House.....	27
Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda.....	28
“A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza”.....	29
Charles R. Drew Wellness Center to Host Heart-Friendly Cooking Class.....	30
City of Columbia and Richland School District One to Kick Off Seventh Annual “Together We Can Read” Initiative.....	31-32
Community Members Encouraged to Become Local Lifesaver Columbia Lifesavers “Hoop it Up” Blood Drive is Feb. 27.....	33-34
Pet of the Week: Sasha! (ID# A210409).....	35
Columbia Tennis Center to Offer After-school Tennis Program.....	36
City Now Accepting Applications for Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Grants.....	37
Updated City Council Agendas.....	38
City Designates Multipurpose Room at Charles R. Drew Wellness Center in Honor of Elise Jones Martin (Martin Celebrated 100th Birthday).....	39-40
Design/Development Review Commission Agenda.....	41
Community Development to Host ALL ACCESS Columbia.....	42
Registration Period Open for Adult Spring Sports.....	43-44
City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series.....	45
City of Columbia and Richland School District One to Kick Off Seventh Annual “Together We Can Read” Initiative.....	46-47
Columbia Art Center to Offer Children’s Pottery Workshop.....	48
Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House.....	49

Columbia Police Chief William Holbrook Announces CPD’s 5 year Strategic Plan.....	50
Columbia Police Chief William Holbrook Announces CPD’s 5 year Strategic Plan.....	51-52
The City of Columbia and Richland School District One Held Seventh Annual “Together We Can Read” Initiative.....	53-54
The City of Columbia and Richland School District One Held Seventh Annual “Together We Can Read” Initiative.....	55-56
SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015.....	57
City Council Agendas.....	58
“A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza”.....	59
Walking Trail at Riverfront Park Will be Closed Intermittently For Transmission Line Construction.....	60
Pet of the Week: Wolf! (ID# A196405).....	61
The City of Columbia Calls for Presenters and Vendors for the 2015 Small Business Week Conference.....	62
City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series.....	63
Registration Period Open for Adult Spring Sports.....	64-65
City Council Agendas.....	66
Community Development to Hold Start Fresh Financial Education Workshop.....	67
Art Center to Offer Spring Break Art Camp.....	68
The City’s Office of Business Opportunities to Hold Social Media Workshop for Small Businesses.....	69
Councilman Runyan to Host Open House.....	70
City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Registrations for the 2015 Senior Trips Program.....	71-73
The First Tee of Columbia Spring Golf Clinic for Children.....	74
Registration Open for City Youth Baseball and Softball Programs Baseball and Softball Expo held March 7, 2015.....	75
The City of Columbia’s 1st Go Red Walk.....	76

The City of Columbia’s 1st Go Red Fashion Show.....	77
Avoiding and Detecting Cold Weather Leaks.....	78-79
Community Development to Hold Start Fresh Financial Education Workshop.....	80
SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015.....	81-82
Go Red Walk Cancelled Due to Weather Conditions.....	83
Councilman Runyan to Host Open House.....	84
Community Garden Expo.....	85
Councilman Runyan to Host Open House.....	86
Registration Period Open for Adult Spring Sports.....	87-88
Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting Agenda.....	89
City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series.....	90
Pet of the Week: Mittens! (ID# A208459).....	91
Registration Open for City Youth Baseball and Softball Programs Baseball and Softball Expo held March 7, 2015.....	92-93
The City’s Office of Business Opportunities to Hold Social Media Workshop for Small Businesses.....	94
The City Urges Citizens to Participate in Community Needs Survey.....	95
Councilman Runyan’s Open House Cancelled.....	96
Community Members Encouraged to Become Local Lifesavers Columbia Lifesavers “Hoop it Up” Blood Drive is Feb. 27.....	97-98
The City of Columbia’s 1st Go Red Fashion Show Postponed Until March 20th.....	99
Community Garden Expo.....	100
The Real Women Workshop: There is Beauty in Our Brokenness.....	101
City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series.....	102
SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015.....	103-104
Planning Commission Meeting Agenda for March 2.....	105

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, February 2, 2015

Contact: Gerry Lynn Hall at 803-545-3381 or glhall@columbiasc.net.

City's Office of Business Opportunities to Launch Two Notch Road Façade Improvement Program

What: The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) will launch the Two Notch Road Façade Improvement Program (FIP). The FIP is a five-year, forgivable loan opportunity with funding up to \$20,000. The project cost is split, where the applicant pays 20 percent and the remaining 80 percent is paid by the City. Retail/Commercial property owners and/or their tenants are eligible to apply. Forgivable grants are also available for improvements costing under \$2,000.

When: Monday, Feb. 2, 2015 at 10 a.m.

Where: McDonald's Restaurant, 2911 Two Notch Rd.

For more information, contact Gerry Lynn Hall at 803-545-3381 or glhall@columbiasc.net.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 2, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Pet of the Week: Copper! (ID# A208131)

Copper is a two-year-old Catahoula Leopard dog mix that needs a lot of exercise. He is very calm and extremely dedicated to his owner. Copper is also neutered and microchipped. Come see if he's the pet for you!

Visit Copper and other 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.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Community Forum hosted by Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah

Who: Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah to host Community Forum.

What: Presentations and updates about City operations will be given by City Manager Teresa Wilson, Police Chief William Holbrook and City Attorney Teresa Knox.

When: Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Heathwood Park, 800 Abelia Rd.

For more information, contact Libby Gober at 803-545-3061.

###

**flyer attached*



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Media Advisory

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(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 02, 2015

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

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center to Host Heart-Friendly Cooking Class

WHAT: In honor of Heart Health Month, the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center will host a **free** cooking class on how to prepare heart-friendly meals for two. The class will be led by Ashley Raasch, a registered dietitian.

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Monday, February 9, 2015 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP, call the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 02, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House

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

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

WHEN: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 5 - 8 p.m.

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 2, 2015

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

Columbia Art Center to Offer Children's Pottery Workshop

The Columbia Art Center is offering a Pottery Workshop for Children on Saturday, February 28 for ages 5-16.

Children will be introduced to hand building and the pottery wheel in this 3-hour pottery workshop held at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

The workshop, which will be led by instructors Tim Graham and Sonia Neale, will be divided by age groups. Ages 5-9 can attend the workshop from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and ages 10-16 can attend the workshop from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

The registration fee of \$35 is due by February 14. The maximum number of students allowed for this workshop is 12.

To download a registration form, visit the [Art Center's "Workshops" page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 03, 2015

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

"A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza"

WHAT: In honor of Black History Month, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring "A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza." Celebrate the African American culture through song, dance, games and more. The event will also feature guest speakers Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers Jr., president of Voorhees College and civil rights activist, and the Honorable Bakari Sellers.

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David Street, Columbia, SC 29203

WHEN: Monday, February 16, 2015 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

COST: Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children age 12 and under. Lunch will be provided. **The deadline to purchase tickets is February 11.**

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

****Please see the attached flyer***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

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

City Council Special Called Meeting Agenda

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Special Called meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 12:45 p.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Columbia Animal Services to Offer Fur-Ever Yours Adoption Specials

What: Cats and dogs at the Columbia Animal Shelter will be offered for \$14 on Feb. 13-16. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

When: Feb. 13-16

Where: Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, South Carolina 29209

For more information, contact Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS or visit ColumbiaSC.net.

###

**flyer attached*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Community Forum hosted by Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah

Who: Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah to host Community Forum.

What: Presentations and updates about City operations will be given by City Manager Teresa Wilson, Police Chief William Holbrook and City Attorney Teresa Knox.

When: Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Heathwood Park, 800 Abelia Rd.

For more information, contact Libby Gober at 803-545-3061.

