



THE IRMO INSIDER

TOWN OF IRMO, SC

Quarterly Newsletter

A Message from Mayor Bill Danielson

I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

The Town of Irmo is built upon the back of its residents, businesses, and visitors to our community. We are the most generous, kind, and giving folks that I know of. During this time of holiday cheer, please continue your generosity and take the time to help those in need. As your Mayor, I see daily the need for us to continue to help our friends, family, and neighbors.

The recent government shutdown has reminded us of the importance of caring for others with empathy and compassion. My thanks go out to our residents, volunteers, first responders, non-profits, and especially our town staff for their tireless dedication. We have had to step up our efforts during the government shutdown.

While we celebrate, let's continue to serve those suffering from food insecurity, housing instability, or a lack of basic needs. If you know of anyone in need, please reach out to one of our local non-profit organizations for assistance. These include Sharing God's Love, Family Promise, Mission Lexington, and our local churches.

I recently started "**Irmo Believes**," our own in-town 501(c)(3). The "**Mayor's Uplift Initiative** - Bridging the Gap" falls under that organization and was funded to provide food, short-term housing, and living essentials to those in need.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be your Mayor, and if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to call me. All of us - myself, Town Council, and our town staff—are here to help.
I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

~ Mayor Bill



Explore our Irmo Charm

A charming town with just over 12,000 residents, boasting 50+ acres of parks and facilities. We're a business-friendly community, blending natural beauty with a vibrant economy. Come discover our unique **Irmo Charm**!

Stay Connected  



Dr. Barb Waldman Mayor Pro Tem

barbwaldman@townofirmosc.com

After attending the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) Annual Meeting and hearing about a Youth Council in an Upstate city, Mayor Danielson and I thought that this would be a great program to establish in Irmo. Since that time, I have worked with Dr. Kaaren Hampton, Principal of Irmo High School International School for the Arts, to develop an appropriate application process and work out the 'nuts and bolts' of establishing the **Irmo Mayor's Youth Council** through Irmo High School and School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties.

The mission of the Irmo Mayor's Youth Council is to empower Irmo's youth by providing them with opportunities to engage with local government and to support their community.

Interested students submitted applications, and 14 Irmo High School students were selected for the inaugural class of the Irmo Mayor's Youth Council. Dr. Hampton introduced them at our October 21st Council meeting. Mr. Eric Coleman will serve as their faculty advisor. These students will attend Council Meetings and Workshops, volunteer at Town of Irmo events, and work on an initiative of their choice to benefit teens and the Town of Irmo.

This program will encourage our youth to engage with local government, and I look forward to seeing all that these future leaders accomplish.



Phyllis Coleman Council Member

phylliscoleman@townofirmosc.com

It has been an honor to serve our wonderful Town of Irmo, and I continue to learn how to fulfill my role as a Council member to the best of my abilities. This summer, I graduated from the MASC MEO Institute; I continue to take courses that inform me and help me better serve you.

As part of my service to the Town, I introduced a **Hate and Intimidation ordinance**, which the Council unanimously passed a few months ago. This ordinance helps strengthen Irmo's image as a welcoming locale where everyone can enjoy our festivities and patronize our businesses without the concern of feeling unwelcome.

What's in store for 2026? Two things readily come to mind:

- **Sewing and Needlecraft Club:** I will be working with Friarsgate Park to establish a weekly two-hour club to expand upon the current crochet meetups. Stay tuned for more information!
- **Youth Leadership:** I will be working with local high schools to expand on the concepts of the Irmo Mayor's Youth Council and formalize the program within their civics curriculum. Of course, I am starting with my alma mater, Irmo High. Look out, Dutch Fork—you're next!

As always, I am available if you need help with an issue or just someone to listen. Contact me at (803) 629-1883.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Gabriel Penfield Council Member

gabrielpenfield@townofirmosc.com

I am grateful for your continued trust and the opportunity to serve as we begin a new year.

My commitment is to increase integrity, transparency, responsible growth, and meaningful investment to enhance Irmo's quality of life. We are making steady progress on key infrastructure and quality-of-life improvements:

- **Roadway maintenance and beautification.**
- **Enhanced public safety.**
- **New recreational facilities: an inclusive park and basketball/pickleball courts.**

These projects, many previously delayed, are moving forward thanks to renewed focus and strong community feedback. We are dedicated to ensuring our neighborhoods are safe, accessible, and welcoming.

