



# INSIDE COLUMBIA

APRIL 2026



**TOGETHER, WE ARE  
COLUMBIA**



## **BAMstrong Community Health Summit Brings Wellness and Community to Greenview Park**

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, the BAMstrong Community Health Summit brought community members together at Greenview Park's outdoor fitness court for a day focused on health, wellness and connection. Hosted by Jamaïus "BAM" White, the free event highlighted resources for sustainable wellness and promoted awareness of health resources available in the Columbia community. The summit also featured several health-related sponsors and vendors.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, including a fitness station, blood pressure checks, snacks for children and line dancing. The event created a fun, family-friendly atmosphere while encouraging healthy living and community engagement.





## City of Columbia Homeless Services Discusses “30 Days of Volunteering” on WLTX

On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, representatives from the City of Columbia Homeless Services Department appeared on WLTX to discuss the department’s “30 Days of Volunteering” initiative and how community members could get involved throughout the month of April.

During the interview, Kameisha Heppard, Director of Homeless Services, and Johnasten Cooper, Homeless Services Project Coordinator, shared that the City of Columbia Homeless Services Department is inviting the community to participate in “30 Days of Volunteering” throughout April. Volunteers had opportunities to support individuals experiencing homelessness through service projects, meal preparation and service, and community engagement activities. Participants also assisted with organizing, cleaning, and beautifying shelter spaces, as well as connecting with residents through meaningful interactions and support.

The initiative took place from April 1 through April 30, 2026, at various locations throughout Columbia.





## City of Columbia Hosts First Public Meeting for Congaree Riverfront District Project

On Wednesday, April 1, 2026, the City of Columbia hosted the first public meeting for the Congaree Riverfront District Project, welcoming community members to share ideas and feedback that will help shape the future of the city’s riverfront.

Councilman Will Brennan and City Manager Teresa Wilson attended the meeting and spoke on the importance of community input throughout the planning process. Councilmen Ed McDowell, Tyler Bailey and Sam P. Johnson also joined in support as residents, stakeholders and riverfront users shared valuable insight and perspectives.

The meeting marked the beginning of the public engagement process for the Congaree Riverfront District Project, a long-term effort focused on gathering community feedback before design concepts are developed. Thank you to everyone who took the time to be part of the conversation and help guide what comes next.





## City of Columbia Hosts First Easter Egg Roll at Finlay Park

On Friday, April 3, 2026, the City of Columbia hosted its first Easter Egg Roll at Finlay Park, bringing together families and community members for a festive day of spring fun. Councilmembers Ed McDowell, Sam P. Johnson and Mayor Pro Tem Tina Herbert joined City Manager Teresa Wilson, Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook and Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins in celebrating with attendees.

The free community event featured egg hunts, games and entertainment for guests of all ages. Families gathered in the park to enjoy the activities, make memories and celebrate the Easter season together.

Thank you to everyone who came out and made the day so special. We hope everyone had a wonderful time celebrating at Finlay Park.



**[Watch the recap HERE!](#)**



## City of Columbia Kicked Off National Community Development Week at Randall Avenue Park

On Monday, April 6, 2026, the City of Columbia kicked off National Community Development Week at Randall Avenue Park with a proclamation presentation recognizing National Community Development Week, Fair Housing Month and National Financial Literacy Month.

Mayor Pro Tem Tina Herbert joined the City of Columbia Community Development team for the event and handed out proclamations as the City marked the 40th anniversary of National Community Development Week and highlighted the ongoing work being done to improve quality of life for Columbia residents.

Through partnerships and responsible stewardship of resources, the City's Community Development team continues to expand economic, housing and social opportunities across Columbia. These efforts support neighborhood growth, increase homeownership and help build a stronger community for all residents.





## Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann Highlights Student Entrepreneur Pop-Up in WLTX Interview

On Monday, April 6, 2026, Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann filmed an interview with WLTX to promote the upcoming Student Entrepreneur Pop-Up at Soda City Market. The interview highlighted the City of Columbia's continued partnership with Soda City Market and the opportunity for student entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses to the community.

The fourth annual Student Market Pop-Up took place on Saturday, April 11, 2026, and was open to students ages 16 and older. Participants had the chance to showcase their goods, services and business ideas at Soda City Market free of charge while gaining hands-on experience operating a pop-up shop alongside regular vendors.

To help remove barriers for participation, the City of Columbia provided tables for student vendors, while Soda City Market handled the event map and booth assignments. Previous student businesses have featured crafts, custom artificial flower bouquets, vintage goods and accessories. Last year, 20 young business owners participated in the event.





## Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann Attends Mashburn Headquarters Groundbreaking

On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann attended the groundbreaking for Mashburn Construction's new corporate headquarters in Columbia. The event marked an important milestone for the company as it celebrates its 50th anniversary and begins a new chapter in Seaboard Vista.

Founded in 1976, Mashburn Construction has grown into one of South Carolina's most trusted construction companies, with offices in Columbia, Greenville, Charleston and Myrtle Beach. The new headquarters reflects the company's continued growth and long-term investment in Columbia.

The relocation to Seaboard Vista highlights Mashburn's commitment to the city and its vision for the future. The new headquarters is expected to support the company's growing team while providing a modern space designed for collaboration, innovation and long-term success.





## City of Columbia and Richland County Host Day of Service and One Day Donation Drive

On Wednesday, April 8, 2026, the City of Columbia's Community Development and Homeless Services teams partnered with Richland County's Community Development Department to host a Day of Service and One Day Donation Drive in support of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1505 Taylor Street, staff and community partners came together to collect, organize, and stock essential items including hygiene products, socks, undergarments, bedding, cleaning supplies, and kitchen essentials. These donations will directly support individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, as well as Rapid Shelter Columbia operations.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and efforts to make a meaningful impact and help support our unsheltered neighbors.



**[Watch the recap HERE!](#)**



## City of Columbia Community Development Department Kicks Off Community Engagement University

On Wednesday, April 8, 2026, the City of Columbia Community Development Department launched the first session of Community University at the Virginia Bedford Center at Earlewood Park.

Community University is a five-week course designed to enhance citizen awareness and understanding of the City of Columbia Government’s role in the community. Through hands-on experience with City services ranging from Parks & Recreation to law enforcement, participants are given an inside look at the City of Columbia and its employees.

Representatives from Code Enforcement, the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and Homeless Services were also in attendance.

The free program will continue on Wednesday evenings through May 6, 2026.



**[Watch the recap HERE!](#)**



## Community Development Department Hosts Block Party at Finlay Park

On Friday, April 10, 2026, the City of Columbia Community Development Department hosted a Community Development Block Party at Finlay Park. The event brought community members together to celebrate while learning more about the resources and services available through City of Columbia departments.

Mayor Daniel Rickenmann and Mayor Pro-Tem Tina N. Herbert were in attendance as residents visited informational booths and connected with City staff. Guests also enjoyed food provided by the Community Development Department.

The block party highlighted the Community Development Department's mission to improve the quality of life for Columbia residents by providing economic, housing and social opportunities while supporting growth throughout the community.





## City Welcomes National Offices of Violence Prevention Network Convening

On Friday, April 10, 2026, the National Offices of Violence Prevention Network continued its first regional convening in Columbia, bringing together leaders and members committed to strengthening violence prevention efforts in communities across the country.

During the convening, Trevon presented a special letter of recognition to National Offices of Violence Prevention Network leadership in honor of the organization's work and impact. The National OVP Network serves as a learning community focused on increasing the expertise and effectiveness of city agencies through trainings, presentations, leadership development, cross-city learning exchanges, and support in areas such as data collection, fund development, and communications.

Held in Columbia on April 9 and 10, the convening gave members the opportunity to collaborate, share insights, and explore ways to harness community power to create sustainable impact, strengthen Offices of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Safety, and build safer, healthier communities over the long term.





## CPD and Richland County PD Host “It’s Glowing Down” Glow Party at Greenview Park

On Friday, April 10, 2026, the Columbia Police Department and Richland County Sheriff’s Department hosted a Teen Glow Party at Greenview Park, welcoming high school students from across the City of Columbia and Richland County for a fun, safe and free evening of entertainment.

Open to students in grades 9 through 12, the event brought teens together for music, dancing, food and interactive activities in a lively glow-themed setting. Guests enjoyed a live DJ, glow sticks, glow necklaces, glow bracelets and festive décor that transformed the park into a vibrant celebration space.

