About Richland

An Amazingly Cool County!

RICHLAND COUNTY

Uniquely Urban...Uniquely Rural

Uniquely *Urban* ...

Hey, y'all!

Welcome to ***About Richland.***

This is the inaugural edition of a residential and visitors guide unlike any other. ***About Richland*** is designed to give you information about Richland County and inspire you to get out and about in Richland County. Whether you are a resident, visitor or business owner – or planning to relocate to South Carolina's Capital County – we hope ***About Richland*** will help you discover all Richland County has to offer.

Home to the "Famously Hot" State Capital City of Columbia, Richland County is "Amazingly Cool" with its variety of urban and rural communities, shopping, dining, natural resources, recreation, entertainment and more. Residents include military retirees, college students, state and local government workers, transplants from other states and around the world, as well as natives who have never called any other place home.

The hub of Richland County Government is the Administration Building at 2020 Hampton St. in Downtown Columbia. This is the place where taxes are paid and key decisions are made. ***About Richland*** includes contact information for the 11-member County Council and a directory of County departments.

We hope you enjoy flipping through the pages of ***About Richland.*** Discover why our "Uniquely Urban…Uniquely Rural" community has something for everyone. From the services and programs County government provides to the variety of activities available to residents and visitors, we know you'll agree: Richland is "An Amazingly Cool County!"

– Richland County Public Information Office

www.rcgov.us

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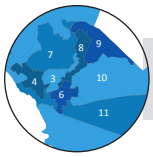

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Also, look for the following throughout *About Richland:* Councilmembers share some of their favorite things and places in their districts · Spotlights on County departments and local attractions · Cool facts about Richland County

On the Cover: Sightseeing at Congaree National Park, paddling at the Summer Celebration of Water, a lion at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden and fireworks during the Fourth of July celebration at The Village at Sandhill.

About Richland: An Amazingly Cool County!
2015-2017

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Richland County Public Information Office
2020 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29204

Website: www.rcgov.us
Email: pio@rcgov.us

Every precaution has been taken to ensure the information in this publication is as accurate as possible, as provided by County departments, state agencies and County affiliated entities.

Greetings! As a longtime resident of Richland County, I've learned that there is always something new to discover, which makes this a great place to live. I am consistently amazed at the wonders I uncover even when I visit one of my favorite hometown locations – and in a growing community, I'm always looking forward to the new things I'll experience.

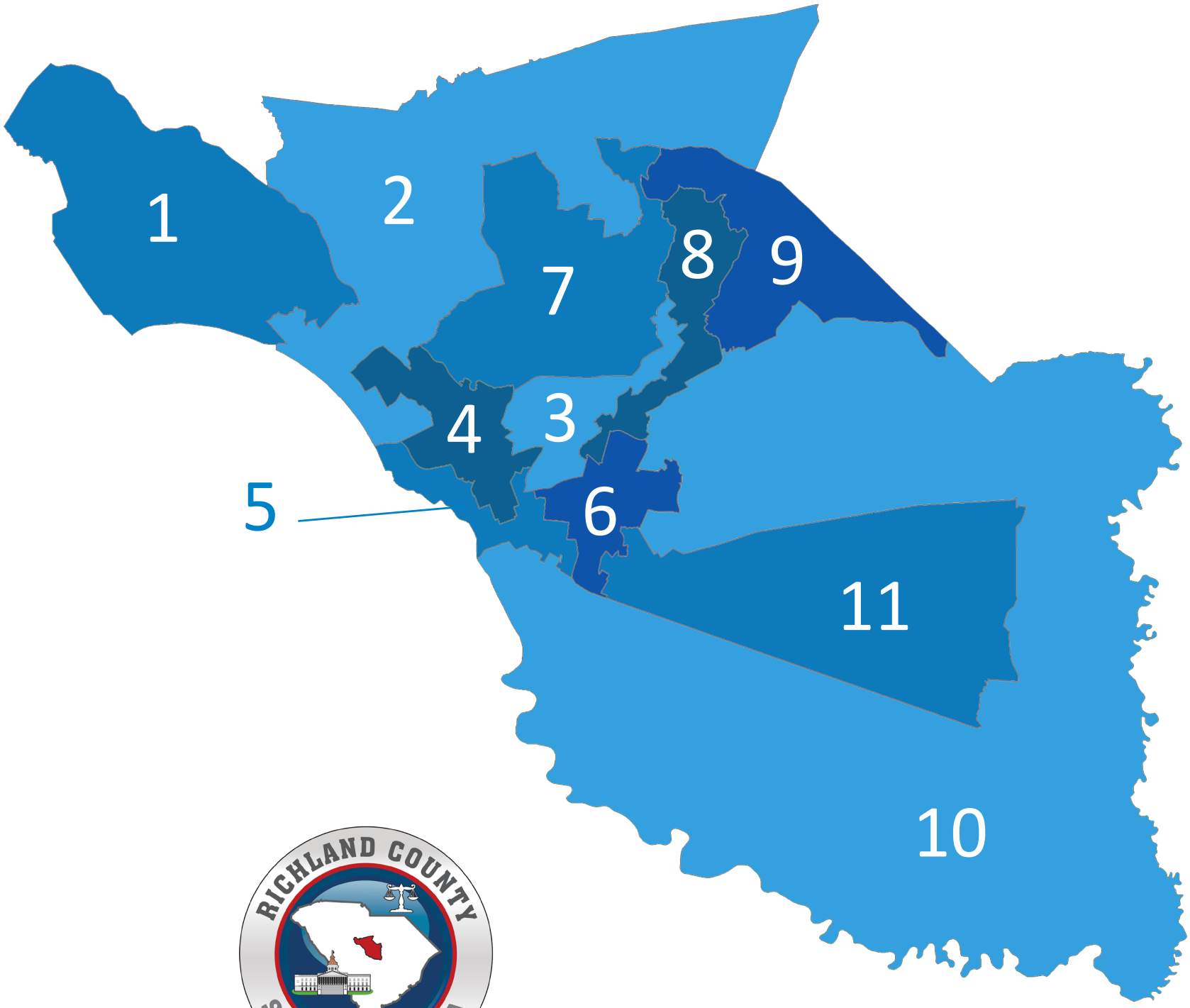
Perhaps the thing I love most about Richland County is that the people here are fantastic. It's no wonder our business community is thriving, our schools are top notch, our neighborhoods are welcoming and our natural resources are cherished. We're proud of our position as the state's Capital County and we work to balance growth while protecting our "rich land."

Our County slogan, "Uniquely Urban...Uniquely Rural," captures the spirit of what makes Richland County the place it is. With a mix of urban amenities and rural landscapes, there truly is something for every residential lifestyle or recreational pursuit.

Whether you're a visitor, a newcomer or a longtime resident, my advice is the same: Discover something new about Richland County.

"Discover something new about Richland County."

Torrey Rush
Richland County
Council Chairman



Richland County Council Districts

Bill Malinowski
District 1
2014-2018
803-932-7919
malinowskib@rcgov.us

Joyce Dickerson
District 2
2012-2016
803-750-0154
jdickerson@rcgov.us

Damon Jeter
District 3
2012-2016
803-256-2569
jeterd@rcgov.us

Paul Livingston
District 4
2014-2018
803-765-1192
livingstonp@rcgov.us

Seth Rose
District 5
2014-2018
803-779-0100
sethrose@rcgov.us

Greg Pearce
District 6
2014-2018
803-783-8792
gpearce@rcgov.us

Torrey Rush
District 7
2012-2016
803-206-8093
rusht@rcgov.us

Jim Manning
District 8
2012-2016
803-787-2896
manningjim@rcgov.us

Julie-Ann Dixon
District 9
2012-2016
803-206-8149
dixonj@rcgov.us

Kelvin Washington
District 10
2012-2016
803-404-1530
washingtonk@rcgov.us

Norman Jackson
District 11
2014-2018
803-223-4974
jacksonn@rcgov.us

Richland County Government

Richland County's Mission: Richland County Government is dedicated to providing services that are accessible to all residents and improve the quality of life in our community.

Richland County operates under the Council-Administrator form of government. Under this form of government, the 11-member elected County Council appoints an administrator who is responsible for the administration of all the departments that comprise County government.

Richland County Council consists of 11 members who are elected in the November general elections from single member districts for four-year terms beginning Jan. 1 of the following year.

Richland County Council generally meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. inside Council Chambers at the County Administration Building, 2020 Hampton St. in Columbia. All meetings are open to the public. All regularly scheduled Council meetings also can be viewed live online at www.rcgov.us.

County Administrator Tony McDonald is responsible for County operations including executing policies, directives and legislative actions set by Council, directing operational and administrative activities of the County, preparing annual budgets, supervising the expenditure of funds and being responsible for the employment and discharge of personnel.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilman Bill Malinowski, District 1

There's always something to cheer about at one of our great schools – that includes sports and academics. Dutch Fork High's state champion football and girls' basketball teams are exciting to watch, and Chapin High exemplifies the area's academic excellence with its recent Palmetto Finest School Award.

Richland County
NEIGHBORHOOD
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM

Empowering residents with the resources to achieve happy, healthy communities throughout Richland County. **www.rcgov.us**

Finally I was able to focus.
Next thing I *noticed* my name was on the honor roll.

"We knew Mac was having difficulties in school, but we kept hoping he would get over it, but he didn't," said his mother. When he was in first grade, Healthy Learners took him to a pediatrician. He was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. With treatment, Mac began reading, and made the honor roll. Now he's an Eagle Scout, and plans to attend The Citadel. To support Mac, donate today at healthylearners.com.

HEALTHY LEARNERS

Healthy Children. *Better* Students. *Thriving* Communities.

2749 Laurel St. I Columbia, SC I 803-454-0350 I A ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

Richland County Elected Officials

In addition to County Council, Richland County voters elect representatives for several other positions:

County Auditor Paul Brawley is responsible for keeping the County's record of real and personal property and calculating individual property taxes.

Probate Judge Amy McCulloch is responsible for issuing marriage licenses, appointing guardians to supervise the care of minors and incompetent adults, overseeing the administration of estates and handling the involuntary commitment of residents who suffer from various challenges.

Clerk of Court Jeanette McBride is responsible for circuit and family court operations and for keeping records of the proceedings of both General Sessions and Common Pleas courts.

County Treasurer David Adams is responsible for collecting property taxes and receiving other revenues, such as state aid, and investing those funds until needed by the County.

Coroner Gary Watts is responsible for investigating deaths that occur for unknown or suspicious reasons.

Sheriff Leon Lott is responsible for carrying out law enforcement duties and activities in the County.

Solicitor Dan Johnson is responsible for prosecuting criminal offenses in the Fifth Judicial Circuit (Richland and Kershaw counties), protecting the rights of victims and administering diversion programs that serve as alternatives to conviction and sentencing.

For more information about each office, turn to the department directory beginning on page 49.

Paul Brawley
Auditor

Amy McCulloch
Probate Judge

Jeanette McBride
Clerk of Court

David Adams
Treasurer

Gary Watts
Coroner

Leon Lott
Sheriff

Dan Johnson
Solicitor

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Who we are

A Community Profile

About 400,000 residents call Richland County home, spanning its 772 square miles of urban and rural landscapes, with five major waterways – Broad River, Congaree River, Lake Murray, Saluda River and Wateree River – and three major parks – Congaree National Park, Sesquicentennial State Park and Harbison State Forest.

Several major shopping districts are pocketed across Richland County, offering hundreds of locally-owned boutiques and speciality shops, as well as national stores.

Richland County has five award-winning hospitals, as well as the William Dorn VA Medical Center and the Army hospital at Fort Jackson. These hospitals employ nearly 8,000 people and maintain 2,000 beds.

Most workers commute 15-19 minutes to their place of employment.

Richland County is home to the South Carolina State Capital, Columbia, which is also the County seat.

About 70,000 students attend school in the County's three public school districts. There are 21 private schools and eight higher learning institutions, including the University of South Carolina.

Fort Jackson, the Army's largest and most active initial training base, encompasses 52,000 acres in the County. More than 10,000 soldiers are stationed at the garrison annually, 3,500 civilians are employed there and 12,000 military families comprise the Fort Jackson community.

The largest age group of residents is 25-34 (15.1 percent), followed by 45-54 (12.8 percent), 35-44 (12.1 percent) and 55-64 (11.3 percent).

The median home price in the County is $150,600, with historic neighborhoods and new developments offering a mix of housing choices.

The top five biggest employers in Richland County are BlueCross BlueShield, the University of South Carolina, the Department of Transportation, Richland School District One and the Department of Mental Health.

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden is South Carolina's largest tourist attraction, drawing more than 1 million visitors each year.

Average Temperatures

Jan	57.4	37.2
Feb	61.0	39.1
Mar	68.2	45.3
Apr	77.4	53.0
May	84.7	61.3
Jun	90.4	68.3
Jul	92.4	71.4
Aug	90.9	70.5
Sep	86.0	65.3
Oct	76.9	54.0
Nov	67.0	44.8
Dec	58.5	38.2

Richland County's ethnic makeup is 48.1 percent white, 46.8 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic origin, 2.6 percent Asian, 2 percent mixed races and 2 percent other single race.

More than 36,000 military veterans live in Richland County.

The median household income in Richland County is $50,118.

The cost of living index in Richland County is 0.91, below the national average of 1.0.

On average, residents in Richland County spend $7,975.42 on food, $3,185.02 on recreation and entertainment and $1,484.26 on apparel and services each year.

Three major interstates cross through Richland County: I-77, I-20 and I-26. The Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport and Columbia Metropolitan Airport provide air transportation services, and CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern use local railways for commercial goods, and Amtrak provides passenger train service.

WWII KOREA
VIETNAM
VETERAN

RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION
RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION

CAROLINA
SEC

A spotlight on: Richland Library

Community Favorite Offers More than Books

Walk into the Children's Room of Richland Library Main in Columbia, and it quickly becomes evident you've entered a special place.

Have no fear, however, as you encounter the Wild Things staring at you from the pair of stand-alone murals flanking the entrance or 40-foot mural adorning the back wall of the library. The distinctive artwork features young Max and hairy monsters created by Maurice Sendak, the renowned writer and illustrator of the timeless children's book, "Where the Wild Things Are." Painted by Michael Hagen, Sendak's stage and set designer, it remains a one-of-a-kind rendering as the only authorized mural of the beloved artist and author's work.

Richland Library, named the national library of the year in 2001 by the Library Journal, has 11 branches focused on enhancing the customer experience and advancing the entire Richland County community.

While the murals at Richland Library Main on Columbia's Assembly Street signal to children that the spot belongs to them, teens and adults can come away with engaging experiences as well in the striking 242,000-square-foot building that opened in 1993 and draws numerous visitors to downtown Columbia each year.

Richland Library Main
1431 Assembly St.,
Columbia
803-754-7734
richlandlibrary.com

The library embraces emerging technology to go with the many volumes of books that remain on the shelves. It is the place to go for help finding a job at the Business and Jobs Center, hanging out at the Teen Center, getting ready for school, searching local genealogical information and accessing a variety of national and international resources.

A library card is all you need to download digital entertainment, such as books, movies and music.

Like Richland Library Main, the branches also are popular gathering spots in the communities they serve – and they're getting even better.

