



Register for the Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence



Ribbon Cutting for New Homes in Burton Heights



2014 Mayor's Breast Cancer Isabel Law Breakfast

City eNews

We Are Columbia



LABOR DAY WEEKEND CONCERT SHOWCASE

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to bring their blankets, lawn chairs and dancing shoes to Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street for the Labor Day Weekend Concert Showcase. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

Concert Schedule

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

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

CITY OF COLUMBIA AND NORTH COLUMBIA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION TO HOST ANNUAL “GROW YOUR CITY” ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LUNCHEON

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

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

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

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

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

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

CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON IS SERVING AS A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE 2014 WOMEN AT HEART EVENT

City Manager Teresa Wilson is serving as one of the spokespersons for the 2014 Women at Heart Event.

This year's Women at Heart event will be on Saturday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The video will be premiered during the event.



City Manager Teresa Wilson at the 2014 Women at Heart taping.

EAU CLAIRE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HELD RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW HOMES IN BURTON HEIGHTS

On Tuesday, August 12 the Eau Claire Development Corporation (ECDC) held a ribbon cutting to preview three new homes in the Burton Heights neighborhood.

Currently, ECDC is developing Burton Heights III, located off of Farrow Road on Burton Heights Circle. The subdivision will accommodate 26 single family residential homes. There have been 20 newly constructed homes sold and 6 more are being developed this year. The homes will range from 1,300-1,600 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, all major appliances and a one car garage.

The new homes feature smart home smart touch technology, Kenmore appliances, tankless water heaters, cherry-colored cabinets and hardwood floors and an irrigation system.

Since ECDC's inception, which derived from the 1998 Eau Claire Task Force Report and the 1993 Eau Claire Redevelopment Plan, ECDC's overarching goal continues to focus on revitalization efforts in Eau Claire/ North Columbia that support and uplift cultural diversity, urban renewal, residential vibrancy, sound economic investments and financial prosperity. The past, current and future development projects and initiatives are the vehicles that have and will continue to steer both commercial and residential growth and renewal.

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department offers many home loan options for those looking to purchase. The GAP Purchase program offers up to \$10,000 in down payment assistance for qualified applicants.

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



“By the end of 2014, Eau Claire Development Corporation will have injected \$650,000 through Federal HOME Funds to create 6 residential affordable housing units for households at or below 80% of Area Median Income. ECDC continues to strive to make North Columbia a great place to live, work, play and raise a family. In all, there are a total of 26 units of residential homes in Burton Heights Phase 2. There has been a total of more than \$2.5 million in funding for the project since 2007 in an effort to create affordable housing,” Michael Strange, Eau Claire Development Corporation executive director said.

CITY OF COLUMBIA LAUNCHES FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia Police Department Chief Skip Holbrook, Columbia Fire Department Chief Aubrey Jenkins and City staff launched the sale of official City of Columbia Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts.

T-shirts can be purchased by filling out a form at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Columbia Police Department Headquarters, 1 Justice Square
- Columbia Fire Department Headquarters, 1800 Laurel Street
- Washington Square, 1136 Washington Street

Orders are due by Friday, September 12, 2014 at 5 p.m.

All proceeds will go to Bosom Buddies, a 501(c)3 charity that assists women who need mastectomy bras or have other needs after surgery.

THE ANNUAL MAYOR'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST BREAST CANCER ISABEL LAW BREAKFAST

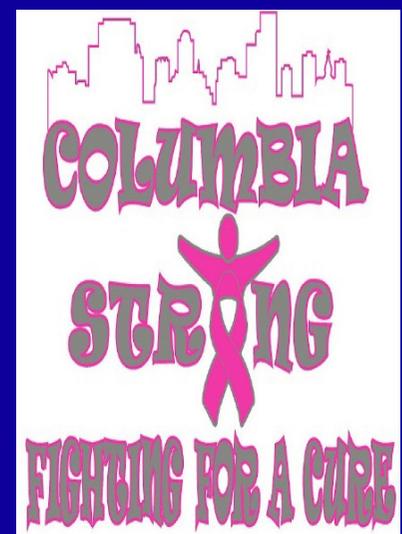
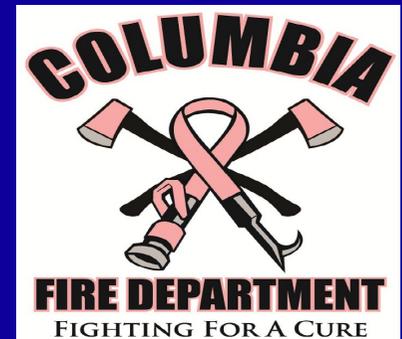
The annual Mayor's Campaign Against Breast Cancer Isabel Law Breakfast is on Friday, October 17, 2014 from 6:00-9:00 a.m. in the City Hall parking lot, 1737 Main Street.