A core focus is strengthening community partnerships (with residents, businesses, and schools) to inform Council decisions and ensure Irmo's growth reflects our shared values.

Moving into 2026, we will continue this momentum, addressing development concerns and expanding resources for families and seniors. Our simple goal remains: to make Irmo the best place to live, work, learn, and play. Thank you for your involvement. Please reach out anytime - your voice truly matters.



Mike Ward Council Member

mikeward@townofirmosc.com

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and to represent our town. Since taking office, I have spent time getting to know our neighbors better, listening to your concerns, and learning how local government truly works behind the scenes. Serving on Council has given me a deeper appreciation for the responsibility we carry and the trust you place in us.

Over the past few months, I have made a point to connect with town staff, regional partners, and community organizations that play a role in making Irmo function day to day. From infrastructure and utilities to public safety and community events, there is a great deal of coordination required to keep our town moving forward. Understanding those connections helps me ask better questions and advocate more effectively on your behalf.

In 2026, my focus remains on **thoughtful growth, reliable roads and utilities** (through advocacy since we do not manage these directly), and **meaningful engagement with residents**. I believe good decisions start with listening, followed by research and collaboration. That approach helps ensure progress that serves both current residents and future generations.

Irmo is a special place because of its people. Whether you have lived here for decades or recently moved into our community, your voice matters. I encourage you to stay engaged, attend council meetings, and reach out with ideas or concerns. I look forward to applying everything I've learned as I work to keep Irmo a great place to live, work, and play.



Chief Bobby Dale

Irmo Police Dept.

As we enter the holiday season, the Irmo Police Department would like to thank our community for your continued support throughout the year. Our 29 sworn officers are committed to keeping our town safe, and we remain grateful for the strong partnerships we share with our residents, businesses, and local organizations. Please remember to stay vigilant during this busy time - lock your vehicles, secure packages, and look out for neighbors who may need a hand. We wish everyone a safe, peaceful, and joyful holiday season!

Chief Michael Sonefeld

Irmo Fire District

Welcome from the Fire Chief!

I'm Mike Sonefeld, and it has been my privilege to serve as your Fire Chief since 1996. The dedicated professionals of the Irmo Fire District are highly skilled, serving our community 24/7 with pride, professionalism, and commitment to public safety. They play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for everyone here.



ISO Class 1 Rating: What it means for you

The Irmo Fire District proudly holds an ISO Class 1 Rating, the highest possible score from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This signifies exemplary fire protection across our training, equipment, water supply, and emergency communications. This elite rating often translates directly into lower property insurance premiums for both residents and businesses!

2025 IRMO FIRE DISTRICT SERVICE RECAP:

Call Volume Year-to-Date: 5,597

2,136 Medical Aid
204 Fires
621 False Alarms
628 Service Calls
1,645 Good Intent Calls
210 Hazardous Condition Calls
8 Severe Weather/Natural Disaster

Structure Fire Breakdown

14 Private Dwellings
4 Apartments
1 Store/Office
2 Outbuildings
5 Automobiles
1 Construction Equipment
15 Brush, Grass, or Wildland
10 Dumpster or Rubbish

918 Automatic Aid Given

44 Mutual Aid given
106 Automatic Aid received
49 Mutual Aid received

Thank you for your continued support of the Irmo Fire District. For additional information, please call us, visit our website at irmofire.org, or stop by any of our three fire stations. We would love the opportunity to meet you!

Headquarters

6017 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, SC 29212

Northlake

117 Lincreek Drive
Columbia, SC 29212

Childs Street

7422 Childs Street
Irmo, SC 29063



Whitt Cline

Public Works Director

December 5th was South Carolina Arbor Day, a date the Town of Irmo recognizes annually on the first Friday of the month to begin the tree planting season. To commemorate the day, Mayor Bill Danielson and the Public Works department planted a large Japanese Coral Bark Maple in the Irmo Veterans Park, located on Palmetto Wood Parkway.



