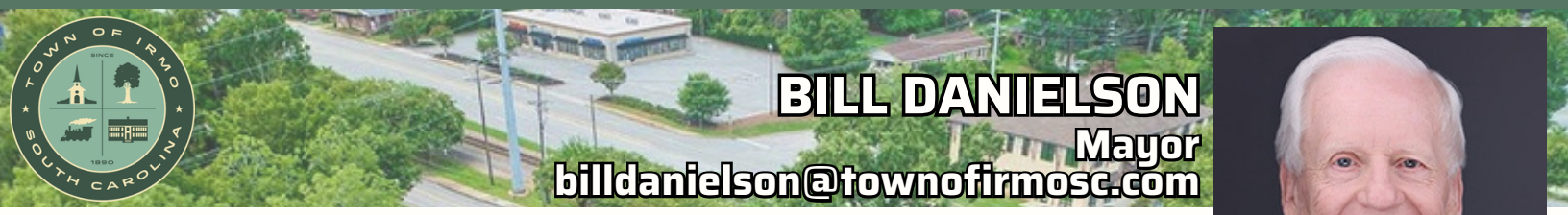


Irmo Insights

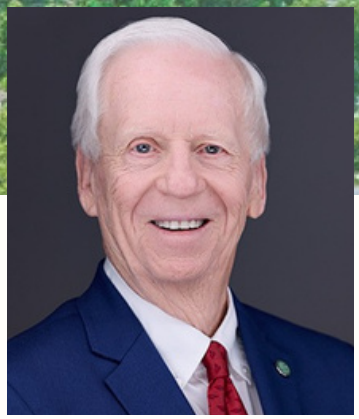
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UPDATES FROM THE IRMO TOWN COUNCIL



BILL DANIELSON
Mayor
billdanielson@townofirmosc.com



Growing Irmo Without Raising Property Taxes: The Case for Strategic Annexation

When people hear a town talk about annexation, they often assume the goal is simply to become bigger. In Irmo, the goal is not to make our Town larger by adding acreage, it is to make Irmo stronger.

Strategic annexation is about economic growth, logical boundaries, proactive planning, and building a sustainable revenue base.

Irmo Is Different

To understand why annexation matters, consider how Irmo is funded. Irmo operates without a municipal property tax. We also do not own water or electric utilities that generate revenue for other towns.

According to our FY 2025 Independent Auditor's Report, approximately 31 percent of our revenue comes from business licenses, permits, and inspection fees. Hospitality taxes and local option sales taxes provide another 13 percent each. Sanitation fees account for 12 percent, functioning essentially as a pass-through.

Because we rely heavily on business activity rather than property taxes, our financial future depends directly on expanding economic activity within our boundaries.

Investing Today for Revenue Tomorrow

Irmo's Economic Development Incentive Grant (Town Code Section 10-52) encourages voluntary annexation by removing initial cost barriers for commercial and home-based businesses.

When a qualifying business annexes into Town, it pays its required business license fee, and the Town reimburses 100 percent of that fee as a grant during each of the first three years. In years four and five, the grant covers 50 percent. By year six, the business becomes a full recurring contributor.

Consider a business that pays $2,000 annually in license fees:

- Years 1–3: The Town returns $6,000 in grants to support the transition.
- Years 4–5: The Town retains $2,000 total in net revenue.
- Years 6–10: The Town retains $2,000 in full value each year ($10,000 total).

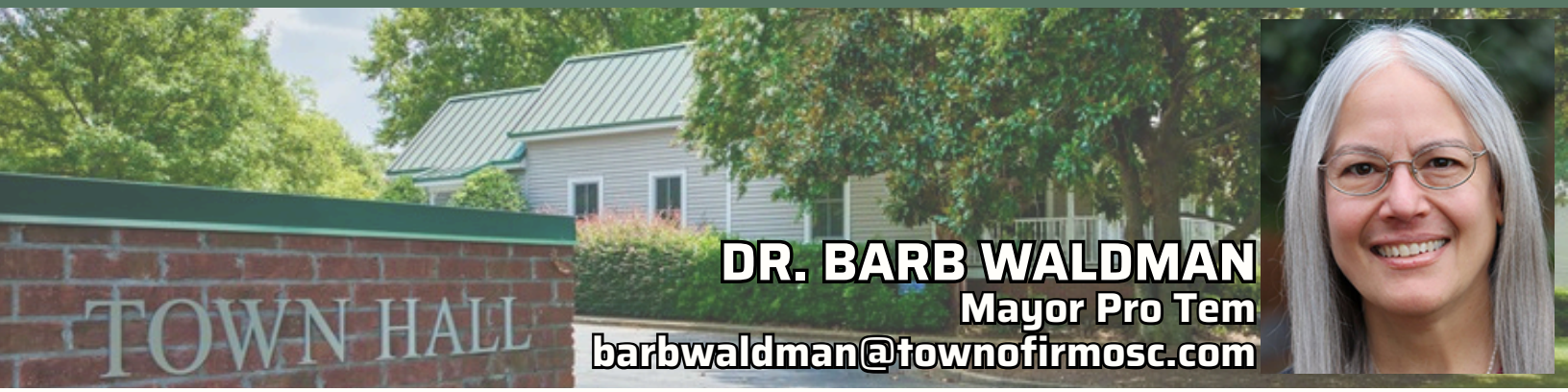
By year 10, Irmo retains $12,000 from a property that previously generated zero revenue for the Town. Beyond year 10, that recurring revenue continues indefinitely, even as businesses evolve or redevelop.

