CITY OF Columbia

INSIDE COLUMBIA

OCTOBER 2026





TOGETHER, WE ARE COLUMBIA

Cyber Incident Executive Summary 11/2

City of Columbia Employees,

As we continue working through the recent security incident, I want to personally thank each of you for your patience, understanding and continued commitment to serving our community. I recognize that situations like this can create uncertainty, particularly when it comes to your personal information and the systems you rely on each day. Please know that your well-being remains a priority, and we are committed to supporting you throughout this process.

Norton LifeLock Identity Protection - FREE

I want to begin by sharing an important resource now available to all City of Columbia employees. As a precautionary measure, the City has secured Norton LifeLock Benefit Essential identity protection services at no cost to you.
This benefit is designed to help safeguard your personal information through identity monitoring, suspicious activity alerts, fraud protection tools and additional resources to help protect against identity theft.

While the investigation remains ongoing, and the full nature and extent of any information that may have been accessed or compromised has not yet been determined, we believe providing this additional protection is an important step in supporting you and your peace of mind.

How to Enroll

To activate your complimentary Norton LifeLock coverage, please visit: http://columbiasc.norton-benefits.com.

You will need the following information to complete your enrollment:
1. Full Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Social Security Number
4. Email Address (work or personal)
5. Mailing Address
6. Phone Number
7. Employee ID

Please use an email address that you regularly access, as Norton LifeLock will use it to communicate important information regarding your coverage. For your security, this information should only be entered through the enrollment website and should never be submitted by replying to an email.

There is no enrollment deadline, but I encourage each of you to take advantage of this complimentary benefit.

Family Coverage

Your Norton LifeLock benefit also includes the option to extend identity protection coverage to eligible family members. Once your plan becomes active, you will receive additional information from Norton LifeLock explaining how to establish your online account and add family members.

What Happens After Enrollment

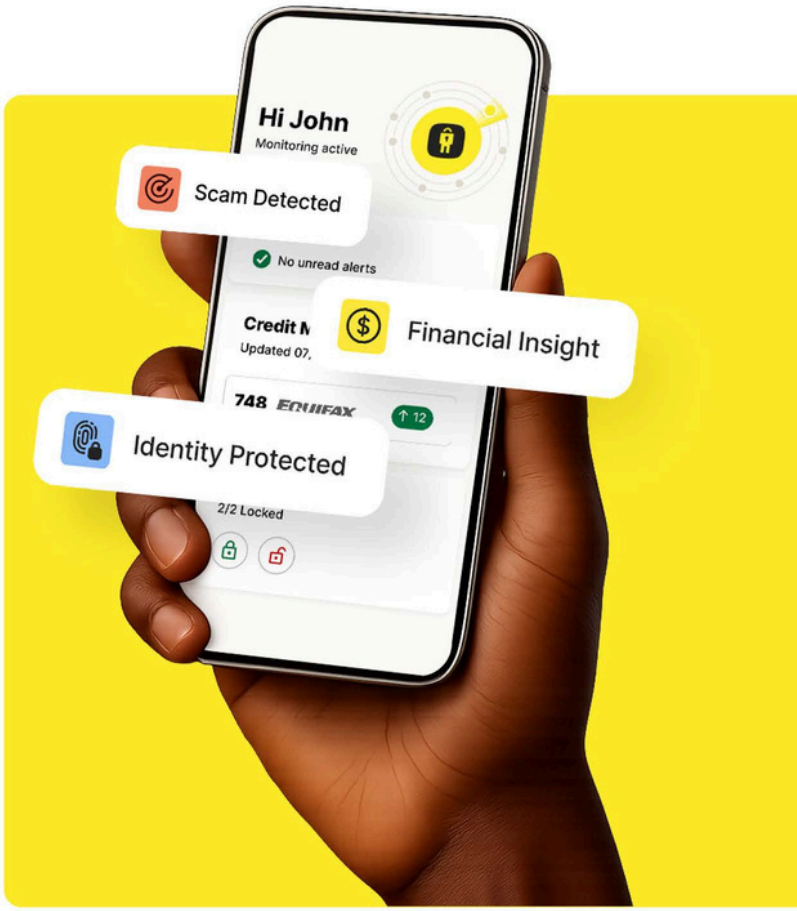
Once your coverage becomes effective, you will receive a welcome email from Norton LifeLock Benefit Solutions with instructions for accessing your online account. Many protection features activate immediately upon coverage becoming effective, so you may begin receiving notifications or alerts as your identity monitoring services begin.

See the Two Pages Below to Assist you with the Sign-Up Process

norton™
LifeLock Benefit Solutions

Digital and financial protection built for the way you live today.

Whether you're banking, browsing, or building your future, this benefit helps protect your identity, your finances, and your digital life — **with financial wellness tools to help you move forward with confidence.**



Get Protection Now.

Enroll Now: http://columbiasc.norton-benefits.com

An all-in-one solution

Identity & financial protection

Keep your information and finances safer. Proactive monitoring and expert support help limit long-term impact.

Digital protection

Help protect your online life from scams and security threats across everyday devices.

Privacy online

Give you control of your personal data and reduce exposure as your digital footprint grows.

Secure financial wellness

Help manage and grow your finances at every stage of life with confidence.

Already a member?
Don't forget to cancel your existing membership just prior to your benefit effective date by calling **800-607-9174.**

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* Feature availability subject to change.
No one can prevent all cybercrime or prevent all identity theft. We do not monitor all transactions at all businesses.
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Essential

norton
LifeLock Benefit Solutions

Employee Communication Guide

Nowthat youofferyouremployees Norton LifeLock Benefit Solutions, what's next?

We're thrilled you're offering your employees much-needed online protection and peace of mind. This communication guide will walk through how to promote these benefits for your employees in a meaningful way.



Elements of a strong communication plan

The pathto successstartswitha communication plan that provides youremployees the information they need at the time they need it most. Use these tips to create a plan that leaves your employees feeling supported and confident using their Norton LifeLock Benefit Plan:

- **Clear, concise communication helps simplify a robust benefit**
- **Opportunities to engage and ask questions allows employees to become more involved with their benefit**
- **Cobranding and customization associates the relationship with their benefit package**
- **The more instances employees see Norton LifeLock Benefit Solutions, the more likely they will be to sign up**

Click the blue links to access info

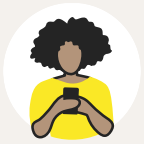
Communication Journey Guide

Below are the tools, documents, and resources to help communicate with employees at each phase of their benefits journey.

Inform

Createawareness about the benefit offering:

- Email Announcement
- Promotional Poster: English | Spanish



Energize

Generateexcitement around the benefit:



- BenefitOverview Flyer: English | Spanish
- Plan Overview PowerPoint Slides: English
- Pre-recorded Webinar: English
  Live webinar support is available by request from your Partner Success Manager

Educate

Help your employees navigate what is included with this benefit offering:

- Short Benefit Description: English | Spanish
- Benefit Overview Flyer: English | Spanish
- Detailed Brochure: English | Spanish
- In-depth Product Guide: English | Spanish
- Informational Microsite: English
- Plan Overview Video: English
- Member TestimonialVideo: English



Follow-Up

Explain whatemployees can expect after they've elected the benefit:



- Member SupportInformation: English | Spanish
- Post-enrollment Onboarding & FAQs:English | Spanish
- Portability Flyer: English | Spanish
- How to Add FamilyFlyer: English | Spanish
- Our Apps - HowtoUseThem: English

Foster Awareness

Help employees keep Cyber Safety top of mind year round with these educational opportunities:

- Employee Education Series: English
- Seasonal Reminders



Have questions or need more information?

We're hereto support youevery step oftheway. Reachoutto your Partner Success Manager with questions or concerns.

Partner Success Manager: Erynnevon Olnhausen
Call: 541-517-7684
Email: Erynne.vonOlnhausen@gendigital.com
Visit: Norton.com/BenefitEssential

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norton
LifeLock Benefit Solutions

IT Recovery Efforts and Restoration of City Systems

I also want to provide an update on the work taking place to restore our technology systems and return our departments to normal operations.

Our City IT team has been working continuously to restore critical servers, network infrastructure and essential services. While progress continues, we are taking a careful, methodical approach to ensure systems are secure before bringing them back online.

To assist with these efforts, the City has partnered with a specialized external cybersecurity and technical response team, which is now working alongside our IT personnel to accelerate recovery efforts.

