Albemarle County is one of the most attractive and desirable locations in Virginia, with an excellent school system, low crime and unemployment rates, and a wide range of recreational activities which offer unique advantages for thriving businesses and for gracious living. Albemarle County also enjoys a strong economy, excellent services, an attractive setting and is home to numerous cultural and historic attractions. This guide will highlight some of the important information and services that you will need in regards to your new residency in Albemarle County. Welcome home.

Our Guiding Principles

Vision
Albemarle County will feature walkable and self sufficient communities. The countryside will be rural. The County's natural resources and natural beauty will be maintained. The County's educational system will be world class and the County's quality of life will be exceptional.

Mission
To enhance the well-being and quality of life for all citizens through the provision of the highest level of public service consistent with the prudent use of public funds

Core Values
Integrity
Innovation
Stewardship
Learning

Important Phone Numbers
(Area code 434)
- Board of Supervisors: 296-5843
- Community Development: 296-5832
- County Executive: 296-5841
- Finance: 296-5851
- Fire Rescue: 296-5833
- Housing: 296-5839
- Human Resources: 296-5827
- Parks & Recreation: 296-5844
- Police: 296-5807
- Schools: 972-4055
- Social Services: 972-4010


- **Website** - Albemarle County has a comprehensive website which puts Albemarle County local government at your fingertips! Apply for a job, read about the latest Albemarle County news and events, pay your taxes, listen to the audio broadcast of our Board meetings and more -- our website is focused on providing quick and convenient access to government information and services. Information is just one click away: [http://www.albemarle.org](http://www.albemarle.org)

- **A-mail** is an electronic news service that will notify you via e-mail about the services, programs, and events important to residents, visitors, businesses and the greater community. Users of this service will receive media releases, announcements and periodic updates on major events related to the topics they are most interested in. Visit [http://www.albemarle.org/a-mail](http://www.albemarle.org/a-mail) to sign up.

- **Ask Albemarle** - If you have an Albemarle County question, send an e-mail to [AskAlb@albemarle.org](mailto:AskAlb@albemarle.org) and your question will be answered promptly.
### Getting Connected to the Services You Need

#### Airport
The Charlottesville/Albemarle Airport Authority operates the local airport.  
**434-973-8341**

#### Electrical Service
Electrical service for most of the County is provided by Dominion Virginia Power.  
**434-980-6910**

#### Landfill/Recycling
The Rivanna Solid Waste Authority operates the landfill and recycling services.  
**434-977-2976**

#### Library
Public library services in Albemarle County are provided by the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library.  
[http://jmrl.org](http://jmrl.org)  
**434-979-7151**

#### Natural Gas Service
Natural gas service for urban Albemarle County is provided by Charlottesville Gas.  
**434-970-3800**

#### Notary Services
The Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, located at Court Square, provides notary services for the general public for a small fee.  
**434-972-4083**

#### Phone Service
Telephone service for the majority of the County is provided by Embarq.  
**888-723-8010**

#### Register to Vote
Albemarle County Voter Registration and Elections Department is located at the Albemarle County Office Building, 1600 5th Street.  
**434-972-4173**

#### Roads
Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for the maintenance of all public roads within the County.  
**434-293-0011**

#### Schools
For more information on Albemarle County Schools, call **434-296-5881**.

#### Water and Sewer
The Albemarle County Service Authority provides public water and sanitary sewer service in the urban area of Albemarle County, Crozet, Scottsville, Hollymead, Ivy and Glenmore.  
**434-977-4511**

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### Top 5 Things You Need to Know

1. **Where can I apply for employment with Albemarle County?**
   The Human Resources Department is located in Room 125 of the County Office Building located at 401 McIntire Road. You may also view current job openings and apply for jobs online at [http://www.albemarle.org/jobs](http://www.albemarle.org/jobs) or call **434-296-5827**.

2. **How do I obtain a building permit?**
   Contact the Community Development Department at **434-296-5832**.

3. **Who do I contact to enroll my child(ren) in school?**
   Contact the Albemarle County Education Department at **434-296-5881**.

