

Welcome To Albemarle County



Albemarle At-A-Glance

Size:	723 square miles
Population:	Approximately 102,300
Real Estate	\$0.799 per \$100
Tax Rate:	(assessed value)

Our Guiding Principles

VISION:

A thriving County, anchored by a strong economy and excellent education system, that honors its rural heritage, scenic beauty and natural and historic resources while fostering attractive and vibrant communities.

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.

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	296-5820
Social Services	972-4010

Why Albemarle County? Albemarle County is one of the most desirable locations in Virginia and in the nation, with an excellent school system, low taxes, low crime and unemployment rates, a skilled and educated workforce, and a wealth of cultural, historic and recreational amenities in a beautiful setting. Our community is energized by entrepreneurship and invention fueled by the University of Virginia, one of the country's most renowned research institutions. Our strategic location offers easy access to airports, rail service and highway networks that place us within one day access to more than half of the U.S. population. Our focus on innovation, ideas and opportunity make Albemarle an ideal place to live, work and play.

Home to a solid and stable business base, Albemarle County boasts a range of thriving businesses that support a vibrant local economy. Albemarle recognizes and celebrates the importance of local food and homegrown entrepreneurship, creating an innovative and diverse business community. Unemployment rates in the County are consistently lower than state and national averages and, with almost 50% of Albemarle County residents possessing a Bachelor's degree or higher, the qualifications and skill levels of our workforce are unparalleled.

In addition to Albemarle's strong business presence, the County enjoys a school system among the top 10% in the state, a thriving local arts, music and culture scene, and parks and greenways that celebrate the County's pastoral setting. The County's wide variety of educational opportunities include a public school system that earned the VIP Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, two of Virginia's four charter schools, and higher education facilities such as the University of Virginia and Piedmont Virginia Community College.

Albemarle embraces its vibrant local arts and agritourism scene, hosting the Crozet Music Festival each year, as well as showcasing its artisan breweries, wineries, and craft studios through the Monticello Artisan Trail. Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway touch the western frontier of the County, and Albemarle itself possesses over 2000 acres within its parks system.

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 qualified voters. The Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County is comprised of six members, one from each magisterial district. Supervisors are elected to 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 www.albemarle.org/bos.

Getting Connected to the Services You Need

AIRPORT

The Charlottesville/Albemarle Airport Authority operates the local airport.

P 434-973-8341

ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Electrical service for most of the County is provided by Dominion Virginia Power.

P 866-366-4357

LANDFILL/RECYCLING

The Rivanna Solid Waste Authority operates the landfill and recycling services.

P 434-977-2976

LIBRARY

Public library services in Albemarle County are provided by the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library.

P 434-979-7151

NATURAL GAS SERVICE

Natural gas service for urban Albemarle County is provided by Charlottesville Gas.

P 434-970-3211

NOTARY SERVICES

The Circuit Court Clerk's Office, located at 501 Jefferson Street, Room 225, provides notary services for the general public for a small fee.

P 434-972-4083

PHONE SERVICE

Telephone service for the majority of the County is provided by Century Link

P 434-974-6928

REGISTER TO VOTE

Albemarle County Voter Registration and Elections Department is located at the County Office Building, 1600 5th Street.

P 434-972-4173

ROADS

Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for the maintenance of all public roads within the County.

P 434-293-0011

SCHOOLS

Albemarle County Public Schools

P 434-296-5820

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.

P 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 (401 McIntire Rd.) You may also view current job openings and apply for jobs online at 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 434-296-5820.

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 Century Link. Several wireless phone providers are also available. Trash collection in Albemarle County is done by independent contractors, not the County. A number of independent contractors are available which you may hire for this service.

5. How do I find out about parks and other recreational activities?

Visit the Parks and Recreation Department website at www.albemarle.org/parks or call 434-296-5844.

Get Informed. Stay Connected.

Visit us on the web!



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: www.albemarle.org

Sign up for A-mail!



A-mail is a 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 receive media releases, announcements and periodic updates on major events related to the topics in which they are most interested. Visit 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 and your

question will be answered promptly.

Live Stream BOS Meetings!



Can't make it to a Board meeting? Don't worry, you have options: listen LIVE at www.albemarle.org/listenlive.

Like us on Facebook!



www.facebook.com/Albemarle.County

Follow us on Twitter!



[Twitter.com/AlbemarleCounty](https://twitter.com/AlbemarleCounty)

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 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 1st cycle or mid November for the 2nd 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.

TAX RATES

Personal Property \$4.28/100

Real Estate \$.799/100

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:

- Register a Trade Name or General Partnership
- Register a Corporation or Limited Partnership
- Review Zoning Requirements for a Certificate of Use

Details and forms are available on-line at www.albemarle.org/finance or contact the Business License Department for more information. 434-296-5852.

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.



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: www.albemarle.org/its/taxes



Finance Office Hours



Stop by the County Office Building (401 McIntire Road) to speak to someone in person. Office hours are: 8am to 5pm, Monday – Friday.

Questions about any information on this page?

Call the Finance Department at 434-296-5851 or visit the website at www.albemarle.org/finance

Doing Business with the County

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

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 125 sworn officers, 25 civilian employees and 4 animal control officers. 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. 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

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 102,251 residents. There were approximately 13,075 students enrolled in Albemarle County Schools in 2013.

The Albemarle County Schools include:

- 16 elementary schools
- 5 middle schools
- 3 comprehensive high schools

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 on Albemarle County Schools, visit www.k12.albemarle.org.

Parks & Recreation

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 12 parks, which offer over 3,300 acres for leisure activities including swimming, picnicking, fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding and boating. The County's three swimming beaches are open during the summer season and all parks are open year around for your enjoyment. The County also offers numerous recreational and enrichment opportunities as well as youth and adult sports programs.

An overview of some of the County parks include:

- **Beaver Creek Park** holds over 200 acres, over 100 of which being water. This provides great opportunities for picnicking, fishing and boating. The lake is stocked with sunfish, channel catfish, and largemouth bass which provide a great fishing experience.
- Located on 520 acres, **Mint Springs Park** offers visitors activities such as swimming, hiking, biking, grilling, fishing and boating. In addition to sand beaches, Mint Springs also offers 2 picnic shelters with open grills and electricity.
- **Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve Park** is known for its steep and strenuous trails. Visitors use these trails for hiking, running and even horseback riding. Various wildlife are often spotted on Little Flat Mountain Loop and Blackwell's Hollow Trail leading to Catfish Rock, which offers breathtaking views of Albemarle County.

In addition to the County-maintained parks, Shenandoah National Park, one of America's premier national parks encompassing nearly 80,000 acres of wilderness, waterfalls, and the Blue Ridge Mountains, passes through Albemarle County, offering the opportunity for horseback riding, camping, hiking, bicycling, and the chance to encounter wildlife from deer to black bears. Part of the 2,180 mile footpath that is the Appalachian Trail goes right through the Shenandoah National Park. The trail incorporates conservation efforts, youth workshops, and opportunities to work on a volunteer trail crew

Visit www.albemarle.org/parks or call 434-296-5844 for the most up-to-date Parks and Recreation information.