

Mayor Announcements 8-11-25

Happy 25/26 school year!

For our Liberty students, parents, teachers, and staff: I hope your school year got off to a positive start. I pray for safety, strength, health, courage, confidence, love, compassion, focus, discipline, wisdom, knowledge, humility, and peace.

God bless you all this school year!

Pickens County Habitat for Humanity will be hosting a community listening session on Tuesday, August 19th, from 6:30-7:30 at the Rosewood Center. This session will introduce the public to our organization and share details on our recent acquisition of a 2-acre property on W Front Street in downtown Liberty. We'll begin with a short presentation, followed by open discussion and written feedback. Our goal is to gather input from residents about what they do and don't want to see developed on the site as we consider next steps.

A Big Thank You!

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Easley Combined Utilities (ECU) for their generous support. Last week, their team spent two days helping us by running their cameras down and jetting our sewer lines on N. Azalea St, Blue Ridge Dr, and N. Palmetto St.

It was the two hottest days of the year, but they were out there with me, Liberty Public Works Director Tim Moore, and South Carolina Rural Water Association, working hard to find the cause of a few manholes that overflow during very heavy rains, on Blue Ridge Dr, and N. Palmetto St. I appreciate their patience as I bombarded them with questions to get a better understanding of sewer in general, our specific sewer issues, and possible next steps.

Some of the findings were: roots, sediment, grease, and in Freedom Park we located a collapsed line approximately 2 feet long. All of these factors significantly reduce flow capacity and can contribute to overflowing manholes. ECU got rid of the roots and pulled out several 5-gallon buckets of sediment. Our public works department repaired the collapsed line. We are not saying the problem has been fixed, but we have continued to monitor these areas and found that some areas have not overflowed since then, while a couple of others show signs that there may still be an issue. This is an ongoing project for the city, and I have made it a top priority to resolve this issue.

We recognize that there are times we need help from our neighbors, and we are grateful that ECU so generously shared their valuable time, tools, and skills to assist us. They sent us a very knowledgeable, professional, and kind crew. Thank you, Easley Combined Utilities, you are greatly appreciated!

Love My Liberty July 4th Celebration – we had a good, laid-back time celebrating America's independence with the community. We had a good variety of vendors, the music was very entertaining, the fireworks show was one of the best we've had, everyone enjoyed themselves playing games and fellowshiping with one another. But behind every successful community event is a tremendous amount of time, effort, and resources from dedicated individuals and

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organizations. It's a beautiful, concerted effort. From planning and preparation, execution to tear down, and sponsorship, so many hands come together to create moments of joy, unity, and pride for our community.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed—volunteers, organizers, sponsors, and participants. Your hard work and generosity made this event possible and memorable for all.

Our council and staff in city hall, police, parks & rec, and public works departments, as well as the county fire department - it takes every department doing their part. It starts with council voting on the budget, and staff can then do their part... planning logistics, marketing and promotions, securing sponsorships, and all the details that are involved...grounds maintenance, traffic control, hanging banners, facility clean up, stage set up, communication with vendors, etc. I appreciate their efforts to ensure it was a great celebration.

Sponsors/partners- Potter's Clay Fellowship. This Liberty church has stepped up and into an amazing partnership with the City of Liberty in several of our community events. They were part of every stage of this event. Heather Smith is a vital part in the planning stages and communication with the city. The church sponsored the children's area and provided the shuttle services. Their army of volunteers arrived early to set up and worked the entire event making sure the children had a good and safe time. I sincerely appreciate Pastor Cleveland for being an example to the church and the entire community by actively supporting and engaging with the city.

Liberty Mortuary has also been a generous sponsor of our Love My Liberty event. For several consecutive years they have donated bottled water to share, at no charge, to our thirsty guests. I am grateful for their partnership and generous spirit.

Volunteers - along with the huge team of volunteers, through Potter's Clay Fellowship, we also had other individuals from the community and council. Brian Reed, Jason Reed, and Council member Zach Arms gave their time and manpower to make sure things outside the children's area ran smoothly. Thank you to Brian for opening our event in prayer, and Jason for leading our pledge to the flag. You may have heard it said, "volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart." I deeply appreciate their giving spirit.

Vendors and entertainers - I know you have a pool of events to choose to participate in, I am grateful you chose Liberty. Your services helped make this event special.

Community events are more than just festivities; they are vital connectors that strengthen our love for community, promote local pride, and provide safe, fun spaces for everyone to come together. They inspire collaboration, foster relationships, and create lasting memories.

Thank you and God bless you all for giving of yourselves to bring the community together and give them an uplifting experience. I enjoyed working alongside you.

