



City of West Columbia  
*Bridging Past, Present and Future*

# WEST COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

Fourth Edition  
November/December 2019

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



On November 12th, I am completing my final year as the Mayor of the great City of West Columbia. It has been an honor to have served all the citizens of our city, as a City Councilman from 1977-1989, and as your Mayor for 12 years. Working with a supportive City Council and outstanding staff of employees, we have made tremendous progress with many new businesses, new housing developments, new cultural opportunities, and recreational facilities.

I will continue to support any opportunity to make our city the best it can be, improving the quality of life for our citizens. We are the best place to raise a family and grow a successful business. I truly believe “the West Side is the Best Side”.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you.

Sincerely,  
Bobby Horton, Honored to be your Mayor

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## MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



### MIKE GREEN COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

We have a new Starbucks coming to Highway 1 in the McAllister's Shopping Center across from the Hobby Lobby Shopping Center. Council approved the Highway 1 Corridor Safety Improvement Project along US 1 from Ermine Road to SC12. SCDOT held a public input meeting regarding the improvement project on October 1. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season! Our Christmas Tree Lighting will be Friday, December 6, at City Hall.



### TREVOR BEDELL COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Our city is growing! Please enjoy our parks, markets, and other amenities our wonderful city has to offer. We have the finest staff in the area working hard to make our city the best place to live, work, and play in the midlands. Please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you for your patience as our city grows. The Guignard Association meets the 2nd Monday of every month. I look forward to continuing to serve you all.



### CASEY J. HALLMAN COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

Saluda River Academy for the Arts and Cayce Elementary raised \$200 in pennies to donate to the West Columbia Beautification Foundation which will go to purchase a tree. The adaptive traffic signal equipment has been installed and activated on traffic signals along Sunset Boulevard from Lott Court to Whippoorwill Drive. Adaptive signalization will increase the efficiency of traffic traveling along Sunset Boulevard and provide a higher level of service for emergency vehicles accessing the hospital.



### TEMUS C. “TEM” MILES, JR. MAYOR PRO-TEM, COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

Carraway Park at the Riverwalk will open to the public on November 4. We look forward to having children and parents of all abilities enjoy the facilities. It has been an honor to serve as the council member for District 4 for the last six years. Thank you to you all for allowing me to serve. God bless you all.



### MICKEY PRINGLE COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

Goal posts have been installed at the Lakeview Empowerment Center Football Field for use by the West Columbia Tigers to enhance the experience of the dedicated children to the community and the game. As a reminder, there is FREE Wi-Fi available at Butler Park. We encourage everyone to go outside and do your school work.



### JIMMY BROOKS COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

The new adaptive traffic signals have been activated on Sunset Boulevard. You should notice an improvement in the flow of traffic East and West on Sunset Boulevard during peak times. The signals have sensors that read the flow of traffic. If traffic stops flowing, the signal will read that vehicles are no longer present and will change the signal to red to allow traffic from the other directions. Officials were made aware of issues at Cougar Drive after activation, and will be installing a turn arrow coming out of Cougar Drive onto Sunset Boulevard in the coming weeks.



### ERIN P. PORTER COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

The Saluda Gardens Neighborhood Association will be hosting a Backyard Christmas Market at Our Savior Lutheran on Saturday, December 7th, from 9 AM - 3 PM. As always, I'm reachable by phone and email. If anyone is interested in helping with the Saluda Gardens Neighborhood Association, please contact me.



### TEDDY WINGARD COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

This will be my final newsletter as your council representative for District 8. It has been a privilege to serve you. West Columbia is a great place to live. The current staff and council are second to none. Thank you for allowing me to serve you over the years.

## JOIN US AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: 1ST TUESDAY  
WORK SESSION: 3RD MONDAY  
6 PM  
CITY HALL



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





## GRECIAN GARDENS HAS BEEN BELOVED IN WEST COLUMBIA FOR ALMOST 35 YEARS



Above: Alex Koutrakos, Antonia Koutrakos, Mary Koutrakos, George Koutrakos, Stacie Koutrakos, Kiki Koutrakos, Gus Koutrakos

Alex Koutrakos, with brothers Gus, Nick, and George, opened Grecian Gardens in West Columbia in 1985. Since its opening, Grecian Gardens has become an icon at 2312 Sunset Boulevard.

