

It Starts With



# Spring 2019

# Talk of the Town



## *From the Mayor's Desk*

Hello Friends,

It's almost time for the hustle and bustle of Spring in Travelers Rest. The TR Farmers Market and Music in the Park Series will ignite in May.

Our family loves having a steady Saturday morning routine of community, fun activities and fresh local food at the Farmers market, along with fun nights of music and food trucks at the park that night. Look forward to you all joining us!



A few notes from City Hall, your new police Chief Benjamin Ford has settled right in to his new position. Chief Ford grew up in Travelers Rest and we are blessed to have him serve us in such an important role for the city as he leads the men and women of TRPD.

The City has undergone a push for our first ever destination marketing plan to unify how we tell others how awesome TR is and why they should come visit. Soon they will be able to see a beautiful new website and materials showcasing all the things we see on a daily basis.

Thanks for all you do to make Travelers Rest a caring, loving and beautiful community that is the buzz of conversation everywhere. Here's to another awesome year in TR!

Mayor Brandy Amidon  
Brandy@TravelersRestSC.com

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MUSIC SERIES RETURNS TO TRAILBLAZER PARK

WE WANT YOUR VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

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TRAVELERS REST WELCOMES NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

SWAMP RABBIT 5K KICKS OFF SPRING SEASON

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FARMERS MARKET OPENS SATURDAY, MAY 4TH

### **Tell City Council What You Think!**

Drop us a line and share your thoughts.

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[www.TravelersRestSC.com](http://www.TravelersRestSC.com)



## Star-studded Music in the Park Season Opens Saturday, May 4th

The 2019 Music in the Park Concert Series kicks off Saturday, May 4th with a lineup of musicians that includes some of the most talented local and traveling bands in the country. Local food trucks will arrive at the park at 6pm and the music starts at 7pm.

The season begins with two local performers that gained national attention on several popular TV series. Benton Blount, a Greenville native and finalist on America's Got Talent will kick off the series on May 4th and Ashland Craft, a Piedmont, SC resident, who wowed the judges with performances of songs like "Delta Dawn" and "I Hate Myself for Loving You" and finished in the top 10 in 2017, on The Voice, will perform on May 25th.

Some of you may remember Jupiter Coyote, a popular, southern rock band hailing from Brevard, NC. We are pleased to include them in our 2019 schedule on May 11th and look forward to their performance. On May 18th, The Broadcast, a soulful blues, roots, rock band from Asheville, North Carolina, with striking vocals from lead singer, Caitlin Krisko, will bring back the spirit of 70s classic rock bands.

In June, J-E-T, a Greenville based super group comprised of three powerhouse musicians Joe Jones, Eric Weiler and Tez Sherard, will deliver an unforgettable, one-of-a-kind performance incorporating jazz, funk, blues, and soul. Other local favorites in June include Retro Vertigo, Honey & the Hot Rods, Jacob Johnson and The Erica Berg Collective.

The Music in the Park concert series picks up again in September with The Shag Doctorz, one of the Carolina's most popular beach music bands, and The Night Affair Band, a dynamic, seven member R&B/Motown band out of Greenville.

Shortfileds will return to Trailbazer Park serving burgers, hotdogs, chicken sandwiches and fries and we are pleased to welcome The Saucy Pig, a Travelers Rest based, award-winning BBQ company. Look for tacos, pizza and Thai food vendors as well throughout the concert series.

We would like to thank all of our Music in the Park sponsors that help to make these concerts possible. For more information about the park and music series and to see a listing of our sponsors visit, [www.TrailblazerPark.com](http://www.TrailblazerPark.com).

## Downtown Master Plan Coming this Spring

The City of Travelers Rest is excited to initiate the Downtown Master Plan. This is the next step in a proactive approach to identifying a vision for our downtown.

We've launched a brief Online survey to generate some initial data to help inform the next phase. To participate in the survey visit, [https://clemson.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3wsfoqKxlhfb5Pv](https://clemson.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3wsfoqKxlhfb5Pv).

### Any PLAN is only as GOOD as the community's PARTICIPATION

A 3 day charrette, scheduled for May 21, 22, 23, which will include a public meeting is being planned. The meeting agenda and location will be posted on [www.TravelersRestSC.com](http://www.TravelersRestSC.com) in the next few weeks.

