CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We are on a mission to keep West Columbia clean! Our residents have picked up litter along our main corridors for years and we truly appreciate their efforts. One neighbor, Connie Vaughn, picks up litter along Highway 1 almost every Saturday. Jim and Sheila Kinard, of Huntington Drive, are picking up litter along Huntington Drive. A huge thank you to them and to all others who have joined in the fight to keep West Columbia litter-free. We welcome anyone who would like to help. A City-Wide Clean-Up Day is scheduled for April 17. Stay tuned for more details.

Our River District is booming with growth and excitement! The city has many free convenient parking options throughout the area to accommodate a stroll on the Riverwalk, a play date at Carraway Park, and shopping and dining on Meeting, State, and Center Streets. The map, pictured on the right, shows the parking locations.

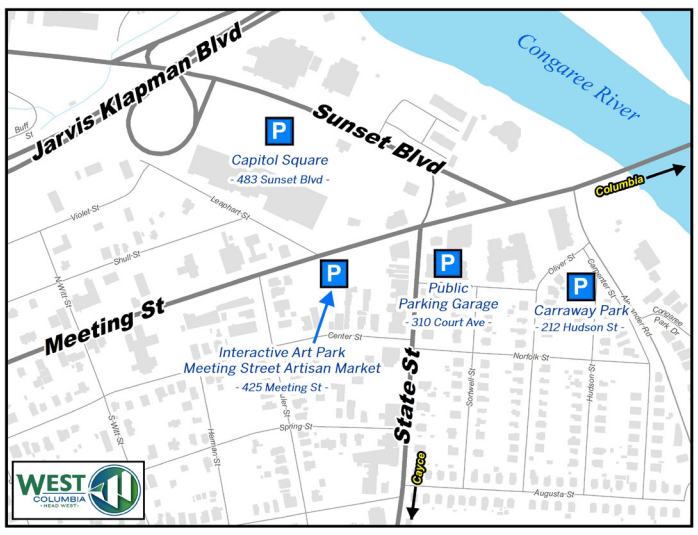
Head West and spend your weekend with us beginning at our Meeting Street Artisan Market, from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, every Saturday, in the Interactive Art Park. Mingle with our local artists and vendors, grab a drink and a bite at one of our local restaurants, brewery, or biergarten. Finish the day with a unique find at our many antique and boutique stores throughout the River District.

We hope to see you out and about in WeCo!

Sincerely,

Mayor Temus C. "Tem" Miles, Jr.

FREE PUBLIC PARKING



DISCOVER MORE AT
WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL

MIKE GREEN

COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

We have noticed excessive litter around our city. To report areas of concern, contact Palmetto Pride, at 877-754-8837. Our newest business, Central Bark, held their ribbon cutting in February, offering pet day care, grooming, and boarding.

TREVOR BEDELL

COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

Happy New Year West Columbia. The city is seeking groups to participate in adopt a highway and community clean up days. The Spring City-Wide Clean-Up Day is set for April 17. This is a great way to beautify our city, get outside, and still social distance. Please spread the word. Perfect for Boy Scout groups, student organizations, church youth groups, Sunday school classes, etc. Let's make West Columbia look it's best in 2021.

CASEY J. HALLMAN

COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

Did you know the City has a free Community Garden at City Hall, 200 N. 12th Street, West Columbia? Currently, there is thyme, rosemary, lavender, mint, and parsley for the public to pick and enjoy.

JOSEPH DICKEY

COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

The River District is alive with growth! There is FREE parking available for Carraway Park, Black Rooster, and the Riverwalk, at 212 Hudson Street, and a FREE public parking garage on Court Avenue, to easily park and walk to our businesses and restaurants on Center, State, and Meeting Streets, such as Cherry's Delight, Savage Craft Ale Works, The Hideout in Weco, the Meeting Street Artisan Market, and Palate.

MICKEY PRINGLE

COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

The Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center hosted an informational session for Software Engineering career opportunities in early February 2021. Midlands Technical College and Catalyte have partnered to offer this free 6-month training course and a paid 2-year apprenticeship with a top employer. To start your journey, take the screening at: createopp.com/columbia.

