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## **Sheriff Leon Lott and Richland Library announce Firearm Safety Partnership**

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott and Richland Library Executive Director Melanie Huggins announced Tuesday that both organizations have teamed up to create a safe and livable community by offering firearm safety classes at four library locations in the upcoming weeks.

Despite repeated pleas to the community by Sheriff Lott to keep firearms safely stored, every day deputies seize stolen guns from the streets. This partnership will not only encourage responsible gun ownership, it will also provide those who attend with free gun locks for their weapons.

"Responsible gun owners don't leave firearms in their vehicles; they lock them up and they safely store them," said Sheriff Leon Lott. "These classes are part of our ongoing education effort regarding responsible gun ownership, and they help drill the message home during the summer time when kids stay home with enough free time to go roaming into drawers and could find an unsecured firearm."

"The library's core mission is to improve the quality of life for the communities that we serve," Director Huggins added. "We are excited to partner with the Richland County Sheriff's Department this summer to promote gun safety and educate our customers on the proper storage of firearms. Informed and engaged citizens help create a safer community, and this initiative communicates a powerful message and could potentially save lives."

During these classes, the RCSD Community Action Team will offer tips and tools that encourage firearm safety and storage — both in your home and on the go. The free gun locks given to attendees are provided by Project Child Safe — an initiative of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** The classes are informational sessions only. Concealed weapons are prohibited at all Richland Library locations and firearms will not be permitted at these events. **\*\***

The classes will be held at several locations on the following dates:

- Thursday, June 20 at 7 p.m., Richland Library Main at 1431 Assembly Street
- Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m., Richland Library St. Andrews at 2916 Broad River Road
- Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m., Richland Library Southeast at 7421 Garners Ferry Road
- Saturday, June 29 at 10 a.m., Richland Library North Main at 5306 N. Main Street