The Teen Glow Party created an opportunity for local youth to connect in a positive environment while enjoying an evening designed just for high school students.





## Student Entrepreneurs Showcase Their Businesses at Soda City Market

On Saturday, April 11, 2026, Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann hosted the fourth annual Student Market Pop Up at Soda City, bringing together student entrepreneurs from across Columbia to showcase their businesses, creativity and innovative ideas.

The event, a collaboration between the City of Columbia and Soda City Market, gave students ages 16 and older the opportunity to showcase their goods, services and enterprising ideas to the Columbia community for free. Student vendors experienced running a pop-up shop alongside regular market vendors while gaining media and marketing exposure for their businesses.

From handmade goods and custom artificial flower bouquets to vintage items and unique accessories, the Student Market Pop Up highlighted the entrepreneurial spirit of Columbia's next generation of business leaders.





## Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann Gave Remarks at the CREW Midlands SC Luncheon

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann spoke at the CREW Midlands Lunch Program at Segra Park, where he shared insights on the City of Columbia's recent successes and goals for the year ahead.

During his remarks, Mayor Rickenmann discussed key economic development wins, emerging trends affecting the local market, and new opportunities for growth across Columbia. He also highlighted the importance of city initiatives, ongoing development activity, and public-private partnerships in shaping the future of the Capital City.

The luncheon brought together CREW Midlands members and guests from across the commercial real estate industry for an afternoon of networking and conversation centered on Columbia's continued progress.





## **New Public Art Piece Unveiled in the Vista**

On Friday, April 17, 2026, the City of Columbia joined the Congaree Vista Guild and One Columbia for Arts and Culture to unveil the Vista’s newest public art piece, Kaleidoscope of Columbia, by local artist Maria DeFelice, at the corner of Taylor and Lincoln streets.

Councilman Tyler D. Bailey attended the event and delivered remarks, helping mark the occasion and celebrate this exciting addition to Columbia’s growing public art landscape.

Public art continues to reflect the creativity and culture of the Capital City, and pieces like this bring even more vibrancy to the Vista.



**[Watch the press conference HERE!](#)**



## 911 Call Center Celebrates Spirit Week During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, the City of Columbia’s 911 Call Center celebrated Spirit Week with a series of themed dress-up days recognizing the dedicated professionals who serve the community each day.

Held April 13–18, 2026, Spirit Week featured themes including Dress From a Decade, Rep Your City, Beach Bum Day, Dress Like Your Manager, Dress Like You Were in High School and NTW Carnival Day. The week offered a fun way to celebrate 911 telecommunicators while recognizing the important role they play as the first point of contact during emergencies.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is observed each year during the second full week of April and honors the men and women who work behind the scenes to help keep the community safe.





## City Hosts Earth Day Climate Action Fair at Soda City Market

On Saturday, April 18, 2026, the City of Columbia hosted an Earth Day Climate Action Fair at Soda City Market to educate, inspire and engage the community around environmental awareness and sustainability.

Organized by the City of Columbia's Office of Sustainability and Climate Protection Action Committee, the fair brought together Columbia Water, City of Columbia Parks and Recreation, Central Midlands Council of Governments, local environmental organizations, educators and community members for a morning focused on climate action and community involvement.

The event featured interactive activities and a mascot mix-and-mingle, all designed to raise awareness about climate issues and encourage residents to take part in building a more sustainable future.





## 911 Call Center Hosts Carnival-Themed Celebration

On Saturday, April 18, 2026, the City of Columbia’s 911 Call Center hosted a carnival-themed celebration as part of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

The event served as a fun way to recognize and celebrate the dedicated 911 dispatchers and telecommunicators who work behind the scenes to support the community during emergencies. The carnival was part of the week’s overall Spirit Week activities, which were planned in honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and included themed events throughout the week.





## Homeless Services Celebrates First K.I.T.C.H.E.N. Workforce Program Graduating Class

During the week of April 13–19, 2026, City of Columbia Homeless Services celebrated the first graduating class of its K.I.T.C.H.E.N. Workforce Program.

In partnership with The Salvation Army, participants completed hands-on culinary training and earned their ServSafe certification, an important credential that helps open doors in the food service industry.

For many graduates, this achievement represents more than a certificate. It helps remove barriers to employment and creates a clearer path toward opportunity and stability.

This milestone reflects the impact of workforce development efforts that empower residents with skills, support and a pathway forward.





## City Council Highlights | April 21, 2026

On Tuesday, April 21, 2026, Columbia City Council held a meaningful celebration of achievement, service, and community pride, featuring two proclamations presented by Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann and a historic designation for Finlay Park.

During the meeting, City Council recognized C.A. Johnson High School's boys basketball team for winning the Class A State Championship. The team was honored for its hard work, leadership, and the pride it has brought to the Columbia community.

Council also proclaimed April as Monarch Butterfly Month alongside City of Columbia Public Works staff. The proclamation highlighted the importance of conservation efforts and the City's continued commitment to protecting pollinators and the environment.

In addition, Finlay Park was officially designated as South Carolina's first Purple Heart Park by the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. This historic recognition honors the bravery and sacrifice of Purple Heart recipients and all those who have served our country.





## City of Columbia Homeless Services Hosts Cookout at Hope Plaza

On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, City of Columbia Homeless Services hosted a cookout at Hope Plaza to celebrate 30 days of volunteer service.

The event brought together community members for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun. Attendees enjoyed hot dogs, music, raffles, and support from vendors who helped make the celebration possible.

The cookout recognized the impact of volunteer service and created an opportunity for the Homeless Services team to connect with individuals in attendance in a welcoming and uplifting environment.





## Mayor Welcomes CF Leads Executive Leadership Institute to Finlay Park

On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann welcomed participants from the CF Leads Executive Leadership Institute to Finlay Park for an afternoon visit highlighting one of Columbia's key revitalized public spaces.

The institute, which brings together senior leaders from community foundations across the country to strengthen leadership and community impact, included a stop in Columbia to explore local initiatives and learn more about the city's ongoing growth.

During the visit, Mayor Rickenmann greeted the group, offered brief remarks, and hosted a toast before attendees toured the park. Participants learned about Finlay Park's recent transformation and its role as a central gathering space that supports community connection, arts, and downtown development.

City Landscape Architect Todd Martin and John Katz also attended the visit.





## All Good Books Celebrates B-Corporation Certification

On Thursday, April 23, 2026, All Good Books celebrated its B-Corporation Certification with a press conference attended by Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann and Columbia City Councilman Will Brennan. During the event, the Mayor delivered remarks recognizing the significance of the achievement for both the business and the Columbia community.

B-Corporation Certification is a major distinction awarded to businesses that meet high standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. According to remarks shared during the event, there are only a little more than 10,000 B-Corp certified businesses globally, and All Good Books is the first in Columbia to earn this certification.

The milestone reflects All Good Books' commitment to making a positive impact through its business practices while continuing to serve the Columbia community.



**[Watch the press conference HERE!](#)**



## Career Day at Caughman Road Elementary School

On April 23, 2026, staff from the Public Relations, Media and Marketing Department, along with the Community Development Department, participated in Career Day at Caughman Road Elementary School. During the event, students had the opportunity to learn about the important roles these departments play in supporting and improving the City, from sharing information with the public to planning and developing community initiatives.

The team engaged students through interactive discussions and hands-on activities, including demonstrations of professional camera equipment used for city communications and media production. This experience allowed students to explore potential career paths, ask questions, and gain a better understanding of how local government departments work together to serve the community.





## City of Columbia Police Department Interviewed on Soda City Living to Promote Peace Walk

On April 23, 2026, Police Community Liaison Erica Cunningham Staley and Officer Hakeisha Parks joined Soda City Living to talk about the upcoming Peace Walk. Erica and Officer Parks invited residents to come together in support of this event to encourage unity, understanding, and public safety.

Erica and Officer Parks encouraged community members of all ages to attend and participate in this collective effort to strengthen relationships and build a safer Columbia. They gave details for the event, and explained the purpose of the Peace Walk: to foster meaningful connections between residents and law enforcement while creating space for positive engagement and shared purpose.





## ColaTown Highlights Events with the Public Works Department

On April 27, 2026, the Public Works department discussed two upcoming events on ColaTown.

