



City of West Columbia  
*Bridging Past, Present and Future*

P.O. Box 4044, West Columbia, SC 20171-4044

## **News Release**

# **West Columbia Police Officers Rescue Three Kayakers from Swollen Congaree River**

Three kayakers are grateful today for the sharp eyes of a West Columbia park ranger making his afternoon rounds at the West Columbia Riverwalk. Ranger Steve Metro spotted an overturned kayak being swept down river with one person clinging to it and two other persons grasping tree branches in the rain-flooded Congaree River on January 18. Metro immediately reported the dire situation to West Columbia Police Dispatch. Four police officers quickly arrived on the scene and responded to the life-threatening emergency by going into the freezing cold and fast-moving river to attempt a water rescue. Within minutes the officers reached the two victims hanging onto tree limbs and pulled them safely to shore where they were treated for exposure by Lexington County EMS. Meanwhile, Metro ran downriver along the Riverwalk path following the kayak until it came close enough to shore for Metro to pull the third victim onto the river bank. None of the kayakers sustained any life-threatening injuries.

Corporal Art Seboe, Patrol Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Trip Holland, Patrol Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark Howard, Investigator Leah Smith and Ranger Steve Metro will be recognized for their heroic actions in the face of great personal danger at the Regular Council Meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2012 at the West Columbia City Hall.

For further information contact Mardi Valentino, Public Information Officer at (803) 939-8603 or by e-mail at [mvalentino@westcolumbiasc.gov](mailto:mvalentino@westcolumbiasc.gov).

Issued at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 28, 2013.