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**Subject:** South Carolina's Official Christmas Tree arrives in preparation of the 50th Annual Governor's Carolighting

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Greetings and happy holidays! South Carolina's Official Christmas Tree arrived at the State House this morning. Additional details below and [here](#). We hope to see you on Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Carolighting!

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Official Christmas Tree arrives in preparation of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Carolighting**

**Columbia, S.C.** – (November 14, 2016) South Carolina's Official Christmas Tree arrived at the [South Carolina State House](#) this morning following a brief press conference on the North Lawn. Bill Ellen, president & CEO of the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism, thanked the many individuals and organizations that helped make this year's tree possible. The [CVB](#) is the presenting sponsor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Carolighting. Matt Kennell, president & CEO of City Center Partnership/Main Street District, announced that this year's Governor's Carolighting will be held in conjunction with First Thursdays on Main.

This year's tree is a 35-foot-tall sheared Concolor Fir, also known as a white fir, and comes from [Pinetum Christmas Tree Farm](#) in Swanton, Maryland.

The [Columbia Garden Club](#), with support from the [Garden Club of South Carolina](#), procure the state's Christmas tree. This is the fifth year that they have worked with the Maryland farm. Pinetum owners Marshall and Cindy Stacy, who own a vacation house in the Lowcountry, consider South Carolina their second home.

The state Christmas tree's journey to the State House is a special ritual for Bruce Vollnogle, owner of [TimberTech](#) in Greer, SC. This is the eleventh consecutive year that Vollnogle and his team donated their time and services to pick up the tree and bring it to Columbia.

Decorating such a large tree is no simple feat. SCE&G will string over 13,000 LED lights and the garden clubs will hang 900 ornaments.

The tree will stay dark until the 50th Annual Governor's Carolighting on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016. Carolighting festivities begin at 7 PM on the South Carolina State House's north lawn and will be televised live on SCETV.

A longtime family tradition, the event brings South Carolinians together for caroling and the ceremonial tree lighting.

The 50th Annual Governor's Carolighting is sponsored by the Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitor Bureau, the Columbia Garden Club and the Garden Club of South Carolina. First Thursdays on Main is presented by Columbia's City Center Partnership.

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**About the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism:**

The Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism is a private, not-for-profit corporation funded primarily by revenue generated by visitors through accommodations taxes and is the parent organization of [Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau](#), [Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center](#), and [Columbia Regional Sports Council](#). The mission of the Midlands Authority is to strengthen the area's economy by marketing and selling of the entire Columbia region, its accommodations, restaurants, facilities and attractions as a destination for meetings, conventions, tradeshow, special events and leisure travel. For more information, please visit [columbiacvb.com](http://columbiacvb.com).

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