In the first segment, Jerry Showers and Victor Atlas spoke about the upcoming Public Works hiring event on May 13, 2026. They talked about the importance of the Public Works Department in keeping the City's infrastructure functional and beautiful. They gave information on what people should expect at the Public Works Hiring Event and what they should bring to be prepared for on-site interviews.

In the second segment, Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works, and Samantha Yager, Solid Waste Superintendent, discussed the upcoming Touch-A-Truck that will take place on May 16, 2026. Touch-A-Truck is a family-friendly, free event on the 1700 block of Main Street during the Soda City Market. Robert and Samantha discussed the activities and demos that will take place and the different types of vehicles that would be on display at the event.





## City of Columbia Police Department Organized Peace Walk to Promote Unity and Community Safety

The City of Columbia Police Department (CPD) hosted a "Peace Walk for a Safer Community" on Saturday, April 25, 2026, inviting residents to come together in support of unity, understanding, and public safety. CPD Chief William "Skip" Holbrook and Councilman Sam Johnson attended the walk and showed their support.

The walk began at Central Baptist Church, located at 3625 Clement Road. Community members of all ages were encouraged to attend and participate in this collective effort to strengthen relationships and build a safer Columbia.

The Peace Walk was designed to foster meaningful connections between residents and law enforcement while creating space for positive engagement and shared purpose. Through this community-centered event, the Columbia Police Department aimed to highlight the importance of working together to promote safety and mutual respect across the city.

Together, we can make a difference: one step at a time!





# Columbia Food & Wine Festival Held April 22-26, 2026

The Columbia Food and Wine Festival was held April 22 - 26, 2026 in various locations across the City of Columbia. This annual festival explores and celebrates the different cuisines and drinks that make Columbia a unique experience for any food and/or wine lover!

Various restaurants, businesses, and donors come together to make each annual festival a success. The Columbia Food and Wine festival combines taste, experience, and community to create one unforgettable week celebrating all the culinary wonders Columbia has to offer.



# Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

## Rally House Grand Opening

818 Harden St, Columbia, SC 29205



On Friday, April 10, 2026, Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann joined the City of Columbia's Office of Economic Development, the Five Points Association, and Rally House District Manager Amanda Mertz for a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of Rally House in the Five Points District.

Rally House, part of family-owned Sampler Stores Inc., offers a wide selection of apparel, hats, gifts, and home décor representing NCAA, NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, MLS, and MiLB teams, along with locally inspired apparel, gifts, and food items. The company operates more than 300 locations across 27 states and is excited to open its second South Carolina location.

Located at 818 Harden Street, Rally House brings a new retail destination to Five Points and adds to the continued growth and energy of the district.



**[Watch the ribbon cutting HERE!](#)**

# Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

## Beck's Nails and Spa Grand Opening

2101 Main Street, Suite I, Columbia, SC 29201



On Friday, April 17, 2026, Mayor Pro-Tem Tina N. Herbert joined the City of Columbia's Office of Economic Development and owner Bekah Kayy for the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Beck's Nails and Spa.

Located at 2101 Main Street, Suite I, Beck's Nails and Spa is a dedicated sanctuary designed to provide the Columbia community with a premier and relaxing beauty and wellness experience. In addition to offering salon services, the business is also proud to serve as a local employer and is actively hiring skilled professionals, creating career opportunities for talented residents in Columbia.

The ribbon cutting celebrated the opening of the new Main Street business and its investment in the downtown community.



**[Watch the ribbon cutting HERE!](#)**

# Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

## Brittons 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

2818 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205



On Saturday, April 25, 2026, Brittons celebrated 30 years on Devine Street with a press conference recognizing the business's lasting impact on the Columbia community.

Founded in 1947, Brittons has remained a family-owned local business for generations. The anniversary celebration highlighted owner Stacy Levinson, a third-generation owner, and Perry Lancaster, who also celebrated 50 years with Brittons this year.

Over the past 30 years, Brittons, its team, and the local community have helped raise more than \$1 million for Columbia-area charities. In 2025, the business was recognized as Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year.

The celebration also benefited Keep the Midlands Beautiful. As part of the event, customers who donated \$10 received 30% off one item, excluding tuxedo rentals and Brackish.

Councilman Will Brennan, the City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities, and owner Stacy Levinson took part in the celebration.



[Watch the Anniversary Celebration HERE](#)

## Ways to celebrate planet Earth

April 22 is Earth Day, a great reminder of our interconnectedness, the beauty of our planet and our responsibility to take care of the environment.

In honor of Earth Day, here are a some simple ways that you can celebrate:

1. Eat vegetarian and/or local, organic food for the day.
2. Pick up litter.
3. Say no to plastic bags.
4. Read more online and reduce printing.
5. Go off-grid and turn off your electronics.

## Buzzword: Did you know?

To produce just one pound of honey, a hive of bees must collect nectar from 2,000,000 flowers and fly over 55,000 miles.

A single worker bee only makes about 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in her six to eight week life-time, during which she aids in pollinating 80% of U.S. crops. *Buzzword is a contribution from the City of Columbia Bee City Committee. The City became a Bee City USA in 2025.*



## Incorporate “double-duty plants” in your spring garden

Spring is the time to think about your garden. This year, introduce a few plants that can help around the house and the yard, too.

### **Aloe** (*Aloe vera*)

A sun-loving evergreen. The gel in the leaves can soothe burns and itches.

### **Lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

A bush with fragrant purple wands. Attracts helpful insects, repels rabbits. Can be used in cooking.



### **Catnip** (*Nepeta cataria*)

A must for cat lovers. Use in the garden to keep away flea beetles, aphids, Japanese beetles, squash bugs, ants and weevils.

### **Spearmint** (*Mentha spicata*)

A fragrant green herb with spiky leaves. Repels mice. Leaves can settle some stomachaches.

### **Dill** (*Anethum graveolens*)

Dill mixed with a little butter adds a nice zip to carrots. In the garden, it repels aphids and spider mites, but attracts hoverflies, predatory wasps and swallowtail butterfly caterpillars.



## **\$50,000 Raised in the Fight Against Cancer at 2026 Fire Truck Pull**

Curing Kids Cancer's annual Fire Truck Pull in Columbia rolled to another year of success in 2026 as roughly \$50,000 was raised to benefit area research for pediatric cancers and cures.

Twenty-seven teams competed in this year's competition on Saturday morning March 28. For the second straight spring the event took place in its new home in downtown Columbia near Hampton and Main streets.

The Columbia-Richland Fire Department was proud to once again provide the fire engines and the staff to make the contest possible.

Members of the Irmo Fire District took home this year's top prize for pull time. 'Irmo Fire Strongmen Pulling for Logan' pulled one of the fire engines down a stretch of the street in 17.68 seconds. 'Michelin Yellow Pulling for Charlie' finished with the second best pull time at 18.97 seconds.

Every team that took part in the event pulled in support of or in memory of a child who has been touched by cancer. 'Teagan's Tribe' recorded the highest amount in donations raised and two teams would be recognized for their creative costumes: 'Curella's Crew Pulling for Jackson and DeVill's Dogs Pulling for Arianna.' All proceeds raised from the event will go to fund pediatric cancer research at Prisma Health Children's Hospital-Midlands, which is leading the charge in innovative treatments for childhood cancers.





## **Lantern Columbia Opens in Former Fire Department Headquarters**

On Tuesday, March 25, 2026, Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and other members of the Columbia-Richland Fire Department joined many honored guests for grand opening festivities at Lantern Columbia.

The former site of fire department headquarters in Columbia is now the Capital City's newest hotel. Fire Chief Jenkins is one of CRFD's last active members who worked out of the building on Senate Street, beginning in 1979 when he started his career with the city as a firefighter.

Joining him for the event were Assistant Fire Chief Chris Kip, Battalion Chief Jason Herbert and members of Engine Company 2 – 1st Shift. The fire department wishes the developers and managers of Lantern Columbia the best as they begin this new chapter for the building while honoring its rich history.





## **Columbia Fireflies Visit CRFD Headquarters Ahead of First Responders Night**

On Wednesday, April 8, 2026, two members of the Columbia Fireflies were treated to an exciting tour of Columbia-Richland Fire Department headquarters.

Brooks Bryan and Stone Russle stopped by for the visit ahead of First Responders Night at Segra Park. More than 200 members of CRFD came out to cheer on the Fireflies as they took on the Myrtle Beach Pelicans.

