

CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

June/July 2020



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



We hope that everyone continues to stay safe and healthy throughout the pandemic. City Hall has reopened with social distancing guidelines in place and staff continues to safely serve our citizens, businesses, and visitors. Throughout the summer months, we are looking forward to everyone taking advantage of all of the outdoor open air amenities that we have in West Columbia.

Our Meeting Street Artisan Market is now open, every Saturday, from 9 AM - 1 PM. We encourage friends and family to get out and see all of the progress happening in the River District. The West Columbia Riverwalk Amphitheater and Park is bustling with rafters, kayakers, and exercise/outdoor enthusiasts enjoying the great outdoors. The Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens is now open and can be accessed off of Sunset Boulevard. Many of our restaurants offer outdoor seating. If

you're looking for entertainment, Meeting Street has The Comedy Closet, Chayze Lounge, Bill's Pickin' Parlor, or WeCo Bottle and Biergarten, and we are looking forward to the opening of Savage Craft Ale Works in the Fall. If you and your family are looking for social distancing entertainment and fun, Head West.

Sincerely,

Mayor Temus C. "Tem" Miles, Jr.

DISCOVER MORE AT
WestCOLUMBIASC.gov

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



MIKE GREEN

COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

We have been working hard in the community to clean up Lybrand Cemetery. There is a GoFundMe page setup if you are interested in donating. Thank you to our city staff who have continued serving throughout the pandemic.



TREVOR BEDELL

COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the citizens of West Columbia to thank our employees for their hard work and dedication to the City of West Columbia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their tireless and selfless efforts have not gone unnoticed. If you see any of our fine city employees out and about please take a minute to thank them. Stay safe.



CASEY J. HALLMAN

COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

Lexington Two will extend free weekly distribution of breakfast and lunch meals, Monday through Thursday, throughout the summer. Pick-up will be at four school

sites and by bus delivery for any child, 18 years old and younger, in need.



JOSEPH DICKEY

COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

The Alexander Road construction project is underway. When completed, it will provide additional marked parking spaces for the Riverwalk and

the recently reopened Carraway Park. Construction on Savage Craft Ale Works, in the old City Hall building, is moving along at a rapid pace. Please remember to continue practicing social distancing during the summer.



MICKEY PRINGLE

COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

Lexington School District Two continues to provide meals to those in need throughout the summer. Visit lex2.org for more information. The City has created

many free wi-fi spaces in public places. Go to our website, westcolumbiasc.gov, for all of the locations. Remember to fill out the census so we can receive federal funding for our community.



JIMMY BROOKS

COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

Our local churches are doing a great job supporting our community through these unprecedented times. Thank you to Brookland UMC, Mt. Hermon, and Mt Hebron UMC, to

name a few, who have provided meals and services to the community. Call me anytime at 864-630-9854.



ERIN P. PORTER

COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

So many neighbors have been working on their yards and they look fantastic. Consider submitting them to the West Columbia Beautification Foundation Yard of the Month

Contest. More info can be found on the Foundation's Facebook page: facebook.com/beautifywcolasc. Please stay safe this summer and let me know if I can be of any assistance. 803-807-0573. Follow the Saluda Gardens Facebook page for the latest information about our district.



DAVID MOYE

COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

District 8 is booming. I am working hard to make our neighborhoods a great place to live. Currently, I am working with City Staff to improve street light coverage in our district. Please remember the coronavirus is

still out there. Be safe!

STAY INFORMED!

DOWNLOAD THE WECO 411 APP

Available in the iTunes and Android Stores. Notifications include safety, city service information & more.

WECO BOTTLE AND BIERGARTEN DOING ROBUST BUSINESS ON MEETING STREET IN RIVER DISTRICT



WECO's Meredith Wier, Phillip Blair, Cam Powell

WECO Bottle and Biergarten opened in January 2020, at 626 Meeting Street, West Columbia. After a brief break due to the coronavirus, WECO is doing a brisk business again. WECO Bottle and Biergarten is a gathering and retail space for anyone looking for impeccable beer and wine selections in a relaxed atmosphere. It is built in a former garden center and has generous amounts of shaded outdoor seating. WECO's owner, Phillip Blair, is excited. "I love West Columbia," he said. He grew up in West Columbia, lives in West Columbia currently, and looks forward to continue doing business in West Columbia.

