



WEST COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

Second Edition
August/September 2019

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



We have a lot going on in West Columbia. This summer has been filled with numerous businesses and restaurants opening, with more to come as the school year approaches. Lexington School District Two has renovated many of the schools in the district over the past few years and this year marks the completion of the revitalized and new buildings. Our staff has been working diligently to complete the parks, art, and parking projects happening in the River District.

If you're a visitor and looking to join our community, now is the time to invest in property in West Columbia. Our Fire Department earned the best possible ISO rating, allowing for reduced insurance rates for home and business owners. We are the only city in Lexington County with the best rating of "1". We are one of 26 in the state of South Carolina and one of 348 in the United States with this prestigious rating. Our utility rates are one of the lowest in the State and our price per square foot for homes is one of the best values in the Midlands.

We have a wide range of housing inventory, and are excited about two new housing developments being built in the coming months. Look for the new Planned Unit Development coming soon in the River District, with single-family homes within walking distance of shopping, entertainment, and restaurants, along with a housing development off of Augusta Road that has easy access to the shopping, restaurants, and interstates. We welcome visitors and residents old and new to discover and enjoy all of the new amenities offered in West Columbia.

Sincerely,
Bobby Horton, Honored to be your Mayor

DISCOVER MORE AT
WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



MIKE GREEN COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

The Rainbow Circle Neighborhood Watch Group has created a Facebook Page. Follow it to get the latest updates about the neighborhood. We have new businesses opening in the district, including Nick's Gyros and Subs, a Christian Bookstore next to Hobby Lobby, and Bricks and Stones Pizza Company. Wilton Road Update: construction will begin this Fall.



TEMUS C. "TEM" MILES, JR. MAYOR PRO-TEM, COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

Business is booming in West Columbia. Over the past few months multiple restaurants, businesses, and entertainment venues have made the move to State and Meeting Streets, with more to come in the near future. The completion of the Interactive Art Park and Parking, as well as the Enabling Park and Riverwalk Parking, will soon bring new amenities to residents and visitors of West Columbia. A PUD was passed last month that will allow for 32 new single-family homes to be built in the Avenues, which will really help to push the improvement of the surrounding neighborhoods.



ERIN P. PORTER COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

We are working with SCDOT to install traffic calming measures on Seminole and Mohawk Drives. Stop signs will be strategically placed in those areas to slow drivers through the neighborhood. The waterline project is progressing as planned. Please follow the Saluda Gardens Homeowners Association Facebook Page for updates and information. Feel free to call me at (803) 807-0573 if you need anything.



TREVOR BEDELL COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

The Planning Commission will be reviewing new sign requirements for businesses in the coming months. Be on the lookout for a Public Hearing notice. The Guignard Association meets the 2nd Monday of every month at the Community Center. If I can ever be of any assistance please call me at (803) 331-4866.



MICKEY PRINGLE COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

The City is beginning implementation of free WiFi access at many of its parks. Butler and Douglas Reeves Parks are both live. Looking for some family fun on a Sunday afternoon? Come out to Butler Park to watch our local youth play baseball. More information will soon be available for volunteers and participants for the Back to School Bash in August. The Youth Summer Camp at Turner Memorial for 6-11 Year olds, runs daily from 9 AM - 2 PM, through August 2. Free lunch is served at Turner Memorial throughout the year from 11:30 AM - 12:30



TEDDY WINGARD COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

We have a lot going on in West Columbia. Keep an eye out for all of the new businesses and restaurants opening in the coming months on State and Meeting Streets. Looking for a place to park to access the West Columbia Riverwalk? There is another entrance on Moffatt Street, just off of Sunset Boulevard. It is less than a 10 minute scenic walk from there to the Amphitheater.



CASEY J. HALLMAN COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

The Lexington 2 Community Education Center is located in the former BC Grammar #1 Elementary School on Hook Avenue. In June 2019, they celebrated the completion of the inaugural school year, serving over 500 residents. The Center is designed to build strong families, students, and enhance the West Columbia community by providing family-oriented services in one central location. The Center is comprised of Adult Education, STAR Family Partnership, and Early Childhood programs that strengthen and empower families to become active and productive citizens of the community, provide family support services, school readiness services, and workforce readiness services. More info on lex2.org.



JIMMY BROOKS COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

Our West Columbia Fire Department Received the best ISO rating possible, a "1", from the National firm that ranks services. The designation of the rating can possibly positively lower your home and business insurance rates. City staff worked diligently to coordinate the removal of the old Quincy's building next to Starbucks near I-26 over the summer. We are looking forward to frequenting the new businesses that will be built there as well as along Sunset Boulevard over the coming months.