JIMMY BROOKS

COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

Help us keep our city clean by reporting code compliance issues to our hotline at 803-794-3506 Ext. 805. If you see something suspicious, please call our non-emergency dispatch number at 803-794-0721, Opt. 1. Call me anytime at 864-630-9854.

ERIN P. PORTER

COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

Keep an eye out for the city-wide litter pickup day in April 2021. Please let me know if I can do anything to help, 803-807-0573. Follow the Saluda Gardens Facebook page for the latest information about our district.

DAVID MOYE

COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

Savage Craft Brewery has now opened! A brewery will create an explosion of economic activity, jobs, and neighborhood revitalization. It is very important we keep momentum moving forward, so City Council and Staff are hard at work making the neighborhood more connected and adding parking.

65 OR OLDER?

IT'S YOUR TURN TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE.

You can make an appointment by:

- Visiting scdhec.gov/vaxlocator to see the locations accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccine. Pick a location and call the phone number listed to make an appointment.

- Calling DHEC's Care Line at 1-855-472-3432 for help finding contact information to make an appointment. (The Care Line can't schedule Appointments, but can provide phone numbers of locations offering vaccine appointments.)

(803) 791-1880
200 N. 12TH STREET, WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169

WEST COLUMBIA'S GIRA STEEL HELPS BUILDERS WITH PROJECTS LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

Gira Patel in her office at 841 Williams Street in West Columbia.

Gira Patel is the president and CEO of Gira Steel, housed in a 269,000 square-foot facility on Williams Street in West Columbia. The company was established in 1997 to serve local contractors with quality, on-time structural and miscellaneous steel products. Over the years, the company has expanded its reach.

"We ship to New York, Boston, Florida, and all over," Gira said. Locally, the company's steel has been used at Columbia Metropolitan Airport, the Michelin Tire plant, Colonial Life Arena, and the barracks at Fort Jackson.

Many of their jobs are in other parts of the country and Gira Steel is in a convenient position. "The interstates, I-20, I-26, and I-95 gives us easy access," to ship up and down the East Coast, Gira said.

Whether cutting, drilling, or welding, Gira Steel has the same goal. The company strives to deliver a quality product that satisfies or exceeds customers' expectations, Gira said.

With Gira leading, the demand for Gira Steel has increased. Gira Steel has kept up with the times and the company's projects have become more complex. In April, Gira Steel spent $3 million on equipment upgrades.

The company has thrived because Gira keeps up with the latest trends and works hard to make sure her clients are pleased.

Gira was born in India and came to the United States to marry Manhar Patel. The couple has two sons.

Gira said her relationship with the City of West Columbia, and the people of the city is a good one.

"I like doing business here," she said.

When not at Gira Steel, the CEO travels. Gira has three sisters and a brother, and a lot of her family is in India, including cousins. She loves her extended family and Gira is always interested in helping others.

CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA ADDS PARKING TO ACCOMMODATE INFLUX OF NEW BUSINESSES

New sign installed on the side of the old city hall.

Saturday, January 30, 2021, was a landmark day in West Columbia. The much-anticipated Savage Craft Ale Works opened in the 1925 Brookland City Hall. The opening of the new brewery is significant because it symbolizes the merger of the history of a building that continues to bear West Columbia's former namesake, Brookland, engraved on its front, with the energized and modernized city, West Columbia, that is welcoming new businesses at an impressive rate.

Primal Gourmet, Chayz Lounge, WECO Bottle and Biergarten, the Brookland development, Black Rooster Restaurant, The Hideout in Weco, commercial space on Meeting Street, housing a law firm, and St. Ann's Alley are examples of the recent development in West Columbia's River District.

In addition to commercial development, the City of West Columbia has created Carraway Park at the Riverwalk, a playground for children of all abilities, and the Interactive Art Park, host to the Meeting Street Artisan Market, held every Saturday, from 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM. Coming this summer, is the anticipated move of D's Wings into an existing building adjacent to the Interactive Art Park.

