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Will Gettys
Lexington High School

Will is the head coach for the Lexington High School Boys Varsity Soccer team. When he’s not coaching or writing for the Chamber, he volunteers as the creator of Cats Kick Cancer, a non-profit that strives to assist families in the battle against pediatric cancer.

Get involved with Cats Kick Cancer by emailing willrgettys@gmail.com.

Ralph Mayer
RHM Photography

Born and raised in Newberry, Ralph is the owner of RHM Photography. His work has been published in magazines worldwide. See some of Ralph’s work in this guide and at www.mayerphotos.com.

Vickie Ringer

Since graduating from the University of South Carolina, Vickie Jinnette Ringer came to Lexington to serve as news editor of The Dispatch-News and refused to leave. She is still having a love affair with Lexington and putting words to paper.

Contact Vickie at vjringer@gmail.com with writing opportunities.

Want to become a contributor for the Lexington’s Community & Business Resource Guide? Contact Connor Watkins at (803)359-6113 or connor@lexingtonsc.org.
Our Board

What’s the best thing about living in
Lexington, SC?

Marvin Robinson
Chair
Wells Fargo Bank
“The best thing about living in Lexington is the quality of life.”

Nancy Hutto
Past Chair
“I have lived in Lexington over 40 years and feel blessed that my husband and I were able to raise our family in such a safe and wonderful place.”

Tod Augsburger
Chair-Elect
Lexington Medical Center
“People in Lexington recognize the importance of caring for one another – personally and professionally”.

Shelley Metropol
Treasurer
Experienced Real Estate Group
“I love that Lexington has so many things to offer: shopping, dining, entertainment plus a vibrant job and housing market – yet has retained its ‘small town’ feel. The sense of community is strong and pride in our town evident.”

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Dr. Karen Woodward
Lexington County School Dist. One
When I begin to think back on 2015, one quote from author S. Kelley Harrell comes to mind: “We don’t heal in isolation, but in community.”

That statement could not be more reflective of our community and Chamber in the weeks following the historic flooding that took place in October. But, as the waters receded, the people emerged in full force. Debris was removed, foundations were restored and rebuilding began. Seeing the effort of volunteers from the community and our staff made me remember why I moved to Lexington in the first place: the quality of life. And the attitudes and engagement of the people of Lexington is just one piece of the puzzle.

Lexington’s large but connected network of business owners and ideal location between Interstates 20, 26 and 77 give opportunities for growth for both corporations and small businesses. Commerce is well balanced between high-tech manufacturing and agriculture, helping continue to fuel the growth of Lexington’s economy.

Our numerous sporting complexes and parks are havens for soccer, tennis, baseball and even dog owners. The Lexington County Blowfish have a new stadium that always brings the community together for a fun family night. But, nothing can compare to the sunsets on beautiful Lake Murray, where some of the best fishing can be had.

And to sustain this quality of life that we know and love, we invest in our future by building some of the best schools in the state. Our future lies in how well our children are prepared for tomorrow. Schools in Lexington County are some of the best in the state. Our schools have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, Palmetto’s Finest Schools, Palmetto Gold and Silver Award winners and Red Carpet Schools.

So take some time to eat, stay and play in the place we call home. After you take in everything that our community has to offer, you and your family won’t want to leave.
Lexington is uniquely Southern – where neighbors gather on front porches, children ride their bikes, and business owners know your name.

This is the place that looks like a city but feels like a town. Located just minutes from the state’s capital city and its largest university, Lexington has all the benefits a cosmopolitan area has to offer. But once you cross the bridge into Lexington County, you can feel the stresses of the day slipping away. We’ve got it all in Lexington but without the hassles that often accompany the big city.
On a warm evening, drive or walk down our thriving Main Street and you’ll see lights twinkling, glasses clinking and music drifting out from the restaurants that fill the village-like atmosphere. A few streets over and you’ll find a busy avenue of locally-owned shops, big-box stores and restaurants of all varieties.

Travel another mile and you’re on Lake Murray where you can enjoy a boat ride, go swimming or declare your love with a lock left on the dam walkway. Dotted in between you’ll find lovely neighborhoods where children play and flowers bloom. Around another corner you’ll see the farms that made Lexington prosperous. It’s all here. Something unexpected, unpredictable, but yet comforting and reassuring. This is home.

Have you ever been somewhere and instantly felt you belonged? This is the place where visitors arrive as strangers and leave as friends.

Here you’ll find a delightful blend of history and progressive growth. Families who have been here for generations and new neighbors who come for the hospitality call Lexington home. Newcomers may move here for the schools but long after the children have graduated, they stay. It is no secret that Lexington’s tremendous growth over the past 20 years can be attributed to the excellent public schools here. Lexington County School District 1 is the envy of the state and arguably, the Southeast. Our students have consistently had the highest test scores in South Carolina and our students earn millions of scholarship dollars to top universities in the nation.

“I never knew how beautiful Lexington was until I started working there, and now have witnessed some really special places.”

Because you’re in the South, sports are a big deal and that is no exception in Lexington. Our high school teams win state championships in both girls and boys athletics. During the fall we have our own Friday Night Lights where everyone in town gathers for tailgating and football. In the warmer months, there is baseball, tennis, water sports and golf. Our sports complexes swell the town every year with visitors here for tournaments including the Dixie Youth Baseball World Series. Our beautiful golf courses attract novices and pros alike. And, of course, Augusta, home of the Master’s Tournament, is less than an hour’s drive away.

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Whether you come to Lexington for a weekend of fishing at Lake Murray, a University of South Carolina Gamecocks football game or a Girlfriends Getaway, we have everything here to make your stay fabulous: first-class hotels and inns, gourmet and casual dining to make your taste buds sing, recreational activities to please everyone in the family, and shopping galore — all within a quick drive to everywhere you want to go.

