

# CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY 2025



## HAPPENINGS IN WECO

**KINETIC DERBY DAY**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025**  
**11 AM - 3:30 PM**  
**MEETING & STATE STREETS**  
**KINETICDERBYDAY.COM**

**CITYWIDE LITTER PICK-UP DAY**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025**  
**9 AM - 12 PM**  
**CITY WIDE - MEET AT CITY HALL**  
**SIGN-UP IN ADVANCE AT WESTCOLUMBIASC.ORG**

**ART ON STATE**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025**  
**5:30 - 9:30 PM**  
**100-200 STATE STREET**

**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 - 9:30 PM, STONE RIVER**  
**BEAUTIFYWESTCOLUMBIA.ORG**



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year in the City of West Columbia! Our azalea bushes are in full bloom, adding vibrant pops of color throughout our neighborhoods and business districts.

City staff have been working hard to plan an exciting lineup of events this season. Mark your calendars for Kinetic Derby Day featuring iMAGINE STEAM on April 26, the City-Wide Clean-Up Day on May 3, and Art on State on May 9. These events bring our community together for fun, creativity, and civic pride.

The Beautification Foundation is also in full swing, planning the 9th Annual Taste on the River. This premier culinary event showcases 13 incredible restaurants from across the Midlands, along with a silent auction. It's a fantastic opportunity to enjoy some of the best food in the region while supporting efforts to beautify West Columbia. Tickets are available at [beautifywestcolumbia.org](http://beautifywestcolumbia.org).

As the weather warms up, I encourage you to explore our many parks and outdoor spaces. Did you know the tennis courts at Douglas Reeves Park also have pickleball courts? Whether you're a seasoned player or trying it for the first time, it's a great way to enjoy the outdoors!

We look forward to seeing you out and about this spring!

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

DISCOVER MORE AT  
**WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV**

## MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



### MIKE GREEN

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #1

Here are a few updates on key infrastructure improvements in West Columbia. The SCDOT I-26 repaving project from Exit 113 to Exit 109, including the on-ramps at Exit 111, is moving forward to improve the road conditions. All streetlights on the Gervais Street Bridge are now fully operational, improving visibility and safety. Construction also continues on the US-1 Highway Safety Project, bringing essential enhancements to the corridor.



### TREVOR BEDELL

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

City staff is working tirelessly to make sure the 2025 Kinetic Derby Day is our best one yet. Please bring your family and friends to enjoy our hometown on April 26. For more information, visit [www.kineticderbyday.com](http://www.kineticderbyday.com).



### GEORGE CROWE

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #3

District 3 has so many great local places to grab a bite to eat. Make sure to get out and support a local business. As the weather warms up, it offers a wonderful opportunity to showcase our WeCo pride by maintaining our yards, clearing any accumulated debris, and joining friends at the City's cleanup day on Saturday, May 3, for litter pickup.



### JOSEPH DICKEY

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

There is a lot happening in District 4! New businesses are moving into the buildings along State Street, and the spaces are getting upgrades. Free family-friendly events are being held on April 26 (Kinetic Derby Day) and May 9 (Art on State). The CWC Chamber's Rhythm on the River Concert Series will occur on May 31, June 7, and June 14 at the Riverwalk Amphitheater. The RFP for riverwalk damage from Hurricane Helene and the Request for Pre-Qualifications of Contractors for the Meeting Street Improvement Project are out for bid.



### MICKEY PRINGLE

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

Brookland-Lakeview 21st Century COLA Program's free summer camp registration is now open. Students in 6th-8th grade from Northside Middle, East Point Academy, and rising 6th graders from Riverbank Elementary, Saluda River Academy, and East Point Academy are eligible. Held from 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday - Friday, it offers free breakfast, lunch, and snacks, games and physical activities, performing arts classes by Columbia Children's Theatre, STEAM activities, field trips, and more. More info: [brooklandlakeview.org](http://brooklandlakeview.org) or call (803) 744-1967.



### JIMMY BROOKS

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #6

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has completed the Henbet Drive traffic signal project, and it is now operational. It enhances the safety of traffic entering and exiting the Quail Hollow area's businesses and neighborhoods. We also welcomed a new dental office at 2858 Sunset Blvd, Family Dental Health.



### SARAH MATTERN

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

Spring has sprung in WECO and man is the pollen ever thick, but don't let that stop you from all the FUN events happening! Don't forget to check out the WECO Info App for all upcoming events, but here are a few to mark on your calendars. April 19 - CWC Rabbit Run, starts and finishes at the Ampitheater, April 22 is Earth Day - set a goal to pick up 25 pieces of trash in our neighborhood. All of these events are family friendly events and tons to do for everyone!

