CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA
NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2025



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am proud to share that the City of West Columbia's 2025–2026 budget demonstrates our continued commitment to using residents' tax dollars wisely while maintaining high-quality public services. Due to careful planning and strong leadership over the years, we are keeping the current millage rate, ensuring no property tax increase from the City. The City's portion of the tax bill accounts for less than 18% of the total property tax bill, and our water and sewer rates continue to be the lowest in the area.

This year's $26.3 million general fund budget focuses on projects that improve daily life for everyone. We have allocated significant funds toward upgrading our water and sewer systems, enhancing parks and sanitation, and maintaining our emergency services. Our Fire Department maintains the best ISO rating of 1, which helps lower insurance costs for homes and businesses. We are also continuing to invest in clean, attractive public spaces, code enforcement, and boosting local businesses by supporting events.

As always, our budget aligns with the City Council's goals for safe and smart growth. This involves improving walkways and bike access along B Avenue, State Street, 9th Street, and 12th Street, planning for enhanced parking, and updating zoning regulations as needed. We are proud of the progress we have made and are committed to continuing to build a strong and welcoming city. Thank you for the continued support as we work to make it the best it can be.

Sincerely,
Mayor Temus C. "Tem" Miles, Jr.

DISCOVER MORE AT
WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV

HAPPENINGS IN WECO

MEETING STREET ARTISAN MARKET SUMMER SERIES
THURSDAYS IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST
4 - 8 PM
INTERACTIVE ART PARK, 425 MEETING ST

CWC CHAMBER RYTHYM ON THE RIVER FREE CONCERT SERIES
SATURDAYS, MAY 31, JUNE 7, & 14, 2025
6 - 9 PM
WECO RIVERWALK AMPHITHEATER

BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION TASTE ON THE RIVER
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025
5:30 - 9:00 PM, STONE RIVER
BEAUTIFYWESTCOLUMBIA.ORG

FALL BACK FEST
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025
5:30 - 9:30 PM
100-300 BLOCKS STATE STREET

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



MIKE GREEN

COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

Big Lots has reopened. The streetlights in District One that were out are being repaired. If you see any others that are out, please let me know. Thank you to SCDOT for paving US-1 and for the repairs and paving of the I-26 exits at 111A and 111B. If any areas need to be paved or if potholes need to be fixed, call me at 864-430-8440.



TREVOR BEDELL

COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

I hope you all had a wonderful Memorial Day. As we transition into summer, let's get out and enjoy all West Columbia has to offer. I hope y'all will consider coming out to the Beautification Foundation's 9th Annual Taste on the River, June 10. It is a highly anticipated event. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of any assistance.



GEORGE CROWE

COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

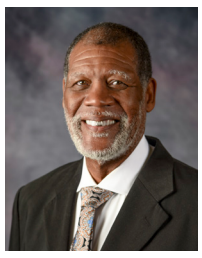
Congratulations to all the 2025 graduates! I hope everyone has a wonderful summer break and takes advantage of many fun activities in WECO. We have Rhythm on the River on Saturdays, June 7 and 14. The concerts are free, so please join us! And remember, shopping and dining are fantastic in WECO. If you are traveling or going on vacation, please stay safe. Have a great summer!



JOSEPH DICKEY

COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

Big things are underway in the Mill Village as we begin a transformative $15 million infrastructure improvement project over the next 18 months. While residents may experience temporary inconveniences such as construction activity and road work, these short-term disruptions will lead to long-term benefits, including safer streets, upgraded water and storm systems, enhanced walkability, and improved access throughout the neighborhood. If you have questions or need assistance during the project, please contact me at 864-316-4646.



MICKEY PRINGLE

COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

South Carolina's first AT&T Connected Learning Center is now open at the Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center in West Columbia. This milestone, part of AT&T's $5 billion commitment to bridge the digital divide by 2030, provides residents with free access to high-speed internet, computers, and digital literacy resources, empowering our community with the tools it needs for success in the digital age.



JIMMY BROOKS

COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

Congratulations to the Gray Collegiate Academy softball team for winning their second consecutive state title and their first in SCHSL 4, an incredible success in their debut season as a 4A team. Let's also celebrate Airport High School's Varsity Baseball Team for winning the school's first-ever 4A baseball state championship, with a 10-0 victory. These outstanding accomplishments showcase the strength, talent, and determination of our WeCo student-athletes!



SARAH MATTERN

COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

There is plenty happening in WeCo, including the Meeting Street Artisan Market, Thursdays through August. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, Final Victory, on N. Lucas, can always use dog walkers and foster families. Our Savior Lutheran Church has a Blessing Box in their parking lot. You can drop off food for those in need or share a little extra if you have it to spare.