For the family there is ice skating, bowling, outdoor concerts, scouting, gymnastics, sports camps and did we mention, swimming, skiing, tubing and fishing on Lake Murray? There is no shortage of things to do. The trouble is in deciding how to do it all!

We even welcome your four-legged family members in Lexington at our three-acre Paw Park for dogs and their people. And quite a few restaurant patios can be filled with friendly pets waiting for a scrap or a rub under the table.

Always fun to be found in Lexington, our festivals honor all the things that make us unique. From the huge Peach Festival on the Fourth of July to the Collard, Peanut and Okra Festivals that celebrate our homegrown goodies, we know how to throw a party here. Old and young come out to honor our service members at the annual Veterans Day Parade and what child doesn’t wait to see Santa at the end of our Christmas Parade?

Faith is important here and you’ll find a church on nearly every corner and in every denomination. All the things that make families feel nourished and safe can be found in Lexington. A strong values system, investment in education, small businesses with open doors, excellent healthcare, and a beautiful landscape that makes you say “ahhh” at the end of a long day — what more could you ask?

Visit Lexington and immerse yourself in the legacy of our proud history and delight in the promising future that is here. Visitors are enchanted. Some come back year after year. Some never leave.

**This is Lexington. This is home…**

Want to experience Lexington? Visit [www.lexingtonsc.org](http://www.lexingtonsc.org) and click “Eat, Stay, & Play” to check out all of the places so many residents know and love in our community.
Catchin’ up on 2015

Whether you’re visiting or if you now call Lexington your home, here’s what happened while you were away!

**Fans welcome Blowfish baseball to Lexington**

Months of anticipation led to an excited crowd in May as the Blowfish made their debut in Lexington County. Local military families and Lexington leaders threw out the ceremonial first pitches, and then the Blowfish got down to the business of winning their first home game. Fans had their gear and tickets ready after shopping at the new Blowfish on Main store.

“This is what we’ve been hoping and waiting for,” said Randy Gibson, executive director of the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission.

**Mobile food pantry hits Lexington County**

Lexington Interfaith Community Services rolled out a new service: a bus designed to serve as a mobile food pantry to bring fresh produce and canned goods directly to residents’ neighborhoods.

Clients living in the outlying communities of Lexington County can head to a nearby church to pick up their weekly allotment instead of driving to downtown Lexington.

**New 900-seat amphitheater coming to Lexington**

Live music, amateur productions and local festivals are coming soon to Lexington’s Main Street with the addition of a brand-new amphitheater. The 900-seat venue is under construction at the corner of Main and Church streets and is expected to be ready for the first event during the spring of 2016.

**Lexington attorneys save historic Coogler-Meetze house from wrecking ball**

A home that’s seen multiple generations of Lexington County families is being given new purpose by two Lexington attorneys. The Dutch Fork Historical Society started a campaign to save the Coogler-Meetze house, and Jean Derrick answered the call. Derrick and attorney Bill Gorski share office space on Main Street and decided to clear a portion of their acreage to relocate the historic house from Sunset Boulevard, where it stood on the site of a future senior citizen community.

Derrick said “saving this beautiful old house is rewarding … It’s a win-win.”
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South Carolina and Lexington County witnessed historic flooding this October, and many people are still recovering. More than 200 roads were shut down in Lexington County as rainfall made them unsafe, and about 600 homes were damaged by the rising waters. Statewide, that number grew to 24,000 homes.

According to the National Weather Service, nearly all of the Midlands received 12 inches or more of rain and some locations saw closer to 20 inches.

Floodwaters caused damage to several Lexington businesses when the Old Mill Pond dam broke Sunday morning, but volunteers from area churches and other businesses helped them begin the recovery process.

“We’ve had armies of people,” said Collin Danker, owner of Freeway Music in Lexington.

The Old Mill Brewpub received the brunt of the damage, and the roof of the restaurant’s back patio was in danger of collapsing Wednesday morning. Owner John Clinger was on site working to stabilize to prevent further damage but said he and his wife, Kelly, had been blessed by the number of volunteers who came to help them clean up the interior.

Creekside Restaurant on the lower level of the Old Mill was under 2 feet of water at its worst point.

Watershed Fellowship, which is also on the lower level of the Old Mill, was flooded. Pastor Kevin Thompson said via Facebook that about 200 volunteers, some from as far away as Hilton Head, came Tuesday representing 20 churches to help out their fellow ministry. Volunteers had to rip out walls and carpet in order to begin vacuuming up the excess water.

“Our community showed up in a big way,” Thompson said in his post.

Lexington Interfaith Community Services opened at 9 a.m. to begin collecting household supplies, clothes, canned food and water, and donations have been enough that LICS’ partner churches are having to store some of them.

Lexington Police Department Emergency Services Team accomplished a big feat by filling up one of their large vehicles with donations for flood victims.

Members of the team worked with the residents in the town of Lexington over the past few weeks to complete their “Fill the MRAP” campaign. The vehicle was filled to the top with personal hygiene products, bedding and school supplies.

“This is an example of the generosity of the Town of Lexington community and how they have assisted in this historic flood event,” Police Chief Terrence Green said.
It’s hard to live in Lexington and miss the artist all around you, whether they are local photographers and painters, students or even Grammy nominated songwriters. You won’t have trouble being entertained here.

Live music can always be heard at restaurants around town, during community events like the Wine Walk and Snowball Festival and even just down the road at Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Many of Lexington’s churches host nationally recognized Christian artists like American Idol Colton Dixon, Big Daddy Weave, Lauren Daigle and more. The Village Square Theatre brings Broadway classics like Hairspray right to the heart of Lexington for families to enjoy.

