

— April 2026 —

The CCN Monthly

Keeping Our Community Connected



INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

Upcoming Meeting

Community Engagement
Opportunity

What do city boards
and commissions
actually do?

Neighborhood Spotlight

Grant Opportunity

and more!

Welcome Neighbors

We are so glad you're here. The CCN Monthly Newsletter is your one-stop source for everything happening across our neighborhoods — from meeting recaps and community spotlights to city programs and upcoming events. Each month, we bring you the updates that matter most so you can stay informed, stay engaged, and stay connected to the people and places that make Columbia home.

Spring has arrived, and with it comes a wonderful reminder of why we love this city so much. Whether you're heading out to GatherCola, dancing at Fridays at Finlay, or simply soaking in the beauty of a Columbia afternoon, we hope this season fills you with energy and appreciation for the amazing community we share. Enjoy every moment of it!



Upcoming Membership Meetings

April 16th | 6 pm
Eau Claire Print Building
3907 Ensor Ave, Columbia,
SC 29203

May 21st | 6 pm
Hampton Park
1117 Brandon Ave,
Columbia, SC 29209

June 18th | 6 pm
Busby Community Center
1735 Busby St, Columbia,
SC 29203

Community Engagement University

Now Enrolling

The City of Columbia's Community Engagement University offers residents a free five-week program to learn about city government and engage in local decision-making. Participants gain insights into various city departments and earn a certificate of completion for attending all sessions. Limited spots are available, making it a great opportunity to connect with the community and amplify one's voice.

Class dates
April 8, 15, 22, 29 & May 6, 2026

Time
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location
Virginia Bedford Center
Earlewood Park
1113 Recreation Drive, Columbia,
SC 29203

[Click here for April Meeting Agenda](#)

WHAT DO CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ACTUALLY DO?



1

They review topics like:

- Planning
- Zoning
- Historic preservation
- Public services
- Development
- Public concerns

2

They don't just make decisions.
They listen to residents and community input.

Here's what that can look like in real life:

3

A neighborhood in 29203 was dealing with ongoing disturbances from several nearby convenience stores.

When another store was proposed nearby, residents spoke up and connected with neighboring communities.

4

Together, they brought their concerns to the Planning/Design Review Commission.

Because of their combined voices, the proposal was not approved.

This is how neighborhoods influence decisions.

When residents come together, real change can happen.

Will we see you at our neighborhood member meeting?



Neighbor Spotlight

**Pat Brown | President, Northwood Hills Neighborhood
CCN Executive Board Secretary**

This month, we're sitting down with one of our dedicated CCN Executive Board members to learn what drives her passion for community and what makes her neighborhood a special place to call home.

What does a strong neighborhood look like to you?

To me, a strong neighborhood is clean, attractive, and safe. It has community leadership that doesn't just lead from the top, but genuinely welcomes participation from every resident. It creates activities that draw out the talents and abilities of its neighbors. In short – it's a place where everyone belongs and everyone contributes.

Why is it important for residents to stay involved in their neighborhood?

Active involvement makes all the difference. When residents are engaged, crime goes down, positive expectations develop, and neighbors genuinely look out for one another. There is a real atmosphere of caring and protection that grows naturally when people are invested in where they live. Involvement isn't just good for the neighborhood – it's good for your soul.

What do you wish more people knew about Northwood Hills?

I wish more people knew that Northwood Hills is an attractive, safe neighborhood that would love to welcome young families and first-time homebuyers. Our zoned schools are working hard to improve student achievement, and we want growing families to know that they can trust their children to receive a quality education right here. We welcome new neighbors with open arms – this is a wonderful place to put down roots.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Get Up to \$200 for Your Neighborhood Projects

**We are offering incentive grants to
support neighborhood activities
and improvements.**

Quick Details:

- Members: Up to \$200 reimbursement
- Non-Members: Up to \$100 (must join CCN)
- Covers: Clean-ups, events, newsletters, beautification, and more



Apply by May 31, 2026

Visit ccnsc.org and apply today

@ccnsc

The Columbia Council of Neighborhoods is excited to offer its 2025–2026 Incentive Grant Program, designed to support neighborhood-led projects and activities.

Through this program, neighborhoods can receive reimbursement funding to help cover costs associated with community initiatives such as clean-ups, beautification projects, neighborhood gatherings, newsletters, and more.

Funding Opportunities:

- Member Neighborhoods: Eligible for up to \$200 in reimbursement

- Non-Member Neighborhoods: Eligible for up to \$100 and must join CCN at the time of application

Eligibility Requirements:

- Projects must have taken place during FY 2025 (since July 1, 2025)
- Neighborhoods that have received funding in the past two years are not eligible
- Duplicate funding from other sources (City or County) is not allowed

Application Process:

To apply, click the button below to find the ***Incentive Program*** and submit:

- A completed application form
- Receipts for project expenses
- At least one photo of the completed project
- Proof of acknowledgment of CCN funding (newsletter, signage, etc.)

[Apply Today!](#)

All materials must be submitted by May 31, 2026 to info@ccnsc.org.

Applications will be reviewed by the CCN Executive Committee, and selected neighborhoods will be recognized at the June 2026 CCN meeting. A representative must be present to receive the award.

If your neighborhood has recently completed a project or is planning future improvements, this is a great opportunity to receive financial support and recognition.

For questions, please email us at info@ccnsc.org.

Thank you for being part of the CCN family.

If you are hosting or have recently hosted a community or neighborhood event, we invite you to submit it for promotion across CCN's platforms.

What to send:

- Photos from any previous events (clear, high-quality images preferred)
- A caption that includes:
 - Event name
 - Date and location
 - A brief description of what the event was about
 - Any organization or neighborhood association involved

Please send your submissions to info@ccnsc.org.

Including captions helps us ensure your event is represented accurately and shared in a timely way.

We want to help amplify the great work happening across our neighborhoods, and we need your help. We'll see you in April — keep connecting, keep caring, and keep making Columbia stronger, one neighborhood at a time. Have a wonderful spring!



“Through our hands, into our communities.”
Be apart of the change you want to see. It starts in your home and stretches through your neighborhood.



Columbia Council of Neighborhoods | 206 Saluda | Columbia, SC 29205 US

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