

April 2021



DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER

From Councilman Derrek Pugh

Greetings!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of a quarterly newsletter for the residents of Richland County Council District 2. I am honored to be your representative, and I am committed to serving you with honesty, integrity and transparency.

When I campaigned, one of my promises was to communicate with you regularly. This newsletter is just one of the platforms I will use to keep you informed about what's going on in Richland County Government, as well as decisions and actions that affect you. I thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter and hope you will check out another forum for communication that I will highlight later.

District 2 is a diverse segment of Richland County, composed of urban, suburban and rural communities linking Blythewood, St. Andrews in the Broad River Road area, Harbison and many areas in between. I've enjoyed getting to know people in these various communities. My hope is that we form a partnership to improve District 2 and the County as a whole. I will do my part by listening to you, addressing your concerns and focusing on three priority areas based on feedback from you on how we can move Richland County forward.

It will give me great pleasure to work with you on these goals:

- **A Smart County**, focused on infrastructure, job opportunities, housing, economic development, new business and entertainment.
- **A Healthier County**, because of a collaboration with local health care providers to offer opportunities to Richland County residents within their neighborhoods. Access to medical care, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, is essential to our physical health, and also to the County's economic health.
- **A Prosperous County**, based on a plan to give all residents access to educational, recreational and financial literacy services.

Let's form a partnership to focus on these goals and move Richland County forward. This newsletter contains information on how to contact me directly and get more involved in Richland County Government. Let's work together to build a better Comm"YOU"nity. It will take all of YOU to make a difference.

In addition to the quarterly District 2 newsletter, I also am kicking off a monthly YouTube video series called the Councilman's Corner. In this series, I will answer questions from you. Find the video at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxq__bHdLQi7uA8lhUuFn7Qx. You also can link to it from the Richland County Government website, richlandcountysc.gov.

To send questions for me to address in the next video, email me at D2Questions@richlandcountysc.gov. Let me hear from YOU! And be sure to look out for the next quarterly newsletter in July.

COMING EVENTS

April 6

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

April 17

- Earth Day Shred Day Event, 8 a.m.-noon
Columbia Place Mall, 7201 Two Notch Road,
Columbia
- Lower Richland Cleanup Event, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
2615 Lower Richland Blvd., Hopkins

April 20

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

April 27

Zoning Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

May 4

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

May 15

Richland Recycles Day Drop-off Event, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
SC State Fairgrounds, Columbia

May 25

Zoning Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

COVID-19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

Millions in federal funding are available for qualifying households in Richland County that are unable to pay rent and utilities because of COVID-19. Find updated information on the program, which opens April 5, at www.richlandcountysc.gov/era.

Starting at 8:30 a.m. April 5:

- Access the ERAP application directly at <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/erap-richlandcountysc/Participant> or through the County's website at www.richlandcountysc.gov
- Call the program's toll-free number: 855-216-9198

Applications also can be submitted in person:

- The County's Department of Government and Community Services will offer in-person assistance on a limited basis and by appointment only. Schedule an appointment at www.richlandcountysc.gov/all-appointments or call 803-576-1513.
- Richland Library can assist residents who need help completing the application. Schedule an appointment by calling 803-509-8371, texting 803-386-8606 or emailing socialworker@richlandlibrary.com

FEMA TO HELP PAY FUNERAL COSTS FOR COVID-RELATED DEATHS

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for funeral expenses related to COVID-19 that were incurred after Jan. 20, 2020. More information, such as a toll-free phone line to apply, is forthcoming. Get more details: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Connect with Richland County online at richlandcountysc.gov; through our TV channel, RCTV Spectrum 1302; social media (Facebook (/RichlandSC), YouTube (RichlandOnline), Twitter (@RichlandSC) and Instagram (RichlandCountySC); or the County Ombudsman, 803-929-6000.