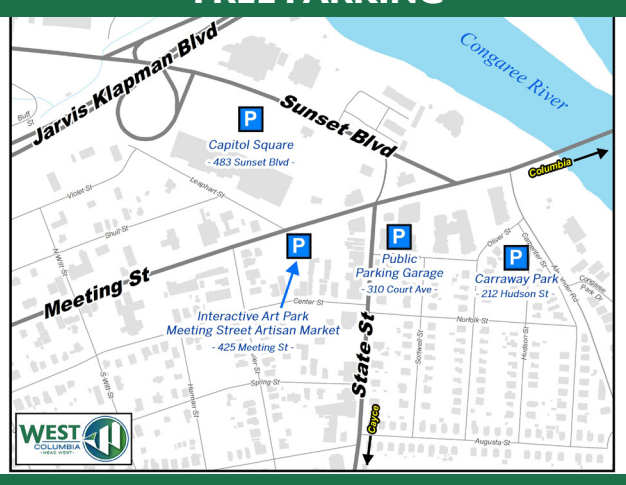


DAVID MOYE

COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

I recently found a Civil War-era canister shot in my yard, reminding me of WeCo's rich history and artifacts. Highlights include farmhouses built by German settlers, who brought yellow BBQ sauce, early 19th-century factory ruins, Sherman's encampment, a historic equalization school, and today's network of walkable streets and alleys. Our historical assets provide a strong foundation as we grow our unique community, many of which are marked with historical markers.

RIVER DISTRICT FREE PARKING



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

DAVIS ORTHODONTICS HAS BEEN PERFECTING SMILES IN WEST COLUMBIA FOR ALMOST 25 YEARS



Dr. Davis and Staff

Dr. Ed Davis runs Davis Orthodontics, located at 143 Medical Circle in West Columbia. It has been a vibrant part of the local business community for almost 25 years. Since 2001, families have received excellent, affordable orthodontic care, including braces and aligners, at Davis Orthodontics, according to Dr. Davis.

"The goal of the team at Davis Orthodontics merges art and science to create beautiful, healthy smiles," he said. "Making the orthodontic experience as relaxing as possible is essential. We strive to make every patient feel comfortable in our friendly atmosphere. We want to create strong relationships through open communication. By working together and using cutting-edge technology, we create customized treatment plans to help our patients achieve their ideal smiles," Dr. Davis said. "And we treat you like family. Davis Orthodontics wants to give you all the self-confidence in your smile with optimum results."

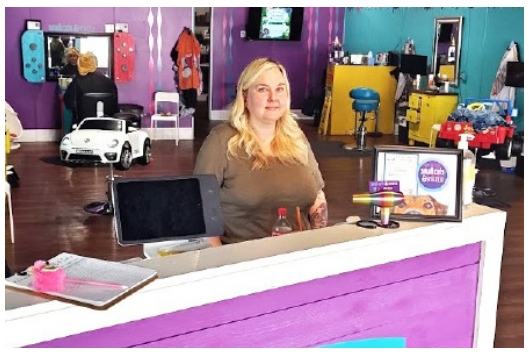
The patients at Davis Orthodontics range in age from 7 to 77 years old. Davis Orthodontics also employs dental monitoring, which includes regular scans of your teeth, resulting in fewer in-person visits to the office.

Other features of Davis Orthodontics include complimentary consultations and financing plans.

In addition to the goodwill generated at the Davis Orthodontics office, the business maintains a strong presence in the community. Representatives of Davis Orthodontics can be found delivering meals for local teacher appreciation days or participating in Lexington Medical Center's Employee Appreciation Week. Davis Orthodontics also sponsors the Cayce-West Columbia Youth Baseball teams, which play at Wilson Howard Park in West Columbia.

Dr. Davis graduated from Airport High School. He also attended the University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina Medical School. He is a past chairman of West Columbia's East Point Academy Board of Directors.

SMALL CUTS AND CURLS ON MEETING STREET TAKES THE ANXIETY OUT OF GETTING A HAIRCUT



Katie Davis at Small Cut and Curls

Katie Davis opened Small Cuts and Curls at 803 Meeting Street in West Columbia in February 2022. She developed a passion for hairstyling and makeup at an early age.

"I would style my doll's hair and do hair and makeup on any family member who would let me," Katie said.

Katie eventually followed her passion and trained as a cosmetologist. She is a 2013 graduate of the Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology. Ironically, the Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology is now on Meeting Street in West Columbia, just a few blocks from Small Cuts and Curls. At Small Cuts and Curls, Katie caters to children. Her goal is to make every child feel comfortable. "Children can have stress, too," Katie said. "When I'm cutting their hair, they tell me what is going on in their lives. I like to listen to them talk, and I think it can be therapeutic for them."

To make children more comfortable, Small Cuts and Curls is outfitted with a pink airplane, a model Jeep, and a Volkswagen convertible as seating for haircuts.

"Sometimes small children can be intimidated by the prospect of a haircut. Decorating my shop with child-friendly props helps ease a little of the anxiety," Katie said.

She also specializes in hairstyling for children with Autism, Sensory Processing Disorders, or other special needs, with accommodating spaces for clients in need. Small Cuts and Curls makes every customer feel special with her kind and patient demeanor. She welcomes them with seasonal decorations on the lawn in front of her salon. Depending on the season, there could be Easter Bunnies, Santa Claus, or even a big pumpkin.