###

**flyer attached*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

City Extends Deadline To Submit Water Sewer Public Private Partnership Ideas

The City of Columbia has recently extended the deadline for proposals in its Request for Expression of Interest: Efficiency Opportunities Related to the Operation and Maintenance of Water and Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Systems, Public Private Partnership. Firms interested in the RFEI, which was issued on January 8, 2015, will have until 5:00 PM on February 23, 2015 to submit their proposals.

This RFEI was issued to solicit input and feedback from companies with significant expertise in the water and sewer industries on how the City's water and sewer system might be operated and maintained more efficiently. The City expects a wide variety of proposals, including those for system and equipment efficiencies and improvements, new opportunities based on advancing techniques or technology, process and training- related efficiencies and improvements, and offers to purchase or manage the City's water and/or wastewater utilities.

In recent years, the City has been moving forward with significant investments in its water and sewer infrastructure with particular emphasis on improving its wastewater system and reducing the number of sanitary sewer overflows the system experiences during wet weather. As a result, the City has received multiple inquiries and unsolicited proposals from firms claiming to be able to undertake these needed investments at a reduced cost to the City and its rate payers. To more systematically evaluate these claims, and to make this process as public as possible, the City has chosen to issue the RFEI.

Any effort to sell or privatize management of the City's water or sewer systems would carry significant federal and state requirements and would have to be initiated by the City's policy makers. No such action has occurred. It would also have to make sense for the City, its residents,

its businesses, its customers, and its stakeholders. Public input and transparency would be critical if such a proposal were to move forward.

Although the City anticipates receiving some RFEI proposals reflective of selling or privatizing operations, not every proposal is likely to be so complex. Simpler recommendations might include new training, equipment or techniques the City had not previously considered. These could result in future City projects through the City's traditional bidding processes.

The RFEI does not obligate the City to honor any proposal submitted nor does it limit the City to work with firms that have submitted any particular type of proposal. Firms do not need to submit an RFEI response in order to be considered for any future projects that come out of this process. The City can also reject proposals that are deemed not in the City's best interest. To find the full RFEI, current as of January 8, 2015, visit the City's Procurement Opportunities Page. Firms interested in submitting proposals should register with the City's Bid Online portal. There they can receive updates to the RFEI, addenda, and instructions for submittal.

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The Request for Expression of Interest: Efficiency Opportunities Related to the Operation and Maintenance of Water and Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Systems, Public Private Partnership can be found online at http://www.columbiasc.net/depts/purchasing/engrfi002b-14-15_efficiency_opportunities.pdf. For more information about the City's water and sewer systems, visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/utilities-engineering>. For more information on City procurement opportunities and Bid Online, visit www.columbiasc.net/purchasing/opportunities.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

National Wear Red Day - February 6, 2015

Who: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, City of Columbia officials, American Heart Association representatives and leaders from local businesses, neighborhoods and civic organizations.

What: The public is invited to recognize **National Wear Red Day** to help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. The **Go Red For Women** movement encourages awareness of this issue and action to help save lives. A press conference and community photography session will be held and both men and women are encouraged to wear red.

When: Friday, February 6, 2015 at 12 p.m.

Where: City Hall, 1737 Main Street
Council Chambers

###

*Please see the attached flyer.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 05, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House

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

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

WHEN: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 5 - 8 p.m.

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Community Forum hosted by Councilwoman Leona Plaugh and Councilman Moe Baddourah

Who: Councilwoman Leona Plaugh and Councilman Moe Baddourah to host Community Forum.

What: Presentations and updates about City operations will be given by City Manager Teresa Wilson, Police Chief William Holbrook and City Attorney Teresa Knox.

When: Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Heathwood Park, 800 Abelia Rd.

For more information, contact Libby Gober at 803-545-3061.

###

**flyer attached*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 6, 2015

Contact: Felicia Wilks at 803-545-3373

**Community Development to Hold “How to Purchase a House on a Budget”
Workshop**

Learn about the mortgage process, the benefits of homeownership and what to do after closing at Community Development’s “How to Purchase a House on Budget” Workshop.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015 from 9-11 a.m.

WHERE: Earlewood Park 1119 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29201

For more information or to register, contact Felicia Wilks at 803-545-3373.

###

**Please see attached flyer*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

National Wear Red Day - February 6, 2015

Who: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, City of Columbia officials, American Heart Association representatives and leaders from local businesses, neighborhoods and civic organizations.

What: The public is invited to recognize **National Wear Red Day** to help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. The **Go Red For Women** movement encourages awareness of this issue and action to help save lives. A press conference and community photography session will be held and both men and women are encouraged to wear red.

When: Friday, February 6, 2015 at 12 p.m.

Where: City Hall, 1737 Main Street
Council Chambers

###

*Please see the attached flyer.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, February 6, 2015

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

Mayor Benjamin welcomes new Mayor's Fellows to City Hall

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin has ten new students as fellows this semester in his Mayor's Fellows program. The fellowship, which provides both undergraduate and masters-level students the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of how a high-energy local government office operates, caters to students seeking to satisfy class credit and fulfill internship requirements or to those simply wishing to gain experience working in public service, the community and the governmental arena.

Fellows assist policy staff with research in various fields that may affect departments/agencies within the City of Columbia. The students aid in special research projects, researching current City of Columbia policy and assisting with research in specially designated areas. Fellows work directly alongside the Mayor's staff and identify best practices.

"This semester's fellows are an excellent and bright group of individuals," said Benjamin. "Their energy is contagious, and I'm looking forward to seeing all of the great work they do for our city."

The Spring 2015 Fellows are:

Ariel Cathcart (Hilton Head, South Carolina) is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in political science. A career goal of hers is working as a public service professional in a non-profit and/or government-funded organization or assisting within an urban development organization. Overall, Ariel's goal is to help people, starting within her own community and eventually reaching out to surrounding communities. Ariel believes the opportunity to be among those as Mayor's Fellows will provide her with knowledge that she is craving. By assisting policy staff with research in various fields, she will be able to identify the importance of each study. She believes she will obtain scholarly qualities within this program, and it will help her develop into the person she needs to be to reach her goals. Ariel wants to gain more experience in public service, the community and the governmental arena, and she looks

forward to capitalizing on this opportunity. During her spare time, she loves to plan trips and travel and to do arts and crafts.

Jasmine Dunlap (Rock Hill, South Carolina) is a senior at the University of South Carolina pursuing a degree in public health with a minor in social work. After graduation, Jasmine plans on pursuing a dual master's degree in public health and social work. Jasmine gained interest in the Mayor's Fellow program because she has a passion for public service and feels as if this program would give her a better opportunity to become more connected with the Columbia community. She hopes to use this internship as a way to meet new people and engage with the public, as well as get involved with a number of public health initiatives established by the City of Columbia. In her free time, Jasmine enjoys traveling, running and spending time with her family.

Lauren Harper (Fort Mill, South Carolina) is a third-year public relations major at the University of South Carolina. Her interest in the fellowship in the Mayor's office stems from her passion for writing and governmental relations, and she is looking forward to learning more about how communications works on the city level. Lauren aspires to work as a communications director or to become a publicist. At Carolina, she is involved in Student Government. In her free time, Lauren enjoys watching Food Network, working out and spending time with her friends.

Destine Janee Hicks (Orangeburg, South Carolina) is a freshman at Columbia College pursuing a degree as a double major in speech language pathology and political science with a minor in leadership. She loves public speaking, community activism and helping others. She dedicates herself to service and remaining involved in her community by paying it forward and being a role model for our youth. Destine's definition of reaching success is not by having all the money and power in the world, but by living a remarkable and impactful life. She believes that by being a Mayor's Fellow, she will get to learn as much as possible and leave an impact on others. Destine's overall goal is to touch the lives of people of all races and nationalities so that when her journey on earth is over, she will have left a positive mark on those whom she has encountered.

