

# Albemarle County

## NEW RESIDENT GUIDE

*Protecting Rural Spaces, Creating Urban Places*

### Albemarle At-A-Glance

<b>Size:</b>	723 square miles
<b>Population:</b>	Approximately 92,000
<b>Tax Rate:</b>	\$.71/per \$100 (assessed value)

### 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

*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 Board of Supervisors



The Code of Virginia provides that each county be governed by a board of supervisors, which is elected by the qualified voters. The Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County is composed of six members, one from each magisterial district. Supervisors are elected for four-year terms which are staggered at two-year intervals. The election of supervisors is held as a part of the State's general election in November of odd-numbered years. For more information, visit <http://www.albemarle.org/bos>.

### Get Informed. Stay Connected.

- ◆ **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>
- ◆ **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> 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>  
**(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**

## 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> 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> or call **434-296-5844.**

## 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>.



# 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 loan 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                 \$ .71/100

## 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 May and second installment bills are mailed in October.

## 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**.



## Do Business On-Line

Albemarle County is now offering the ability to pay property taxes on-line. Payments may be made by electronic fund transfer from a checking or savings account or by VISA, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. To pay your taxes on-line, visit:  
<https://www.albemarle.org/its/taxes>



## Finance Office Hours

Stop by the County Office Building located at 401 McIntire Road to speak to someone in person. Office hours are: **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday**

## Vehicle Decals

Any motor vehicle garaged in Albemarle must display an Albemarle County vehicle decal on its windshield.

Here's what you need to do:

- ✓ Register vehicle/change address with DMV (be specific when telling DMV *when* you moved into Albemarle County)
- ✓ Obtain VA inspection sticker (if moving from out of state).
- ✓ Bring registration card to the Albemarle County Office Building (corner of Preston Avenue and McIntire Road) and purchase decal at Finance Department.

## 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>

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## Doing Business with Albemarle County



401 McIntire Road



1600 5th Street

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 second floor of the COB McIntire location
- ◆ Pick up county tax forms and other informational material at either COB location
- ◆ Stop by the Visitors Assistance Center in either building for free and convenient internet usage, including access to the County's website for all the services listed below:

Visit us online at [www.albemarle.org](http://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.



Beaver Creek Lake

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> 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 92,000 residents. The 2004-05 end-of-year enrollment of 12,488 students was 20th largest in the state.

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>.

## Public Safety



The **Albemarle County Police Department** 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>

**Emergency Communications Center (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>

**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)