Current Progress and Next Steps

1. **Restoring Critical Systems:** Our IT team continues to restore and verify core servers and network infrastructure in a secure environment before reconnecting them.
2. **Cleaning Employee Computers:** We are beginning the next phase of recovery, which involves thoroughly wiping and sanitizing City computers, laptops and workstations before they can safely reconnect to the network.
3. **Additional Technical Support:** The specialized external response team is working directly with our IT staff to expand recovery capabilities and assist with the significant number of devices requiring attention.
4. **Prioritizing Essential Services:** Workstations will be restored in phases, with public safety and essential public-facing services receiving priority.
5. **Department-by-Department Restoration:** IT personnel and our response team will work with individual departments to clean, verify and reconnect devices as they are ready.

What You Should Expect

Because each device requires individual attention, the restoration process will take time. Departments will regain access to systems and services in phases rather than all at once.

IT personnel will share the deployment schedule for your specific department with your department leadership prior to IT's arrival.

In the meantime, please continue following all IT security guidance and instructions provided by your supervisors. We recognize that these temporary disruptions can make your daily responsibilities more challenging, and we appreciate your flexibility as our teams work to restore services as safely and efficiently as possible.

Please note that additional IT protocols for signing into devices will be explained and expected to be followed.

Employee Pay and Timekeeping

I also want to reassure each of you that employee pay remains unaffected by this incident. Ensuring that every employee is paid correctly and on time remains a priority.

While timekeeping procedures may temporarily differ between departments, please continue following the guidance provided by your supervisors as we work toward restoring normal operations.

Our Continued Commitment to You

Our responsibility is not only to restore our systems but also to ensure that our employees feel informed, supported and confident as we move forward. I am including a special thanks to our IT team, its leadership and all supporting team members for the exceptional work they continue to display in response to this unexpected and unfortunate event.
I want each of you to know how much you are valued and appreciated. I recognize that the past several days have brought unexpected challenges, and I am grateful for the patience, flexibility and dedication you continue to show. The work you do each day matters, and so does your well-being. Please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we remain committed to supporting you as we work through this together.

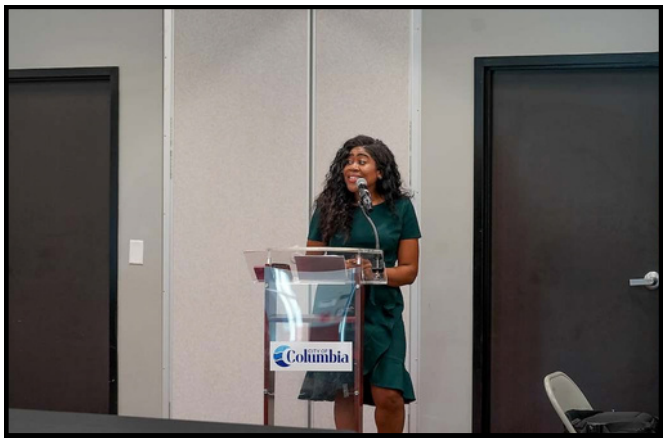
If you have any questions or need additional guidance, please continue to reach out to your immediate supervisor or direct report for assistance.

Thank you for all that you do for the City of Columbia and for one another.
Together, We Are Columbia.
With gratitude and optimism,
Ms. Wilson

Keys to a Dream: Keys and Coffee Information Session

On September 29, 2026, the City's Keys to a Dream program hosted its Keys and Coffee Information Session. The session was an opportunity for city employees to learn more about the program, connect with our team, and have their questions answered over a cup of coffee.

Attendees received an overview of Keys to a Dream, learned about available financial wellness resources through our partnership with Founders Federal Credit Union, and heard guidance on next steps toward financial stability and homeownership readiness. Representatives from Founders Federal Credit Union were also on hand to answer any questions.









Rapid Shelter Columbia Congratulates Work Training Graduates

On October 1, 2026, Rapid Shelter Columbia celebrated an exciting milestone and the accomplishments of their program graduates. This special event highlighted their successful partnership with the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, Salvation Army, and their Culinary Arts partner. This program provided participants with meaningful opportunities to develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and prepare for their next steps.

They are deeply honored to recognize the dedication, commitment, and hard work that each graduate demonstrated throughout the program. Their success truly reflected what happens when our community comes together to create pathways for learning, growth, and career development. Congratulations to all of the graduates and look forward to seeing where their skills, passion, and determination take them next!









Isabel Law Breakfast

On October 2, 2026, the City of Columbia and the Mayor's Campaign Against Breast Cancer Committee hosted the annual Isabel Law Breakfast. For over 20 years, this inspiring community partnership has raised vital awareness in the fight against breast cancer, and the incredible turnout and support from the community brought them closer to achieving their $25,000 fundraising goal.

Mayor Daniel Rickenmann spoke during the ceremony, thanking everyone for their hard work in bringing awareness and support to those fighting breast cancer. Many City leaders attended including Councilman Sam Johnson, Councilman Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins, and Assistant City Manager Henry Simons.

Attendees enjoyed a wonderful morning filled with great company and a delicious breakfast, prepared by the City of Columbia Public Works Department. Thank you to all who purchased tickets to help fund a new Prisma Health Mobile Mammography Van, fully equipped with a 3-D mammography unit.








Help us meet our goal and click here to donate to the campaign!

City of Columbia Kicked Off Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Celebrated 45 Years of Sistercare

On October 5, 2026, Mayor Daniel Rickenmann joined Sistercare Executive Director Leah Wicevic, Columbia Police Chief William "Skip" Holbrook, and SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Associate Director Shannon Nix to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a press conference at Finlay Park. The press conference highlighted the City of Columbia's 20th Annual Mayor's Campaign Against Domestic Violence, an annual effort dedicated to raising awareness about domestic violence and supporting the life-changing work of Sistercare.

The press conference also celebrated Sistercare's 45 years of service. Sistercare has worked to reduce the occurrence and impact of domestic violence in the Midlands by providing survivors and their children with critical services, including emergency shelter, housing programs, counseling, community-based advocacy, court advocacy, legal representation, health services advocacy, and prevention education.







City Council Meeting | October 6

At the City Council Meeting on October, 6, 2026, Mayor Daniel Rickenmann recognized several community milestones, including with proclamations for Customer Service Week to honor the Columbia Water team, Fire Prevention Month to celebrate the Columbia Fire Department's impressive 2025 outreach, and National Community Planning Month to highlight local development efforts.

In addition, the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department was celebrated for bringing home the prestigious National Recreation and Park Association Innovation in Park Design Award for Finlay Park. The evening also included a special moment for longtime community advocate and retired City employee Mama G, who presented Mayor Rickenmann with an honorary black belt recognizing his commitment to eliminating violence in our community.









COLA
Office of the Mayor

Mayor's Inaugural Ripples Award Ceremony

On October 7, 2026, Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann recognized the inaugural class of Mayor's Ripples of Impact Award recipients. This award honors individuals, businesses, organizations and community partners whose leadership, service and commitment have made a meaningful and lasting impact throughout Columbia and the Midlands region. The inaugural event established the award as an annual tradition, with nominations accepted on a rolling basis following the ceremony to recognize future recipients whose contributions continue to create positive ripples throughout the community.









Columbia-Richland Fire Department
Parade & Block Party

On October 7, 2026, Councilman Will Brennan joined Columbia-Richland Fire Department for their Fire Prevention Parade traveling from W.A. Perry Middle School to the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. Firefighters say this year's focus is on safe charging habits to reduce lithium-ion battery fire risks, as part of National Fire Prevention Week efforts to encourage year-round fire safety.

After the parade, the Drew Wellness Center hosted a community block party with free food, games, and fire safety information.







Mayor Rickenmann Spoke at Urban Land Institute "Midlands Shaping our Cities"

On October 8, 2026, Mayor Rickenmann joined ULI South Carolina for their "Midlands Shaping our Cities" series where he provided updates on current and upcoming city progress, initiatives, and priorities taking place in the capital city.







COLA Homeless Services

City of Columbia Homeless Services Hosts Stuff-A-Van Event at World Homeless Day Resource Fair

On October 9, 2026, the City of Columbia recognized World Homeless Day with its second annual Stuff-A-Van event at Martin Luther King Jr. Park!

In partnership with Rapid Shelter Columbia Foundation and Columbia Parks & Recreation Department, City of Columbia Homeless Services collected essential hygiene supplies to support individuals experiencing homelessness.









8th Annual SC Latino-Hispanic Business Day

On Friday October 9, 2026, Mayor Daniel Rickenmann and Councilman Sam Johnson attended the 8th annual SC Latino- Hispanic Business Day. Councilman Johnson presented a special proclamation to the founders of the celebration, officially naming October 9, 2026, as Latino-Hispanic Business Day in the City of Columbia.

Recognizing this day as a distinguished statewide celebration spearheaded by the Mota Crosslinking Business Academy (MCBA) and its Founder and President, Vanessa Mota. The signature event successfully honored the exceptional contributions, achievements, and leadership of Latino and Hispanic business owners, entrepreneurs, professionals, educators, and community leaders across South Carolina.