As part of their tour, Bryan and Russle suited up in firefighter gear and learned more about what each day can bring in the fire service.





## **Prisma Health Doctors Spend Morning with CRFD**

The Columbia-Richland Fire Department was thrilled to welcome emergency medicine resident physicians at Prisma Health to the department training grounds!

Several of them came out on Wednesday April 15 to learn about the kinds of injuries that firefighters see on emergency scenes and the techniques used to rescue patients.

Every year the FD hosts this morning seminar to foster dialogue and collaboration with the area doctors serving our communities.





## **Excelling Students in Richland One Receive Free Bikes from Columbia Fire Chief**

Twenty-four students at Carver-Lyon Elementary School in Columbia received a special reward for their hard work in the classroom.

On Friday, April 24, Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins visited the school to present each student with a brand-new bicycle in recognition of their academic progress. Each student selected to receive a bike showed the highest growth in their STAR English Language Arts score or i-Ready Math score.

This continues a meaningful program led by Chief Jenkins, who purchases bicycles and presents them to students at area schools each year to celebrate their hard work, academic growth and classroom success.





The Informant  
Southeast Region



# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026 | SOUTHEAST REGION | 2132 DEVINE ST.

HELLO  
SPRING

Crime often increases in the spring. As temperatures rise and daylight hours extend, more people spend time outdoors and travelling, which naturally leads to greater interaction and, in some cases, more opportunities for criminal activity. Additionally, schools and routines begin to loosen as summer approaches, giving young people more unstructured time, which can contribute to higher rates of certain offenses. When travelling, have your property placed on a **Property Check**. Call Southeast Region at (803) 747-5882 or go online at [www.columbiapd.net](http://www.columbiapd.net). Police will periodically check your property while you are away. As always, keep your vehicle doors locked and do not leave any valuables inside your vehicle.





On March 19, 2026, Code Enforcement Officer Greg Woods assisted Highway Patrol with two drivers who were trapped in their vehicles after a serious wreck on SC-277. Everyone involved was safely removed, and injuries were minor. Way to go CEO Woods!

## Five Points Street Festival Honoring Steve Taneyhill

Greene Street in Five Points will close on April 3, 2026, for a street music festival honoring the life and legacy of Gamecock legend Steve Tanyhill. The festival will take place from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Greene Street will be closed from Harden Street to Pavilion Ave. The event is hosted by the Chi Psi Fraternity at USC and co-hosted by Steve Taneyhill's Group Therapy, located at 2107 Greene St. The festival will feature live bands in the afternoon, followed by DJs and a special headlining performance in the evening.

## Safety Precautions When Traveling this Spring

### Before You Go

- Research your destination
- Make copies of documents
- Share you itinerary Get
- travel insurance

### Pack Smart

- Don't overpack valuables
- Use anti-theft gear
- Pack a basic first aid kit



### Transportation Safety

- Use reputable transport
- Avoid sharing ride details publicly
- Check vehicle details before getting into an Uber or taxi

### Accommodation Tips

- Choose well-reviewed places
- Lock doors and windows Use hotel safes Money and Payments
- Split your cash/cards - don't keep everything in the same place
- Use ATMs in a secure location
- Monitor your accounts regularly for suspicious activity

### Emergency Prep

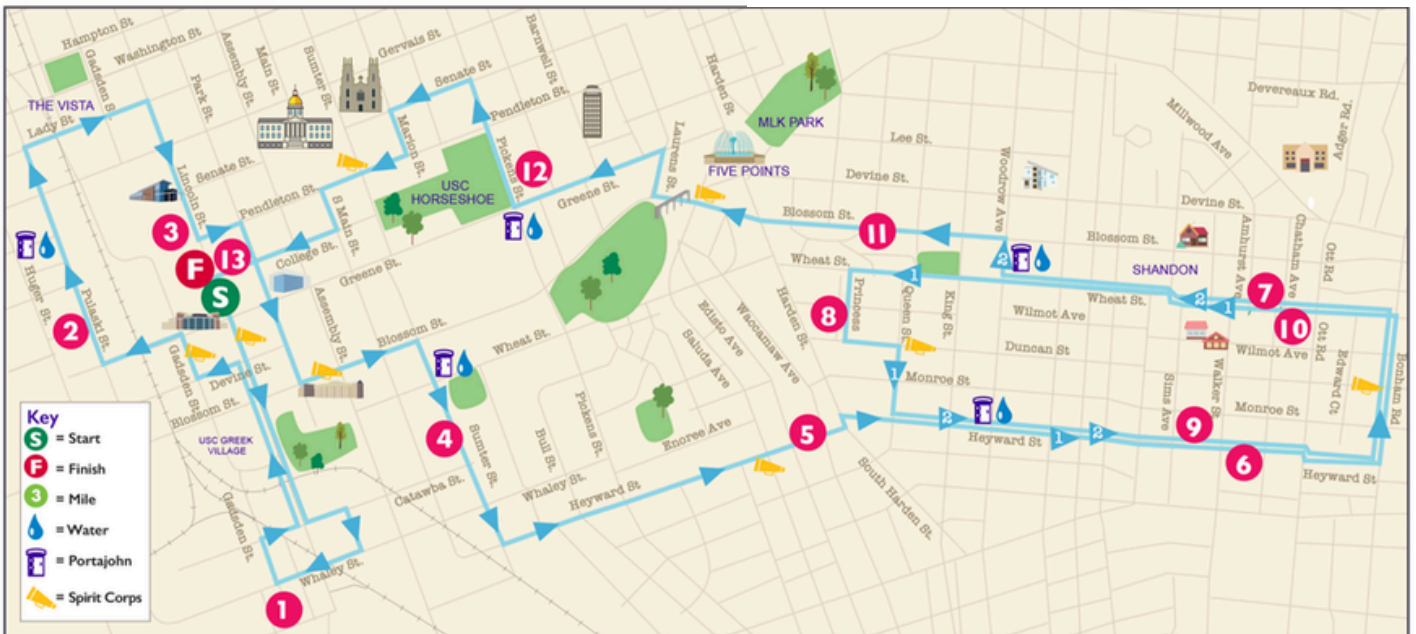
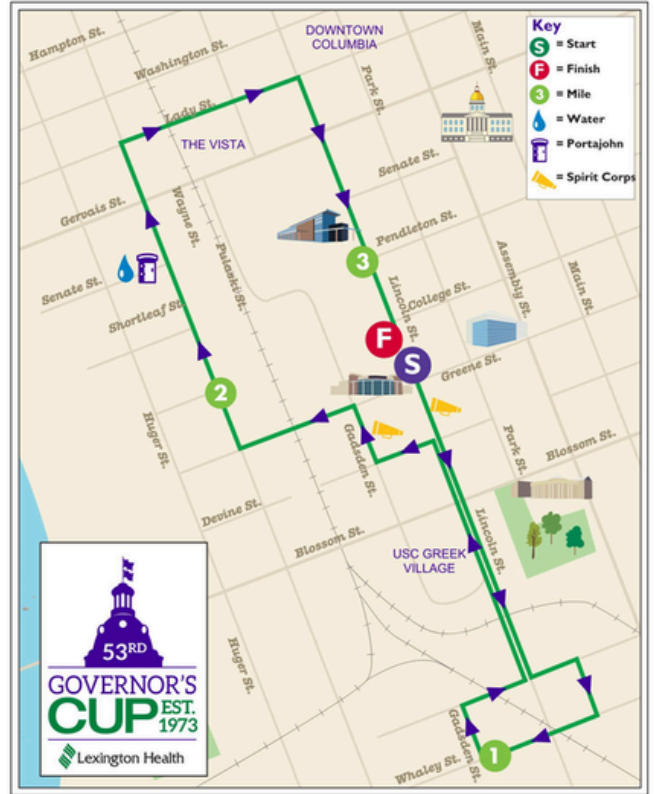
- Know local emergency numbers
- Locate nearby hospitals or embassies
- Keep a list of important contacts offline

The goal is not to be paranoid - it's to be prepared and aware. Stay aware of your surroundings and blend in when possible. Don't display expensive items. But most importantly, have fun!



