

# #THIS IS COLUMBIA HOUSING

WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF CH HAPPENINGS: MAY 23- MAY 27, 2022

## Resident Success Story:

**Asia Lykes**

**“When Your Destiny Meets Your Opportunity”**



Asia Lykes was a single mom living in Henley Homes public housing community when it was designated for Hope VI redevelopment. As Henley Homes readied for demolition, Asia took advantage all the career development resources provided by Columbia Housing to aid in her relocation. “I got a Section 8 voucher and moved out of Public Housing. I went back to school to get my cosmetology license. The Housing Authority paid for childcare, cosmetology uniforms and transportation to and from class. Those opportunities and resources made a huge difference.”

Asia says there was always something inside of her that wanted better. But it wasn’t until she met Carrie Geiger & Katrina Bridgette at Columbia Housing that she began to see how to get it.

Asia recently returned to Columbia Housing to say “thank you” for the difference Mrs. Geiger and Mrs. Bridgette made in her life. By chance, Asia ran into Interim CEO Yvonda Bean in the agency parking lot and was excited to tell Mrs. Bean about her appreciation for all the agency did for her. “When I went back to cosmetology school, I met the man I was destined to marry. With our combined incomes, I no longer qualified for my Section 8 Voucher. I still remember how proud I was of myself when I gave my voucher back because I no longer needed it!”. Mrs. Bean was elated to hear about Asia’s successes and insisted she tell her story.

Today Asia is a licensed cosmetologist and Master Barber. She and her husband—a retired paramedic are currently building their new home on family-owned land in Swansea.

“I always knew I wanted better for myself and my family. Thank you Columbia Housing, Carrie Geiger and Katrina Bridgette for inspiring me, pushing me, supporting me, and helping me achieve my dreams. This is what it looks like when your destiny meets your opportunity,” concludes Asia.

## Columbia Urban League Hold Prayer Breakfast to Address Recent Gun Violence

Columbia Urban League made a recent community appeal for increased summer youth activities amid rise in youth gun violence in the Midlands. Columbia Housing Board Commissioner George Green and Interim CEO Yvonda Bean attended the Urban League’s Prayer Breakfast, along with staff and residents from Columbia Housing’s Resident Executive Council.

“We are committed to doing our part and are excited about offering summer youth employment opportunities to our youth”, says Bean. “We have also agreed to be a placement site for the Urban League’s summer employment program, as it truly takes a village to address community needs concerning our youth.”

#CommunityEngagement  
#PowerofPartnerships  
#THISisColumbiaHousing

**The Power of Partnerships**  
WE are better together! **CH**



## Soda City Speaks: Keeping the Community Informed!

Thx ‘Soda City Speaks’ Podcast for the invitation to talk about affordable housing needs in the area.

Interim CEO Yvonda Bean recently sat down with podcast hosts Dylan Gunnels and Omme Salma Rahemtullah to talk about how Columbia Housing’s efforts impact the state of affordable housing in Columbia and Richland County.

“I want to thank Soda City Speaks for giving us the opportunity to clearly articulate Columbia Housing’s current and future efforts to provide quality affordable housing to area residents,” says Interim CEO Yvonda Bean. “We are excited to talk about current development projects like Oaks at St. Anna’s Park and others outlined in our Vision 2030 plan.”

To listen to the podcast: <https://anchor.fm/sodacityspeaks?fs=e&s=cl>  
To read more about our Vision 2030 Plan: <https://www.columbiahousing.org/vision-2030>



## 2022 SENIOR JAMBOREE!

Thank you Shonda Jordan and Cynthia Boykin for representing Columbia Housing at the Senior Jamboree held at Dutch Square Mall. Great seeing our seniors stop by for information about Columbia Housing’s Senior Services and Resources. Fun- filled day with lots of fellowship.

#ResidentsFirst  
#CommunityEngagement  
#THISisColumbiaHousing



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES



## Richland Library StoryWalks Offer Summer Fun!

Add this to your #todolist for summer fun! Our StoryWalks are a delightful way for children — and adults — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Accessible trails located throughout Richland County, offer readers of all ages a chance to walk along their favorite trails while reading a story, step-by-step and page-by-page.

Visit [www.richlandlibrary.com/storywalk](http://www.richlandlibrary.com/storywalk) for more information.



## How to Talk to Kids About Gun Violence

The Midlands of South Carolina, like much of the country is seeing a spike in gun violence. Here are some useful tips to help parents talk to their children about it.

1. Assure Your Child That You're Doing Your Best to Keep Them Safe
2. Don't Let the TV Do the Talking
3. Make Sure Your Children Understand Gun Safety
4. Make Your Messaging Age- Appropriate
5. Let Your Child Share Their Thoughts

To Read the Full Article,  
Please Visit:

<https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-gun-violence/>



## Richland County Recreation Commissioner NOW HIRING FOR SUMMER 2022!

Camp Counselors  
Adaptive Recreation Camp Counselors  
Lifeguards  
...and more!

Find jobs and apply at [richlandcountyrecreation.com](http://richlandcountyrecreation.com)  
or scan the code on the right!



## ATTENTION SENIORS!



YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR  
**\$25** IN COUPONS TO BUY  
**FRESH FRUITS and  
VEGETABLES**

**APPLY IN PERSON - June 6 thru June 13  
at designated locations in Richland County.**

**HOW TO QUALIFY:** You must be a low-income senior aged 60+, have a valid driver's license or state issued ID (must be presented to pick up), and live in Richland County.

## Attention Richland County Seniors!

The Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program offering \$25 vouchers to low-income seniors living in Richland County starts June 6.

Seniors must qualify for the program to receive vouchers to buy fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables from authorized farmers this summer.

Seniors must apply in person June 6-June 13 at the designated locations listed in the graphic below. Please note the following:

1. The application is hard copy only and will be completed on the day of voucher distribution. Days, time and location are listed on the graphic.
2. WE WILL NOT complete the application prior to scheduled dates and time listed on the flyer.

This program starts June 1, if you live in a neighboring county and have questions in regards to your county's voucher program please contact: Willie Nixon at South Carolina Department of Social Services: (T): (803) 898-1760 or (E): [Willie.J.Nixon@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Willie.J.Nixon@dss.sc.gov).



## VOUCHER DISTRIBUTION SITES

Date	Location	Time
6/6	Hopkins Park - 150 Hopkins Park Rd, Hopkins 29061	9am-1pm
6/7	Grace United Methodist Church 410 Harbison Blvd, Columbia 29212	9am-1pm
6/8	Mt. Nebo Baptist Church - 8801 Bluff Rd, Eastover 29044	9am-1pm
6/9	Delta Life Development Center 5307 Fairfield Rd, Columbia 29203	9am-1pm
6/10	Killian Park - 1434 Marthan Rd, Blythewood 29016	9am-1pm
6/13	Senior Resources - 2817 Millwood Ave, Columbia 29205	1pm-3pm

**APPLY IN PERSON**

### OUR MISSION

BECAUSE COLUMBIA HOUSING CARES, WE ARE LEVERAGING THE POWER OF HOUSING TO BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO THRIVE.

### OUR VISION

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY WHERE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES CAN LIVE, WORK, AND THRIVE TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

**#THIS IS COLUMBIA HOUSING**