8th Annual SC Latino-Hispanic Business Day

Councilman Sam Johnson joined Dreher High School on Wednesday on October 14, 2026, for its Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Induction Ceremony, celebrating students as they begin their journey in the program.

The JAG Program empowers students through mentorship, academic support and career readiness training, helping prepare them for future success. The ceremony recognized the commitment of new student members and chapter officers to leadership, personal growth and professional development.

The City of Columbia is proud to support opportunities that encourage student leadership, career readiness and future success throughout our community.







Columbia Police Department Faith & Blue

On October 17, 2026, the Columbia Police Department hosted the 2026 Faith & Blue Citywide Community Event. The free event brought residents, law enforcement, city leaders, faith organizations and community partners together to strengthen relationships and build trust. Columbia Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook attended the event.

Families enjoyed food, fellowship, children’s activities, community resource tables, a touch-a-truck experience and a chili cook-off. The celebration concluded with community ministry leaders joining in prayer for Columbia’s residents, neighborhoods, families and those who serve the city.









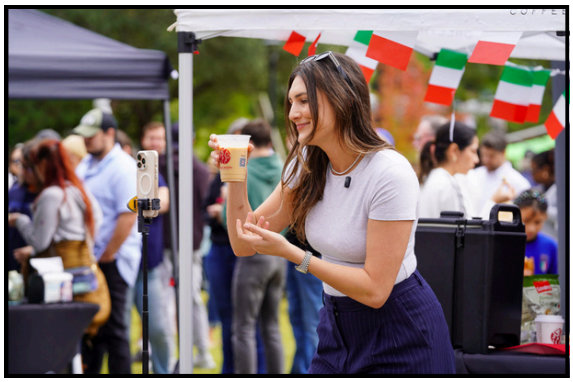
City of Columbia Hosted Italian Festival

The City of Columbia welcomed the return of the Columbia Italian Festival to Finlay Park on Saturday, October 17, 2026, celebrating Italian culture, food and community in downtown Columbia. The free festival returned after a 12-year hiatus, bringing residents and visitors together for an afternoon of cultural experiences and family-friendly entertainment.

Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, Councilman Tyler Bailey, and Councilman Sam Johnson joined the community for the festivities, which featured authentic Italian food and desserts, local vendors, live entertainment, cultural demonstrations, Ferrari displays, grape stomping, bocce, cornhole and activities for children. The celebration offered an opportunity for attendees to experience Italian heritage while enjoying the newly revitalized Finlay Park.

The City thanks the festival organizers, participating vendors, entertainers and community members who helped bring this special event back to Columbia and create a memorable celebration in the heart of downtown.









[Watch the Festival Here]

Walk for Life and Famously Hot Pink 5K Supports Breast Cancer Care

On October 17, 2026, the Prisma Health Midlands Foundation hosted its 36th Annual Walk for Life and Famously Hot Pink 5K and 10K at Segra Park in Columbia. Despite rainy weather, more than 4,700 registered participants joined the event to honor breast cancer survivors and support individuals undergoing treatment.

Proceeds from this year's event will help fund a new mobile mammography van equipped with 3D screening technology, expanding access to breast cancer screenings, particularly in rural and underserved communities. The event also supports breast cancer care, patient resources and services through Prisma Health Breast Centers across the Midlands.









Columbia Green Stormwater Presentation

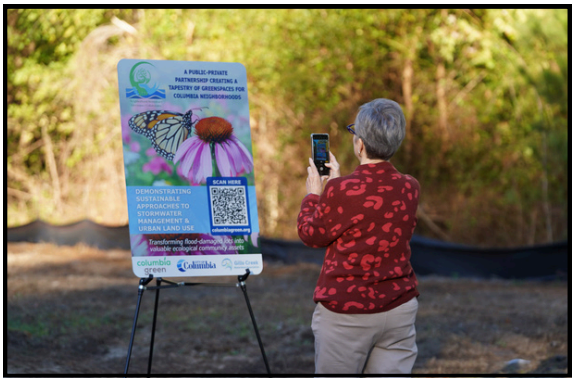
On October 21, 2026, the City of Columbia broke ground on the Neighborhood Stormwater Greenspace Collaborative, a public-private partnership focused on creating neighborhood greenspaces while providing an innovative approach to stormwater absorption.

Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, Councilman Tyler Bailey, Councilman Sam Johnson, and City staff joined Columbia Green Executive Director Jennifer Young and Gills Creek Watershed Association Executive Director Bailey Parker to mark the start of this collaborative effort.

Through partnerships with Columbia Green and the Gills Creek Watershed Association, the initiative brings together environmental stewardship and neighborhood greenspace to help address stormwater challenges in our community.









Mayor Remarks at St. Andrews Middle School

On October 22 2026, Mayor Daniel Rickenmann spoke to the entire eighth-grade class at St. Andrews Middle School. He shared his path into politics, discussed his responsibilities as mayor and reflected on how he persevered through his learning disabilities. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about serving as Mayor.









Street Naming Ceremony for Brian DeQuincey Newman Street

On October 23, 2026, the City of Columbia honored the legacy of former Councilman Brian DeQuincey Newman with a street naming ceremony. The honorary designation recognizes Gregg Street, from Colonial Drive to McLeese Street, as “Brian DeQuincey Newman Street.” Newman became the youngest person elected to Columbia City Council in 2010 and championed projects including the COMET bus system and the Edgewood and Bull Street developments. The tribute recognizes his lasting contributions to the Columbia community.

City Manager Teresa Wilson, Councilman Edward H. McDowell, Jr., and former Mayor Stephen Benjamin spoke at the ceremony. Mayor Pro Tem Tina Herbert, Columbia Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook, Councilman Sam Johnson, and Councilman Tyler Bailey attended the ceremony as well.









[Watch the Ceremony]

Mayor’s Walk & Run Against Domestic Violence

The City of Columbia hosted the 20th Annual Mayor’s Walk and Run Against Domestic Violence on Saturday, October 24, 2026 at Finlay Park, bringing community members together to raise awareness of domestic violence and support survivors and their children. For the first time, the event featured both the traditional awareness walk and a 5K run, offering additional ways for participants to show their support.

Many City leaders attended to support the event including Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, Mayor Pro Tem Tina Herbert, Councilman Sam Johnson, and Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook, Former Mayor Bob Coble, Deputy Solicitor Chris Pauling, South Carolina Senator Tameika Isaac Devine, and Senator Overture Walker.

The event benefited SisterCare, a local nonprofit providing critical services and support to survivors of domestic violence throughout the Midlands. The annual campaign highlights the importance of community awareness, access to resources and collective action to help survivors and their families.

The City extends its appreciation to the sponsors, community partners and participants who helped support the campaign’s 20th anniversary and SisterCare’s ongoing mission.



Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and Parks and Recreation Department Hosted Community Block Party

As part of Youth Justice Action Month (YJAM), the City of Columbia's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) and Parks and Recreation Department hosted a Community Block Party on Saturday, October 24, 2026 bringing youth, families and community partners together for an afternoon of connection, recreation and engagement.

The event provided an opportunity for young people and families to connect with local resources, participate in positive activities and build relationships within their neighborhoods. The block party was part of a month-long series of Youth Justice Action Month activities focused on youth empowerment, violence prevention, healing and community engagement.

Youth Justice Action Month highlights the importance of supporting young people, addressing challenges within the juvenile justice system and creating pathways toward positive outcomes for youth and families. The City's ongoing partnership with AMIkids Gateways and other community organizations reflects its commitment to prevention-focused strategies and creating safer, healthier and more connected neighborhoods.









Municipal Association Panel Discussed Finlay Park

On October 28, 2026, Chief William "Skip" Holbrook, Parks & Recreation Director Kenya Bryant, and Deputy Director of Finlay Park John Katz participated in a panel to discuss the newly redesigned Finlay Park. The panel, hosted by the Municipal Association of South Carolina, explored the transformation of Finlay Park into a vibrant, welcoming destination for residents and visitors. Panelists discussed how the approximately $25 million revitalization preserved the park's iconic character while introducing accessible pathways, restored water features, a destination playground and new recreational amenities. Community input helped shape a space designed to bring people of all ages and abilities together.

The discussion also highlighted the coordination behind park operations, including dedicated rangers, event programming and communication about policies and parking. All panelists emphasized the synergies between City Administration, CPD, and Parks and Recreation staff that have created a safe, welcoming environment for generations of families to gather.

Panelists emphasized that listening—to residents, staff, community partners and others—was essential to the project's success and remains central to the park's continued growth as a community gathering place.