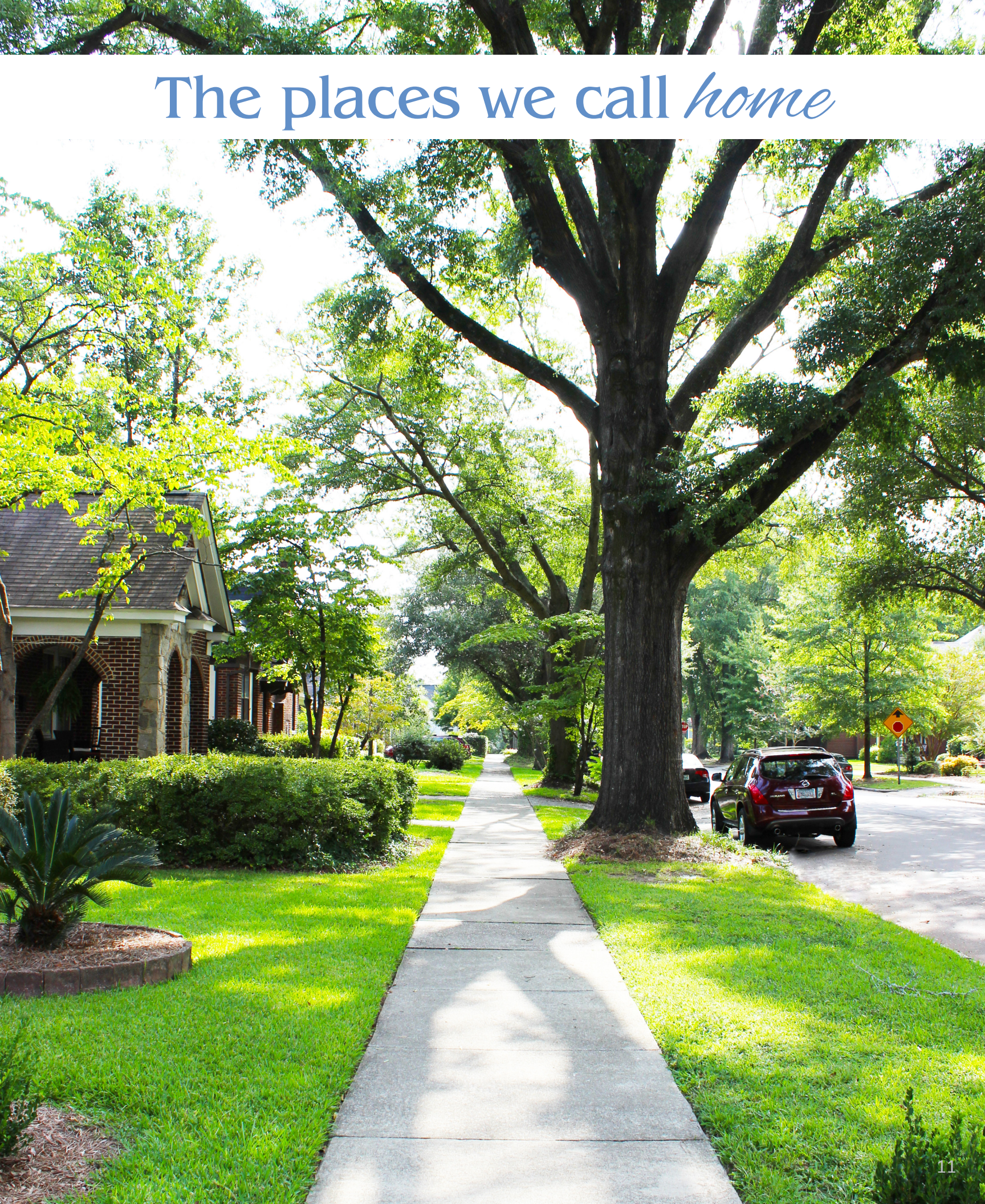
Richland County voters approved a $59 million bond referendum in 2013 for improvements across all of the locations.

Proceeds are going to add and reconfigure space, technology and resources to serve a growing base of customers and the changing ways they use the library's variety of services.

Community excitement is building as library locations undergo renovations to expand services and programs that will further enhance the user experience.

Back at Richland Library Main, you can almost hear Max say, "And now, let the wild rumpus start!"

The places we call *home*



Six municipalities and several major unincorporated areas make up Richland County. Just as South Carolina has several distinct regions – we're in the Midlands! – Richland County has five defined areas, each with unique features. As outlined by Richland County's Planning Department, the areas are Beltway, North Central, Northeast, Northwest and Southeast.

Beltway

The Beltway is the center of Richland County and generally is not referred to by a name as other parts of the County. The Beltway includes the Capital City of Columbia and the municipalities of Arcadia Lakes and Forest Acres. Full of diverse communities, this is the County's main urban core even though it has plenty of areas reminiscent of rural landscapes and suburban enclaves. The Beltway is home to the County's International Corridor along Decker Boulevard in unincorporated Dentsville, called the original Northeast by some residents. The main gate to Fort Jackson is located here, too.

North Central

The North Central area lies north of I-20. It is bordered by the Broad River on the west and heads toward U.S. 321 on the east. The City of Columbia stretches into this part of the County, which is mostly unincorporated and referred to as Upper Richland by some residents. Along with the Southeast, it is one of the more rural areas in the County. Monticello, Winnsboro and Fairfield roads are key travel routes in the area, where rural vistas abound with rolling hills, winding roads and farms. The local community center here overlooks one of the County's most popular golfing spots; the 257-acre, 18-hole championship quality LinRick Golf Course.

Northeast

The Northeast area lies mostly north of I-20 and stretches roughly from Fulmer Road to Kelly Mill Road. It also includes busy routes such as Wilson Boulevard and Hard Scrabble, Clemson and Killian roads. Along with parts of Columbia, the growing town of Blythewood is located here, as well as the unincorporated areas of Pontiac and Killian. Two attractions offer unique settings for exploring nature: Sandhill Research and Education Center on Clemson Road and Sesquicentennial State Park on Two Notch Road. The Northeast is known for its mix of planned communities and shopping districts, including The Village at Sandhill.

Northwest

The Northwest is defined as the area north of I-20 and west of the Broad River. Along with Columbia, the area is home to the Town of Irmo and the well-known unincorporated communities of Dutch Fork, Ballentine and White Rock. The northernmost part of this area is dotted with quiet farms and has access to the Broad River and Lake Murray. The northern section contrasts with the more densely populated neighborhoods closer to I-20 and I-26. One the County's biggest shopping malls, Columbiana Centre, is located here, and one of two state parks in Richland County, Harbison State Forest, is nestled along Broad River Road.

Southeast

The Southeast, generally referred to as Lower Richland, runs from the southern end of Fort Jackson to the County line. It's bordered by the Congaree River to the west and Wateree River to the east. The main gate to Fort Jackson is located in the Beltway, though most of the fort's property lies within the Southeast. The area is full of scenic vistas, farmland and hunting grounds, and is home to the state's only national forest – Congaree National Park. McEntire Joint National Guard Base and several major manufacturers are located here, too. The area encompasses parts of Columbia, the Town of Eastover and the unincorporated communities of Hopkins and Gadsden.

Engaged Residents Enrich Cities, Towns and Communities

People in Richland County know when neighbors come together, good things can happen.

Neighborhood association groups are active in the cities, towns and unincorporated areas within Richland County. To assist communities in the unincorporated areas, Richland County's Community Development Department and the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) provide a variety of services for residents seeking to improve the lives of their families and neighbors:

- Community Development administers the federal Community Development Block Grant funds and the HOME Investment Grant funds to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

- The NIP, which falls under the County's Planning Department, was established by County Council to coordinate and fund neighborhood master plans and improvement projects.

In addition, various County departments and divisions – such as Solid Waste & Recycling, Animal Care, Stormwater, Zoning and Conservation – regularly coordinate programs and activities to address issues and concerns to neighborhood groups.

The strength of Richland County lies in residents who are passionate about the places they call home. From rural locations, to downtown historic areas and planned suburban villages, residents live in diverse neighborhoods within Richland County's six municipalities and unincorporated communities.

The following descriptions of several areas have been prepared by the staff of the Richland Library Local and Family History Center.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilwoman Joyce Dickerson, District 2

My favorite places in District 2 are the Richland County public libraries. They're popular for entertainment, education, storytelling, community meetings, social hours and so much more. If you're looking for a place to hang out, visit the libraries in St. Andrews and Blythewood. Afterwards, stop by Bojangles' for some cold iced tea!

CONNECT WITH US.

Family Connection of South Carolina is a statewide non-profit organization that links families of children with special healthcare needs and disabilities with resources, support and education.

Contact us:
www.FamilyConnectionSC.org
Info@FamilyConnectionSC.org
1.800.578.8750
Para Español:1.888.808.7462

25 YEARS Family Connection SOUTH CAROLINA
Making Connections for Children with Special Healthcare Needs

Municipalities

Arcadia Lakes

This community along the north end of Trenholm Road was settled in the early 20th century as suburban development grew from nearby Forest Acres and Columbia. It takes its name from the numerous man-made lakes in the area, which provide scenic views for residents and wildlife habitats. Arcadia Lakes was incorporated in 1959 and is home to more than 860 residents.

Blythewood

This town in the Northeast section of the county began in the mid-19th century as rail stop between Columbia and Charlotte. It was once called Doko, supposedly an Indian or African name for the water tower at the stop. In 1877, Doko was renamed Blythewood to reflect the peaceful, wooded nature of the area. The town of Blythewood was incorporated in 1879. Its population is more than 2,000.

Columbia

Created in 1786 by an act of the South Carolina General Assembly, Columbia was named in honor of Christopher Columbus. This new capital city at the confluence of the Broad and Saluda rivers was to be a central place for the State House, permitting all residents of the state equal access to its house of government. In 1799, Columbia became the county seat of Richland County. Today Columbia is the largest city in South Carolina with a population within the city of about 130,000.

Eastover

Eastover began in 1880 as a station on the Seaboard Coast Line Railway. Located in the vicinity of several antebellum plantations, many of which still stand, Eastover was so named because it was on the east bank of the Congaree, although some say the name refers to its location east of Western Place plantation. The town of Eastover was incorporated in 1907 and has more than 800 residents.

Forest Acres

Chartered in 1935 as a suburban development between Columbia and Camp Jackson, Forest Acres was named by the town's first mayor, John Hughes Cooper, for the tall pines in the area. Many years earlier sandy soil, springs, and healthy climate had led antebellum planters to establish summer homes in the area, which was formerly known as Quinine Hill. After World War II, the town of Forest Acres grew quickly as families came for spacious lots within easy driving distance to Columbia. Its population is more than 10,000.

Irmo

The town of Irmo near the banks of Lake Murray in Upper Richland County was chartered in 1890 and served as a station on the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens Railroad line. Irmo got its name from the first two letters of railroad officials, C. J. Iredell and H. C. Moseley. Irmo has more than 11,000 residents.

Unincorporated Areas

Ballentine: Once a small community of German farmers along the Saluda River and its tributaries, Ballentine takes its name from the Ballentine family who operated a mill, general store and farm in the area. In 1890, the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens Railroad established a mail stop in the area and named the stop "Ballentine." The area changed dramatically in 1930 when the Saluda was dammed to create Lake Murray. Ballentine is home to more than 3,500 residents in the area between Lake Murray and I-26.

Dentsville: Located near the junction of Decker Boulevard and Two Notch Road, Dentsville was named for the Dent family who settled in the area in the early 1800s. In the late 1800s, a rail station known as Dents was built by the Southern Railway Company. The area surrounding the station took the name Dentsville. More than 14,000 people live in Dentsville.

Dutch Fork: The area between the "fork" of the Broad and Saluda Rivers from Columbia to Newberry, Dutch Fork was settled by Germans between 1730 and 1770. The name comes from the German word "Deutch" for the German people. A large portion of the original Dutch Fork settlement is now covered by Lake Murray. The hydroelectric power generated by the Saluda dam provides energy to thousands of residents, and the lake provides a place for recreation to many in the wider region.

Gadsden: This community in Lower Richland along Bluff Road was named for James Gadsden, a Charlestonian and former president of the South Carolina Railroad. The Gadsden station was built in 1840 and was the first station in Richland County. For several years a stagecoach line took

passengers from the station to Columbia or Camden. More than 1,600 residents live here.

Hopkins: This community in Lower Richland was named for John Hopkins, who established a plantation here in 1764. It was once known as Hopkins Turnout, as the South Carolina Railroad placed a turntable here in 1840 in order to turn its trains around for the return trip to Charleston. The Hopkins community is home to more than 2,800 residents.

Horrell Hill: A community along Garners Ferry Road in southeast Richland County, Horrell Hill was the site of the first courthouse in the County until it was relocated to Columbia in 1799. It takes its name from Thomas Horrell, who settled here in the mid-19th century. There are more than 11,000 residents in the Horrell Hill community.

Northeast Richland: The Northeast portion of the County was once farmland with numerous streams that emerged in the sandhills and emptied into the Wateree River. In the early 20th century, small communities built up along the Southern Railroad stations in the area. However, this part of the County remained rural until the latter portion of the 20th century when suburban developments along Interstates 20 and 77 brought a population boom to the area. More than 50,000 residents call the Northeast home.

St. Andrews: This area in the northwestern edge of Richland County takes its name from the St. Andrews Lutheran Church, which was established in 1835 by German settlers. This church was removed from its original site in 1950; however, the cemetery remains on St. Andrews Road. This area is home to more than 21,800 residents.

Upper Richland: This section of Richland County north of Columbia along the road to Winnsboro was once home to small farms and plantations. Upper Richland contains the Camp Ground community, named for an early Methodist camp ground meeting place. The area has more than 5,500 residents.

White Rock: Named for an outcropping of rocks used by Native Americans for tools, White Rock began as a rail station in 1890 on the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens line through Upper Richland County. White Rock is part of the cluster of growing Dutch Fork communities around Lake Murray.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilman Damon Jeter, District 3

I love the variety of mom-and-pop businesses in District 3, like Zesto on Forest Drive where you can get some of the best chicken wings and ice cream around!

Starting any business is easier with a partner.

"The Columbia Chamber works to build a stronger community for business in the region. Partner with us and let us advocate for you!"

COLUMBIA CHAMBER

CARL BLACKSTONE
PRESIDENT & CEO
COLUMBIA CHAMBER

columbiachamber.com | 803.733.1110

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Pay bills, search for lost pets, make service requests, browse upcoming events and more.

A spotlight on: Lake Murray

Area's One-Stop Spot for Water-Related Fun

There may be no better place to splash down in Richland County than Lake Murray.

The 50,000-acre man-made lake features 650 miles of scenic shoreline encompassing four counties in the Midlands area, making it an idyllic attraction that draws thousands of visitors every day. It's come to be known as a blissful place for boaters of all kinds, whether they're navigating the waters on power boats, fishing boats, sailboats, canoes, kayaks or paddle-boards.

The White Rock and Ballentine areas of northwestern Richland County are easily accessible off I-26 near the Town of Irmo. Visitors can enjoy everything the lake has to offer, whether that's swimming, water skiing or simply enjoying a cold beverage on the dock. There is access to the water by way of Dreher Island State Recreation Area, public boat ramps and public parks near the dam. Boat rentals also are available, and for those who want someone else to do the driving on the water, boat tours on the Spirit of Lake Murray are an option.

Lake Murray has gained an appreciation as a crown jewel of the area with high rankings in both fishing and boating lifestyle national publications. It has a fascinating 85-year history, beginning with the massive undertaking to get it built between 1927 and 1930. During the 1940s, U.S. military pilots used the lake as a training area for B-25 bombers.

The lake was named after William S. Murray, the engineer who guided the design and creation of the dam, which was built to create electricity by the utility company now known as SCE&G. The Lake Murray dam has become an attraction in its own right with its lookout points.

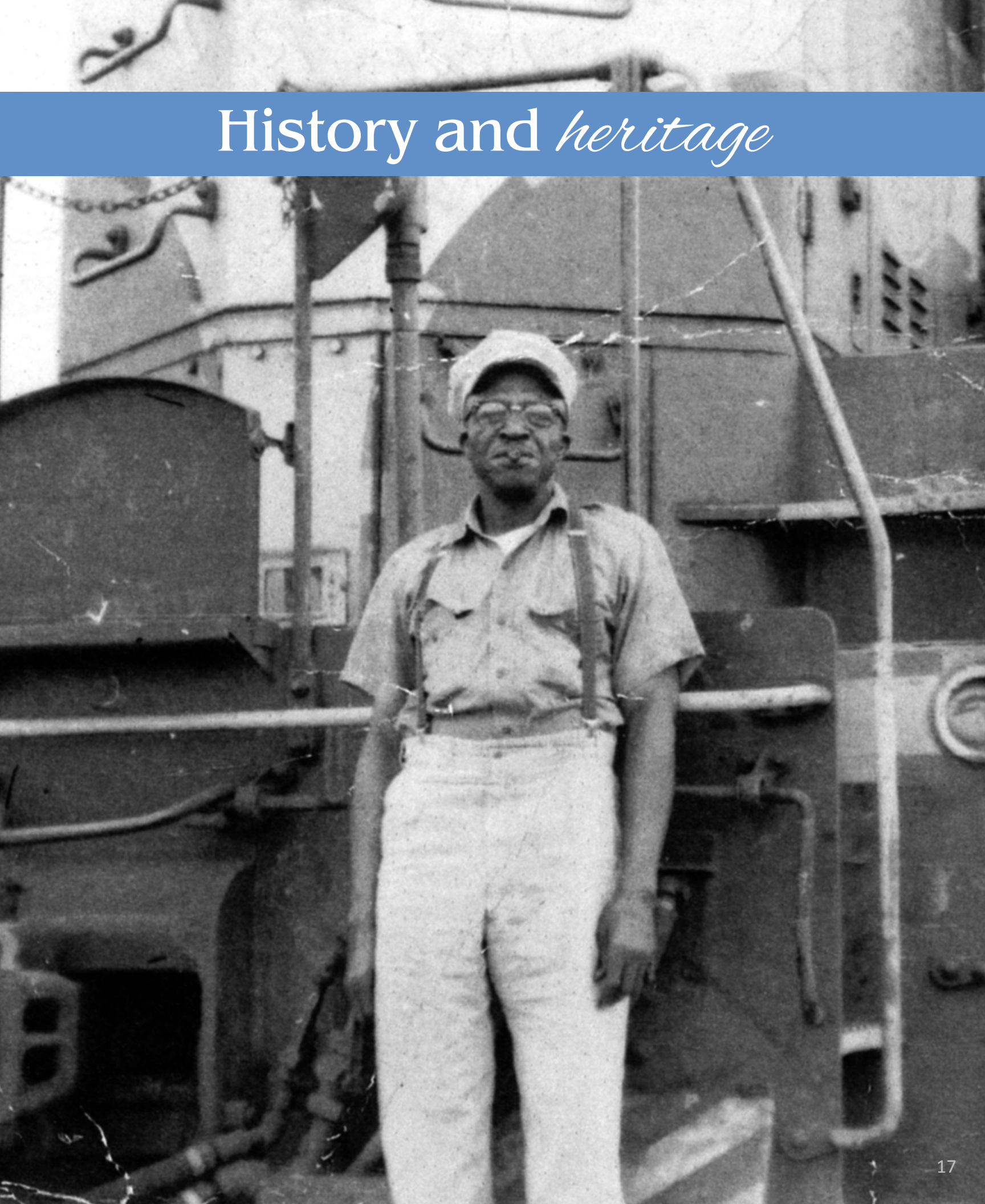
The lake, which is 41 miles long and 14 miles wide at its widest point, also offers much more than a spot for recreational water sports. Professional fishermen have discovered it as well. National fishing tournaments sponsored by prominent organizations like Bassmaster and the FLW tour have come to Lake Murray, including the prestigious Forrest Wood Cup in 2014.

