



# RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

WWW.RCSD.NET (803) 576-3000

LEON LOTT, SHERIFF



## Region One Newsletter

2615 Lower Richland Blvd., Columbia, SC 29061 (803) 576-1470

### “Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott to become Brigadier General”

The Adjutant General for South Carolina, Major General Robert E. Livingston will promote Colonel Leon Lott to the rank of Brigadier General on Saturday, February 7, 2015 during a 10:00 AM ceremony at the Olympia Armory, 551 Granby Lane, 29201

Sheriff Leon Lott served previously as Colonel and was the Provost Marshal for the State Guard and will now become Brigadier General Leon Lott, Deputy Commander for Special Operations. The South Carolina Military Department is commanded by our State's Adjutant General, Major General Robert E. Livingston. The Military Department consists of the S.C. National Guard, a part of our nation's military, and the State Guard, an all-volunteer state organization. The commander-in-chief of the State Guard is the governor. When serious natural or man-made disasters strike our state, members of the State Guard quickly respond to protect people and property and to help our communities recover. The State Guard is organized as an army division and is divided into three brigades. Each brigade has two battalions, corresponding to the boundaries of the six regions of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. New and current members receive training

at the State Guards' Military Academy located at the South Carolina National Guard McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina.

Sheriff Leon Lott was commissioned a Major assigned to the Joint Services Detachment in 2004, promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2006, transferred to South Carolina State Guard in 2008 as a Colonel of the Provost Marshal.

[American Legion Post 6 - Commander - S.A.L.](#)

[Retired Military Police Association](#)

[Employee Support for Guard and Reserve - Board of Directors](#)

[Association of the United States Army - Palmetto State Chapter](#)

[Special Forces Association Member](#)



### RCSD MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Richland County Sheriff's Department to improve the quality of life for ALL citizens. Through passion and commitment, we will maintain a high standard of professional accountability and will reduce the fear of crime and the fear of retaliation by the criminal element.

This mission will be accomplished by building unity between the Sheriff's Department and the community, joining our high standards of excellence with our vision for safer communities. Everyone will employ effective Community Policing strategies and problem-solving techniques, all supported by aggressive enforcement of Federal, State and Local Laws.

### Region 1 Command Staff



Capt. Ragland



Lt. Connors

**S.C. STATE GUARD**



**We're Online**

Online Reporting

@ [www.rcsd.net](http://www.rcsd.net)



**Crimestoppers**

**1-888-CRIME-SC [www.midlandscrimestoppers.com](http://www.midlandscrimestoppers.com)**  
Text: TIPSC & your message to CRIMES (274637)



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# Region One News



## Free Self-Defense Class for Women

The Richland County Sheriff's Department offers a women's self defense course to empower and provide women with a method of defense in the event you are attacked. This is a crime prevention program that utilizes techniques that are specifically designed for women to reduce the likelihood of victimization.

This program empowers women to recognize their strengths and make sound decisions when faced with potentially dangerous situations

Citizens should contact the Richland County Sheriff's Department Victim Services Unit for more information at (803) 576-3113 or [www.rcsd.net](http://www.rcsd.net).

Class Schedule: April 11th 2015 Time: 9:00am—1:00 pm

Location: Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 3200 Trenholm Rd.

RSVP Nina Ducate (803) 576-3086

April 25th 2015 Time: 9:00am—1:00pm

Location: Harbison Recreation Center, 106 Hillpine Road

RSVP Nina Ducate (803) 576-3086

## Sheriff Deploys community notification system "Sheriff's Alert System" – A More Informed Community is a Safer One.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott announced today the release of another innovative tool that will create greater opportunity for our citizens to rapidly receive information from the Sheriff's Department.

The Sheriff stated that his goal is to ensure that all citizens are aware of what is going on in their communities – his vision is that every citizen will be informed with important information and subsequently be alert to what is going on around them. Sheriff Leon Lott added that with the new "Sheriff's Alert System" citizens can chose to stay informed of crime trends, critical incidents, community events, safety messages and/or weather related issues.

continued)

The "Sheriff's Alert System" is an upgraded system from the Reverse 911 system that the Department had been using. The new GeoCast@Web™ combines highly advanced digital mapping technologies with phone data to automatically call people in areas precisely targeted by deputies. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the GeoCast@Web™ is replacing the old system because the new system is much more effective and efficient because it is completely web based and will provide citizens the opportunity to stay connected simply by going to [www.rcsd.net](http://www.rcsd.net).

