CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to West Columbia Fire Chief Marquis Solomon for receiving the Leadership & Service Award at the Lexington County NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Gala on August 7, 2026, at Brookland Baptist Church. This well-earned honor recognizes Chief Solomon's leadership and dedication to public service to the West Columbia community.

Did you know that the City of West Columbia offers a matching grant of up to $10,000 for Facade Improvements to businesses along our main corridors? Visit the Grant Programs page on our website, westcolumbiasc.gov/grant-programs, for detailed information.

Our Code Compliance Department works hard every day to keep our city looking clean. Please remember, roll carts and recyclable containers should be at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day and removed by 7:00 p.m. afterward. When not out for pickup, store roll carts and recyclable containers on your property, if possible, out of street view.

Sincerely,

Mayor Temus C. "Tem" Miles, Jr.

RIVER DISTRICT FREE PARKING

INTERACTIVE ART PARK
425 Meeting St.
Free Valet Drop Off
Thurs & Fri (4-10 PM), Sat (12 PM-10 PM)

CAPITOL SQUARE/OLD PELICAN'S
430 Meeting St.

BROOKLAND PUBLIC PARKING GARAGE
310 Court Ave.

BROOKLAND PARKING DECK
(Available 7 AM - 6 PM)
106 Oliver St.

CARRAWAY PARK
212 Hudson St.

RIVERWALK AMPHITHEATER
109 Alexander Rd.

DISCOVER MORE AT WestColumbiaSC.gov

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



MIKE GREEN
COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

The contractor has been selected, and final permitting is nearly complete for the West Columbia Beautification Foundation's plantings in the medians along Highway 1 between Dreher Road and Wattling Road. Please save the dates for the Foundation's Reverse Raffle on October 13 and for Fall Back Fest on November 6.



TREVOR BEDELL
COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

As fall approaches, take a moment to be grateful for the cooler weather after a hot summer! The City is busy with many exciting projects underway. For the latest updates and details on these initiatives, visit our website at www.westcolumbiasc.gov.



GEORGE CROWE
COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

WECO is buzzing with things to do. Get out, support our local businesses, and enjoy all the community has to offer. A special thank you to our Police and Fire Departments for their dedication to keeping us safe. Wishing everyone a great and safe start to the school year. Remember, the West Side is the best side.



JOSEPH DICKEY
COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

The Mill Village Area Infrastructure Project is advancing, with Alexander Road opening on Friday, August 14. Contractors are continuing to complete storm drainage installation on Norfolk Street. Afterward, they will begin roadway, sidewalk, and pavement improvements on Carpenter, Hudson, Oliver, Sortwell, and Augusta Streets. The West Columbia Riverwalk enhancements are also progressing, with new concrete poured in early August. The Riverwalk project is expected to wrap up before September.



P. COOKIE HOLMES
COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

The BLEC has a busy August! Their Annual Community Health Fair is August 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are also welcoming students to enroll in the Healthy Futures Afterschool Program starting August 24, and youth ages 10–19 can join the free PREP Youth Advisory Council. The Greater Lakeview Alumni Association is hosting voter registration on August 15, 2–5 p.m., at Brookland Baptist Church. For more on BLEC programs, call (803) 744-7944.



JIMMY BROOKS
COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

During its August meeting, the West Columbia City Council received a presentation on the Safe Streets and Roads Safety Action Plan. The study identifies roadway safety concerns and recommends improvements to help protect drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Learn more and view the Safety Action Plan dashboard and the final plan at westcolumbiasc.gov/safe-streets-for-all-grant-info.



SARAH MATTERN
COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

I hope everyone had a good summer, even though it was a hot one! Fall is just around the corner, but we doubt we will see fall-like temperatures for a while. Plan a trip down the Saluda for a refreshing float. Kids are back in school, and traffic has picked up in our neighborhood. Please be mindful of your speed and pay attention. There are many walkers this time of year.



DAVID MOYE
COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

Heat breaks in August. Time to scrape the railing, touch up the trim, repaint the porch steps, and pull weeds along the walk. These small, quick wins can make the biggest difference. Order your native trees now for early fall planting before nurseries run out. Even one tree per yard can improve the entire block.

NEWS AROUND THE CITY



WeCo's Ashton Miles headed to national public works competition.

CITY'S ASHTON MILES HEADED TO NATIONAL BACKHOE RODEO COMPETITION

The City of West Columbia's Public Works Department Crew Leader, Ashton Miles, is a Backhoe Rodeo Champion. Backhoe Rodeos are events where operators showcase their skills with utility equipment through competitive demonstrations. During National Public Works Week in May, Ashton Miles and Chad Rogers competed in the West Columbia Backhoe Competition and advanced to the American Public Works Association South Carolina Chapter Midlands Branch Rodeo. Ashton placed second, and Chad placed third. Both moved on to the state finals, called the "Big Dance," held in Summerville, SC, on June 23, 2026. At the state level, Ashton qualified for the National Rodeo organized by the American Public Works Association, scheduled for August 31, 2026, in Houston, TX. With several backhoe-driving trophies to his name, Ashton said that he practices daily to sharpen his skills. "We work around gas lines, fiber optic cables, and water-sewer infrastructure," he explained. "My focus is on staying focused to serve our residents and West Columbia's customers effectively."

