



NEWSLETTER



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Love My Liberty

This year's **Love My Liberty 4th of July celebration** at the Liberty Rec Stadium was a hit! Attendees enjoyed a performance by the Leah Seawright Band, featuring Mark Herndon from Alabama, plus delicious eats from food trucks and local vendors. The night ended with a fireworks display lighting up the Liberty sky!



TRICK-OR-TREAT ON COMMERCE STREET

This year's **Trick-or-Treat on Commerce Street** was a success! With 32 participants handing out candy, the event saw an even bigger turnout than last year. Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun. We can't wait to make next year's event even better!



A note from Mayor Erica Romo Woods

We are excited to present the first edition of our Liberty Newsletter. This newsletter covers items from January 2024 - September 2024. With this platform, we aim to highlight and recap news, events, projects, ETC., that we are currently working on or have successfully completed.

Since taking office, we have made strides in enhancing transparency and communication. This includes upgrading the sound system in the council chambers for improved audibility, rescheduling council meetings to a later time to better suit the schedules of our citizens, and regularly uploading council packets and documentation to our website.

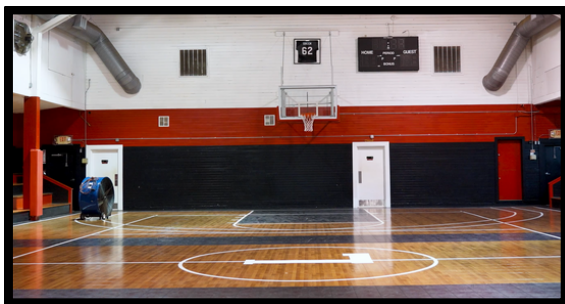
We hope you find this newsletter informative and engaging. Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to improve our communication with you. If you have any suggestions or topics you would like to see covered in future editions, please feel free to reach out to Katie Sizemore at ksizemore@libertysc.com.

Thank you for being a part of our amazing community. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and thriving Liberty!

FOR THE LOVE OF LIBERTY,
MAYOR ERICA ROMO WOODS

EXCITING UPGRADES TO MILLS GYM & FREEDOM PARK

The City of Liberty is thrilled to announce the installation of two brand-new air conditioning units at Mills Gym, as shared on our social media pages. We extend a special thank you to Liberty Heating and Air for their hard work in making this happen! For the past two years, our recreational sports teams have practiced without central air—a challenge that has now been resolved. Due to supply chain delays, these units were on backorder for over a year, but we're happy to say they've finally arrived! Coach Josh Black expressed his excitement about the City's continued efforts to create a comfortable and safe environment for the youth and community to enjoy their activities.



Additionally, we're pleased to share the completion of several projects at Mills Avenue, including upgrades to the court floor inside the gym, a new pickleball court, a basketball court, and new lighting around the property. These improvements, completed in January 2024, were made possible through a partnership with Davey Hiott, Sports Court Carolina and a generous \$50,000 grant from the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. The total project cost was \$107,558, with the City contributing \$53,779.

Lastly, we'd like to thank Palmetto Environmental Services for their mulch donation to enhance the landscaping around the gazebo at Freedom Park.

These upgrades will greatly enhance our facilities, providing a better space for our community to stay active and connected!



Liberty Comes Together in the Wake of the Storm



In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, our community demonstrated what makes Liberty truly special—the support and compassion of our residents. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Potter's Clay Fellowship, Ingles, Flat Rock Baptist Church, the Piedmont Baptist Association, Pickens County United Way, Pickens County Library, and all of our volunteers who stepped up to provide food, supplies, and support for our neighbors in need. Your generosity and selflessness made a world of difference in a time of need.

A special thank you goes to our city staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring that Liberty quickly returned to normal. From clearing debris to coordinating recovery efforts to behind the scene work, your hard work does not go unnoticed. We are grateful for everything you've done to help our city heal and move forward. Together, we are stronger!

Liberty's Year of Progress: Expanding, Enhancing, and Celebrating Our Community

This year, the City of Liberty took big steps forward with six annexations, five ordinances, five resolutions, and eight proclamations. The annexations pave the way for more housing, better infrastructure, and business growth, all tied to the city's long-term vision. New ordinances aim to improve daily life, covering zoning, land use, and public safety. Resolutions focus on building partnerships to boost the economy, strengthen social programs, and support environmental efforts. The proclamations celebrate the people and events that make Liberty special. These efforts show the city's commitment to progress, inclusivity, and a bright future for everyone.



City of Liberty Partners with United Way of Pickens County to Enhance Community Support

The City of Liberty is excited to announce a growing partnership with United Way of Pickens County, an organization dedicated to ending poverty and addressing its root causes, such as early childhood education and family well-being. United Way's mission has shifted toward a laser-focused strategy to create lasting, positive change in our community, envisioning a future where all students succeed and all families thrive.