Sheriff Leon Lott stated citizens who register themselves, to receive the free notifications, will be receiving it by cell, text and home telephone based on the information the subscriber inputs and provides. The GeoCast@Web™ is an extremely efficient, reputable and effective manner by which citizens can stay informed.

Sheriff Leon Lott is adamant that a more alert citizen is a safer citizen – and a better citizen. The Sheriff added that the more aware our citizens are, the more involved they can be in preventing crime and capturing criminals.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that he will continue to find innovative, FREE services, that will keep our communities engaged and knowledgeable - his passion and vision is to have the most informed and aware citizens; while having the most professional law enforcement agency anywhere.

The type of notifications that The Richland County Sheriff's Department is now capable of sending out using the GeoCast@Web™ emergency notification system:

**Crimes in Progress**

**Fugitives from Justice**

**Sheriff's Safety messages**

**Crime Trends**

**Critical Incidents**

**Community Events/Meetings**

**School Resource officers messages**

**Weather Related**

**ALL Alerts**



## A Safety Prevention Tip from Your Neighbor

If you have a helpful safety tip that we haven't mentioned, please feel free to email it to Capt. Meetze at [rmeetze@rcsd.net](mailto:rmeetze@rcsd.net). We will post it in the newsletter. Please include what community you live in.



# Region One News



## Richland County Sheriff's Dept. Citizen's Academy

The mission of the Richland County Sheriff's Department Citizen Police Academy Program is to educate and inform the community; to provide a forum for police - community interaction; to identify community problems, needs and concerns; and to foster a partnership with the community that will solve problems and work toward creating a safer environment.

You may apply online by clicking the APPLY ONLINE box below. You may also apply by calling 576-3118 and speaking to Bunnie Harris, or you may leave a message and someone will contact you. APPLY ONLINE [www.rcsd.net](http://www.rcsd.net)

## The Richland County Sheriff's Department Youth Arbitration Program 8 Year Anniversary

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott is proud to announce that the Richland County Sheriff's Department Youth Arbitration Program is in its 8th successful year. Sheriff Leon Lott states that the Richland County Sheriff's Department Arbitration Program has been in existence since February of 2007 and is still going strong with a success rate of 93 percent, and a recidivism rate of less than 11 percent. Youth Arbitration was designed to assist our youth, and get them back on the path to success.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the Youth Arbitration Program consists almost entirely of volunteers who have devoted their time and energy to helping improve our communities and our youth completely out of the goodness of their hearts. In order to become a certified youth arbitrator, volunteers have to successfully complete the programs 24 hour course which is taught over a 3 week period. The course consist of meeting each Tuesday

evening from 6pm-9pm throughout a 3 week period with instructor Deputy T Acox, along with guest speakers, who thoroughly teach about the diversionary program. The Youth Arbitrators learn how to conduct arbitration hearings, and hand down appropriate sanctions to help the student learn from his/her mistake while keeping a clean record! This diversionary option satisfies the needs of the community, the victim, as well as the offender which generates restorative justice for all parties. In addition, annual training is also mandatory for arbitrators to keep their certifications as a way for the department to keep positive energetic arbitrators in position to assist our young folks.

Sheriff Leon Lott is also proud to recognize one particular youth arbitrator, Judy Burton-Wiggins, who has been a dedicated arbitrator for the entire 8 years the Richland County Sheriff's Department has offered the Youth Arbitration Program. Director of the program Deputy T. Acox stated that although arbitrators come and go, Judy has been an active arbitrator since the very beginning; even through the death of her son about two years ago. Judy's commitment to the program and our communities' youth stem from her study in Human Behavior and Conflict Resolution, in which she attended Columbia College to receive her Master's Degree. When Judy heard about the department looking for volunteers for the program she knew it was something she really wanted to do because it would allow her to give back to the community, help children, their families and communities while also keeping her conflict resolution skills up to date. Judy stated that even though it's hard to accept that some children just cannot be helped, it's all the children that she has been able to help and future children she hopes to help that keeps her active in the program Sheriff Leon Lott added that he truly appreciates Judy and all the volunteers who have helped the Richland County Sheriff's Department reach through to now 2,181 troubled youth. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer please visit our website at [www.rcsd.net](http://www.rcsd.net) underneath programs/services dropdown to obtain application. Forward application to 5623 Two Notch Road Attention: Youth Arbitration or email Lieutenant Kim Myers for electronic application at [kmyers@rcsd.net](mailto:kmyers@rcsd.net). For more information, call Deputy T. Acox at the Richland County Sheriff's Department at (803) 736-0429. Sheriff Leon Lott is always looking for ways to include the community in what we do everyday to make Richland County a better place to live, work and play.