Maps for the 5K and the half-marathon are below. For more information, visit:  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Columbia/TheGovernorsCup>

Get ready to lace up your running shoes for The Governor's Cup Road Race, taking place from April 10 to 11, 2026. Established in 1973, the Governor's Cup is one of the most prestigious and longest-running road races in the Southeast. Runners of all ages and abilities can participate in a variety of exciting races, including The Main Street Mile, The Kids' Main Street Mile, the fast-paced Governor's Cup 5K, and the main event, the exhilarating Governor's Cup Half Marathon. (continued on the next column)





**HAPPY EASTER**



# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026 | WEST REGION | 690 CLUB RD

*Easter is widely celebrated as a powerful season for new beginnings, representing both a profound spiritual milestone and a universal symbol of hope and transformation. At its core, the holiday commemorated the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which Christians believe signified a victory over death and the promise of a "second chance" for everyone. This message encourages people to leave behind past mistakes, failures, or old selves" to embrace a fresh start. Beyond its religious roots, Easter aligns with the arrival of spring in the northern hemisphere, where nature itself mirrors this theme through blooming flowers, budding trees, and new life. This combination makes it a natural time for reflection and personal growth.*

Hop on over for the

**CITY OF Columbia**

**EASTER**  
Egg Roll

2026

Join us on  
**April 3rd from  
10am to 2:00pm**  
for some egg rolling fun!

Finlay Park  
930 Laurel Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

On behalf of West Region... Thank You Atlantic at Parkridge for the wonderful treats!!!



25 YEARS  
**STRONGER**

<<< LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD >>>

APRIL IS  
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

25 years stronger  
<<< looking back, moving forward >>>

FREE PARKING | CLEAR BAGS ONLY

This Year We Highlight French Speaking Nations  
THE WORLD COMES TOGETHER AT THE 31ST ANNUAL

# COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**APRIL 18 & APRIL 19**  
10 AM - 7 PM      NOON - 7 PM

**SC STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

Buy tickets early and **SAVE \$3** at  
[cifonline.org/2026tickets](http://cifonline.org/2026tickets)



SUSTAINING  
SPONSORS



COLA

PLATINUM  
SPONSOR





## **Graduation of Officer Gabriel Soliz**

Congratulations to Officer Gabriel Genaro Soliz "Gabe" for graduating from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy with Basic Law Enforcement Class 853 on Friday, April 10, 2026! He reports to North Region where he will now begin his Field Training.

Best of luck to Gabe!





## Infrastructure Investment

### **SS7623 Metro WWTP Dewatering Roll-Off Receiving Station**



*Future site for the Dewatering Roll Off Receiving Station structure.*

- **Project Construction Cost: \$1.5M**
  - **Construction Start: February 2026**
  - **Anticipated Completion Date: October 2026**
- The Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Dewatering Roll-Off Receiving Station project will replace an existing temporary roll-off receiving station with a permanent station at the Metro WWTP.
- The Metro WWTP is currently utilizing a temporary location and configuration to receive City sewer maintenance vac trucks, pump station maintenance vac trucks, Plant maintenance vac trucks, and City dewatering cans. Additionally, companies contracted by the City of Columbia must also use the temporary location for unloading into roll-off containers for dewatering of solids prior to hauling them to the landfill for disposal.
- The scope of work includes a large contained multi-tiered structure made of roughly 1,100 cubic yards of concrete. The concrete structure will have various slopes and drainage features designed to keep all dewatered materials properly handled before they are discarded off site.



Construction entrance installed and equipment provided as the work begins.



Site work underway with stockpiling of soils and erosion protection.

## EMPLOYEES OF THE FIRST QUARTER

Columbia Water has an incredible, dedicated staff. We recognize and honor the following employees for their exemplary conduct and contributions.



Edward Coker- Water Distribution and Maintenance  
(L to R: Jeremy Yates, Edward Coker, John Riggs, Clint Shealy)



Cynthia Ashford- Customer Services  
(L to R: Clint Shealy, Cynthia Ashford, Tenisha Guider, Brandon Lewis)



Tyler Brunson- Wastewater Maintenance  
(L to R: Clint Shealy, George Bryan, Tyler Brunson, Jeremy Yates)

## CUSTOMER CARE KUDOS

Our Customer Care team members are highly trained and knowledgeable about all aspects of city services. We recognize and honor the following team members for their outstanding service to our families, friends and neighbors.

### Customer Kudos

#### Latasha Eaves

Ms. Andrea Sims commended Latasha for her dedication and follow-through, especially while her system was down. She expressed appreciation for Latasha's commitment, noting, "I appreciate Tasha following up with me. It's usually hard for me to get a follow-up call."

*Latasha's persistence and customer focus made a meaningful impact.*



### Customer Kudos

#### Nakeisha McCoy

Mr. Drew called in about a water meter leak on a new build, with closing coming up fast. As a longtime builder, he's talked to plenty of agents over the years, but he said Nakeisha was different. She listened, understood the urgency, and walked him through everything with the confidence of a true water pro. He left the call feeling supported, informed, and taken care of.

*Nakeisha, thank you for showing what real customer care looks like. You made an impact today.*



## CANAL UPGRADES

Progress continues on our resilient, alternate water supply as part of the Columbia Canal recovery project due to the historic flood of October 2015. To learn more click [here](#).



## THANK YOU, DAVID SHARPE!



“After 52 years of dedicated service, Mr. David A. Sharpe has decided to retire, effective June 25, 2026.

David joined the City of Columbia over five decades ago, in March of 1974, bringing with him a spirit of determination and a passion for his work that has only grown stronger with time. From the very beginning, he embraced the challenges of the maintenance department with open arms, demonstrating not only technical skill but also a genuine commitment to the betterment of the City of Columbia community.

Throughout the years, David has been a beacon of professionalism. His meticulous attention to detail, innovative problem-solving skills, and willingness to mentor new maintenance staff have set a high standard throughout the City of Columbia. He possesses a unique ability to turn obstacles into opportunities, ensuring that our Water Treatment Plants and our Distribution systems run smoothly and efficiently.

It is essential to recognize the profound impact David's 51-plus years of service have had on those around him and the City of Columbia. He has not only been a vital part of our organization's success but also a friend and a role model to countless individuals. His dedication goes beyond the job; it encompasses a deep-rooted care and commitment to providing safe and clean water for the City of Columbia customers.”

-Corey Jarels, Superintendent Lake Murray WTP



## 2026 Walk for Water - Columbia

On April 25, 2026, Columbia Water participated in the Walk for Water at Saluda Shoals Park. This fundraising walk is an effort by Water Mission to bring relief to millions of women and children who continue to walk more than three miles to collect their family's daily water needs.

Every \$50 provides safe water for one person. Water Mission has joined together with various communities to bring clean, safe water to more than 1,000 people in need around the world.

Thank you to Columbia Water and all who joined the walk for helping make a difference!





Kudos to the Solid Waste services team!  
Your efforts are seen and appreciated!

Dear Ms. Yager:

I am writing to share my appreciation for the City's Solid Waste services staff. They do a great job!

Your team is always thorough and friendly in their service, and they are willing to make an extra effort. For example, when our curb was blocked by other repairs, I watched the garbage collector walk to the bin to grab the bag inside. Regardless of the time of year or amount of yard waste, it is always collected promptly and completely.

I just wanted your team to know that their care is noticed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anita Floyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

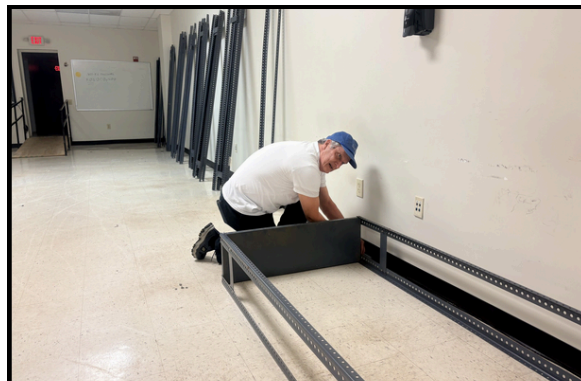
Anita Floyd



## **City Departments and Richland County Community Development Support Homeless Services' 30 Days of Volunteering**

Shoutout to the City of Columbia Community Development Department, City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities and Richland County Community Development for supporting Homeless Services' 30 Days of Volunteering initiative.

From community cleanups to organizing storage spaces, their teams stepped in to make a meaningful impact behind the scenes. This important work does not happen alone. It takes collaboration, commitment and a shared vision for serving the community.