Tickets for this event are \$7.00 and can be purchased in advance at the following locations:

- Fire Department Headquarters, 1800 Laurel Street
- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Palmetto Health Foundation, 1600 Marion Street
- Police Department, #1 Justice Square
- Eau Claire Payment Center, 3905 Ensor Avenue
- Public Works, 2910 Colonial Drive
- Washington Square Payment Center, 1136 Washington Street



Fire Chief Jenkins, Mayor Benjamin and Police Chief Holbrook at the City's Breast Cancer Awareness Launch



The breakfast menu will include: bacon, eggs, grits, hash browns, pancakes, sausage and liver pudding.

All proceeds benefit the Bosom Buddies, a 501(c)3 organization that assists women who are in need of mastectomy camisoles or have other post-surgical needs. Bosom Buddies is a breast cancer survivor support group sponsored by Palmetto Health Breast Center.

To place an order in advance, contact Tina Saxon at P: 803.545.3062, F: 803.545.3147 or email: trsaxon@columbiasc.net. Pre-orders must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on October 16, 2014.

For more information about the breakfast event or sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department at 803-545-3020.

SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS FIRST RESPONDERS & MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE

South Carolina Midlands First Responders & Military Service Members Night of Remembrance will recognize the families of first responders and military service members who lost their lives in the line of duty and will include a roll call for fallen heroes, various musical performances, a flyover and a memorial wreath presentation Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 4:30 at SC Midlands First Responders & Military Service Members Remembrance Memorial (adjacent to Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street Columbia, SC). Major General Gill Beck, 81st Regional Support Command, Fort Jackson, will deliver the keynote address.

The South Carolina Midlands First Responders & Military Service Members Remembrance Memorial includes a pair of 25 foot granite historic towers and two steel beams from the World Trade Center, crossed to show the country's unity after the attacks on the United States on 9/11/01. The memorial honors the victims of the attack on New York City, both citizens and first responders, who gave their lives in New York that day, along with all the South Carolina Midlands first responders (police, fire, EMS, and military) who have given their lives since that morning on September 11, 2001. All first responders, their families, and the public are invited to attend our 9/11 Evening of Remembrance.



The Mayor's breakfast is named in memory of Isabel Law, who was a breast cancer survivor for 26 years and a registered nurse at the Baptist campus of Palmetto Health.



CITY OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MOVES FORWARD WITH “BUSINESS IN MOTION”

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

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

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

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

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

CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER FOR HER DEDICATION

City Manager Teresa Wilson recognized Community Safety Officer Tamara Kelly as a City LIGHTs recipient at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 19.

CSO Kelly has distinguished herself within the Columbia Police Department through her relentless determination to be a positive role model in the lives of under-privileged children within the City of Columbia. She has worked in her current assignment with the youth safe haven program located at the Hammond Village Apartment complex since 2010. In this assignment, she mentors and cares for up to 30 children a day. CSO Kelly has been with the City of Columbia for nearly 12 years.

As a result of her positive impact, CSO Kelly was named a “Community Builder” by WIS and Mungo Homes on June 9, 2014 and was awarded \$1000 to help financially support the Columbia Youth Safe Haven Camp.

“CSO Kelly’s service of enriching the lives of children should serve as an example to others,” said Corporal Glenn Sawyer, Columbia Police Department.

City LIGHTs is a platform for recognizing employees who engage in random acts of kindness and go above and beyond the call of duty to help those in need or exceed expectations as an employee and ambassador for the City of Columbia. LIGHT is an acronym that represents the values of the program. Employees will be recognized for displaying Leadership, Integrity and Generosity or for having a Helpful attitude and sharing their Talent to help others or benefit the community.

