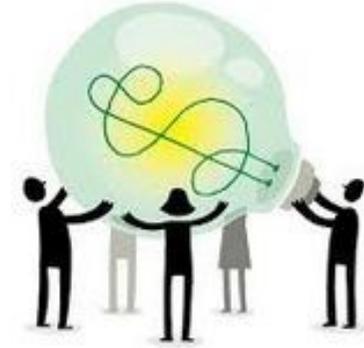




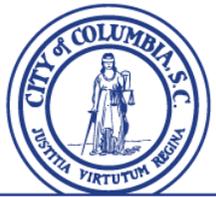
#GimmeFive Family Fitness Day
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We Are Columbia

City eNews



Run. Grow. Transform.



CITY OF COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION TO HOST KIDS DAY WET N' WILD

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a day of water fun at Kids Day Wet n' Wild on Saturday, May 2 from 2-7 pm at Finlay Park.

The event will feature water slides, water games, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, exhibitors, food vendors and more! Guests can also bring their super soakers and get ready for a battle in the water play area.

Admission is FREE. There are fees for face painting, food vendors, carnival games, the petting zoo and pony rides.

For more information about the event or how to be a vendor, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MIDLANDS

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

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

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

The department will host a celebration on May 7, 2015. Congressman Clyburn will be the keynote speaker for this event. A reception will begin at 5:30pm at the Marriott Hotel, 1200 Hampton Street. The cost is \$35 per person. For sponsorship information or to purchase a ticket, contact Deborah Livingston at djlivingston@columbiasc.net.

PUBLIC SAFETY JOB FAIR

The City of Columbia is currently recruiting for public safety employees in the Columbia Fire Department, Columbia Police Department and CRC-911. A Public Safety Job Fair will be held on Thursday, May 14 from 5 - 8 p.m. at #1 Justice Square (CPD Headquarters). Applications will be accepted at the job fair for specific positions.

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



We Are Columbia

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK CONFERENCE

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) will host its annual Small Business Week Conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street. This year, the conference will focus on innovation.

The goal of the conference is to highlight the impact and successes of the City's outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners. This year's keynote speaker is William D. Kirkland, executive director of the University of South Carolina's Office of Economic Engagement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn helpful business tips, network with their peers and participate in the following breakout sessions:

- Are Trade Shows Right for You?
- Share your story, Don't Sell Your Story!
- What Happened? You're not the Person I Hired!
- Legal tips for Business Owners
- Meet InnovateHER finalists

Tickets for the event are \$50 and sponsorship opportunities are available. To purchase a ticket, [click here](#).

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

REGISTRATION PERIOD OPEN FOR MEN'S ADULT

BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Men's Adult Basketball league is now open through May 15.

The league is open to males ages 18 and older. The fee to register is \$300 per team. Games will be played on Sunday and Monday nights beginning May 31, 2015.

To register, please visit the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the department's "Adult Sports" page [online](#).

The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia. Registrations will not be accepted without payment.

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



CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZED TOP RECRUITERS FOR LIFESAVERS BLOOD DRIVE

Columbia City Council recognized the top three City staff recruiters who served as team captains for their departments during the annual blood drive, the Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive. Together, the three employees recruited a total of 50 blood donors, which could potentially save up to 150 lives.

Stephanie Belvin, with Parks & Recreation, recruited 23 presenting donors, Gina Sample, in Public Works, had 14 presenting donors and Paul Eller with Parking Services had 13 presenting donors. All three recruiters received a \$25 gift card from Di Pratos and the top recruiter, Stephanie Belvin, also received a signed basketball from Tevin Mack, a local high school superstar player, and a gift certificate for a free dress from Fashion Forward Mobile Boutique.

In addition to the donations from the sponsors, the employees will also be able to will have lunch with Mayor Steve Benjamin for their high ranking recruitment efforts.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the American Red Cross collected 237 pints of blood at this year's Columbia Lifesavers blood drive, bringing the five-year event total to 1,391 pints of blood. The City of Columbia thanks the sponsors who donated the generous gifts for the top recruiters.

To view additional photos from the City Council meeting, visit our [Tumblr page](#).

MAY IS NATIONAL BICYCLE MONTH

May 1, 2015 National Bike Challenge - Arts and Draughts Columbia Museum of Art. 7-11pm

May 6th Bike to School Day

May 7th Bike Movie Night - location TBD. 5:30 to 9:30pm

May 11-15th Bike to Work Week

May 15th Bike to Work Day - Organized rides to State House, ride down Main Street, light breakfast offered by Good Life Café. 7:45 to 8:30am

For more information, contact John S. Fellows at 803-545-3215 or visit columbiasc.net.



