

# CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2021



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Summer is upon us in West Columbia! We hope you will be able to enjoy all that West Columbia has to offer. With the many new businesses opening, supporting our local shops and restaurants throughout the city is a great way to spend time with family and friends.

The West Columbia Riverwalk and Amphitheater is home to one of the largest kayak and canoe outfitters in the Southeast, Palmetto Outdoor. Beat the heat and take a trip down the Congaree River.

The City launched a new campaign, Real Faces, WeCo Places, found on decorative pole banners throughout the River District, Triangle City, and 12th Street. The campaign embraces individuals, entrepreneurs, and businesses encompassing the WeCo #HeadWest spirit! You can view all the banners on the City's website at [westcolumbiasc.gov/wecofacesplaces](http://westcolumbiasc.gov/wecofacesplaces).

Council, staff, and our citizens continue the fight against litter in the city with individuals and groups volunteering their time to pick up trash. Anyone can help with litter pickup, and Keep the Midlands Beautiful makes it easy by providing cleanup supplies (including gloves, vests, litter grabbers, and trash bags) to groups of two or more for a one-time cleanup free of charge. For more information, visit their website [keepthemidlandsbeautiful.org](http://keepthemidlandsbeautiful.org).

Sincerely,

Mayor Temus C. "Tem" Miles, Jr.



DISCOVER MORE AT  
[WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV](http://WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV)

## MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



### MIKE GREEN

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

City Council has commissioned an efficiency study to make sure that your tax dollars are being used most effectively. The Westgate/Westwood community meetings

will begin this Summer/Fall. Be on the lookout for more information. Call me with any concerns at 803-563-8085.



### TREVOR BEDELL

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

Summer is a wonderful time to be in West Columbia. We have the Lower Saluda, numerous pool opportunities, and the Riverbanks Zoo to enjoy and beat the heat.

Please get out and support our many restaurants and local businesses. They need everyone's support to recover from the past year. Call me with any concerns.



### CASEY J. HALLMAN

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

Seminole Candle Company recently opened a brick-and-mortar shop off Meeting Street. The owner, Jenny Harrison, holds workshops and makes her hand-poured candles at

the location, which are then distributed throughout the country as well as locally. She has truly excelled with her small business in West Columbia and we are so happy to have her here.



### JOSEPH DICKEY

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

Congratulations to all our West Columbia graduates! We are proud of you and look forward to seeing you excel! Our Meeting Street Artisan Market is every Saturday this Summer, from 9:30-1:30, at 425

Meeting Street. Please come support these amazing small businesses and local artisans! Be sure to visit our many parks and outdoor spaces such as the Amphitheater at the West Columbia Riverwalk, B Avenue Ball Park, Carraway Park at the Riverwalk, Douglas Reeves Community Park, Fowler Community Park, and the playground on C Avenue! Go to Palmetto Outdoors, at the Riverwalk, to rent a kayak, canoe, or tube the Congaree River! District 4 has so many options for Summertime!



### MICKEY PRINGLE

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

The Brookland-Lakeview Learning Support Center is offering Summer Camp Mentoring Programs for free for children ages 5-18 running June 14-August 20, 2021. Email

[lakeview@brookland.cc](mailto:lakeview@brookland.cc) or call the office at 803-744-7943 for more information. The camps include academic enrichment, creative arts, field trips, and more. Call me anytime at 864-630-9854.



### JIMMY BROOKS

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

We are excited to see everyone's faces again at our in-person monthly meetings. Our Regular Council Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month and Work Sessions are

the third Monday of every month, at 6 PM. The meetings are also streamed live on the City's YouTube Channel.



### ERIN P. PORTER

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

The Cayce-West Columbia Library is holding a free summer reading competition for children and adults. Prizes include books, bookmarks, and more, as well as entries into the grand prize drawing at the end

of summer. Summer Reading helps build literacy and language skills, prevents the dreaded summer slide for school-aged children, encourages teens and adults to experience the joy of reading, and so much more. Info can be found at [lexcolibrary.com/summerreading/](http://lexcolibrary.com/summerreading/).



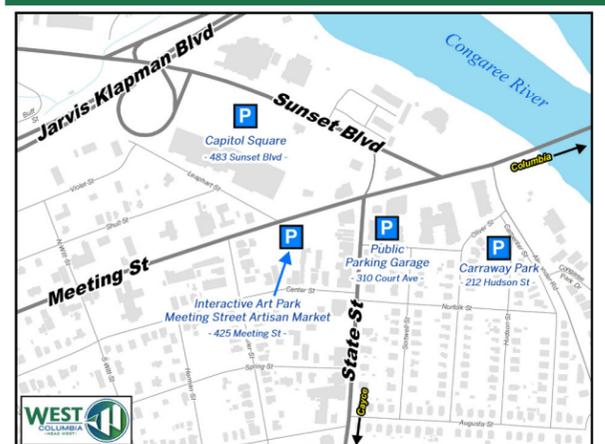
### DAVID MOYE

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

Welcome to the River District, D's Wings! Council and staff are working hard to ensure sustained, orderly growth. The River District Association is reorganized and has exciting plans in store for the Meeting and State Street areas. The Guignard

Association Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Community Center on B Avenue, at 6:30 PM.

