

# COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 27

Number 4



## York County Renovates Historic Courthouse





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# COUNTY FOCUS

## CONTENTS

Date of Issue: March 2017

- 2 York County Renovates Historic Courthouse**  
*By W. Stuart Morgan III*
- 14 York County's Pennies for Progress Program**  
*By W. Stuart Morgan III*
- 25 S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority Offers Grant Funding to Help Counties Finance Infrastructure Projects**  
*How RIA Grant Funding Has Helped Hampton and Marion Counties*  
*By Liz Rosinski, Program Manager, Office of Grant Programs*  
*S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority*
- 35 Why the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust?**  
*By Robert C. Collins, CPCU, CIC*  
*Director of Insurance Services, SCAC*
- 41 The IMLA Report**  
*Should a County Bear Liability for the Actions of a Sheriff?*  
*By Charles W. Thompson Jr., Executive Director and General Counsel*  
*International Municipal Lawyers Association*
- 46 A Roadside Guide to Allendale County**  
*The County's Role in the American War for Independence*  
*By Alexia Jones Helsley*
- 50 County Update**

**COVER PHOTOS: Bottom Photo**—York County citizens, local government officials and guests begin to gather in front of York County's newly renovated historic courthouse before the grand opening ceremony was held on January 29. *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*  
**Top Photo**—Dignitaries cut the ribbon, officially opening York County's newly renovated courthouse. Everyone, who gathered to watch the ribbon-cutting, then walked up the front steps and entered the building to witness the remainder of the grand opening ceremony. *(Photo courtesy of Aaron Reel Photography) (See Story, P. 2)*



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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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# York County Renovates Historic Courthouse

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**Y**ork County hosted a grand opening ceremony at 3 p.m. on Jan. 29 for its newly renovated courthouse that included a ribbon-cutting and the opening of a time capsule, installed when the courthouse was constructed 1914–15.



*“The courthouse is a great reminder of our country’s past. ... Our court system, including judges, can conduct trials in a more efficient manner in a building that has great historical significance. So, both the court system and the average citizen win.”*

— Britt Blackwell  
York County Council Chairman

York County Council first discussed all available options, including the construction of a new one. But county council chose to renovate the courthouse after a study indicated

that doing so would be the most cost effective option. In fact, council also kept an old cedar tree in front of the courthouse when many local residents strongly objected to replacing the beloved tree with a new one.

“Renovating the courthouse—out of all of the options we had—allowed us to preserve history and create a very functional courthouse for this day and time at the lowest cost,” Blackwell said. “If you can save taxpayers’ dollars and revive a building of great historical value, it’s worth doing. Our history

“The decision to renovate our courthouse was an easy one for York County Council to make,” said York County Council Chairman Britt Blackwell. “The courthouse is a great reminder of our country’s past. It’s a piece of Americana.

“It’s great for our citizens— young and old—to see the history of our past in a beautifully renovated building,” he added. “It’s also a win-win for everyone. Our court system, including judges, can conduct trials in a more efficient manner in a building that has great historical significance. So, both the court system and the average citizen win.”

Many local residents voiced that they strongly favored renovating the courthouse when



Bronze plaque, installed on the lower-front (northeast) exterior corner of York County’s courthouse when the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.



UNVEILING STATE HISTORICAL MARKER—Michael Scoggins, historian for the Historical Center of York County, speaks after unveiling the new state historical marker on Dec. 10 in front of York County’s historic courthouse. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



reflects the values that made our nation great, and we need to do everything possible to preserve that history. We also need to maximize courthouse security to protect our citizens.”

The historic courthouse, located at the intersection of West Liberty and South Congress streets in downtown York, is the city’s architectural centerpiece.

York County began renovating the courthouse before Blackwell was elected to serve on county council in November 2010. But the courthouse was closed for

*(Continued on next page)*



**HISTORIC YORK MONUMENT**—The York County Historical Commission erected this monument in 1960 at the front (northeast) corner of the York County Courthouse site. It marks the adjacent intersection, originally called Fergus Crossroads, through which many historic figures have passed since the American Revolutionary War: Gen. Thomas Sumter, “The Gamecock”; Gen. Daniel Morgan, “Hero of Cowpens”; Lord Cornwallis, British Commander at Yorktown; Col. Banastre Tarleton, British Commander at Cowpens; and later, William Gilmore Simms, S.C. author and historian. During the Civil War, Gen. Micah Jenkins, C.S.A., and Gen. Wade Hampton, C.S.A. (later, S.C. Governor) passed through the crossroads. Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his entourage, including his wife and the Confederate Cabinet—pursued by U.S. Cavalry—also passed through in the final days of the Civil War in 1865. *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*



**GATHERING FOR GRAND OPENING CEREMONY**—York County citizens, local government officials and guests begin to gather on Jan. 29 in front of the county’s historic courthouse before the ribbon-cutting ceremony on the front steps. Afterward, everyone entered the courthouse and seated themselves in the main courtroom on the third floor. There, they watched the remainder of the grand opening ceremony, which included several guest speakers and the opening of the time capsule removed from the courthouse’s cornerstone. The cornerstone, installed when construction began in 1914, is located in the lower-right (northeast) corner of the building but out of view in this photo. *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*



several years as work started and stalled repeatedly every time cost projections exceeded what the county had budgeted for such work.

York County faced two major challenges to complete the renovation because the courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981:

1) The county had to preserve the historical value of the building, and

2) the county had to bring the 102-year-old structure up to compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

York County Council, supported by local officials and residents, finally voted in 2015—in fact, voted unanimously that year—on a \$10 million project to tackle both challenges and achieve those objectives.

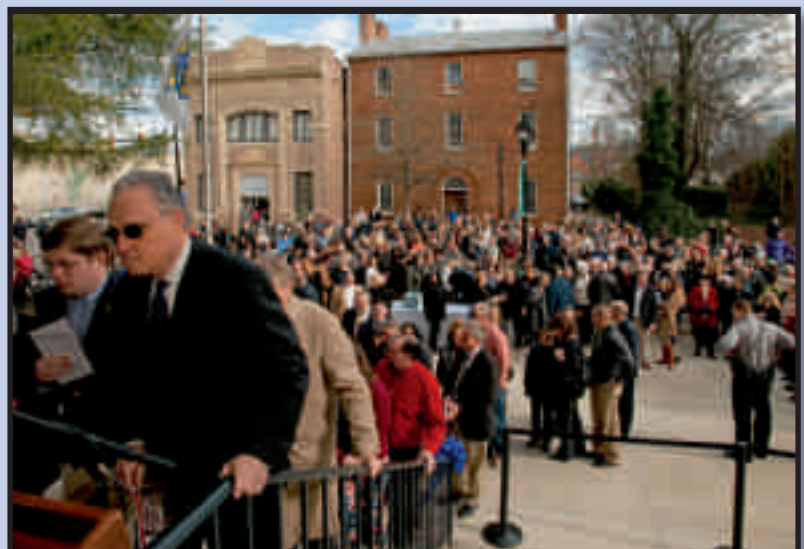
The following year, council then used money within the



**RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY—**(Left to right) Andrew Merriman and David Harmon, York County Assistant Managers; the Honorable S. Jackson Kimball, Master-In-Equity Judge; the Honorable Carolyn Rogers, Probate Judge; the Honorable Daniel D. Hall, Circuit Court Judge; the Honorable John C. Hayes III, Circuit Court Judge; Angie Smarr, York County Chief Deputy Clerk of Court; J. David Hamilton, York County Clerk of Court; Dr. J. Britt Blackwell, York County Council Chairman; Michael Johnson, York County Council Vice Chairman; Allison Love, Robert Winkler, William “Bump” Roddey, Christi Porter Cox and Charles C. Williams, York County Council Members; and William P. Shanahan Jr., York County Manager. *(Photo courtesy of Aaron Reel Photography)*



York County Clerk of Court David Hamilton (left) shakes hands with Kenny Smith of the Leitner Construction Company moments after Smith presents him a key to the courthouse at the end of the ribbon-cutting ceremony on the front steps of the courthouse.