4. **Who do I contact for water service, phone service and trash collection?**
   For water service contact the Albemarle County Service Authority at **434-977-4511**. Public water may not be available in your area in which case you will need to contract for the drilling of a well. Phone service is provided by Embarq. Several wireless phone providers are also available. Trash collection in the County is done by independent contractors and not the County. A number of independent contractors are available and you will need to contract for this service.

5. **How do I find out about parks and other recreational activities?**
   Visit the Parks and Recreation Department website at [http://www.albemarle.org/parks](http://www.albemarle.org/parks) or call **434-296-5844**.

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### Protecting Rural Spaces, Creating Urban Places

Albemarle County is an attractive, desirable place for people to live for many reasons. The County enjoys a strong economy, excellent services, an attractive setting, and convenience to numerous nearby attractions. Our community is very visible and in demand as we can see by Albemarle’s continued growth rate of approximately 1.8%, or almost 1600 new residents every year.

These residents bring new energy and vitality to the County, but also create challenges in housing, traffic congestion and other growth impacts. Over time, the County has developed a very specific and focused approach to growth management that aims to keep development pressure from destroying the rural areas that our residents value so dearly.

Our growth management plan outlines a clear vision of high quality urban areas accommodating most of the anticipated growth in the County and rural areas preserved for resource conservation and protection purposes. The defined urban areas and rural areas have very distinct levels of service and development potential. Public services such as police, fire and rescue protection, public utilities such as water and sewer, and public facilities like roads and sidewalks, are provided at a much higher level in the urban areas.

The success of our rural protection efforts depends on our ability to concentrate growth, including new homes and businesses, in our established urban areas where these services, utilities and facilities can serve the largest number of citizens. To learn more about the County’s rural spaces and urban places, and the impacts of our growth management strategies on your home and neighborhood, please visit the Community Development website: [http://www.albemarle.org/planning](http://www.albemarle.org/planning).
Taxes in Albemarle County

Personal Property Tax
Albemarle County levies a personal property tax on all taxable tangible personal property located in the County. Items of personal property that are taxable include: motor vehicles, motorcycles, boats, boat trailers, mobile homes, aircraft, campers, and utility trailers. Vehicles are assessed by the trade-in value of the January issue of the N.A.D.A. Official Used Car Guide of the current year.

Real Estate Tax
The County of Albemarle assesses real estate tax every year (as of January 2007) based on fair market value as provided by the Virginia State Code. Reassessment notices are mailed out by the Real Estate Office in the January following the assessment. The appraisal staff, in conducting their field appraisal work, considers adjacent property sales, condition of property, zoning stipulations, and other miscellaneous factors that could be an influence on the market value of the property.

Tax Rates
- Personal Property $4.28/100
- Real Estate $.742/100

Tax Deadlines
Personal Property Taxes and Real Estate Taxes are due on June 5 and December 5 of each year. First installment bills are mailed in early May and second installment bills are mailed in October. Please call the Revenue & Taxation Division at (434) 296-5851 if you have not received a tax bill by mid May for the first cycle or mid November for the second cycle.

Tax Relief
Albemarle County provides a Tax Relief Program for the elderly and/or totally disabled based on income and net worth. The program is an abatement of Real Estate tax, not a deferral. An application must be filed each year between January 1 and April 1. New applications are accepted from January 1 to October 31 and renewal applications must be filed by April 1.

Vehicle Decals
Albemarle County vehicle decals are no longer required. However, please keep in mind the following information:
- Register vehicle/change address with DMV within 30 days of moving to the county (be specific when telling DMV when you moved into Albemarle County).
- Obtain VA inspection sticker (if moving from out of state).
- Check with the Albemarle County Finance Department within 60 days of moving to the County, to verify your information on our tax rolls.

Obtaining a Business License
A business license is required of almost all businesses operating in or from Albemarle County. The following actions must be taken before a business license can be issued:
1. Register a Trade Name or General Partnership
2. Register a Corporation or Limited Partnership
3. Review Zoning Requirements for a Certificate of Use
Details and forms are available on-line at http://www.albemarle.org/finance or contact the Business License Department for more information. 434-243-7944.