The City of West Columbia has added over 300 free public parking spaces for those who come to enjoy the new activity centers. West Columbia visitors and patrons can park at the following locations: Interactive Art Park/Meeting Street Artisan Market – 425 Meeting Street; West Columbia Public Parking Garage – 310 Court Avenue; Carraway Park at the Riverwalk – 212 Hudson Street; Capitol Square (temporary overflow parking option) – 483 Sunset Boulevard (Please use designated crosswalks for safety.)

LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER PROCESSING COVID-19 VACCINE REQUESTS, MORE TO COME IN SPRING

Lexington Medical Center processing vaccinations.

Lexington Medical Center has been vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. It was the first hospital in the state to receive the vaccine in December 2020. The first phase of the vaccination process is now underway.

West Columbia has followed protocols and Lexington County's positive COVID-19 rate is lower than the surrounding counties, including Richland, Orangeburg, Aiken, Newberry, and Saluda.

Lexington Medical Center, as of February, continues to accept vaccine requests for those who are eligible under Phase 1A. Phase 1A (as of February) includes those who are 65 years of age or older and eligible health care workers. The statewide estimated population of Phase 1A is 1,296,246 (as of February 3). The hospital is processing a large volume of requests and will continue to do so if vaccine inventory allows.

Estimates are that Phase 1B vaccinations will begin in the early Spring. Phase 1B includes front-line essential workers. Those are firefighters, law enforcement officers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, USPS workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the educational sector—teachers, support staff, and daycare workers. The statewide estimated population of Phase 1B is 573,501.

Phase 1C vaccinations are scheduled to begin in late spring. Phase 1C includes people, aged 16 and older with certain underlying health conditions that put them at high risk for severe disease; other essential workers, including people who work in transportation, food service, housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, and public safety. The statewide estimated population of Phase 1C is 2,588,320.

For more information, the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) COVID-19 Hotline is 866-365-8110 or go to scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine.

HAPPENINGS IN WECO

MEETING STREET ARTISAN MARKET
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, 425 MEETING STREET
EVERY SATURDAY

SUPPORT LOCAL

#EATLOCAL

AL'S UPSTAIRS
ARIANA'S RESTAURANT
BLACK ROOSTER
BRICKS AND STONES PIZZA COMPANY
BUTTERCREAM DREAMS
CAFE STRUDEL WEST COLUMBIA
CHINA HUT III
COMPTON'S KITCHEN
DELUCCA'S ITALIAN GRILL
EGGROLL STATION
GRECIAN GARDENS RESTAURANT
GROUCHO'S DELI
HITE'S BBQ
JIMMY'S MINI MART/CITGO
JIN JIN CHINESE RESTAURANT
LIZARD'S THICKET
MAI THAI CUISINE
MANNY'S
MAURICE'S PIGGIE PARK
NEW BROOKLAND TAVERN
NICK'S HOUSE OF PIZZA
PALATE
PARKLAND CAKES
PRIMAL GOURMET KITCHEN + MARKET
RUSH'S FABULOUS FOOD ... FAST!
SAN JOSE MEXICAN RESTAURANT
SAVAGE CRAFT ALE WORKS
STEVE'S DELI
SUNSHINE CAFE
THE HIDEOUT IN WECO
THE ORIGINAL BRUNCHES
TRUE BBQ
ZESTO OF WEST COLUMBIA

#SHOPLOCAL

763 ANTIQUE MALL
ATTIC FANATIC
CHERRY'S DELIGHT
COLUMBIA FLAG & SIGN COMPANY
ED'S EDITIONS BOOKSTORE
FURNITURE ON SUNSET
GOLD LINE FRAMING
GLASSIE LADIES
JAK'S ESSENTIALS
JARRETT'S JUNGLE
MEETING STREET INTERIORS
MESSIE'S CLOSET
OLD MILL ANTIQUE MALL
ROB SHAW GALLERY AND FRAMING
SIGHTLER'S FLORIST & MARKETPLACE
SPA 131
STATE STREET TRADING COMPANY
STONE BOOT COMPANY
THE ECLECTIC HOUSE
THE WAREHOUSE
THREE OAKS FLORIST AND INTERIORS
THREE RIVERS ANTIQUES
TROPIC AIRE PATIO GALLERY
WEST POINT COINS, LLC

WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV

WEST COLUMBIA • HEAD WEST •