Planning for the Next Generation

Many residents and businesses already hold Irmo addresses, identify with our community, and shop locally, yet sit outside municipal limits. Voluntary annexation brings them into the Town, offering residents a direct voice in municipal government and strengthening community identity.

Municipal decisions must look past next year's budget toward the next 25 to 50 years. By responsibly expanding our economic base, we protect Irmo's unique, property-tax-free model for future generations.

UPDATES FROM THE IRMO TOWN COUNCIL



Every month as we assemble the agenda for our Council meeting, one of my favorite tasks is gathering items for our Community Connections segment. What usually begins as a modest handful of upcoming events quickly grows into an extensive list—so long, in fact, that narrowing it down becomes a challenge! It is a wonderful problem to have, and a clear testament to just how vibrant and active our town truly is.

Looking ahead, our calendar is packed with accessible, family-friendly events designed to bring neighbors together. Music lovers can enjoy the Jazz on Carlisle series, taking place on the first and third Thursdays from October through November. We are also celebrating community safety and connection with National Night Out on October 6th, supporting an important cause with the Hush No More Walk Against Domestic Violence on October 17th, and getting into the Halloween spirit with BooGrass in the Park and Trunk or Treat on October 30th at Moore Park. As the holidays approach, mark your calendars for two cherished local traditions: the Town of Irmo Tree Lighting on December 1st and the annual Irmo Christmas Parade on December 5th.

Beyond these seasonal highlights, Irmo offers a rich tapestry of recurring programs and special gatherings:

- Mission Lexington's Mobile Food Pantry visits Town Hall monthly to serve local families.
- Connect with fellow crafters at the weekly Sewing and Needlecraft Club, or attend informative awareness sessions like Shatter the Myth on October 27th.
- Explore local artisan goods at the Art Under the Oaks Fall Markets (running monthly through November), sample local cuisine at the Irmo Food and Wine Festival on October 15th, or support local students at the District 5 Foundation's Groovin' for Good Fall Fundraiser on October 17th.
- Enjoy a diverse slate of classes, athletics, and social events hosted continuously by the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission and the Harbison Community Association.

This is only a small snapshot of everything happening in and around our town. To stay fully up to date or explore more details, visit the event calendar on the official Town website at townofirmosc.com. If you are organizing a local event in the Irmo area and would like it considered for the calendar, simply fill out the submission form directly on that page.

There is always something happening in Irmo, and I encourage everyone to get involved and enjoy all that our community has to offer. As always, please feel free to reach out to me directly if there is ever anything I can assist you with!

TOWN OF
IRMO

UPDATES FROM THE IRMO TOWN COUNCIL



PHYLLIS COLEMAN
Council Member
phylliscoleman@townofirmosc.com

Hey Irmo! It's that time of year again when our town comes alive in full parade and festival mode, and I couldn't be more excited!

While I took things a little slower over the summer, I stayed right here on the ground, supporting the community efforts, organizations, and gatherings that bring us closer together. Whether it was showing up for events hosted by The Door Home, joining in the festivities at Irmo Village, staying connected at the Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce luncheons, pitching in with local food drives, or cramming every single Town of Irmo event onto my calendar, seeing our community show up for one another always fills my heart.

If you're looking for me around town this fall, my absolute new favorite event is Jazz on Carlisle, held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from October through November. It is such a fantastic way to enjoy great music, crisp autumn air, and fantastic company. You'll also find me every Thursday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at our weekly Sewing and Needlecraft Club meetup. If you see me at any of these gatherings, or just out and about, please don't hesitate to stop by, say hello, and chat for a bit!