David Leggett (Charleston, South Carolina) is a junior in the South Carolina Honors College double majoring in economics and political science. David decided to pursue an internship in the Mayor's office after taking a class in the Honors College on city management and place making co-instructed by Mayor Benjamin. David hopes to one day work as a political staffer in Washington D.C., but he believes that every politician should begin by understanding the role of local government and the immediate needs of citizens. He believes the Mayor's Fellows program will give him an opportunity to further his understanding of public policy and local government. David has been an active member of the University of South Carolina Student Government for three years.

Venisha Pendergrass (Rock Hill, South Carolina) is a junior at the University of South Carolina pursuing a Bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business administration. Venisha looks forward to the Mayor's Fellows program to allow her to connect what she has learned in the classroom to real world experiences. She hopes to gain a better understanding of the work that happens on the local government level and

how impactful it can be on the greater community. Overall, she views the opportunity to be a comprehensive learning experience. After graduation, Venisha sees herself working on a series of political campaigns. On campus, she is involved in both Student Government and the Residence Hall Association. She spends her free time reading fiction novels.

Ari Robbins (Carmel, Indiana) is a junior who created her own major in the University of South Carolina Honors College to study urban and environmental planning. She intends to work as a consultant in the urban planning field once she has earned a Masters of urban planning from graduate school. Ari hopes her experience in the Mayor's office will give her insight into the local government side of urban development, allowing her to continue her work with Mayor Benjamin after taking his class, "Columbia: Building a Great City," in Fall 2014. In her free time, she is a DJ on USC's campus and enjoys crocheting and cooking.

Justin K. Shafer (Charleston, South Carolina) is a freshman at the University of South Carolina pursuing a triple major in international business, business management on the entrepreneurial track and marketing, as well as a double minor in Chinese and Spanish. After receiving an informative e-mail from his residential college's president regarding the Mayor's Fellowship, Justin was immediately inspired to apply. He views the fellowship as not only an opportunity to genuinely contribute to the Columbia community, but also to gain knowledge about the workings of a successful political office. While not entirely sure of his career goals, Justin currently aspires to work in the upper echelons of an international non-profit organization, or perhaps to enter into the political realm in some degree. During his leisurely pursuits, one can often find Justin working out, hiking, rock climbing or staying active in some other form with friends, as well as enjoying aspects of culture such as film, live music and food.

Darris Thomas (Dorchester County, South Carolina) is a senior at Benedict College. His major is political science with a concentration in international relations and a minor in applied computing with a track in management information. Currently, he is the Course Power Ambassador for Benedict College and the Secretary of the Benedict College Pre-Law Society. As a Mayor's Fellow, Darris hopes to gain more hands-on experience about the inner workings of city government and to be able to use his knowledge of information technology and management information in a governmental setting. His career goal is to be a judge on a major federal appeals court such as the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Mary-Stuart Tinkler (Greenwood, South Carolina) is a sophomore at Columbia College majoring in political science with a minor in leadership studies. Mary-Stuart has a passion for politics and public service and hopes that the Mayor's Fellows program will provide her with the necessary skills to be successful in the field. She heard about the Mayor's Fellows program through a peer at Columbia College who had a very rewarding experience. Mary-Stuart hopes to one day serve the state of South Carolina as a representative or senator. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, attending campus events and playing the piano.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia Mourns the Loss of Employee

Today, Friday, February 6, 2015, at approximately 11:40 a.m., an incident occurred at a work site at the intersection of Pulaski Street and College Street. The incident is currently under investigation and final details are not available at this time.

Due to the incident, one fatality has been reported. The identity of the City of Columbia employee is not being released. The Richland County Coroner will release the identity of the individual at the appropriate time.

No other injuries were reported regarding the incident.

The City of Columbia, the Columbia Police Department, the Columbia Fire Department, the Richland County Coroner's Office and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) worked collaboratively in response to this incident and they will continue that working relationship during the investigation.

The City of Columbia has provided employees with access to grief counselors and they have met with City staff to assist them during this difficult time.

"As a City of Columbia family, we deeply mourn the loss of one of our own. Today, we all worked together to support each other, while also handling all of the necessary steps required during this type of incident. Our thoughts and prayers are with the employee's family members and we ask that the community, as a whole, keep us in their thoughts during this period of bereavement," City Manager Teresa Wilson stated.

At the City Manager's request, all City of Columbia flags will be lowered to half-staff at all City facilities/buildings.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 9, 2015

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

City Council Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session at 2 p.m. and a Council Meeting/Public Hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.

###



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Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 09, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House

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

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

WHEN: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 5 - 8 p.m.

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

###



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Public Notice

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 9, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda

The Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at <http://columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes>.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 09, 2015

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

"A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza"

WHAT: In honor of Black History Month, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring "A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza." Celebrate the African American culture through song, dance, games and more. The event will also feature guest speakers Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers Jr., president of Voorhees College and civil rights activist, and the Honorable Bakari Sellers.

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David Street, Columbia, SC 29203

WHEN: Monday, February 16, 2015 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

COST: Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children age 12 and under. Lunch will be provided. **The deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, February 11.**

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 09, 2015

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

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center to Host Heart-Friendly Cooking Class

WHAT: In honor of Heart Health Month, the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center will host a **free** cooking class on how to prepare heart-friendly meals for two. The class will be led by Ashley Raasch, a registered dietitian.

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Today, February 9, 2015 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200.

****Please see the attached flyer***

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 9, 2015

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



We Are Columbia



City of Columbia and Richland School District One to Kick Off Seventh Annual "Together We Can Read" Initiative

WHAT: City of Columbia and Richland School District One will kick off their seventh annual "Together We Can Read" initiative with a press conference to announce this year's book. The citywide reading initiative will impact over 2,000 third-grade students and involve almost 100 celebrity/guest readers.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (Together We Can Read Chairperson); City Council Members and staff; Richland School District One Board Members, Interim Superintendent and staff; the author and illustrator of this year's featured book and celebrity readers.

WHERE: City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information on the "Together We Can Read" initiative, contact the Public Relations, Marketing, and Media Department at 803-545-3020.

###



We Are Columbia

Public Relations

Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department

1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-545-3020

Fax: 803-343-8719

ColumbiaSC.net



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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 9, 2015

Contact: Krystal Overmyer at 803-251-6034

Community Members Encouraged to Become Local Lifesaver

Columbia Lifesavers "Hoop it Up" Blood Drive is Feb. 27

This basketball season, Mayor Steve Benjamin, the city of Columbia and the American Red Cross invite you to join a lifesaving team by giving blood. The fifth annual Columbia Lifesavers "Hoop it Up" blood drive is 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln St.

Over the years, the Columbia Lifesavers blood drive has resulted in 1,154 pints donated, potentially helping to save the lives of 3,462 individuals.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Mayor Benjamin, the city of Columbia and the American Red Cross South Carolina Blood Services Region Board of Directors to raise awareness in the Columbia community about the need for blood," said Ryan Corcoran, Community CEO for the American Red Cross South Carolina Blood Services Region. "The Columbia Lifesavers blood drive is a wonderful opportunity for us to work together to save lives. Every pint of blood collected is a chance to help three patients in need."

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. There is no substitute. Hospitals and patients depend on the generosity of volunteer blood donors. The entire donation process takes only about an hour and in that short time, blood donors can score a potentially lifesaving three-pointer: Each donation can help save the lives up to three patients.

"Every year I'm blown away by how many people come out to participate in this wonderful initiative and we expect this year to be better than ever," Mayor Benjamin said. "This event helps save lives because every two seconds someone needs blood somewhere in America. There's only one place to get it: volunteers like you."

All presenting donors will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, a basketball stress reliever and a bag of Starbucks coffee, while supplies last.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code **famouslyhot**.