But sometimes there's nothing better than relaxing by the water and enjoying a meal at restaurants like Liberty at the Lake and the Rusty Anchor. Every Fourth of July, the lake hosts a fireworks celebration that always draws a big crowd.

For many summers in July, purple martins have filled the skies before dawn and during the evening hours over Lake Murray before settling into a seasonal roost on Bomb Island. Almost one million birds make their way to the island, creating a nightly tourist attraction all their own. In 2014, the birds mysteriously stayed away from the island, which is the first official sanctuary in North American designated for purple martins. Much to the delight of purple martin fans, the birds returned in 2015.

Capital City
Lake Murray Tourism
2184 North Lake Drive,
Columbia
803-781-5940
lakemurraycountry.com

History and *heritage*



A Rich Legacy

Richland County's name means just that – "rich land."

That land supported indigo and cotton plantations when it was first formed in 1785. As times changed and a flow of settlers moved into the area, a demand came for a more representative and central government.

A year later the state capital was moved from Charleston along the coast to the central part of the state, where the new town of Columbia was formed. Once Columbia was established as the seat of power for the state, Richland County formalized its boundaries in 1799, when the capital city became the county seat.

The cotton produced by the area's plantations was at first shipped through Columbia, and textile manufacturing later prospered here. Late in the Civil War, Union General William T. Sherman captured Columbia as his troops burned the town and parts of the county on Feb. 17, 1865. The State House was spared in the burning of Columbia, and it earned a designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

As time progressed, Richland County embraced railroads and a mix of commercial enterprises. With Fort Jackson's arrival in 1917 and gradual evolution into the U.S. Army's primary basic combat training base, the local economy and its steady growth became increasingly linked – especially in the second half of the 20th century – to the state government, the University of South Carolina and the fort.

From its beginning as rich farmlands to its formation into the legislative center of the Palmetto State, Richland County has developed into a booming, vibrant area that combines government, education, the military, banking, health care, retail, tourism, recreation, sports and the arts.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilman Paul Livingston, District 4

A great performance at The Township is a must-see. Also, be sure to check out the show bills of past acts posted in the lobby. They'll take you down memory lane.

CASA volunteers have the power to change the world one life at a time.

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A spotlight on: Historic Columbia

Tours, Exhibits Give Visitors a Look into the Past

In the early 1870s, a young boy named Tommy Wilson lived in a house at 1705 Hampton St. in Columbia. Tommy's family left a few years later and he grew up to be better known as Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States.

Wilson's boyhood home, owned by Richland County, has functioned as an historic house museum that highlights Wilson's time here and his life achievements. Closed for nine years because of structural problems, the home underwent an extensive renovation, with the County providing most of the $3.6 million for the repairs. The home opened to the public again in 2014.

Historic Columbia, an organization dedicated to preserving the history of Columbia and Richland County with advocacy and education programs, tells the story of Reconstruction through the Woodrow Wilson Family Home, South Carolina's only presidential historic site.

Historic Columbia, which has more than 6,800 historical artifacts under many roofs, also operates the Robert Mills House and Gardens, Hampton-Preston Mansion and Gardens, Mann-Simons Site, Modjeska Monteith Simkins House and Seibels House and Garden.

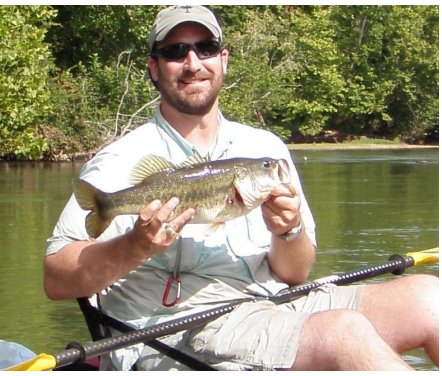
Historic Columbia
1601 Richland St.,
Columbia
803-252-7742
historiccolumbia.org

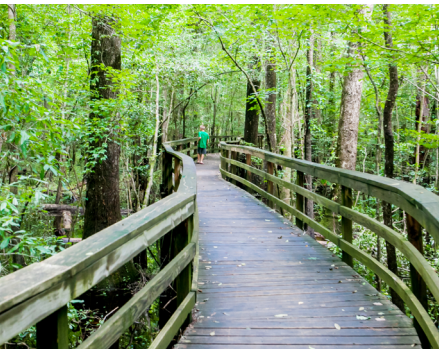
The cultural landscape of Richland County can be explored through Historic Columbia's house and garden tours, neighborhood tours and group tours, and these homes and gardens play a part in passing down the enduring stories about the lives of the early residents in Richland County.

- The Robert Mills House stands as a tribute to the work of the famed architect who designed the Washington Monument.
- The Hampton-Preston Mansion, one of Columbia's oldest houses, was built in 1818.
- The Mann-Simons Site served as a home and workplace for former slave Celia Mann and her family from 1843 to 1970.
- The Modjeska Monteith Simkins House was home to the woman considered to be the matriarch of civil rights activists in this state.
- The Seibels House, which is more than 200 years old, is home to Historic Columbia and used to host private events.

Richland County, and the cities and towns that lie within its borders, has blossomed into a modern diverse area with the renewal of established neighborhoods and growing suburbs. Yet Historic Columbia's preservation efforts allow visitors to envision a time when a young Tommy Wilson once made his way down Hampton Street.

Leisure and *recreation*





When It's Time to Play, Richland's Got Plenty of Options

If you're searching for something fun to do in Richland County, you won't have to look far.

The Richland County Recreation Commission – one of several millage agencies funded by the County – supports diverse recreational opportunities in activity and community centers, gymnasiums, sports complexes, parks, tennis centers, playgrounds, fitness rooms and walking trails across the County. Maintaining more than 40 recreation sites, the commission coordinates activities with numerous community athletic leagues and senior groups. Check out all the offerings at www.richlandcountyrecreation.com.

In addition, the County recently celebrated the opening of two community amenities with a focus on nature: The Crane Creek Pedestrian Park and Nature Center and the Pinewood Lake Park.

The Jordan Memorial Boat Ramp at the west end of Rosewood Drive in Columbia offers free access to the Congaree River. With a large ramp that allows multiple boats, a dock, a picnic area and plenty of parking, canoers and kayakers can start here for a four-mile trip to the Cayce landing. Richland County also touches Lake Murray in the Ballentine and White Rock areas, with opportunities for boating, swimming, skiing and fishing.

The County is home to many public and private golf courses, including disc golf. There also are several YMCAs that serve different areas of the County. In addition, the cities and towns offer a mix of private and public recreational opportunities and the County is also home to two state parks and a national forest.

Runners and walkers can support charitable causes by signing up for road races sponsored by organizations throughout the year.

For those who enjoy spectator sports, the opportunities are endless with high schools and local college competitions happening nearly every week when school is in. The University of South Carolina fields an array of teams at the highest level of NCAA athletics in the Southeastern Conference, the premier league in college sports.

Beginning in the 2016 season, minor league baseball returns to Richland County at the $37 million Spirit Communications Park set to open in the Columbia Common development on Bull Street, near Columbia's downtown. The ballpark will be home to the Columbia Fireflies, a Single-A affiliate of the New York Mets.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilman Seth Rose, District 5

The Five Points area is a fun gathering spot for people of all ages – especially during the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration when even the water in the fountain turns green.

Richland County COOL FACT

A DAZZLING DISPLAY: Congaree National Park is one of the few places in the world where you can watch hundreds of synchronized fireflies put on a dazzling light display – a call for mates – in late spring.

Follow us on Twitter (@RichlandSC) and like us on Facebook (Richland County, SC) for the latest news and photos!

A spotlight on: Conservation

Preserving History, Protecting Land and Preparing for the Future

Richland County's commitment to preserving and protecting its natural and historic resources is a strong one. It's also an ongoing one.

Wetlands and streams are being restored to offset development and conservation efforts will result in recreational opportunities.

The Richland County Conservation Department works with the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) and the Richland Conservation Commission (RCCC) to ensure the protection of natural, historical and cultural resources throughout the County.

Richland County's mix of rivers, forests and prime land have played a significant role in its history, and the RSWCD and RCCC help guard against over-development that can destroy rural open spaces and negatively impact what makes the area special.

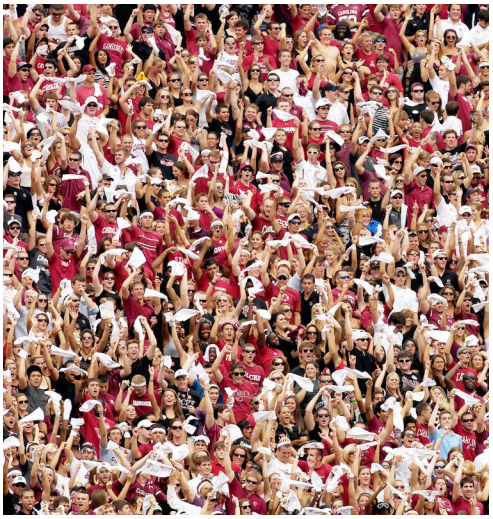
The RSWCD promotes agricultural best practices, supports the development of a strong local food system and provides teacher education. The commission works to protect natural settings as a way to uphold the County's rich legacy and preserve its beauty for the next generation.

Conservation easements are agreements between a landowner and public agency that regulate land development to safeguard natural resources. Conservation grants are used to accomplish things like building walking and hiking trails, providing environmental education and assisting with water quality.

The RCCC also uses historic preservation grants to maintain significant buildings and develop programs to supplement those efforts. Recent examples of grants being put to use include the creation of a booklet that documents the historic stained glass windows of St. Peter's Catholic Church on Assembly Street and the building of a boardwalk on the Jackson Creek nature trail in the Sesquicentennial State Park.

As an additional part of its mission, the RCCC funds up to five historical markers each year and provides information on cemeteries.

Education

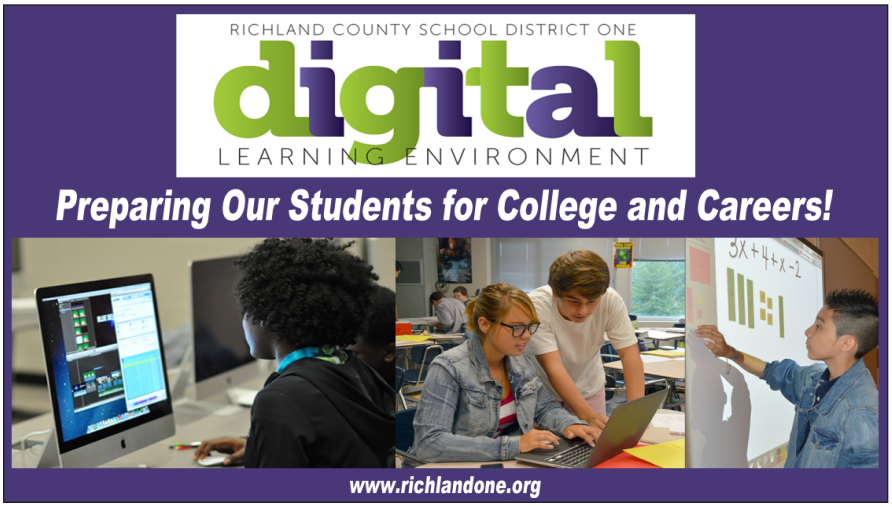


ABCs and PhDs: Educational Landscape Offers Rewarding Academic Experiences

It's hard to go anywhere in Richland County without seeing or hearing something connected to the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, who compete in the highly regarded Southeastern Conference.

But there's a whole lot more to USC, the state's flagship university, than tailgating before a big football game on a Saturday afternoon at Williams-Brice Stadium. The main campus in downtown Columbia – which has an enrollment of about 33,000 students – offers 324 degree options.

Its undergraduate international business major and international MBA programs are top-ranked nationally, and the school's honors college is considered



the nation's best among public universities. USC also has a School of Law and a School of Medicine.

Institutions of higher learning dot the County's educational landscape, including a pair of private historically black colleges and universities – Allen University and Benedict College, two liberal arts schools, each with a long, distinguished history, are next-door neighbors on Harden Street.

Columbia College is a private liberal arts women's college that is co-educational in its evening and graduate programs. Columbia International University, which offers a Christian education from a biblical worldview, and Midlands Technical College, a multi-campus two-year college that gives both career and transfer options, add to a rich variety of educational possibilities.

Students can work their way through the K-12 public educational system in Richland District One, Richland District Two, and District Five of Lexington and Richland counties as well as numerous private school options.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Council Vice Chair Greg Pearce, District 6

{ The military presence here. Seeing the men and women in uniform out and about in the community is a great reminder of all they do for our nation. }

Richland County COOL FACT

JOINING THE CAPITAL COUNTY: Cayce, located along the Congaree River, recently annexed a tract of undeveloped land in Richland County. As with Columbia and Irmo, we now share Cayce with Lexington County.