And if your children are ready to learn more about how they can become artist, too, Lexington has a number of dance, music and art studios with passionate staff that are ready to teach.

Looking for Entertainment?
Visit www.lexingtonsc.org and click “events” to find a full community calendar of events to enjoy!

Who’s that???
Tokyo Joe has become the fastest rising rock band in the southeast. With influences like Billy Joel and Elton John for lead vocalist Greg Bickley, it’s easy to see why Tokyo Joe has been voted “Best Rock/Pop Band” and “Best Male Vocalist” in Savannah, Columbia, Hilton Head and Beaufort.

Where they can be seen:
2016 Oyster Roast and St. Patrick’s Day Party
Thursday, March 17, 6 p.m., Blowfish Baseball Stadium
Tickets: www.lexingtonsc.org

Many of Lexington’s churches host nationally recognized Christian artists like American Idol Colton Dixon, Big Daddy Weave, Lauren Daigle and more.

Photo: RHM Photography

PROJECT ICE HOUSE

Coming Spring 2016!
The Project Ice House Amphitheater is the newest project in the Vision Plan for the Town of Lexington. The 900-seat venue will host various community events including concerts, creating the newest destination for residents and tourists alike to enjoy a night out on the town. Future development for Project Icehouse includes boutique retail and eateries, boosting the revitalization of downtown Lexington.
Climb aboard the Spirit of Lake Murray and celebrate—well, anything! Each season, the Spirit crew charters a number of public cruises. During July and August, get a table for two on a sunset dinner cruise and watch the Purple Martins roost on Bomb Island. The Fall Fever cruise celebrates the beautiful colors of the changing season. And of course, the crew gets into the spirit of special holidays with events for Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, 4th of July, and even Christmas light cruises!

What’s the Spirit all about? 
The Spirit of Lake Murray was built in 1995 by SkipperLiner Industries in Wisconsin. It was formerly owned by the Hilton hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, where it was known as The Jacksonville Princess. The vessel is spaciously designed with two climate-controlled interior decks and an outdoor strolling decks at the bow and stern. There is a large outdoor patio on the upper deck. It is a Coast Guard approved vessel for up to 134 passengers. Amenities include a full service bar, dance floor, spacious restrooms, flexible seating arrangements and large windows offering panoramic views of beautiful Lake Murray.

I want to have my own cruise! 
Good news - you can! 85% of cruise are charter events. Spirit of Lake Murray has hosted corporate meetings, client appreciations, rehearsal dinners, weddings, lunch functions, school field trips and other special events. One cruiser said, “I could not have been more impressed with the whole staff and crew. They were so helpful and always had a smile on....I highly recommend checking them out for any events you’re planning!”

Ready to catch the spirit? 
Book your next cruise at www.lakemurraycruises.com or by calling (803) 730-3044.
Stop anyone on any street in any city in South Carolina and ask them where the best schools can be found, and the answer you’ll resoundingly get is…Lexington. Our award-winning schools are our claim to fame. As much as we love Lake Murray and the recreational opportunities found here, our schools are our true source of pride.

If you want to judge the future of a community, look no further than its schools. Neighbors who are willing to invest in education are the best indication of a strong business environment where employers are looking for well-trained workers, homeowners who know that good schools result in homes that retain their value, and a better quality of life for all. People flock to Lexington for our superior schools and they stay. Voters have approved the past two multimillion dollar bond referendums by overwhelming margins to build new schools and enhance technology and facilities at existing schools.

There are 25,000 students in Lexington County School District 1 in 17 elementary schools, seven middle schools, five high schools and the technology center, serving the Lexington, Gilbert and Pelion communities.

Our students consistently have the best SAT and ACT scores in the state and are awarded tens of millions of dollars each year in college scholarships.

Our neighborhood elementary schools have small classrooms that feel more like a private school. Principals can be found each morning outside their schools welcoming children by name. Parents volunteer in droves and the parent-teacher organizations are especially active.

Excellence and high expectations are the hallmarks of Lexington schools and the numerous awards bear this out. They are recognized as Palmetto Gold Award schools and ranked among America’s Best High Schools by U. S. News & World Report. The SC Department of Education has continually ranked Lexington schools as “Excellent” on their annual report cards. The National School Boards Association’s American School Board Journal awarded Lexington 1’s world languages programs with its first-place Magna Award, recognizing bold and innovative steps to advance public education.

Awards aren’t limited to just the schools. Students were recognized with multiple first-place awards at DECA, FBLA, FFA, HOSA and SkillsUSA state competitions. An LHS student earned a perfect ACT score; two LHS students were named National Merit Scholarship Winners; and another LHS student was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. Gilbert High received the National Athletic Trainers’ Association 1st Team Safe Sports School award and won first place at the S.C. Future Farmers of America Association State Wildlife Management Career Development Event.

Staff also received many local, state and national awards and grants. Among the recognitions, Pleasant Hill Middle was home to the South Carolina Association of School Administrators Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year and the...
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S.C. VFW Citizenship Middle School Teacher of the Year. Other staff members throughout the district won Outstanding Leadership awards and earned state-wide coaching recognition.

Students may participate in a variety of academic pursuits, including the International Baccalaureate Programme, advanced placement classes and college-credit courses. Foreign language immersion programs beginning in elementary school attract parents here who want to prepare their children for academic success. The new River Bluff High School opened with expeditionary learning, flexible modular scheduling and two Centers for Advanced Study in Law and Global Policy Development, and Media Arts, Design and Production. Gilbert High opened the Center for Sustainable Solutions. Educational leaders from around the state are studying these programs for duplication in other school districts.