"It's the perfect stop on your way home from work or a Saturday afternoon with friends. We have the best beer, wine, and service. Don't forget, West is best," said Blair. The new outdoor porch has been poured. There is space for special outdoor events and up to three food trucks. There is always a different selection of great brews. "Select brewers are featured for "tap takeovers," said Meredith Weir of WECO. Cam Powell said, "If you want to take our unique selection of beer with you, we have a crowler machine that allows for the canning of your favorite draft beer. Sign up for event info and announcements at: wecobeer.com.

WEST COLUMBIA'S "BY DESIGN" ARE EXPERTS AT CREATING CORPORATE DECOR STATEWIDE



Lisa Rivers, Gayle Crapps, Michelle Miller, Madison Wagner, and owner Denise Bouknight

By Design, at 2018 Sunset Boulevard, in West Columbia, provides corporate clients, across the state, with beautiful custom-created floral designs and decorations. "We design, fabricate, and install holiday decorations," said Denise Bouknight, owner and designer. By Design's work mostly revolves around the seasons, like Christmas and Easter. The business provides flowers for special events, like weddings, too. "We took the downtime afforded to us by the coronavirus crisis to update inventory, clean, and paint our facility," said Bouknight.

By Design opened in 2014. Its high-profile clients include the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport and the Carolina Panthers. Others are

hospitals, hotels, and more than 30 locations of Founders Federal Credit Union. Bouknight said the business employs seven permanent staff members, but hires a crew of 25 in the height of decorating season. Bouknight has more than 35 years experience in designing holiday and event decor. She said By Design is a family owned and operated business. Her husband Ben grew up in the house beside the building. It was once Dixie Tool Distributors. Before that it was an Esso service station. Bouknight said the rounded front of the building is a reminder if its past use, but it has changed inside. A large cooler was recently added for flowers. The facade of the building has also been painted with attractive signage included to enhance the aesthetics.

"We love being here and doing business in West Columbia," said Bouknight. "We feel good about the future of our business."

SAVAGE HAIR STUDIO AT A GREAT LOCATION



Shannon David and Brooke Rakowsky

West Columbia attracts a lot of new business, Savage Hair Studio at 841 Meeting Street, West Columbia, is one of those new businesses. Brooke Rakowsky opened Savage Hair Studio in October of 2017. She offers hair styling for men, women, and children, along with shampoos and hot shaves.

"I love West Columbia," said Rakowsky. It's the perfect place for her business. She worked at King's Road Barber Shop in Columbia's Five Points for six years before opening her own place. "I wanted to do my own thing," she said.

Rakowsky has weathered the coronavirus crisis. She recently added Shannon Davis to her shop. Rakowsky chose West Columbia partly because of the great location. "It's close to everything," she

said. Her shop is convenient for her clientele from Lexington, Columbia, Cayce, and West Columbia. She also said West Columbia has the best view of Columbia. Some of Rakowsky's clients who have moved away from the area, to places like Charlotte and Charleston, still come back to West Columbia. "Men are loyal when they find a place they like for their haircuts," she said.

But convenience is not the only factor that makes Rakowsky glad she opened in the spot she chose, she said the process to open her business was easy. "The people who work at the City of West Columbia were the nicest and they were super fast," she said. As for the future, Rakowsky said she plans to add personnel and continue to expand services.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WECO?

MEETING STREET ARTISAN MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY

425 MEETING STREET, WEST COLUMBIA

Our local artisan market will be held every Saturday, from 9 AM - 1 PM, throughout the Summer and into the Fall. Join us to support local artisans selling locally made art, crafts, gifts, and more! Contact cotte@westcolumbiasc.gov for more information.

3RD ANNUAL KINETIC DERBY DAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2020, 11 AM - 3:30 PM

Join us on State and Meeting Streets to #ShowUsYourGrit with the cinematic themed Kinetic Sculpture Parade, then watch or participate in the Soap Box Racing for adults and children. Browse the Artisan Fairway on State Street and checkout EdVenture's STEAM activities with the kids. Food trucks and live entertainment all day. Fun for the whole family. kineticderbyday.com.

WEST COLUMBIA BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION YARD OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

To recognize the hard work West Columbia residents have been doing in their yards, the Foundation is asking residents to submit pictures to the Facebook page at facebook.com/beautifywcolasc to be entered into the monthly contest. More information can be found on the page.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS. THEY NEED YOUR PATRONAGE.

2020 CENSUS GO ONLINE TO FILL IT OUT: 2020CENSUS.GOV

WHY?

School lunches.

Plans for highways.

Support for firefighters and families in need.

Census results affect your community every day.

Apply for a census job at 2020census.gov/en/jobs