On a vital note as we move deeper into the season: **please remember to vote**. Your vote is your voice in shaping the future of our community, state, and nation. It is a fundamental privilege, a civic duty, and a powerful mechanism for change that should never be squandered or taken for granted. Make your plan, know your ballot, and make sure your voice is counted.

As always, I am here for you. Whether you need assistance navigating a town issue, have an idea to share, or just need someone to listen - you can reach me directly at phylliscoleman@townofirmosc.com or by phone at (803) 629-1883.

Wishing you all a wonderful fall season!

TOWN OF
IRMO

UPDATES FROM THE IRMO TOWN COUNCIL



As we head into the upcoming elections in November, I want to take the opportunity to say a word about voting and something that has surprised me since I became involved in public office.

We all love our town in different ways and for different reasons - the parks, the festivals, the history, the restaurants. We love our families and the environment they grow up in, but surprisingly, we don't always put the same energy into picking the leaders who influence these things.

Serving well requires becoming a student of the office to which one is elected. It means going to the available classes, becoming a master networker, learning how to work with people, and understanding that the way you carry yourself matters.

At the end of the day, someone has to make decisions about where money goes, how our roads are funded, grants, parks, development, and the things that impact our everyday lives. What has surprised me most is how few people show up and vote, and even fewer show up and vote in an informed manner.

Citizens don't elect local leaders; citizens who vote elect local leaders.

Please consider who is on the ballot, from Governor and Congress to the State House, County Council, and School Board. Someone will fill every one of those seats. The question is whether we elect people who will do more than simply fill a seat.

Seats can be replaced at the next election, but decisions made from those seats aren't always so easily undone. By then, the storage units, car washes, apartment complexes, and traffic cameras may already be here. Once the damage is done, a later vote can't always undo it.

So as we head into election season, I implore you to have some conversations about who is on the upcoming ballot and how their decisions will impact your everyday life. If you haven't historically taken an interest, I encourage you to take one. And if you have been a consistent voter, I express my gratitude.

We all love our town. Let's take an interest in the people who will be entrusted with making decisions for it.
To learn more about the candidates on your ballot before you vote, visit VOTE411.org.

TOWN OF
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UPDATES FROM THE IRMO TOWN COUNCIL



Hello, Irmo! Fall is officially in the air, bringing with it crisp morning air, vibrant autumn leaves, and easily one of the best times of the year to get outside in our community. The cooler weather makes it the perfect season to gather with neighbors, spend a peaceful afternoon at Whitt Cline Community Park (7330 Carlisle St., Irmo), explore our local walking trails, or let the kids burn off some energy on the playgrounds at Moore Park. Our public parks and green spaces are here for everyone to enjoy, and I hope you and your family take full advantage of them during these next few months.

As we look toward November, you will see a critical measure on your ballot about how our municipal government operates. **I strongly encourage you to vote YES on transitioning our form of government to the Council-Manager model.**

In reality, Irmo has already been operating under these principles for years by relying on a professional town administrator to manage day-to-day municipal operations, coordinate public services, and lead our administrative staff. Officially adopting this change simply updates our legal charter to reflect current best practices for modern, efficient local government.

This model ensures consistent professional management, fiscal responsibility, and operational accountability at Town Hall, while allowing your elected Town Council members to focus on their primary duties: listening to resident input, setting long-term policy vision, establishing town ordinances, and advocating for our community's future.