There are extracurricular activities to meet every interest and desire of students. From drama, music and art to student government and politics to every athletics program imaginable, Lexington schools focus on developing the total child and helping students discover their passions.

Most schools provide tablets and laptops to all their students to enhance their learning opportunities and to ensure students are technologically savvy when they graduate.

For specialized learning needs, Lexington’s private schools offer children and their parents a variety of opportunities. Heritage Christian Academy, Glenforest School and Gray Collegiate Academy are all in Lexington County and provide education from kindergarten through high school.

If you want to continue your education, you need go no further than our own Lexington backyard. Midlands Technical College with its 18,000 students is the state’s largest two-year college. The main campus of MTC is in Lexington County. In addition to degree programs, MTC offers an excellent continuing education program for business development and personal interests, appealing to 30,000 students of all ages each year. The state’s largest flagship research university – the University of South Carolina – is 12 miles from Lexington. Other colleges within a short drive include Benedict College and Allen University in Columbia and Newberry College in nearby Newberry. Other colleges, including Webster University and Limestone College, offer unique opportunities for advanced degrees.
Even the most successful small business owners, innovators, executives and companies know that great food brings even greater thoughts. And after you look at the restaurant choices you have in Lexington, your thoughts will be running wild!

With everything from a favorite chain to the unique local restaurants, you’ll never be at a loss for a lunch or dinner spot. Don’t know where to start? Just drive down Main St. in downtown Lexington. There’s always a place to find a killer Pimento cheese burger, a Mediterranean feast, a specialty cup of joe or a vast beer selection.

Still looking? If you cruise Highway 378, we guarantee one spot will catch your eye. Keep your ears open, too. You’ll more than likely hear a live band or acoustic guitar entertaining diners.

The chefs behind some of this community’s best meals work hard to make your taste buds smile. From providing fresh ingredients to traveling to places like New Orleans to purchase seasonings and continue developing their cooking techniques, each Lexington chef will provide you with a unique dining experience that will make it hard for you to leave your seat at their tables.

Their success is not only from their love of food, but also of Lexington. Many of the men and women plating your meals have called Lexington home long before they opened their doors.

Be sure to thank your chef the next time you have a mouth-watering meal in Lexington. And don’t be shy – ask one of the regulars what’s good. They’ll be happy to help!
And in the summer when you feel inspired to tackle your own meal with locally grown ingredients, the Town of Lexington Farmers Market will be the only stop you need to make.

Ready to eat?
Go to p. 84 to find a restaurant near you or visit www.lexingtonsc.org and click “eat, play & stay” to see a map of all the restaurants in the area.

The Town of Lexington Farmers Market hosts local farmers, growers and artisans. Open every Saturday from May thru September, the market makes it easy to eat local, find fresh produce and support local artists and the Certified SC program.


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*Beth & Azmi Jebali Owners*

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**Best of Lexington 2016**

**Best BBQ Restaurant**
Hudson’s Smokehouse BBQ

**Best Breakfast**
IHOP

**Best Burrito**
Moe’s Southwest Grill

**Best Chinese Restaurant**
Antai Gourmet Asian

**Best Dessert**
Menchie’s Frozen Yogurt

**Best Fast Food**
Chick-fil-A

**Best Frozen Yogurt**
Business winner

**Best Greek Restaurant**
Mediterranean Cafe

**Best Happy Hour**
Old Mill Brew Pub

**Best Italian Restaurant**
Travinia’s Italian Kitchen

**Best Mexican Restaurant**
San Jose Restaurant

**Best Milkshake**
Rush’s

**Best Pizza**
Knead Pizza

**Best Sushi**
Red Bowl

**Best Wait Staff**
Old Mill Brewpub
Necessary to the health and happiness of any community is a top-notch health care system and Lexington surely offers that. We take good health and fitness seriously here, evidenced by the multitude of opportunities, both inside and out, for physical activity.

At the center of our health care world is the top-ranked Lexington Medical Center, which has been named Columbia’s “Best Place to Have a Baby,” “Best Hospital” and one of the “Top 25 Best Hospitals to Work for in the U.S.” Lexington Medical Center has also earned the prestigious Summit Award from Press Ganey for outstanding patient satisfaction and the Consumer Choice Award from the National Research Corporation.

The 414-bed hospital features a network of more than 600 physicians, 60 physician practices and six urgent care centers, including one in downtown Lexington. The hospital also operates Extended Care in Lexington, the largest skilled nursing facility in the Carolinas, and an Alzheimer’s care center called Carroll Campbell Place.

Lexington Medical Center offers comprehensive cardiovascular care including open heart surgery, therapeutic catheterizations, cardiac rehabilitation and state-of-the-art technology. Lexington Medical Center is also a Certified Primary Stroke Center, Bariatric Center of Excellence and Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence.

Lexington Medical Center has comprehensive cancer services with clinicians who specialize in treating nearly all forms of cancer. Lexington Medical Center’s affiliation with Duke Health allows patients to have access to clinical trials and the best possible treatment close to home.

Lexington Medical Center operates the busiest Emergency department in South Carolina, treating more than 100,000 patients each year. There are 30 state-of-the-art operating rooms and suites at the main hospital in West Columbia and in outpatient surgery facilities around Lexington County. The hospital also delivers more babies than any other hospital in the Midlands.

The Women’s Imaging Center at Lexington Medical Center offers superior care. There is the comfortable, nurturing environment for having a baby that is recognized by readers of The State newspaper year after year. The innovative Breast Health Center’s “Five-Day Detection to Diagnosis” program is a nationally recognized model, adopted by other hospitals across the country. Lexington Medical Center sponsors the Heart & Sole Women’s Five Miler each spring where thousands run and walk to raise awareness of heart disease in women.