Segra Park Renaming Ceremony

On October 28, 2026, City of Columbia leaders and staff attended the official renaming celebration of Segra Park to Prisma Health Park. Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Councilman Sam Johnson and Councilman Tyler Bailey joined attendees to mark the ballpark's new name and celebrate its role as a gathering place for baseball, community events and family entertainment in Columbia.









[Watch the Ceremony Here]

Public Works Department Visited Heyward Career and Technology Center (CTC)

On October 28, 2026, the City of Columbia Public Works Department visited Heyward Career and Technology Center (CTC) as part of the center's community engagement and career exploration activities. The visit highlighted connections between career and technical education and public service, helping students explore career pathways in public works and related trades.

Speakers at the visit included:

- Robert Anderson - Director, Public Works
- Sara Holler - Deputy Director, Public Works
- Jerry Showers - Superintendent, Street Division
- Samantha Yager - Superintendent, Street Division
- Brian Neiger - Superintendent, Forestry & Beautification
- Jim LeMasters - Superintendent, Traffic Engineering
- Tyrone Goodwin - Fleet Services Administrator









Rapid Shelter Columbia's Fall Fun Day

On October 29, 2026, Rapid Shelter Columbia hosted a Fall Fun Day. Community members joined in the fun to play games, share a meal together, and encourage each other with fellowship.









Columbia Police Department Hosted Halloween Event

On October 29, 2026, the Columbia Police Department hosted a Halloween event at the Busby Street Community Center. The event was free to attend, and guests were able to pick out free costumes, participate in raffles, trunk-or-treat from community organizations, and enjoy a free dinner.

Police Officers and other City leaders joined in the fun, sporting festive costumes. Police Chief WIlliam “Skip” Holbrook attended to join in the fun.









City of Columbia Donated First New Bike Lane Sweeper to Cola Town Bike Collective

On October 30, 2026, the City of Columbia donated its first bike lane sweeper to the Cola Town Bike Collective through a partnership to support cleaner, safer bike lanes. Mayor Daniel Rickenmann and Regan Freeman, the Collective's Director of Advocacy, will introduce the bike-towed mini-sweeper on Friday, October 30, at 9 a.m. at South Main and College streets. The tool helps clear debris such as glass, metal shards and wire.

Residents can suggest a name for the sweeper through November 4. Finalists will go to a public vote November 9–20, with the winner announced December 1.









Watch the Press Conference Here

City of Columbia Parks & Recreation
Halloween Day Party

On Halloween day, October 31, 2026, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department hosted a free Halloween day party at Dutch Square Mall. The party consisted of music, karaoke, trivia games, treats, and a costume content. The community came out strong dressed in their best costumes. Congratulations to the winners of the contests and games, and thank you to all who attended the fun and festivities!









Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

Bang Back Bar & Grill

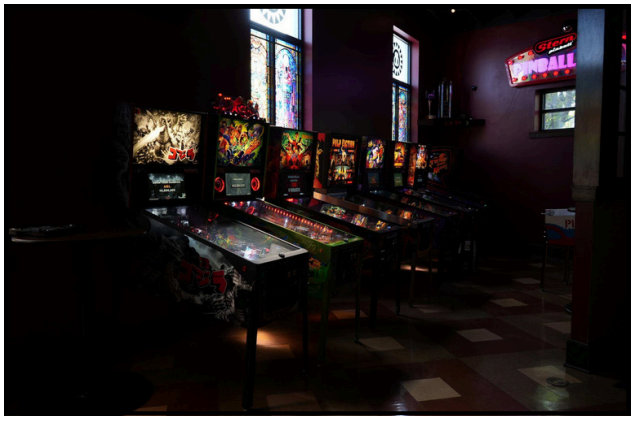
2719 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, S.C. 29205



On October 1, 2026, the City of Columbia's Office of Economic Development hosted the ribbon cutting of Bang Back Bar & Grill at 2719 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, S.C. 29205. Cuncilman Will Brennan spoke before the ribbon cutting to welcome the new business.

Bang Back Bar and Grill is a large location with amazing food, exceptional cocktails, and a great craft beer selection. They pride themselves on local producers for both our food and drink suppliers. They also have several well maintained Pinball Machines as well as other games for you to enjoy. The Bang Back Bar and Grill is a Fun and Safe place where everyone is welcome.





[Watch the Grand Opening]

Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

Monarch Paper Company

2900 Devine Street, Columbia, S.C. 29205



On October 2, 2026, the City of Columbia celebrated the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Monarch Paper Company. Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, Monarch Paper Company Owner Abbie Thielke, and Office of Economic Development's Greg Williams, will gave remarks and cut the ribbon for this grand opening event.

Monarch Paper Company specializes in creating custom wedding invitations, fine stationery, and celebration goods with timeless design, thoughtful guidance, and a white-glove experience from start to finish. Every celebration tells a story, and every detail matters. Whether you're planning your wedding, hosting a celebration, or searching for personalized paper goods, they're here to help you create something meaningful—and enjoy the process along the way.





[Watch the Grand Opening]

Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

Carolina Ottobock Care

1455 Harden Street Ext, Columbia, SC 29201

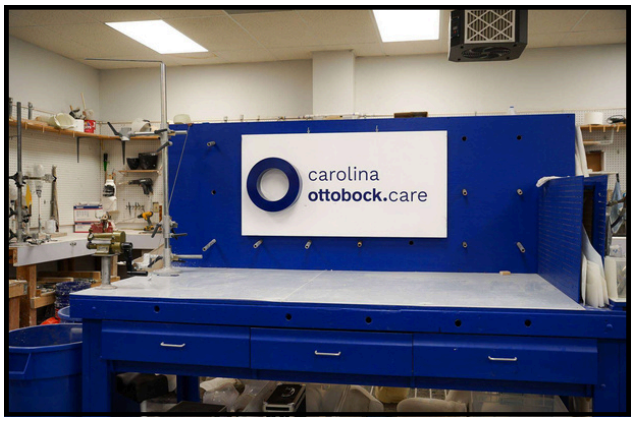


Councilman Ed McDowell joined the City of Columbia's Office of Economic Development team to celebrate the grand reopening Ottobock Care's newly renovated clinic. The October 14, 2026 ribbon-cutting celebrated the clinic's continued service to the Midlands and its investment in an updated, patient-centered space.

Renovations included enhanced accessibility features, updated patient care areas and modernized clinical spaces designed to support patients receiving prosthetic and orthotic care.

Formerly known as Carolina Orthotics & Prosthetics, the clinic has served the Columbia area for more than 40 years, helping patients improve mobility and independence through personalized care.





[Watch the Grand Opening]

Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

Leisurehound Athletic Club

2801 Drayton Street, Columbia, SC 29201



On October 16, 2026, Leisurehound Athletic Club celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The park and bar will be open for business immediately following the ceremony. Located in Columbia's North Main District, Leisurehound is a half-acre off-leash dog park and biergarten where dogs can play while their owners enjoy a drink and spend time with friends and neighbors.

Leisurehound welcomes the city to experience Columbia's new backyard oasis. Human admission is free - no dog is required. The festivities continued on October 17 with a larger grand opening celebration: an Oktoberfest party featuring a special food truck, dog-friendly vendors, music, and the charming biergarten atmosphere Columbia residents can expect from Leisurehound Athletic Club.

Dog day passes and memberships are available for purchase. Guests bringing dogs should visit leisurehoundathleticclub.com to register and review vaccination and entry requirements before visiting. Human guests must be 13 or older, with adult supervision required for those under 18.





Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

POUT Cosmetics & Skin Studio

2738 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205



On October 22, 2026, POUT Cosmetics & Skin Care Studio had a grand re-opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside Councilman Will Brennan, the City's Office of Economic Development, and owner Diana Shelton-Flanary.

A longtime staple of the Devine Street community, POUT offers high-end skincare, cosmetics and beauty services, with a mission to help every client feel beautiful inside and out.

POUT's main goal is making all people feel beautiful inside and out and having them feel better leaving than when they did coming in. We teach our team to really listen to our clients and create lasting relationships with them so that they will continue to come back. POUT hopes to continue to bring beauty to not only Devine Street, but all over our beautiful city. POUT Cosmetics & Skin Studio is the boutique as a premier destination for high-end skincare, cosmetics, and beauty services located on Devine Street in Columbia.





[Watch the Grand Opening]

Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams

2160 Freed St, Columbia, SC 29201



On October 22, 2026, Mayor Daniel Rickenmann and Councilman Tyler Bailey joined The BullStreet District and the Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams team to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Jeni’s first Columbia location! The grand opening featured free ice cream and special giveaways for the first visitors.

