

# WATER WATCH

Keeping you informed about stormwater issues and Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium activities

## Tarp The Trash!



April was Zero Tolerance for Litter Month throughout South Carolina. This campaign was led by the Lexington County Sheriff's Department and Solid Waste Management to educate the public on South Carolina Litter Laws. Social media posts, notecards, and billboards were used for edu-

cation and the Sheriff's Department handed out free tarps for drivers with open truck beds. This month-long public awareness event unites law enforcement officers from municipalities to county and state agencies in a two-part mission: to enforce the state litter laws and to educate the public on the effects of litter.

The campaign was a success as the education materials reached over 1,000 people and many tarps were handed out.

While April was used to educate the public on these litter laws, May brought more enforcement. Not covering all items with a tarp can get you pulled over and receive a ticket. Read the cheat sheet below for more information.

### TARP YOUR TRASH (It's the law!)

**SC 48-53-20**



1. Pack items by category
2. Pack lighter items below heavy items
3. Cover all items with a tarp
4. Secure tarp after removing items

**SECTION 48-53-20. Litter to be covered to prevent it from escaping from vehicle during transportation**

- No vehicle which transports litter (including tires, trash bags, wood waste etc.) may be driven or moved on any highway unless the litter is secured by means of a covering which is fastened securely so as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle.

### Inside This Issue

<i>Storm Drain Murals at River Bluff HS Completed!</i>	2
<i>Finished Murals</i>	3
<i>Backyard Benefits Recap</i>	4
<i>Meteorological Seasons Vs. Astronomical Seasons</i>	4

### IMPORTANT DATES

May 20– *Backyard Benefits Workshop @ Edmund Landfill*

June 21– *Dog Days of Summer Trash the Poop Fireflies Game @ Segra Park*

# Storm Drain Murals at River Bluff HS Completed!

## Lexington County partners with River Bluff High School, Congaree Riverkeeper for new Storm Drain Mural Project

Students turn storm drains into art, bring awareness to stormwater runoff, pollution

**LEXINGTON, S.C.** - Students at River Bluff High School (RBHS) are using their artistic abilities to bring beauty to their campus and awareness to stormwater runoff through the Storm Drain Mural Project. In conjunction with the Lexington County Stormwater Consortium and the Congaree Riverkeeper, River Bluff High School students had the opportunity to paint murals onto their storm drains around their school's campus. These murals are meant to remind students to keep our storm drains clean and help protect our local waterways from pollution.

Students held a contest where they created drafts of the murals and three were chosen to be painted. These ideas for these murals came from a collaborative effort between environmental science classes and art students. The paint and supplies were provided by City Art in Columbia. The murals were painted by Art Club students as well as students in the National Art Honor Society during the course of the 2022-2023 school year.

Alex Lyons, a senior at River Bluff and a member of the Art Honor Society, said it was an honor to be able to bring these murals to life. "They are a sense of expression for students and encourages students not to litter, which helps to protect oceans and wildlife and keep them safe," Lyons said.

"The storm drain painting project has been a true example of the power of collaboration, with students, faculty, and community members coming together to work towards a common goal," RBHS Principal Jacob Smith said. "Our efforts have not only helped protect the Saluda River and its surrounding ecosystem but also served as a reminder of the importance of environmental stewardship."

"I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those involved in this project, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished together. As we move forward, let us continue to prioritize sustainability and conservation in all our endeavors."

Taylor Brewer, environmental coordinator for Lexington County, said she hopes this Storm Drain Mural Project is just the beginning, with the ultimate goal of having storm drain murals painted all across Lexington County.





# Finished Murals





# Backyard Benefits Recap

The well-loved Rain Barrel Workshop have been revamped! The new Backyard Benefits takes a glimpse into the entire garden, focusing on rain barrels; compost; and one unique topic each class. April 29th was the debut of the revamp and was successful! The next Backyard Benefits classes will be help in the early fall. Follow the Lexington County Solid Waste Management Page to find out when the next workshop is and come make your very own rain barrel!



## Meteorological Seasons Vs. Astronomical Seasons

Fun Fact: Did you know that meteorologists define seasons differently than the average person? The seasons we think of based on the calendar are Astronomical seasons, while the seasons meteorologists use are based on temperature (Meteorological seasons). Meteorological Seasons: Spring is from March-May; Summer is from June-August; Fall is from September-November; and Winter is December-February. The Astronomical seasons



start and end with the solstices and equinoxes. This makes the start of Winter fall on December 21st or 22nd depending on the year. Our calendars label the seasons by Astronomical seasons. Which type do you consider the “true” seasons?



### Contact Information

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**The next quarterly meeting of the *Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium* is Wednesday, August 16, 2023 in the Town of South Congaree**

*The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC) is comprised of the communities of Cayce, South Congaree, Springdale, West Columbia, Irmo, Pine Ridge, Lexington, and Lexington County. We seek to protect Lexington County's waterways and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of our citizens.*

**We're on the web [LCSWC.com](http://LCSWC.com)**