L:R: Stephanie Belvin, Gina Sample, Mayor Steve Benjamin, Paul Eller, Councilwoman Leona Plough and Krystal Overmeyer, with the American Red Cross.



LET'S MOVE! COLUMBIA #GIMMEFIVE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In honor of the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative, join the City of Columbia for Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event for youth and their family to learn more ways they can live a healthier life. The free event will feature a special appearance by Marcus Lattimore, former NFL and University of South Carolina player, as well as a variety of activities including an obstacle course, relay races, cooking demonstrations, an activity zone, health fair and more.

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

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day or to register as an exhibitor, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.

MAYOR STEVE BENJAMIN ANNOUNCED SWELP FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Mayor Steve Benjamin announced the Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP) fundraising campaign today at City Hall.

"We're looking to increase SWELP jobs from 250 to 1000 this summer," said Mayor Benjamin. "We have to keep making deposits into the bank for our youth."

The campaign will start this week and citizens will be able to contribute by checking off the amount they wish to donate on an information insert that will be included with their water bill.



“Studies show that giving teens work experience is an investment for our future,” said J.T. McLawhorn, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia Urban League, Inc.

For more than 15 years, SWELP has been providing employment opportunities to teens. Santora Byrd, a freshman at Spring Valley High School, shared her SWELP experience and how she looks forward to working with the program again this summer.

“My job last summer helped me with communications skills and learning how to work with others,” said SWELP participant Santora Byrd. “I plan on working with the SWELP program as long as I can.”

Applications will be available on the first week of May and can be picked up at the Columbia Urban League, Inc, City parks and the Columbia Police Department. All applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2015.

SWELP is an evidence-based career development program for youth ages 14-19. SWELP provides you with valuable work experience that helps foster responsibility, a strong work ethic and self-esteem. The purpose of this program is to provide primarily disadvantaged youth with summer work experience and service learning in an effort for them to gain the necessary fundamental skills they will need to ensure future employment opportunities.

For more information about SWELP, contact the Columbia Urban League at (803) 799-8150.

Support Summer Employment!
Your contribution can make a difference in the life of a child!

Select your Summer Work Experience Leadership Program donation amount below:

\$1.00 \$10.00

\$5.00 _____

Monthly donations will be added to the primary account holder's water bill.

Signature for Authorization _____

The Columbia Urban League's Summer Work Experience Leadership Program (SWELP) is an evidence-based best-practice career development program for youth ages 14-19. SWELP provides youth valuable work experience that helps foster responsibility, a strong work ethic and self-esteem. The purpose of this program is to provide primarily disadvantaged youth with summer work experience and service learning in an effort for them to gain the necessary fundamental skills they will need to ensure future employment opportunities.



 **Columbia Urban League, Inc.**
www.columbiaurbanleague.org



Santora Byrd, a freshman at Spring Valley High School, shared her SWELP experience.



L:R: J.T. McLawhorn, Mayor Steve Benjamin, Santora Byrd, and Senior Assistant City Manager Allison Baker.

CITY ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR OF MINORITY BUSINESS ADVISORY

The City of Columbia announces Greg Davis as the chair of the Mayor's Minority Business Council (MBAC). The MBAC assists the Mayor in coordinating the City's efforts to maximize the opportunities and growth of minority businesses.

Greg Davis has more than 20 years of experience with small business development and minority relations, including serving as the director of the South Carolina Minority Business Development Agency and the Small Business Development Manager for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Recently, he accepted the position as director of Minority and Small Business Affairs for the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Mayor Steve Benjamin established the MBAC in 2013. The MBAC is charged with collaborating with the Office of Business Opportunities to carry out responsibilities in the areas of economic development, employment, procurement, training and other matters affecting the economic vitality of the minority business community. The MBAC consists of nearly 20 minorities who are small business owners or individuals who consistently support the development of minority businesses through their work in private industry, government and academia.

CITY ANNOUNCES NEW RESIDENTIAL TOOL

The City of Columbia is proud to announce a new tool for residential water and sewer customers. The new [online water/ sewer bill estimator](#) shows what a typical residential customer bill might look like based on meter readings that the user provides.

Customers can also learn how the different charges on their monthly water and sewer bills are calculated, how City staff read water meters, and how the proposed rate changes might affect their bill.



We Are Columbia

Now Online...
**Water & Sewer
Bill Estimator**



National Pet Month

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter will celebrate National Pet Month by offering adoption specials and hosting events throughout May.