After witnessing the ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the courthouse, several hundred individuals entered the building to watch the opening ceremony in the main courtroom on the third floor.



county's general fund to bolster courthouse security.

### A Rich History

York County, established in 1785 and named for York County, Pennsylvania, has a rich history. It was the home of the Catawba Indians when Hernando de Soto passed through the area searching for gold in the 1540s.

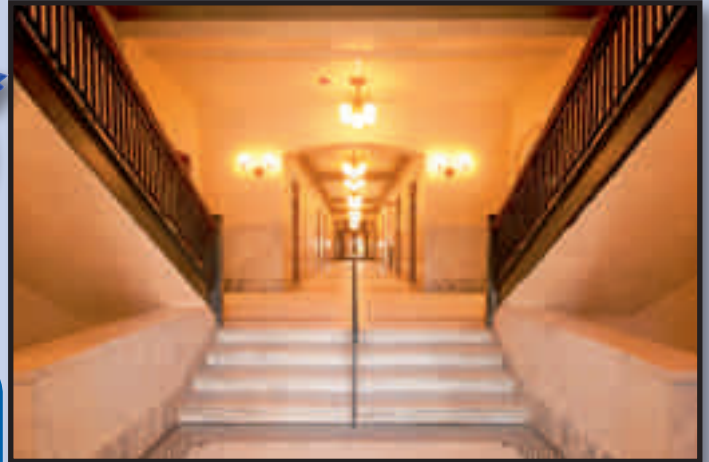
Scots-Irish Presbyterians, the first European settlers, began migrating down the Great Wagon Road from the mid to late 1740s from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina to the area west of the Catwaba River. They settled in the area now encompassed by present-day York County during the 1750s.

An old monument, erected in front of the courthouse by

*(Continued on next page)*



*Photos by  
Stuart Morgan  
unless  
otherwise credited.*



**TWO SIDES TO THE STORY**—The state historical marker, recently unveiled in front of York County's courthouse, begins on one side and continues on the opposite side.

The view just within the courthouse's original front entrance looking down the second floor corridor. The Master-In-Equity Courtroom is located up the steps and to the left. The Clerk of Court's staff offices are located up the steps and to the right.



The Common Pleas Courtroom (also called Courtroom III, the main courtroom or historic courtroom) was restored to its original magnificence. Located on the third floor, this courtroom showcases some of the most historic elements of the courthouse, including its cathedral ceiling, Palladium windows and rich woodwork. State-of-the-art technology, including video/audio equipment in the jury boxes, was cleverly installed so that it would not detract from the courtroom's historic appearance.



the York County Historical Commission in 1960, explains the historical significance of the courthouse's location. (See P. 3) The monument correctly claims that the adjacent intersection—originally called Fergus Crossroads—has probably witnessed the passing of more historic figures than any other in the South Carolina Upstate from the American Revolutionary War to the Civil War.

A new state historical marker in front of the courthouse

provides a brief history of the county's previous courthouses and the present one. (See Pp. 2 & 5) The Yorkville Historical Society, partnering with the York County Culture and Heritage Museums, recently purchased the new marker and hosted a ceremony to unveil it as the two-year renovation project neared completion at the end of 2016.

The marker records that York County's first courthouse (See **Historic Courthouse**, P. 8)

## ***Historic Images of York County's Courthouses***

*The historic images at right show York County's third and fourth courthouses. The current courthouse is the county's fourth. All four black and white images shown at right and below-left on P. 7 were provided for this article, courtesy of the Culture & Heritage Museums, York County, S.C.*

*For a free copy of an excellent booklet on the History of York County Courthouse, including the historic images shown on these two pages, see the ad on page 10. The booklet, written by Rebecca Bowyer and Nancy Sambets, will be provided upon request courtesy of the Historical Center of York County.*



York County's third courthouse (1825), designed by Robert Mills, *The Yorkville Enquirer*, Feb. 27, 1889



The third courthouse—repaired, remodeled and enlarged three years after the second floor sustained significant fire damage in 1892.



Immediately following a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the front steps of York County's newly renovated courthouse on Jan. 29, everyone gathered inside the historic courtroom (the main courtroom) on the third floor to witness the dedication of the courthouse.



# The Architect Who Designed York County's Courthouse

William Augustus Edwards (1866 – 1939), a prominent South Carolina architect, designed York County's current courthouse, the county's fourth. Based in Atlanta, Ga., he was renowned for designing educational buildings, courthouses and other public and private buildings in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. In addition to York County's present courthouse, Edwards designed the following eight county courthouses in South Carolina between 1908 and 1915: Abbeville, Calhoun, Darlington, Dillon, Jasper, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter. More than 25 of his works have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



York County's current courthouse, the county's fourth, shortly after completion in 1915. This courthouse was designed by William Augustus Edwards.



York County's current courthouse, 1960

Near the end of the dedication ceremony inside the main courtroom, you could hear a pin drop as the Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina (right photo) opened the time capsule, placed in the cornerstone of York County's courthouse about 102 years ago.



Shown below-right are William B. Rogers, Grand Master, Ancient Free Masons of S.C., and Angie Smarr, York County Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, holding two newspapers found inside the time capsule. (See more photos, P. 12) The photo (below-left), courtesy of the Culture & Heritage Museums, York County, S.C., shows the ceremony held when the cornerstone (at left), containing the time capsule, was installed in 1914. Note the Masonic Emblem on the cornerstone. York County council members, staff members, other elected officials and representatives of the companies that worked on the courthouse renovation project placed items in the new time capsule. The new time capsule was placed in the cornerstone before it was reinstalled.





# Historic Courthouse ...

*(Continued from P. 6)*

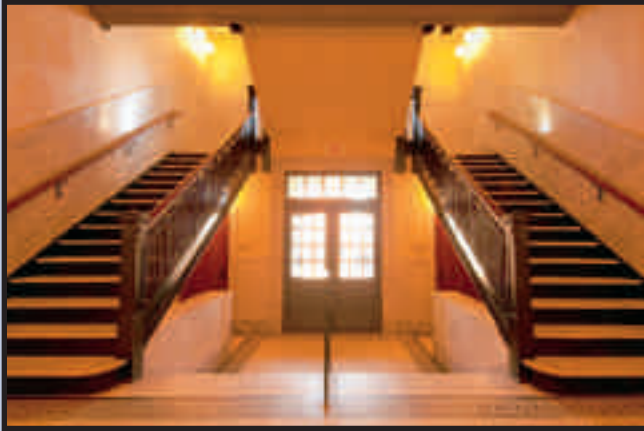
was constructed of squared logs in 1786 and replaced by a small brick building, the county's second courthouse, in 1799.

South Carolina's most famous architect, Robert Mills, perhaps best-known for designing the Washington Monument,

designed York County's third courthouse in 1825. Constructed of granite and red brick, the courthouse featured a large portico with Doric columns.

The second floor sustained significant damage in a fire in 1892. But Mills designed the courthouse to be fireproof, which protected the first floor. The courthouse was then repaired, remodeled and enlarged three years later.

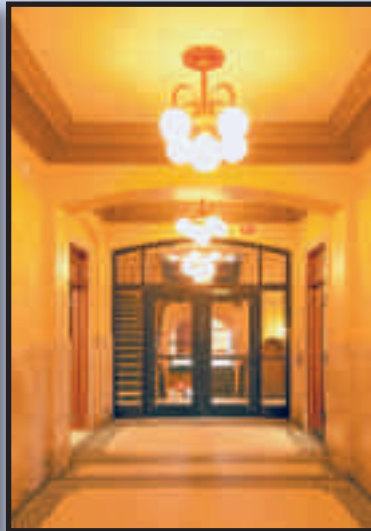
York County's newly renovated courthouse, which replaced



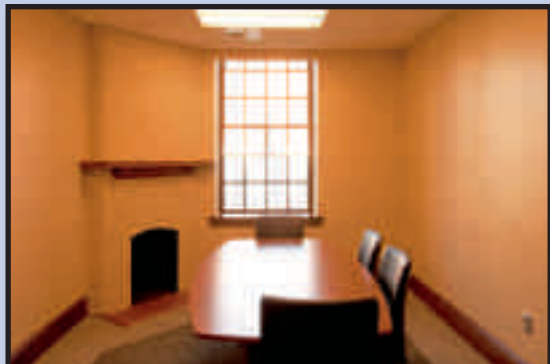
The view looking from the second floor corridor toward the courthouse's original front entrance. The stairs lead to the main courtroom on the third floor and other offices on the fourth floor.



