

CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026



MAYOR’S MESSAGE

The coming months are packed with activities and exciting developments throughout West Columbia. Construction on the Meeting Street Road Improvement Project officially began in September! We are committed to keeping residents, business owners, and visitors informed throughout the project. Bi-weekly updates will be shared on social media, through the City’s email listserv, and on the dedicated project webpage at westcolumbiasc.gov/meetingstreet, where you can find the latest information on traffic pattern changes, temporary closures, and other impacts in the area. You can also get a monthly recap of the project on our social and YouTube channels through our new series “Month on Meeting.”

The West Columbia Beautification Foundation will hold its Reverse Raffle on October 13. Purchase the winning \$10,000 ticket at beautifywestcolumbia.org. On Saturday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., there will be a Citywide cleanup, drug take-back, litter pickup, and shred day at City Hall. The Three Rivers Bridge Dinner is on Sunday, October 25, on the Gervais Street Bridge. The 10th Annual Fall Back Fest will be held on November 6 at 100-300 State Street, featuring three bands, live mural painting on the street, a forger, and the Meeting Street Artisan Market.

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

WHAT’S NEXT IN WECO

Meeting Street Improvement Project

westcolumbiasc.gov/meetingstreet



Mill Village Area Infrastructure Project

westcolumbiasc.gov/millvillage



RIVER DISTRICT FREE PARKING

INTERACTIVE ART PARK

425 Meeting St.
Free Valet Drop Off
Thurs & Fri (4-10 p.m.), Sat (12-10 p.m.)

CAPITOL SQUARE/OLD PELICAN’S

430 Meeting St.

BROOKLAND PUBLIC PARKING GARAGE

310 Court Ave.

BROOKLAND PARKING DECK

(Available 7 a.m.- 6 p.m.)
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 South Carolina Department of Transportation’s Highway 1 safety project, from Dreher Road to Watling Road, is nearing completion, with the West Columbia Beautification Foundation’s new landscaping and irrigation installation. The project included new medians, crosswalks, traffic-signal upgrades, pavement markings, and other safety improvements. Trees, shrubs, and flowers are being planted, with an emphasis on hardy, drought-tolerant vegetation.



TREVOR BEDELL COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

We welcome fall with open arms! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and is now enjoying the cooler weather. Please be patient with the Meeting Street Improvement Project. Project updates are available on our website. You can also sign up for email updates. Call us anytime with any concerns!



GEORGE CROWE COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

We are excited to add Dutch Bros Coffee at the front of Sunset Court Plaza on Highway 378. This drive-thru coffee shop will bring new life to the shopping center and add a distinctive blend of convenience, high-energy customer service, and community involvement to the corridor. There are many activities happening for fall and Halloween in our area. Take the kids to a Trunk or Treat, visit a local pumpkin patch, and catch free live music at Fall Back Fest on November 6.



JOSEPH DICKEY COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

The Mill Village Area Infrastructure Project is progressing. Alexander Road is open, and storm drainage work wraps up in early October. Road rehabilitation on Norfolk, Carpenter, Hudson, and Sortwell Streets also begins in October. The Meeting Street Improvement Project continues. The parking lot beside the Artisan Market Pavilion is now paved. The right-hand, eastbound lane of Meeting Street remains closed for sidewalk expansion and curb installation. Streetlights along eastbound Meeting Street, from Brookland United Methodist Church to Alexander Road, will be off for about a month as crews install conduit. Sign up for project email updates and learn more at westcolumbiasc.gov/riverdistrictprojects.



P. COOKIE HOLMES COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

Congratulations to the SHIELD Program (Spiritual Health Initiative for Eliminating and Lowering Diabetes) on a successful Year 2! In Year 1, four cohorts at Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center (BLEC) and Generation 4 served 199 participants, improving HbA1c, weight, and BMI. Year 2 began with BLEC’s fifth cohort, enrolling 41 participants. With a Community Development Block Grant from Lexington County, BLEC will build a concession stand and ADA restroom at Brooks-Fair-Danner Athletic Field.