Beginning with Cinco de Mayo, Columbia Animal Shelter will offer pets for \$5 on May 5. Through the rest of the week, pet adoptions will cost as follows:

May 6- \$15

May 7- \$25

May 8- \$35

May 9- \$45



After May 9, adoptions will cost \$50 for the rest of May. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

On May 16 and 17, The Columbia Animal Shelter needs help filling the red truck with supplies for the shelter. Animal lovers are encouraged to drop off pet supplies at the corner of Heyward and Holy Street from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

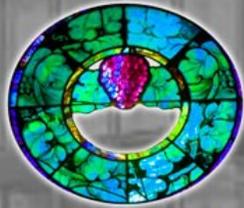
On May 23, Columbia Animal Shelter will be joining the Palmetto Conservation

Association to raise awareness on pet adoptions and walking some of their shelter dogs on the Palmetto Trail near Fort Jackson from 9 a.m. to noon. The Columbia Police Department's K-9 unit will also provide a demonstration immediately following the walk.

On May 30 and 31, The Columbia Animal Shelter will host its annual Adopt-A-Thon with Petsense. Cats and dogs will be available for adoption from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 31.

For more information, contact Columbia Animal Shelter at 803-776-PETS.

The Friendship 9



THE
Renaissance
FOUNDATION

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015
7:00 P.M.

"We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history. Now, as to the Friendship Nine, is the time and opportunity to do so. Now is the time to recognize that justice is not temporal, but is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow."

John C. Hayes III
Chief Administrative Judge
South Carolina's 16th Judicial Circuit

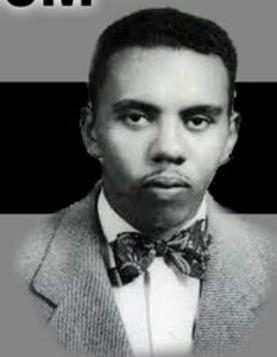
THE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
PRESENTS

THE FRIENDSHIP 9

NO FEAR FOR FREEDOM
The Musical

IN HONOR OF RETIRED
CHIEF JUSTICE ERNEST A. FINNEY

THE TOWNSHIP AUDITORIUM
Tickets \$20.00 / \$10.00 Students with ID
Tickets available at Township Auditorium Box Office
1703 Taylor St. Columbia, SC 29201 (800)745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com • www.renaissancefoundation.org



Kids Day!



We Are Columbia

Parks & Recreation
1111 Parkside Drive
Columbia, SC 29203
803-545-3100
ColumbiaSC.net

KIDS DAY **wet n' wild**

May 2, 2015 **2pm - 7pm**
Finlay Park - 930 Laurel Street

FREE ADMISSION! Bring your swimwear, towels, and super soakers and get set for a day of wet n' wild water fun!

Water Slides, Water Play Area, Entertainment, Face Painting, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Exhibitors, Carnival Games, Food Vendors, & More!

(Face Painting, Carnival Games, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides & Food Vendors have nominal fees)



For more information or vending opportunities, call 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

Public Safety Job Fair



WELCOME TO THE
CITY OF COLUMBIA



The City of Columbia is currently recruiting for public safety employees who are qualified, productive, and motivated to provide efficient and effective services to the citizens of Columbia.

THE CITY OF COLUMBIA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Public Safety Job Fair

Applications will be accepted on the spot for:

**Probationary Firefighter*
911 Telecommunicator/Call Taker
Class I and Class III Police Officer*
P/T Office Assistant and Utility Worker I**

**Thursday, May 14, 2015
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Columbia Police Department
#1 Justice Square
Columbia, SC 29201**

***Additional documents required. For more information, visit us at:**

www.columbiapd.net

www.columbiarichlandfire.net

www.columbiasc.net



Public Safety Recruiters

L.R: Officer Henry Ford, CRC 911 Training Officer Heather Collins and Captain James Bostic.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW CITY TALK INTERVIEW.

Let's Move! Columbia

#GimmeFive Anniversary Celebration



Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive

Family Fitness Day

FREE!



SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**CHARLES R. DREW WELLNESS CENTER
2101 WALKER SOLOMON WAY
COLUMBIA, SC 29204**

**CELEBRATE THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NATIONAL LET'S MOVE! INITIATIVE**

Special Appearance by **Marcus Lattimore
Former NFL and USC Football Player**

Competitions

- Obstacle Course
- Relay Races
- Flag Football w/ Pro Players

Health Fair

- Free BMI Screening
- Blood pressure
- Diabetes screening

Activity Zone

- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Aerial Fitness

For more information, please call Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or email weaustin@columbiaesc.net.



You're Invited!



Celebrating 40 Years

BUILDING COMMUNITIES.
TRANSFORMING LIVES.

