

Important Phone Numbers

Administration	576-2050	Marriage Licences	576-1992
Assessor's Office	576-2640	Master-in-Equity	576-1900
Auditor's Office	576-2600	Ombudsman	929-6000
Building Inspections	576-2140	Planning	576-2140
Child Support	576-3320	Pre-Trial Intervention	576-1850
Clerk of Court	576-1950	Procurement	576-2130
Richland County Council	576-2060	Public Defender	748-4613
Coroner	576-1799	Recreation Commission	754-7275
CASA	576-1735	Register of Deeds	576-1910
Detention Center, Alvin S. Glenn	576-3200	Sheriff's Department	576-3000
Dial-a-job	576-2115	Social Services	735-7000
Election Commission	576-2200	Soil & Water Conservation	576-2085
Emergency Services	254-3063	Solicitor	576-1800
Family Court	576-3320	Treasurer's Office	576-2250
Finance Department	576-2100	Utilities & Services	401-0050
Health Department	576-2900	Voter Registration	576-2240
Human Resources	576-2110	Zoning	576-2180
Legislative Delegation/VA	576-1908		

www.rcgov.us

Serving Northwest Richland County - Ballentine, Chapin, Dutch Fork, Harbison, and Irmo

Bill Malinowski
 Richland County Council, District 1
 PO Box 535
 Chapin, SC 29036



Summer 2008



District 1 Community Meeting

The last Thursday of every month is the "Northwest Richland Neighborhood Talk and Listen" meeting held at River Springs Baptist Church, located at 1007 W. Shady Grove Rd, from 7-8pm. Come out and let your voice be heard along with other District 1 constituents about the issues concerning your community.

Richland County Council

District 1 Newsletter

Bill Malinowski

I enjoy representing you and take your trust very seriously. I want to thank everyone who has provided me input and/or assistance on the many issues that have come before me as your representative. While we can't all possibly agree on every matter in our district or county, hopefully we can discuss the matter and arrive at a reasonable solution that will be in the best interest of all residents.

Your involvement will help ensure that my position on council is used to serve you in the most effective way possible and your concerns are represented to the fullest. Please contact me with your input on issues that come before your Richland County Council on a weekly basis.

Here are some key issues that County Council is currently addressing:

Zoning Changes

Requests for zoning changes are constantly being sought. I urge you to be attentive to the zoning change requests in your neighborhoods. It will only take a few minutes to view the posted sign stating the proposed change that can affect the community, schools and overall quality of life. I am currently working with Richland County staff in an effort to assure zoning and Richland County's Comprehensive Plan is in the best interest to all our citizens.

Code Enforcement

I am working with Richland County staff in an effort to make the current sign ordinance more efficient and effective. It is time we eliminate the illegal advertising signs that have become an eyesore on our roadways and distraction from the natural beauty of our rural area.

Upcoming changes in the ordinance regulating Sexually Oriented Businesses will assure that residential neighborhoods, schools and churches are not being negatively impacted by these businesses while still adhering to their constitutional freedoms to conduct business.

Please feel free to contact me with any issues or concerns in your community. I can be reached at 932-7919 or malinowski@rcgov.us. I look forward to working together to continue the tradition of Richland County being an

"All-America Community."

Events and Programs

Back By Popular Demand: Richland 101

Richland 101 is a six week course designed to teach county residents how we spend your tax dollars. Visit the library, Edventure and Convention Center, as well as tour the county jail.



Free college continuing education credit. Spring and Fall sessions available. For more information and to register visit our website at www.rcgov.us or contact the Office of Public Information at 576-2062.

Animal Care and Pet Licensing

Did you know pets should be licensed? A pet license enables lost pets to be reunited with their families quickly. The cost per year of a spayed/neutered pet is \$4 and fertile pets are \$20.



Pet ownership of any kind comes with certain responsibilities. In order to assure pets do not add to past problems, I ask that you be responsible. Don't allow your pet to roam unattended. Keep them on a leash at all times. Make sure your pet has proper shelter and plenty of food and water, especially during hot summer months. Help eliminate nuisance complaints by attending to your animal to curb excessive noise.

For more information about the Office of Animal Care or to register your pet, contact the Richland County Ombudsman's Office at 929-6000.

Property Tax Payment Options

The Treasurer's Office is working for you and with you to help pay your annual real estate taxes.



One option is to "pre-pay" your taxes. This can be done at any time before the taxes are due. A bank draft can be established to withdraw monies monthly to pay your bill. For example: if you paid \$1,200 in taxes the previous year and you enroll in the pre-pay option, the Treasurer's Office would draft your account \$200 a month (or your designated amount) for six months (July-December). If your tax bill increases from the previous year, you would pay the balance in full in January to avoid penalties.

The other option is to establish a payment plan. These plans can be established when a taxpayer receives their tax bill (usually in November). Please note that penalties and extra fees can be associated with this payment system.

For more information about paying your taxes, contact the Richland County Treasurer's Office at 576-2270.

Going Green in Richland County

Conservation Easements

As South Carolina's treasured open spaces disappear, we are faced with a choice of how to protect our historic land while still meeting the needs of our economy, timber and agricultural societies.



The Eleazer family of District 1 placed 250 acres of their land in an easement in December 2007.

A Conservation Easement is a legal agreement between the landowner and a qualified conservation organization or government agency. It permanently limits a property's use to protect its conservation values.

A Conservation Easement can offer an array of benefits:

1. Property remains with the landowner, who may continue to live on it, sell it or pass it on to heirs.
2. Estate taxes can be significantly lower, sometimes making the difference between an heir's ability to keep land in the family or the need to sell it.
3. The landowner can be provided with income tax and, in many cases, property tax relief.
4. Conservation Easements are flexible and can be written to meet the needs of a landowner while protecting the property's resources.
5. They are permanent and remain in force when the land changes hands. A land trust or government agency ensures the restrictions are followed.

The Richland County Conservation Commission has approved a formal Conservation Grants Program for local communities to protect their natural resources, improve water quality and enhance active living recreational opportunities.

For more information about the Richland County Conservation Commission or to apply for a conservation easement, contact the Commission Office at 576-2084.

Richland Recycles

Don't know what to do with those old mobile phones, personal computers and other electronic office equipment? Richland County is now offering you the opportunity to recycle them, FREE of charge at these locations:



Lower Richland Drop-off Center, 10531 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia

Richland County C&D Landfill, 1070 Caughman Road North, off Monticello Road, Columbia

It is estimated that this new electronic recycling program will save the taxpayers nearly \$50,000 annually. During the first phase of the program the county is only accepting old computers, monitors, fax machines and other office equipment.

For more information contact the Richland County Ombudsman's Office at 929-6000.