The Lexington area is also served by Palmetto Health, the state’s largest health system and the third largest non-governmental employer in South Carolina. The locally-owned, nonprofit system includes five acute-care hospitals—Palmetto Health Baptist, Palmetto Health Richland, Palmetto Health Parkridge, Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital and Palmetto Health Heart Hospital with a combined 1,138 patient beds.

Recognized nationally as one of the best places to work, nearly 11,000 doctors, nurses, medical specialists and volunteers serve the many thousands of patients who enter their doors. An elite group of more than 1,000 physicians serve Palmetto Health with most having privileges at multiple hospitals. As a teaching hospital, Palmetto Health trains the next generation of physicians through its residency and fellowship programs affiliated with the University of South Carolina.
Palmetto Health Richland’s emergency room is a Level 1 Trauma Care Center treating nearly 171,000 patients last year. With 5,500 babies getting their start in life at Palmetto Health, it is also comforting to parents to know there is also a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Palmetto Health, the only one in the Midlands.

Other areas of specialty include heart and vascular care; obstetrics, including high-risk pregnancy and genetic counseling; cancer care; neurosciences/stroke care; pediatrics; surgery; women’s health, including breast care; behavioral care; bariatric surgery; geriatrics; and orthopedics.

For the past six years, readers of The State newspaper have selected Palmetto Health as the Best Hospital System and the Best Hospital for Heart Health.

Recognizing their broad-based efforts to improve the health and quality of life of our area's most vulnerable residents, Palmetto Health received the Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service, awarded to only one U.S. hospital each year. Considered one of the most esteemed community service honors in health care, the prize is sponsored by Baxter International Foundation, the American Hospital Association and Health Research and Educational Trust.

IDG's Computerworld recognized Palmetto Health – the only organization in South Carolina – as one of the Best Places to Work in Information Technology. The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognized Palmetto Health with its Gold Plus Achievement Award for their work with treatment of strokes.

To maintain good health or to prevent needing more serious intervention, Lexington offers numerous opportunities through its many gyms and fitness centers. Our mild climate lends itself to outdoor activities year round. Travel around Lexington and you'll find people riding bikes, running and walking on our sidewalks, along trails or in one of our many beautiful parks.

Fitness and exercise programs for people of all ages are offered at membership gyms and at numerous churches and other facilities. Yoga, weightlifting, specialty diet cooking classes and sports programs of every variety are available right here in Lexington.

We've said it before, but we can't help but brag about Lake Murray! We love the water here and Lake Murray is a great source of exercise for swimmers, boaters and walkers on the 1.7 mile dam.

Healthy living is more than just a motto here. Everything you need to reach your fullest potential can be found in Lexington. We hope you'll join us for the good life!
Lexington Medical Center is a 414-bed medical complex and anchor of a comprehensive health care network employing nearly 6,000 people.

The network includes six community medical centers, an occupational health facility, the largest nursing home in the Carolinas and approximately 60 physician practices. Lexington Medical Center’s mission is to provide quality health services that meet the needs of our community. Its cardiovascular and cancer programs are affiliated with Duke Health.

Cardiovascular
Lexington Medical Center offers comprehensive cardiovascular care and has full chest pain center accreditation with percutaneous coronary intervention from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care, demonstrating its ability to quickly assess, diagnose and treat heart attack patients. And, the hospital is a Primary Stroke Center, excelling at treating stroke patients promptly.

Lexington Medical Center offers transcatheter aortic valve replacement to replace the aortic valve with a catheter instead of open heart surgery. The hospital also offers non-surgical closure for atrial septal defects and patent foramen ovale. And, an electrophysiology program diagnoses and treats cardiac arrhythmias.

Cancer
For cancer, Lexington Medical Center uses a multidisciplinary approach between medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and surgeons with support from radiologists, pathologists and other health professionals. With advanced technology and tools, physicians and staff provide the latest in diagnostics and treatment. The hospital’s cancer program is accredited with commendation by the American College of Surgeons.

The hospital’s breast program has accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers and the American College of Radiology.

By the Numbers
Lexington Medical Center performs more surgeries than any other hospital in the Midlands — more than 21,000 each year. The hospital operates the second busiest Emergency department in South Carolina, treating more than 105,000 patients annually. And, it delivers nearly 4,000 babies each year, more than any other hospital in the Midlands.

Physician Network
Lexington Medical Center employs more than 275 doctors around the Midlands. Representing a wide variety of specialties with a vast referral base, the doctors work together to ensure patients have the best care.

Awards
Lexington Medical Center has received honors including “Best Hospital” and “Best Place to Have A Baby” by readers of The State newspaper, “Best Urgent Care” by readers of the Free Times, the “Consumer Choice Award” from the National Research Corporation and the “Beacon of Excellence Award” from Press Ganey.
Lexington's inviting climate makes it not only a great place to live, but also a great place to play. From hiking trails to golf courses to the beautiful Lake Murray, Lexington County is a wonderful area for the nature and sport enthusiast with a wide variety of activities to choose from.

The centerpiece for outdoor activities is the gorgeous Lake Murray, considered "the Jewel of South Carolina." The lake spans four counties, 50,000 acres and 650 miles of shoreline, most of it in Lexington County. In June 2011, Boating Magazine named Lake Murray one of the Top 10 places in the country to live and boat.

The scenic landscapes make for a picturesque setting, and the lake is ideal for boating and any other water sport you can think of, including skiing, sailing, scuba diving, kayaking and canoeing.

Lake Murray is home to many prestigious fishing tournaments and other events each year, including the Forrest Wood Cup, the National Bass Circuit, Bassmasters tournaments, and the Mr. Lake Murray Bass Tournament. The lake also hosts several regatta sailing events, the Lexington High School Dam Swim for Drew, and the July 4th fireworks celebration, which draws 125,000 spectators annually.