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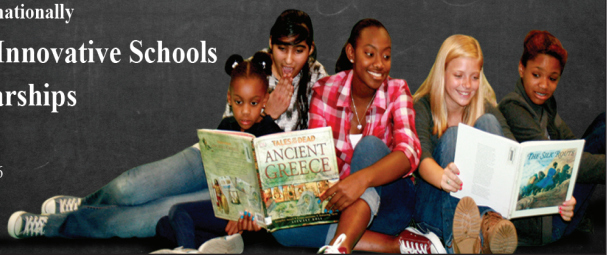

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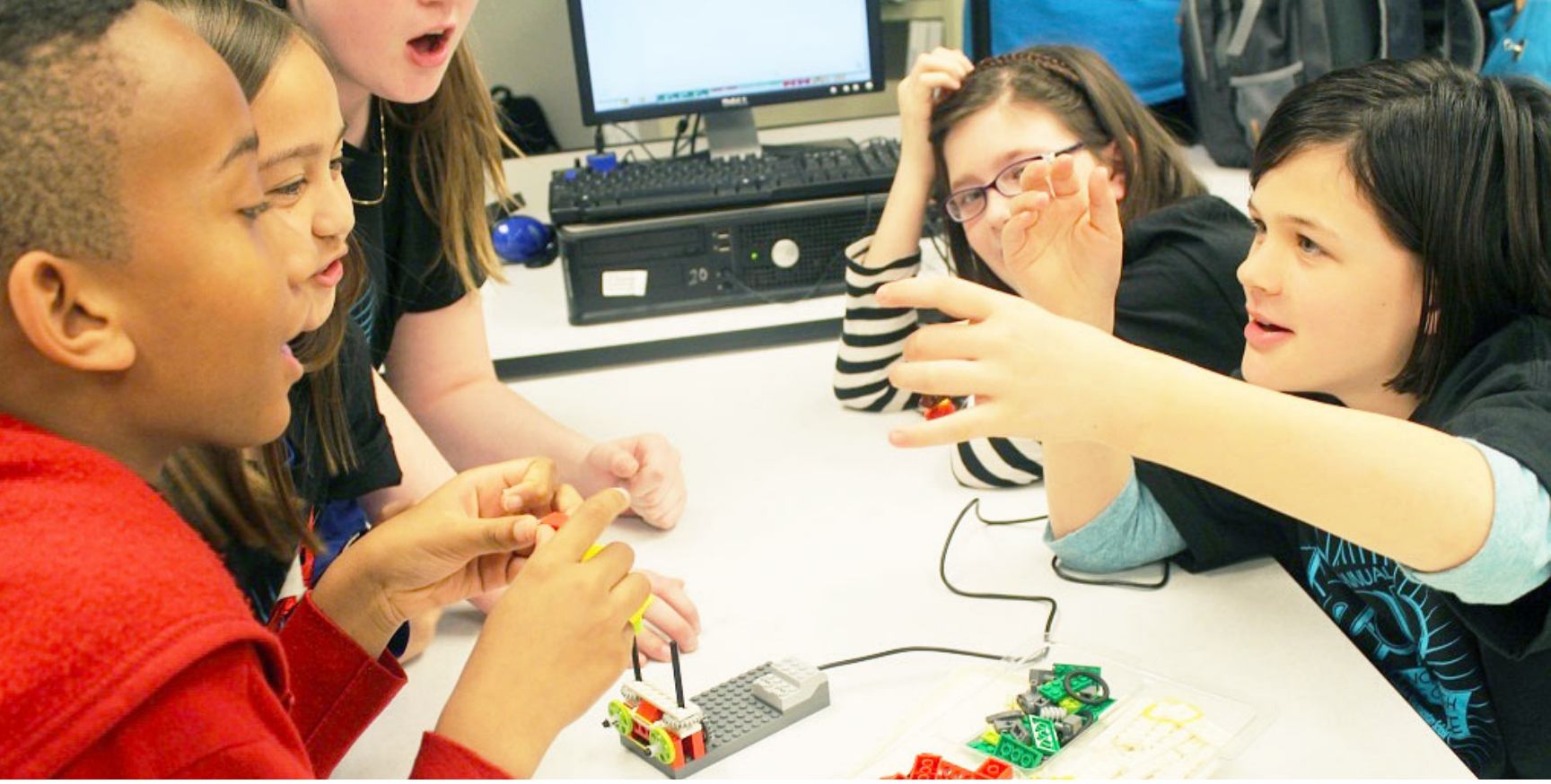

Richland One and Richland Two are two of the largest school districts in South Carolina. Richland One has about 23,000 students in 52 schools throughout the central and southern part of the County, and Richland Two has about 27,000 students in 41 schools spread across the northeastern part of the County. District Five serves students in the White Rock and Ballentine areas of northwestern Richland County. The larger private school choices include Hammond, Heathwood Hall, Cardinal Newman and Ben Lippen.

Richland County features some of the top elementary, middle and high schools in South Carolina, as they provide solid foundations for students and foster a sense of community for families.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Council Chair Torrey Rush, District 7

Crane Creek Pedestrian Park and Nature Center is especially dear to the hearts of many because it started as a vision and initiative of those in the Crane Creek community – and that's what makes it special for everyone who loves spending time there with family and friends.

Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport

Serving travelers, pilots and aviation enthusiasts in Richland County and the Midlands for more than 85 years.

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DISTRICT FIVE
Of Lexington & Richland Counties

Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges!

Lexington-Richland School District Five continues to achieve and strive for excellence in academics, the arts, athletics and community service. From top federal and state ratings to state championships, our achievements are the result of the combined efforts of school leaders, engaged parents and exceptional students. Together, we are pursuing excellence for tomorrow's challenges!

ACADEMICS | ATHLETICS | ARTS | LEADERSHIP | COMMUNITY SERVICE

5 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

TOP FEDERAL RATING
District Five earn a top federal rating on the most recent federal accountability report.

NATIONAL RANKING
U.S. News & World Report ranked District Five among the top in South Carolina for preparing its students for college.

TOP STATE RATINGS
Reviews website Niche.com ranked District Five the top district in the state. The district is rated "Excellent" on the state report card.

CHOICE PROGRAMS
District Five has several magnet programs and many of its schools are open to choice.

TOP SCHOLARSHIPS
District Five's most recent high school graduates were offered more than $121 million in scholarships.

PASOs

Meeting the needs of South Carolina's Latino communities through education, support and community leadership development.

www.scpasos.org

Military

Military is an Integral Part of the Larger Community

South Carolina is known for its strong military presence across the state. Richland County is no exception.

Fort Jackson, the U.S. Army's primary production center for basic combat training, accomplishes its mission each year by training more than 36,000 basic training and 8,000 advanced soldiers.

McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), which is located in Hopkins, is a 2,400-acre military airport owned by the U.S. Air Force and affiliated with the South Carolina Air National Guard. McEntire JNGB is the location where 1,500 airmen in the South Carolina Air National Guard work and drill.

The South Carolina Army National Guard on Bluff Road in Columbia is home to a military force of citizen-soldiers who have a dual mission to defend the Palmetto State as well as assist in protecting the United States. It's comprised of a diverse workforce with a unique variety of education and backgrounds.

The S.C. National Guard also partners with state agencies to provide emergency response in cases of natural disaster. At its home in Columbia, stands the S.C. Military Museum. It is one of the top National Guard museums in the nation. The museum highlights the long, proud history of the state's citizen-soldiers from colonial days in the late 1600s to its current operations across the globe. The artifacts and exhibits relay the history of the state militia that eventually became the National Guard. The museum tells the story of the South Carolina militia, its evolution

into the National Guard that works hand-in-hand with the United States Army and Air Force.

Richland County has a long proud history of its residents serving in the military, from the Revolutionary War to the most recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The County is home to the South Carolina Division of Veterans' Affairs in downtown Columbia. Its mission is to serve as the advocate for more than 420,000 veterans living in the state.

The William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, which was constructed in 1932 to provide health care to South Carolina's veterans, is still going strong today. Located on Garners Ferry Road on land donated by Richland County and the city of Columbia, the hospital was built by the federal government.

Needless to say, the military's impact on the area is considerable. Along with Shaw Air Force Base located in adjoining Sumter, the bases provide a significant boost to the local economy. All of the personnel assigned here – military and civilian – spend a part of their income on supplies and services from local businesses. The bases themselves do the same. The local governments prize those relationships and work to keep the alliances strong by routinely lobbying the federal government from cutting or closing the bases.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilman Jim Manning, District 8

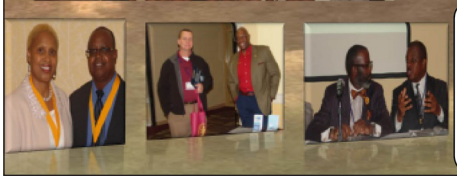
I cordially invite you to visit Decker Boulevard, Richland County's International Corridor in the heart of District 8. It's the place where you can eat and shop in a different country and experience another nationality every day of the week.

GREETINGS...from the members of the South Carolina Chapter of NABCJ!

The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) is a multiethnic, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals and community leaders dedicated to improving the administration of justice.

NABCJ seeks to focus attention on relevant legistration, law enforcement, prosecution and defense related needs and practices, with emphasis on courts, corrections and the prevention of crime.

www.scnabcj.org



National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

My First Books SC
an initiative of Palmetto Project

Improving Early Literacy in South Carolina

Thank you Richland County! Your support helps us provide *free, books-by-mail* to children throughout the county.

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- Interactive maps
- The COMET public transit system
- Program history
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- Procurement and vendors

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A spotlight on: Fort Jackson

Community's Support for Base is 'Army Strong'

Two words resonate quite strongly with many residents in Richland County: Go Army.

The County has served as the home to Fort Jackson since 1917, back when the country needed fighters for World War I. As the U.S. Army's largest Initial Entry Training Site, Fort Jackson now trains more than 40,000 soldiers each year.

The fort trains 54 percent of the Army's basic combat soldiers each year, a figure that includes 62 percent of all the female basic combat soldiers. In addition, the Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Jackson trains all of the active and reserve component drill sergeants.

The primary mission involves turning young civilians into physically fit warriors instilled with the discipline, motivation and teamwork that uphold the Army's core values. But Fort Jackson plays a much larger role in the County than preparing men and women in the defense of the United States across the globe.

Spread over 52,301 acres in the central part of the County, the fort has a large influence on daily life. The economic impact is estimated at $2.1 billion annually in the Midlands area. With 3,500 active duty military members, 3,500 civilian employees, and 12,000 family members, Fort Jackson plays a significant role in the community. It also provides support to 57,000 retirees and about 200,000 visitors annually.

Fort Jackson
803-751-1742
http://jackson.armylive.dodlive.mil/

Graduation from basic combat training brings many families and friends to the area to salute the achievements of the new soldiers. The fort plays host to an average of 42 graduation ceremonies every year upon the completion of the 10-week basic combat training program. These visitors get the opportunity to visit with their graduates, attend family day activities, and explore the many offerings of the fort and the surrounding activities across the County.

Fort Jackson, which also serves as home to the U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute, the Armed Forces Army Chaplain Center and School, the National Center for Credibility Assessment and the U.S. Army Basic Combat Training Museum, has more than 100 ranges and field-training sites and 1,160 buildings. The museum tells the story of Fort Jackson's history dating back nearly 100 years.

The *Fort Jackson Leader* supplies the Army community with news. Besides the PX and commissary, stores located on the base, Fort Jackson has restaurants, a water park, golf course, gymnasiums, a fitness center, bowling lanes, a recreation complex, a theater, parks and picnic areas.

Fort Jackson, which was annexed by Columbia in 1968, has undergone a building boom since 2007, when an effort to modernize and renovate barracks began as a way of improving living conditions for soldiers.

Richland County *map*

UPPER RICHLAND
NORTHWEST
DUTCH FORK
WHITE ROCK
BALLENTINE
IRMO
LAKE MURRAY
HARBISON
ST. ANDREWS
NORTH CENTRAL
BLYTHEWOOD
DENTSVILLE
ARCADIA LAKES
FOREST ACRES
COLUMBIA
BELTWAY
HOPKINS
LINRICK GOLF COURSE
MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE—HARBISON
HARBISON STATE FOREST
SC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HALL OF FAME
CAPITAL CITY LAKE MURRAY COUNTRY VISITOR CENTER
LAKE MURRAY MARINA: SPIRIT OF LAKE MURRAY
LAKE MURRAY DAM
SALUDA SHOALS PARK
COLUMBIANA CENTRE
DUTCH SQUARE CENTER
MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE—NORTHEAST
SC ARCHIVES & HISTORY CENTER
SESQUICENTENNIAL STATE PARK
VILLAGE AT SANDHILL
COLUMBIA PLACE
US ARMY ADJUTANT GENERAL CORPS MUSEUM
US ARMY CORPS M
FORT JACKSON VISITORS ENTRANCE
RICHLAND MALL
RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN
MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE—BELTLINE
CROSS HILL MARKET
SHOPPES AT WOODHILL
WILLIAMS BRICE STADIUM
JIM HAMILTON-L.B. OWENS AIRPORT
SC NATIONAL GUARD
SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY MUSEUM
MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE–AIRPORT
COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AIRPORT
LAKE MURRAY
LAKE MURRAY
BUSH RIVER RD
BROAD RIVER RD
MONTICELLO RD
FAIRFIELD RD
WILSON BLVD
FARROW RD
HARD SCRABBLE RD
TWO NOTCH RD
N MAIN ST
TRENHOLM RD
N BELTLINE
SUNSET DR
FOREST DR
ROSEWOOD
DEVINE ST
GARNERS FERRY
PINEVIEW RD
BLUFF RD
CORLEY MILL RD
SUNSET BLVD
N LAKE DR
LEAPHART RD
AUGUSTA RD
JARVIS KLAPMAN
AIRPORT BLVD
CHARLESTON HWY
FRINK
TWELFTH ST
GREYSTONE
SHOP RD
COLUMBIA DOWNTOWN INSET
ELMWOOD
WOODROW WILSON FAMILY HOME
COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART
RICHLAND LIBRARY–MAIN
THE TOWNSHIP AUDITORIUM
RICHLAND COUNTY ADMIN. BUILDING
SC STATE HOUSE
EDVENTURE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
UNIV. OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PICKENS
HENDERSON
BARNWELL
HARDEN
TAYLOR
HAMPTON
LINCOLN
MAIN
SUMTER
BULL
HUGER
LADY
GERVAIS
ASSEMBLY
PARK
PENDELTON
GREENE
RICHLAND COUNTY REGION MAP
COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
ATTRACTIONS
PARKS & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
HIGHER EDUCATION
SHOPPING
SC STATE HOUSE

RICHLAND COUNTY

Uniquely Urban...Uniquely Rural

There are many things about Richland County for locals and out-of-towners to enjoy.

Of the 46 counties in South Carolina, Richland County is considered the most urban – yet we boast the state's only national park and have two state forests, conveniently located near neighborhoods and businesses. Easy access to waterways offers a feeling of escape and adventure for anglers, kayakers and boaters. Downtown Columbia, outlying suburbs and major shopping and dining districts are minutes away from farms, horse pastures and acres of open fields that characterize many of our rural communities.

For Richland County, the phrase "Uniquely Urban...Uniquely Rural" is more than a slogan. It's truly a way of life.

A spotlight on: Riverbanks Zoo

Popular Spot is Where the Real Wild Things Are

If you find yourself on Wildlife Drive just past the outskirts of downtown Columbia, keep your eyes peeled. There's definitely a whole lot of wildlife to see.

In fact, there are more than 2,000 amazing animals living right there in natural habitats – giraffes, zebras, lions, tigers, elephants, gorillas, kangaroos, tortoises and even penguins.

Spread over 170 acres near where the Broad and Saluda rivers' confluence form the Congaree River, the Riverbanks Zoo & Garden has become the largest gated attraction in the state of South Carolina, drawing more than 1 million visitors annually in recent years. For more than 40 years, families have flocked to Riverbanks to enjoy a place that's widely regarded as one of America's best zoos.

Riverbanks Zoo
& Garden
500 Wildlife Pkwy.,
Columbia
803-779-8717
www.riverbanks.org

The zoo, however, isn't resting on its many laurels. A $36 million expansion project called "Destination Riverbanks" is underway, with the recently-completed Grizzly Ridge, featuring bears named Butch and Sundance, and Otter Run which serves as the home to frolicking sisters Divya, Savannah and Sophia, opening during the first phase of the transformation.

The entrance has received a significant makeover as well with an expanded plaza that includes a 4,500 square-foot gift shop, guest relations center, enhanced dining locations and more ticket booths to go with the additional parking.

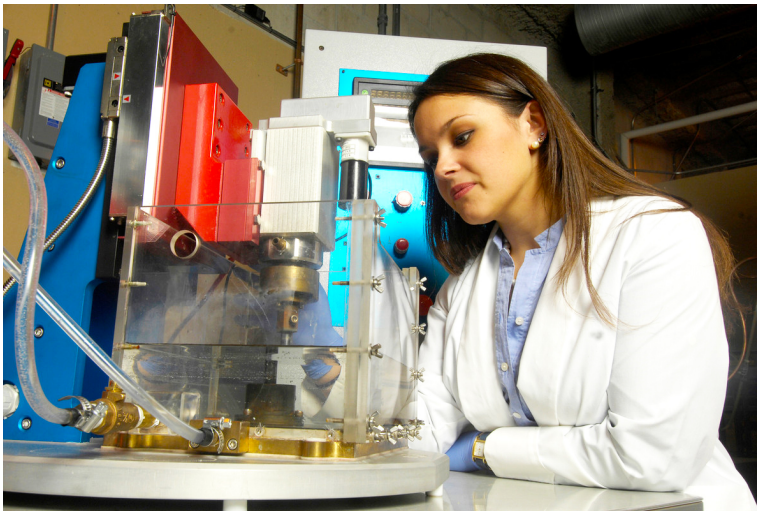
Coming in the second phase of the development project are a children's garden in the Botanical Garden, which is situated across the Saluda River, and a new seal and sea lion exhibit in the heart of the zoo.

Over the years, successful attractions like Zip the Zoo were added, where visitors can take a thrilling zip line canopy tour through trees and across the lower Saluda River. Young kids can ride a carousel, a miniature train or even a real pony at the Riverbanks Farm. Other fun activities include feeding the giraffes, mingling with the kangaroos, scaling a rock wall or conquering a four-story ropes challenge.

Ultimately, it's about incredible animals like the Rockhopper penguins, who hop along the rocks with both feet in their glass-enclosed habitat and leap into the water where they display their expert swimming skills. Or it's seeing Western lowland gorillas going about their daily routines at the Ndoki Forest. Riverbanks prides itself on developing an appreciation for all its living creatures and giving them the best possible home.