JOIN US AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: 1ST TUESDAY
WORK SESSION: 3RD MONDAY
6 PM
CITY HALL





INTERACTIVE ART PARK ADDS VAST APPEAL TO WEST COLUMBIA'S RIVER DISTRICT



West Columbia's Interactive Art Park is part of the movement that is transforming The River District. It is a one-of-a-kind park that has been built featuring interactive art displays, artist booths, a farmer's market, and an inviting alley adorned with a mural painted by local artist Christine Lutfy. The art surrounds the parking available for patrons and visitors of the area's restaurants, shops, and Riverwalk Park and Amphitheater. The park provides intrinsic environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits to visitors and residents of West Columbia.

The entrance to the Interactive Art Park and Parking Lot is on Meeting Street across from Pelican SnoBalls. The park also connects to Center Street, where the Historic Brookland City Hall building stands.

Tem Miles, West Columbia's Mayor Pro-Tem, said the park will allow for connectivity between the new Savage Craft Ale Works brewery coming to Center Street.

The new sidewalks connect the shops, entertainment, and dining on Meeting Street with the restaurant and retail features on State Street.



BLACK ROOSTER HAS SKYLINE VIEW, CASUAL FRENCH CUISINE

Black Rooster is a recent addition to West Columbia. The restaurant is located at the northeast corner of the Brookland development, at Alexander Road and Meeting Street. It will open at 4:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Black Rooster is a French restaurant in the style of French brasseries and bistros.

Chef and Bourbon restaurant-owner Kristian Niemi has had plans to open a rooftop restaurant and bar in the Brookland development for a couple of years. He noted that the new venture will overlook the Congaree River. "There is a spectacular view of the Columbia skyline from the rooftop bar," said Niemi. He then offered a little more detail about the restaurant.

"We have French food at Black Rooster in a casual setting," said Niemi. "It's not a fancy place. We don't want to scare anyone away. Black Rooster offers a very welcoming atmosphere." He said the rooftop bar will include more of a tiki-style menu. In addition to traditional French food, Niemi said Black Rooster will include fare from parts of the world where the French have had an influence, including Africa and the Southeast Asian Islands. Black Rooster also features an all-French wine list and a cocktail list heavy with French spirits and liqueurs.

ZESTO CELEBRATES 70 YEARS IN WEST COLUMBIA



West Columbia's Zesto restaurant is celebrating 70 years in business in 2019.

"It's been really fun to see so many people over the years," said Pete Manos, who owns Zesto with his father, Gus. "It's really cool to be celebrating 70 years." Gus and Pete are pictured above in the photo. He said the restaurant started with as few as five employees, they now have 87. Pete also said he has grown up in the business and has seen generations who are part of the Zesto family.

"We have people who have been coming in for 25-to-30 years," Pete said. "We have employees who's grandparents worked at Zesto. Sometimes the parents work here and now the kids work here."

Pete said the food, from fried chicken to cheeseburgers, at the Triangle City restaurant, with the iconic giant ice cream cone outside, is a habit that is hard to break.

"We have people who move away, out of state, or to the beach, but they come back," said Pete. "They just like it." He said Zesto has had to adapt to different eras, but one thing has not changed.

"The food is the same," Pete said. "We are consistent. We give our customers quality food and quality service, day in and day out. Zesto is like no other."

CITY DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: WATER/SEWER



Our Water and Sewer utility employees were recognized at the July Council Meeting for their high standard of water and wastewater services with minimal interruptions. Every employee excels in emergency situations. Their response time is always swift, and they work tirelessly to maintain the water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the City. During emergency situations, the utility employees

UPCOMING EVENTS

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

JULY 30 - CITY HALL

2 PM - 7 PM, New Brookland Room

To make an appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org
Enter sponsor code: Chamber

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting redcrossblood.org/rapidpass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment. Blood types O, A-, or B- ask about a Power Red donation.

ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 6

LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 2 - CITY HALL CLOSED

TRIBUTE FOR TREES

SEPTEMBER 10, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

The 5th Annual event will be held in the New Brookland Room to raise funds to continue the planting of trees and greenery around the city in public corridors. For more information or to sponsor, contact Events Manager Kelli Ricard at 803-939-8623 or kricard@westcolumbiasc.gov.

SAVE THE DATE

FALL BACK FEST - 11/1

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING - 12/6

PARADE OF LIGHTS - 12/14

VIEW ALL EVENTS AND SIGN UP FOR E-NEWS

WestColumbiaSC.gov



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City Hall/Sanitation: 803-791-1880

Police Department: 803-794-0721

Fire Department: 803-791-4440

Code Compliance Hotline:

803-794-3506 Ext. 805

work nights, weekends, and holidays to restore service for customers. Water and Sewer utility employees continually educate themselves on new techniques, technologies, safety training, expertise with operating equipment, and other training to maintain their operator licenses. Our Water and Sewer utility employees are professional and courteous, and we appreciate all they do.