Items and offers are nontransferable and are not redeemable for cash.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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**See flyer attached.*



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 9, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Pet of the Week: Sasha! (ID# A210409)

Sasha is a nine-month-old domestic short hair cat. She is very relaxed and extremely loyal. Sasha is also spayed and microchipped. Visit her today to see if she's the pet for you!

Cats and dogs at the Columbia Animal Shelter will be offered for \$14 on Feb. 13-16. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming. Visit columbiasc.net for more information.

Visit Sasha and other 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.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo and Fur-Ever Yours flyer*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, February 9, 2015

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

Columbia Tennis Center to Offer After-school Tennis Program

The [Columbia Tennis Center](#) will host an after-school tennis program for children ages 7-14 beginning Tuesday, February 10 from 4-6 p.m.

Participants will learn basic tennis skills in this 5-week program held at the tennis center located at 1635 Whaley Street.

The classes will occur on Tuesday and Wednesday on the following days: February 10-11; February 17-18; March 3-4; March 10-11; and March 17-18. Make-up Week (if necessary): March 24-25.

Beginners are urged to take the 4-5 p.m. session, while those with more experience should take the 5-6 p.m. session.

The fee to register is \$50. To register, please visit the Columbia Tennis Center. Space is limited.

For more information, please contact Jordan Muse at 803-733-8440.

###



For Immediate Release

February 9, 2015

Contact: Dee Dee Fanning at 545-3048

City Now Accepting Applications for Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Grants

The City of Columbia is now accepting applications for the following Tax Grants:

Accommodations Tax Grants (Due March 13, 2015) provide financial support to non-profit organizations and their projects/events whose mission is to attract tourists by promoting overnight accommodations in the City of Columbia. To be eligible, your organization must be a nonprofit with documentation from the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office, with activities in the City of Columbia.

Hospitality Tax Grants (Due March 27, 2015) provide financial support to non-profit organizations and their projects/events whose mission is to attract tourists by promoting dining in the City of Columbia. To be eligible, your organization must be a nonprofit with documentation from the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office, with activities in the City of Columbia.

There is no funding available for Community Promotions Grants at this time.

For more information, guidelines, and applications visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/grants/offered>.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 9, 2015

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

Updated City Council Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session at 2 p.m. and a Council Meeting/Public Hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. The updated agendas are attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 09, 2015

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

City Designates Multipurpose Room at Charles R. Drew Wellness Center in Honor of Elise Jones Martin

Martin Celebrated 100th Birthday

Columbia City Council members announced that the multipurpose room at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center has been dedicated in honor of Mrs. Elise Jones Martin, an entrepreneur and a trailblazer, who operated a beauty salon in Columbia's thriving African American business corridor.

The dedication was held on Saturday, February 7 during Mrs. Martin's 100th birthday celebration.

City Council will acknowledge the designation **tomorrow**, February 10, 2015 at a regular meeting beginning at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street (Council Chambers-3rd Floor).

In addition to running her own business, Mrs. Martin furthered her education at Allen University, Benedict College and South Carolina State University. She went on to teach cosmetology at Booker T. Washington High School and later became the first African American woman to open a business on Columbia's Main Street.

Throughout her life, she worked on behalf of building strong communities. In the 1960s, her mother organized the Jones-McDonald Club to ensure neighbors took an active part in maintaining their neighborhood. After her mother passed away, Mrs. Martin carried on the tradition for many years. While in her 80s, Mrs. Martin visited her new neighbors to encourage them to join the neighborhood organization. Through her influence, the organization grew and went on to publish a newsletter and host an annual Easter brunch, that includes the participation of local elected officials, community representatives and faith leaders.

Mrs. Martin was also instrumental in providing community input for a Hope VI project that revitalized a former housing complex in Columbia. She then took her passion for building strong communities with her into public service. Mrs. Martin was a member of the Columbia Zoning Board for a number of years, serving until her late 80s. She was also an active member of Keep America Beautiful of the Midlands. Mrs. Martin also served on a special committee that played a formative role in the development and construction of Drew Wellness Center. Her vision and foresight as a community leader has been invaluable and her priority was to always represent the interests of the residents in her neighborhood and throughout Columbia. Due to Mrs. Martin's commitment and devotion to her neighborhood, the City of Columbia dedicated the Elise Jones Martin Place in her honor, a development that brought new homes to the community.

She performed another community service by heading her voting precinct for more than 30 years. While working at the polls during the 2008 Presidential primary, she had the honor of meeting then Senator Barack Obama.

She has been an active member of Bethel AME Church since arriving in Columbia in the 1930s, where she has served on the Board of Education, Steward Board, and the gospel choir. She is a recipient of the Queen Esther Award, which is one of the highest honors for women at Bethel.

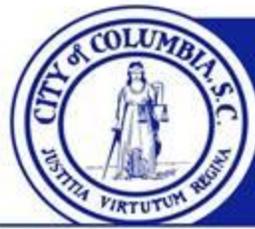
Her affiliations and memberships include: Board of Directors of the Drew Park, Renaissance Foundation Board, James E. Clyburn Golf Center Board, City Lighting Committee, City of Columbia Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development, several neighborhood crime prevention programs and the W.A. Perry Middle School support group.

Mrs. Martin received numerous awards for her service including recognition by the Columbia City Council, the American Cancer Society, the Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and Richland County School District One.

###

****Please see the attached photos***

Photo caption: L:R Councilwoman Leona Plough, Councilman Brian Newman, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (Center) Mrs. Elise Jones Martin



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Public Notice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

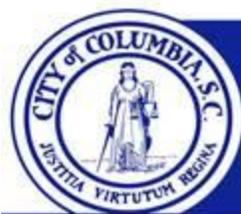
Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

Design/Development Review Commission Agenda

The Design/Development Review Commission will conduct a meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 4 p.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/ddrc/agendas-minutes>.

###



We Are Columbia

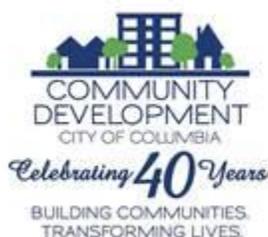
Press Release

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 (P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
 pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373



Community Development to Host ALL ACCESS Columbia

Learn about neighborhood leadership, financial literacy and homeownership at Community Development's ALL ACCESS Columbia workshop on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Alcorn Middle School, 5125 Fairfield Road.

The purpose of All Access Columbia is to provide important resources to Columbia citizens to help build an overall sense of community. Attendees will learn ways to improve the quality of life for their neighborhood, skills on budget management and financial literacy and benefits of homeownership and home improvements tips. Additionally, two financial classes will be offered for youth. This year's classes include:

- Neighborhood Fundraising
- Crime Prevention (Gang Violence)
- Creating Cash on a Budget
- Teenagers and Money (Grades 7 to 12)
- Climbing the Money Tree (Grades 1 to 6)
- Rookie Home Buyer
- Greenery Aesthetics

The workshop is free but registration is required. The deadline to register is **Wednesday, March 2, 2015 at 5 p.m.** There will be chances to win door prizes and refreshments will be offered.

Click [here](#) to register.

For more information, contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

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

Registration Period Open for Adult Spring Sports

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for Spring Adult Sports in softball and kickball. Participants age 18 and over have the opportunity to play, practice good sportsmanship and expand their athletic skills in these city-wide leagues.

Registrations are as follow:

Adult Softball for Men's D League, Coed League and Restaurant Coed League

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 27

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 10

COACHES MEETING: On March 3 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, at the following times: Men's, 6:30 p.m.; Coed, 7 p.m.; and Restaurant, 7:30 p.m.

Games for the **Men's D League** will be held on Tuesday nights.

Games for the **Coed League** will be held on Sundays.

Games for the **Restaurant Coed League** will be held on Wednesdays

Adult Coed Kickball League

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 27

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 16

Games will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights.

There will be 10 officiated games and game balls will be provided.