PIGGY PARK BAR-B-QUE IS RISING FROM THE ASHES AND BUILDING BACK STRONGER THAN EVER



Piggie Park Bar-B-Que

Maurice's Piggie Park Bar-B-Que has been a fixture in West Columbia since it first opened its doors in 1953. Known for its pit-cooked barbecue, tangy mustard-based sauce, juicy burgers, and classic Southern sides, the restaurant has become a beloved part of the Midlands' culinary landscape for over 70 years.

In late October 2024, a fire severely damaged a portion of the iconic Piggie Park complex at 1600 Charleston Highway. The blaze destroyed the original barbecue pits, the distribution center, and the employment office. Thankfully, the restaurant itself, located in a separate structure, was untouched. Even more remarkably, it reopened just two days later, continuing to serve customers without interruption.

"The heart of what we do, the spirit of Piggie Park, has never burned out," said Lloyd Bessinger of Maurice's Piggie Park.

Despite the setback, the Piggie Park team quickly established temporary operations at all eight locations. Their efforts have been met with overwhelming support from loyal customers and the local community, a testament to the history and the bond this family-owned business has with the community. Since its founding, Piggie Park has proudly called West Columbia home. Generations of guests have come through its doors, drawn by the aroma of wood-fired barbecue and the hospitality that defines the Piggie Park experience. The restaurant's dedication to time-honored cooking methods and family recipes has made it a culinary cornerstone in the region. Looking ahead, plans are in place to rebuild the damaged facilities with purpose, ensuring the next generation of Piggie Park continues to thrive, right where it all began, in the heart of West Columbia. Maurice's Piggie Park Bar-B-Que remains open and ready to serve, proving that not even fire can extinguish a legacy built on tradition, flavor, and community.

VISIT WECO

#EATLOCAL

ALWAYS ORIGINAL BAKERY
ANOTHER BROKEN EGG CAFE
ARIANA'S RESTAURANT
BLACK ROOSTER
BLOSSOM BUFFET
BREADS & SUCH
BREAKFAST AT RUIZ
BRICKHOUSE GOURMET COFFEE & TEA
THE CAKE HOUSE CASA DE PASTEL
CABANAS
CAFE STRUDEL WEST COLUMBIA
CALLOWAY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL
CHAYZ LOUNGE
CHINA HUT III
CITY LIMITS Q
CRAVE ARTISAN SPECIALTY MARKET
CUCINELLA'S PIZZERIA & ITALIAN ICE
D'S WINGS
DELUCCA'S ITALIAN GRILL
EGGROLL STATION
GOLDEN CHOPSTIX
GRECIAN GARDENS RESTAURANT
GROUCHO'S DELI
THE HIDEOUT IN WECO
JIMMY'S MINI MART/CITGO
JUNE MARI'S DELI
JJS PLACE
LA CIENEGA MEXICAN GRILL & SEAFOOD
LA FOGATA
LA MORENITA
LIZARD'S THICKET
LOS PAISANOS
MAI THAI CUISINE
MANNY'S
MAURICE'S PIGGIE PARK
NICK'S HOUSE OF PIZZA
NO. 1 CHINA
ODALY'S BAKERY
PHO & BÁNH MÌ
QUE! BUENO NEVERIA & SNACK BAR
RUSH'S FABULOUS FOOD ... FAST!
SAN JOSE MEXICAN RESTAURANT
SAVAGE CRAFT ALE WORKS
TACOS LOCOS AND GRILL
TASTY WINGS & SEAFOOD
TERRA
TEX MEX WEST COLUMBIA
THAI DELICACIES
THE HIDEOUT IN WECO
TRUE BBQ
WHAT-A-BURGER
ZESTO OF WEST COLUMBIA

#SHOPLOCAL

763 ANTIQUE MALL
ABOUT FACE WELLNESS & MEDICAL SPA
ABOUT YOU AESTHETICS
ATTIC FANATIC
BARBARA JANE'S BOUTIQUE
BILL'S MUSIC SHOP & PICKIN' PARLOR
COLUMBIA FLAG & SIGN COMPANY
ECLECTIC EDGE WOODWORKS
ED'S EDITIONS BOOKSTORE
GARDEN & RELIC
GOLD LINE FRAMING
GLASSIE LADIES
MEETING STREET INTERIORS
NEW BROOKLAND RAILROAD & HOBBY
OLD MILL ANTIQUE MALL
OUTDOOR WOOD FURNITURE
SCRATCH & SPIN
SIGHTLER'S FLORIST & MARKETPLACE
SPA MD
STATE STREET TRADING COMPANY
STEVEN WHETSTONE FINE ART
STONE BOOT COMPANY
THE WAREHOUSE
THREE RIVERS ANTIQUES
TROPIC AIRE PATIO GALLERY
WEST POINT COINS, LLC

WEST COLUMBIA • HEAD WEST •