



DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER

From Councilman Derrek Pugh

Greetings!

Welcome to the third 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.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the "Stuff a Bus" Back to School Supply Drive in August. City Councilman Edward McDowell and I took part in a friendly competition for this event, and as much as I'd like to say that the County won, the students were the ultimate winners. We were able to donate supplies to 10 different schools. I look forward to doing this again next year.

Last month marked the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks. One of the darkest days in American history produced a strong sense of community and patriotism, and the country saw an increase in military enlistment out of duty to protect our nation. **NEVER FORGET.**

Looking ahead on the calendar, November 11 is Veterans Day. Originally called Armistice Day to honor the armistice with Germany that took effect at "the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in 1918, it effectively marked the end of World War I. In 1954, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day to honor and celebrate the service of all U.S. military veterans. Because Veterans Day honors all the men and women who have served, it differs from Memorial Day, which honors service members who have died in the military. According to the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act, "The President shall issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the Nation." That time is 2:11 p.m. November 11, and I would like you to share in that two minutes with me.

The holidays are upon us, and now is a time for giving. I encourage people to donate their unused clothes and coats to those in need. Volunteer at a local food pantry. Donate books to a book drive. You can't spell community without "unity."

In addition to the quarterly District 2 newsletter, I also have 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_bHdLQi7uA8IhuuFn7Q. You can also 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 January 2022.

COMING EVENTS

October 5

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

October 19

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

October 26

Zoning Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

November 9

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

November 16

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

November 18

Zoning Public Hearing, 6 p.m.

December 7

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

December 14

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

December 16

Zoning Public Hearing, 6 p.m.

MORE COVID-19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE

Richland County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has been one of the nation's most successful in response to COVID-19. Because of that success, the U.S. Treasury has awarded the County another \$9.9 million, available to qualifying households 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

Applications also can be submitted in person:

- 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

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE ELECTION

A special election will be held Tuesday, Oct. 26 to fill the at-large seat on the school board.

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.