Adult Low League Softball

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 6

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 17

COACHES MEETING: There will be a coaches meeting on March 17 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center.

Games will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights

To download a registration form, visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Athletics" page online](#). Registration forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive.

The registration form and payment must be returned to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or email cetaylor@columbiasc.net.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting submissions for the 24th Summer Concert Series in Finlay Park. Concerts will be held during the months of June, July and August.

The department is seeking bands that have a diverse music repertoire. Interested bands are asked to provide an electronic media kit, which should include a recent photograph of the band, and sample music and video of the band performing. The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2015.

Email an electronic press kit to Kim Mitchell at kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

Press kits can be mailed to:

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

Attn: Kim Mitchell (Summer Concert Series)

1111 Parkside Dr.

Columbia, SC 29203

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

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



City of Columbia and Richland School District One to Kick Off Seventh Annual "Together We Can Read" Initiative

- WHAT:** City of Columbia and Richland School District One will kick off their seventh annual "Together We Can Read" initiative with a press conference to announce this year's book. The citywide reading initiative will impact over 2,000 third-grade students and involve more than 100 celebrity/guest readers.
- WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (Together We Can Read Chairperson); City Council Members and staff; Richland School District One Board Members, Interim Superintendent and staff; the author and illustrator of this year's featured book and celebrity readers.
- WHERE:** City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main St.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information on the "Together We Can Read" initiative, contact the Public Relations, Marketing, and Media Department at 803-545-3020.

###



We Are Columbia

Public Relations

Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department

1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-545-3020

Fax: 803-343-8719

ColumbiaSC.net



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Press Release

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

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

Columbia Art Center to Offer Children's Pottery Workshop

The Columbia Art Center is offering a Pottery Workshop for Children on Saturday, February 28 for ages 5-16.

Children will be introduced to hand building and the pottery wheel in this 3-hour pottery workshop held at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

The workshop, which will be led by instructors Tim Graham and Sonia Neale, will be divided by age groups. Ages 5-9 can attend the workshop from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and ages 10-16 can attend the workshop from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

The registration fee of \$35 is due by February 14. The maximum number of students allowed for this workshop is 12.

To download a registration form, visit the [Art Center's "Workshops" page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House

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

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

WHEN: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 5 - 8 p.m.

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

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 11, 2015

Contact: Columbia Police Department at 803-545-3500

Columbia Police Chief William Holbrook Announces CPD's 5 year Strategic Plan

Columbia Police Chief William Holbrook announced the completion of the Columbia Police Department's 5 year Strategic Plan. The CPD 2015-2019 Strategic Plan sets forth the direction of the Police Department for the next five (5) years. Included in the plan is an outline of some of the challenges and opportunities currently before the department. The goals outlined in the plan are focused on four key areas:

1. Staffing and Facilities
2. Professional Development
3. Policing
4. Equipment and Technology

The goals and strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan will provide the direction and support for the necessary growth and advancement of the Columbia Police Department.

To view and/or download the CPD Strategic Plan, visit www.ColumbiaSC.net or www.ColumbiaPD.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

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

Columbia City Council Presented With Let's Move! Gold Medalist Banner

Columbia City Council was presented with the Let's Move! Gold Medalist banner from the National League of Cities at its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

The banner will hang on the Laurel Street side of City Hall beginning in March.

The City of Columbia was recognized at the National League of Cities' (NLC) annual conference in Austin, Texas for achieving gold medals in all five *Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties* (LMCTC) goal areas—the highest distinction a community can receive.

Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC) is a major component of First Lady Michelle Obama's comprehensive *Let's Move!* initiative which is dedicated to solving the childhood obesity epidemic within a generation.

Medals are awarded to local elected officials based on achievements in each of the following five goal areas:

- **Goal I: *Start Early, Start Smart*:** Promoting best practices for nutrition, physical activity, and screen time in early care and education settings
- **Goal II: *My Plate, Your Place*:** Prominently displaying MyPlate in all municipal or county venues where food is served
- **Goal III: *Smart Servings for Students*:** Expanding access to meal programs before, during and after the school day, and/or over summer months.
- **Goal IV: *Model Food Service*:** Implementing healthy and sustainable food service guidelines that are aligned with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*
- **Goal V: *Active Kids at Play*:** Increasing opportunities for physical activity

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine was also presented with an award for her dedication to Let's Move! Columbia and to improving the health of citizens in the City of Columbia.

At its annual conference in Austin, the National League of Cities recognized Councilwoman Devine in the "Most Dedicated Local Elected Official Award" category.

The City of Columbia is among an elite group of 24 cities and counties out of approximately 500 cities, town and counties across the nation that have earned five gold medals as a result of their leadership and dedication to ending childhood obesity and improving the health of their residents.

###

****Please see the attached photo***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 12, 2015

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



The City of Columbia and Richland School District One Held Seventh Annual "Together We Can Read" Initiative

The City of Columbia and Richland School District One held their seventh annual "Together We Can Read" reading blitz on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 at 9 a.m. All third grade classes across Richland School District One participated.

"Together We Can Read" is a reading day program that encourages children to read and brings community leaders into the classrooms. More than one hundred community leaders from across Columbia read to 2,000 third-grade students.

"Bringing together government, business and neighborhood leaders from across Columbia to read to young students, Together We Can Read speaks volumes about our community's commitment to our children," said Mayor Steve Benjamin. "It's a wonderful program and we're proud to support it year after year."

Studies show that children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are more likely to drop out of school. Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine spearheaded the "Together We Can Read" initiative after reading to a classroom of students with a group of other local leaders.

"In order to build a strong foundation, one must start with stable building blocks. This example applies to education as well. In order to prepare students for a successful academic journey, we must start early by giving them the tools they need to excel. Reading is one of those fundamental tools," Councilwoman Devine commented.

This year's book was "First, You Explore: The Story of the Young Charles Townes" written by Rachel Haynie and illustrated by Trahern Cook. Both the author and the illustrator participated in the initiative.

For additional information please contact the Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department at 803-545-3020.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 12, 2015

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



The City of Columbia and Richland School District One Held Seventh Annual "Together We Can Read" Initiative

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"In order to build a strong foundation, one must start with stable building blocks. This example applies to education as well. In order to prepare students for a successful academic journey, we must start early by giving them the tools they need to excel. Reading is one of those fundamental tools," Councilwoman Devine commented.

This year's book was "First, You Explore: The Story of the Young Charles Townes" written by Rachel Haynie and illustrated by Trahern Cook. Both the author and the illustrator participated in the initiative.

For additional information please contact the Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department at 803-545-3020.

###



For Immediate Release

February 13, 2015

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

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

Arsenal Hill
Elmwood Park
Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

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](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



We Are Columbia

Public Notice

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

City Council Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session at 2 p.m. and a Council Meeting/Public Hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

"A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza"

WHAT: In honor of Black History Month, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring "A Celebration of Heritage from Generation to Generation: A Black History Extravaganza." Celebrate the African American culture through song, dance, games and more. The event will also feature guest speakers Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers Jr., president of Voorhees College and civil rights activist, and the Honorable Bakari Sellers.

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David Street, Columbia, SC 29203

WHEN: Today, February 16, 2015 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

COST: Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children age 12 and under. Lunch will be provided. **A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.**

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

Walking Trail at Riverfront Park Will be Closed Intermittently For Transmission Line Construction

The Riverfront Park walking trail located just below the Broad River Road Bridge will be closed intermittently beginning at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 due to construction of a new overhead electrical transmission line to the SCE&G Lyles Substation.

In order to ensure the safety of pedestrians, sections of the walking trail will require intermittent closures.

Riverfront Park will remain open throughout the period of construction.