Grecian Gardens has the best Greek food around. And that's not all. From its fresh-baked bread and many pizza selections, to its unique and delicious house salad, Grecian Gardens is special. And not just the food. It's known for its loyalty to the people of West Columbia. "It's important to give back to the community that has supported us for 34 years," said Alex Koutrakos. "My wife and I live in West Columbia and so do my two brothers

with their wives. My children and my nieces and nephews were educated in Lexington Two schools. Our work is here along with the many friends we have made over the years. This our home and we want it to continue being the best place to live."

He also said it is the best place for business.

"West Columbia is centrally located in the Midlands with close proximity to downtown Columbia, Lexington, and Harbison," said Koutrakos. He said people come from all over to visit the Riverbanks Zoo and Koutrakos complimented the major effort of city leaders to develop and beautify West Columbia.

## MOONEYHAN'S AUTO REPAIR, 40 YEARS IN WEST COLUMBIA



Above: Bill Mooneyhan, Jr. and Bill Mooneyhan, Sr.

Bill Mooneyhan, Sr., owner of Mooneyhan's Auto Repair, at 1224 B Avenue, loves doing business in West Columbia.

"I would not want to be in business anywhere else," said Mooneyhan. "This is my home and I love serving the people of this community."

Mooneyhan's has been in business 40 years. His presence is the continuation of a long legacy. Many of Mooneyhan's family have served as leaders in West Columbia, going back to the time to when it was called "Brookland." He is involved too. Mooneyhan is a founding member the West Columbia Beautification Foundation, Cayce-West Columbia Lions Club president, and he serves on the West Columbia Planning Commission.

Mooneyhan's offers more than 150 years of expert experience and the business is growing.

"The volume of vehicles we serve increases every week," he said. "Because of that increase in business, we have started construction on four new service bays."

The ground breaking on that addition was held October 25. U.S. Representative Joe Wilson and friend Ronny Burkett helped incorporate Mooneyhan's Gulf in November 1979.

They were at the groundbreaking for the most-recent groundbreaking, too.

Mooneyhan said his son, Bill Mooneyhan Jr., is also a part of the business and he looks to him to take it into the future. I have developed the same solid relationships that my dad has," said Bill Jr. "I love doing business here."



Above: Matt Evans of Three Oaks Florist

## STATE STREET IS GREAT FOR THREE OAKS FLORIST

Matt Evans opened Three Oaks Florist at 142 State Street in West Columbia in November of 2018.

"I'm so glad to be here," Evans said. "I love State Street. It has such a close community feel."

Evans has been in the florist business, as a designer, for 26 years. He has owned flower shops in Forest Acres and Savannah.

"I like it here more," he said. "There is so much foot traffic in the area. Some are going to the restaurants or the other businesses on State Street and they stop to see what we have."

Evans also likes the character of his early 1900s building. It was Rish's Florist for several decades. He said many people come in and remember its previous proprietor, Edith Rish. Evans said he likes that the location has a history with local folks.

Evans also said the many events held on State Street are a benefit. His Christmas open house coincides with West Columbia's Fall Back Fest on State Street.

In addition to the Fall Back Fest, Three Oaks has been a part of the First Friday Art Crawls on State Street. The opening of the Interactive Art Park behind the building, and the Meeting Street Artisan Market that is open on Saturdays, are other benefits to doing business on State Street.

Evans said he loves all the activities that draw customers to The River District. Evans also said he likes the lower cost of doing business in West Columbia.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CARRAWAY PARK AT THE RIVERWALK GRAND OPENING - RIBBON CUTTING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 9:30 AM

212 HUDSON STREET

Designed with dignity, this first-class park for children of all abilities will feature a zip line, sensory areas, a covered pavilion, bathrooms, and over 70 parking spaces including handicap accessible spaces to service the park and Riverwalk Amphitheater.

### VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

CITY HALL CLOSED

Monday, November 11

### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

CITY HALL CLOSED

Thursday, November 28 through Friday, November 29

### MEETING STREET ARTISAN MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY THROUGH DECEMBER 21

9 AM - 1 PM

The market, located in the Interactive Art Park at 425 Meeting Street, features local artists selling local wares including art, pottery, other handmade pieces, and a local farmers market.

### 15TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:30 PM

CITY HALL LAWN

Join us to celebrate the season with performances by local schools, a brief message from Pastor Dow Welch of Holland Avenue Baptist Church, and the lighting of the tree! Light hors d'oeuvres will be served following the tree lighting.

VIEW ALL EVENTS AND  
SIGN UP FOR E-NEWS

**WestColumbiaSC.gov**



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City Hall/Sanitation: 803-791-1880

Police Department: 803-794-0721

Fire Department: 803-791-4440

Code Compliance Hotline:

803-794-3506 Ext. 805

