

Aggressively Defending Your Legal Rights

You may have never thought it could happen to you. Most individuals who are accused of a crime or injured at work or in an accident never expected it to happen to them. But if this has happened to you, it is important that you don't face your situation alone. These situations can be terrifying and can jeopardize your freedom, employment, family, and standing in the community. At the Law Office of James R. Snell, Jr., LLC, we assist our clients in preparing rigorous defenses with their cases, with each approach tailored to our clients' unique needs.

Lexington Criminal Defense and Personal Injury Attorney, James R. Snell, Jr., can assist you with the following cases:

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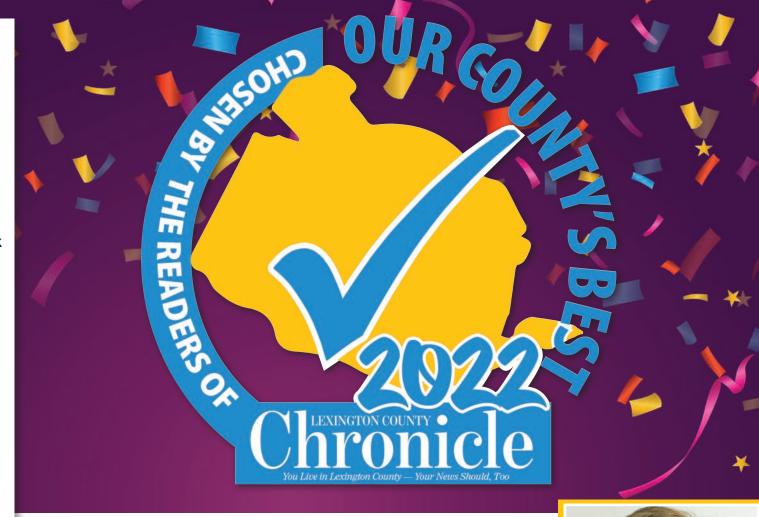
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THE MORE THAN 300 WINNERS IN THE CHRONICLE'S INAUGURAL READER POLL HELP MAKE LEXINGTON COUNTY SPECIAL

This special Lexington County Chronicle publication is all about some of what makes Lexington County such a special place to live, work and play.

We are proud to present the winners of The Lexington County Chronicle's inaugural Our County's Best contest, ranking the best our county has to offer after weeks of reader nominations and votes in more than 300 categories.

Thank you to the 4,299 people who cast 52,403 votes at lexingtonchronicle.com, selecting our county's best when it comes to food, shopping, education, recreation and more. There's even a special group of winners centered on Lake Murray.

To the winners, thank you for what you do day in and day out to make your businesses and workplaces a vital part of Lexington County. Your tough decisions, hard work and risk-taking are paying off for our communities.

To our readers, we hope you use this publication

to help make decisions in your everyday lives. Find a mechanic, a hairstylist or a place to enjoy the day throughout the county – from Chapin to Swansea and from Batesburg-Leesville to Cayce/ West Columbia.



The Our County's Best contest is part of the Chronicle's commitment to Lexington County and its residents. We are committed to bringing this county the very best in local media through newspapers, magazines, our website, our weekly e-newsletter and other sources of information we hope help improve and sustain our local communities.

We invite you to subscribe to The Lexington County Chronicle to stay up to date with what's happening in this wonderful place we call home.

Parks Rogers, Publisher



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Lexington County offers a diverse community, outstanding quality of life, and a reasonable cost of living. Our beloved county also offers a temperate climate, convenient location, and exceptional recreational and residential opportunities. At The Village at Southlake, residents find themselves among friends – people who share a zest for life and truly appreciate the finer things such as

culture, golf, shopping, fine dining, and more. Whether it's carefree fishing on Lake Murray or old movies and fresh popcorn in the community theatre, The Village at Southlake offers something for everyone.

The exceptional amenities, lifestyle options, and picturesque setting of The Village at Southlake provide all the right reasons to make us your new home. Outstanding recreation, shopping, and cultural experiences await you when you move to The Village at Southlake. Here you'll find personal touches and activities unique to this vibrant community and a comfortable lifestyle that is right for you. Just two miles from downtown Lexington, The Village at Southlake combines the beauty and recreation of Lexington with the amenities and services you've come to expect from an exceptional retirement community.

