Richland County 2023 Calendar

COUNTY CONNECTIONS
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE WAY WE LIVE

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

Richland County Government
2020 Hampton St., Columbia
This calendar is also available for download at richlandcountysc.gov
Printed by Richland County Operational Services/Central Services

ON THE COVER: Richland County partners with state and federal entities for annual Arbor Day events, including this one at L.W. Conder Arts Integrated Magnet School in Columbia. Photo by Casey White
The Richland County Office of Public Information is proud to present the County’s 2023 calendar.

Richland County Government values its strong community partnerships. Boasting a diverse and dedicated workforce of 2,000+ employees, the Richland County family works diligently each and every day to meet the needs and enhance the quality of life for the more than 400,000 residents we serve. With the support of local and regional agencies, businesses, and other County organizations, we are committed to improving the vibrancy of life in our communities.

The 2023 calendar highlights several of our community partners. Each of the selected entities is directly associated with a national awareness initiative on its designated month.

It is our hope that by shining a spotlight on these organizations and their respective missions, we can bring community awareness to the vital services available in Richland County.

INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Richland County’s website, richlandcountysc.gov, provides services and information to residents, businesses and visitors. Make online payments, locate a lost pet, submit service requests, read current news and much more. While you’re on the site, sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, the Richland Weekly Review. Click the link at the bottom of richlandcountysc.gov to be added to the mailing list.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow Richland County on social media to stay in the know about news, events and happenings. Also tune to our local television channel, RCTV, on Spectrum Channel 15/02 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

BE ENGAGED, STAY ENGAGED

Engage Richland is Richland County’s year-round series of public events. Its goal: to initiate direct conversations between residents and County staff through community meetings, hands-on demonstrations, workshops, facility tours, special events and more. Visit richlandcountysc.gov/residents/engagerichland regularly to learn about Engage Richland events, or contact the Office of Public Information at piosrichlandcountysc.gov.
Throughout the year, Richland County departments and divisions observe several awareness days, weeks, and months to highlight services and programs County employees provide to residents and businesses.

**JANUARY**
National Blood Donor Month

**FEBRUARY**
American Heart Month
Black History Month

**MARCH**
National Nutrition Month
Employee Appreciation Day, March 3

**APRIL**
National County Government Month
National Volunteer Month
National Community Development Week, April 3-7
National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week, April 9-15
National Library Week, April 25-29
Earth Day, April 22

**MAY**
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, May 7-13
National Emergency Medical Services Week, May 21-27

**JUNE**
National Hunger Awareness Month
National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, June 20-26

**JULY**
Park and Recreation Month

**AUGUST**
National Water Quality Month
Senior Citizens Day, August 21

**SEPTEMBER**
Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15
National Preparedness Month

**OCTOBER**
Community Planning Month
National Substance Abuse Awareness Month

**NOVEMBER**
America Recycles Day, November 15

**DECEMBER**
National Influenza Vaccination Week, December 6-12

Dates for meetings and events are subject to change. Dates in red denote days that County offices are closed.

Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown the date shown. There may be some variance of dates listed for Islamic holidays, as some are based on the sighting of the moon and are not fixed to a calendar.

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The Richland County 2023 Calendar is a production of the County’s Office of Public Information.

Susan O’Cain, Director
Chelsea Bennett, Deputy Director
Bryant Davis, Assistant Director, Government & Community Services
Todd Money, Publications Editor/Outreach Coordinator
Casey White, Public Information Officer

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Richland County operates under the Council-Administrator form of government. Richland County Council members are elected in November general elections from single-member districts for four-year terms beginning Jan. 1 of the following year.

The 11-member Council appoints an Administrator to be the chief administrative officer of Richland County Government and to manage all departments under the jurisdiction of Richland County Council. The Administrator executes the policies, directives and legislative actions of Council; manages and coordinates operations; prepares operating and capital budgets and performs essential duties in overseeing the daily and long-term activities of County government.

Richland County Council generally meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers, located at the County Administration Building, 2020 Hampton St., Columbia. All regularly scheduled Council meetings can be viewed live and on demand at richlandcountysc.gov.

To contact members of County Council, call or email the Clerk to Council’s Office at 803-576-2060 or rcococoerichlandcountysc.gov.
January is National Blood Donor Month.

For the past 53 years, National Blood Donor Month has served as a time to encourage people to donate blood and platelets while celebrating the impact of donors who roll up a sleeve to help those in need.

Featured organization: American Red Cross

Headquartered in Columbia, the Central SC Chapter of the American Red Cross serves 16 counties, including Richland, via blood and platelet collection for hospitals, lifesaving training courses and volunteer opportunities, as well as assisting in disaster relief efforts.

Pictured: Grace Meinhofer, a division communications director for the American Red Cross, donates blood at a Red Cross clinic. Photo courtesy of American Red Cross
Featured organization: Wholespire Richland County
This organization aims to improve people’s quality of life through advocacy, communication and community-based projects that address widespread issues including health concerns, food insecurity and safe places to play.