JIMMY BROOKS COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

We are excited about the recent upgrades to the West Columbia Riverwalk and Amphitheater. The new kayak and tuber launch is now open. Parking lot improvements are complete, and stairs have been added to connect the Alexander Road sidewalk to the parking lot. Over the coming months, new historical signs will be installed, and the benches and picnic tables will be replaced. Check out the many events happening around WeCo this fall.



SARAH MATTERN COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

Fall is in full swing, with plenty of fun activities to enjoy. Dinosaurs Around the World opened September 17 on the Botanical Garden side of Riverbanks Zoo, and Boo at the Zoo starts October 16. Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church will host Halloween in the Parking Lot on Sunday, October 25, while Trinity United Methodist Church on Gunter Circle will hold its Trunk or Treat on October 31. Don't forget to vote on November 3.



DAVID MOYE COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

Council adopted the Safe Streets and Roads Safety Action Plan to advance the Safe System Approach and eliminate accidents and serious injuries. Using crash data and community input, the plan identifies hazardous intersections and street conditions and prioritizes safe walking and cycling as the city grows. Goals include improved sidewalks, lighting, bike lanes, signage, and speed controls, as well as safer behavior by all road users. We partnered with Lexington County to apply for an implementation grant to secure funding for improvements.



Palmetto Swings brings 24/7 golf simulation to 511 Meeting Street.

PALMETTO SWINGS OPENS ON MEETING STREET IN WEST COLUMBIA

Palmetto Swings is a premier golf simulator facility at 511 Meeting Street in West Columbia. "Our mission is to provide a welcoming environment where golfers of all skill levels and ages can improve their technique, have fun, and enjoy the latest in tracking technology," said Tylor Cooper, who added that Palmetto Swings is a family-owned business. The owners are Tylor and Lyndsey Cooper and Lane, Billy, Lenora, and Logan Dillon. Tylor is a veteran, and his entire family, influenced by the PGA, shares a passion for golf. Billy Dillon said Palmetto Swings offers the opportunity to experience the freedom of professional-grade practice for seasoned golfers or those just beginning to learn the game. It's open 24 hours a day, and after booking, customers

receive a door code to enter. It is a private session open to the public. "Our goal is your improvement through fun, data-driven sessions," Billy said. Palmetto Swings is open to the public, and no membership is required, though memberships are available. A link to Palmetto Swings' TrackMan online booking system is included on their website: palmettoswings.com. Billy said West Columbia was specifically chosen for the location of the new business. "West Columbia is growing," he said. "It's up and coming. We wanted to be a part of that growth." Billy also said the process of opening the new business was hassle-free. "The City of West Columbia has been great," he said. "Everything was done in a timely manner, and it was very easy. Everyone has been cooperative and helpful. We're very glad to be here."



Keep the Midlands Beautiful serves 19 municipalities from its WeCo home.

KEEP THE MIDLANDS BEAUTIFUL THRIVING IN WEST COLUMBIA

Keep the Midlands Beautiful serves Lexington and Richland counties from its headquarters at 1305 Augusta Road in West Columbia. Traude Sander is the Executive Director at Keep the Midlands Beautiful, and she loves her work. "We serve 19 municipalities in two counties, and we love where we are in West Columbia," she said. "It's a central location. Everybody loves it. We have people coming from Chapin, Pelion, Batesburg-Leesville, and Forest Acres. It's easy to get here from Columbia, and we have no complaints. People like coming here to West Columbia. The location is perfect, and West Columbia is a perfect place to do business." Traude also said that Keep the Midlands Beautiful incorporates the services of college interns. Five currently currently work at the West Columbia site. "We are so

convenient to the campus, and it's so close for the interns," she said. Keep the Midlands Beautiful was established in 1989 as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful to serve Richland and Lexington counties. Its mission is to engage, inspire, and educate the Midlands to invest in the community through litter prevention, recycling, and beautification. Keep the Midlands Beautiful connects individuals and groups with litter cleanup events, recycling initiatives, and beautification projects. In 2025, it helped remove 217,964 pounds of litter through 817 organized litter-pickup events and provided supplies for 6,737 volunteers. It is one of more than 700 Keep America Beautiful affiliates and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.