SC Courts Continued to Struggle With Backlog

BY LAW OFFICE OF JAMES R. SNELL, JR., LLC

snelllaw.com

Like most court systems post-pandemic, South Carolina courts are struggling with a backlog. However, their trouble began long before the COVID-19 Pandemic. There are many cases that have been pending before the pandemic that were only prolonged when the pandemic hit and the courts shut down. Though many cases were able to be resolved via virtual court rooms, many have sat and are still not being resolved which has led to much frustration for defendants and their attorneys. It was not until March of 2022 that the South Carolina Supreme Court ordered all courts to open back up to full capacitv. So, what is going on with the backlog and how will it affect those waiting their turn in court?

According to Lexington County Judges, there are over 2,000 pending criminal cases in Lexington County alone. What most people are not aware of is that there are a total of about twenty criminal courts in Lexington County that include General Sessions, Magistrate, and Municipal Courts. However, where as General Sessions and Magistrate are public systems with public files, the Municipal Courts have their own Police Departments and they run their own court systems outside of the mainstream court docket. This leads to many delays in the Municipalities as they hold fewer court dates with usually the same case load as the Magistrates.

However, even though there is a large backlog of cases from prior to the pandemic and from the pandemic closures of the court houses, the courts are working on quickly scheduling and resolving cases. This does take time, however, most of the courts are very accommodating for Defendants that need their cases resolved very quickly due to outside circumstances, such as health or out of state residents.

Recently, the South Carolina way of letting solicitors control the criminal court docket and court calendar has changed. The old way led to Defense Attorneys across the state complaining for many years about the old system being unfair to victims and defendants alike. The courts now run a clerk and Judge run docket where they are able to fast track cases and

keep them moving so that the backlog decreases and cases are able to be closed quicker. This has led to the Judge holding more hearings every week to pull the old cases forward and put timelines for them to be resolved so that the solicitors cannot sit on them nor pick when and what they will resolve at their leisure. This system, although it takes adjusment, will lead to the push in the number of cases resolved to both benefiting defendants and victims and allow both",their day in court".

If you have been accused of a crime, contact the Law Office of James R. Snell, Jr., LLC.



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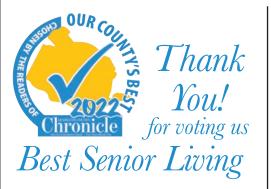












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BY CLARK LAW OFFICE

clarklawllc.com



Geneva M. "Gail" Clark was born and raised in Rockingham, North Carolina. She married her

high school sweetheart, Brian Lee Clark, of Rockingham, NC, a Road Foreman of Engineers with CSX Transportation. They have three daughters, Breleigh, Haleigh and Carleigh Clark and attend Kittiwake Baptist Church in West Columbia. Other than her love of family, Gail enjoys spending her downtime on beautiful Lake Murray.

Gail graduated from Rich-

mond Senior High School in 1996. Following High School, she attended Wingate University where she earned a B.S. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management in 2000, graduating with Dean's List recognition for her academic accomplishments. Her eagerness to engage in the process of learning continued as she acquired a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2006 from Wingate University. During this time, Gail acquired a North Carolina Real Estate Sales License in April 1999. Additionally, she obtainined Broker status in July of 2001 and Broker-In-Charge eligibility in August of 2007.

Except for a brief break to obtain her master's degree, Gail worked full time in the business field until May of

2015. Examples of her career experiences include working with residential and commercial developer; and working in collaboration with local government department heads to interpret and assist in development of program policies, review grant applications, personnel actions, and budget requests on an agency wide scale for compliance with federal, state and agency guidelines. A 2015 job transfer for her husband resulted in the relocation of her family to South Carolina and an opportunity for her to go back to school full time and pursue a law degree. The logistics of the move in conjunction with helping her three young daughters adapt to their changing circumstances was without a doubt extremely challenging at

times. However, she was determined to succeed and committed to making the daily drive to Charleston, where she attended Charleston School of Law. Gail graduated from Charleston School of Law with her Juris Doctor in May of 2019. While attending Charleston she received the CALI Award of Excellence in

Contracts I, and Upper-Level Writing.

Gail started the Clark Law Office, LLC in the fall of 2020.



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How Athletes Can Stay on Top of Their Game During the Off Season

PrismaHealth.org/ApexSports

To take your game to the next level on the field, it is important to focus on your habits and skills off the field. Joshua Vaughan, physical therapist at Prisma Health Apex Athletic Performance, shared what you can do during the off season to help you prepare to get back out there when your game begins again.