The Botanical Garden is unique as well, with 70 acres of themed gardens that display more than 4,200 species of plants that include native and exotic samples. There's also a quiet half-mile trail through the woods that takes visitors past historic ruins of an old textile mill.

Business and *economy*



Skilled Workforce, Interstates Help Fuel Local Economy

One word best describes Richland County's economy: Diverse.

The economic engine is powered by a variety of key parts. There's state government and its many agencies. There's the University of South Carolina, which has a $4.1 billion economic impact. There's Fort Jackson, the largest and most active basic training center in the U.S. Army. There's the insurance industry with major employers like BlueCross BlueShield of S.C. and Colonial Life. There's the strong manufacturing industry and a host of small, local businesses.

The Richland County Economic Development Office, which works to help new companies exploring a move here as well as assist existing companies interested in expanding, has a mission of creating a climate that's favorable to businesses finding success.

A number of factors make Richland County attractive to companies. Chief among them is the transportation system that connects the County to not only the Southeast but the rest of the world and allows products to move in and out.

Three interstate highways, I-20, I-26 and I-77, run through the County, while I-95 is 60 miles away and I-85 is 80 miles away. Two airports serve the area – Columbia Metropolitan and Jim

Hamilton-L.B. Owens – while Charlotte Douglas International Airport is just 90 miles away. The Port of Charleston, one of the nation's largest container ports, is just 90 minutes down I-26, and Richland County has a pair of Class I railroads in CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern Railway.

Another important factor is the skill level of the workforce, which includes the young and educated professionals being produced by USC and other colleges in the County. Fort Jackson trains many soldiers, and a fair share of personnel transitioning out of military life often find their way back to this area and settle here. They also bring their skills and disciplines to the local workforce.

The Economic Development Office, which maintains demographic and economic data on the County, also uses taxes and incentives to attract businesses, including a low corporate income tax. There also are a job tax credit, job developments credit, corporate headquarters credit and investment tax credit.

The County, which has an average household income of $66,617, has a population of about 400,000.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilwoman Julie-Ann Dixon, District 9

One of my favorite places in District 9 is Le Peep café in the Village at Sandhill. My favorite is the Triple Decker sandwich with fruit and a peach and mango lemonade. It hits the spot during my busy schedule!

There are probably 701 reasons to visit us, but we will give you just 7 !

701 Center for Contemporary Art

1. Contemporary art exhibitions of a regional, national and international scope that bring what is new and exciting to our city.
2. 701 CCA Prize and 701 CCA South Carolina Biennial exhibitions - exclusively for contemporary South Carolina artists.
3. 701 CCA Columbia Open Studios tour of artists in downtown Columbia and Richland and Lexington counties.
4. An artist in residence program that brings artists from across the region, country and world to Columbia.
5. 701 CCA Plus program featuring performances by professional dancers, musicians and multi-disciplinary artists.
6. Volunteer opportunities that provide a chance to contribute to the arts in a meaningful way.
7. Workshops and other educational programs for children and adults.

South Carolina · COLUMBIA SC · 701 Whaley · south carolina arts commission

Wed 11-8, Thu-Fri 11-5, Sat 9-5, Sun 1-5
Free and open to the public
Donations appreciated

701 Center for Contemporary Art
701 Whaley Street, 2nd Floor
Columbia, SC 29201
803.319.9949
www.701cca.org

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RICHLAND COUNTY Economic Development

Richland County Economic Development

richlandcountysc.com

A spotlight on: The Village at Sandhill

Shopping Center Fills Role of Town Square in The Northeast

Looking for a place to grab a meal? Or maybe see a movie? Or do some shopping?

Then now might be the time to check out The Village at Sandhill, the open-air shopping center and lifestyle venue that covers more than 300 acres in Northeast Richland County.

Sitting at the intersection of Clemson and Two Notch Road, the Village sprang to life in 2005. A reflection of the way that people's shopping habits are continually changing, the outdoor complex offers major retailers, smaller specialty shops, restaurants, banks, movie theaters and residential living space with a walkable town-center feel in the heart of it.

On the end of the County where the neighborhoods continue to go up and the schools are booming, The Village at Sandhill serves a growing number of customers.

The Village at Sandhill also knows how to embrace the holidays. Children can visit Santa Claus in the Town Center over the Christmas season and ride the miniature train. The Fourth of July has featured a large fireworks show many years with many cars filling up the vast parking lots to get a good look.

The Town Center features a concert series at various times of the year. People coming out of the shops and dining spots can bring their lawn chairs and set up for a relaxing evening of listening to local musical acts.

One unique feature is Plex Indoor Sports, which draws nearby residents for the activity-based programs in soccer, roller skating, trampoline park and inflatable park. The recreational facility also hosts sports camps and birthday parties.

Designed as a place to live, work and play, The Village at Sandhill has grown into that role over the last 10 years.

The Village at Sandhill
481 Town Center Place, Columbia
www.villageatsandhill.com

Other Shopping Centers
Columbia Place, 7201 Two Notch Road
Columbiana Centre, 100 Columbiana Circle
Cross Hill Market, 710 Cross Hill Road
Dutch Square Center, 421 Bush River Road
Richland Mall, 3400 Forest Drive
Shoppes at Woodhill, 6000 Garners Ferry Road
Trenholm Plaza, 4840 Forest Drive

Arts and *entertainment*

Plenty of Options to Spend a Night – or Day – on the Town

EDDIE and lions and sales ... Oh my, there's a lot to do in Richland County.

Options to view art, experience great entertainment and take in various attractions abound, to include those designed for family enjoyment, such as EdVenture featuring EDDIE, the "world's largest child," and Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, with its menagerie of wild animals.

The marquees and signs in front of The Township, Koger Center and Colonial Life Arena or the myriad restaurants and night spots in Five Points and The Vista point to well-known acts and those waiting to be discovered, ready to entertain enthusiastic crowds.

If it's food you crave, locally owned restaurants and national chains offering

everything from fast food to fine dining cover the County. Or, travel to one street – Decker Boulevard's International Corridor – and sample cuisines from around the world.

Throughout the year and around the County, there are opportunities to take in cultural events, festivals, theatrical productions, ballet, art galleries, museums, symphonies and more. Maybe you'd prefer to spend a day grabbing great deals at one or more of the County's shopping destinations, such as The Village at Sandill, the Devine Street Shopping Corridor or Columbiana Centre.

With so much to do, Richland County is your ticket to great entertainment and attractions. Just be sure to take in some natural entertainment and attractions, too. Our waterways, parks and greenways offer plenty of options to get out and explore what Mother Nature has to offer here. Fireflies at Congaree National Park, anyone?

Looking for a hotel or a great place to eat? The Columbia Regional Visitors Center can point you in the right direction. Visit the center online at www.columbiacvb.com, call 803-545-0000 or stop by at 1010 Lincoln St., Columbia.

Richland County COOL FACT

TREES ALL AROUND US: Despite our status as the state's most urban county, 64 percent of Richland County's land is forest.

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilman Kelvin Washington, District 10

A tour of the only national park in South Carolina, Congaree National Park, and the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor are a treat for history buffs. And depending on the time of year, the SwampFest and Kingsville Reunion are the places to be to truly celebrate the heritage of the area.

Engage your mind and enrich your spirit at the Columbia Museum of Art.

Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, the CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country. Find ancient to contemporary masterpieces, plus intriguing exhibitions and creative educational programs.

The CMA has fun for the whole family with Art Explorer Backpacks, Gallery Hunts, and an Interactive Education Gallery.

Columbia Museum of Art

1515 Main Street, Columbia, SC
803.799.2810 | columbiamuseum.org

<< TUNE IN TO RICHLAND COUNTY >>
Watch RCTV on Digital Time Warner Cable Ch. 1302, Time Warner Ch. 2 or AT&T U-verse Ch. 99.

A spotlight on: The Township

Tu-tus and Down Home Blues – Varied Acts Grace Local Stage

Duke Ellington and his orchestra played here July 24, 1934.

Ella Fitzgerald sang here with the Chick Webb Orchestra June 12, 1939.

Elvis Presley shook his hips here to "Heartbreak Hotel" March 19, 1956.

James Brown proved to be the hardest-working man in show business here – all for the ticket price of $3 – Feb. 5, 1965.

Bruce Springsteen began his "Chicken Scratch Tour" here in support of his "Born to Run" album March 25, 1976.

Bob Dylan made the first of three appearances on the stage here May 1, 1991.

The iconic auditorium – known to locals as "The Township" – earned a spot in 2005 on the National Register of Historic Places, which described it as "the three-story brick building (that) features a Doric columned portico and rusticated arches and quoins."

Since its opening in 1930 on Taylor Street, where it stands between the heart of Columbia's downtown and the city's two historically black college campuses, it has offered residents a wide variety of entertainment options, from the graceful beauty of ballet with its double pirouettes to the brawn of professional wrestling with its flying spinning heel kicks from the top turnbuckle. There are few buildings that can transform from the Nutcracker to head-crackers like Ric Flair battling Ricky Steamboat quite as easily as this place.

Township Auditorium
1703 Taylor St.,
Columbia
803-576-2350
www.thetownship.org

In recent years, it has served as the home to the Miss South Carolina Pageant. This fixture also has played host to graduations, reunions, comedy shows, political rallies and conventions through its long history, which includes a period of strict segregation over its first 40 years.

But its calling card remains the incredible music shows that it has attracted to Richland County over the years, from Johnny Cash to the Allman Brothers to Pink Floyd to The Clash to REM to Tony Bennett to B.B. King.

A $12-million renovation completed in 2010 breathed new life into the venue, as it gained an expanded lobby with three-story atrium space, updated dressing rooms, more rest rooms, an elevator, modern A/V technology and loading dock and back-of-arena areas. With a seating capacity of 3,099, which includes an orchestra level, two balconies and a gallery, looking onto a stage that's 77 feet wide by 35 feet deep, watching an event here is an intimate experience with good sight lines.

Those renovations have helped boost the number of performance dates each year, with high-profile artists like Steely Dan, Jack White, Crosby, Stills & Nash and the Avett Brothers making recent stops.

Annual *events*

January
World Beer Festival
Chili Challenge Tennis Tournament
Restaurant Week Columbia

February
Soda City Farmers Market (year-round)
First Thursdays on Main (year-round)
Benedict College Harambee Festival
Palladium Society's Annual Chili Cook-Off

March
St. Pat's in Five Points
Columbia Marathon
Richland 101
S.C. Cornbread Festival
Soda City Suds Week
Columbia Museum of Art Gala

April
Sweet Potato Festival
Bark to the Park
Artista Vista
Indie Grits Film Festival
Sparkleberry County Fair
Columbia International Festival

Wine Tasting at Riverbanks Zoo
Midlands Spring Plant and Flower Festival
River Rocks Festival

May
Columbia Black Expo
Governor's Cup Road Race
Rosewood Crawfish Festival
Richland Recycles Day
Blythewood Farmers Market
Forest Acres Music Festival
Rhythms and Blooms
Eastover Barbecue Festival

June
Southeastern Piano Festival
The Village at Sandhill Concert Series
Movies at Sesquicentennial State Park
Southern Guitar Festival
StoryFest SC

July
Fort Jackson Fourth of July
Lake Murray Boat Parade
Freedom Festival
Palmetto Tasty Tomato Festival

August

Blythewood Doko Rodeo
Brew at the Zoo
Main Street Latin Festival
Miss South Carolina Pageant
Southeastern Toy Soldier Show
Summer Celebration of Water

September

Jubilee: Festival of Heritage
Palmetto Capital City Classic
Midlands Fall Plant and Flower Festival
Columbia Greek Festival
Irmo Okra Strut
Jazz Under the Stars

October

Oktoberfest
BOO at the Zoo
Columbia Blues Festival
Congaree SwampFest
Balloons, Blues and Barbecue
South Carolina State Fair
Dracula: Ballet with a Bite
Columbia Italian Festival
Beethoven & Blue Jeans
South Carolina Pride Festival and Parade
Columbia Museum of Art Black & White Ball

November

Lights Before Christmas at the Zoo
Craftsmen's Christmas Classic Arts & Crafts Festival
Main Street Ice
Vista Lights
Veterans Day Parade
Festival of Trees
S.C. Oyster Festival

December

Crafty Feast
The Nutcracker
Christmas Parade
State Museum's Winterfest
Forest Acres Farmers Market
Holiday Market at the State Fairgrounds
Lower Richland Annual Holiday Taste & Tour
Columbia's Famously Hot New Year

To learn about these great events and more, visit the Columbia Visitors Bureau website at ***www.columbiacvb.com, call 803-545-0000 or stop by at 1010 Lincoln St., Columbia.***

A *favorite* in my district!

Richland County Councilman Norman Jackson, District 11

Pinewood Lake Park is a great place to visit. It has fishing, walking trails, an interesting history – a lot to do and see. It's truly a gem for everyone to enjoy. Please come by to learn more about our daily and community activities.

Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival

April 30, 2016

Family fun • Live performances • Parades • Food
Arts and crafts • Games ...and all things sweet potato!

WWW.LOWERRICHLANDSWEETPOTATOFEST.COM

A spotlight on: Richland ESD

From Motorcycle Medics to Weather Stations – Public Safety is No. 1

If a collision a few miles up the road has you sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic and you wonder how in the world an ambulance is going to get through to help, Richland County has a solution.

Enter the "motorcycle medics." The Richland County Emergency Services Department (ESD) prides itself on its ability to respond to an emergency, whether it's a medical situation or a natural disaster. ESD's team of paramedics on gleaming white motorcycles contribute to its overall mission.

ESD's emergency medical technicians and paramedics work to provide immediate care to patients. These first responders do everything from treating simple injuries to offering cardiac care. Their main goal is keeping patients stabilized and alive on the way to the hospital.

All the vehicles in Richland County's fleet of about 50 ambulances – including three motorcycle emergency vehicles – are capable of providing advanced life support. Dedicated and professional personnel respond to more than 5,000 calls a month.

ESD's mission goes beyond emergency medical services, however. For example, its weather network is helping the department better respond to all types of emergencies.

The Richland County Weather Information Network Data System – known as RC WINDS – is the first of its kind in the nation. ESD developed the system of automated weather stations to help ensure public safety. RC WINDS – available at www.rcwinds.com and through a mobile app – tracks storms, wind speed, temperatures and more.

RC WINDS and all of ESD's administrative and education programs, especially those related to public-safety preparedness, are used to supplement the department's first goal of saving lives. As part of its community outreach efforts, ESD supplies medical standby units to local sporting events, presents show-and-tell programs at elementary schools and provides information for high school career days.

With the capability of responding to a variety of emergencies and community needs, Richland County is prepared to give assistance in every situation.