The new shop will bring the company’s handcrafted, super-premium ice cream to the BullStreet District, offering at least 20 rotating flavors, including favorites like Brambleberry Crisp and Gooey Butter Cake. With at least 20 rotating flavors available at any given time, there’s always something beloved and delightfully new to discover — from fan favorites like Brambleberry Crisp, Gooey Butter Cake and Double Dough to seasonal and limited-time releases. The celebration will include free scoops throughout the event, Jeni’s merchandise for the first 50 people in line, and a chance for five guests to win free ice cream for a year. Guests can enter the giveaway by downloading the Jeni’s app, signing up for the Jeni’s Splendid Rewards program, and scanning their rewards app during the event.





[Watch the Grand Opening]

Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

Scoop N Scootery

2414 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205



The Scoop N Scootery celebrated its grand opening at 2414 Devine Street on October 23, 2026, bringing fully loaded, over-the-top ice cream sundaes to Columbia. Councilman Will Brennan, representatives from the City of Columbia's Office of Economic Development, Devine Street Association Board Member Kellan Monroe and owner Emmett Morris joined the celebration.

The festivities featured music, interactive photo opportunities and special giveaways, with free sundaes for the first 50 guests. Known for indulgent toppings, creative combinations and a vibrant late-night atmosphere, The Scoop N Scootery offers a new sweet spot for the Columbia community.





[Watch the Grand Opening]

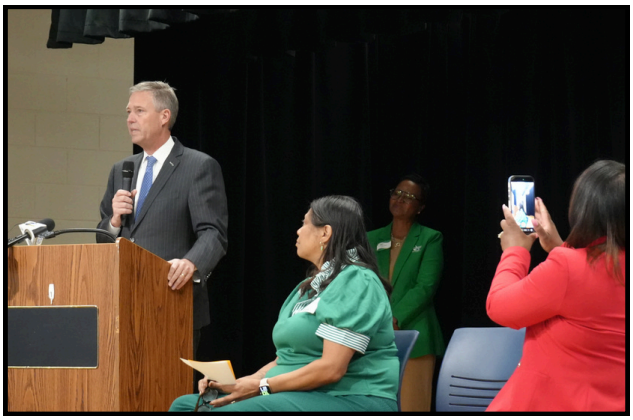
Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings

Little Library Ribbon Cutting at Burton-Pack Elementary School



Burton-Pack Elementary School celebrated its new Little Libraries with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 28, 2026. Following an introduction by two of the school's honorary students, Mayor Daniel Rickenmann encouraged students to use the libraries, emphasizing how reading can help them achieve their dreams. Councilman Sam Johnson also attended and helped cut the ribbon, marking an exciting new chapter for reading at Burton-Pack.





CITY OF Columbia

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

BRANDON LEWIS

Customer Service

30 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

MICHELLE BRAZELL

Engineering

25 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

KUNTE SMITH

Public Works Admin

25 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

KIMBERLY TERRELL

Human Resources

25 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

CITY OF Columbia

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

RYAN COLEMAN
Economic Development

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

HEATHER GREER
Utilites

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

BOBBY PHILIPS
Columbia Police Department

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

CITY OF Columbia

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

MARIA RAGIN
Columbia Police Department

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

TIMOTHY STOREY
Utilities

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

LAWRENCE SUBER
Columbia Fire Department

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

JOHN TILLER
Customer Service Department

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

CITY OF Columbia

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

GUY WILLIAMS
Columbia Fire Department

20 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

TROY DINGLE
Columbia Police Department

15 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

JESSE BARNES
Public Works Admin

15 YEARS

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

CITY OF Columbia

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

10 YEARS

- **Willis Belton**- Information Technology
- **Anita Higgins**- Purchasing
- **Dominique Jacobs**- Emergency Communication Center
- **Linda Matney**- Parking Services
- **Vanessa Miller**- Emergency Communication Center
- **Marvin Narr**- Utilities

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

CITY OF Columbia

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

5 YEARS

- **Mohammed Ali -** Police
- **Jennifer Bonovich -** Public Works Admin
- **Nole Dow -** Police
- **Aaron Hatch**- Public Works Admin
- **Matthew Hutto-** Utilties
- **Jazmon Kearse-** Legal
- **James Lewis-** Utilties
- **Latasha Eaves-** Customer Service

Thank you for your service to the City of Columbia!

Keys to Your Future – Financial Education Workshop

Description: Founders Federal Credit Union is offering a financial education workshop for City of Columbia employees focused on key topics such as budgeting, credit management, and homeownership. This informative session will provide practical tools and resources to help you make sound financial decisions, build a strong financial foundation, and prepare for both planned and unexpected life events. Take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your financial knowledge and gain strategies to help you achieve your short-term and long-term financial goals.

For more information, contact Ashley Jenkins, Executive Program Manager, at Ashley.Jenkins@columbiasc.gov.

Location:
Eau Claire Print Building
3907 Ensor Ave.
Columbia, SC 29203

Dates (You have three opportunities to attend this workshop):
November 4, January 8, or February 5

Time:
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

How to Register (NeoGov Learn)
Please use the instructions below to register:

1. Log in with SSO (Employer Code: columbiasc) https://unified.neogov.com
2. Select Training
3. Click Course Catalog
4. Locate the course: Keys to Your Future - Financial Education Workshop
5. Click View Classes
6. Select your preferred session
7. Click Enroll
8. Choose Yes, Request Approval

If you need assistance with registration, please feel free to reach out to me or Wykeisha Lewis.



Keys to Your Future:

Budgeting, Credit and Homeownership

November 4, January 8 & February 5

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Eau Claire Print Building
3907 Ensor Ave.
Columbia, SC 29203

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

KEYS TO A DREAM
Workforce Housing Initiative

CITY OF Columbia

FOUNDERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
800-845-1614 • foundersfcu.com

City of Columbia Solid Waste Division Leaf Collection Locations

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Division is bringing back the annual leaf collection option this fall for residents to drop their bagged leaves at designated container locations throughout the City. Leaf collection containers are for bagged leaves only. Residents are not to dispose of other items at this time. This service will help keep Columbia beautiful and neighborhoods tidy.

Solid Waste will have containers at the following locations:

WEEK 1: 10/30/2026-11/5/2026

- Greenview Park, 6700 David St.
- Pinehurst Park, 2300 Pinehurst Rd.
- MLK Park, 2300 Greene St.
- Earlewood Park, 1113 Recreation Dr. *at baseball field
- Heathwood Park, 800 Abelia Rd.

WEEK 2: 11/6/2026-11/12/2026

- Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Ave.
- TS Martin, 2700 Edison St.
- Woodland Park, 6500 Olde Knight Pkwy
- Rosewood Park, 901 S. Holly St.
- Hampton Park, 1117 Brandon Ave.

A collection calendar is available online at **https://publicworks.columbiasc.gov/waste-wizard/**.

For more information, please call the Solid Waste Division at 803-545-3800 or visit **www.ColumbiaSC.gov**.

Congratulations to Assistant City Manager Henry M. Simons!



Congratulations to Assistant City Manager Henry M. Simmons on his acceptance into the South Carolina Executive Institute! He was chosen as one of only 30 leaders for this year's cohort!

The South Carolina Executive Institute is dedicated to preparing executive leaders for the rigors and responsibilities inherent in public service organizations. This interactive program, facilitated by industry experts, will empower participants to lead their organizations more effectively.

City of Columbia Welcomes DeAnna Heard as New Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Program Manager



The City of Columbia's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) welcomes DeAnna Heard, MBA, as its new Program Manager. Heard officially joined the office on September 28, 2026.

Heard brings extensive experience in community engagement, violence intervention and prevention, mental health advocacy, and strategic partnership development. Her background in community-based initiatives and collaborative leadership will support ONSE's ongoing efforts to strengthen neighborhood relationships, promote community safety, and address the factors that contribute to violence.

Prior to joining ONSE, Heard served as the Ceasefire Coordinator with the Columbia Police Department, where she led focused deterrence and community engagement initiatives aimed at reducing violence. Her work included coordinating partnerships among law enforcement, community organizations, service providers, and residents to connect individuals and families with supportive resources and opportunities for positive change.

Heard holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and is currently pursuing a second master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Her experience in trauma-informed practices and mental health advocacy brings an additional perspective to community safety and violence prevention efforts.

Outside of her professional work, Heard is the founder of National Wear Your Pearls Day, a mental health awareness initiative that promotes hope, resilience, and healing for individuals navigating depression, anxiety, grief, and other life challenges.

Through her work in public service and mental health advocacy, Heard is committed to building meaningful partnerships, supporting individuals and families, and helping communities overcome challenges. Her appointment reflects ONSE's continued commitment to developing collaborative strategies, strengthening relationships with residents, and advancing initiatives that promote safer, healthier neighborhoods throughout Columbia.