Clerk of Court's office, fourth floor



(Above-left) The view looking down the second floor corridor toward the courthouse's original front entrance. To enhance security, large doors (above-right), separating public and secured areas, were installed at the rear of the courthouse on the first and second floors.



Conference room on the second floor featuring one of the courthouse's many restored fireplaces



The Jury Assembly Room on the third floor where jurors are processed and information is verified before jurors receive instructions and proceed to the main courtroom.



Courtroom II on the second floor where the Master-In-Equity holds court. This courtroom is similar to Courtroom I, Probate Court, on the first floor.



the Mills' courthouse, is the county's fourth. This courthouse earned its place on the National Register of Historic Places because it was designed by another prominent South Carolina architect, William Augustus Edwards of Darlington. A two-story brick courthouse designed in the Classical Revival style, the building features a cross-axis plan that is common to the other courthouses that Edwards designed. The front entrance features a façade, including a colossal Ionic tetrastyle stone portico that projects from the entrance's pavilion.

York County's population has grown from approximately 46,000 to about 250,000 since the courthouse was completed in 1915. Since its completion, two sections have been added to the original courthouse structure. A three-story annex was added to the rear of the courthouse in 1941, eight years after a fire in the attic damaged the roof and water damaged the main courtroom and several offices. A front wing was then added to the southeast corner of the courthouse around 1954.

Heating and air conditioning, and electrical systems were added over the years, but the courthouse last underwent major renovations in the early 1970s.

### The Project to Renovate York County's Courthouse

Special abatement teams removed asbestos, lead paint, mold and other environmentally hazardous material from the courthouse before the renovation project began. Crews also removed rotten flooring and other materials.

Today—except for the annex and front wing, and the public entrances that were added to the sides of the original courthouse since its construction—the courthouse's exterior looks practically the same as it did when completed in 1915. The courthouse's professionally-landscaped site, which includes a new sidewalk, showcases the beauty of courthouse's exterior.

Still, you need to see the interior of the newly renovated courthouse to fully appreciate what York County has accomplished. After all, the renovation project focused on the building's interior, maximizing security and modernizing and equipping the structure for the 21st century.

York County's courthouse includes:

#### **First Floor**

- A new main public, ADA-compliant entrance—including an exterior canopy which provides shelter—that replaces the original front entrance. Designed to blend with and complement the original courthouse, this is now the only public entrance. A security screening station (X-ray



The West Liberty Street (north) side of the York County Courthouse. The doorway on this side of the building is for egress only. Note the balcony above the doorway, which the court crier once used to call court to order. The new public entrance (bottom photo) is located on the opposite side of the building facing the parking area and county administration building.



▲ Looking toward the rear of the courthouse, which includes the section added in 1941. The addition now houses staff offices.

► To enhance courthouse security, a double-door public entrance—covered by a canopy—was added to the south side of the courthouse facing the parking area and county administration building. The courthouse's copper flashing and terra cotta roof, and the main courtroom's Palladium windows can be seen above the entrance.



machine, metal detector and security camera monitoring equipment) is located almost immediately within the entrance;

- Public parking, including handicap parking, in front of the entrance; ADA-compliant handicap accessible restrooms, including ramps;
- A Probate Courtroom and offices; file storage area, including a high-density shelving system shared by Probate Court and Common Pleas Court;

(Continued on next page)



- A room providing public computer access.

#### **Second Floor**

- Master-in-Equity Courtroom (Courtroom II) and offices; Clerk of Court Common Pleas offices, including a lobby that provides public computer access for archival research; several small conference rooms;

#### **Third Floor (Addition)**

- Common Pleas Courtroom (Courtroom III or main courtroom) with offices for court staff; a jury assembly and deliberation room (now ADA-compliant);

#### **Fourth Floor (Addition)**

- An access-limited section, including private offices on the west and east sides, and storage areas on the rear side.

Elevators, separating staff areas from public areas, were added to provide service from the first to third floors. A generator was installed in the courthouse for safety in case of power outages. A fire-suppression sprinkler system was installed to help protect the courthouse against fire.

New heating and air conditioning systems were installed. State-of-the-art audio/visual equipment was set up in all courtrooms. Monitors were added in the jury box within the main courtroom to provide jurors better visuals of exhibits and evidence presented during trial.

Meanwhile, great care was also taken to restore every detail of the courthouse's interior as closely as possible to its original appearance.

Wall, floor and ceiling finishes were used throughout the building that closely match the colors and styles used during the era when the courthouse was constructed. White tile with black border patterns, similar to the original ceramic tile, was used in

the courthouse's flooring from the front entrance through the corridors on the first and second floors.

Walls—consisting of the original marble wainscot—were cleaned, restored and repaired, and supplemented with new matching marble. Wainscot was used throughout the building, and the walls above the wainscot were painted in colors similar to those used a century ago. Replica doors, including door frames and hardware, were installed to provide security

*“I’m proud that York County decided to renovate its historic courthouse, and happy that the beautiful structure will live on for many more decades. ... Now, citizens will be able to visit the courthouse and be proud of its enormous presence and functionality.”*

— J. David Hamilton  
York County Clerk of Court

throughout the building.

Handrails in the stairway corridors from the first to second floors were refurbished to match the material and finish of the original ones. Fireplace mantles, located in several offices, were restored. Energy- and maintenance-efficient windows, replicas in appearance of the original windows, and replica light fixtures of the period were installed. The plaster ceiling and trim on the second floor were preserved and repaired.

The main courtroom on the third floor—the historic courtroom—is the most magnificent section of the courthouse. Hardwood flooring slopes gently downward from the main courtroom's front entrance to the judge's bench and jury area, creating theater-style seating. The jury section was renovated and equipped with state-of-the-art video/audio equipment, cleverly installed so that it would not detract from the courtroom's historical appearance. The original jury chairs were refinished.

Three large historical ornamental light fixtures were suspended in the ceiling above the carpeted center aisle of the main courtroom. Period wall light sconces were also installed between the large Palladium windows that were removed,

refinished and re-installed. Trim and plaster on the curved ceiling were repaired and restored to their original appearance.


“I’m proud that York County decided to renovate its historic courthouse, and happy that the beautiful structure will live on for many more decades,” said York County Clerk of Court J. David Hamilton. “The county's citizens will benefit from the courthouse's renovation because it has been a very long time since the courthouse housed only court-related offices. Now, citizens will be able to visit the courthouse and be proud of its enormous presence and functionality.

(See *Historic Courthouse*, P. 12)

## YORK COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL BOOKLET

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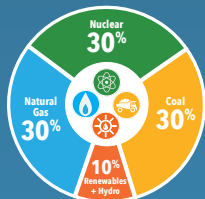
A balanced energy portfolio is an essential plan for meeting South Carolina's energy needs. Nuclear power, natural gas, renewable energy (like solar), along with conservation can help provide a diversified group of resources for meeting South Carolina's current and future energy needs.

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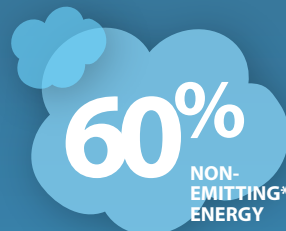
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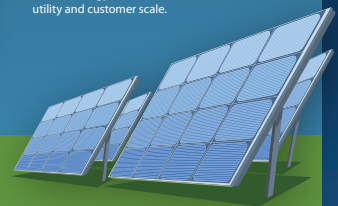


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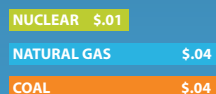
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## Historic Courthouse ...