County Departments *A to Z*

Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center

201 John Mark Dial Drive, Columbia, SC 29209
www.jail.richlandonline.com • 803-576-3200

The Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center is an essential part of the Criminal Justice System in Richland County. It serves as the intake center for un-sentenced misdemeanor and felony detainees/inmates and as an incarceration facility for sentenced offenders. It provides equal-quality facilities for the detention of both un-sentenced detainees/inmates and sentenced inmates in a minimum, medium and maximum security environment. The Detention Center also:

- Provides security to prevent escape, which is maintained by assigning inmates to minimum, medium or maximum security based upon a thorough and rational classification system
- Protects the public, staff and inmates in their person and property
- At a minimum, provides a constitutional level of care to inmates

Animal Care

400 Powell Road, Columbia, SC 29203
AnimalCare@rcgov.us • 803-929-6000

The Department of Animal Care is responsible for the enforcement of laws that protect people, animals and property. The Department attempts to reduce the number of strays, control the outbreak of rabies and educate the public on the importance of licensing their pets and the responsibilities of pet ownership. Additional services include:

- Transporting sick, injured and stray animals to designated facilities that can provide proper care
- Responding to residents' requests for service
- Patrolling the County for stray and unwanted animals at large
- Investigating reports of animal bites and abandoned, abused or dangerous animals
- Licensing pets and keep up-to-date rabies vaccination records
- Issuing citations and testifying in court
- Reuniting lost pets with their owners
- Providing shelter for stray, lost or abandoned animals

Assessor's Office

2020 Hampton St., Suite 3063 B, Columbia, SC 29204
AssessorOffice@rcgov.us • 803-576-2640

The County Assessor appraises all property at fair market value and places them on the tax rolls to generate the revenue for Richland County. Additionally, the Assessor's Office:

- Appraises and assesses all real properties in Richland County
- Values all real property for taxation purposes in Richland County
- Maintains complete lists of property owners
- Adds new construction and building projects to tax rolls
- Conducts countywide reassessment every five years
- Accepts appeals on property values and assessments heard by the Board of Assessment Appeals

Auditor's Office

2020 Hampton St., Suite 2067, Columbia, SC 29204
rcauditor@rcgov.us • 803-576-2600

The Auditor's Office prepares and issues all tax bills in the County, including real-estate tax bills and motor vehicle tax bills. It also issues manufacturing tax notices, county and state business personal property tax notices, utility tax notices, railroad tax notices and watercraft and aircraft tax notices. Other responsibilities of the Auditor's Office include:

- Reviewing applications to qualify taxpayers for Homestead Exemption
- Calculating the millage rate for the operations and debt service of various taxpayer-supported agencies, such as Richland County School Districts 1 and 2,

Richland County Recreation Commission, Riverbanks Zoo, Richland Library, Midlands Technical College, Neighborhood Redevelopment and others

Building Codes and Inspections Department

2020 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29204
803-576-2143

The Building Codes and Inspections Department issues building permits for new construction and also processes applications for building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical renovations for new and existing structures. The Department continuously aims to reduce substandard building of structures in the County. Additionally, the Department:

•Reviews construction plans for commercial and residential projects
•Issues permits
•Inspects structures for compliance with all residential and commercial building codes
•Enforces Property Maintenance Code for vacant residential and commercial buildings/structures

Business Service Center

2020 Hampton St., Suite 1050, Columbia, SC 29202
bsc@rcgov.us www.rcgov.us/bsc • 803-576-2287

The Richland County Business Service Center is the source of business tax and licensing information and resources for the County's diverse business communities. Some of the department's responsibilities include business licenses, peddler's licenses, local accommodations taxes (hotel taxes) and hospitality taxes (food taxes). The Business Service Center's mission is to serve Richland County's diverse business community with outstanding customer service by:

•Collecting business-related taxes and fees fairly, equitably and conveniently
•Issuing business-related licenses and permits accurately and promptly
•Enforcing the County's business requirements effectively and efficiently
•Educating the business community regarding those requirements proactively and collaboratively

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Judicial Center, 1701 Main St., Room 407, Columbia, SC 29201 • casa@richlandonline.com • 803-576-1735

Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) provides victims of child abuse and neglect with volunteers and legal representation to ensure every child has a safe, permanent and nurturing home. A CASA volunteer is appointed for 100 percent of the children whose interests are before the Richland County Family Court for allegations of child maltreatment. Some of CASA's other responsibilities include:

•Recruiting, training and supporting community volunteers to serve in the role as Guardian ad Litem for abused and neglected children
•Informing the community about prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect
•Providing quality legal and volunteer support services to the volunteer Guardians ad Litem
•Providing ongoing training for volunteers

Clerk of Council

2020 Hampton St., Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29202
rcc@rcgov.us • 803-576-2060

The Richland County Clerk of Council provides direct support and research services to members of County Council and disseminates information to the public and County Departments concerning county policies, directives and actions. Additionally, the Clerk of Council:

•Records and prepares the minutes of Richland County Council meetings
•Keeps records of County Council proceedings and

other permanent records
•Maintains the County Council calendar and schedules appointments
•Responds in a timely manner to County residents who require assistance or services

Clerk of Court

Judicial Center, 1701 Main St., Room 205, Columbia, SC 29201 • 803-576-1950

The Clerk of Court is responsible for overseeing the operations of the Richland County Judicial Center and serves as the official record keeper of all Circuit Court and Family Court records. The Circuit Court is divided into two areas, Civil and General Sessions (Criminal). Family Court proceedings include divorces, child support, juvenile and domestic abuse cases. The Court schedule is set by South Carolina Court Administration and is generally 46 sessions each year. In addition to maintaining court records, the Clerk of Court's office:

•Stores physical evidence introduced during a trial
•Summons jurors for potential jury pools each week that court is in session
•Summons jurors twice a year for potential Grand Jury pools
•Assists the Judges by maintaining Court Rosters
•Maintains a database of active Bail Bondsmen
•Screens applicants for representation by the Public Defender
•Collects criminal, civil and Family Court fees and fines
•Assists the Judges in the courtroom by administering oaths and collecting evidence
•Acts as the official recorder and custodian of all court documents filed in any division of the Richland County Clerk of Court

The Clerk of Court cannot provide legal advice of any kind, including telling a pro se party what documents to file; remove and/or change a court document; schedule hearings (except for Family Court) or other legal proceedings.

Community Development

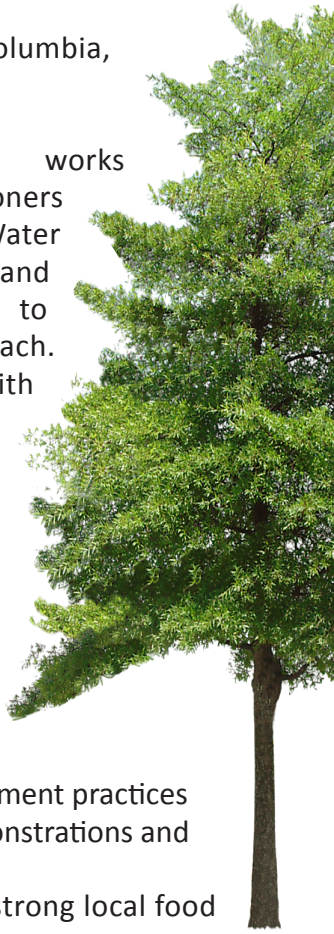
2020 Hampton St., Suite 3063 B, Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2230

The Community Development office uses federal funds from US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit and impact the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents. Its programs include:

•First Time Homebuyers Assistance for applicants who qualify
•Owner-Occupied Assistance for those who qualify
•Assistance to nonprofits that develop affordable, low-income housing for rental units
•Various projects including public service, public facilities, public infrastructure and more

Conservation

2020 Hampton St., Room 3063 A, Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2080



The Conservation Department works directly with the Commissioners of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and Richland County Conservation Commission to implement the responsibilities of each. The Department also consults with and advises County Council and the County Administrator regarding the conservation and protection of Richland's natural, cultural and historical resources.

The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District's responsibilities include:

•Promoting agricultural best management practices through conservation planning, demonstrations and educational programs
•Supporting the development of a strong local food

Elected by Voters **Appointed by County Council** **Appointed by the County Administrator**
Appointed by the State **Local Office of a State Agency**

system in the Midlands region
•Providing student and teacher education on a variety of conservation and natural resource-related topics

Some of the Richland County Conservation Commission's responsibilities include:

•Providing grants for historical preservation, community conservation and environmental education projects
•Protecting land through conservation easements
•Administering the Bailey Bill, funding historic markers and promoting nature-based and heritage tourism

County Administrator's Office

2020 Hampton St., Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29202
803-576-2050

The County Administrator serves as the chief administrative officer of Richland County, directing and coordinating the operation of agencies and administrative activities established by County Council. The Administrator's Office supports all of the County's departments as they endeavor to fulfill their own individual missions. Additionally, the County Administrator's Office:

•Provides County Council with relevant information to assist Council in making informed policy decisions
•Executes the day-to-day operations of Richland County government
•Prepares and administers the County's annual operating budget
•Oversees grants and capital improvements

Coroner's Office

1931 Pineview Drive, Columbia, SC 29209
www.rccosc.com • 803-576-1799

The Coroner's Office is responsible for investigating all suspicious, violent, sudden and unexpected deaths that occur in Richland County. The Coroner also investigates all deaths that occur in a hospital within the first 24 hours of admission. After the investigation is concluded, the Coroner determines whether the manner of death is due to natural causes, an accident, a suicide or a homicide. Additionally, the Coroner's Office:

•Assists and counsels families, helping them to cope with their loss by using victim advocates
•Collects, stores and preserves evidence that is vital to the outcome of criminal cases
•Prepares death certificates and maintains files on all reported deaths
•Works with government agencies, residents and community groups to raise awareness about preventable deaths

Development Services Center

2020 Hampton St., First Floor, Columbia, SC 29204
devservices@rcgov.us • 803-576-2043
www.rcdevelopmentservices.com

The Development Services Center is responsible for all planning, development and permitting activities in Richland County. The Development Services Center brings together building services, engineering, planning, zoning and permit applications. It provides a one-stop shop that allows customers to access information, start new projects and get approval for projects. Please see individual listings for development-related departments.

Economic Development

1201 Main St., Suite 1400, Columbia, SC 29202
www.richlandcountysc.com • 803-576-2043

The Richland County Economic Development Office works to expand, diversify and sustain the local economy by assisting companies that provide meaningful job opportunities and generate new wealth

Elected by Voters **Appointed by County Council** **Appointed by the County Administrator**
Appointed by the State **Local Office of a State Agency**

for our residents. It seeks to attract new industry, assist existing companies with potential expansions and ensure buildings and industrial sites are available for prospects to consider. Other responsibilities of the Economic Development Office include:

•Providing updated demographic and workforce data on Richland County and the Columbia Metropolitan Statistical Area
•Arranging site tours to include available sites and buildings, interviews with existing companies and meetings with key community leaders
•Negotiating incentive proposals
•Being a clearinghouse for all community data necessary for companies to make their site selection decision

Elections and Voter Registration Office

2020 Hampton St., Columbia, 29202 • 803-576-2240

The Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Office conducts elections according to Federal and State laws, provides every eligible resident with the opportunity to register to vote and participates in fair and impartial elections. Additional responsibilities of the Elections and Voter Registration Office include:

•Ensuring the integrity of the election process
•Simplifying the election process and eliminating problems by training and certifying election workers
•Involving youth in the election process through educational projects

Emergency Services

1410 Laurens St., Columbia, SC 29204 • esd@rcgov.us
803-576-3400

The Richland County Emergency Services Department (ESD) provides professional and cost-effective emergency and public safety planning, preparedness programs, prevention, response and recovery to Richland County residents and visitors in order to save lives and property. ESD works jointly with the City of Columbia to provide fire suppression and to operate the 911 Communications Center. Some of the services provided by ESD include:

•Emergency Management
•Emergency Telephone System (911)
•Emergency Medical Service
•Fire Marshal Code Enforcement, Prevention and Fire Cause & Origin Investigations
•Hazardous Materials Site Permitting and Inspections
•Richland County Weather Information Network Data System (RC WINDS), which provides weather information for emergency response incidents and is available to the public at www.rcwinds.com

Engineering

Please see listing for Public Works.

Finance Department

2020 Hampton St., Room 4036, Columbia, SC 29201
803-576-2100

The Richland County Finance Department is responsible for maintaining the fiscal integrity of the County's financial records. It provides accounting, financial operations and reporting services to County departments, residents and other users of the County's financial information. Some of the Finance Department's responsibilities include:

•Maintaining the County's annual budget
•Providing payment for invoices to county vendors
•Preparing annual financial statements and reports
•Processing and maintaining employee time records and issuing payroll checks
•Collecting and processing payments for water, sewer, landfill, retiree insurance and employee parking

Grants

2020 Hampton St., Room 4069, Columbia, SC 29201
803-576-2069

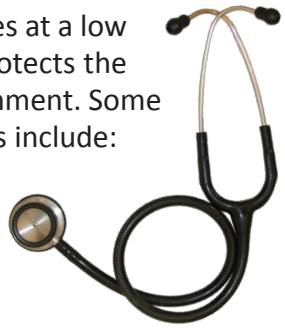
Richland County has a variety of grant opportunities available to residents, communities and organizations. For more information, visit www.rcgov.us and navigate to the Grants page. Programs offered include:

•Tourism: Accommodations Tax Grants and Hospitality Tax Grants
•Neighborhood: Discretionary Grants and Neighborhood Matching Grants
•Housing: Home Ownership Assistance Program and Emergency Home Repair Program
•Conservation and Historic: Conservation Grant Program and Historic Preservation Grant Program

Health Department

2000 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29204 • 803-576-2980

The Richland County Health Department offers a wide variety of health care services at a low cost or for free. It promotes and protects the health of the public and the environment. Some of the Health Department's services include:



•Immunizations (adult/pediatric)
•Dental and health education
•Environmental and home health resources
•Family planning
•STD and HIV education
•WIC Services
•Children with special health care needs

Human Resources

2020 Hampton St., Suite 3058, Columbia, SC 29204
803-576-2110

The Human Resources Department develops, implements and provides services through policies, guidelines, procedures and programs focused on past, present and future employees of the County. It supports the development of Richland County's work culture. Some of the responsibilities of Human Resources include:

•Overseeing classification, compensation, employee relations and benefits programs for County employees
•Offering training and career development opportunities for employees through Richland County University
•Offering and enhancing the County's wellness program
•Offering employment services to employees

Information Technology (IT)

2020 Hampton St., Suite 3030, Columbia, SC 29204

The Richland County Information Technology Department provides technological vision and leadership to reinvent, reengineer and streamline government processes wherever technology can align with the county's strategic goals and contribute towards increased efficiencies, increased effectiveness, increased revenues and reduced costs. Additionally, the IT Department:

•Provides effective and proactive technology support to Richland County's departments and strategic partners
•Maintains the County's day-to-day computer operations
•Offers custom application software development and vendor application software support
•Provides information about computer tips, computer safety and identity theft
•Maintains a secure and reliable network architecture that supports all of the mission critical county IT systems
•Oversees the County's Geographic Information System (GIS)

Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport (CUB)

1400 Jim Hamilton Blvd., Columbia, SC 29205
www.FlyKCUB.com • 803-767-1789

The Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport provides facilities for general aviation aircraft in support of the transportation needs and economic development of the County. A nine-member Richland County Airport Commission oversees the airport – known to pilots by its three-letter airport code,

CUB – and a director handles the day-to-day operations. The airport is the site of the historic Curtiss-Wright Hangar, one of only a few still remaining nationwide. Some of the services offered at the airport include:

•Leasing hangars for the storage of private aircraft
•Serving as a base of operation for the Sheriff Department's Aviation Unit
•Aircraft refueling and maintenance
•Providing office space, flight planning facilities and lounge area for pilots
•Offering public meeting space for airport patrons and civic and neighborhood organizations
•Providing the host location for the South Carolina Aviation Association's Aviation Hall of Fame
•Providing aviation education opportunities

Legal Department

2020 Hampton St., Suite 4018, Columbia, SC 29204
803-576-2070

The Legal Department reviews and approves all contracts approved and entered into by Richland County Council for Richland County Government operations. Led by the County Attorney, the Department represents and defends County Council and its members, the County and its employees and elected officials. Additionally, the Legal Department:

•Advises all client-attorney matters for Richland County
•Assists the County in compliance with new regulations and laws on local, state and federal levels
•Provides legal services relating to labor law, municipal finance, home rule, land use and planning, procurement, law enforcement and general municipal government issues

Legislative Delegation

Judicial Center, 1701 Main St., Suite 409, Columbia, SC 29202 • 803-576-1908

The Legislative Delegation serves as a liaison between the various levels of government and individual residents and those residents and their elected legislators. The Legislative Delegation staff handles the administration of Richland County's Transportation Funds, Water Recreational Resource Funds and Richland County's Game and Fish Funds. Its other responsibilities include:

•Coordinating appointments to boards and commissions
•Processing and coordinating certifications of notary applications for Richland County
•Managing Veterans' Affairs

Magistrate Court System

Visit www.rcgov.us/Government/Courts/Magistrates for Central Court, Bond Court and Magistrate District office telephone numbers, hours of operation and location maps.

The Magistrate Court provides the residents of Richland County with a fair and impartial Summary Court. The Magistrate Court System has 11 district offices, one Central Court and one Bond Court. The 14 full-time and three part-time magistrates issue criminal arrest and search warrants and conduct bail bond hearings, preliminary hearings, jury trials and more. Additional responsibilities of Richland County's Magistrate Court System include:

•Conducting criminal hearings to include offenses such as criminal domestic violence, malicious injury to personal property, trespassing, County Ordinance violations, etc.
•Conducting traffic hearings to include driving under the influence, driving under suspension, failure to pay property tax, etc.
•Conducting civil hearings including landlord/tenant hearings, summons and complaint cases (to claim disputed funds), claim and delivery cases (to reclaim property) and public sales of abandoned vehicles

Master-in-Equity Court

1701 Main St., Room 212, Columbia, SC 29201
803-576-1900

The Master-in-Equity Court is a division of Circuit Court. It may handle any civil case. Parties may not initiate action in the Master-in-Equity Court; instead, only cases assigned by a Circuit Judge may be heard. The Master-In-Equity Court also collects fees in actions for partitions, foreclosures of liens upon property, supplemental proceedings by judgment creditors and deed preparations and it receives a commission on sales of land. All funds collected by this office are paid to the County General Fund. Other responsibilities of the Master-in-Equity Court are:

•To render impartial, thoroughly researched, legal decisions on complex matters submitted for decision as well as prompt resolution of routine matters
•To provide assistance to the Richland County and South Carolina Bar Association
•To serve as a liaison with other County departments and branches of the judicial systems to ensure all county residents are effectively served

Office of Small Business Opportunity

2000 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29204
SLBE@rcgov.us • 803-576-2130

The Office of Small Business Opportunity (OSBO), a division of the Procurement Department, is an inclusive, race- and gender-neutral program for contractors and vendors that specialize in construction, architectural and engineering services projects, professional services, non-professional services and commodities. The OSBO has two divisions:

Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) Division:

•Aims to ensure local businesses have a reasonable and significant opportunity to participate in countywide projects and contracts that do not receive federal funding

•Provides opportunities to develop and build capacity through new sources of competition from the growing pool of small and locally based businesses
•Requires its participants to be certified through Richland County in order to receive the benefits of the SLBE program (Richland County does not honor certifications from other entities).