**REGION ONE Commander: Captain Robert Ragland**

**Lieutenant Bill Connors**

**ALPHA SQUAD**

Cpl. J. Crawford  
M/D L. Crutchlow  
Dep. Rosenberger  
Dep. N. Seitz

**CHARLIE SQUAD**

Cpl. G. Norton  
M/D S. Aull  
Dep. T. McIntosh  
Dep. Frost  
Dep. Grant

**BRAVO SQUAD**

Cpl. L. Ulmer  
M/D Neal  
Dep. K. Pharis  
Dep. Furgal

**DELTA SQUAD**

Cpl. M. Nimmons  
M/D Johnson  
Dep. D. Rooks  
Dep. M. Wood

**Recent Graduate: Dep. Span \*FTO Training**





# Message from Captain Ragland



## SCAM ALERT: TAX ID THEFT & FRAUD

Fraud targeting taxpayers continues to run rampant nationwide. Watch out for these two tax crimes making headlines: tax identity theft and the IRS imposter scam

### TAX ID THEFT

#### What is it?

Your personal information is stolen for a fraudulent refund. More specifically, tax identity theft can involve: filing a tax return using another person's Social Security number, claiming someone else's children as dependents, or claiming a tax refund using a deceased taxpayer's information.

Your personal information can be stolen in a number of ways, including theft of mail or tax returns, corrupt tax preparation services, or phony emails from imposters. Con artists can quickly learn a lot about you in order to take your money while also defrauding the government.

#### What to do?

To avoid tax identity theft:

Do mail tax returns as early in the tax season as possible before the cons beat you to it.

Don't give out personal information unless you know who's asking for it and why they need it.

Do shred personal and financial documents.

Do know your tax preparer.

Do check the status of your refund after filing at [irs.gov/Refunds](http://irs.gov/Refunds)

For help, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 800-908-4490 and visit [irs.gov/identity theft](http://irs.gov/identity theft).

January 26-30 is Tax ID Theft Awareness Week. For more information on how to protect yourself, visit the Federal Trade Commission's special webpage.

## IRS IMPOSTER SCAM

#### What is it?

An intimidating and sophisticated phone scam, callers claim to be IRS employees, and say you owe taxes. They might also: threaten to arrest or deport you if you don't pay, know all or part of your Social Security number, rig caller ID to make it look like the call is from the IRS, or tell you to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the card number.

#### What to do?

Know that the IRS does NOT:

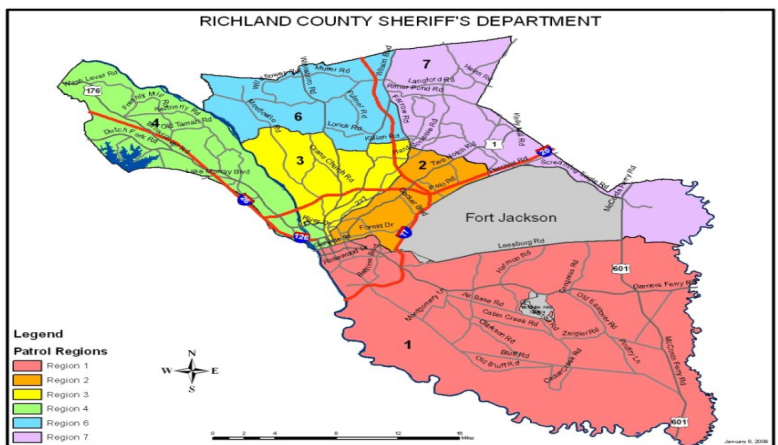
call to demand immediate payment about taxes owed without first sending you a notification by mail, ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone, threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement to arrest you for nonpayment.

If you have any doubts, call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

Or, if you've spotted a scam or think you may have been scammed, call our helpline at 877-908-3360 for advice and guidance.



[https://action.aarp.org/site/SPageNavigator/FWN\\_Tax\\_Fraud.html?utm\\_sourc](https://action.aarp.org/site/SPageNavigator/FWN_Tax_Fraud.html?utm_sourc)





## Crimestoppers– of the Midlands reported 1,200 cases cleared due to anonymous tipsters

Sheriff Leon Lott would like to remind citizens about the Midlands Crimestoppers. The primary function of crimestoppers is to provide an outlet through which anonymous callers can provide information about unsolved crimes. Callers who telephone the 24-hour hot-line are immediately given a code number. If their tip results in an arrest, the caller is eligible for a reward up to \$1,000. Banks then cooperate with the organization by paying rewards to those people who correctly identify themselves with their individual crimestoppers code number.