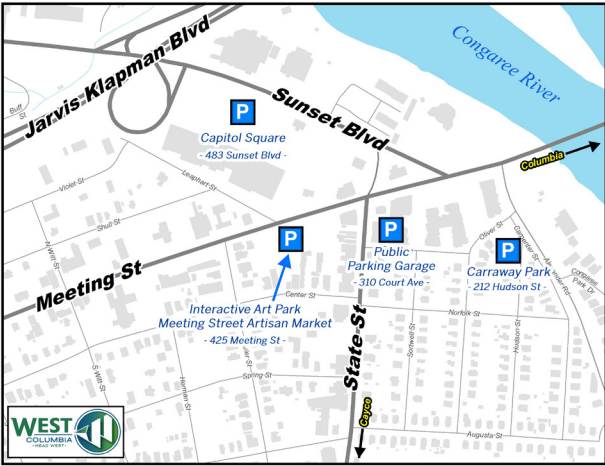


### DAVID MOYE

#### COUNCIL DISTRICT #8

The West Columbia Beautification Foundation is working with SCDOT to plant the medians in the City, included in the Highway 1 Safety Project. The permit to add irrigation to the medians has been approved by SCDOT, and the City is going through the process of selecting a contractor for the installation.

## RIVER DISTRICT FREE PARKING



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



## WEST COLUMBIA BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION TO HAVE A “HUGE IMPACT” ON AUGUSTA ROAD



US-1/Augusta Road Corridor Safety Project

Mayor Tem Miles.

The medians within the City Limits of West Columbia that are included in the project will be enhanced by the West Columbia Beautification Foundation (WCBF).

“The Augusta Road corridor is a highly visible part of West Columbia,” said Kathy Whetzel, Chairperson of the WCBF. “The Beautification Foundation is working on a plan to plant vegetation in the medians as a part of the SCDOT’s improvements to Augusta Road. It is one of our most extensive undertakings since the Beautification Foundation was established.”

Kathy said the medians will be filled with colorful trees, shrubs, and flowers. The plantings will be supported by an irrigation system that the WCBF is sponsoring.

“We plan to use hearty, drought-tolerant vegetation that is native to our area,” Kathy said. “We want it to be visually appealing and have a significant impact.”

The Augusta Road (US-1) corridor improvement project is based on a road safety assessment conducted in partnership between SCDOT, Stantec, the City of West Columbia, Lexington County, the South Carolina Highway Patrol, the

The South Carolina Department of Transportation is making corridor safety improvements to Augusta Road (US-1) from Jarvis Klapman Boulevard (SC-12) to Wren Road, near Oak Grove in Lexington.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety along that stretch of road. Construction began in October 2024 and spans more than two miles. It includes medians, crosswalks, signage, traffic lights, pavement markings, and U-turn accommodations.

“The improvements on Augusta Road will absolutely make that drive safer along one of our busiest corridors,” said West Columbia

## MANAGE WATER USAGE ONLINE: WEST COLUMBIA’S SMART PORTAL LAUNCHES IN APRIL



Scan for Portal Access  
residents enhanced control and convenience through an online portal providing real-time water usage monitoring, available 24/7/365. Customers can set customizable daily and monthly usage thresholds, allowing them to receive email alerts for potential leaks or unusual consumption spikes, which helps prevent unexpected high bills. The system also features a “vacation mode” for monitoring usage during absences. The new portal also offers flexible payment options, including auto-draft, Quick Pay, and secure e-check payments. Designed to be mobile-friendly, the system is accessible from any device, and an official app is currently under development.

The new smart water management system is expected to be fully operational in April 2025. Residents are encouraged to register for free at [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/westcolumbiasc/utilities](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/westcolumbiasc/utilities) to begin effectively managing their water usage. Current portal users can continue to use their current login to access the new features. Additional information can be found at [www.westcolumbiasc.gov](http://www.westcolumbiasc.gov).

At the March 2025 West Columbia Special City Council Meeting, Justin Black, West Columbia’s Senior Assistant Administrator/Treasurer, provided an update on the City’s Smart Meter Portal. Mr. Black reported that over the preceding 18 months, 16,000 water meters had been successfully upgraded to “Smart” meters, with the city prioritizing minimal disruption to residents during the installation process.

“These new meters are a great improvement for our customers,” stated West Columbia Mayor Tem Miles, expressing his satisfaction with the system’s full implementation.

This April, the City of West Columbia will launch its new smart water management system, building upon the recently upgraded infrastructure. The system offers

## E&A GRANITE AND MARBLE COUNTERTOPS IS EXANDING ITS SUNSET BOULEVARD OPERATION



E&A Granite and Marble Countertops

said. “Our expert team provides precision fabrication, ensuring each countertop is crafted to perfection. We also offer a wide variety of unique edging options, adding a personalized touch to your kitchen or bathroom. Throughout the entire process, we deliver top-notch craftsmanship and seamless installation for every project.

Tile installation is another service offered. “No need to wander off and find another professional to handle the install. We will take care of it, and we take pride in every job we do,” Eli said. “The most popular rooms for E&A Granite and Marble Countertops are the kitchen, bar, and bathroom.”

E&A Granite and Marble is thriving in West Columbia and looks forward to serving the community with exceptional products and services for years to come.

E&A Granite and Marble Countertops, located at 830 Sunset Blvd, is expanding with a new 11,000-square-foot facility set to open in June 2025. This expansion will enhance production capacity and customer service, while the current building will continue to serve as a design center and fabrication department.

E&A prides itself on professionalism and quality, offering a diverse range of countertop products. Owner Eli Ortega, with 15 years in the business, emphasizes their affordable options, including marble, quartz, and stone slabs.

“We specialize in high-quality countertop fabrication and installation, offering custom designs to fit your unique style,” Eli

## 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  
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  
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

[WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV](http://WESTCOLUMBIASC.GOV)