For more information about the City of Columbia's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, visit crimeprevention.columbiasc.gov.

COLA
Procurement
& Contracts

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.

COLA
Procurement
& Contracts



You've Got the Project. We've Got Solicitation Superpowers!
Every great project has a mission. Every mission needs a plan. Every plan needs a unified team to execute.

Before you send your next solicitation request to Procurement, let's make sure your project has everything it needs to become a Solicitation Superhero!

ORIGIN STORY: What Are We Buying?
Every superhero has an origin story. Every solicitation needs one, too. What is your origin story or history for this purchase?

Are you looking for:

- Construction?
- Professional services?
- Goods or equipment?
- A Bat-Signal?

Start by clearly explaining what you need and what you're trying to accomplish. The more Procurement understands about your mission, the better we can help turn it into a clear solicitation.

Our Villain: The Vague Scope

Every comic has a villain. In Procurement, one of ours is "The Vague Scope". A

strong Scope of Work should answer some basic questions:

- What problem do we need solved?
- What will the vendor provide?
- What are the project deliverables?
- When does it need to happen?
- What does success look like?
- Do we need to use an invisible jet?

And perhaps most importantly:
Is the mission clear enough for someone who isn't familiar with your project to understand it?

A vague scope will stop the hero from completing the mission. The clearer the mission is, the easier it is for our team to understand how they can help save the day.

The Hero of the Day: What Helps Our Vendors Become a Hero?

Before the solicitation is advertised, think about what matters most to the project:

- Experience?
- Qualifications?
- Approach?
- Key personnel?
- Cost?
- Timeframe?
- Long term outcomes?
- A combination?

Your evaluation criteria should connect directly to what you're asking vendors to provide. After all, we don't want to give bonus points to a superpower we never asked them to demonstrate.

The Plot Thickens: Timing Is Everything

"ASAP" is understandable…. but unfortunately, ASAP is not a timeline.

Solicitations involve planning, development, advertising, pre-bids conferences, questions, responses, evaluation, award, legal review, contract processing and when applicable, Council approval. We need to take into consideration the timing for some things like competing priorities, construction timeframes, times of year and other factors that may affect competition and pricing. However, the earlier Procurement is involved, the more options we have to build a realistic schedule and the less likely we are to need a last-minute rescue mission.

Great Heroes to do Their Homework: What Does the Market Say?

Before launching your solicitation into the universe, we need to look at the marketplace. Do we have good candidates to help perform this project:

We should be asking:

- Who provides this service?
- Is there qualified competition?
- What are the industry's typical requirements?
- Are there licensing, insurance, bonding, safety, or other special requirements?

THE REAL SUPERPOWER? TEAMWORK.

The earlier we team up, the better we can work together to create a clear, fair, competitive solicitation and give our city vendors the information they need to respond. When we work together early, we get the best opportunity for success!

Always Remember We Are All on the Same Mission for Serving Our City's Citizens.

Procurement Resources Access Guide

Quick One -Page Reference for City Staff

Where to Go

Allprocurementresources 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&ContractsOverview
  - o Procurement Regulations (Appendix G)
- How-To Guides, Forms, and More
  - o 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. Clickor Enter the SharePoint link. Enter
2. Navigate the page to explore resources and forms.
3. Download documents and forms for reference and/or use.

Need Help?

The Procurementteam is here to support you.

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

City of Columbia Announces Switch to New E-procurement System, CobbleStone

The City of Columbia Procurement Department is transitioning from the old e-procurement platform, Ion Wave, to a new platform, CobbleStone. After finding out that our current e-procurement platform will no longer be supported, the city has conducted various research, to select a system that aligns with its long term operational efficiency goals while bettering accessibility for the local business community. The new platform is scheduled to go live in October 2026. The new CobbleStone platform allows for a centralized hub meant to streamline the vendor experience through personalized dashboards, simplified paperless proposal submissions, and streamlined credential management.

The Procurement Department is encouraging both current city vendors and prospective business owners interested in contracting with the City to prepare for the October 2026 launch. Existing business partners are invited to set up their free profiles immediately by visiting https://columbiasc.cobblestone.software/gateway/ to ensure access to upcoming bidding opportunities.

For new business owners interested in partnering with the City of Columbia be sure to first secure an active city business license before registering their profiles on the new gateway.

The City of Columbia Procurement Department invites anyone to reach out directly at procurement@columbiasc.gov or 803-545-3470 with any questions or for assistance regarding the platform transition.



VULCAN BOOT CAMP

DIVISION OF SAF-GARD SAFETY SHOE CO.



GET YOUR SAFETY SHOES WITH THE RIGHT FIT

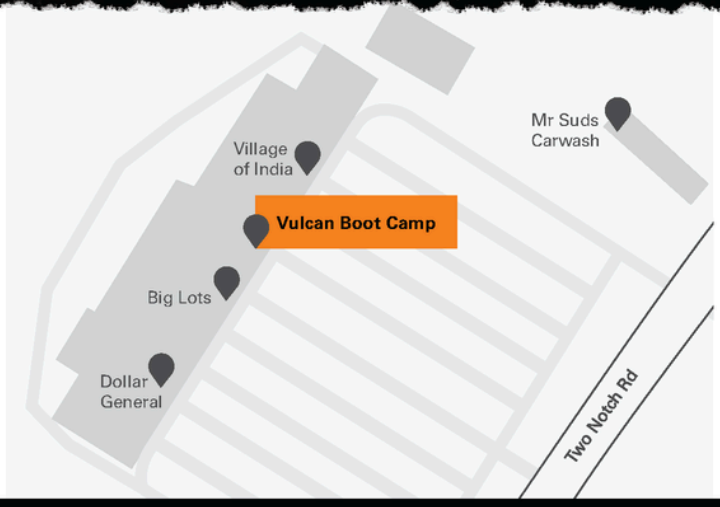
A Vulcan Boot Camp retail store is right around the corner.

- Shoe experts to answer your questions
- Professional fittings for ultimate comfort
- State-of-the-art foot scanners to get a complete and accurate foot profile

VULCAN BOOT CAMP

9221 Two Notch Road
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 570-8613

Scan for directions and store hours:



BONUS

We're throwing in a FREE pair of socks with every purchase of $49.99 or more.

Promotion dates: 5/12/2026 to 8/1/2026

80+ TOP BRANDS

SR MAX · HYTEST SAFETY FOOTWEAR · Timberland PRO · TWISTED X · WORK FOOTWEAR · KEEN UTILITY · BRUNT · CAROLINA · WOLVERINE · ROCKPORT WORKS · Florsheim WORK · ARIAT WORK · Reebok · Thorogood Since 1892 · Xena WORKWEAR · VOLCOM

COLA Public Works

GREEN@WORK

Sustainability News for City of Columbia Employees: November 2026

THANKSGIVING

A Great Time to Watch Your Waste

It's a great day to give thanks with loved ones, but Thanksgiving can also be a day of great waste. The National Resource Defense Council estimates that we waste about 204 million pounds of turkey or enough to provide every food-insecure household in America with 46 four-ounce servings of meat.

Check out these tips to waste less food on Thanksgiving:

Inventory Your Kitchen: Before heading to the store, check your pantry and refrigerator for the ingredients you need. You might already have what you need, tucked in the back where you can't see it.

Get an Accurate Head Count: One of the easiest ways to prevent food waste is to cook the correct quantity of food.

Encourage Portion Control: Using smaller plates and serving utensils encourages proper portions.

Get Creative with Leftovers: Check out recipes at https://www.foodnetwork.com/thanksgiving/leftovers/best-thanksgiving-leftover-recipes

Visit https://www.des.sc.gov/community/recycling-waste-reduction/dont-waste-food-sc for more information, educational resources and to get involved in the Don't Waste Food S.C. campaign.

Happy Thanksgiving



DON'T BE A TURKEY

Recycle Used Cooking Oil

Deep fried turkey is a delight on Thanksgiving, but disposing the three to five gallons of leftover oil, not so much. The City of Columbia makes it easy with Southern Fried Fuel, a used cooking oil recycling program with *two* drop off sites.

Public Works Facility
2910 Colonial Drive
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fire Station 16
131 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo
Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(Cooking oil should be free of water, soap suds and food scraps.)

SOUTHERN FRIED FUELS ALSO:

Saves money associated with waste water maintenance: When used cooking oil is poured down the sink, it can causes blockages, back ups and over flows, which costs the City an average of $1.5 million and 4,500 staff hours.

Helps improve air quality & the environment: Used cooking oil is recycled into biodiesel, a renewable fuel that produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits the local economy: A local company collects the oil & converts it into a certified SC product, keeping money in the Midlands.