## RIVER DISTRICT FREE PARKING



(803) 791-1880

200 N. 12TH STREET, WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169

## MOTA CROSSLINKING BUSINESS ACADEMY WORKS TO UNITE WEST COLUMBIA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITY



Mota Crosslinking Business Academy family, including Vanessa Mota and Ulises Chavez. Vanessa and Ulises.

Mota Crosslinking Business Academy is all about helping others. It is in Triangle City at 633 12th Street, West Columbia. Its mission is to connect, unite, and diversify in the business world.

"We bring the business community together," said Vanessa Mota, who owns Mota Crosslinking with her husband Ulises Chavez.

At the 12th Street site, Mota Crosslinking Business Academy offers classes, courses, workshops, bilingual business consultation, crosslinking marketing services, business development, coaching, co-working spaces, and meeting rooms.

While the resources are abundant at Mota Crosslinking Business Academy, its relationship with people is the most important factor for

"We work to bring cultures and classes together," said Vanessa.

Laurie Rowe is the assistant director at Mota Crosslinking Business Academy. She explained that Mota Crosslinking Business Academy organizes several business days to highlight diverse cultures throughout the year. The business days include the communities of Latino, African American, Asian-American/ Pacific Islanders, and European Business Day.

On May 27, 2021, the Asian-American/Pacific Islanders Business Day was held. Several businesses with owners from the Asian Community were honored at the event. After the program, a feast was held featuring food from China, Thailand, India, and the Pacific Islands.

Vanessa said West Columbia is a great location for all businesses, which is why flags from 15 countries adorn the sign at the Mota Crosslinking office. Vanessa said she is here to help everyone.

"We are inclusive, not exclusive. We want to build partnerships in the community," said Vanessa.

## COLUMBIA FLAG AND SIGN THRIVES AT ITS WEST COLUMBIA LOCATION ON MEETING STREET



Columbia Flag and Sign, 633 Meeting Street.

Columbia Flag and Sign has one of the largest flag showrooms in the country at 633 Meeting Street in West Columbia. It also has a huge garage for wrapping vehicles with signage.

"We have been in West Columbia for quite a while now, and we love our location," said owner David McGehee.

Columbia Flag and Sign is like two shops in one, offering a wide selection of flags and banners in addition to its full-service sign shop that serves a multitude of advertisers.

"We offer a lot of services," said McGehee. "Including a commercial flags division and flagpole service and repair."

McGehee said he is proud to be a locally owned business that has been in operation for almost 37 years. Columbia Flag and Sign moved to West Columbia eight years ago and in that time, it has grown to a staff of eight full-time employees. The business has expanded its customer base by providing consistently good service. Its customers are loyal. "We specialize in service, and we have a lot of repeat clients," said McGehee.

McGehee also said West Columbia is a friendly environment for business. "The city's staff is easy to work with and they are professional. We have a very good relationship with the city."

The business community in West Columbia is growing, and there are a lot of new businesses coming in. McGehee is glad he is located in the heart of the growth.

## MESSIE'S CLOSET CAN FIND THE PERFECT OUTFIT THAT MAKES A STATEMENT



Hawa Lukulay of Messie's Closet, Meeting Street.

Do you want a dress or an accessory that will make a statement? If so, Hawa Lukulay at Messie's Closet can help.

"Whether you're going to a party or you're looking for something just right for a casual evening out, I can help you find it," Hawa said. "I probably have it in my shop."

She opened Messie's Closet at 729 Meeting Street in 2018.

"I really like my location in West Columbia," Hawa said. "I'm in the middle of a really good business community. I have good relationships with the other businesses in the area. We check on each other."

Hawa said her shop is open daily and she offers private showings

for her clientele. Because of her location, she draws from a diverse pool of buyers. She also said being close to downtown Columbia is a benefit.

"I get customers from the University of South Carolina, employees in state government, and attorneys and professionals. They may be looking for that just-right look in what they wear."

Her clientele is satisfied because she said she serves a lot of repeat customers. Hawa also said the customers who come to her are of all ages.

Hawa's location also provides another advantage. "We always have plenty of parking," she said.

Hawa said it is a good sign that she has seen a lot of new businesses "popping up" around her.

"West Columbia is a great location for a business," she said.

## HAPPENINGS IN WECO

**MEETING STREET ARTISAN MARKET**  
**EVERY SATURDAY**  
 425 MEETING STREET  
 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
 (NO MARKET SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021)

## VISIT WECO

### #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  
 D'S WINGS  
 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  
 STEVE'S DELI  
 SUNSHINE CAFE  
 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  
 JAAS BOUTIQUE  
 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

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