Business Development Division:

•Supports the successful development and growth of for-profit small businesses using a combination of development programs, training and strategies for the advancement of Richland County's small businesses
•Offers educational training, technical assistance, referrals to access to financial resources and capacity building opportunities

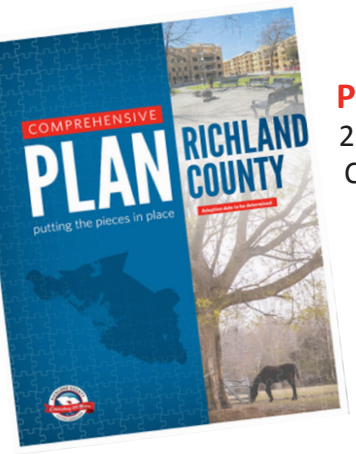
Ombudsman's Office

2020 Hampton St., Suite 3061, Columbia, SC 29202
ombudsman@rcgov.us • 803-929-6000

The Richland County Ombudsman's Office is the County's centralized contact center for residents. Responsibilities of the Ombudsman's Office include:

•Serve as a liaison between residents and Richland County Government
•Receive/field concerns and requests for service and forward them to the appropriate department(s) for investigation and response
•Provide general information as well as respond to inquiries/questions from the public regarding Richland County Government
•Receive and process County employee commendations and concerns
•Monitor and facilitate employee training for the countywide software
•Receive and process Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA) on behalf of the County

Elected by Voters **Appointed by County Council** **Appointed by the County Administrator**
Appointed by the State **Local Office of a State Agency**



Planning and Development

2020 Hampton St., First Floor,
Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2190

Richland County Planning and Development seeks to create better communities in the County by balancing environmental and economic concerns in County land use regulations, creating incentives for redeveloping sites and revitalizing communities. The Department also:

- Implements the County's Comprehensive Plan
- Enforces the County's Land Development Code
- Staffs meetings of the Planning Commission, Zoning Public Hearings and Board of Zoning Appeals
- Manages the Neighborhood Improvement Program
- Oversees E-911 addressing, road naming and land development plans

Probate Court

1701 Main St., Suite 207, Columbia, SC 29201
803-576-1975

The Probate Court is composed of an estate division, guardian and conservatorship division, records division, marriage license division, commitment division and mental health court. Through those various divisions, Probate Court provides the following services:

- Issuing marriage licenses to qualified applicants
- Ordering Emergency and Judicial Commitments for those suffering from a mental illness or chemical dependency, to include the continued monitoring of cases to ensure that treatment orders meet compliance
- Probating and administering decedents' estates
- Digitally storing current probate records and managing older Probate records for property transfer purposes and family history purposes
- Appointing Guardians for incapacitated adults and Conservators for minors or incapacitated adults and overseeing the management of their cases

Procurement and Contracting

2020 Hampton St., Suite 3064, Columbia, SC 29204
procurement@rcgov.us • 803-576-2130

The Department of Procurement and Contracting is responsible for soliciting and negotiating to obtain fair and reasonable prices on products and services used by Richland County, providing quality and effective support to customers (both internal and external), ensuring dependable sources of supply and maintaining an optimum balance of quality and cost. Other responsibilities of the Department include:

- Managing vendor qualification and registration
- Ensuring goods or services ordered comply with good business and competitive practices required by applicable laws and regulations
- Preparing and advertising solicitations and other methods of procurement that are applicable to the commodity or service requested
- Encouraging greater availability and participation by small local business enterprises (SLBEs), emerging SLBEs and joint ventures in countywide contracts and projects that do not receive federal funding, including Transportation Penny projects
- Maximizing the purchasing value of public funds in procurement and providing safeguards for maintaining a procurement system of quality and integrity

Public Defender's Office

1701 Main St., Suite 103, Columbia, SC 29202
803-765-2592

The Public Defender's Office represents individuals, both adults and minors, who cannot afford an attorney in criminal cases. In the case of minors, the Public Defender's Office works closely with social service agencies to ensure that children in Richland County receive the protection and care they need. Additional services of the Public Defender's Office include:

- Handling arraignment court and bond court
- Acting as negotiator between the defendant and the State Attorney's Office
- Researching case law and witness testimony and conducting investigations

Elected by Voters **Appointed by County Council** **Appointed by the County Administrator**
Appointed by the State **Local Office of a State Agency**

Public Information Office

2020 Hampton St., Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29204
803-576-2065

The Richland County Public Information Office assists media outlets and residents with information requests and oversees the County's media outlets, including Richland County's TV station, publications, social media outlets and news releases. Other responsibilities of the Public Information Office include:

- Managing special projects such as Richland 101, National County Government month and other public outreach efforts
- Providing daily media clippings to administrative and affected County departments
- Working with Richland County departments to promote new and recurring events and services of interest to the public

Public Works

400 Powell Road, Columbia, SC 29203 • 803-576-2400

The Public Works Department maintains the County's infrastructure, manages County assets and provides technical services throughout the County. It also oversees the Engineering, Roads and Drainage and Stormwater divisions. Some of the services provided by Public Works include:

- Improving transportation through paving programs
- Planning, developing and maintaining County roadways and drainage systems
- Ensuring stormwater is responsibly and environmentally managed

Register of Deeds

1701 Main St., First Floor, Columbia, SC 29201
rodcustomerservice@rcgov.us • 803-576-1910

The Register of Deeds records, organizes and maintains all of the real estate transactions and other pertinent documents. These documents are public information. In addition, the Register of Deeds:

- Collects all documentary taxes and recording fees
- Assists with limited public records searches
- Safeguards the public record on security microfilm
- Records deeds, mortgages, liens and power of attorneys
- Does not perform title searches
- Does not supply forms

Roads and Drainage

Please see listing for Public Works.

Sheriff's Department

5623 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223
sheriff@rcsd.net • www.rcsd.net • 803-576-3000

The mission of the Richland County Sheriff's Department is to improve the quality of life for all residents. It maintains a high standard of professional accountability and reduces the fear of crime. By building unity between the Sheriff's Department and the community, and by joining high standards of excellence with a vision for safer communities, the Sheriff's Department continues to make Richland County a safe place to live, work and play. The Sheriff's Department employs effective Community Policing strategies and problem-solving techniques. Some of the services provided by the Sheriff's Department include:

- Free crime-prevention education and programs to schools, civic groups and other organizations
- Working closely with state, federal and other local agencies to conduct investigations
- Maintaining and enhancing a forensics lab to bring closure to victims, aid in investigations and solve crimes
- Conducting a "Citizens Academy" to give residents a better understanding of department practices
- Employing School Resource Officers at every school in Richland County as well as crossing guards at schools
- Providing victim assistance services
- Holding self-defense courses and programs for women

Solicitor's Office

1701 Main St., Columbia, SC 29201 • 803-748-4790
www.scsolicitor5.org

The Richland County Solicitor's Office is responsible for prosecuting criminal offenses in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. In addition to ensuring that criminals are punished for their crimes and protecting the rights of all victims, the Solicitor's Office administers diversion programs that serve as alternatives to conviction and sentencing and attempt to serve the same underlying policies of traditional criminal justice methods. Some of those programs include:

- Pre-Trial Intervention
- Juvenile Arbitration
- Expungement
- Alcohol Education
- Traffic Education
- Worthless Check
- Drug Court and Veterans Court

Solid Waste & Recycling

1070 Caughman Road North,
Columbia, SC 29203
803-929-6000

Richland County Solid Waste and Recycling provides high-quality residential solid waste management services for the residents of Richland County. It is comprised of four divisions: Collections, C&D Landfill Operations, Recycling and Refuse Control. Some responsibilities of Solid Waste and Recycling include:

- Managing curbside garbage and recycling collections in the County, as well as managing drop-off sites
- Overseeing the pick-up of yard waste and large or bulky items
- Working to reduce illegal dumping by investigating illegal dump sites and prosecuting those who engage in illegal dumping
- Providing information about the proper disposal of hazardous waste, electronics and other materials

Stormwater

Please see listing for Public Works.

Support Services

400 Powell Road, Columbia, SC 29203 • 803-576-2419

The Richland County Support Services department is composed of four divisions: Administration, Central Services, Facilities and Grounds and Fleet Management. Support Services provides efficient, high-quality service in many facets to all County departments. Some of the responsibilities of Support Services include:

- Professionally maintaining and improving all County assets including facilities, grounds, fleet vehicles, heavy equipment and fuel system
- Processing all incoming and outgoing mail, including department delivery and pick up, at various County Government locations
- Printing documents and forms that are used by various County departments

Sustainability

2020 Hampton St., Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29204
803-576-2065

The Sustainability Office works to ensure operations and decision-making reflect the County's commitment to environmental, social and economic sustainability. Staff provide innovative solutions to decrease energy demand through energy efficiency and conservation, create livable sustainable communities and promote the green economy through its ENRICH efforts:

- Emphasizing sustainability in master planning
- Noticing the environment when purchasing
- Reducing energy in County buildings
- Increasing fuel efficiency
- Constructing energy efficient buildings
- Heading toward zero waste

Transportation

2020 Hampton St., Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29204
803-576-2050

The Richland County Transportation Department manages all items of the Transportation Penny Program approved

by voters in November 2012. This program is broken up into three major categories and is funded by a special sales and use tax for not more than 22 years or until a total of $1.07 billion in sales tax revenue is collected, whichever occurs first. The three categories are:

•Improvements to highways, roads (paved and unpaved), streets, intersections and bridges including related drainage system improvements ($656,020,644)
•Continued operation of mass transit services provided by Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority including implementation of near, mid and long-term service improvements ($300,991,000)
•Improvements to pedestrian sidewalks, bike paths, intersections and greenways ($80,888,356)

Treasurer's Office

2020 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29204 • 803-576-2250
treasurer@rcgov.us

The Treasurer's Office is responsible for collecting taxes and maintaining the County's bank accounts. It also oversees the investment of funds and certain disbursements. Other responsibilities of the Treasurer's Office include:

•Collecting real estate property taxes and business personal property taxes
•Collecting vehicle and hospitality taxes and other taxes
•Conducting annual delinquent real estate tax sales
•Creating new payment options for County taxpayers and streamlining tax payment processing

Utilities

7525 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063
803-401-0050

The Richland County Utilities Department efficiently and effectively provides water and sanitary sewer to the residents of Richland County. It operates and maintains three wastewater treatment facilities and five community water systems. Additionally, the Utilities Department:

•Works with developers to expand service areas
•Reduces environmental pollution through properly operated treatment facilities
•Develops innovative methods of transporting solid waste and wastewater
•Provides educational outreach programs for students and adults
•Responds to work orders and customer requests

Vector Control

400 Powell Road, Columbia, SC 29203 • 803-576-2459

The Vector Control Department provides the residents of Richland County with efficient and effective control of organisms that transmit disease to humans, like mosquitoes, rats, fleas, ticks and flies. Some of Vector Control's services include:

•Providing technical assistance to residents about control measures for ticks, fleas, flies, roaches and other vectors, as well as helping residents identify the different types
•Conducting disease surveillance and providing the lab samples for analysis
•Presenting vector educational material to homeowners and students

•Assisting and informing residents about rat control
•Submitting dead birds to the state lab as part of West Nile Virus investigations
•Responding to spray requests, trying to locate the source and treating known breeding grounds
•Performing surveillance activities to assess vector populations by collecting traps on a weekly schedule

Zoning

Please see listing for Planning and Development.

Richland County makes it easy for YOU to recycle.

TOO GOOD TO WASTE
recycle richland COUNTY

- 80,000 brand-new, 95-gallon recycle roll carts delivered to residents
- Annual Richland Recycles Day collects tens of thousands of pounds of household waste and materials for proper disposal
- Curbside recycling collection now includes plastics No. 1-7
- Multiple regional recycle events held throughout the County each year

A few curbside recycling dos:

Place recyclables loosely in your roll cart - please don't bag them

Flatten or cut cardboard boxes to fit inside your cart

Remove the cover before recycling hardcover books

Remove lids from containers and rinse them out first

Make sure aerosol cans are empty before dropping them in your cart

A few curbside recycling don'ts:

Don't put Styrofoam, plastic bags, aluminum foil or wax- or plastic-coated cardboard in your cart

Hazardous material containers can't be collected (empty bottles of household bleach are OK)

Don't put yard waste in your cart

Brittle plastic such as plates, cups and utensils can't be recycled

Don't leave your cart roadside past 7:30 p.m. on collection day

A few tips about waste collection:

Yard waste exceeding a 4-inch diameter and 4-foot length can't be picked up

Bulk or large items are collected by appointment only: 803-929-6000

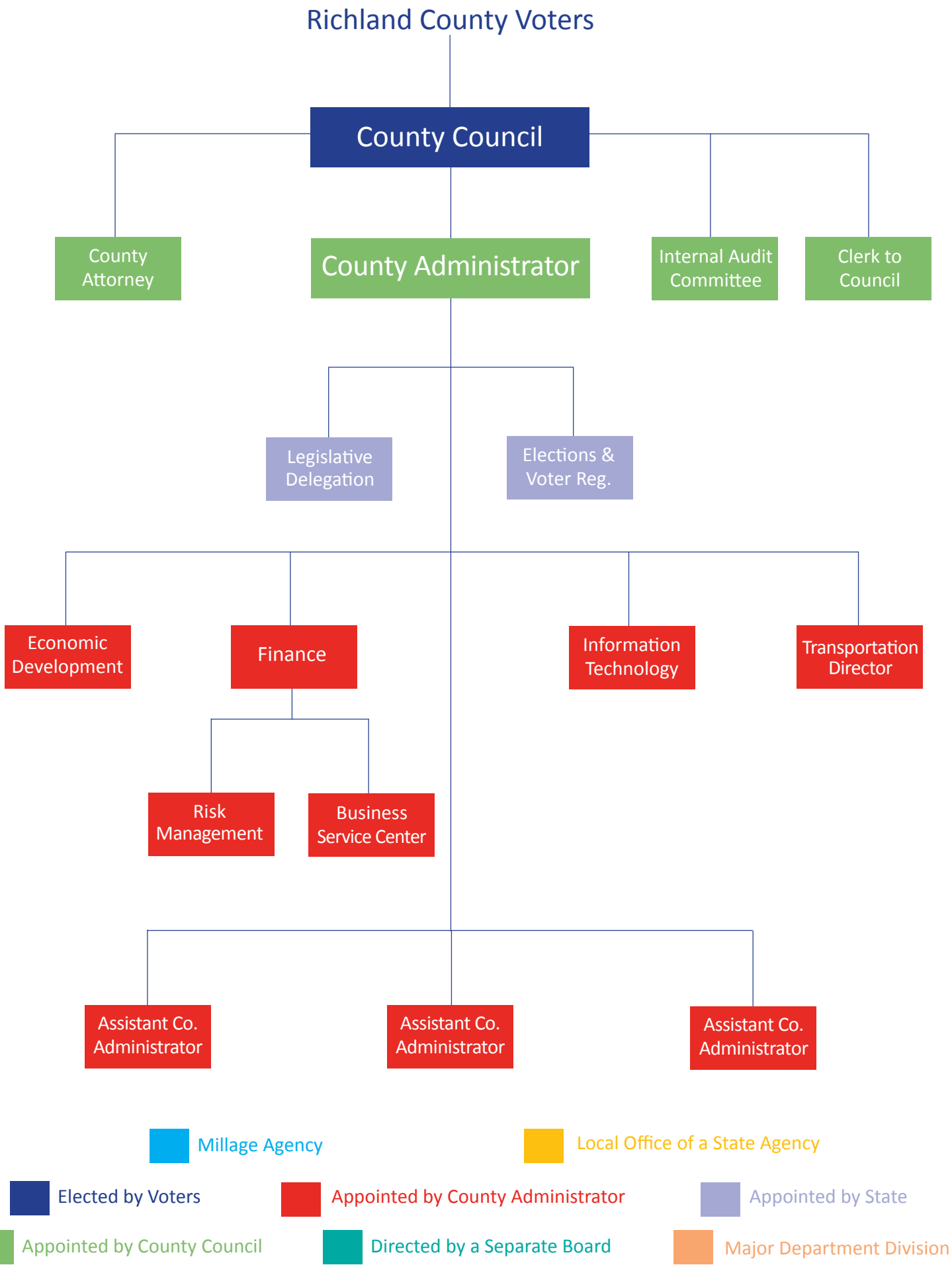
Citations can be issued for yard waste or debris piled in the street

Make sure to properly secure all items before transporting them to a Solid Waste & Recycling drop-off site

If you're unsure, call: 803-929-6000

For more information, visit www.rcgov.us/richlandrecycles or call 803-929-6000.