During the past year, 9,792 tips were distributed between the 14 partnering counties. During 2013, 1,229 cases were cleared from anonymous tips called-in, texted, or by web – in to the 24 hour call center. These tips that were called in to Crimestoppers also assisted in recovering property valued at over \$216,034 and drugs seized valued at \$244,813.

Crimestoppers of the Midlands works closely with all the Law Enforcement agencies in the area. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott is extremely proud to have supported and been involved with Crimestoppers since it began in South Carolina in 1982. The Sheriff states, "Crimestoppers provides an invaluable resource to law enforcement and our communities – because it is completely anonymous and offers cash rewards it is a safe and efficient way to take the bad guys off our streets." Sheriff Leon Lott adds that "Crimestoppers should be commended for its success and asks corporations to financially support the program; and for citizens to continue to call, email and text your tips as it will continue to make our communities safer." Sheriff Leon Lott states Crimestoppers helps law enforcement communicate about re-occurring trends, help get suspect information out to the public, provide anonymous vehicle for reporting tips and working to bring law enforcement together to solve crime. Crimestoppers covers 14 counties and 56 law enforcement jurisdictions. Sheriff Leon Lott states that the community can assist law enforcement with the efficiency of crimestoppers by telling a friend about how the program works and become a volunteer and help with fundraisers and grant applications or donate funds or time to this program. Sheriff Leon Lott adds that crimestoppers network has many benefits, including: improving the quality of life in the Midlands; helping develop a safer Midlands community; deterring crime; serving as a communications tool and bringing multiple law enforcement entities together with corporate citizens; guaranteed anonymity for callers who provide information that directly leads to an arrest and conviction.

[www.sccrimestoppers.com](http://www.sccrimestoppers.com) – 888-CRIME-SC

**Crimestoppers**

**1-888-CRIME-SC** [www.midlandscrimestoppers.com](http://www.midlandscrimestoppers.com)

Text: TIPSC & your message to CRIMES (274637)

## Richland County Sheriff Reminds

### Citizens to be Mindful of Telephone Scams

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the Richland County Sheriff's Department Financial Crimes Unit continues to uncover scams aimed at stealing your hard earned money.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that deceitful thieves are now calling citizens claiming to be Federal workers, using Government agency names such as the Internal Revenue Service. The caller states that you are behind on payments and that there is a warrant for your arrest; they tell you that if you do not respond to the outstanding debt someone is coming to arrest you. The Sheriff wants you to know the IRS nor any other agency will not call your home making such threats as this. Sheriff Leon Lott continues to urge citizens to be mindful of scammers who are out to steal your hard earned money using many deceitful techniques; many of the scammers target our precious elderly. The Richland County Sheriff's Department has received numerous phone calls from citizens who have received such calls from scammers. Sheriff Leon Lott also cautions when using online sites like Craigslist or any other social media outlet to purchase items. There have been many reports related to scams on these web sites. Sheriff Leon Lott reminds us that if it's too good to be true...then it usually is. The Financial Crimes Unit is actively pursuing scam artist who prey on and target citizens; often destroying people's lives by stealing identity or money. The Richland County Sheriff's Department Financial Crimes Unit has been working to identify those responsible for these and other financial crimes. Sheriff Leon Lott is asking for assistance in locating the suspects or anyone else that may be connected to these scams; to receive up to \$1000 for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible, please call Crimestoppers at 1-800 CrimeSC

### On the Forefront of Social Media Communication in Law Enforcement, Sheriff Announces Department's New App and QR Codes

Sheriff Leon Lott is proud to announce the creation of an App for Droid phones and QR (Quick Response) codes for smart phones. Sheriff Leon Lott recognizes that technology enhances the way people communicate. Therefore, the Richland County Sheriff's Department is providing yet another option for our citizens to stay connected. Sheriff Leon Lott has been in the forefront of communicating with citizens and personnel through social media like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Newsvine, Tumblr and more--he's thrilled about the opportunity to bring all of these sites together under one new App and QR code. The Sheriff is proud to announce that we have added these new tools to our social network family. This newest phase of utilizing social media to effectively communicate both internally and externally is just a small piece of a larger vision for the Department's social marketing. Sheriff Leon Lott added that we'll continue to stay on the forefront of creating new ways to keep citizens informed. Sheriff Leon Lott states that the App is available for Android users; and can be downloaded by visiting the Android market at <https://market.android.com/>. Type RCSD in the search field and you can download the App for FREE. Sheriff Leon Lott has also released two new QR Codes to help everyone - with both iPhones and Android phones- quickly access our Department website and all social media sites on one page.



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