Lexington County is also home to a wide variety of nine beautiful golf courses, including Golden Hills Golf and Country Club and the Country Club of Lexington. The nearby Orangeburg Country Club is another option for golfers, while tennis players have several choices, highlighted by the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center.

For those into fitness, Lexington is home to the Run Hard Lexington Half Marathon, along with several 10K and 5K races. The area also claims many traditional and crossfit gyms.

Lexington's numerous parks are another key outdoor recreational attraction. The list is highlighted by many, including Lexington Paw Park, designed for dogs, Gibson Pond Park, Cayce Riverwalk, and Crooked Creek Park. Other scenic parks include Virginia Hylton Park, Corley Street Park, Lexington Square and Caractor Park.

The parks provide visitors with walking trails, scenic views,
playground equipment and more. Nearby Harbison State Forest offers about 20 miles of biking and hiking trails. Lake Murray also features a park on each end of the dam. The Lexington side park has picnic tables and shelters and a beach area for swimmers. The other side is set up for picnics and fishing and has a boat ramp.

Lexington has a wide variety of youth sports leagues available, including baseball, basketball, football, softball and soccer. The area also has a tremendous selection of other activities for children like karate, dance studios and gymnastics training facilities.

Family sports entertainment can be found with the Lexington County Blowfish, an amateur baseball team in the Coastal Plain League, a collegiate summer baseball league. The team plays its home games at the brand new Lexington County Baseball Stadium. And in 2016, minor league baseball will return to the nearby capital city with the Columbia Fireflies, a Single-A affiliate of the New York Mets playing in the South Atlantic League.

The year-round options are endless in Lexington for sport and recreation excitement.

"The Lexington Paw Park is a great park in Lexington where dogs and owners can bond and work on their social skills. My dog met a lot of nice dogs there."

Erin Truesdale

Try new things in Lexington!

Take a sunset canoe ride on Lake Murray
Any time is a good time to take a canoe out to the middle of Lake Murray and enjoy the sunset.

Join a tennis league!
Grab a racquet and head over to the Lexington County Tennis Complex to get ready to join the USTA League Tennis teams in Lexington. Whether you are a beginner or a more advanced player, this program has a spot for you. There is no better way to have fun, make friends and compete than USTA League Tennis. Visit www.lexington.usta.com to find your team!

Erin Truesdale

Photo: Erin Truesdale

"The Lexington Paw Park is a great park in Lexington where dogs and owners can bond and work on their social skills. My dog met a lot of nice dogs there."

Erin Truesdale

Photo: Erin Truesdale

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WWW.LEXINGTONSC.ORG

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Business & Industry

With its location in the Columbia metropolitan area in the center of the state, Lexington County is ideal for business and industry.

No county in the state has a better network of roadways. Crossed by Interstates 20, 26, and 77, there are 60 miles of national highway in the county. The Columbia Metropolitan Airport is 19 miles southeast of downtown, and several major airlines provide passenger service with more than 60 arrivals and departures each day. Additionally, freight carriers and several air charter operations offer cargo service, and United Parcel Service (UPS) operates a Southeastern regional hub at the airport.

For access to water transportation, the Port of Charleston, one of the busiest ports in the Southeast, is only 110 miles to the east via I-26. The county’s market is well balanced between high-tech industries and agriculture. Manufacturing, wholesale and retail positions account for the majority of the jobs filled by the local workforce.

One of the fastest growing counties in the state, the Lexington County area attracts both relocation families and retiring baby boomers. As a result, new commercial construction and new housing are adding to the economic upswing. Mixed-use developments—a combination of residential and business of retail buildings—are becoming especially popular because they encourage the growth of small retailers and personal and professional service providers, with the added bonus of being in close proximity to homes.

What makes Lexington County a great place to begin or expand a business? A growing population and skilled workforce, a well-developed transportation infrastructure, a diversified economy, one of the lowest corporate income tax rates in the Southeast—and a cost of living below the national average.

WHY THEY DECIDED TO DO BUSINESS IN LEXINGTON

“We chose Lexington because we absolutely love our community! At Old Mill Chiropractic we strive to provide the highest quality natural health care in the midlands- Lexington’s location and accessibility assist us in that goal. And because we love that Lexington is both business and family friendly.”
- Eric N., Old Mill Chiropractic (pictured above)

“We chose to do business in Lexington because of the historic strong, stable economy, the friendly and helpful people, location to the interstate, and many other great resources it has to offer!”
- Saluda Hill Landscapes
We do balloon decorations along with delivery and setup.

- Bouquets
- Columns
- Arches
- Loose balloons
- Centerpieces
- Dance floor

Church, Schools, Corporations, and for special events we provide 10% off on our regular price.

Like us on Facebook: partyandballoonsc
Follow us on Twitter: @partyandballoonsc
Follow us on Instagram: partyandballoonsc

We carry:

- Supplies for birthday parties
- Supplies for seasonal and theme parties
- Supplies for celebration parties
- Paper and plastic solid color tableware
- Metallic and latex balloons
- Party favors
- Novelty
- Party decorations
- Pinatas
- Seasonal and everyday greeting cards
- Gift bags

Church, Schools, Corporations, and for special events we provide 10% off on our regular price.

“\text{It’s all about our extended family members — what other shops would call ‘customers.’}”

- REPAIR AND MAINTAIN ALL MAKES AND MODELS
- OFFER A PREMIUM SERVICE EXPERIENCE
- FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
- PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED AND DEDICATED STAFF
- EARLYBIRD DROP OFF AND LOCAL SHUTTLE SERVICE

Whetzel’s Automotive

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1. Create a plan and check the numbers
The initial stages of idea development may only require a two page business outline and a cash flow projection to determine if the idea has merit.