City of West Columbia Utilities Director, Jeremy Bristow, praised city staff's dedication. "Our Public Works crew works tirelessly behind the scenes every day to keep West Columbia running smoothly, safely, and beautifully," he said. "Competing in the Backhoe Rodeo gives our personnel the chance to put their incredible precision, speed, and heavy-machinery skills on display in a friendly competition with their coworkers. From navigating tight spaces to showcasing expert control, these guys prove why they are the best in the business." Jeremy also commended Ashton's efforts: "Ashton is a Crew Leader who shows up ready to work every day. We're proud to have him on our team."



Dr. Cope, serving West Columbia in it's Sunset Boulevard location since 2023.

WEST COLUMBIA DENTAL OFFERS CARE USING THE LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY

West Columbia Dental, located at 2318 Sunset Boulevard, offers comprehensive dental care for patients of all ages. Dr. Brant Cope, a graduate of the Citadel and the Medical University of South Carolina's Doctor of Dental Medicine program, has been practicing since 2009. He focuses on delivering personalized care using the latest technology and techniques.

"I want my patients to feel welcome and assured they are receiving my full attention," he said. "I want them to know they are getting the very best dental care. It makes me feel good that when a patient comes through the door, they have confidence that I'm going to do quality work. We're here to help them and do what it takes to resolve their issue."

Dr. Cope moved into his Sunset Boulevard office three years ago and is excited about the location. The community response has been "overwhelming," with new patients arriving almost daily because of its convenient, accessible location.



JJ's Place featuring mural from the City's Mural Grant Program.

JJ'S PLACE ON MEETING, IF YOU TRY IT ONCE, YOU'LL KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE

In July 2025, JJ's Place opened at 557 Meeting Street. Since then, the business has grown its team to six members, according to owner Andrew Reiniger, who, along with co-owner Janice Caldwell, is a baker. JJ's Place offers pastries, fresh bread, bagels, coffee, cookies, brownies, and muffins.

Andrew said customer visits doubled within the first year, adding, "We've grown mainly through word-of-mouth rather than extensive marketing." He emphasized that once customers try their products, they tend to return and explore more of the menu, reflecting their belief: "Once you've tasted it, you'll return." Their success isn't due to any secret but is driven by the motto: "Keeping it simple, keeping it fresh, doing what we love," and their focus on using local ingredients, especially seasonal fruits, in their baked goods.

Janice mentioned that during summer, they use local produce in items like triple berry turnovers, peach muffins, blueberry scones, and strawberry tart. Beyond their prime location in a busy area, the owners found opening in West Columbia to be smooth.

Andrew explained, "The process was straightforward. Although we remodeled our building extensively, we worked closely with city staff to complete everything."

For information about adding a mural to a local West Columbia business, visit westcolumbiasc.gov/grant-programs.

SHOP LOCAL

763 ANTIQUE MALL
ABOUT FACE WELLNESS & MEDICAL SPA
ATTIC FANATIC
BILL'S MUSIC SHOP & PICKIN' PARLOR
COLUMBIA FLAG & SIGN COMPANY
ED'S EDITIONS BOOKSTORE
GOLD LINE FRAMING
GLASSIE LADIES
MEETING STREET INTERIORS
PAPER PRO INC
NEW BROOKLAND RAILROAD & HOBBY
OLD MILL ANTIQUE MALL
OUTDOOR WOOD FURNITURE
SCRATCH & SPIN
SIGHTLER'S FLORIST & MARKETPLACE
SNEAK A PEEK BOUTIQUE
SPA MD
SPLURGE! CREATIVE SUPPLIES EMPORIUM
STEVEN WHETSTONE FINE ART
STONE BOOT COMPANY
THE WAREHOUSE
THREE RIVERS ANTIQUES
TROPIC AIRE PATIO GALLERY
WEST END INTERIORS
WEST POINT COINS, LLC

EAT LOCAL

ANOTHER BROKEN EGG CAFE
ARIANA'S RESTAURANT
BLACK ROOSTER
BLOSSOM BUFFET
BREADS & SUCH
BRICKHOUSE GOURMET COFFEE & TEA
CABANAS
CALLOWAY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL
CHAYZ LOUNGE
CHINA HUT III
CITY LIMITS Q
CRAVE ARTISAN SPECIALTY MARKET
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
JJS PLACE
LA CIENEGA MEXICAN GRILL & SEAFOOD
LA FOGATA
LA MORENITA
LIZARD'S THICKET
MAI THAI CUISINE
MANNY'S
MAURICE'S PIGGIE PARK
MI TIERRA DE MAIZ
NICK'S HOUSE OF PIZZA
NO. 1 CHINA
ODALY'S BAKERY
PHO & BÁNH MÌ
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

EVENTS IN WECO

BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION REVERSE RAFFLE DRAWING
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Savage Craft - Armory

FALL BACK FEST
Friday, November 6, 2026
5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
100-300 State Street

22ND ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING
Friday, December 4, 2026
6:30 p.m.
City Hall Lawn - 200 N. 12th Street

MEETING STREET ARTISAN MARKETS HOLIDAY EDITION
Saturdays, December 5, 12, & 19, 2026
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
425 Meeting Street