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 16, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Pet of the Week: Wolf! (ID# A196405)

Wolf is a two-year-old German Australian Shepherd mix. He is caring and extremely intelligent. Wolf is also neutered and microchipped. Come see if he's the pet you've been looking for!

Visit Wolf and other 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.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

The City of Columbia Calls for Presenters and Vendors for the 2015 Small Business Week Conference

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities is taking applications for presenters for the 2015 Small Business Week Conference on May 5-6, 2015. Potential presenters can include small business owners, contractors, manufacturers, retailers and firms. The deadline to apply is **Monday, March 2, 2015 at 5 p.m.**

The Office of Business Opportunities also invites businesses to serve as vendors at the 2015 Small Business Week Conference. Vendors will get a table to display their goods and services and tickets to the two-day event.

The Small Business Week Conference is an opportunity for local businesses both small and large to network with other business owners, city and county officials and subject-matter experts. To register for the 2015 Small Business Week Conference, click [here](#).

To apply to be a presenter or a vendor, visit www.columbiasc.net/obo or call 803-545-3950.

###

**Please see flyer attached.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting submissions for the 24th Summer Concert Series in Finlay Park. Concerts will be held during the months of June, July and August.

The department is seeking bands that have a diverse music repertoire. Interested bands are asked to provide an electronic media kit, which should include a recent photograph of the band, and sample music and video of the band performing. **The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2015.**

Email an electronic press kit to Kim Mitchell at kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

Press kits can be mailed to:

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

Attn: Kim Mitchell (Summer Concert Series)

1111 Parkside Dr.

Columbia, SC 29203

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

Registration Period Open for Adult Spring Sports

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for Spring Adult Sports in softball and kickball. Participants age 18 and over have the opportunity to play, practice good sportsmanship and expand their athletic skills in these city-wide leagues.

Registrations are as follow:

Adult Softball for Men's D League, Coed League and Restaurant Coed League

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 27

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 10

COACHES MEETING: On March 3 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, at the following times: Men's, 6:30 p.m.; Coed, 7 p.m.; and Restaurant, 7:30 p.m.

Games for the **Men's D League** will be held on Tuesday nights.

Games for the **Coed League** will be held on Sundays.

Games for the **Restaurant Coed League** will be held on Wednesdays

Adult Coed Kickball League

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 27

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 16

Games will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights.

There will be 10 officiated games and game balls will be provided.

Adult Law League Softball

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 6

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 17

COACHES MEETING: There will be a coaches meeting on March 17 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center.

Games will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights

To download a registration form, visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Athletics" page online](#). Registration forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive.

The registration form and payment must be returned to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or email cetaylor@columbiasc.net.

###



We Are Columbia

Public Notice

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

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

City Council Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session at 2 p.m. and a Council Meeting/Public Hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The revised agendas are attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Contact: Ron King at (803) 545-0280

Community Development to Hold Start Fresh Financial Education Workshop

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

WHERE: Richland Library, 1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC

WHEN: Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

An additional workshop will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. at 1225 Lady Street on Saturday, March 21, 2015

For more information or to register, call 803.545.0280 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see attached flyer***



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

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

Art Center to Offer Spring Break Art Camp

The Columbia Art Center is offering a 4-day multimedia visual art camp for children ages 6-12 from March 30-April 2.

The Spring Break Art Camp will include lessons on pottery, drawing and painting, and recycle art. **All materials are included in the registration fee of \$60.**

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street.

The deadline to register is March 15. The camp size is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

To download a registration form, visit the [City of Columbia Parks and Recreation's Cultural Arts page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

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

The City's Office of Business Opportunities to Hold Social Media Workshop for Small Businesses

The Office of Business Opportunities, in partnership with ECI-Find New Markets, is holding a social media workshop for small businesses on Thursday, February 26 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1301 Gervais Street. Registration is required.

The training is designed to teach small businesses strategies and tactics for social media sites including Twitter, Google+, Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr and LinkedIn to better serve their businesses. An additional workshop will be held on Thursday, March 19.

The cost to register is \$10. To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

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

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Woodland Park
6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: Monday, February 23, 2015 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Registrations for the 2015 Senior Trips Program

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the 2015 Senior Trips program.

Adults age 50 and older can travel by charter bus to several locations throughout the year. The charter bus departs from the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204.

Registrations should be submitted **no later than three weeks in advance** of the day of the trip, unless otherwise noted. Early registration is advised.

Trips are as follows:

Cherokee Indian Casino

WHEN: 6 a.m.-9 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2015 and Wednesday, June 17, 2015

FEE: \$34

INFO: This single-day trip includes charter bus transportation, gaming credit and a meal voucher.

Savannah, Georgia

WHEN: Tuesday, April 28

FEE: \$74

INFO: Take in the beauty of springtime in this historic Southern city. The one-day trip includes a 90-minute trolley tour of the Historic District and a one-hour Riverboat cruise. Time will be set aside to enjoy the downtown area on your own. The fee includes charter bus transportation, trolley tour and river cruise. Meals are not included in the cost of the trip.

Washington, DC

WHEN: Friday, July 17-Tuesday, July 21, 2015

FEE: \$369 per person, double occupancy

INFO: Visit the nation's capital to see a variety of local attractions including the U.S. Capitol, the Smithsonian and the Arlington National Cemetery. A tour of the White

House will be held depending on availability or lottery system. A \$50 deposit is required. Payments are accepted.

Fee due by May 27, 2015

Apple picking in Hendersonville, NC

WHEN: Tuesday, September 15, 2015

FEE: \$34 (does not include cost of meal at local restaurant)

INFO: Pick apples in Hendersonville, NC, and visit the North Carolina State Farmer's Market during this one-day trip.

Senior Beach Retreat (Sponsored by the S.C. Recreation and Parks Association)

WHEN: Monday, September 28, 2015-Thursday, October 1, 2015

FEE: Fee based on room occupancy

INFO: Join us for four days of fellowship, fun and relaxation at the Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach. The fee includes transportation, lodging, meals and activities.

Registration due by July 31, 2015.

Western North Carolina

WHEN: Tuesday, October 13, 2015-Thursday, October 15, 2015

FEE: \$265 per person, double occupancy

INFO: Spend two nights at the Cherokee Indian Casino, take a half-day trip on the Great Smokey Mountain Railroad and sift through a bucket of rocks to find hidden gems (rubies, sapphires, emeralds and more) during this three-day excursion. The fee includes price of charter bus, two nights of lodging, train tickets, and a bucket of rocks/gems. Meals are not included. A \$50 deposit is required to reserve your space.

Full payment is due by September 1, 2015.

Charlotte Christmas Show

WHEN: Tuesday, November 17, 2015

FEE: \$17

INFO: Get a jumpstart on your Christmas shopping at the 12 Days of Christmas show held at The Park Expo and Conference Center in downtown Charlotte, NC.

Myrtle Beach Holiday Show

WHEN: Tuesday, December 8, 2015

FEE: \$75 per person

INFO: Enjoy the holidays with a Christmas musical experience at The Carolina Opry Theater. The fee includes price for charter bus, tickets to the matinee show and dinner at a local restaurant. **Registrations are due by November 1, 2015.**

The trip fee includes transportation and admission fees. Unless otherwise noted, meals are considered an extra fee and the responsibility of the participant. Full payment is required at the time of registration. Partial payments are accepted only for multi-day trips (Washington, DC, Western North Carolina and the Senior Beach Retreat).

To download a registration form, please visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Trips" page online](#). Registration forms are available at all City recreation centers and at the Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Registrations can be made in person at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office. Registrations can be mailed to the Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office.

For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email jmsorensen@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

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

The First Tee of Columbia Spring Golf Clinic for Children

The First Tee of Columbia at the James E. Clyburn Golf Center will hold a Spring Golf Clinic for children ages 5-17. The golf center is located at 2091 Slighs Avenue.