## **Thank You, Parking Services!**

Kimberly South, Director of Community Development for Pathways to Healing, sent a thank you message to Brandon Burnette and the Parking Services team for the work they did to support an event:

“Brandon and Parking Team,

Thank you so much for supporting our event last week – Walk a Mile in Our Shoes – at the SC State House on April 21. Our meters were bagged and ready. We also appreciate the extra support when someone was in our reserved spot. You all came out very quickly and without any hassle.

We had more than 200 people in attendance and raised more than \$50,000 for sexual assault survivor services in the Midlands.




Thanks for all you do to keep our city safe!”




-Kimberly

Thank you, and great job to Parking Services!



## April Mobile Shoe Store Schedule

 **Tuesday, April 14th**  
 **8:30am - 4:30pm**  
 **Public Works**  
2910 Colonial Dr.  
Columbia, SC 29203

 **Tuesday, April 28th**  
 **8:30am - 4:30pm**  
 **Public Works**  
2910 Colonial Dr.  
Columbia, SC 29203

**VULCAN SAFETY SHOES**  
DIVISION OF SAF GARD SAFETY SHOE CO.

**WE'RE DROPPING BY SOON  
WITH YOUR CUSTOM SAFETY  
SHOE SELECTIONS**

Our mobile shoe store is coming to your facility. Drop by to check out our selection of safety footwear, and get professionally fitted while you're at it.

**CITY OF COLUMBIA**  
**Tuesday April 14th**  
**8:30am - 4:30pm**  
City's Public Works at 2910 Colonial Dr. Columbia

Learn more at [SafeShoes.com](http://SafeShoes.com)  
(800) 221-8843

To maximize your shopping experience, and to keep everyone safe, we'll keep it to three equipment on the truck at a time.



**VULCAN SAFETY SHOES**  
DIVISION OF SAF GARD SAFETY SHOE CO.

**WE'RE DROPPING BY SOON  
WITH YOUR CUSTOM SAFETY  
SHOE SELECTIONS**

Our mobile shoe store is coming to your facility. Drop by to check out our selection of safety footwear, and get professionally fitted while you're at it.

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Public Works at 2910 Colonial Dr. Columbia

Learn more at [SafeShoes.com](http://SafeShoes.com)  
(800) 221-8843

To maximize your shopping experience, and to keep everyone safe, we'll keep it to three equipment on the truck at a time.





## **Writing Better RFP Specifications: Keeping It Fair, Clear, and Helpful**

When a department begins putting together specifications for a Request for Proposal (RFP), the goal is simple: clearly explain what is needed so vendors can respond in a way that helps the City find the best fit. Good specifications make the process smoother for everyone. They help vendors understand the need, support fair competition, and give the entity a better chance of receiving strong, responsive proposals.

One area that deserves special attention is avoiding language that is too narrow or too specific. This can happen when a department is used to working with one brand, one vendor, or one way of doing things. While that may feel natural, it can accidentally limit competition and make it seem like the solicitation is written for a particular company. In public procurement, it is important to focus on the actual need of the entity rather than a preferred product or provider.

A stronger approach is to describe what the product or service needs to do instead of naming exactly what it must be. For example, instead of requiring one specific brand, it is often better to explain the performance, function, or result that is needed. This opens the door for more qualified vendors to compete while still making sure the City receives what it truly needs. When specifications are too restrictive, the result can be fewer responses, less competitive pricing, and a greater chance of complaints or confusion.

It is also helpful to be aware of common mistakes that can make an RFP harder to manage. One of the most common is copying an old scope of work and not fully updating it for the current project. Previous documents can be a good starting point, but every project should be reviewed carefully to make sure the requirements still apply. Another frequent issue is using wording that is too vague, such as "as needed" or "as applicable," without clearly explaining what those terms mean. When expectations are unclear, vendors may interpret them differently, which can lead to inconsistent proposals and make evaluation more difficult.

At the heart of it, strong RFP specifications should be fair, clear, and practical. They should give vendors enough information to prepare a thoughtful response without placing unnecessary limits on who can compete. When departments take the time to avoid overly restrictive language and common drafting mistakes, they help create a better procurement process for everyone involved.

A well-written RFP tells the market what the entity needs, why it matters, and what success should look like. That kind of clarity helps support open competition, better responses, and stronger contract outcomes for the public.



# Procurement Resources Access Guide

Quick One-Page Reference for City Staff

## Where to Go

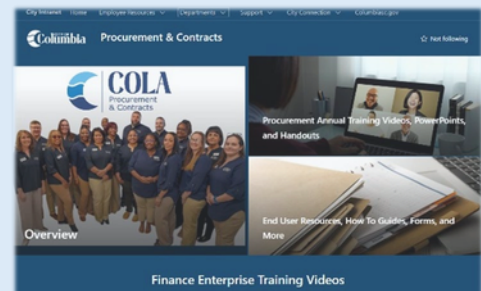
All procurement resources and forms are available on the **City Intranet via the Procurement & Contracts SharePoint Site:**

<https://colasc.sharepoint.com/sites/ProcurementContracts>



Bookmark it for quick access!

## What You Will Find

- Procurement & Contracts Overview
  - Procurement Regulations (Appendix G)
- How-To Guides, Forms, and More
  - Purchasing Thresholds, How to Enter a Requisition, How to Search for Vendors in eBid, How to Modify a PO, Solicitation Request Checklist, Contractor Performance Evaluation Report form, and So Much MORE!
- Annual Training Videos, PowerPoints, and Handouts



## How to Access SharePoint

1. Click or Enter the SharePoint link.  
2. Navigate the page to explore resources and forms.
3. Download documents and forms for reference and/or use.

## Need Help?

The Procurement team is here to support you.

For assistance, reach out to **Procurement & Contracts** at 803-545-3470 / [ProcurementNeeds@columbiasc.gov](mailto:ProcurementNeeds@columbiasc.gov) or your department's procurement representative.

*Now offering*

**\$10  
MICROCHIPS**

*Visit our front desk during  
business hours to chip your pet(s)!*

***Mondays-Fridays only***

***noon - 5 P.M.***

***\*Richland County & City of  
Columbia residents only. No  
appointment required.***



**Columbia**  
ANIMAL SERVICES



**CITY OF  
Columbia**



**COLA**  
Community  
Development



# Community Engagement University Program

**Discover Your City- Engage, Learn and Participate!**

This is a five-week course designed to enhance citizen awareness and provide a behind the scenes look at various departments and divisions that make our city run smoothly.

These courses will begin on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 and end on Wednesday, May 6, 2025.

Participating in all sessions will earn you a Certificate of Completion

### Class Dates and Times:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Virginia Bedford Center  
Earlewood Park**

**1113 Recreation Dr., Columbia, SC 29203**

"Your Community. Your City. Your Opportunity to Learn"  
Light refreshments will be provided at this event.



LEARN MORE HERE!

APRIL 30th-  
MAY 2nd  
2026 COLUMBIA, SC

JOIN US  
FOR  
SHORT FILMS  
TRAILERS & MUSIC  
VIDEOS  
SCREENINGS  
ONE ACT PLAYS  
STAGED READINGS  
WORKSHOPS  
MASTERCLASSES  
NETWORKING MIXERS  
AWARDS CEREMONY



SCAN  
ME

# W S

THEATRE & FILM  
FESTIVAL

WOWSTUDIOONE



W S O F E S T I V A L . C O M

# TOUCH-A-TRUCK



**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026**

**9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**1700 BLOCK OF MAIN ST.**

**@ SODA CITY MARKET**



MAY 16  
10AM-5PM



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR

# COLUMBIA BLACK EXPO



GET TICKETS AT [BLACKEXPOSOUTH.COM](http://BLACKEXPOSOUTH.COM)

JONATHAN MAJORS - MEGAN GOOD MAJORS - DAWN STALEY - LANCE GROSS  
DEE 1 - LISA KNOWLES SMITH AND THE BROWN SINGERS - STEVE RAY LADSON



# Songbird 26

SATURDAY, MAY 30 & SUNDAY, MAY 31

COLUMBIA, SC \* FINLAY PARK

## OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW

SAM BUSH THE CREEKERS FUTUREBIRDS

INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS SHADOWGRASS

SUSTO STRINGBAND THE B. WRIGHTS SAM BURCHFIELD

(FEATURING MEMBERS OF HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH)

BEN CHAPMAN THE BLUE DOGS THE RUNOUT TOUNDS

VANCE GAP PODUNK RAMBLERS THE DONOVAN TWINS

A.P. RODGERS JACK FORTUNE

SONGBIRDCOLA.COM



# PUPS & PINTS ADOPTION EVENT AND DONATION DRIVE

**SATURDAY, MAY 2ND  
NOON-3 P.M.**

**BIERKELLER**

**600 CANALSIDE STREET  
SUITE 1009  
COLUMBIA, SC 29205**

**ADOPTION  
FEES WAIVED!**

**CONSIDERING ADOPTION?  
PLEASE COME PREPARED  
WITH A LEASH AND COLLAR!**



**2026 EVENT  
SPONSORS:**



**Columbia  
ANIMAL SERVICES**



\$ DOLLAR

5

DOLLAR

FIESTA!

