

Important Phone Numbers

Administration	576-2050	Legislative Delegation/VA	576-1908
Assessor's Office	576-2640	Marriage Licenses	576-1992
Auditor's Office	576-2600	Master-in-Equity	576-1900
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
Ombudsman - One Call Center	929-6000	AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY	401-0050
(Monday- Friday)		(NON Sheriff's Dept or EMS)	

City of Columbia Telephone Numbers

Police	545-3500	Animal Services	776-7387
Solid Waste	545-3800	City Hall	545-3000

Serving the Lower Richland Community of Richland County

Norman Jackson
 Richland County Council, District 11
 2020 Hampton St.
 P.O. Box 192
 Columbia, SC 29202



Spring
2009



Boards
and
Committees:

Development
&
Services

CMCOG

School
District 1

Innovista
Ad Hoc
Committee

Convention
&
Visitors
Bureau

Richland County Council

District 11 Newsletter

Norman Jackson

It is indeed my honor and privilege to serve the residents of Richland County Council District #11. During my tenure on council, I have diligently advocated for the programs and services critical to improving the quality of life for all of the residents of our district. I have advocated for the paving of dirt roads, access to water and sewer infrastructure, increased recreational opportunities, and access to good paying jobs.

The 2008 Richland County legislative delegation session was a challenging one as the county (and many of us) is experiencing the current downturn in the economy. As a member of Richland County Council you may rest assured that each day that I am advocating to ensure that your tax dollars are spent wisely and that the residents of the Lower Richland community are receiving their fair share of programs and services. I would also like to encourage you to participate in your neighborhood organizations and become civically engaged in the activities of both the Richland County Planning Commission and Richland County Council, because it is the individual citizen that makes government better. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and I hope that you will find this newsletter of benefit.

Sincerely,

Norman Jackson
 Richland County Council
 District #11



Recreation in District 11

On January 14, 2009 the Richland County Recreation Commission purchased 40.56 acres contiguous with the current RCRC Garners Ferry Sports Complex. Plans include additional athletic fields. The property at Caughman Road Park is still under consideration and review. Other projects include replacing the outdoor restrooms and fencing; refurbishing a racquetball court and adding an indoor climbing wall at Caughman Road Park. The Garners Ferry Sports Complex currently has two multi-purpose athletic fields which have been in use for over a year and a third field will be ready for play by Fall 2009. A paved parking lot, outdoor restrooms, picnic shelter and tables are also currently under construction. A grand opening for the complex is being planned by mid 2009. Future plans for the complex include building a Technology Center and Adult Activity Center similar to the Adult Activity Center and the James E. Clyburn Technology Center on Parklane Road.

Sewage Service in Lower Richland

Sewer line and development: Some members of the development community would like the sewer line to be improved from Lower Richland Blvd down Garners Ferry Road towards Columbia at a cost of approximately \$8M. This would serve new development and residents only. My proposal would run the line to Eastover at approximately the same cost serving the citizens of Lower Richland and the new development community already planned for the area. This would be a win win for all.

Northeast Landfill Update

After several years of debates and negotiation the Northeast landfill will finally close in 10 years instead of 40 years. I am sure the citizens in the Lower Richland community off US-601 will be happy when it is closed. A \$1million grant was awarded to the immediate community for compensation to help build a community center and help with other community economic development projects to be determined by the citizens of the immediate community.

Alternate Road Paving Program

Just two years ago I proposed an alternate surface treatment paving program for the dirt roads in our community. The surface would still look just like any other road and would have a minimum life of fifteen years before resurfacing. The study is complete and we should have a new ordinance soon. My proposal would not raise any taxes but would use the funds from the Road maintenance fee you pay of \$20 for vehicle registration. Now just like the bus, some people do not live on dirt roads and live in the City but pay for that service. It all balances out. The cost to pave one mile of dirt road cost above \$750,000, my proposal of Alternative Surface Pavement would cost approximately \$240,000 per mile. At the current rate we pave roads it would take 150 years, with my proposal it would take just 3 years.

Fort Jackson Partnership

Discussions with Fort Jackson about Wildcat Road from Leesburg Road/Lower Richland Blvd. to Percival Road/Clemson Road was promising. The seven mile stretch of road crossing Fort Jackson was a great relief for traffic congestion in the Lower Richland area until the war. Since the road have been closed commuters have to travel an additional twelve miles in heavy traffic on Leesburg Road, Garners Ferry Road and I-77 The military department is concerned about safety and conclude there would have to be funding for safety before any possibility of reopening. Suggestions were from fencing both sides of Wildcat Road to include safety checks at several points to enter the base. The New National Cemetery is now open and could affect the alignment of Wildcat Road but it would also give multiple accesses to the site. The road was included in the Stimulus package for consideration. I will keep you informed.

National Guard Partnership

District #11 is experiencing a tremendous amount of growth and in an effort to met the growing needs of our citizens, the county has entered into a proactive agreement with the Army National Guard to assist us in providing the funding to operate the county's Leesburg Road EMS and Fire Station.



This is another way that Richland County Council and I are working hard to help improve the lives of our residents. This agreement is a win for the South Carolina Army National Guard's training facility and the residents of the Lower Richland community. The county is able to provide the best service possible, while sharing the cost.

Grant Opportunities

Richland County is currently accepting applications for accommodations and hospitality tax grants. These grants are supplied to non-profit organizations and programs promoting tourism and tourism related activities to Richland County. Applications are currently due to the budget department by Friday, February 27 at 5pm. For more information contact the Richland County Budget Department at 576-1328.

Accommodations Tax Grant Defined

A two percent (2%) tax is levied in South Carolina on all motels, hotel, lodging accommodations. The proceeds from this tax are used to promote tourism related activities. To apply and organization must have been in existence for at least one year prior to the funding request and have proper IRS documentation.

Hospitality Tax Grant Defined

In 2003, Richland County Council passed an ordinance establishing a Hospitality Tax on prepared meals and beverages. The proceeds from this tax are to be used for tourism related activities. Organizations must all provide proof of their non-profit status.