



**BJ Unthank  
Council District Six**

The first edition of the District Six newsletter comes to you along with heartfelt wishes that you and your family members are enjoying a wonderful spring season. I hope the information in this issue helps you to plan for the coming year as well as acquaints you with city programs and assistance.

I encourage you to contact me to discuss suggestions or concerns about issues you may have. You can reach me by phone at (803) 794-6227 or send me an e-mail at [billunthank@gmail.com](mailto:billunthank@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
*are held the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 200 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street.*

**COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS**  
*are held the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Both meetings are open to the public. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings.*

# District 6 News

May 2013 - Vol. I, Number 1

## Palmetto Pride Awards West Columbia Beautification Grant for Fowler Park

The City of West Columbia received a Palmetto Pride Grant in the amount of \$3,100 for a beautification project at Fowler Park. This recreational area, located off Augusta Road at C Avenue and 17th Street, has picnic areas, shelters and modern playground equipment. The city applied for a beautification grant to fund the cost of planting flowering trees and shrubs along the perimeter of the park and was notified on December 15, 2012 that it was a 2013 grant recipient. Beautification plans include installation of colorful plant materials such as azaleas, daylilies, and crepe myrtle trees as well as an irrigation system to ensure the plantings will remain healthy and thrive. Long-needle pine straw, readily available from pines trees in Fowler Park, will provide ground cover and mulch for the flower beds.

The renderings below indicate the vibrant transformation.



The play area before plantings.



The same area after proposed plantings.

City staff skillfully created a design to provide color throughout the park while discretely screening nearby housing. The location of the planting beds maximizes visual impact while preserving recreational areas. The park is open to all citizens.

### Rhythm on the River Concerts in Full Swing

The 2013 *Rhythm on the River* Concert Series is chugging along at the West Columbia Amphitheater every Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. until June 15. Come enjoy a free concert on Saturday evenings against the gorgeous backdrop of the scenic Congaree River. Food and beverages are available on site. The Riverwalk Park closes at 9 p.m. For more information on the schedule visit [www.westmetrochamber.com](http://www.westmetrochamber.com).



# Holiday Pickup Schedule for Household Waste

Holidays change pick up days for normally scheduled sanitation collection. The West Columbia Sanitation Department will collect household waste and yard debris during holidays in 2013 using the following schedule:

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Normal Collection Date</b>	<b>New Collection Date</b>
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27	Tuesday, May 28
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4	Wednesday, July 3
Labor Day	Monday, September 2	Tuesday, September 3
Veterans' Day	Monday, November 11	Tuesday, November 12



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## Save Yourself a Renovation Headache: Contact the Building Inspector First

If hiring a contractor to do work on your home, verify first that the contractor possesses a West Columbia Permit and Business License. Permits are required for additions, renovations (interior or exterior), roofing, vinyl siding, window replacement, heating and air conditioning replacement, extensive plumbing repairs such as water or sewer lines, and major electrical repairs. Some cosmetic renovations such as painting do not require permits but still require a business license.

Be wary of contractors who ask for large amounts of money up front before beginning a project and always ask to see their SC Contractors License, which is required in order to get a permit with West Columbia. If you have any questions about a contractor or project, please contact the City of West Columbia Building Department at (803) 791-1880, ext. 286 or ext. 607.



Mature landscaping compliments the distinctive City Hall building.

## City Celebrates 8 Years at Location

West Columbia opened its new city hall eight years ago in December 2004. Moving from a cramped and deteriorating building on Center Street, West Columbia proudly stepped forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a spacious building that was designed provide adequate office space, and to be technologically advanced to handle the increasing computer needs of the city staff while efficiently serving the citizens.

Over the past eight years the city has continued to improve the building grounds with various beautification projects. Mature crepe myrtles and saucer magnolia trees were initially donated to the city for planting along Shull Street. Several years later a wrought-iron fence and elaborate brick sign were added in the corner of the property at the intersection. Landscaped beds with daylilies, liriopie, and knockout roses livened up the entrances. Pedestrian-scaled, decorative street lighting is being installed along 12<sup>th</sup> Street and the project should be completed by early summer.