TOWN OF IRMO SC.COM

Irmo Town Hall | (803) 781-7050 | 7300 Woodrow Street, Irmo

Jim Crosland Town Administrator Looking Ahead to a Strong New Year

As we enter the new year, Deputy Town Administrator Doug Polen and I are proud to reflect on our progress and share the initiatives guiding our work. Our commitment remains: **to enhance the quality of life for every resident while serving as responsible stewards of public resources.**

- **Improving Parks and Recreation:** We have made meaningful steps to upgrade our parks, creating safer, more accessible, and beautiful spaces for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors. We will continue investing in these vital community connections.
- **Modernizing Town Ordinances:** We are continuing to update our town regulations to ensure they reflect current needs, promote responsible growth, protect our neighborhoods, and support a high standard of living. This thoughtful process keeps Irmo a safe, clean, and thriving town.
- **Smart Budgeting:** Careful management of taxpayer dollars and disciplined, long-term planning remains a top priority. This approach allows us to make strategic investments and maintain high-quality services without placing unnecessary burdens on residents.

We are grateful for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will keep Irmo moving forward - strong, vibrant, and full of opportunity. Wishing you a healthy and prosperous year ahead!

IRMO



Employee of the Quarter

Sergeant David Fairbanks

We are proud to announce Sergeant David Fairbanks as our Employee of the Quarter! Since joining the Irmo Police Department, Sgt. Fairbanks has risen quickly through the ranks, driven by his extensive knowledge and dedication to the craft.

Stepping up as the primary Field Training Officer (FTO), he now mentors new hires, bringing elite experience from his time with the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Beyond patrol, he is shaping the next generation of law enforcement by leading our Explorer Post and preparing young recruits for future careers.

Sgt. Fairbanks' competitive spirit has reinvigorated the Patrol Division, fostering proactive enforcement and a renewed sense of camaraderie during squad meetings. He truly embodies our core values of Integrity, Professionalism, and Dependability.



New Businesses and Coming Soon!

- Dutch Bros Coffee** - Between the Wendy's and the Biscuitville on Broad River Road
- The Peach Cobbler Factory** - Located in the Kroger Shopping Center
- Ace Hardware** - Next to SAFE Credit Union on Broad River Road
- Chase Bank** - Next to Whataburger on Dutch Fork Road
- Chipotle** - Beside the YMCA on Dutch Fork Road
- The Coffee House** - Broad River Road, next to Broad River Paint & Body Shop
- Clutch Coffee Bar** - Lake Murray Blvd, next to the Big Blue Marble Daycare
- Take 5 Oil Change** - Between the Wendy's and the Biscuitville on Broad River Road
- Encompass Health** - Located on Evergreen Drive
- Flex Supergym** - Woodrow Street at the former Irmo Auto Supply
- Friarsgate Chevron** - Corner of N. Royal Tower and Woodrow Street
- Consumer Cellular** - Located in the Kroger Shopping Center
- Prisma Health Urgent Care** - Beside the YMCA on Dutch Fork Road
- Spinx** - Corner of Bickley Road and Broad River Road
- Waffle House** - Behind Whataburger on Dutch Fork Road



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Thank You, Neighbors!

The Town of Irmo extends a heartfelt thank you to every resident, local business, volunteer, and participant for the success of our annual Irmo Christmas Tree Lighting and our First Annual Irmo Christmas Parade.

The community spirit shown at the Irmo Tree Lighting filled the night with holiday cheer. Your enthusiastic support for the Parade - with creative floats and infectious energy exceeded all expectations, proving what a wonderful community we have and establishing this event as a new Irmo tradition. Thank you again for making these events memorable. We wish you all a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season!

~ Irmo Town Hall Staff



Upcoming Events



Irmo Cherry Blossom Festival

March 21, 2026
Irmo Town Park
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sharpvue Irmo International Festival

April 26, 2026
Moore Park
11 - 7 p.m.



Speed & Beauty Concours d'Elegance 2026

Presented by the Three Rivers Region,
Porsche Club of America
April 19, 2026
Moore Park
12 - 4 p.m.

The Festival at the Friar's Gate

Irmo's First Ren Faire!
May 15 - 16, 2026
Moore Park
Time: TBA



Irmo Town Limits Spring Concert Series

Dates: April 24, May 1, and May 8, 2026
Moore Park
Performers TBA

Irmo Jazz Fest

May 22 - 23, 2026
Moore Park
Times TBA