\$5 ADOPTION FEE FOR ALL PETS!  
TUESDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>



Columbia  
ANIMAL SERVICES



CITY OF  
Columbia





YOU'RE INVITED

COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES & ANIMAL MISSION'S



# KITTEN SHOWER

DONATION DRIVE FOR NEO-NATAL KITTEN CARE!  
LEARN ABOUT THE BASICS OF KITTEN FOSTERING  
& NEIGHBORHOOD CAT TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR)

SATURDAY | MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES LOBBY  
127 HUMANE LANE




Columbia  
ANIMAL SERVICES



CITY OF  
Columbia





# NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Adoption Promo

MAY 1-31

FREE ADOPTIONS  
ALL PUPPIES  
& KITTENS

(one year and under)



127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209  
(803) 776-PETS (7387)



*Celebrate*

# PRESERVATION MONTH 2026

## ARCHITECTURAL SCAVENGER HUNT

**Weekly**

**Instagram + Facebook**

Follow CCHD on socials for a weekly scavenger hunt identifying some of the City's most notable buildings. Participate for the chance to win weekly prizes!

## PRESERVATION BIKE TOUR

**Sunday, May 3, 9am**

**Starts 1400 Block of Main**

Hop on your bike for a tour of Columbia's Green Book sites and African American Resources. Registration required; bikes and helmets required.

## PROCLAMATION + MABEL PAYNE AWARD

**Tuesday, May 5, 4pm**

**City Hall, Council Chambers**

Join Columbia City Council as they officially declare May as National Historic Preservation Month.

## LUNCH + LEARN: HOUSE HISTORY

**Thursday, May 7, 12pm**

**Richland Library Main, Local History Room**

Discover tools and methods for researching your historic Columbia home. Details online.

## COMPLEX HISTORY: STATE HOUSE GROUNDS MONUMENT TOUR

**Monday, May 11, 5:30pm**

**SC State House**

Join CCHD for a tour to find out how, when, and why monuments were installed at the SC State House. Registration recommended.

## HISTORIC WOOD WINDOW MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

**Saturday, May 16, 10am**

**1623 Richland Street**

Get hands on practice in basic window repair and paint removal. Registration required.

## MASONRY REPOINTING WORKSHOP

**Wednesday, May 20, 5:45pm**

**Historic Melrose**

Learn the basics of masonry repointing and repair with an expert mason. Registration required.



SPOTS ARE LIMITED  
SIGN UP TODAY!



## HAPPY HOUR: RENOVATION ROUNDTABLE

**Thursday, May 28, 6pm**

**All Good Books**

Join City preservation staff, local preservationists, and historic home owners for a chat about preservation and architecture in Columbia. Registration recommended.

## WINDOW WORKSHOP: UNSTICKING HISTORIC WINDOWS

**Saturday, June 6, 10am**

**Cottontown Historic District**

Learn the proper methods and techniques for unsticking historic windows. Registration required.

## SAVE THE DATE: PAWS CALENDAR NOMINATIONS OPEN

**Monday, June 1**

**Online**

Save the date for Paws for Preservation calendar nomination launch to see how your pet can be included and how you can support preservation into 2027.

Continue the fun into June 2026!



Sign up for our e-newsletter for regular updates



## CELEBRATE MAY

**Sunday, May 3**

### Preservation Bike Tour

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

May is also National Historic Preservation Month! Hop on your bike and join City preservation staff on a bike tour of Green Book sites in downtown Columbia. Registration (see [columbiacompass.org/celebratemay](http://columbiacompass.org/celebratemay) to register) and helmet required.

**Sunday, May 3**

### National Ride a Bike Day

Take a pic for social media, and use #bikeday and #togetherwecolumbia

**Tuesday, May 5**

### City of Columbia Bike Month Proclamation

4:00 PM

City Council Proclamation, City Hall, 1737 Main Street, [columbiasc.gov](http://columbiasc.gov)

**Tuesday, May 5**

### Glizzy Guzzle

7:00 PM

Join Street Meat at the Cola Town Bike Collective (711 Elmwood Ave.) for a 6-mile all-levels ride around downtown Columbia with time at the end to talk and hangout.

**Wednesday, May 6**

### Cola Women/Trans/Femme/Non-binary Cyclists Ride

6:30 PM

Meet at 6:30 PM for a 10ish mile, no-drop monthly social ride for femme/trans/women/nonbinary riders + stop for a sweet treat downtown along the way. Meet at Cola Town Bike Collective (711 Elmwood Ave.) Follow [cola\\_wtfnb\\_cyclists](https://www.instagram.com/cola_wtfnb_cyclists) on Instagram for updates.

**Wednesday, May 6**

### National Bike & Roll to School Day

TIMING VARIES

Join a local event or sign up to organize one at your school - find out more at [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org)

**Saturday, May 9**

### Street Meat Alley Cat Race

10:00 AM

Meet at 634 B Avenue in West Columbia for a classic alley cat race that starts at 10:30AM. Each rider will receive a sealed envelope with five location clues. Registration at [linktree.com/streetmeatcola](http://linktree.com/streetmeatcola). All ages, awards, and after party (\$10 donation).

**Thursday, May 14**

### Ribbon Cutting + Celebration

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet at Cola Town Bike Collective (711 Elmwood Ave) to celebrate recent improvements to the CTBC space + updates to the public bike repair stand network completed in partnership with Leadership Columbia.

**Monday, May 11 - Sunday, May 17**

### Bike to Work Week

DAILY COMMUTE

Commit to commuting, and invite a neighbor or colleague to join!

**Friday, May 15**

### Bike to Work Day

8:30 AM

Ride with a group or own your own to arrive at the State House at 8:30 AM, take a group picture, and ride down Main Street to City Hall. Ride with a group from: Outspokin' (3223 Devine St.) @8:00 AM, Curiosity Coffee (2327 Main St.) @8:15AM, or Cycle Center (1001 Harden St.) @8:00AM

**Friday, May 15**

### Bike to the Ballgame

5:45 PM

Ride with us to a Friday Fireflies game! We've got 30 free tickets available. RSVP to claim a free fireflies hat: [bit.ly/bike-fireflies](http://bit.ly/bike-fireflies). Roll from Outspokin' (3223 Devine St.) at 5:45PM, swing by CTBC around 6:20PM, and arrive at Segra Park by 6:45PM for a 7:05PM start. If spots fill, you're still welcome to join the ride and purchase your own ticket.

**Sunday, May 17**

### Ride to Rita's Family Ride

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Meet at Cola Town Bike Collective (711 Elmwood Ave.) for a 4-mile social ride along S. Main Street with a stop at Rita's, returning via the Vista Greenway. Easy pace, no-drop. Big kid friendly!

**Wednesday, May 20 @ 6:30 PM**

### Harbison Mountain Bike Ride

Join Cycle Center at Harbison State Forest for their trail ride. Bring your helmet and sense of adventure!

**Wednesday, May 20**

### Midlands Ride of Silence

TIME TBD

Street Meat is organizing this year's Ride of Silence, which is a nationwide event that honors cyclists who have been injured or killed. For details visit their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

**Thursday, May 21**

### Handlebar Happy Hour Ride

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Join Outspokin' Bicycles + the Palmetto Trail for a ride along the Capital City Passage, followed by beer and pizza at the Palmetto Trail office (722 King St) afterwards. Registration is required; details will be shared once available at [columbiacompass.org/celebratemay](http://columbiacompass.org/celebratemay)

**Sunday, May 24**

### Coffee & Cola Connectivity Ride

9:30 AM

Join Cola Town Bike Collective (711 Elmwood Ave.) for an 8-mile social ride with a coffee stop. We'll stop along the way to look at key corridors, share a few recent wins, and talk through what's coming next for safer streets and greenway connections across Columbia.