(Continued from P. 10)

“Probate Court, Master-in-Equity and Clerk of Court–Common Pleas Division,” Hamilton added, “will operate exclusively in the courthouse, which will provide citizens with a consolidated option as opposed to having to visit three different locations. Because the courthouse has a new public entrance, everyone will be scanned as they enter to improve courthouse security.”

### Contents of the 102-Year-Old Time Capsule

*When the Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina opened the time capsule, placed in the courthouse in 1914, you could hear sighs of disappointment when someone said they saw only fragments.*

*But moments later, you could feel excitement in the courtroom as the Grand Master of the Ancient Free Masons of S.C. and York County’s Chief Deputy Clerk of Court pulled from the time capsule and held up two intact newspapers—an issue of The State, dated Wednesday Morning, June 3, 1914 (middle photo below) and The York News (bottom photo), dated Monday, June 1, 1914.*

Photos courtesy of  
Aaron Reel Photography



Fragments of items (left photo) that deteriorated over the years since the time capsule was installed in the cornerstone of the courthouse 102 years ago can be seen at the bottom of the capsule.

Shown below are two intact issues of *The State* and *The York News* that were found in the time capsule.



A display case was positioned just within the courthouse’s new front entrance on the first floor. The display case will exhibit historic materials from the early 1900s, including items that were recently removed from the 102-year-old time capsule.

A new time capsule was placed in the original courthouse cornerstone to replace the one recently opened, and the cornerstone was re-installed in October. The new capsule includes items provided by York County council members, staff members, other elected officials and representatives of the companies that worked on the courthouse renovation project.

The number of local citizens attending the ceremony to unveil the state historic marker on Dec. 10 in front of York County’s newly renovated courthouse was impressive, especially considering it was a cold winter day. Yet, that earlier ceremony could only begin to demonstrate on a smaller scale what the grand opening ceremony confirmed on Jan. 29.

Several hundred local citizens joined local government officials and guests at the grand opening ceremony, which included a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the courthouse steps followed by a dedication ceremony inside the courthouse. The impressive grand opening, the level of participation and significant effort that made the event so special confirmed that York County citizens are proud of their county’s historic courthouse.

One of those citizens is Hamilton, who has served as York County’s Clerk of Court for the past 20 years. York County’s courthouse is “near and dear to him,” said Angie Starr, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, who knows him well.

Hamilton is intimately familiar with practically every detail of the project to renovate the courthouse because he closely observed practically every step of the courthouse renovation project from beginning to end. He used words like “phenomenal” and “stunning” to describe the care and work he witnessed.

“The doors, the molding, the judges’ benches, the chair railing, and the tile and hardwood flooring throughout the building,” Hamilton said, “absolutely prove the integrity of the project to restore York County’s historic courthouse.”



### York County Thanks Companies for Making the Courthouse Renovation Project a Success!

York County officials are proud of their historic courthouse and the recently completed renovation project that modernized and restored the building to its original appearance. So, they asked *County Focus Magazine* to recognize the following companies that made the project a success: Cumming Corporation of Fort Mill, the renovation project’s manager, which planned, coordinated, budgeted and supervised the renovation project; Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects of Gastonia, N.C., the project’s architect, which programmed, planned and completed the project’s design; and Leitner Construction Company of Rock Hill, the project’s general contractor, which coordinated the work of all subcontractors and oversaw the project.



# Justice. Preserved.



Designed by William Augustus Edwards and constructed in 1914, the York County Courthouse holds an honored spot on the National Register of



Historic Places. To restore, renovate and preserve this icon of South Carolina's heritage and justice system, York County turned to a trusted partner in historic architectural design:



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# York County's Pennies for Progress Program

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**Y**ork County became the first county in South Carolina in 1997 to approve the Capital Projects Sales Tax (CPST), also called the One Penny Sales Tax. After voting to approve a second CPST referendum in 2003 and third in 2011, the county is preparing to vote on a fourth referendum on Nov. 7, 2017.

York County is one of the most successful counties in the state for passing CPST referendums. County residents repeatedly vote to self-impose the One Penny Sales tax to fund specific projects for roads, bridges, public facilities,



*"Twenty years ago, the South Carolina Department of Transportation promised our county eight miles of road improvements over the next twenty years. But elected officials at the state and local levels realized that it was not enough to create and maintain economic development and growth in this area."*

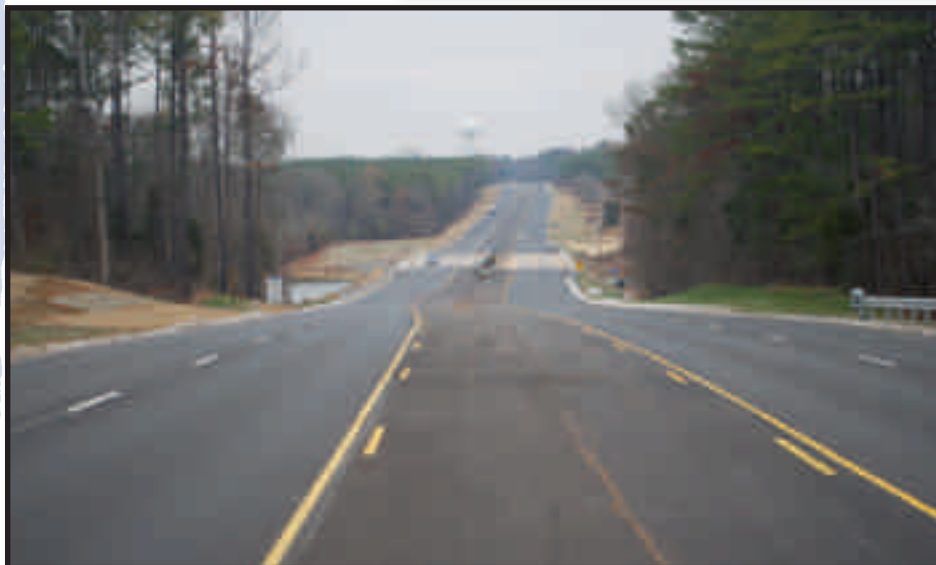
— William P. Shanahan Jr.  
York County Manager

recreational facilities and water and sewer. So far, 40 of the state's 46 counties have passed CPST referendums to fund such projects.

"Twenty years ago," said York County Manager William P. Shanahan Jr., "the South Carolina Department of Transportation promised our county eight miles of road improvements over the next twenty years. But elected officials at the state and local levels realized that it was not enough to create and maintain economic development and growth in this area. These men and women had a vision for the

future of York County and the state.

"York County's industrial and residential growth is directly due to the One Penny Sales Tax," Shanahan added.



Highway 274, widened to five lanes from S.C. 161 to S.C. 55 (Photo courtesy of the York County Engineering Department)

## York County



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 55



"Part of the money that York County receives from the tax is paid by people outside the county and state who use our county's roads."

With the past three Pennies for Progress programs, the county's goals were to:

- Support projects that contribute to the health, well-being and quality of life for local residents; and
- Create prosperity by pursuing projects that support existing industries and stimulate economic development.

To achieve these goals, the county identified projects that would:

- Improve safety for motorists traveling through the county by providing safe roads; and
- Improve connectivity by minimizing bottlenecks and delays, creating transportation links between municipalities and communities, and connecting regions within the county.

#### **Pennies for Progress Programs**

York County's three Pennies for Progress programs (Pennies 1, Pennies 2 and Pennies 3 programs) focused on projects to improve major corridors by widening roads from two lanes to three, four or five lanes; and to improve major intersections.

#### **Pennies 1 Program**

In November 1997, 51 percent of York County taxpayers voted to approve the county's CPST referendum for the county's first Pennies for Progress Program. Budgeted to raise \$99.26 million from 1997 to 2004, the program collected \$114 million (including interest) to fund 14 road projects from 1997 to 2014.

The program then collected a total of \$190.3 million after the county leveraged funds, which it had already collected, to acquire an additional \$100 million from the State Infrastructure Bank. The county used this additional money to widen 12 miles of I-77 from Rock Hill to the North Carolina/South Carolina line from four to eight lanes and to widen Highway 5 to five lanes from the Cherokee County line to I-85.