Coaches will introduce participants to the game of golf through The First Tee curriculum. Coaches will teach participants golf skills, the rules of the game and etiquette while reinforcing The Nine Core Values such as Sportsmanship, Honesty and Responsibility.

Registration information

WHAT: Peewees

WHEN: Thursdays from 5:15-6:15 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

AGES: 5-6

FEE: \$15

WHAT: Player/Par

WHEN: Wednesdays from 5:15-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

AGES: 7-17

FEE: \$35

No equipment is needed. Financial scholarships are available for those who qualify and the golf center is offering a sibling discount.

The deadline to register is Friday, March 6, 2015.

For more information, please contact the James E. Clyburn Golf Center at 803-255-8920 or visit www.TheFirstTeeColumbia.org.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

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

**Registration Open for City Youth Baseball and Softball Programs
Baseball and Softball Expo held March 7, 2015**

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's **Youth Baseball and Girls Softball Program** is underway.

Boys and girls ages 9-14 can participate in the program. Age levels are: 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is March 7, 2015. The Youth Baseball and Girls Softball season begins April 6, 2015. Games will be played at the following parks: Greenview, Hyatt, Lorick, Pinehurst, King, Earlewood and Valencia. (Locations are subject to change.)

The Parks & Recreation Department is also hosting a **Baseball and Softball Expo** on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 12-4 p.m. The expo will feature games, player and coaches clinics, giveaways, guest speakers including Tampa Bay Rays Nick Ciuffo and more. **Volunteer coaches are needed for this year's baseball and softball program.** If interested in being a coach, please call 803-545-3100.

Registration for **City Sluggers**, the Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth baseball program, is now open for boys and girls ages 4-8.

The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn baseball fundamentals. [Children ages 4-6 (T-ball) and children ages 7 and 8 (Coaches Pitch)].

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is March 7, 2015. League play begins April 6, 2015.

To download a registration form, [click here](#).

Registration forms are also available at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

For more information, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email sariley@columbiasc.net.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

The City of Columbia's 1st Go Red Walk

WHAT: The City of Columbia will hold the inaugural Go Red Walk. Join us for the Go Red Walk in support of American Heart Month. This is a free event and it is open to the public. All walkers will also have access to free blood pressure screenings and free Body Mass Index (BMI) on site at the event.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine is the host and this event is free to everyone who would like to participate.

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street, is the hub and staging area for the walk. All participants will walk, along Main Street, from City Hall to the State House and then return to City Hall, along Sumter Street.

WHEN: Friday, February 20, 2015 at 12 p.m.

For more information visit columbiasc.net or call Public Relations at 803- 545-3020.

###

*Please see the attached flyer.



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

The City of Columbia's 1st Go Red Fashion Show

WHAT: The City of Columbia to host inaugural Go Red Fashion Show. Help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women, at the Go Red Fashion Show. A majority of the proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine is the host for this event. The fashion show will also feature celebrity models, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors. The grand finale will feature fashions by Sergio Hudson, a nationally renowned designer and winner of "Styled to Rock".

WHERE: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street.

WHEN: Friday, February 27, 2015 at 6 p.m.

For more information visit columbiasc.net or call Public Relations at 803- 545-3020.

###

*Please see the attached flyer.



For Immediate Release

February 19, 2015

Contact: Victoria Kramer at 545-3227

Avoiding and Detecting Cold Weather Leaks

Columbia, SC –With temperatures likely to dip below freezing this evening, the City of Columbia reminds its water customers to take precautions to protect your pipes.

Inside:

- Leave your faucets dripping.

Outside:

- Disconnect any hoses or lines from your outside spigots.
- Turn OFF all outside spigots.
- Cover all outside spigots with blankets or insulated covers. These covers can be found at most hardware stores.

If you believe you have a leak, check for it as soon as you can to minimize water loss. One way to detect a leak is to turn off all spigots then check to see if your water meter is still running. If it is, you may have a leak. For more plumbing tips, visit <http://www.columbiasc.gov/customer-care/utility-billing/plumbing-tips/>.

If you have had a leak or other plumbing problem, you may be eligible for a charge reduction on your bill after you have fixed it. To find out more about qualifying for this assistance program, visit <http://www.columbiasc.gov/customer-care/utility-billing/plumbing-adjustments> or call (803) 545-3300.

By taking these few simple steps, you may be able to prevent the hassle and mess of a broken water line at home!

###

Please contact the City of Columbia Department of Utilities and Engineering at 545-3400 or Victoria Kramer (vlkramer@columbiasc.net) at 545-3227 if you have questions. If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's Customer Care Center, visit columbiasc.gov/customer-care. If you would like to learn more about City of Columbia Department of Utilities and Engineering, visit columbiasc.gov/utilities-engineering.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, February 20, 2015

Contact: Ron King at (803) 545-0280

Community Development to Hold Start Fresh Financial Education Workshop

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

WHERE: 1225 Lady Street, Columbia, SC, 29201

WHEN: Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 9-11:30 a.m.

An additional workshop will be held from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Richland Library, 1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC on Saturday, March 21, 2015.

For more information or to register, call 803.545.0280 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see attached flyer***



For Immediate Release

February 20, 2015

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

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

Arsenal Hill
Elmwood Park
Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

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](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 20, 2015

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

Go Red Walk Cancelled Due to Weather Conditions

The City of Columbia's Go Red Walk that was scheduled for today at noon has been cancelled due to weather conditions.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House

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

WHO: Councilman Cameron Runyan

WHERE: Woodland Park
6500 Olde Knight Parkway

WHEN: Monday, February 23, 2015 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 20, 2015

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

Community Garden Expo

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and the Columbia Sertoma Club have partnered to sponsor a city-wide Community Garden Expo. The expo will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center.

The public is invited to attend this **FREE** informative and hands-on gardening experience that will feature seminars, demonstrations, vendors and exhibitors, and more. Garden experts such as Ed Brogden of Back to Eden will provide information on the economic, health and social benefits of community gardening.

Garden vendors and exhibitors can register for a table for \$30. **The deadline to register is Friday, February 27, 2015.**

WHAT: Community Garden Expo

WHEN: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2015

WHERE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29205

FEE: Free to the public; \$30 for vendors and exhibitors

For more information about the Community Garden Expo or the City's [Community Gardens Program](#), please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, February 23, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan to Host Open House**WHAT:** City Councilman Cameron Runyan will host his February Open House.**WHO:** Councilman Cameron Runyan**WHERE:** Woodland Park
6500 Olde Knight Parkway**WHEN:** Monday, February 23, 2015 from 5 - 7 p.m.

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

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 23, 2015

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

Registration Period Open for Adult Spring Sports

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for Spring Adult Sports in softball and kickball. Participants age 18 and over have the opportunity to play, practice good sportsmanship and expand their athletic skills in these city-wide leagues.

Registrations are as follow:

Adult Softball for Men's D League, Coed League and Restaurant Coed League

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 27

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 10

COACHES MEETING: On March 3 at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, at the following times: Men's, 6:30 p.m.; Coed, 7 p.m.; and Restaurant, 7:30 p.m.

Games for the **Men's D League** will be held on Tuesday nights.

Games for the **Coed League** will be held on Sundays.

Games for the **Restaurant Coed League** will be held on Wednesdays

Adult Coed Kickball League

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 27

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 16

Games will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights.

There will be 10 officiated games and game balls will be provided.

Adult Low League Softball

FEE: \$300 per team

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 6

SEASON BEGINS: Games start the week of March 17

COACHES MEETING: There will be a coaches meeting on March 17 at 6 p.m. at Earlewood Park Community Center.

Games will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights

To download a registration form, visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's "Athletics" page online](#). Registration forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive.

The registration form and payment must be returned to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100 or email cetaylor@columbiasc.net.