LS3P chose West Columbia's riverfront for its Midlands location.

LS3P'S HEADQUARTERS IN WEST COLUMBIA'S BROOKLAND DEVELOPMENT

In October 2024, the architectural firm LS3P cut the ribbon on its new office at 103 State Street in West Columbia. In 2025, Allen Taylor, Vice President and Principal, assumed the role of Columbia Office Leader. Allen has spent an impressive 35 years with LS3P, demonstrating exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication to his work, and a deep commitment to the organization. He has played a pivotal role in the firm's growth. LS3P could have located its Columbia office anywhere, but it chose to invest in West Columbia, and Allen is glad it did. "Our relationship with West Columbia has been incredibly strong," Allen said. "West Columbia has a deep pride in its heritage and a clear vision for its future. As designers, we thrive on that kind of forward-thinking energy, and we've felt

fully embraced by the community. And we absolutely love it here. The location offers the perfect balance. It has its own unique, walkable riverfront access, yet we are just a stone's throw away from downtown Columbia. It makes the office highly accessible for both our team and our clients across the Midlands. The location is perfect for our studio culture. Being surrounded by local restaurants, shops, the Brookland development, and the riverfront park gives our team great options to step outside, get inspired, and clear their minds. It's a location that genuinely supports both our well-being and our professional creativity."

EVENTS IN WECO

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

RECYCLING, LITTER PICKUP, & DRUG TAKE BACK DAY Saturday, October 24 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. City Hall Lawn

10TH ANNUAL FALL BACK FEST Friday, November 6 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. 100-300 State Street

22ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING Friday, December 4 6:30 p.m. City Hall Lawn

MEETING STREET ARTISAN MARKETS HOLIDAY EDITION Saturdays, December 5, 12, & 19 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 425 Meeting Street

SHOP LOCAL

- 763 ANTIQUE MALL
- ABOUT FACE WELLNESS & MEDICAL SPA
- ARMORY AUCTION HOUSE
- ATTIC FANATIC
- BEST MATTRESS COMPANY
- BILL'S MUSIC SHOP & PICKIN' PARLOR
- CITY LIMITS BBQ
- COLUMBIA FLAG & SIGN COMPANY
- CLUTCH COMPUTERS
- DAN RICH FURNITURE
- ED'S EDITIONS BOOKSTORE
- GOLD LINE FRAMING
- GLASSIE LADIES
- HOWLEY'S HOME FURNISHINGS
- K & ME JEWELRY LLC
- MEETING STREET INTERIORS
- PAPER PRO INC
- PHELPS JEWELERS
- NEW BROOKLAND RAILROAD & HOBBY
- OLD MILL ANTIQUE MALL
- OUTDOOR WOOD FURNITURE
- PAPER PRO
- RONNIE'S JEWELERS
- SCRATCH & SPIN
- SIGHTLER'S FLORIST & MARKETPLACE
- SNEAK A PEEK BOUTIQUE
- SOUTHERN CUSTOM DOORS
- SPA MD
- SPLURGE! CREATIVE SUPPLIES EMPORIUM
- STEVEN WHETSTONE FINE ART
- STONE BOOT COMPANY
- THE WAREHOUSE
- THREE RIVERS ANTIQUES
- TIN GLASS GOATS 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
- BRICKHOUSE GOURMET COFFEE & TEA
- BROOKLAND BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER
- 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
- KEY DELI AND ICE CREAM SHOP
- LA CIENEGA MEXICAN GRILL & SEAFOOD
- LA FOGATA
- LA MORENITA
- LA MICHOCANA AUTHENTIC MEXICAN
- LIZARD'S THICKET
- MAI THAI CUISINE
- MANNY'S
- MAURICE'S PIGGIE PARK
- MI TIERRA DE MAIZ
- NEW BROOKLYN PIZZA
- NICK'S HOUSE OF PIZZA
- NO. 1 CHINA
- ODALY'S BAKERY
- PHO & BANH MI
- PIGGY PARK DRIVE-IN
- 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
- WHAT-A-BURGER
- ZESTO OF WEST COLUMBIA