2. Choose a name for your business
And determine if it is available for use by visiting www.sos.sc.gov.

3. Determine your business entity
(Limited Liability Company (LLC), S Corp, C Corp, etc.) SBDC counselors have several resources to help with this decision.

4. Register the business name and entity with the state of South Carolina
You can do this online or in person at the Secretary of State’s office.

5. Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN)
EVEN IF, you are not planning to have employees, visit IRS.gov to obtain your EIN.

6. Open a business bank account
Just make sure you’ve completed your business entity paperwork and obtained your EIN number.

7. Register a domain name
If you register your domain for your website at the very beginning, you can hold it until you are ready to build a website. That way, you won’t lose it!

8. Determine if there are any zoning restrictions regarding the location you are considering.

9. Obtain insight
Fellow business owners within your community, your local Chamber and Office of Economic Development could save you time (and money) with their advice and guidance.

10. If you are buying or leasing a property...
Having all documents reviewed by a lawyer is a MUST!

11. Apply for applicable business licenses
These are needed for EACH municipality you will be conducting on-site business.
Get Noticed!

Hal and Diana Stevenson, Owners
Grace Outdoor Advertising
Your Local Billboard Company

803.719.5181 | graceoutdoor.com
Lexington County, considered to be the fastest growing area in South Carolina, is home to a thriving economy and many prominent U.S. and international companies. Including everything from manufacturing, distribution, and food processing to headquarters and back-office operations, the county’s ideal location and competitive, well-trained workforce make Lexington the perfect place for new and expanding business and industry, not just in the state, but in the Southeastern U.S. as well.

This dynamic economy boasts flourishing businesses, excellent schools, plentiful recreation, active faith communities, the beautiful natural environment, and a growing, yet tight-knit community nestled in the heart of the state.

With convenient and easy access to three major interstates, Lexington is strategically positioned for businesses, residents and visitors alike. Lexington is located less than an hour’s drive on Interstate 20 to Augusta, Georgia, home of The Masters Golf Tournament, and four hours from Atlanta. Interstate 26 provides access to the coasts of Charleston and the mountains of the Upstate region, both just two hours away, and Interstate 77 to Charlotte, NC, a 90-minute drive, begins in the county. The modern Columbia Metropolitan Airport, which serves the central Midlands of South Carolina, is also located in Lexington County and is just minutes away from downtown Lexington.

**Lexington’s Largest Employers**

- The Babcock Center
- House of Raeford Farms
- Lexington County
- Lexington County Health Service District
- Lexington County School District 1
- Michelin North America, Inc.
- Publix Super Markets
- SCANA
- SCE&G

**Lexington’s Largest Industries**

- **Health Care/ Social Assistance**
  - 15,308
- **Accommodation & Food Services**
  - 15,308
- **Retail Trade**
  - 15,308

**Looking for a job in Lexington?**

Go to www.lexingtonsc.org and click “Relocate” to find the latest employment opportunities.
Discover Talent Insights to Drive Business Performance

Remember when you first joined the workforce? It’s changed dramatically since then. Stay a step ahead with new insights about the U.S. workforce. Building on nearly 20 years of research, the Emerging Workforce® Study focuses on challenges business leaders face every day.

The results illuminate the state of the workplace across multiple dimensions, from recruitment and retention to the skills gap and the multi-generational workforce. Every issue is explored from dual perspectives, with both employer and employee points of view.

spherion.com/ews
Housing

Lexington features distinct neighborhoods to suit different tastes, from starter homes to mid-range subdivisions to higher-end luxury estates. Single-family housing ranges from $120,000 to $500,000.

Those looking to rent can easily settle into one of Lexington County’s luxury apartment units with one, two, or three bedroom, ceramic tile foyers, sunrooms, a garage and furniture rentals. As for locations, whether you want to live in town or on the water, there’s an apartment complex for you.

Retirement
Lexington County has exclusive communities for seniors that provide everything from independent living to continued-care services. Southlake Village is retirement living at its finest. Lexington’s newest independent retirement community provides a plethora of options for leasing from studio and one bedroom apartments to garden and patio homes. Scheduled shopping and gallery trips, parties, fitness classes and walking trails are all available as well.

Agape Senior supplies retirement in style with such amenities as pharmacy services, daily activities, on-site therapy, transportation, housekeeping and laundry services.

No matter what subdivision you choose to call home or how you decide to spend an amusing day with family, Lexington has something to offer everyone.

Ready to move?
There are plenty of real estate agents on pages 81 and 82 that would be happy to help you find your dream house in the perfect area of our community.

Deb Sheline
Real Estate Consultant
(803) 767-6275
debsheline2@gmail.com

Exit Palmetto Real Estate Services

Lexington • Irmo • Lake Murray
Chapin • Columbia • And More!

find your new home at
www.debsheline.com
Moving is anything but easy.
That’s why we’re here. Whether you’re moving from a nearby town or county or you’ve made your way across the country to call Lexington your home, this guide will give you everything you need to get settled.

Moving Checklist
☐ Update address with:
☐ credit card companies
☐ USPS (visit usps.com)
☐ Set up utilities
☐ electricity
☐ water and sewer
☐ recycling and trash pick up
☐ cable/internet
☐ telephone
☐ Call health and car insurance companies
Make sure coverage crosses state lines.
☐ Get SC driver’s license
☐ Get SC license plates
☐ Transfer car title to SC
☐ Register to vote
☐ Register child for school
☐ Find new primary care physician
☐ Get public library card
☐ Visit the Greater Lexington Chamber and Visitors Center

The titling, sales tax, and car title transfer fees in South Carolina are:
• Original title: $15.
• Title transfer: $15.
• Sales tax: Up to 5% of purchase price ($300 maximum). Only applicable if you have not already paid sales tax on the vehicle.
• Call 785-8181 for questions and payment.