*and the
Columbia Council of Neighborhoods
Annual Awards Banquet*



*Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin
and the members of City Council
cordially invite you to attend
the 40th Anniversary Celebration
of its Community Development Department*

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Keynote Speaker Congressman James E. Clyburn

Reception beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Marriott Hotel

1200 Hampton Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201

\$35 per person



Spirit Night

S P I R I T N I G H T

for The First Tee of Columbia

May 11, 2015 • 5:00-8:00 PM

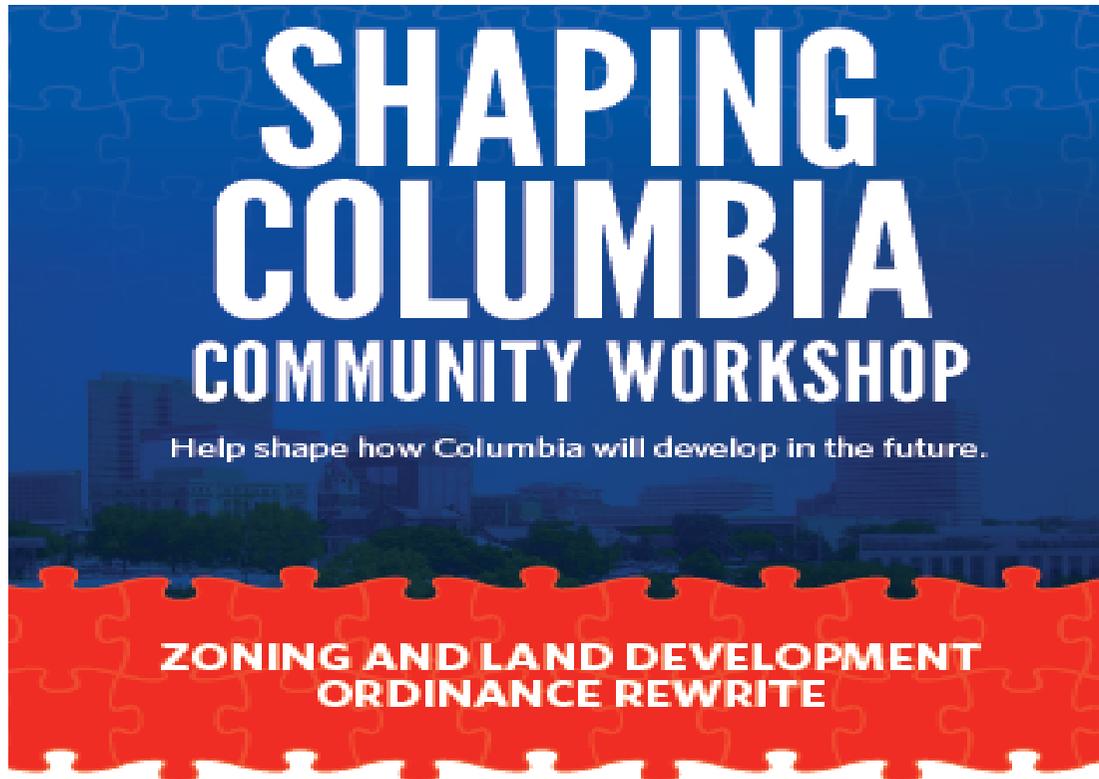
Come out and support The First Tee of Columbia! Tell your cashier that you're here to support The First Tee, and a portion will go towards fundraising!



Chick-fil-A Five Points
(803) 255-0232
901 Harden St
www.chick-fil-a.com/cfa5points
www.facebook.com/cfa5points

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Shaping Columbia



MAY 12 6-8pm

Seawell's Banquet Hall • 1125 Rosewood Drive

The City of Columbia is rewriting its Zoning and Land Development Ordinance. The process began in 2014 when the City of Columbia and Richland County gathered extensive community input to shape long-term plans for growth. The rewrite will ensure the city's regulations are aligned with those plans, reflect contemporary zoning best practices, and are more user-friendly.

Come to learn about the effort and share your thoughts on improving development in Columbia.

To learn more, visit:

weplantogether.org

or contact Stephen Zigmund
smzigmund@columbiasc.net • (803) 545-3217

 "Like" PLAN TOGETHER
[facebook.com/weplantogether](https://www.facebook.com/weplantogether)

 #weplantogether
#PlanColumbiaSC



Survivors and Remembrance Day

South Carolina Combat Veterans Group
9th Annual Vietnam Veterans
Survivors and Remembrance Day Program



Friday, May 1, 2015

11 a.m.

Vietnam Wall at Memorial Park

700 Hampton Street

Columbia, SC

Meetings

DATE/TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION
May 4 at 5:15pm	PLANNING COMMISSION	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
May 5 at 2pm	CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION	1737 Main Street
May 5 at 6pm	CITY COUNCIL MEETING	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
May 14 at 4pm	DDRC	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
Cancelled May 18 at 4:30pm	BPAC	1136 Washington Street 6th Floor -Conference Room

Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



City Media

www.ColumbiaSC.net



TWC Ch.2

City Talk on SoundCloud

We Are Columbia

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