Mayor Erica Romo Woods and Communications & Business License Manager Katie Sizemore recently met with Jeremy Price, Vice President of Corporate Engagement at United Way of Pickens County. This meeting opened the door to promising future collaborations aimed at providing Liberty residents with accessible resources and support.

Additionally, we are proud to announce the revamp of the Born Learning Trail at Freedom Park. This interactive trail features signs encouraging fun, educational outdoor activities for families, designed to boost children's language and literacy skills. A new Little Free Library has also been installed at the trail, further enhancing opportunities for community learning and engagement.



Mayor Woods Advocates for Liberty in Washington, DC



In April, Mayor Woods joined her fellow Pickens Regional Joint Water System commissioners for a trip to Washington, DC to meet with our Congressional delegation and White House staff. The group briefed federal officials on the status of the new water system and the benefits it will bring to Pickens County. Commissioners also thanked Senator Graham, Senator Scott, and Congressman Duncan for their ongoing support of Pickens Regional. At the White House, Mayor Woods met with the President's Public Liaison, Stephen Benjamin to request support for the federal aspects of the new water system project.

Back, L to R: Kyle Michel (PRJWS Government Counsel), Joe Dunn (PRJWS Commissioner), Pickens Mayor Isaiah Scipio **Front, L to R:** Erica Romo Woods (Liberty Mayor), Stephen Benjamin (President's Public Liaison), Tom Ponder (PRJWS Chairman).

City Council Participates in Hometown Legislative Action Day



The Hometown Legislative Action Day brings local officials from across the state to Columbia to receive updates on current legislative issues, visit their representatives at the State House, and connect at the Association’s annual legislative reception. The City of Liberty Council was honored to participate, gaining valuable insights into updates that could benefit our community.



As part of Hometown’s Legislative Action Day, several council members were recognized for completing training through the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government (MEO) and the Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government (AMEO). These programs provide foundational and advanced education for municipal elected officials, equipping them with key insights into effective governance.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

- Robbie Shoenleben (MEO 2024 Graduate)
- Rhonda Whitaker (MEO 2024 Graduate)
- Mayor Erica Romo Woods (AMEO 2024 Graduate)

Mayor Woods Elected to Serve on the Board of the Association of SC Mayors

Mayor Erica Romo Woods has been nominated and elected to serve a one-year unexpired term on the board of The Association of SC Mayors. Reflecting on the honor, Mayor Woods shared, “I am humbled and honored. Thank you to my fellow SC mayors for trusting me, and to the outgoing board members for a job well done. Congratulations to the new incoming board members—I’m excited to work and grow alongside you as we strive to make our towns and cities even better. To God be the glory!”

This is a proud moment for Liberty as Mayor Woods continues to represent our community with dedication and heart at the state level.



Pickens Regional Joint Water System (PRJWS): Empowering Local Control Over Our Water Supply



In 2019, local governments in western Pickens County, including Six Mile Rural Community Water District, the City of Pickens, the City of Liberty, Easley-Central Water District, and Pickens County Water Authority, came together to form the Pickens Regional Joint Water System (PRJWS). The main goal of PRJWS is to give our community control over its drinking water, reducing our reliance on outside organizations like Greenville Water.

PRJWS is a public government entity, meaning it operates with transparency, and any funds generated are reinvested into providing clean, affordable water for our residents. The new water system will cost an additional \$8–\$10 per month, but over time, it will be more cost-effective than purchasing water from Greenville Water. Plus, we'll have control over the rates and supply.

A key feature of the new water treatment facility will be the use of cutting-edge ceramic membrane filtration technology—the first of its kind in the U.S. This global innovation is not only highly efficient, but its modular design allows for future capacity expansion. Importantly, the system will not add unnecessary chemicals like fluoride to the water.

Unlike Greenville Water, which is governed by a board composed solely of City of Greenville residents, PRJWS ensures that Pickens County residents have a say in their water rates and decisions that directly affect their communities.

Honoring Becky Shirley's 30 Years of Service

After 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Liberty, Becky Shirley has retired. Starting as a dispatcher in 1994, Becky has held key roles, including Dispatch Supervisor, Clerk of Court, Records Clerk, and Victims Advocate. Throughout her career, she's earned numerous accolades, including the Bert Friday Award, but it's her compassion and commitment to helping others that have truly made her a beloved figure in our community.

Becky's hard work, empathy, and positive spirit have left a lasting impact on her colleagues and the citizens she served. We are deeply grateful for her decades of service and wish her all the best in her retirement.





Holiday Hours

Wednesday, November 27th	CLOSED AT NOON
Thursday, November 28th	CLOSED
Friday, November 29th	CLOSED
Thursday December 5th	CLOSED 11 AM - 1 PM
Week of Christmas Monday, December 23rd - Friday December 27th	CLOSED
Tuesday, December 31st	CLOSED AT NOON
Wednesday, January 1st	CLOSED



Holiday Pick-up Schedule

ThanksgivingThursday November 28,2024

Monday through Wednesday collection schedule will remain the same.