Any plan is only as good as the community's participation in the development of the plan so please plan on joining us in helping to develop the vision for Downtown for the next 10 years. More details to come....

*Patrea St. John  
Planning Director  
City of Travelers Rest*



*We'd love to  
hear from you!*

*Send us your ideas!  
[Patrea@TravelersRestSC.com](mailto:Patrea@TravelersRestSC.com)*

## City of Travelers Rest Welcomes Chief of Police, Benjamin Ford



The City of Travelers Rest is pleased to announce the appointment of Benjamin Ford as the city's new Chief of Police. Ford holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Charleston Southern University.

Ford has 19 years of law enforcement experience and has worked 13 years with the city of Mauldin. His law enforcement career began in 1999 with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services where he worked for 4.5 years.

In 2004, Ford was hired by the Mauldin Police Department and

worked 3.5 years in patrol and investigations. In 2008, Ford had the opportunity to work with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for one year in alcohol and narcotics enforcement, before deciding to return to the Mauldin Police Department.

While serving at the Mauldin Police Department, Ford ascended to the rank of Sergeant and held the position of Training Sergeant, supervising sixty five employees and managing the Property and Evidence Room, the Reserve Police Officer Program, the Citizen's Police Academy and the Student Internship Program.

"I believe Chief Ford is a terrific fit for the Travelers Rest Police Department," said Travelers Rest City Administrator,

Eric Vinson. "His considerable experience in various areas of state and local law enforcement as well as his communication skills and knowledge of Travelers Rest, are the attributes that impressed me during our meetings."

"I am extremely excited and humbled to be a part of this wonderful city and to lead this great group of officers and employees of the Travelers Rest Police Department. I will work tirelessly to serve the City of Travelers Rest and make this police department the best it can be."

Please join us in giving Chief Ben Ford a warm welcome to the City of Travelers Rest, as he begins his mission to serve the people of our great community.

## Eleventh Annual Swamp Rabbit 5K Set for May 3rd

For the past eleven years, the population in Travelers Rest swells by thousands on the first Friday in May for one of Greenville County's largest and most anticipated 5K runs. Prisma Health is staging its eleventh annual Swamp Rabbit 5K (formerly the GHS Swamp Rabbit 5K) on Friday, May 3 as we welcome spring and the town's annual transformation into the largest running course in the Upstate.

The Swamp Rabbit 5K was created by GHS Health System, now Prisma Health, in 2007 as a way to give back to the community and encourage physical fitness and use of the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. Last year, nearly 5,000 people of all ages and fitness levels participated in race.

"We encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the trail," said Rebecca Cooper, Community & Customer Relations and Volunteer Coordinator for Prisma

Health's North Greenville Medical Campus. "In 2009, the first event drew 1,200 runners and walkers and we were pretty thrilled with that number but now, over 5,000 people participate in the race and our mission to promote



physical fitness through community engagement seems to be working."

No matter your current fitness level, completing a 5K is both doable and fun. Most beginners, whether they're starting from straight off the couch or have achieved a modest fitness base, already have the ability to walk a 5K. After all, it's just a bit over three miles.

This year, Prisma Health has partnered with Harvest Hope and is encouraging participants to bring a non-perishable food item with them to packet pick-up or on the day of the race. After the race, participants are welcome to enjoy FREE food, drinks, music and children's activities in Gateway Park.

Online registration is open and Online registrants receive a FREE Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit 5K T-shirt. The low \$6 fee (\$15 starting 4/28) includes processing fees, and the site is 100% secure.

For more information and to sign up for the race visit: [ghs.org/community/swamprabbit5k](https://ghs.org/community/swamprabbit5k).

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**SPRING 2019  
TALK OF THE TOWN  
NEWSLETTER**

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# Springtime Means it's Travelers Rest Farmers Market Time!

Got Spring fever yet? Need to get out and enjoy the warm weather?  
Mark your calendar for the opening of the Travelers Rest Farmers Market!



**Saturday, May 4th | 8:30am - 12pm | Trailblazer Park**