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We Are Columbia

Public Notice

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 23, 2015

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

Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting Agenda

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will conduct a meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 23, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting submissions for the 24th Summer Concert Series in Finlay Park. Concerts will be held during the months of June, July and August.

The department is seeking bands that have a diverse music repertoire. Interested bands are asked to provide an electronic media kit, which should include a recent photograph of the band, and sample music and video of the band performing. **The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2015.**

Email an electronic press kit to Kim Mitchell at kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

Press kits can be mailed to:

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

Attn: Kim Mitchell (Summer Concert Series)

1111 Parkside Dr.

Columbia, SC 29203

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 23, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Pet of the Week: Mittens! (ID# A208459)

Looking for a pet? Mittens may be the one for you! Mittens is a two-year-old domestic shorthair cat. He is quiet and makes a great companion. Mittens is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Mittens and other 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.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 23, 2015

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

**Registration Open for City Youth Baseball and Softball Programs
Baseball and Softball Expo held March 7, 2015**

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's **Youth Baseball and Girls Softball Program** is underway.

Boys and girls ages 9-14 can participate in the program. Age levels are: 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is March 7, 2015. The Youth Baseball and Girls Softball season begins April 6, 2015. Games will be played at the following parks: Greenview, Hyatt, Lorick, Pinehurst, King, Earlewood and Valencia. (Locations are subject to change.)

The Parks & Recreation Department is also hosting a **Baseball and Softball Expo** on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 12-4 p.m. at Greenview Park, 6700 David Street. The expo will feature games, player and coaches clinics, giveaways, guest speakers including Tampa Bay Rays Nick Ciuffo and more. **Volunteer coaches are needed for this year's baseball and softball program.** If interested in being a coach, please call 803-545-3100.

Registration for **City Sluggers**, the Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth baseball program, is now open for boys and girls ages 4-8.

The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn baseball fundamentals. [Children ages 4-6 (T-ball) and children ages 7 and 8 (Coaches Pitch)].

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is March 7, 2015. League play begins April 6, 2015.

To download a registration form, [click here](#).

Registration forms are also available at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

For more information, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email sariley@columbiasc.net.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 23, 2015

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

The City's Office of Business Opportunities to Hold Social Media Workshop for Small Businesses

The Office of Business Opportunities, in partnership with ECI-Find New Markets, is holding a social media workshop for small businesses on Thursday, February 26 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1301 Gervais Street. Registration is required.

The training is designed to teach small businesses strategies and tactics for social media sites including Twitter, Google+, Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr and LinkedIn to better serve their businesses. An additional workshop will be held on Thursday, March 19.

The cost to register is \$10. To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 23, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 545-3373

The City Urges Citizens to Participate in Community Needs Survey

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department urges citizens to give input for the Five Year Consolidated Plan by completing the 2015 Community Needs Survey. To complete the survey, click [here](#)

A summary of citizen comments will be included in the 2015 – 2020 Consolidated Plan submitted to HUD. The Consolidated Plan is the application for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Partnership Investment Program (HOME) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) program funding and consists of strategies to address the housing, homeless and community development needs of the City.

For more information, contact Community Development at 545-3373.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilman Runyan's Open House Cancelled

The Open House scheduled for today with Councilman Cameron Runyan has been cancelled.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Contact: Krystal Overmyer at 803-251-6034

Community Members Encouraged to Become Local Lifesavers

Columbia Lifesavers "Hoop it Up" Blood Drive is Feb. 27

This basketball season, Mayor Steve Benjamin, the city of Columbia and the American Red Cross invite you to join a lifesaving team by giving blood. The fifth annual Columbia Lifesavers "Hoop it Up" blood drive is 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln St.

Over the years, the Columbia Lifesavers blood drive has resulted in 1,154 pints donated, potentially helping to save the lives of 3,462 individuals.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Mayor Benjamin, the city of Columbia and the American Red Cross South Carolina Blood Services Region Board of Directors to raise awareness in the Columbia community about the need for blood," said Ryan Corcoran, Community CEO for the American Red Cross South Carolina Blood Services Region. "The Columbia Lifesavers blood drive is a wonderful opportunity for us to work together to save lives. Every pint of blood collected is a chance to help three patients in need."

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. There is no substitute. Hospitals and patients depend on the generosity of volunteer blood donors. The entire donation process takes only about an hour and in that short time, blood donors can score a potentially lifesaving three-pointer: Each donation can help save the lives up to three patients.

"Every year I'm blown away by how many people come out to participate in this wonderful initiative and we expect this year to be better than ever," Mayor Benjamin said. "This event helps save lives because every two seconds someone needs blood somewhere in America. There's only one place to get it: volunteers like you."

All presenting donors will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, a basketball stress reliever and a bag of Starbucks coffee, while supplies last.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code **famouslyhot**.

Items and offers are nontransferable and are not redeemable for cash.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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**See flyer attached.*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

The City of Columbia's 1st Go Red Fashion Show Postponed Until March 20th

The City of Columbia will host the inaugural Go Red Fashion Show. Help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women, at the Go Red Fashion Show. Proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at:

City Hall, 1737 Main Street
 Jabber & Isaac Law Firm, 1419 Calhoun
 Street Carolina Couture, 920 Gervais Street

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine is the host for this event. The fashion show will also feature celebrity models, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors. The grand finale will feature fashions by Sergio Hudson, a nationally renowned designer and winner of "Styled to Rock".

The event will be held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, on **Friday, March 20, 2015 at 6 p.m.**

***Please note a date change. This event was previously scheduled for February 27, 2015. Due to weather related delays, this event has been postponed.** For more information visit columbiasc.net or call Public Relations at 803-545-3020.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 26, 2015

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

Community Garden Expo

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and the Columbia Sertoma Club have partnered to sponsor a citywide Community Garden Expo. The expo will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center.

The public is invited to attend this **FREE** informative and hands-on gardening experience that will feature seminars, demonstrations, vendors and more. Garden experts such as Ed Brogden of Back to Eden will provide information on the economic, health and social benefits of community gardening.

Garden presenters and vendors can register for a table. The cost for presenters to register is free. Vendors can register for \$30. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 4, 2015.**

WHAT: Community Garden Expo

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2015

WHERE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29205

FEE: Free to the public and presenters; vendors can register for \$30

To register to be a presenter or vendor, or for more information on the City's [Community Gardens Program](#), please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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**Please see the attached flyer*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 26, 2015

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

The Real Women Workshop: There is Beauty in Our Brokenness

Greenview Park will host The Real Women Workshop on Saturday, March 28 for women and girls ages 16 and older.

Through this one-day workshop, participants will learn how to find the beauty in their brokenness. The workshop will feature speakers and a variety of vendors and exhibitors.

Pre-registration is required. The fee to register is \$5 (check or money order).

Registrations must be received by Saturday, March 21, 2015.

WHAT: The Real Women Workshop: There is Beauty in Our Brokenness

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David Street

WHEN: Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$5

For more information, please call 803-754-5223 or email tcchatman@columbiasc.net.

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****Please see the attached flyer***



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 27, 2015

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

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Accepting Band Submissions for 2015 Summer Concert Series

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The department is seeking bands that have a diverse music repertoire. Interested bands are asked to provide an electronic media kit, which should include a recent photograph of the band, and sample music and video of the band performing. **The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. today, February 27, 2015.**

Email an electronic press kit to Kim Mitchell at kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

Press kits can be mailed to:

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

Attn: Kim Mitchell (Summer Concert Series)

1111 Parkside Dr.

Columbia, SC 29203

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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For Immediate Release

February 27, 2015

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

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

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

Arsenal Hill

Elmwood Park

Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

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](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

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Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 27, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Planning Commission Meeting Agenda for March 2

The Planning Commission will conduct a Walk Bike Columbia Work Session at 4 p.m. and a meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

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