"In order to become a bigger, faster, stronger, athlete overall, you need to be devoting time to your body in the weight room and gym," said Vaughan. "Strength and conditioning are incredibly important and have many benefits, including faster speed, better endurance, and it can decrease your chance of getting injured. But don't forget about your specific game or sport. Practicing your game or sport for a few hours a day multiple times a week yearround will also improve your skills on the field."

CAN WORKING OUT HELP YOU STAY HEALTHY AND INJURY FREE?

While injuries in sports are inevitable, Vaughan said proper programming for both in-season and out-of-season training can decrease your risk for injury. Spending time improving your strength, endurance and movement mechanics will set you up to perform at your highest potential with the greatest chance of staying on the field for the whole season. "If you don't know where to start, seek out a training or rehab professional who can help set you up on a specific plan to meet your goals," he said.

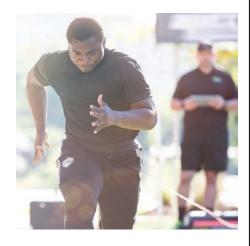
SHOULD YOU DO THE SAME TRAINING YEAR-ROUND?

"During a portion of the off season, you need to train differently

than you do during the in season. It is important to shift your focus from practicing on the field to getting stronger and faster. This may mean fewer soccer practices and more weight room sessions, fewer long practices/runs and more running mechanic training," said Vaughan. The off season also gives you an opportunity to focus on resolving any lingering injuries or aches from your in-season training.

WILL PLAYING OTHER SPORTS HELP YOU BE A BETTER ATHLETE?

Vaughan said research shows there are great benefits from playing other sports. "Playing other sports can help promote overall athleticism and introduce new ways to strength train or improve cardio endurance, as well as prevent athlete burnout and reduce your overall risk of injury."





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Beautification
Foundation's Taste
on the River

Church Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church

Civic Club Woman's Club of Cayce

Community EventLexington County Peach
Festival

Elected Official U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson

EMT/Paramedic
Brittany Rininger
(Lexington County EMS)

Event Entertainment Events by Snow



Event Venue Icehouse Amphitheater

Family Entertainment Cayce Riverwalk

Firefighter **Assistant Fire Chief** Nathan Prouse (Lexington County Fire Service)

Law Enforcement Officer

Officer Jen Klinsic (Student Resource Officer, New Providence Elementary)

Library **Lexington County Public** Library - Main

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Asian Antai Asian Dining

Bakery O'Hara's Bakery Cafe

Bar O'Hara's Public House

Barbeque Shealy's Bar-B-Que Beer Selection -Restaurant/Bar Steel Hands Brewing

Beer Selection - Store Lexington Beverage Outlet

Best Restaurant in West Columbia/Springdale
Zesto of West Columbia

Best Restaurant in Batesburg-Leesville/ Gilbert Shealy's Bar-B-Que

Best Restaurant in CayceKingsman Restaurant

Best Restaurant in Chapin Higher Ground Char House LLC

Best Restaurant in Irmo
BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

Best Restaurant in Lexington (town)O'Hara's Public House

Best Restaurant in Lexington County O'Hara's Public House

Best Restaurant in Pelion/Swansea/Gaston Don Pepe Mexican Grill & Cantina

BreakfastEggs Up Grill

Breakfast Buffet Shealy's Bar-B-Que

BrewerySteel Hands Brewing

Brunch Cafe Strudel

Buffet Shealy's Bar-B-Que

Burger Hwy 55 Burgers Shakes & Fries **Business Lunch** O'Hara's Public House

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Prior to starting MPA in 2011, she spent five years working for the largest association management and lobbying firm in the state. Ashley was selected for The State Newspaper's "Top 20 Under 40" in 2012 and named one of the 2018 Women of Influence by the Columbia Regional Business Report. She is the former Chairman of the Board for the Healing Families Foundation, a member of the Cayce Public Safety Foundation and a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for Richland County. As the former lobbyist for the Municipal Association of SC and a certified Crisis Communications Manager, Ashley has a passion for seeing cities and organizations thrive. In 2021, Ashley was named an SC Phenom by the Columbia Regional Business Report.



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Use a Pro to Get Your Home Ready to Sell

REMAX BLOG POST

www.bestlakemurrayhomes.com

There are always things to do in order to get your home ready to put on the market. Some are large ticket items, some small, and some may not be necessary at all. It takes a pair of skilled eyes to help you separate the must-do from the don't-bother. An experienced, savvy real estate agent can assist you in deciding how to put your checklist together.