Thursday's route will be collected on Friday November 29th.

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday November 30th.

ChristmasWednesday December 25,2024

Monday and Tuesday's route collection schedule will remain the same.

Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday December 26th.

Thursday's route will be collected on Friday December 27th.

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday December 28th.

New Years Day.....Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Monday through Tuesday collection schedule will remain the same.

Wednesday route will be collected on Thursday.

Thursday route will be collected on Friday.

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday.

Quarterly Update

July 2024 - September 2024

General fund revenue is at \$553,000 and General fund expenditures are at \$739,000 resulting in a net loss of \$206,000

General fund budgeted revenue is \$2,746,000 resulting in \$2,213,000 budget remaining, or 81% - currently under budget due to the cyclical revenue cycle of the City throughout the year.

General fund budgeted expenditures is \$2,746,000 resulting in \$2,008,000 budget remaining, or 73%

Budget remaining goal is 75%

Utility fund revenue is at \$521,000 and Utility fund expenses are at \$417,000 resulting in a net income of \$104,000

Utility fund budgeted revenue is \$1,901,000 resulting in \$1,380,000 budget remaining, or 73%

Utility fund budgeted expenditures is \$1,821,000 resulting in \$1,405,000 budget remaining, or 77%

Budget remaining goal is 75%

Hospitality Tax fund revenue is at \$36,000 and Hospitality Tax fund expenditures are at \$36,000 resulting in a net income of \$0

Hospitality Tax fund budgeted revenue is \$142,000 resulting in \$106,000 budget remaining, or 75%

Hospitality Tax fund budgeted expenditures is \$142,000 resulting in \$106,000 budget remaining, or 75%

Budget remaining goal is 75%

Thanks,

Kevin

Kevin Tomas, CPA

Partner



Greene Finney Cauley, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

UPDATES ON GRANTS

Quarry Road / Old Norris – RIA and SRF

- 41 residential
- Lift Station - (1) wet well removal and install, (1) temp pump, check valve removal/install, coating, 70 LF fence removal and stall, site grading and stone, site work bmps, electrical removal of old component and install of new match.
- Sewer Line - mobilization, testing, 2 manhole connections, 40 LF bore/jack, 8" PVC - 0-6' 232 LF, 6-8' 285 LF, 8-10' 370 LF, 10-12' 88 LF, 8" DIP 0-6' depth 108, 48" Manhole - 0-6' depth 4 each, 6-8' 3 each, 8-10' depth 1 each, 12-12' depth 1 each, 12-14' depth each, 1 8" pier crossing, old lift station demo, 1,285 CY trench rock excavation, & haul, 1085 CY suitable backfill & compaction, 800 LF silt fence, 15 sediment tubes, .5 AC grassing, 30 TN stone and 41 reconnections.
- This project addresses a SCDHEC Inspection conducted in March 2019 that resulted in an unsatisfactory rating. The completion of the project corrects issues in the identified report as well as makes the areas affected safe and healthy for residents. The City will also see a reduction in repair costs.

2021 Capital Improvement Project – SCIIP

- 68 Residential
- Mobilization, testing and Sterilization, 4,979 LF 8" D.I. Water mains, 5,360 LF of 6" D.I. Water mains. 11 fire hydrants, and 68 reconnections.

Broadband/Connect Humanity

- [CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW UPDATES ON BROADBAND/CONNECT HUMANITY.

Brownfields / EPA

- The Brownfields/EPA grant supports Phase One assessments to evaluate the environmental impact of specific properties. A Phase One assessment involves a preliminary investigation into a property's environmental history and current conditions. The City partnered with Terracon Consultants, a third-party engineering firm, to conduct the individual Phase One assessments with property owner approval.



WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THIS EDITION OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY NEWSLETTER, WRITTEN AND DESIGNED BY KATIE SIZEMORE, OUR COMMUNICATIONS & BUSINESS LICENSE MANAGER. A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO CITY HALL STAFF FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN GATHERING THE INFORMATION THAT MADE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE.

THIS ISSUE MAY BE A BIT LONGER THAN FUTURE EDITIONS, AS IT COVERS THE PAST NINE MONTHS OF UPDATES AND EVENTS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AS WE REFINE THIS PUBLICATION TO BEST SERVE YOU, OUR CITIZENS, AND DETERMINE THE TOPICS YOU'D LIKE TO READ ABOUT MOST WHEN IT COMES TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBERTY.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS TO INCLUDE IN THE NEXT ISSUE, SET TO COVER OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER OF 2024 AND RELEASE IN JANUARY 2025, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. YOUR FEEDBACK WILL HELP US MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER EVEN MORE VALUABLE AND ENGAGING FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

EMAIL KSIZEMORE@LIBERTYSC.COM

THANK YOU FOR READING, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SHARE THE LATEST UPDATES WITH YOU!