If anyone is interested in contributing good to the Liberty community, please reach out to me - I'd love to help get you involved.

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Community Connections: Water Tag

We had a blast at our Community Connections: Water Tag event! There was some stiff competition out there. What a refreshing time of cooling off and connecting with people face to face, in a positive atmosphere. I don't know when the last time was, I had a water gun fight, but it was a joy to run around and let go any inhibitions, because there was no judgement or criticism by anyone, only the laughter of children and adults alike, and the coming together to enjoy each other's company in an out of the ordinary and fun way.

Thank you to Low Key Squeeze for spending your Saturday in Liberty!

We're especially grateful to our amazing staff who helped us prepare for this event, and Deputy Administrator Bailee Locke, Council Member Rhonda Whitaker, and Chief Tetter, Sergeants Thomas and Freeman, and Officers Sean Smith and Benjamin Perry who came out to play and connect with the community, it truly means a lot. And a huge shoutout to the Liberty Area Fire Department for the surprise water spray that helped everyone cool off and took the fun to the next level!

A big thank you to everyone who came out and participated in this event! We know it was a hot day, but we're so glad you chose to spend it having fun with us. Thank you for being part of what makes Liberty so special. We can't wait to do it again!

Congratulations to Liberty Artist Chuck Greene!

His artwork is currently displayed at the Pickens County Museum of Art & History. Bobby and I attended his reception on Saturday. It was nice to see a good showing of support. He has quite an impressive collection of oil paintings dating back to the 1980's and some as recent as this year. His style is rustic, with country and beach landscapes from a wide range of rural locations.

I encourage everyone to go visit Chuck Greene's art exhibit, which will be up through the month of August.

Upcoming events:

Trick or Treat downtown Liberty is coming up on Halloween night, October 31st. This year, Potter's Clay Fellowship will be adding a Fall Festival, which will be in Sarlin Park. We encourage all churches and business owners to register online to give out candy. It is always a fun event, which brings out about 3,000 attendees each year.

New businesses opened:

June 9 - **Moose on Main** – E Main St, in the Rock Station

July 28 - **Liberty's Own Carwash** - W. Front St

New businesses coming to Liberty:

Pendleton Candy Company – opening in the Fall

It's been a joy to work with the owners of this business. I am excited that they chose Liberty to open a second location of their successful store.

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There is a lot of work, meetings, and relationship building that goes on behind the scenes when we are attracting business to come to Liberty. So, when people who operate from a place of ego, hate, deception, and political games, they are not thinking of anyone or anything else but their own selfish agenda. Shamefully, that led to a council member to take it on himself to announce the Pendleton Candy Company was coming to Liberty. His reasoning was, and I quote, "I refuse to let the mayor take credit for them coming here." Regardless of who does or doesn't deserve credit, the bottom line is, this was not his announcement to make. He deleted the post a short time later, only after he had to be told the harm he was causing and trust he was betraying. He robbed this new business from making their own announcement to the community. I, then, had to do damage control and break the news to the business owners.

And if that wasn't bad enough, a community member and investor of a few downtown buildings added insult to injury by using it as a weapon against me, because it is campaign season. Again, not stopping to think outside himself, he announced the name of the company, along with another business, that has not had the chance to make their official announcement. These two individuals did not allow these two businesses the right and joy of making their own announcement to the public, in their timeframe and their way. Another disappointment, I reached out to an admin on the community Facebook page that it was posted to and explained that was not this person's news to share. The admin told me that if the business called and asked to have it removed, it would be deleted. Why should professionals have to get involved in this childishness? Credible business professionals don't have time for these petty, little games. How insulting for the admin to expect them to do that. It is concerning that the admins saw no need to remove the post.

I say all of this because it is important for everyone to be aware of the truth going on behind the scenes. How embarrassing for this city that grown adults – an elected official, and a Liberty investor and Liberty business owner, are creating such a public spectacle, at the risk of losing business, all because their agenda is to discredit someone who they have a bizarre obsessive hate for. I am thankful that despite this business's announcement not being what they planned; they are still excited to come to Liberty. They will be such a great asset to the city in more ways than one. They have bubbly personalities and are always upbeat about overcoming challenges. We need more of their uplifting spirit here. I am grateful they are adding to our business landscape. I hope everyone will be welcoming and supportive of them.

I want to remind the public, if anyone has any questions about anything they read or hear, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I will be happy to sit down with you, hear you out and clarify anything for you. Thank you to those who have already met with me; I have enjoyed getting to know you.

We continue to work diligently to improve our City of Liberty. The Lord is blessing our efforts and answering prayers. We are blessed and I am grateful.