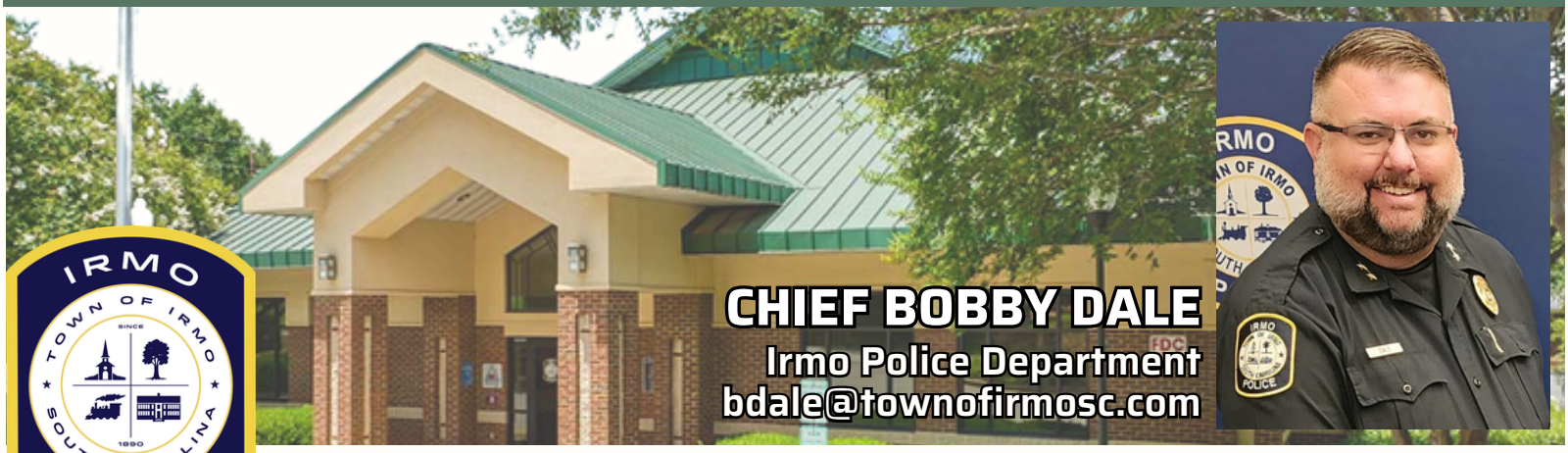
If you have any questions about what this transition entails, how it benefits taxpayers, or how it affects our local leadership, please visit our website for additional details or feel free to give me a call directly.

As we head into the busy holiday season, let's continue to foster the strong community spirit that makes Irmo so special. Keep looking out for your neighbors, support our local small businesses and restaurants whenever you can, and stay updated on upcoming community gatherings by checking our official website and Facebook page. Thank you for everything you contribute to keeping our town a safe, vibrant, and welcoming place to live.

Get outside, enjoy the beautiful fall weather in our parks, and let's finish the year strong together!

TOWN OF
IRMO

UPDATES FROM OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



A Season of Change and Community

As summer comes to a close and the leaves begin to change, our community settles into the familiar rhythm of fall. Children are back in school, families are adjusting to new schedules, and our roads and neighborhoods become a little busier. It is a good time to slow down, pay attention, and look out for one another.

With schools back in session, I want to remind everyone that school zone safety is a shared responsibility. Please watch carefully for children walking or riding bicycles, obey posted speed limits, and be especially alert around school buses. When a school bus is stopped with its red lights flashing, stop and remain stopped until the bus resumes motion and the lights are turned off. A few extra seconds of patience can make an enormous difference.

As we move further into autumn, there are a few other seasonal safety reminders worth keeping in mind. Shorter days mean more time driving in darkness, so make sure your headlights are working properly and give yourself additional time to see pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles. Cooler weather also brings an increase in outdoor activities, so please remember to secure your homes, vehicles, bicycles, and other personal property when you are away.

Perhaps most importantly, autumn gives us another opportunity to stay connected with our neighbors. **Know the people who live around you, check on those who may need a little extra assistance as the weather changes, and don't hesitate to report suspicious activity or concerns to the police department.** We all play a role in keeping our community safe.

On behalf of the men and women of the Irmo Police Department, thank you for the continued support you show our officers and our community. We are proud to serve you and look forward to a safe, enjoyable, and beautiful fall season.

Stay safe, keep caring for one another, and enjoy all that autumn has to offer.

UPDATES FROM OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



FIRE MARSHAL BRIAN HALEY
Irmo Fire District
bhaley@irmofire.org

Fire Prevention Week is nationally celebrated each October and, with a different focus each year, works to educate people about the risk of home fires and ways to minimize them. From the Office of Fire Marshal Brian Haley and in partnership with the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), we are pleased to share some fire prevention tips on safely using, storing, and recharging lithium-ion batteries!

- Use the cord and charger that came with your device or those that have been approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increases the risk of fire.
- Charge devices on a table, desk, or other hard, flat surface. Do not charge them on beds, couches, or pillows. Devices and chargers produce heat during normal charging, and soft surfaces can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause the battery to overheat.
- Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell. These are warning signs that the battery may be damaged or failing.
- Unplug your device when it is fully charged. Do not leave it plugged in longer than needed. Leaving a device plugged in too long can increase heat and stress on the battery.
- Charge larger items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside and away from exits. These batteries are larger and store more energy. If they fail, fires can grow and quickly spread.
- When on a plane, keep your device where you can see it while charging. Do not charge devices in overhead compartments. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane. If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to respond quickly.