CRFD Firefighters Honored for Response to Massive Fire in Fairfield County

Members of the Columbia-Richland Fire Department traveled to Winnsboro on September 14 to receive a heartfelt thank you from community leaders.

The Fairfield County Council presented an honorary proclamation to CRFD and all other agencies that assisted during the massive fire at MLily USA in August.

Hazmat 1 and other Columbia-Richland FD members responded to the fire at the mattress factory on Sunday, August 16 and again on Monday, August 17. Columbia firefighters assisted responders in Fairfield County with fire suppression on scene and then with chemical identification at the site as well as air monitoring.

On hand for the recognition were Columbia-Richland Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins as well as Senior Firefighter Robert McConnell and Senior Firefighter Daniel Johnson, who both responded to the incident on Hazmat 1.





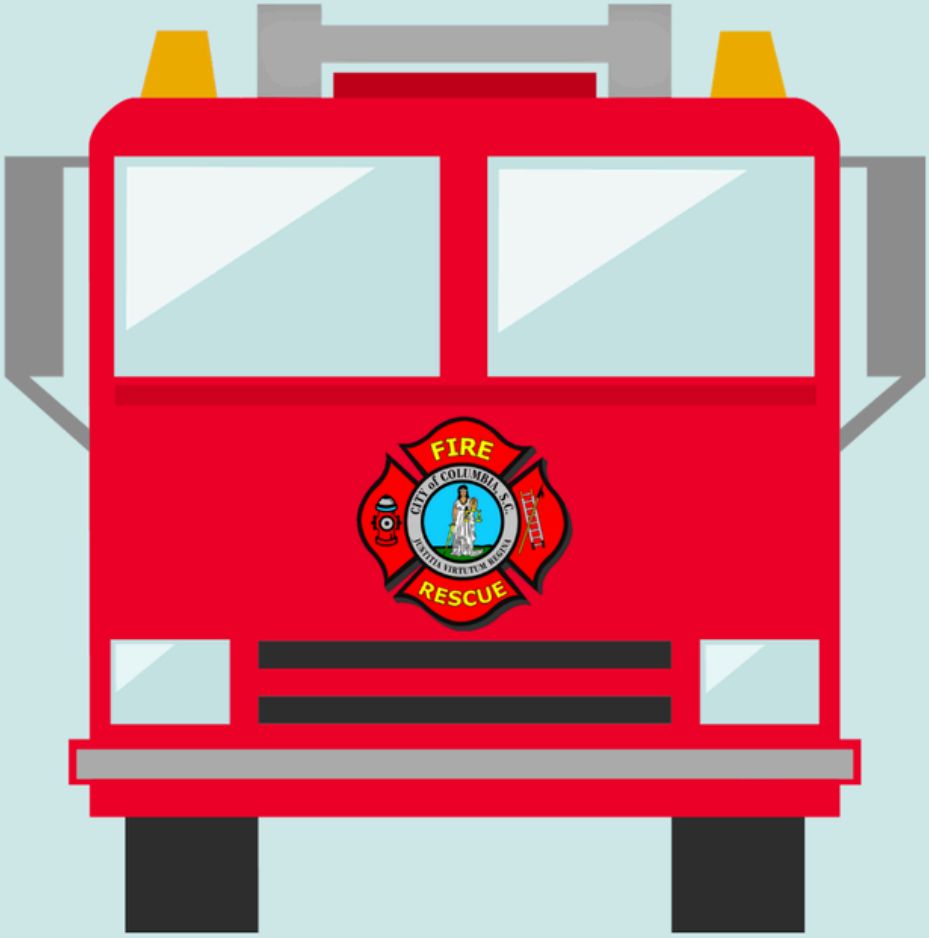




2026

Fire Prevention Parade

& Block Party



Wednesday - October 7, 2026

Barhamville Rd. - Columbia

Parade Begins at 11 a.m.

Block Party Follows at Drew Wellness Center

Food * Music * Games * And Lots More !

COLUMBIA-RICHLAND
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department Launches New Fitness Test

Fire Prevention Month in Columbia was ushered in with the annual CRFD Fire Prevention Parade on Wednesday, October 7, 2026.

For the second straight year the parade cruised through neighborhoods along Barhamville Road in Columbia passing by four area schools. Dozens of people lined the parade route as Columbia-Richland firetrucks and other participants made their way from W.A. Perry Middle School to the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

“It was a great joy for us to see so many teachers, faculty at the schools and students come out to cheer us on,” said Columbia-Richland Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins, “Ultimately this parade is about promoting the important message of fire safety in our communities and a big part of that is bringing it to our area youth. I am also thankful for the incredible support we get each year from area sponsors to make this event a great success.”

A Community Block Party was hosted at Drew Wellness Center following the parade featuring free food and giveaways. CRFD firetrucks were also joined in the parade procession by units from South Carolina State Fire, Kershaw County Fire Service, Lexington County Fire Service and the West Columbia Fire Department.

Each year the event is hosted to promote the important safety message of National Fire Prevention Week. This year that theme from the National Fire Protection Association is ‘Charge Into Fire Safety,’ which seeks to promote fire safe charging practices for battery-powered appliances.

The Columbia-Richland Fire Department would like to thank our community sponsors who helped make this year’s Fire Prevention Parade a great success!!

- Paul Davis Restoration
- Sam’s Club on Harbison Boulevard
- QuikFix Chef Andre Mack
- State Farm Insurance (Agents Ruthlie Israel & Nora Hubbard)
- Costco Wholesale
- Natasha Thomas
- Kimberly Bates
- Tori Neumon
- Terrance Dupree
- Charles R. Drew Wellness Center








Drivers Urged to 'Slow Down, Move Over' for First Responders on the Roads

This fall first responders in the Columbia area are coming together to remind citizens to give them safe space to work on our roads and highways.

Members of the Columbia-Richland Fire Department, the Columbia Police Department, the Richland County Sheriff's Department and Richland County EMS joined forces with Richland County officials to promote the 'Slow Down, Move Over' campaign.' The campaign is a nationwide public safety initiative promoting compliance with "move over" laws in all 50 states. These laws require drivers to slow down and change lanes when approaching an emergency vehicle with flashing lights stopped on or beside a roadway.

For firefighters, police officers and EMS crews working on the highway, having that crucial space can mean the difference between life and death.

"Ultimately that is what brought us together to collaborate on this public awareness campaign," said Columbia-Richland Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins, "Whether it's our firefighters taking care of motorists after a car wreck or police officers making traffic stops, we are all often on the roads with cars going at a high rate of speed. We can't help others if you don't help us, so please slow down and move over."

Collaboration between the agencies included Richland County producing a joint Public Service Announcement (PSA) that has been released online and on television. Agencies will also be pursuing other avenues to promote the campaign over the coming weeks.

South Carolina's "Move Over Law" requires drivers to slow down and change lanes when approaching a stopped, authorized vehicle with flashing lights, or to proceed with caution if a lane change is unsafe. Failure to do so can result in a misdemeanor violation punishable by a fine of $300 to $500.

According to the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, about 50 emergency responders are killed annually by vehicle strikes while responding to roadway incidents. The goal of the "Slow Down, Move Over" campaign is to reduce preventable fatalities and injuries to first responders and roadside workers.











NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026 | WEST REGION | 690 CLUB RD

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH (BCAM)

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and raise funds for the research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was founded in 1985 in partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries (now part of AstraZeneca, producer of several anti-breast cancer drugs). The aim of the NBCAM from the start has been to promote mammography as the most effective weapon in the fight against breast cancer.

Male breast cancer is a rare disease that accounts for about 1% of all breast cancer cases, usually presenting as a painless lump or swelling under the nipple. You can learn more about the condition and find educational resources through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Many people don't know that men can get breast cancer because they don't think that men have breasts. But everyone has breast tissue. Most men are diagnosed over the age of 60, but younger men can also get breast cancer.

`NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

National domestic violence awareness month is annual designation observed in October. For many, home is a place of love, warmth, and comfort. It's somethere that you know you will be surronuded by care and support, and a nice little break from the busyness of the real world. But for millions of others, home is anything but a scnctuary. The U.S. Department of Justice estimate that 1.3 million women and 835, 000 men are victims of physical violence by a partner every year. Every 9 seconds, a women in the U.S braten or assulted by a current or ex-significant other. 1 in 4 men are victime of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.