## GO FOR A RIDE

**Sundays @ 10 AM**

### Cycle Center Group Ride

Meet at Cycle Center (1001 Harden St.) for a 30-40 mile road ride with loops into Cayce & West Columbia

**Sundays @ 3:30 PM**

### Midlands SORBA Trail Ride

Harbison State Forest. See [Midlands SORBA Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com) for more info, and sign the e-waiver first: [bit.ly/SORBA-waiver](http://bit.ly/SORBA-waiver)

**Mondays @ 6 PM**

### Rosewood Ride

Meet at Rosewood Park for a five-mile family friendly casual ride around the neighborhood.

**Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 6:00 PM**

### MTCCSC Weekly Rides

Meet at Doko Meadows Park (171 Langford Rd, Blythewood) and ride with Major Taylor Cycling Club of South Carolina. See their [website](https://www.mtccsc.org) for more information, bring water, lights, and proper hydration. Sign the e-waiver first: [bit.ly/MTCCSC-waiver](http://bit.ly/MTCCSC-waiver)

**Tuesdays @ 6:45 PM**

### Street Meat Tuesday Rides

Ride starts at 7 PM, 10-15 miles, all genders, no-drop city/neighborhood ride. Lights and helmets required. Meet at Cola Town Bike Collective (711 Elmwood Ave.)

**Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 6:00 PM**

### Tri-City Cyclers Road Rides

All levels and abilities; no drop options. New this year, there is now a GC group that will not exceed 22mph (a breakaway may go faster) and a C group (14-16mph) is a social no-drop. Meet at B Avenue Sports Complex (815 B Ave. West Columbia). Helmets required, front and rear lights strongly recommended. Check [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) for weather + start time changes.

**Thursdays @ 6:15 PM**

### Midlands SORBA Trail Ride

Harbison State Forest. See [Midlands SORBA Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com) for more info, and sign the e-waiver first: [bit.ly/SORBA-waiver](http://bit.ly/SORBA-waiver)

**Thursdays @ 7:00 PM**

### Outspokin' Thirsty Thursday Ride

10-15 miles, city/neighborhoods, no drop ride. Helmets & lights required. Meet at Outspokin' Bicycles (3223 Devine St) at 6:45 PM to ride at 7 PM.

**Fridays @ 6:30 PM**

### Cycle Center Beer Ride

Meet at Cycle Center (1001 Harden) for a social 20-ish mile road ride through Columbia & Forest Acres

## TAKE ON A CHALLENGE

**All Month Long**

### National Bike Challenge

Log your miles as an individual or group [lovetoride.net/usa](http://lovetoride.net/usa)

**All Month Long**

### Take a Preservation Bike Ride

May is also National Historic Preservation Month! Take a self-guided ride (or two) and travel through Hidden Columbia and 1960s Columbia. City of Columbia YouTube: [bit.ly/PreservationPlaylist](http://bit.ly/PreservationPlaylist)

## BUILD KNOWLEDGE

**Saturday, May 2**

### Bike Tune Up & Maintenance 101

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Join Scott Nuelken of Cola Town Bike Collective at [Richland Library Wheatley](https://www.facebook.com) (931 Woodrow St.) + bring your own bike to learn basic bike maintenance and safety.

**Wednesday, May 6**

### Ride Stronger: Injury Prevention

+ Nutrition for the Cyclist

6:30 PM

Join Mitch Haks from TriFit Physical Therapy and Erin Kesterson from Fuel Your Sport at Outspokin' (3223 Devine St) for a brief discussion on common injuries + best practices for injury prevention and fueling endurance athletes. Check out the Facebook event: [bit.ly/4ttOde0](http://bit.ly/4ttOde0) and register: [bit.ly/4ebt96N](http://bit.ly/4ebt96N)

**Tuesday, May 12**

### Sharing the Road Public Meetings

11:00 AM - 1:00PM + 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Dig into data + provide feedback on recommendations to make our roadways safer for all users at Virginia Bedford Community Center (Earlewood Park, 1113 Recreation Dr.)

**Wednesday, May 13**

### Basic Bike Maintenance Clinic

6:00 PM

Meet at Cycle Center (1001 Harden Street) to build your bike knowledge! Register by emailing [info@cyclecenter.com](mailto:info@cyclecenter.com).

**Thursday, May 21**

### Cola Roll to Rail Presentation

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Bikes + Trains. Did you know you can bring your bicycle on Amtrak trains here in Columbia? Meet at CTBC (711 Elmwood Ave.) for a presentation on Amtrak bicycle travel options, including trip ideas and basic logistics for traveling with a bike, all with no car required!

Visit [columbiacompass.org/celebratemay](http://columbiacompass.org/celebratemay) for event details, calendar updates, and more. Add your event by emailing [transportationplanning@columbiasc.gov](mailto:transportationplanning@columbiasc.gov). Sign up for our Walk Bike Columbia e-newsletters to stay in the know: [bit.ly/WBC-emails](http://bit.ly/WBC-emails)





BAPS CHARITIES  
**WALK | RUN**  
 THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE

National Beneficiary



Local Beneficiary



**109**  
 locations  
 in 2025

**450k+**  
 individuals reached  
 in person and  
 online in 2025

more than  
**50,000**  
 walkers in 2026

**Sunday, May 31, 2026**

10:00 AM

Saluda Shoals Park - Cattail Shelter  
 5605 Bush River Rd, Columbia, SC 29212

REGISTER



Educational Services | Humanitarian Relief  
 Community Empowerment | Environmental Support  
 Health Awareness

[www.BAPScharities.org](http://www.BAPScharities.org)



# AN AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA

TN Development Corporation (TNDC), in partnership with the City of Columbia Community Development Department, is developing nine (9) affordable single-family homes in the Historic Lower Waverly–Martin Luther King (MLK) and The Jones McDonald Community Club (JMCC) neighborhoods.

## Eligible Properties:

**Single-family homes located within the City of Columbia corporate limits, including:**

*Jones McDonald Community Club Neighborhood*

- 1725 & 1733 Ogden Street
- 1811, 1817 & 1821 McFadden Street

*Lower Waverly / Martin Luther King Neighborhood*

- 2330, 2331, 2333 & 2338 Pendleton Street

## Loan Structure:

### Funding & Buyer Assistance

- Available to households at 80% or below Area Median Income (AMI)
- Up to \$18,500 in purchase assistance as a forgivable 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage which can be used for closing costs or mortgage principal reduction (subject to need and funding availability)
- \$500 required down payment
- Estimated 3% interest rate
- NO Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI)
- City of Columbia: 1<sup>st</sup> Mortgage (100%)

## Who Is Eligible:

- Income-qualified buyers (per HUD guidelines)
- Credit-worthy applicants
- Must complete HUD-approved Homebuyer Education (certificate valid for 12 months)
- Cannot own another improved property within 3 years prior to purchase
- Home must be owner-occupied while City mortgage is in place



**COMING FULL  
CIRCLE TO FULFILL  
THE DREAM**



**SCAN QR  
CODE FOR  
MORE  
INFO OR  
CONTACT:**



### Developer:

[TNDevelopmentCorp@ColumbiaSC.gov](mailto:TNDevelopmentCorp@ColumbiaSC.gov)

### Lender Contract:

[CommunityDevelopment@columbiasc.gov](mailto:CommunityDevelopment@columbiasc.gov)

**Phone:** 803-545-3373

# CityTV on InnerCity

Here you can view videos that have been produced by the  
Public Relations, Media and Marketing Department:

[2026 Easter Egg Roll at Finlay Park | City of Columbia](#)

[Press Conference | 2026 National Community Development  
Week](#)

[Day of Service with Richland County | 2026 Community  
Development Week](#)

[Community Engagement University | Community  
Development](#)

[Rally House | Grand Opening](#)

[Vista Public Art Unveiling | Press Conference](#)

[Press Conference | All Good Books B-Corp Certification](#)



<https://colasc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicRelations/SitePages/CityTV.aspx>



**PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEDIA & MARKETING**

(P) 803-545-3020 | [PIO@COLUMBIASC.GOV](mailto:PIO@COLUMBIASC.GOV) | [WWW.COLUMBIASC.GOV](http://WWW.COLUMBIASC.GOV)