(See **Pennies for Progress**, P. 16)

## ***Part of the Solution, At Least for York County***

York County's Pennies for Progress Manager, Patrick Hamilton, said that the State of South Carolina is ultimately responsible for maintaining the state's roads and highways. Then, he explained why York County's Pennies for Progress Program has proven to be part of the solution for York County when addressing the deteriorating condition of the county's roads.

"The Capital Project Sales Tax allows counties to generate their own revenue and fund projects that they need," Hamilton said. "It also allows citizens to have a voice and provide input on the projects that are selected."

***"Frankly, I don't know where our county would be without the One Penny Sales Tax that our Pennies for Progress Program collects."***

— Patrick Hamilton  
York County's Pennies for  
Progress Manager

"Frankly, I don't know where our county would be without the One Penny Sales Tax that our Pennies for Progress Program collects," he added. "The program has allowed Interstate 77 to be widened from four lanes to eight lanes—boosting the economic development of York County, specifically the northeastern part of the county."

But as many South Carolina counties have already learned, passing a Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum (CPST) is easier said than done.

"The biggest challenge is to get the public to buy into the program," Hamilton explained. "Because taxpayers are voting to tax themselves, they have to trust the program and have a say in which projects are selected."

"York County citizens have seen the success of our Pennies for Progress Program," he added. "This is indicated by the increase in support we've received in each of our three consecutive Pennies for Progress referendums. They've also seen what the programs have meant to our county as a whole."

A county is required to appoint a commission to formulate a ballot question that is subject to a referendum approval by voters, as explained in detail in Section 4-10-330 of the *South Carolina Code of Laws*.

Members of the commission must be willing to meet with citizens throughout the county to promote passage of each CPST referendum. They are responsible for compiling projects for consideration, educating citizens on the benefits of the program, listening to citizens' concerns, developing and finalizing a comprehensive program, and campaigning for a successful vote on the referendum.

"For counties trying to pass the tax," Hamilton emphasized, "it's important to remember that the program is for the people, and that they should have a hand in selecting the projects. For each of our Pennies for Progress referendums, York County's Sales Tax Commission held meetings for every community in the county that allowed citizens to identify projects that they needed, voice concerns and ask questions."

York County's Sales Tax Commission is comprised of six York County citizens that includes: three members appointed by York County, two members appointed by the City of Rock Hill (the county's most populated municipality) and one member appointed by the county's remaining municipalities (Fort Mill, Tega Cay, Clover, York, Smyrna, Hickory Grove, Sharon and McConnells).

According to Hamilton, York County's Pennies for Progress Program has been  
(See **Solution**, P. 16)



## Pennies for Progress ...

(Continued from P. 15)

### Pennies 2 Program

In November 2003, taxpayers voted to approve the county's CPST referendum for the county's second Pennies for Progress Program. Budgeted to raise \$173 million from 2004 to 2011, the program collected \$184 million (including interest) to fund 25 projects.

### Pennies 3 Program

In August 2011, taxpayers voted to approve a CPST referendum for the county's third Pennies for Progress Program to raise \$161 million from 2012 to 2018. This program began funding projects in 2012, but is expected to complete all projects in 2022.

The county has used some of the money collected from all three programs to obtain matching funds from the federal and state governments.

As a result of York County's three successful Penny Sales Tax programs, as of January 2017 the county expects to invest close to \$550 million in its road system. (This figure does not include the \$100 million received from the State Infrastructure Bank that the county used to widen I-77.) So far, the county has spent more than \$351 million to fund more than 43 road projects. (See **Pennies 1, 2 & 3 graphic, P. 19**)

### Pennies 4 Program

York County will continue road-widening and intersection improvement projects.

However, the county also plans to focus on resurfacing roads if taxpayers vote this year to approve the county's upcoming fourth CPST referendum. County officials estimate that the fourth CPST would collect an additional \$265 million for more projects if taxpayers approve the referendum.

"Upon completion of our county's 2011 Pennies for Progress Program, our county's third program," Shanahan said, "we will have improved more than (See **Pennies for Progress, P. 18**)

## Solution ...

(Continued from P. 15)

successful partly due to the county's proximity to the I-77 corridor, which enables York County to collect more revenue for the program's projects. Thousands of visitors traveling through the county from neighboring counties pay York County's one penny sales tax and contribute to the program's projects when they spend money on goods and services.

"In each of our Pennies for Progress programs," Hamilton noted, "we always recognize the importance of including projects in all parts of the county so that everyone feels like they're getting 'a piece of the pie.' This is why we hold public meetings prior to selecting projects."

*"In each of our Pennies for Progress programs, we always recognize the importance of including projects in all parts of the county so that everyone feels like they're getting 'a piece of the pie.'"*

— Patrick Hamilton  
York County's Pennies for Progress Manager

If passing one CPST referendum can help a county, then passing additional CPST referendums can help a county more.

"Our third Pennies for Progress Program has definitely been a success thus far," said Hamilton, referring to

the program that 82 percent of taxpayers voted for in 2011. "We've learned from some of the mistakes we made in the past, and this has allowed us to improve our overall program for the future. It's hard to calculate precisely the success of each of our Pennies for Progress programs.

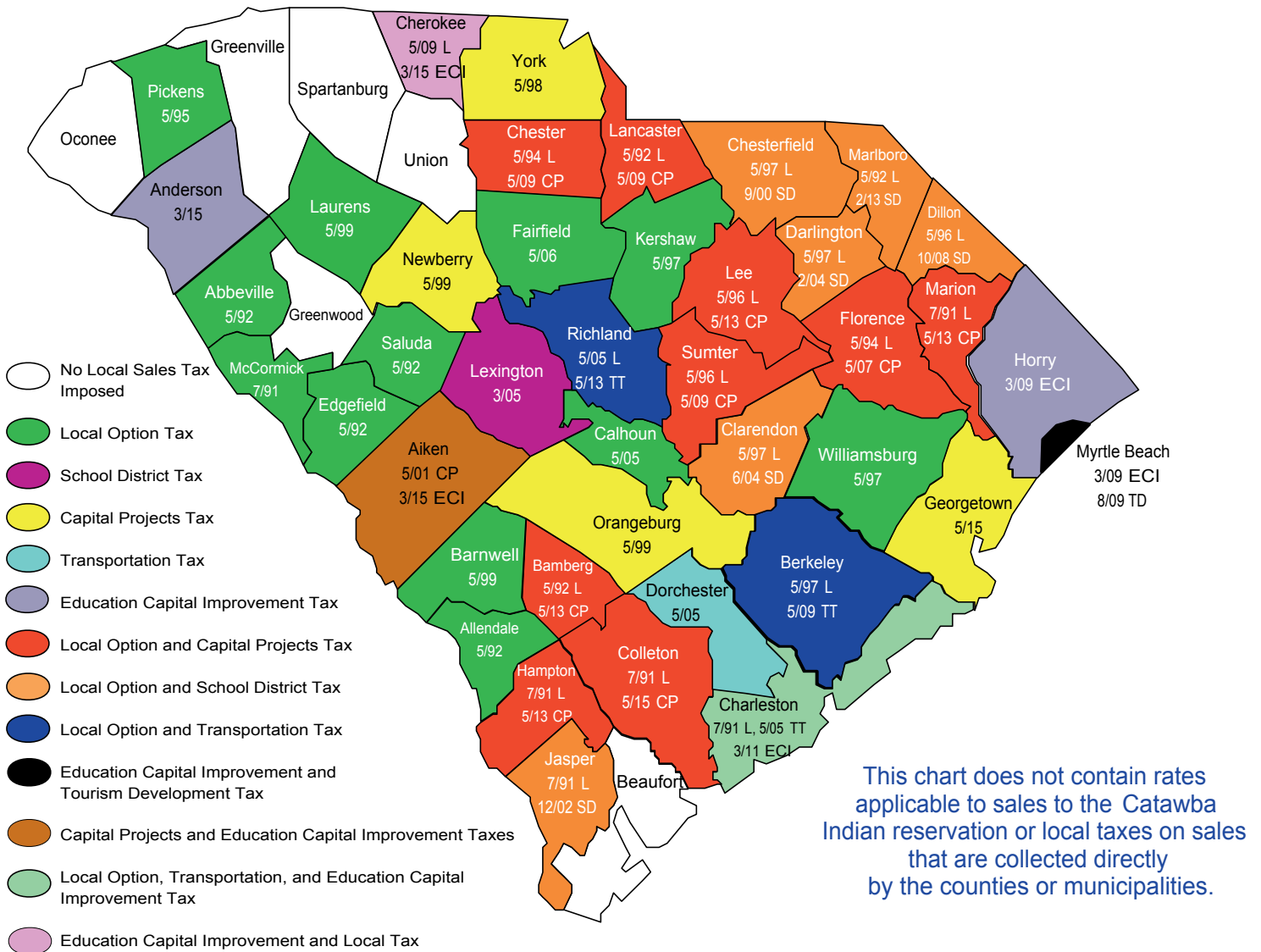
"But I can tell you that the success of these programs is reflected in the growth and economic development of York County," he added. "Go back and look at where York County was in 1997 and look at where we are today. In my opinion, our Pennies for Progress program is York County's most valuable asset, and our county is a much better place today because of the One Penny Sales Tax it collects for the many projects that it funds."