Dog Licenses
All dogs in Albemarle County must have a dog license after their first rabies shot. The license must be displayed on the dogs collar at all times. In order to obtain a dog license, you will need to bring the rabies certificate from the veterinarian indicating the expiration date. This form must be brought each year to purchase a license. You may purchase dog licenses at the Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road.

Questions about any information on this page?
Call the Finance Department at 434-296-5851 or visit the website at http://www.albemarle.org/finance
Here in Albemarle County, we focus on customer service and work to make our services as accessible and convenient as possible. At both our McIntire Road and 5th Street locations, you will find staff who are available and ready to answer your questions and respond to your service needs. Here are some examples of easy ways you can do business with us next time you come to one of our County Office Buildings:

- Drop off tax payments and other county forms and documents in drop-off boxes at either building location
- Search out job information and apply for county positions online at one of the computer terminals located in our Human Resources Department located on the first floor of the COB McIntire location
- Get all the development-related information you need at our one-stop Community Development reception desk located on the North Wing (1st floor) of the COB McIntire location
- Pick up county tax forms and other informational material at either COB location

Visit us online at www.albemarle.org to:

- View County Calendar of upcoming meetings and events
- View and print Board of Supervisors meeting agendas; listen to the audio of a meeting you may have missed
- Download County forms; print County maps
- Apply for a position on a County Board or Commission
- Access County School information
- Obtain local land development information
- View real estate assessment information
- Obtain local, state and federal tax information
- View job listings and apply for jobs

**Parks & Recreation**

We value open space and natural resources, and our extensive park system is one reflection of our efforts to be good stewards of the beautiful natural environment of our County. Albemarle County has nine parks, which offer over 2,000 acres for passive and active leisure activities. The County's three swimming beaches are open during the summer season and all parks are open year around for your enjoyment.

Park highlights include:

- Boating/River Access
- Disc Golf
- Dog Park
- Fishing
- Picnic Shelters
- Swimming Beaches
- Trails
- Water Spray Park

Albemarle County also offers numerous recreational and enrichment opportunities as well as youth and adult sports programs. Visit [http://www.albemarle.org/parks](http://www.albemarle.org/parks) or call 434-296-5844 for the most up-to-date Parks and Recreation information.

**Schools**

The Albemarle County School Division is one of 134 in Virginia. It is the fifth largest in geographical area and serves a population of approximately 93,000 residents. There were approximately 12,583 students enrolled in Albemarle County Schools in 2008.

The Albemarle County Schools include:

- 16 elementary schools
- 5 middle schools
- 3 comprehensive high schools
- 1 non-traditional high school
- 1 special needs school

Albemarle County students also have access to programs at the Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC), which is jointly operated with the Charlottesville City Schools. For more information about Albemarle County Schools, visit [http://www.k12.albemarle.org](http://www.k12.albemarle.org).

**Public Safety**

The [Albemarle County Police Department](http://www.albemarle.org/police) protects and promotes community safety, ensures the safe and orderly movement of traffic, and seeks solutions to any problems that create fear or threaten the quality of life in the County. The department's present authorized strength is 115 sworn officers, 22 civilian employees and 3 animal control officers. [http://www.albemarle.org/police](http://www.albemarle.org/police)

[Emergency Communications Center (ECC)](http://www.albemarle.org/ecc) receives and processes all emergency and non-emergency calls in the County of Albemarle, the City of Charlottesville and the University of Virginia. [http://www.albemarle.org/ecc](http://www.albemarle.org/ecc)

**Albemarle County Fire Rescue:** Albemarle County has a unique emergency services system; volunteer and career personnel cooperatively provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the community while partnering with other local and regional emergency services organizations. The department provides the highest quality services to protect and preserve the lives, property, and environment of our community. Our vision is to be home of the model volunteer-career fire and emergency medical services system. [www.ACFireRescue.org](http://www.ACFireRescue.org)