Columbia Animal Services Hosting 12 Hour Adoption Special Today

Today, Monday, December 2, Columbia Animal Services is hosting the Fall in Love Fur-Ever Adoption Special from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. at the animal shelter.

Citizens interested in adopting a pet can spin the Wheel of FURtune to win anything from a discounted rate to a free adoption. No matter where the wheel lands, there will be a winner. This special applies to all pets in the shelter.

The Columbia Animal Services shelter is located at 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209 and can be reached by calling 803-776-7387.

To view adoptable pets, visit www.petfinder.com. Give a shelter pet a new home for the new season.

###
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 02, 2013

Contact: Tezra Haire,
803.413.9165

City Of Columbia and Richland One School District’s “Honor the Dream” Food Drive Begins Today

The City of Columbia, Richland One School District and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation kick off their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive today, Monday, December 2, 2013.

The public is invited to drop off their non-perishable food items at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1737 Main Street
- Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way
- City Water Customer Service, Washington Square, 1339 Main Street
- City Human Resources Office, 1225 Lady Street
- James E. Clyburn Golf Center, 2091 Slighs Avenue
- Columbia Tennis Center, 1635 Whaley Street
- City Parks and Recreation sites (visit www.columbiasc.gov/parks-recreation/facilities for facility names and addresses)

Donations will be accepted throughout the holiday season, ending on Friday, January 3, 2014.

The food drive is held annually to honor Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy of community service and helping others. Donations will be presented to the Harvest Hope Food Bank and will aide those in need in and around the Midlands.

For more information on the food drive, contact City of Columbia Parks and Recreation at (803) 545-3100.

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MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, December 03, 2013
Contact: Sara Hollar at 803.545.3860

City Of Columbia to Celebrate Arbor Day at Brennan Elementary School

The City of Columbia is the longest consecutive running Tree City in the state of South Carolina. One of the requirements for Tree City designation is an Arbor Day Program. The goal of the program is to share the importance of trees with elementary school children.

WHAT: City Of Columbia’s Arbor Day program.

WHO: City of Columbia Forestry and Beautification Division staff, Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission, the Columbia Garden Club and Brennan Elementary students and staff.

WHERE: Brennan Elementary School
4438 Devereaux Rd.
Columbia, SC 29205

WHEN: Friday, December 6, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

Each year, an elementary school is chosen within the City limits for the Arbor Day Program. Forestry and Beautification staff provides a very entertaining speaker for the program, which is followed by tree planting at the school.

If you plan to attend, please make sure to bring a photo ID to sign in at the school and contact Sara Hollar at 803-545-3860 for more information.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, December 04, 2013  
Contact: Bud Ferillo at 803-413-6475

Arbor Day To Focus on Columbia’s Memorial Park

Two community beautification groups have combined forces to an appeal to help replace diseased hackberry trees on South Carolina Memorial Park, Columbia 4 acre downtown park dedicated to the service of South Carolinians in the Armed Forces of the United States on Arbor Day, Friday, December 6, 2013. A tree planting ceremony will take place at 12 p.m. on Friday in Memorial Park.

Keep the Midlands Beautiful and Columbia Green have made grants of $2,500 and $1,500 to improve the tree canopy in Memorial Park, with plans to complete the project over the next two years. “We are grateful to these organizations who have helped us through the years replace a large number of aging and diseased trees with long live canopy trees that we will care for with regular pruning and augment with colorful shrubbery,” said S. C. Memorial Park Commission Chairman Bud Ferillo.

Future plans call for replacement of all remaining diseased trees, proper limbing of the existing tree stock and improvements in the parking lot, Ferillo said. “We have also replaced the original electric light poles with more attractive poles that are found throughout the city and are grateful to SCANA for a reduced price for them.”

The city has vastly improved the professional staff that cares for its parks over the last years and they are revitalizing long neglected parks and improving others, Ferillo said. “The City of Columbia has really stepped up its preservation and beautification of its park system.”

Jaqueline Buck, Executive Director of Keep the Midlands Beautiful, said she is “happy to see our veterans honored with an outstanding facility that has been 27 years in the making. We are proud to participate in this tree project.”

Lynn Robertson, President of Columbia Green, said Memorial Park has received funding in the past from her organization. “We want to help them complete the Park Commission’s long term vision and make this park a beautiful destination for visitors.”