Fort Mill Southern Bypass (Photo courtesy of the York County Engineering Department)



**State of South Carolina  
Local Tax Designation by  
County Effective May 1, 2016  
Collected by the SC Department of Revenue**



Abbeville	7%	Chesterfield	8%	Hampton	8%	Newberry	7%
Aiken	8%	Clarendon	8%	Horry	7%	Oconee	6%
Allendale	7%	Colleton	8%	Horry (Myrtle Beach)	8%	Orangeburg	7%
Anderson	7%	Darlington	8%	Jasper	8%	Pickens	7%
Bamberg	8%	Dillon	8%	Kershaw	7%	Richland	8%
Barnwell	7%	Dorchester	7%	Lancaster	8%	Saluda	7%
Beaufort	6%	Edgefield	7%	Laurens	7%	Spartanburg	6%
Berkeley	8%	Fairfield	7%	Lee	8%	Sumter	8%
Calhoun	7%	Florence	8%	Lexington	7%	Union	6%
Charleston	8.5%	Georgetown	7%	Marion	8%	Williamsburg	7%
Cherokee	8%	Greenville	6%	Marlboro	8%	York	7%
Chester	8%	Greenwood	6%	McCormick	7%		

**Special Notice**

- Effective May 1, 2016, Allendale County's 1% Capital Projects is repealed. (Note: Allendale's 1% Local Option tax is still in effect)



# Pennies for Progress ...

(Continued from P. 16)

147 miles of highway, paved more than 37 miles of gravel roads, repaired and replaced 31 bridges and improved 122 major intersections.”

Many counties attempt to pass CPST referendums one or more times before finally convincing voters that projects are needed and successfully passing referendums to fund them. In fact, York County narrowly passed its first Pennies for Progress Program in 1997 when only 51 percent of voters chose to support it.

But 73 percent of York County taxpayers decided to support the county’s second Pennies for Progress Program in 2003, and 82 percent of them voted in favor of the county’s third program in 2011. Voter support for the county’s second and third Pennies for Progress programs was impressive considering

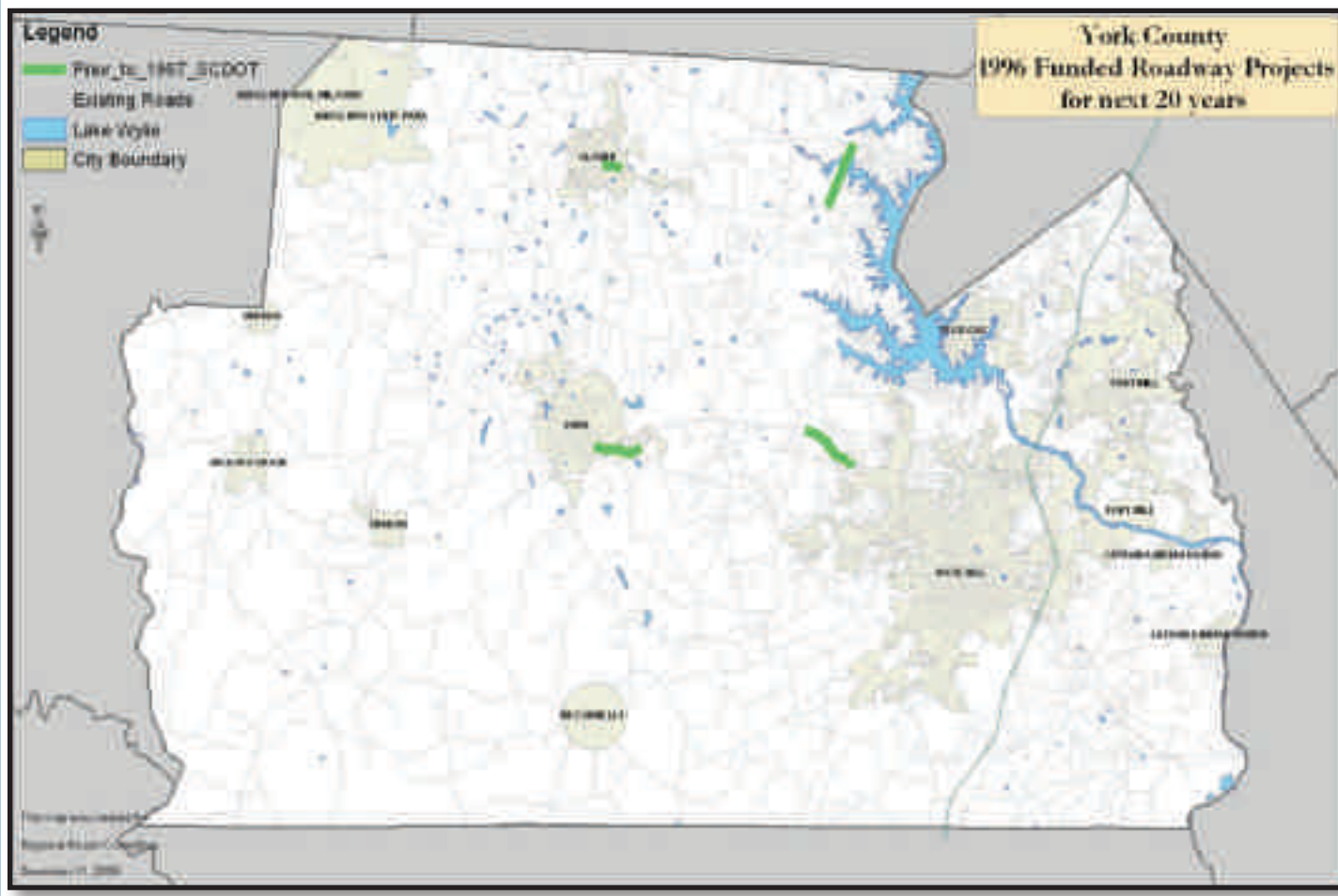
taxpayers were asked to vote on the second and third programs after narrowly voting to approve the first one in 1997.

“Our past two Pennies for Progress programs (Pennies 2 and 3 programs)

were better because our processes for promoting a referendum to successfully pass the local option sale tax are more efficient and effective,” Shanahan said. “Our county has hired qualified people



Herlong Avenue, widened to three lanes. A section of this road, from S.C. 5 to Celanese Road, was widened to five lanes. (Photo courtesy of the York County Engineering Department)





who take pride in what they are doing. Our county council, which is awesome, supports our Pennies for Progress programs and motivates staff members to find ways to make the programs more successful. We're also able to work with municipalities and the state to make the programs work."

Experience has helped.