For example, your aged kitchen may really need a makeover, but that's a very expensive project. So, you're thinking about simply putting on new countertops to give the room a little punch. Your agent might agree or might say that's only putting a bandaid on something that needs a total facelift. Your new countertops could stand out like a sore thumb instead of helping the kitchen's appearance. New owners may want to do the complete remodel themselves and your new countertops will be ripped out anyway.

Agents are experts at evaluating what needs to be done. Your agent will tour your property inside and out to show you what needs to be done to attract qualified buyers. It is very difficult to look at your own home with an objective eye. You need to look at it the way prospective buyers will, and that's a difficult task. It's hard to see flaws after living with them for years. It also can be very emotional because your home is full of memories and your individual decorating choices. Deciding what to change or repair to give it a more neutral appearance can be a sensitive issue. You need an agent to walk you through the process.



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Wings D's Wings

Education Driving SchoolLexington Driving
Academy

Elementary SchoolEast Point Academy
Elementary Campus

High SchoolLexington High School

High School Coach -Men's Sports Bailey Harris (Cross-Country -Lexington)

High School Coach -Women's Sports Tanner Graham (Cross-Country/Track - Lexington)

Middle School
East Point Academy
Middle Campus

PreschoolFirst Baptist Church of Lexington

Private SchoolNorthside Christian
Academy

School Administrator Mark Bounds (Head of School, East Point Academy)



School Teacher
Sarah Allman
(East Point Academy)

Tutoring Center Attest LLC

Home & Finance
Accounting Firm
Burkett Burkett
& Burkett CPA PA

Apartment Complex Waterway Apartment Homes

Bank First Citizens Bank

Bookkeeping CompanyGilroy Kenneth CPA

Cable/Satellite Company CarolinaConnect

Carpet Cleaning Floor Pro

Countertops Company
Lifetime Cabinets
& Countertops

Credit UnionAllSouth Federal Credit
Union

Decks & PorchesOTA Restoration LLC

Drive-Thru BankingFirst Community Bank

Electric Company Mid-Carolina Electric Co-Op

Fence CompanyMidlands Fence of South
Carolina, LLC

Financial Advisement Lindsay Cox (Edward Jones)

Flooring CompanyDoor to Door Floors

Glass & Mirrors
Central Glass

Grading & HaulingMetts Construction Inc

Gutter InstallationAnthony John
Construction

Gutter MaintenanceAnthony John
Construction

Heating & Air Service Richardson's Heating and Air, LLC

Home Accents Company Economy Furniture Co

Home Security Company Ring

Interior Decorating CompanyPaige Butler Interiors

Investment CompanySides Financial Strategies

LandscapingWingard's Market

Loan CompanyPremier Nationwide
Lending

LocksmithThe Modern Locksmith

Manufactured Home Dealer Lexington Discount Homes

Mold TreatmentPalmetto Commercial
Services

Moving CompanyThe Moving Squad

New Home Construction Company Gage Construction Inc.



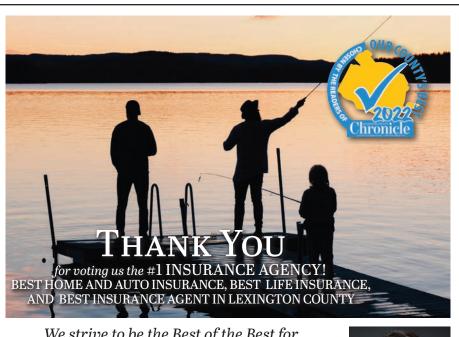
Choosing the Right Attorney

If someone asked you to name your single largest financial asset, what would you say? For most people, the answer is "my home." It makes sense. It is an asset buyers put down thousands of dollars to acquire, and for which sellers have to navigate successful transfers. The crazy part is that most buyers and sellers only do it a few times in their lives and are therefore naturally inexperienced in this process. Unfortunately, inexperience in real estate matters can result in problems in the future with the property and nobody wants that to happen. Buyers and sellers therefore have to rely on the experience and expertise of others, including realtors, lenders, and real estate lawyers. In South Carolina lawyers are required to be involved in real estate matters. This helps everyone involved, as the lawyer performs many functions which result in buyers and sellers having the confidence that their largest assets are legally protected and prop-

erly transferred. You have the right to have the lawyer YOU choose representing you. Sometimes everyone will agree to use the same lawyer-(that's OK if everyone agrees and is common). If not, that's OK, too. It's YOUR choice. In choosing your lawver you should choose a lawyer with whom you can feel comfortable and confident. Just because a lawyer can perform the work, doesn't mean that they are always the right lawyer for you. Whomever you choose should be willing to answer your questions. You should not feel like a "deer in the headlights." Your lawyer should be able to put you at ease and give you confidence that your biggest asset matters to them, too. At the end of the day, that can make all the difference.