CULTURAL ARTS SPECIALIST BRENDA OLIVER WINS 2014 PALMETTO PILLAR AWARD

Brenda Oliver, cultural arts specialist with the City of Columbia Art Center, won the 2014 Palmetto Pillar of Public Service & the Arts award from the Columbia Chamber. Oliver was honored at an awards banquet and reception on August 21 for developing Creative Journey, an all-volunteer arts outreach program that provides monthly art programs to veterans, military members and military family members.



“Tamara’s nurturing spirit and dedication to the children of Hammond Village are worthy of recognition,” said City Manager Teresa Wilson. “She is an example of an employee who allows her City “LIGHT” to shine brightly everyday. We are proud of her efforts!”



Brenda Oliver at the 2014 Palmetto Pillar Awards

Creative Journey, which began in the fall of 2012 with the Wounded Warrior Transition Unit at Ft. Jackson, is a collaborative effort between the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, the U.S. Army, local artists, nonprofit organizations and businesses.

Oliver started the program with Suzy Shealy, a local artist and Gold Star Mother who also experienced her own journey with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Although she is honored to have received the award, she believes the program's heart and soul comes from Shealy, volunteers and community support.

"The program will be part of Suzy Shealy's legacy," Oliver said. "The volunteers and donations, that's what is the life and blood of the program."

The City's Public Relations Department was also a finalist for this award for its #LoveColumbia social media photo challenge. More than 300 photos were submitted by Columbia citizens of what they loved about the City.

The Palmetto Pillar Awards program, which started in 1998, recognizes the area's top leaders in technology innovation.

REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MAYOR'S WALK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence will be held on Saturday, October 11 at 9 a.m. at Finlay Park, 930 Laurel street. Mayor Steve Benjamin, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, domestic violence advocates and supporters will be in attendance. The walk is free and registration can be found online at www.columbisc.net. Registration is also open for team captains and exhibitors.

South Carolina is currently ranked first in the nation for women killed by men and nearly one in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

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

"We're all very proud of Brenda and the impact that Creative Journey has had on our military community, and those that have volunteered," said Jeff Caton, director of the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department. "The recognitions that have been received at the local, state and national level represent the recognition of Brenda's efforts and the quality of the Creative Journey program."



CITY OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES REVEALS “MAIN STREET CAPITAL” LOAN PROGRAM

At a press conference, held Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at Bourbon Columbia, the City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities revealed their new business loan program called “Main Street Capital...Creating More Feet on Main Street”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



City staff, officials and Columbia citizens at the Main Street Loan Program Press Conference



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

LET'S MOVE! COLUMBIA GAMEDAY

Let's Move! Columbia GameDay is back to offer a fun day of activities for the entire family on September 20, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Drew Wellness Center Green Space, 2101 Walker Solomon Way.

There will be a 3K race, field games, scavenger hunt, local dance and step teams, exhibitors and more! Attendees also have the chance to learn more about ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle. GameDay also includes a celebrity flag football game.

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

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

CITY RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The City of Columbia has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

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

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

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



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

CITIZENS URGED TO REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY COLUMBIA-RICHLAND ALERTS



City Manager Teresa Wilson

Consistent with our mission and vision, our public safety team is committed to promoting citywide safety. I highly encourage you to learn about and participate in the City's safety initiatives by registering for the Columbia-Richland Alerts (CRA). You can also sign up to receive updates about special events and public meetings. Together, we can increase the opportunities for you to know more about your community and activities in your neighborhood, as well as advise you of important notifications.



Register online at www.columbiasc.net or call our Customer Care Center at (803) 545-3300.

Boil Water Advisories | Water and Sewer Alerts | Missing Persons | Power Outages | Community Events

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2014, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Garbage and recyclables schedule will be as follows:

- Monday: Off
- Tuesday (September 2nd): Will be running Monday's schedule
- Wednesday (September 3rd): Will be running Tuesday's schedule
- Thursday and Friday will remain on regular schedule.



City Media

www.ColumbiaSC.net



TWC Ch.2 City Talk

We Are Columbia

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