

July 2021



DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER

From Councilman Derrek Pugh

Greetings!

Welcome to the second 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.

The past year has been a difficult time globally, but locally I want to shine a spotlight on all the 2021 high school graduates in District 2. Amid the chaos caused by COVID-19, these graduates showed determination and resilience. The disruption of traditional learning did not stop these young people from pushing through and finishing strong. That resolve and adaptability will help them in their future endeavors. Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

In my previous newsletter, I noted that I wanted to work toward a healthier County. A year of social distancing and isolation has led to increased depression, weight gain, anxiety and stress for some residents. One of the best ways to relieve all of these conditions is through physical exercise. I've held a couple of workout events with Big Sarge Fitness at Doko Manor, and I hope to plan more such events throughout the year. Please feel free to bring the whole family to these events and dance off some of your troubles and pounds.

Summer is here, and Richland Library has many activities planned to keep our students engaged. Step into a good book with the library's first interactive StoryWalk in the Midlands at Doko Meadows park. StoryWalk will highlight early literacy, fitness, the great outdoors and family togetherness. View each page on this trail, and take part in activities along a path that is easily visible and walkable for young readers.

As we look forward to a new school year, keep your family active and engaged with Richland Library's 2021 Summer Learning Challenge. Find opportunities to learn, create and share this year by taking the inside out and bringing the outside in. Earn points and win prizes by reading for 30 minutes, completing a learning activity of your choice or attending a library program. Visit richlandlibrary.com/summer-learning-challenge for more information.

In addition to the quarterly District 2 newsletter, I also have a new YouTube video series called "Councilman's Corner." In this series, I will answer questions from you. Find the current video at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxq_bHdLQi7uA8IhuuFn7Q. 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 October.

COMING EVENTS

July 13

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

July 20

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

July 27

Zoning Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

August 31

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

September 14

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

September 21

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

September 28

Zoning Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

COVID-19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

Richland County still has federal funding 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 at www.richlandcountysc.gov/era.

- 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

Richland Library can assist residents who need help completing the application:

- Schedule an appointment by calling 803-509-8371, texting 803-386-8506 or emailing socialworker@richlandlibrary.com

2021 HURRICANE SEASON: BE PREPARED

Hurricane season is officially here, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts this season will be above average. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has updated recommendations for a basic emergency supply kit based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for protecting yourself and family from COVID-19. Visit ready.gov/hurricanes for more information on making an emergency kit.

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. Apply via toll-free phone line: 844-684-6333, or 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.