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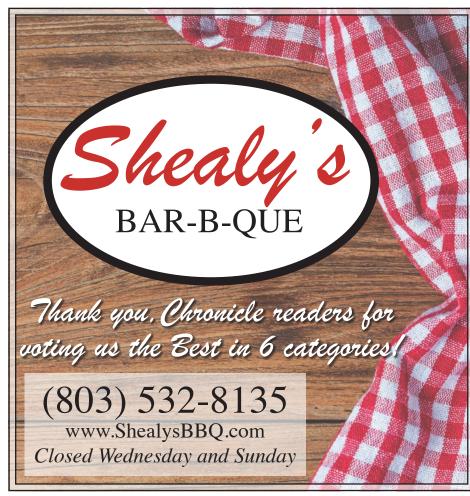


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Experienced–For more than 30 years, FiberLink LLC has been a trusted partner for projects throughout the Southeast. Our experience includes large campus projects such as nuclear plants, office parks, schools, miliary bases, transportation terminals, airports and more.

Prepared-FiberLink is certified and trained in major brands of fiber optic products including ETA, 3M, AFL and Corning and maintains current advanced fiber optic product and procedure training, continuing education classes as well as safety training. Current certifications include Blown In Fiber, enabling Fiber-Link to work with all types of fiber cabling and connections. The com-pany maintains random drug test-ing, is completely insured and has an excellent credit rating.

FiberLink utilizes top of the line, state of the art splicing, testing and diagnostic equipment which is tested, calibrated, updated and certified regularly.

Reliable—FiberLink appreciates the necessity of complete testing and documentation and always provides complete and thorough certification and documentation of all projects. Our state-of-the-art equipment ensures that circuits are tested and documented to ensure successful connections, guaranteeing that the job is done right the first time, every time.

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Real Estate Closing Attorney Templeton Law Firm

Real Estate CompanySouthern Dreams Realty

Real Estate Inspector David DuBose

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DentistJames Denny

Dermatologist
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Nurse Nurse Adina Obstetrics and Gynecology - TIE

- Carolina Women's Physicians

- Lexington Women's Care

OptometristColumbia Eye Clinic

Oral Surgeon
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(Associates In Oral &
Maxillofacial Surgery)

Orthodontist Ed Davis

Orthopedic Surgery Lexington Orthopaedics

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Pediatric PracticeSouthernMED Pediatrics

Senior LivingThe Village at Southlake

Sleep Center
Lexington Sleep Solutions

Sports MedicinePrisma Health Apex
Athletic Performance

Urgent CareVeritas Health Group

Urology Lexington Urology

Weight Loss
Anthony Keech
(Profile by Sanford)

Professional Services

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Burkett Burkett
& Burkett CPA PA

Bankruptcy Attorney
Jane H. Downey,
Attorney at Law

Bartender Michael Blizzard Chef Arif Ashfaq (Bubba's Biscuit)

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Consultant Ashley Hunter

Counselor Counseling Plus

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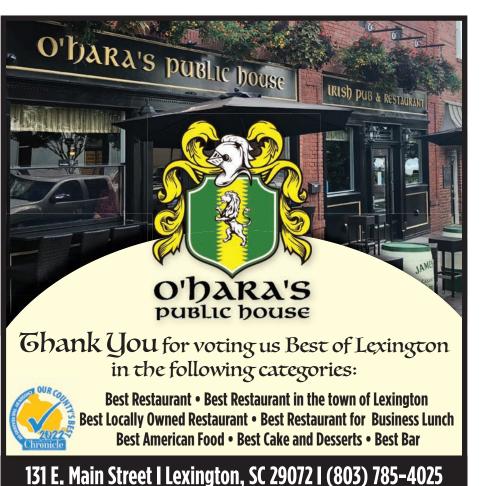