Elected Officials
Town of Lexington Council……………………www.lexsc.com
Steve MacDougall, Mayor
Hazel Livingston, Mayor Pro-Tem
Kathy Maness, Ted Stambolitis, Ron Williams, Todd Carnes, Todd Shevchik

County Council …………………………………www.lex-co.sc.gov
Johnny Jeffcoat, Chairman
Todd Cullum, Vice-Chairman
Kent Collins, Bobby Keisler, Jim Kinard, Brad Matthews, Debbie Summers, Frank Townsend

SC House of Representatives - Lexington County Delegation
Todd Atwater……………………………………….212-6924
Nathan Ballentine…………………………………….734-2469
Kenny Bingham………………………………………734-3114
Chip Huggins…………………………………………734-2971
Ralph Kennedy Jr …………………………………….212-6938
Russell Ott……………………………………………212-6945
Rick Quinn………………………………………………734-6897
Kit Spires………………………………………………734-3010
Mac Toole ……………………………………………734-2973

SC Senate
John Courson …………………………………………..212-6250
Ronnie W. Cromer ……………………………………212-6330
Shane Massey…………………………………………212-6024
Katrina Shealy…………………………………………212-6108
Nikki Setzler…………………………………………212-6140

Electric & Gas
Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative…………………749-6400
SCE&G…………………………………………………359-6183
Tri-County Electric Cooperative…………………..874-1215

All area codes are (803) unless otherwise noted.

Vital Services
Emergency.................................................911
Fire Department (non-emergency) ……………………785-8141
Health Department …………………………………....791-3580
Lexington Town Police ................................……...359-6260
Lexington County Sheriff (non-emergency) …………785-8230

Driver’s License and Vehicle Registration …………356-8537
If you’ve recently moved to South Carolina from another state, you’ll need to complete a few tasks with the SCDMV:
• Transfer your out-of-state driver’s license: Within 90 days.
• Transfer your CDL: Within 30 days.
• Transfer your out-of-state vehicle registration and title: Within 45 days.

To apply for a South Carolina vehicle title, submit the following to the DMV:
• A completed Application for Certificate of Title and Registration for Motor Vehicle or Manufactured Home/Mobile Home (Form 400).
Columbia Metropolitan Airport

Fly with us. Fly with ease.

#FlyWithEase
Columbia Metropolitan Airport

Easy Is:
Getting where you need to be in only a stop or two.
Columbia Metropolitan Airport provides South Carolina's Midlands region with over 35 daily non-stop flights to 8 major markets around the nation.

easy is CAE

Fly with us. Fly with ease.

Garbage & Recycling
Lexington County Residents............................755-3325
Within Lexington Town Limits..........................359-1027

Hospitals
Lexington Medical Center.................................791-2109
Lexington Medical Center Urgent Care................358-6100
Palmetto Health.............................................296-5010
Palmetto Health Parkridge...............................296-2803

Library
Library cards are free to Lexington County residents and property owners.

To register for a library card, please visit any branch and complete an application form. You will need identification and proof of residency. You may also register online at http://www.lex.lib.sc.us/getacard.asp.

Lexington Main Library
5440 Augusta Road
Lexington, SC 29072
785-2600

Newspapers
Lexington County Chronicle............................359-7633
Free Times..................................................765-0707
The State Media Company..............................771-8361

Museum
231 Fox St., Lexington, SC...............................359-8369
Tues. - Sat. 10-4, Sun. 1-4

Post Offices
Lexington Main Branch.................................359-9355
1830 S. Lake Dr./Hwy. 6...............................821-1000

School District Information
Enrollment
In order to register your child in a Lexington County School District One school, you should bring:
• your child’s official birth certificate with parents’ names on it (not a wallet card or short certificate)
• a completed South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to the school for which your child is zoned.

Telephone Service
AT&T ............................................................1(800)228-2020
Comporium..................................................894-3121
Time Warner Cable .........................................753-5000
Windstream..................................................347-1991

Transportation
Columbia Metropolitan Airport........................882-7878
Capitol City Cab Company............................794-2240

Lexington Medical Center
Lexington Medical Center Urgent Care
Palmetto Health
Palmetto Health Parkridge

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785-2600

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Lexington County Chronicle
359-7633
Free Times
765-0707
The State Media Company
771-8361
Voter Registration............................................... 785-8361
In order to vote, South Carolina law requires one must first register to vote at least 30 days prior to the election.
To be eligible to register in South Carolina you MUST:
  • be a United States citizen - be at least eighteen years old
  on or before the next election
  • be a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct
  • not be under a court order declaring you mentally
  incompetent
  • not be confined in any public prison resulting from a
  conviction of a crime
  • have never been convicted of a felony or offense
  against the election laws OR if previously convicted,
  have served the entire sentence, including probation or
  parole, or have received a pardon for the conviction.

Water
Carolina Water Services.................................1(800) 272-1919
Lexington Joint Water &
Sewer Commission.........................................359-8373
Town of Lexington........................................359-4164 (opt. 3)

Additional Community Numbers
Lexington County Animal Services......................785-8149
Clerk of Court, Beth Carregg............................785-8212
Bureau of Vital Statistics Office.........................898-3630
Lexington County Tax Payments........................359-8000
Lexington County Job Listings.........................lex-co.com/applications/

No. 1 Lexington Company for Residencial and Commercial
Plumbing Services
www.KayPlumbing.com

803.445.3707

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