For additional fire prevention information and more resources on this year's theme, Charging into Fire Safety, please visit www.nfpa.org. Stay safe, Irmo!



UPDATES FROM IRMO TOWN HALL



JIM CROSLAND
Town Administrator
jcrosland@townofirmosc.com

TOWN OF IRMO SOUTH CAROLINA



Planning for Irmo's Future

On November 19, 2024, the Irmo Town Council formally adopted the Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan. What does that mean for our community? It means the Town has a shared roadmap to guide growth, prioritize improvements, and plan for the future while preserving the small-town character that makes Irmo special. Developed with input from residents, businesses, and community partners, the plan establishes goals to help evaluate development proposals, consider public improvements, and make thoughtful decisions about long-term investments.

The plan encourages quality development and housing options that meet residents' changing needs while protecting the character of established neighborhoods. It also supports improvements to aging commercial areas and opportunities for a vibrant town center with businesses, gathering spaces, and compatible residential development. Together, these priorities can strengthen our local economy and create inviting places where people can shop, dine, and connect.

Better connections among neighborhoods, parks, businesses, and community destinations are another important focus. Improved pedestrian access and coordinated transportation planning can make travel throughout Irmo safer and more convenient. At the same time, protecting natural resources, enhancing recreation opportunities, and celebrating our history will help preserve our identity. Attractive streetscapes, welcoming entrances, and well-maintained parks can further strengthen community pride and overall quality of life.

Adopting the plan is an important starting point; turning its goals into progress will require careful budgeting, partnerships, and continued community involvement. As part of your Town Administration, our focus is on translating this vision into practical, achievable improvements while making responsible use of taxpayer dollars. The plan provides a common framework for considering future projects and determining how they support the future our community has envisioned.

Thank you for helping shape that future. Together, we can build on Irmo's strengths and keep our town a welcoming place to call home.

If you would like to review the Town of Irmo's Comprehensive Plan, please visit our website at townofirmosc.com/stayinformed/vision_2035.php

MEET IRMO'S NEWEST OFFICERS, ANDI AND VENOM



The Irmo Police Department is expanding its team! At the August 18 Town Council meeting, Council officially swore in two new dual-certified police dogs: K-9 Andi and K-9 Venom.

Both dogs have earned certification through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) in narcotics detection and tracking, significantly boosting our department's ability to keep the Irmo community safe. While they take their job protecting our Town seriously, each brings a unique background and personality to the force:

- K-9 Andi is a 16-month-old American-bred Belgian Malinois. Originally chosen for competitive sports, her high drive and sharp focus quickly made her a standout candidate for law enforcement. Off duty, Andi loves neighborhood walks, stew meat, and playing with her favorite tug toy (her go-to reward for a job well done!).



- K-9 Venom is a 2-year-old German Shepherd / Belgian Malinois mix (often called a "Mal X") who joined us all the way from Costa Rica. Venom has an extraordinary natural talent for tracking and narcotics searches. If you ever catch him running in energetic circles while working, don't worry; that's his trademark sign of pure enthusiasm for the job!

Please join us in giving Officers Andi and Venom a warm Irmo welcome as they begin serving our Town!

New Businesses!

CEA Company, LLC - *7302 Woodrow Street*
Eastasiasoft of America, LLC - *130 Hunter Village Drive, Ste E*
Dutch Bros., LLC - *10603 Broad River Rd*
BioHAKD Longevity Lounge, *2724 N. Lake Drive*
Waffle House, *151 Blance Circle*
Loving Angels in Home Care, *7801 St. Andrews Rd*
Carolina Industrial Staffing, *7001 St. Andrews Rd*
Pracht Injury Lawyers, *7567 St. Andrews Rd, Ste 101*
AmaDEO Fitness, LLC, *7777 Woodrow Street, Ste C*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the **Irmo Community Events** calendar on the Town's website at townofirmosc.com to see a complete listing of events in our area.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Oct. 6, 2026
Moore Park
5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

IRMO FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Oct. 15, 2026
Moore Park
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

JAZZ ON CARLISLE

Oct. 15 | Nov. 5 | Nov. 19
Enjoy free jazz brought to you by the ColaJazz Foundation
Whitt Cline Community Park
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Change in Government on November Ballot
Oct. 29, 2026
Irmo Municipal Building
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

BOOGRASS IN THE PARK

Oct. 30, 2026
Live Bluegrass Music | Trunk-or-Treat | Food Vendors
Moore Park
6 p.m.