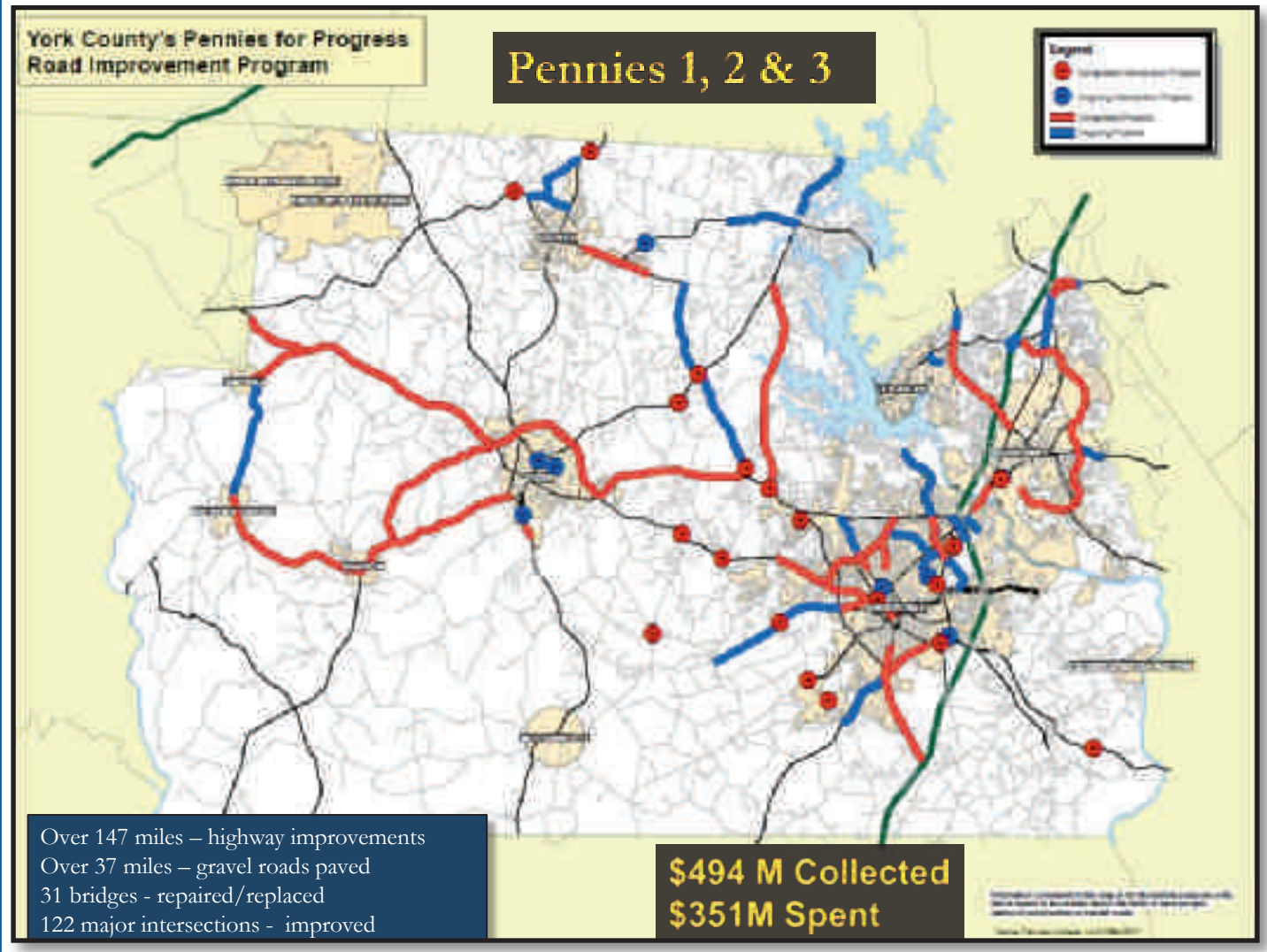
"Our cost estimates are a lot more accurate," Shanahan said, crediting the Pennies for Progress Program's staff members. "We never want to identify ten projects and only be able to afford to fund eight. So, we're making sure that this doesn't occur. We're also working with municipalities and the state to make road improvements better."

York County's close proximity to Charlotte, N.C., has helped, too.

"Travelers from out-of-state stop to  
(Continued on next page)



Mount Gallant Road, widened to three lanes from Celanese Road to Anderson Road (Photo courtesy of the York County Engineering Department)







Shoulder widening on Highway 49, from Highway 211 to 321 (Photo courtesy of the York County Engineering Department)

purchase gas in York County due to low gas prices,” Shanahan said. “Then, when they buy a bag of chips or purchase other items they help fund our Pennies for Progress programs.”

Obviously, York County’s three CPST programs have helped the county address the condition of its roads and bridges. If local taxpayers vote again to approve the county’s referendum for a fourth

program later this year, the next program promises to help the county to continue such work.

“Twenty years ago, the South Carolina Department of Transportation promised eight miles of road improvements over the next twenty years, and we’ve received that,” Shanahan said. “However, our county has accomplished much more since then by passing our three Pennies for Progress programs. We hope to accomplish much more if voters choose to approve our county’s referendum for a fourth Pennies for Progress Program in November.

“Citizens are part of the solution,” he added. “They need to vote for the approval of the Local Option Sales Tax when they have the opportunity to do so. As taxpayers, they don’t have to wait for others to take care of local issues.”



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## SCAC Hosts Webinar on Ethics Act's New Income Disclosure Requirements

SCAC hosted a webinar in February to help county officials understand new income disclosure requirements of the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act. Michael Burchstead, General Counsel for the S.C. State Ethics Commission, provided an overview of the Ethics Act, common violations, and new disclosure requirements for filing statements of economic interest.

A recording of the webinar is available for on-demand viewing at <http://www.sccounties.org/webinars>.







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# *South Carolina's 2017 Directory of County Officials*

South Carolina's *2017 Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Supporters; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling).

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## YORK COUNTY COURTHOUSE *HISTORICAL BOOKLET*

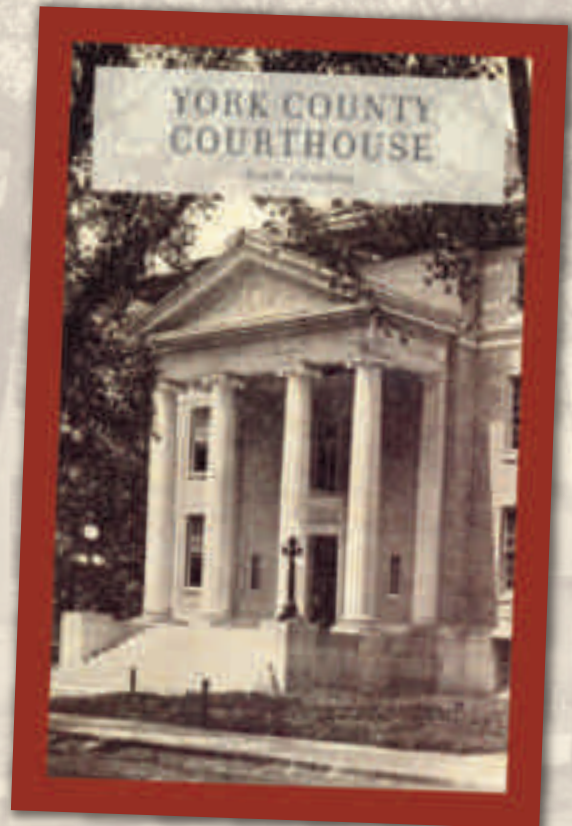
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# S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority Offers Grant Funding to Help Counties Finance Infrastructure Projects

## *Counties Play a Vital Role in South Carolina's Economic Future*

*By Liz Rosinski, Program Manager, Office of Grant Programs  
S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority*

**A**cross the state, counties play a vital role in South Carolina's economic future. One way to make a positive impact is through strategic investments in water, sewer and storm drainage infrastructure, and other public facilities in order to drive growth and development.

According to statistics from the S.C. Department of Commerce in 2015, 49 projects and approximately \$1.14 billion in capital investment were announced in South Carolina's rural counties, bringing about 5,500 new jobs.