Ferillo said the park contains nine monuments to South Carolina service men and women who served in the wars of the United State from all branches of the Armed Services in the 20th and 21st centuries. “We also encourage families and friends of veterans, living or dead, to plant a live oak tree with a memorial stone containing the name, rank, branch and years of service for $1000 payable to the City’s Parks and Recreation Foundation. We have six such memorial trees in the park now and room for more. We believe that the beginning of the end of war lies in remembrance.”
For further information, contact: Bud Ferillo, Chairman, South Carolina Memorial Park Commission, 413.6475.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 4, 2013
Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at (803) 545.3043

Municipal Election Commission Meeting

The City of Columbia Municipal Election Commission will meet on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 10 a.m. at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29202 in the Elections & Voter Registration Office to certify the December 3, 2013 Special Election Results.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 5, 2013
Contact: Michael Wukela @ 803.413.5052

Mayor Benjamin attends Aspen-Rodel Fellowship

COLUMBIA, SC — Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin is traveling to Aspen, Colorado this week to join leaders from across the nation chosen to participate in the prestigious Aspen Institute’s Aspen-Rodel Fellowship program. Mayor Benjamin was one of only 24 “Rising Stars” in Governance chosen for their intelligence, thoughtfulness and willingness to work across party lines to seek solutions to public problems.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to work with some of the most visionary men and women in America as we seek to find creative solutions to our common challenges,” Mayor Benjamin said. “This program is a testament to the belief that no obstacle exists that we cannot overcome together and I am truly honored to be a part of it.”

Chosen in 2011, this is Mayor Benjamin’s final step to completing this bipartisan program focused on transcending political partisanship and focusing participants’ attentions on over-arching questions of leadership and governance.

In addition to Mayor Benjamin, members Aspen-Rodel Fellowship, Class of 2011 includes:

Beau Biden  
Delaware Attorney General

Jase Bolger  
Speaker, Michigan House of Representatives

Pam Bondi  
Florida Attorney General

Brendan Boyle  
State Representative, Pennsylvania

G.T. Bynum  
City Councilor, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Emily Cain Minority  
Leader, Maine House of Representatives

Brian Calley  
Michigan Lieutenant Governor

Brian Cronin  
State Representative, Idaho

Matt Dean  
Majority Leader, Minnesota House of Representatives

Chris Edwards  
State Senator, Oregon

Jessica Lappin  
City Councilmember, New York, New York

Rebecca Lockhart  
Speaker, Utah House of Representatives

Steve Montenegro  
Speaker Pro Tempore, Arizona House of Representatives

Gavin Newsom  
California Lieutenant Governor

Gina Raimondo  
Rhode Island State Treasurer

Sheila Simon  
Illinois Lieutenant Governor

Ashley Swearengin  
Mayor, City of Fresno, California

Jill Holtzman Vogel  
State Senator, Virginia

Will Weatherford  
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives

Jay Webber  
State Assemblyman, New Jersey
Anthony Foxx  
*U.S Secretary of Transportation*  

Clint Zweifel  
*Missouri State Treasurer*  

Marty Jackley  
*South Dakota Attorney General*  

For more information on the Rodel Fellowship Program, visit [http://as.pn/rodel](http://as.pn/rodel).

The Aspen Institute mission is twofold: to foster values-based leadership, encouraging individuals to reflect on the ideals and ideas that define a good society, and to provide a neutral and balanced venue for discussing and acting on critical issues. The Aspen Institute does this primarily in four ways: seminars, young-leader fellowships around the globe, policy programs, and public conferences and events. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 5, 2013
Contact: Michael Wukela @ 803.413.5052

Mayor Benjamin’s statement on the passing of Nelson Mandela

COLUMBIA, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin released this statement tonight on the passing of Nelson Mandela:

"The cause of justice and equality has lost one of its greatest champion’s tonight and I have lost one of my personal heroes.

"I was a junior at the University of South Carolina campaigning for student body president when we learned that Nelson Mandela had finally been released and I remember how the gravity and pure joy of that moment washed over all of us. Years later I had the rare opportunity to visit his home in Soweto and the 8’ x 7’ concrete cell on Robbin Island where he was imprisoned for decades to try and gain a greater understanding of the magnitude of his personal sacrifice and struggle.

"Yet while we mourn this loss with the people of South Africa and freedom loving peoples all across the world, his example of unflinching courage and determination lives on and will continue to inspire us all to stand tall in the face of adversity and to be bigger and better than we ever dreamed possible."

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