Their self-esteem is totally destroyed, and they are made to feel they will never be able to find another person to be with. The cycle of abuse, meaning the honeymoon phase' that follows physical and mental abuse, makes them believe their partner really is sorry and does love them







HALLOWEEN

You can celebrate Halloween 2026 in Columbia, South Carolina, by attending family- friendly festivals, community trunk-or-treat and nightlife pub crawls.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS:
Historic Columbia's Trunk or Treat Date & Time: Monday, October 26, 2026 from 5:30 PM -7: PM, Gardens of the Robert Mills House, 1616 Blanding St. A free, safe family experience featuring candy distribution by local organization, music by DJ Roy Neptune, and a costume contest with prizes for different age groups. (FREE)

HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE:
Thursday, October 29, 2026, from 11:00AM- 1:00PM, CenterWell Decker Blvd, 2738 Decker Blvd., Suite A,. A festive daytime open house with costumes, music, goody bags, office tours, and light refreshment. (FREE)

CITY-WIDE HALLOWEEN DAY PARTY:
Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 1:00PM-4:00PM Dutch Square Mall, 421 Bush River Road. Hosted by the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department, this free party for children ages 12 and under includes games, music, karaoke, costume contest, trivia, and treats. (FREE)

COLUMBIA HALLOWEEN NIGHTLIFE:
Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 4:00PM – 10:00 PM Check-in at Downtown Beach Bar and Grill, 918 Gervais Street. A spooky pub across six local bars, tickets via Eventbrite.

SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING
Stick to the Familiar, only trick-or-treat in well-known neighborhoods and at homes that have a porch light turned on. Stay Visible remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing oncoming traffic. Children should be strictly reminded never to enter a stranger's home or car for a treat. Children should wait until they return home and have an adult thoroughly check the treats before eating anything.



Coming Soon!

PROCUREMENT IS MOVING TO COBBLESTONE

COBBLESTONE
Modernizing today for a more efficient tomorrow.

A new platform. A more streamlined procurement experience.

The City of Columbia's Procurement Department is preparing to transition to **Cobblestone,** a new platform that will support our procurement processes and help modernize how we manage procurement-related activities.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

As we prepare for this transition, Procurement will share more information about the new platform, including important dates, updated procedures, and training opportunities.

WHAT TO DO NOW

Please continue following existing procurement procedures until further notice. Any changes to current workflows will be communicated before they take effect.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In the coming weeks, look for additional communications covering:

- Implementation timeline
- End-user training
- Updated procedures
- Support and assistance

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

We understand that changes to systems and processes can raise questions. The Procurement Department is committed to keeping City employees informed and providing the resources needed to support a successful transition.

Mission:

Provide excellent customer service and value while promoting fair and open competition in the procurement of goods and services necessary to support and accelerate the performance and economic growth of the City of Columbia while maintaining trust and the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct.

Vision:

Recognized as a leading and high performing procurement department whereby we imagine and influence the future.

COLA
Procurement
& Contracts

H.O.P.E. WEEK

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EVOLVE

NOVEMBER 2-6, 2026

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month

OUR GOAL DOESN'T CHANGE

Bring Columbia together.
Connect people to resources.
Create pathways forward.

5 DAYS. 1 COMMUNITY. ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES.

MONDAY
02

STATE OF HOMELESSNESS ADDRESS

- 9:00 AM
- 4801 Colonial Dr.



TUESDAY
03

BREAKFAST OF HOPE

- 8:30 AM
- INVITE ONLY EVENT



WEDNESDAY
04

DAY OF SERVICE

- ALL DAY EVENT
- CITY WIDE



THURSDAY
05

GATHER FOR GOOD

- 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- 2191 Pickens St.



FRIDAY
06

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

- 9:00 AM
- 2521 Richland Street



Help us in our mission to create pathways forward for those experiencing homelessness.



COLA Homeless Services | RAPID SHELTER COLUMBIA FOUNDATION | MACH Connect. Advocate. Empower. | THE SALVATION ARMY | EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN | HOOD CONSTRUCTION

GATHER for GOOD

An Evening of Music, Community, and Hope

Thursday
November 5, 2026
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Gather COLA
2191 Pickens St,
Columbia, SC 29201

Join us for Columbia's community block party with a purpose! Enjoy an evening of live music, local vendors, great food, and community while supporting H.O.P.E. Week and programs that help individuals move from homelessness to housing.



Admission is FREE - Shop Local - Give Back - Proceeds Benefit Columbia's Unsheltered Community

ENJOY

- Live Music by The Fr3sh Band
- Local Vendors & Shopping
- Food & Drinks
- Family-Friendly Atmosphere
- Resident Success Stories
- Opportunities to Support H.O.P.E. Week

FR3SH BAND

GATHER -COLA-

RAPID SHELTER COLUMBIA FOUNDATION

COLA Homeless Services

CITY WIDE DAY OF SERVICE



Wednesday, **November 4**

Volunteer Training Day: October 21, 2026

Volunteers will assemble survival kits during a community packing party before joining outreach teams to distribute the kits directly to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness throughout Columbia.









RAPID SHELTER COLUMBIA FOUNDATION

COLA Homeless Services

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR!

Friday, **November 6**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Trinity Baptist Church
2521 Richland Street



H.O.P.E. week concludes with a community resource fair connecting individuals and families to housing, employment, healthcare, behavioral health, recovery resources, veterans' services, benefits assistance, and other essential community supports.





PROJECT TECH
Where Generations Connect

RAPID SHELTER COLUMBIA
FOUNDATION

COLA
Homeless Services

PUPS & PINTS ADOPTION EVENT

AND DONATION DRIVE: FALL EDITION!



SUNDAY, NOV. 15TH
1-4 P.M.

HUNTER-GATHERER BREWERY

1402 JIM HAMILTON BLVD
COLUMBIA, SC 29205

ADOPTION FEES WAIVED!

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

2026 EVENT SPONSORS: Animal Mission, Lake 91, Savage, Alert Heller, HG, The Pampered Pet Bakery, Columbia Animal Services, City of Columbia

GIVE A HOMELESS PET SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

SPONSOR

THANKS GIVING

for a shelter pet!



$5

Columbia Animal Services

Animal Mission

PETS OF CAS COLA

THE NO FLEAS MARKET



SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 2026 10 AM - 4 PM

COLUMBIA DOG PARK | 127 HUMANE LANE, COLUMBIA, SC 29209

VENDORS, FOOD, ADOPTABLE PETS, FALL PET PHOTOS & MORE!

BENEFITTING CITY OF COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES

HOSTED BY: Columbia Animal Services · City of Columbia · Pets of CAS · Animal Mission · COLUMBIA DOG PARK

AMERICAN PICKERS

HISTORY CHANNEL · LEAD SEARCH



NOW PICKING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The American Pickers are hitting the back roads across America — looking for large, rare collections and things they've never seen before. Tell us the interesting story behind your stuff!

TO BE CONSIDERED

americanpickers@cineflix.com
or leave a voicemail at (646) 493-2184

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- Your name, town & state
- Phone number
- Where your collection is located
- A description of your items + photos

$ WANTED $

Motorcycles & scooters	Vending machines
Old signs & advertising	Pinball & jukeboxes
Vintage toys	Folk art
Oil & gas station items	Military items
Pedal cars & bicycles	Taxidermy
Early furniture	Unusual collections

Please note: the Pickers do not pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public.

HISTORY

cineflix

AVAILABLE AT CITY-HALL

CITY OF Columbia

LANDMARKS COLORING BOOK



1737 MAIN ST.,
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

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

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 2nd 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: 1st 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

CITY OF Columbia

COMING FULL CIRCLE TO FULFILL THE DREAM



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO OR CONTACT:

Developer:
TNDevelopmentCorp@ColumbiaSC.gov

Lender Contract:
CommunityDevelopment@columbiasc.gov

Phone: 803-545-3373

The partnership between the City of Columbia, Columbia Police Department, and HRTHUDL is a coalition dedicated to protecting our Columbia community.

It costs $2,000 to equip one CPD frontline vehicle with a life-saving AED.
Join us in the effort to equip 300 vehicles!

TO LEARN MORE & DONATE, SCAN THE QR CODE

OR VISIT www.hrthudl.org/cpdaeds



Without oxygen, brain injury can begin in **4-6 minutes**

When cardiac arrest occurs, average first responder arrival time is **7-9 minutes**

Every minute without CPR or defibrillation, survival drops by **10%**

2025 - 2026

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Together, We Are Columbia.



CITY OF Columbia

www.columbiasc.gov

CityTV on InnerCity

Here you can view videos that have been produced by the Public Relations Department:

[Grand Opening | The Scoop N Scootery]

[Honorary Street Naming of Brian DeQuincy Newman]

[2026 Columbia Italian Festival]

[Grand Reopening | POUT Cosmetics & Skin Care Studio]

[Press Conference | Neighborhood Stormwater Greenspace Collaborative]

[Grand Opening | Leisurehound Athletic Club]

[Grand Re-opening | Carolina Ottobock Care]

[2026 Mayor's Ripples of Impact Awards]



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