Pictured: This community garden in Columbia is part of Wholespire’s efforts to create a sustainable project that supports healthy eating and active living. Photo by Casey White

February is American Heart Month.
Since 1963, February has marked a time for national efforts to spotlight heart disease - the world’s No. 1 cause of death - and encourage a focus on cardiovascular health.
March is National Nutrition Month.

National Nutrition Week was launched in 1973 to encourage people to make informed food choices and develop healthy eating and physical activity habits. After popular response, in 1980 the week was expanded to span the full month of March.
April 23-29 is National Library Week.

National Library Week began in 1958 as an effort to encourage Americans to read more, thereby supporting the use of libraries. The annual initiative highlights the role libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening local communities.
**Featured organization: Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. (MIRCI)**

Founded in 1960 as a rehabilitation program offering activities to help people live independently, MIRCI focuses on creating pathways to recovery for those who are experiencing or are at risk of mental illness or homelessness.

*Photo courtesy of MIRCI*

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| 29  |     |     |     | **Memorial Day**
County offices closed |     |     |

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month.**

Observed since 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month raises public awareness and about mental illness and its impact on those who live with various conditions. The month also aims to educate people about available services and fight the negative attitudes and misconceptions that surround mental illness.
June is National Hunger Awareness Month.

National Hunger Awareness Month aims to raise awareness of food insecurity, or the basic lack of food, in the United States. All month, organizations increase efforts to combat food insecurity, particularly among small children, who sometimes lack access to food when out of school for the summer.

**Featured organization: Harvest Hope Food Bank**

Founded in 1981, Harvest Hope is South Carolina’s largest food bank. In Richland County, the organization operates an emergency food pantry and distributes goods to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens.

Pictured: Harvest Hope volunteers help with the organization’s food bank in Columbia. Photo by Taylor Kearns for NP Strategy.

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**JUNE**
Featured organization: Richland County Recreation Commission
The commission oversees the operation of parks across Richland County, as well as programs including summer camps, youth sports and special events, from holiday events to 5Ks and family fun runs.

Pictured: Spring and fall flag football leagues give ages 5-12 in Richland County a low-contact sports option. Photo courtesy of Richland County Recreation Commission.

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July is Park and Recreation Month.
Park and Recreation Month was founded in 1985 to recognize the role parks and recreational activities play in improving quality of life and bettering communities physically, economically and environmentally. Residents are encouraged to enjoy their local parks and recreational centers throughout July.
August 21 is Senior Citizens Day.
Since 1991, Senior Citizens Day has helped to increase awareness of issues that impact older adults, such as health deterioration and elder abuse. The day also highlights the significant contributions of older people to society at large.
**Featured organization: Richland County Emergency Services**

Emergency Services’ mission is to provide professional and cost-effective emergency and public safety planning, preparedness programs, response and recovery to residents.

**Pictured:** Robert O’Connor and Sara Johnson prepare a Life Park 15 heart monitor for use. The monitors are useful in many situations for Richland County EMS. Photo by Winta Adams

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**September is National Preparedness Month.**

National Preparedness Month raises awareness about the importance of being prepared for disasters and emergencies.
Featured organization: Reconciliation Ministries
Using a network of donors, volunteers and advocates, this Columbia-based organization provides a platform to enable those suffering from addiction to experience life-changing hope, healing and reconciliation.

Pictured: Mike G. studies as part of his coursework at Reconciliation Ministries. Photo courtesy of Reconciliation Ministries.
November 15 is America Recycles Day. America Recycles Day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about recycling and to encourage people to buy recycled products.
December 6-12 is National Influenza Vaccination Week. With flu viruses constantly changing and vaccinations’ protection lowering over time, experts advise getting an annual flu shot.
Administration
Oversees County operations, to include executing policies set by Council

Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center
Serves as the intake center for unsentenced detainees and inmates, as well as an incarceration facility for sentenced offenders

Animal Services
Enforces laws that protect people, animals and property

Budget & Grants Management
Develops and maintains the County budget and tracks spending of other County-funded entities

Community Planning & Development
Improves County communities through public planning, which involves balancing environmental and economic concerns for land use, creating incentives for redevelopment and revitalizing communities

Court Appointed Special Advocates
Provides legal representation for abused and neglected children

Economic Development
Attracts new industry and helps existing companies with potential expansion

Emergency Services
Provides professional public safety planning, preparedness programs, prevention, response and recovery

Finance
Works to maintain the fiscal integrity of County financial records

Government & Community Services
Offers constituent services, helps facilitate solutions to Council-identified priorities, and includes the Office of Small Business Opportunity

Human Resources
Supports the development of Richland County’s work culture

Information Technology
Supports County technology to increase efficiency

Ombudsman’s Office
Serves as a centralized point of contact for residents

Operational Services
Provides day-to-day support to County offices and facilities

Public Information Office
Promotes public awareness and understanding of County Government

Public Works
Maintains County infrastructure, manages assets and provides technical services

Risk Management
Identifies risks to eliminate or minimize financial losses to County operations, and includes Fleet Management

Transportation Department
Manages the program to improve roads, sidewalks, bikeways and greenways

Utilities
Provides quality water and sewer service as efficiently as possible