County Organization


Richland County Voters
County Council
County Attorney
County Administrator
Internal Audit Committee
Clerk to Council
Legislative Delegation
Elections & Voter Reg.
Economic Development
Finance
Information Technology
Transportation Director
Risk Management
Business Service Center
Assistant Co. Administrator
Assistant Co. Administrator
Assistant Co. Administrator
Millage Agency
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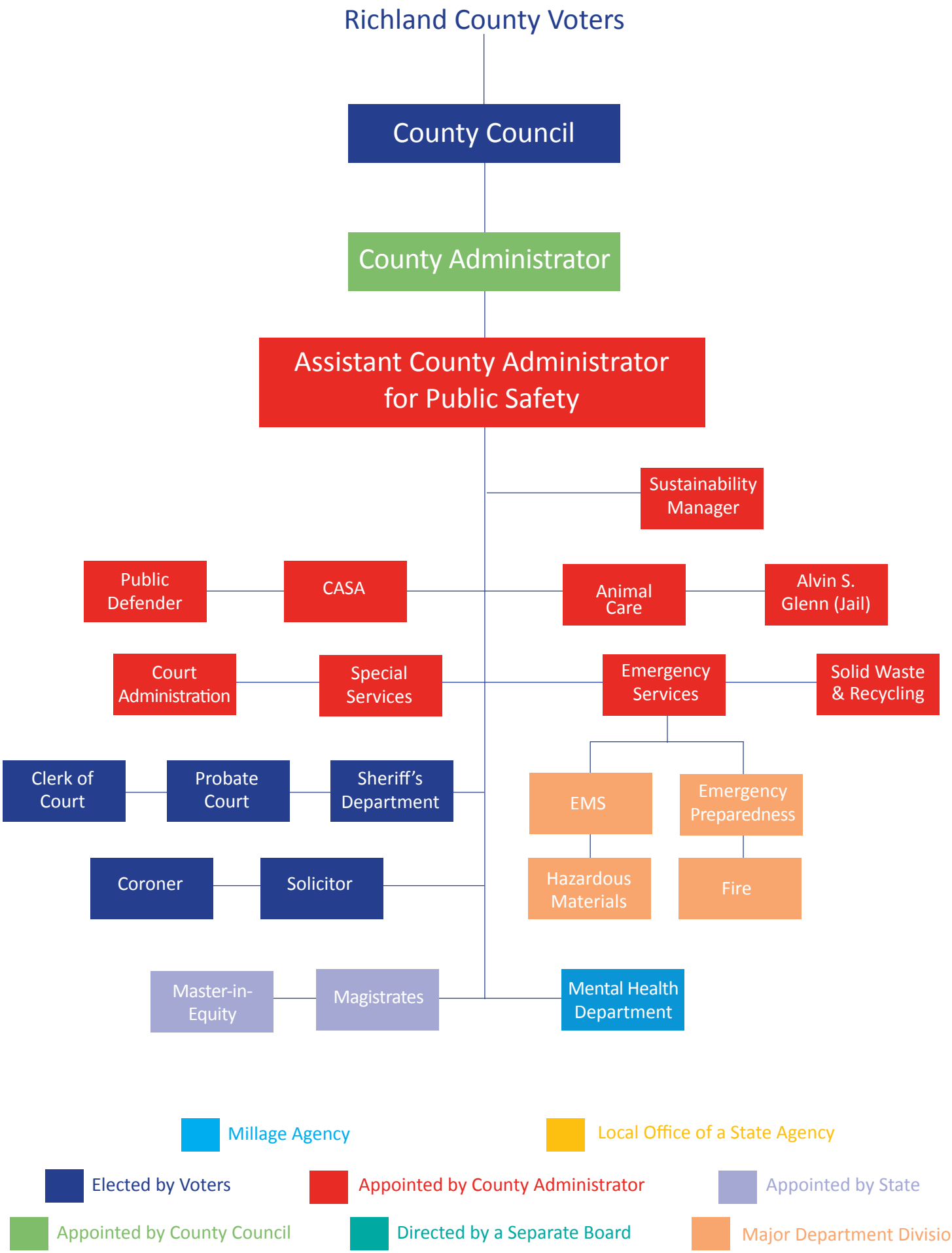
Major Department Division


Richland County Voters
County Council
County Administrator
Assistant County Administrator for Public Safety
Sustainability Manager
Public Defender
CASA
Animal Care
Alvin S. Glenn (Jail)
Court Administration
Special Services
Emergency Services
Solid Waste & Recycling
Clerk of Court
Probate Court
Sheriff's Department
EMS
Emergency Preparedness
Coroner
Solicitor
Hazardous Materials
Fire
Master-in-Equity
Magistrates
Mental Health Department
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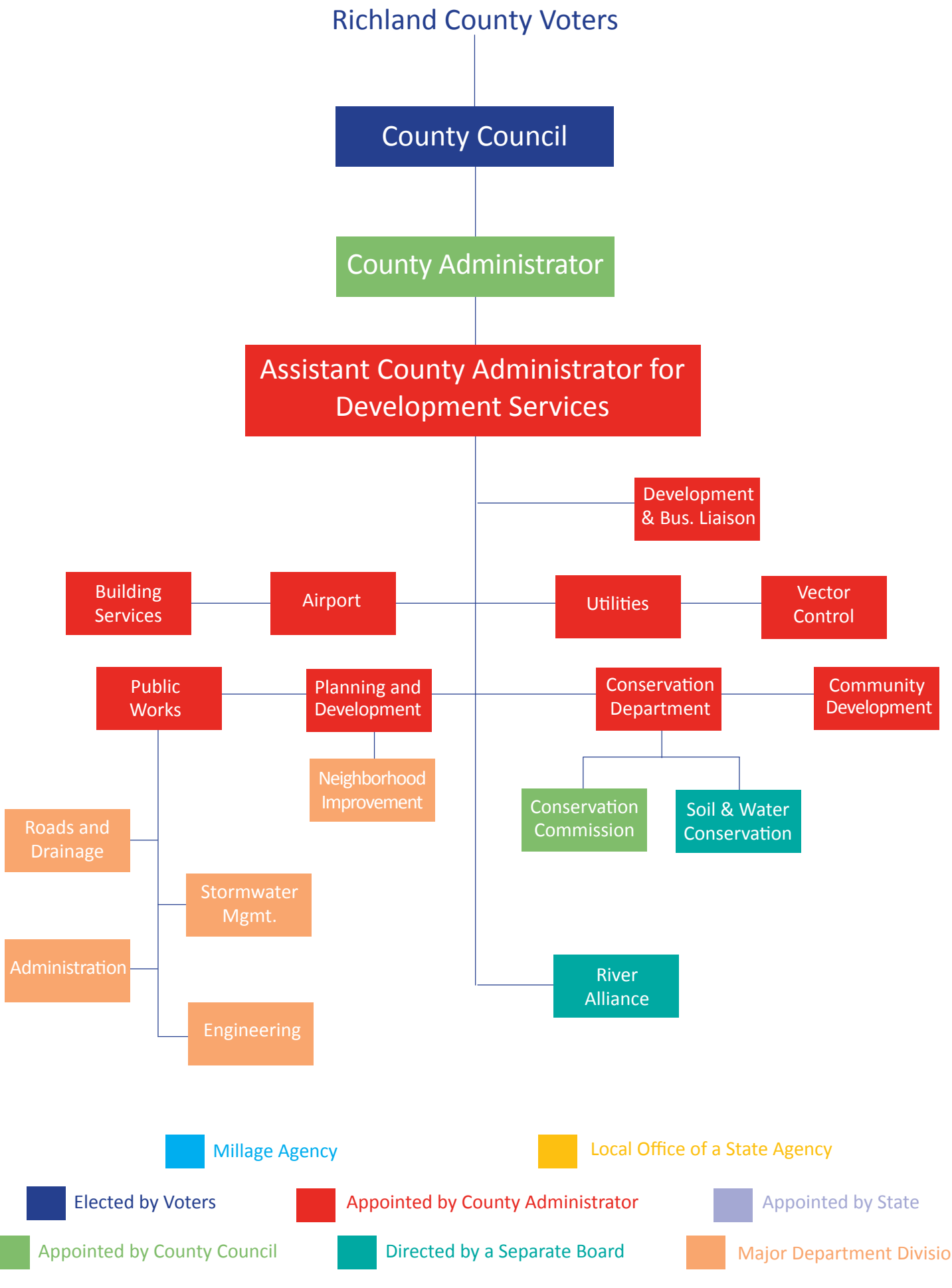
Richland County Voters
County Council
County Administrator
Assistant County Administrator for Development Services
Development & Bus. Liaison
Building Services
Airport
Utilities
Vector Control
Public Works
Planning and Development
Conservation Department
Community Development
Neighborhood Improvement
Conservation Commission
Soil & Water Conservation
Roads and Drainage
Stormwater Mgmt.
Administration
Engineering
River Alliance
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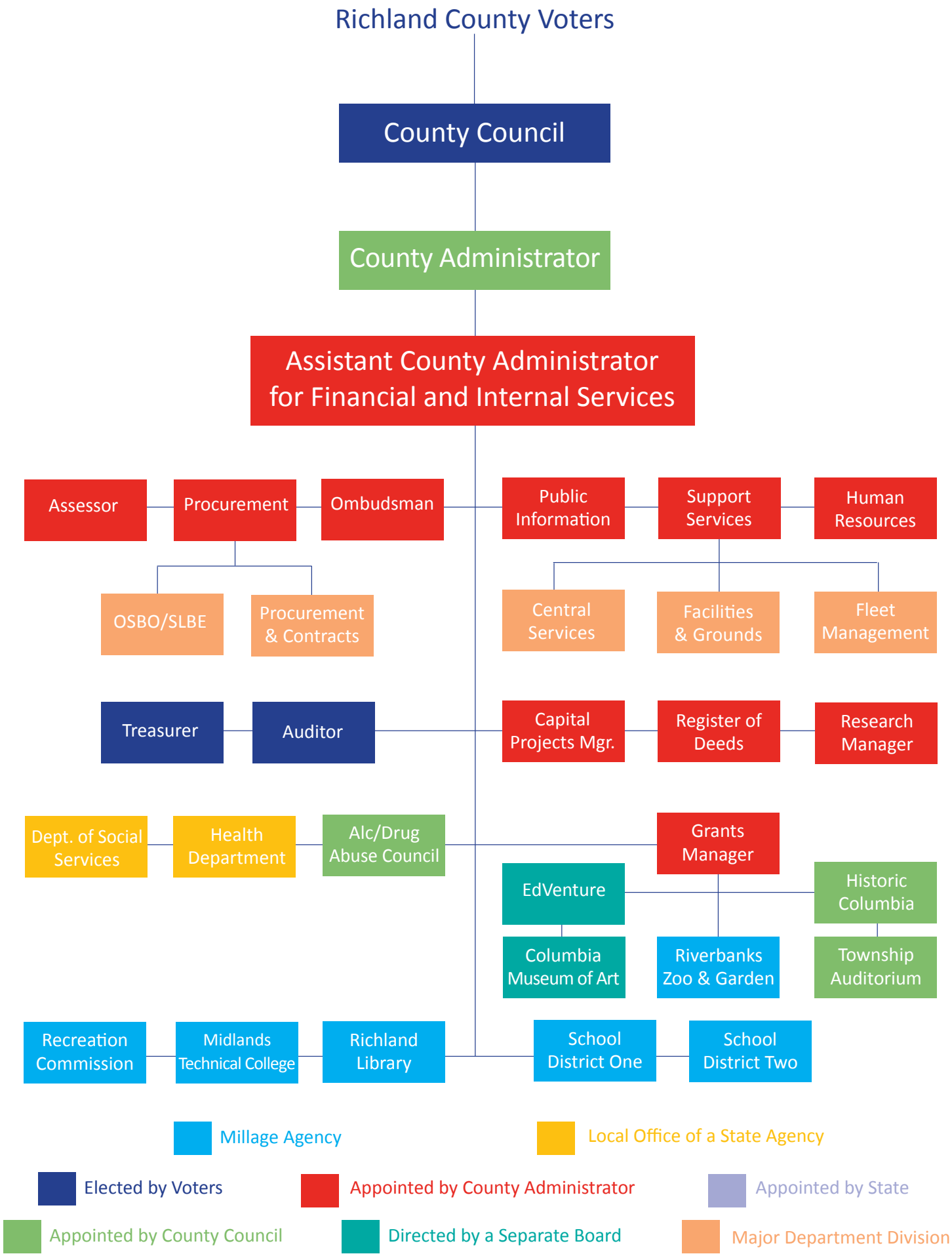
Richland County Voters
County Council
County Administrator
Assistant County Administrator for Financial and Internal Services
Assessor
Procurement
Ombudsman
Public Information
Support Services
Human Resources
OSBO/SLBE
Procurement & Contracts
Central Services
Facilities & Grounds
Fleet Management
Treasurer
Auditor
Capital Projects Mgr.
Register of Deeds
Research Manager
Dept. of Social Services
Health Department
Alc/Drug Abuse Council
Grants Manager
EdVenture
Historic Columbia
Columbia Museum of Art
Riverbanks Zoo & Garden
Township Auditorium
Recreation Commission
Midlands Technical College
Richland Library
School District One
School District Two
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About Richland:
An Amazingly Cool County!

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Public Information Office
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Richland County
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2020 Hampton St.
Columbia, SC 29204

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The Township Auditorium
University of South Carolina
Midlands Technical College
McEntire Joint National Guard Base
S.C. Army National Guard
The Village at Sandhill
Richland County files

Stay Connected With Us

Keep in touch with us online! Follow us on social media to stay in the know about Richland County news, events and happenings. You can also tune in to our local television channel, RCTV, on Digital Time Warner Cable Channel 1302, Time Warner Channel 2 in some parts of the County or AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

Follow us:

Richland County, SC

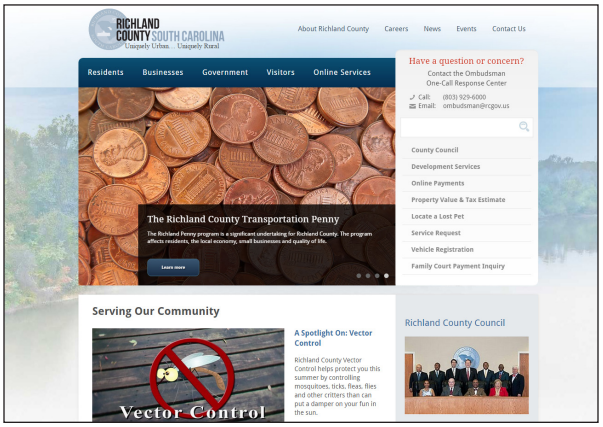
@RichlandSC

richlandonline

Sign up to receive our weekly newsletter, *The Richland Weekly Review.* Email us at **pio@rcgov.us** and ask to be added to the mailing list. You'll receive the *Weekly Review* each Friday. The newsletter contains news, photos, our Richland County Pet of the Week and our selection for fun upcoming events!

Send us your favorite Richland County photograph for our Photo of the Week!

Every week, we select a new photo from our submissions that celebrates Richland County's faces and places and feature it as the spotlight photo on social media and RCTV and in our weekly newsletter. Email your picture along with your name and area of residence to **pio@rcgov.us.** We'll write back to let you know when your photo will be the Richland County Photo of the Week!



A wealth of information at your fingertips!

Richland County's website provides services and information to residents, businesses and visitors. Make online payments, locate a lost pet, submit service requests, read current news, watch County-produced videos and much more. Visit **www.rcgov.us** today!

...Uniquely *Rural*

RICHLAND COUNTY

Uniquely Urban...Uniquely Rural

www.rcgov.us

A publication of the Richland County Public Information Office