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Attorney at Law

Insurance AgentThe Carter Insurance
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Loan OfficerRebecca Barnhart Premier Nationwide
Lending - RMLO

Personal Injury AttorneyLaw Office of James R.
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Shopping & Commerce

Antique Store Old Mill Antique Mall

Appliance StoreEconomy Furniture Co

Arts and Crafts Store Hobby Lobby

Battery Store S & S Auto Supply

Bookstore Books-A-Million

BoutiqueThe Auburn Mermaid
Boutique

Bridal ShopNew York Bride and
Groom

Carpet/ Flooring Store - TIE

- Lake Murray Floor Covering

- Lexington Paint & Flooring

CBD Retailer Essential Vapors & CBD

Children's Clothing Store Magnolia Boutique & Resale

Coin and Gold ShopWest Point Coins LLC

Consignment StoreMagnolia Boutique
& Resale

Cosmetics Store Ulta Beauty

Department Store Kohl's

Discount Store CostLess Outlet

Feed Store Price's Country Store

Fishing Store JC's Outdoors

Flea Market
Barnyard Flea Market

Furniture StoreEconomy Furniture Co

Gas Station QuikTrip

Gift Store Sweet Simplicity Home Goods

Guns & Firearms StoreShooters Choice

Hardware Store - TIE
- Bob's Ace Hardware Inc

 Lowe's Home Improvement

Jewelry Store Tidwell Jewelers

Lighting & Fan StoreThe Lite House

Mattress Store Economy Furniture Co

Men's Clothing Store Craig Reagin Clothiers

Music Store 2nd & Charles

Nursery Wingard's Market

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Outdoor Furniture & Accessories Carolina Pottery

Paint Store Bob's Ace Hardware Inc

Party RentalsB-L Rental & Inflatables

Party Supply Store The Glo Room



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Medicine Mart of Lexington

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Amick's Shoe Shop

Sporting Goods

JC's Outdoors

Thrift Shop

Magnolia Boutique & Resale

Tire Store

Karl Crapps Tire Services

Tobacco Store - TIE

- Kure CBD & Vape
- The Glo Room

Tool/Equipment Rental

B-L Rental & Inflatables

Tuxedo Rental

Craig Reagin Clothiers

Vape Store

Essential Vapors & CBD

Vitamin/Supplement Store

14 Carrot Whole Foods

Women's Clothing Store

The Auburn Mermaid **Boutique**





I'm Rebecca Barnhart, your **local** Lexington, South Carolina Mortgage Loan Officer. I specialize in First-Time Homebuyers, VA relocations to our area, Down Payment Assistance programs, and much more! I take immense pride in my work and have a strong passion for helping others, whether it's professionally or personally – hopefully it can be both! When I'm not working, you can find me spending time with my two French Bulldogs, Pip and Polly. I look forward to strengthening my connections and involvement within our community. My goal is to help people experience their dreams of homeownership here in South Carolina!

REBECCA BARNHART | RMLO NMLS 2014055 | 515 E MAIN STREET | LEXINGTON, SC 29072 RBARNHART@PNLENDING.COM | **REBECCABARNHART.COM** | O. 803.670.7010



Lexington Medical Center Launches "Be Well" Campaign

Lexington Medical Center has partnered with several local municipalities and Dominion Energy to provide water fountains and hand-painted murals that encourage wellness.

The drinking fountains, which include water filling stations, are located at these popular locations in Lexington County:

- Gibson Pond Park in Lexington
- Riverwalk Park & Amphitheater and Carraway
 Park in West Columbia
- Cayce Riverwalk at the Naples Street and Timmerman Trail entrances in Cayce
- Lake Murray Dam Walkway (Irmo and Lexington sides of the dam)

The partnerships between Lexington Medical Center

and the City of West Columbia, the City of Cayce, the Town of Lexington and Dominion Energy promote healthy living and encourage the public to "Be Well."

"We selected locations widely used by residents and visitors," said Lara Lott Moore, vice president for community medical centers at Lexington Medical Center. "Providing water filling stations throughout the communities we serve promotes outdoor activity and good health. We want everyone to live a healthy life and be well."

In addition, the hospital placed hand-painted murals with the "Be Well" message at Irmo Community Park, Riverbanks Botanical Garden, Columbiana Centre mall and Segra Park. The rocket



at the South Carolina State Fair and a flower bed on the hospital's front lawn also



hank

Lexington Medical Center

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Best Nurse

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