### **Hampton and Marion Counties**

In an effort to be shovel-ready for economic development, Hampton County sought to enhance its "Commerce-certified" industrial site by installing water and sewer lines for a potential business. This was one of the advantages that led to Nupi Americas, Inc. announcing in October 2015 that it would invest \$4.9 million to establish warehousing and distribution operations in Hampton County's Southern Carolina Industrial Park. The company expects to create 37 new jobs.

"The grant funding from the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) was not only beneficial but verifiably essential in recruiting Nupi Americas to Hampton County," said Brantley Strickland, project manager for the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance. "In addition to providing sewer service to a new company, the upgrades immediately

improved the marketability of the Southern Carolina Industrial Campus, which now looks to be one of our best properties for the future recruitment of a major manufacturer or distribution center."

In the Pee Dee region, Marion County included sewer improvements as part of a two-phase plan for its industrial park that

also involved water line installation and new roads. Before the project was completed, Precision Southeast, an injection molded plastic parts company, moved into the county's speculative building, bringing plans for 120 new jobs and a capital investment of \$16.6 million.

By accessing grant funds through the RIA to help finance necessary water and sewer improvements, Hampton and Marion counties were able to make targeted infrastructure investments, and as a result, these two counties secured significant company announcements that yielded jobs and capital investment for their communities. In both cases, the table was set for economic development, allowing companies to move forward quickly to locate on site and begin operations.

"The ability to provide essentials, such as water, wastewater, drainage systems and other public facilities, is critical to the economic success of our rural communities," said Secretary of



**Spec building, located on the Southern Carolina Industrial Campus in Hampton County (Photo courtesy of the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority)**

Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as chairman of RIA's Board of Directors. Each of the projects awarded with funding through RIA will help improve the quality of life for South Carolinians in all corners of our state."



*The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) was created to help communities with financing for qualified infrastructure projects, including water and waste water systems as well as storm water drainage and other public facilities.*

*The RIA offers multiple options for financing critical community infrastructure improvements that help maintain a safe and healthy environment for residents, support economic development and contribute to a more sustainable future. Competitive grants are offered to assist in the development of reliable infrastructure statewide and build capacity for economic growth.*

*To learn more, visit [www.ria.sc.gov](http://www.ria.sc.gov)*





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We invite you to learn more about PalmettoPride, Keep South Carolina Beautiful, Adopt-a-Highway, Palmetto Prideways and all of our programs at [www.palmettopride.org](http://www.palmettopride.org).







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**qPublic**  
Charlotte, NC

**QS/1 Governmental Solutions**  
Spartanburg, SC

**Raymond Engineering-Georgia, Inc.**  
Greer, SC

**South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.**  
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**South Carolina State Library**  
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**South Eastern Road Treatment, Inc.**  
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**Spirit Communications**  
Columbia, SC

**Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.**  
North Charleston, SC

**Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects**  
Columbia, SC and Gastonia, NC

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Columbia and Mount Pleasant, SC

**Thompson Turner Construction**  
Sumter, SC

**Time Warner Cable**  
West Columbia, SC

**Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc.**  
North Charleston, SC

## Purpose of the SCAC



- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of county officials
- To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government
- To cooperate with other organizations
- To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina

## Hello Corporate Supporters!

We want you to identify you correctly in SCAC's publications. We also want you to receive your benefits without interruption and important notices without delay.

So, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at (803) 252-7255 or [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc) if we need to update your listing or contact information.

## Did We Publish Your Photo?

Please **e-mail** SCAC's Public Information Office at [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc) if you want to receive a copy of any photo we publish of you in *County Focus Magazine* or *Carolina Counties Newsletter*.

We'll e-mail you a **FREE** JPEG, so you can order your own prints!

**IMPORTANT:** You MUST identify whether the photo was published in the magazine or newsletter, and the exact location where it was published (including volume and issue number, and page number). JPEGs will ONLY be provided for photos that are published in SCAC's publications after they are published.

JPEGs are only available for photos taken since the SCAC switched to digital photography in 2009. Only photos selected for publication are processed, printed and archived.

❖ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

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Columbia, SC 29202-8207  
(803) 252-7255  
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## SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



*Building Stronger Counties for Tomorrow*

### **Need Information? Visit SCAC's Website at [www.sccounties.org](http://www.sccounties.org)**

The South Carolina Association of Counties' website is the primary Internet resource for information about South Carolina's counties and issues affecting county government. The website is a dynamic tool that provides access to information about services such as education and training opportunities, research capabilities, and legal assistance.

Visitors to [sccounties.org](http://sccounties.org) will find conference schedules, legislative initiatives, and numerous Association publications. The website has information on key financial programs offered by SCAC, unique county-specific publications, legislative monitoring, and ad hoc surveys.

The site provides general information for all 46 counties—including contact information for county officials, links to county websites, and job postings. [Sccounties.org](http://Sccounties.org) is also a conduit to a number of other resources such as the National Association of Counties, the S.C. General Assembly, U.S. Congress, federal agencies, as well as national and state associations.

The SCAC staff remains ready to receive and assist with any special requests. To facilitate this communication, please refer to the SCAC staff list on page 33 or SCAC's website to obtain respective email addresses.

**South Carolina Association of Counties**

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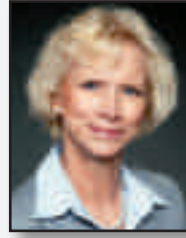
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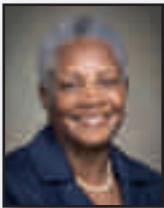
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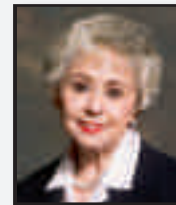
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**L. Gregory Pearce Jr.**  
Richland County  
Council Member



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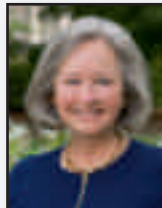
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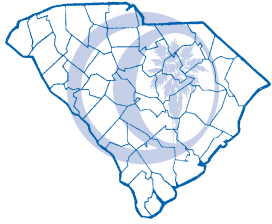


# Preparing Counties for Tomorrow ...



## WHAT IS THE SCAC?

**South Carolina Association of Counties, chartered on June 22, 1967, is the only organization dedicated to statewide representation of county government in South Carolina. A nonpartisan, non-profit organization with a full-time staff in Columbia, SCAC is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors selected by county officials at the Association's Annual Conference.**



**Counties have made tremendous progress since the enactment of the Home Rule Act in 1975. County government has also become more diverse in order to meet the increasing needs of its citizens. SCAC is dedicated to providing programs and services that equip county officials with the tools to govern effectively.**

## CONFERENCES

■ SCAC provides many opportunities for county officials to meet and learn, among them:

★ **Mid-Year Conference** — Held in late winter in Columbia, this conference enables all county officials to become better informed about the Association's legislative program. The Association also hosts a reception for all members of the legislature during this conference.

★ **Annual Conference** — Held in August, this conference is open to all elected and appointed officials. The conference includes a business session, general session, workshops, group meetings, and exhibits of county products and services.

★ **Legislative Conference** — Held in December, this conference allows members of the Legislative Committee to discuss and adopt a legislative program for the upcoming year. The committee is composed of each council chairman along with the Association's Board of Directors.

## EDUCATION

■ The Association, in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston and the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University, conducts the Institute of Government for County Officials (Level I, Level II, and Advanced levels).

This certificate program helps county officials enhance their skills and abilities. Courses are offered at the Annual and Mid-Year Conferences and at the County Council Coalition Meeting in the fall.

SCAC also sponsors a number of continuing education webcasts for county officials and employees throughout the year at no charge to counties. Within a few weeks after the live broadcast, county officials and employees are able to access the session as a video on demand via <http://www.sccounties.org>.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

■ SCAC offers a number of financial services to its member counties. The Association sponsors two self-funded insurance trusts to provide workers' compensation and property and liability coverage. The trusts are designed specifically to meet the unique needs of local governments.

SCAC also offers the following services through affiliate organizations: GovDeals internet auction of surplus assets; Tax Management Associates, Inc. property tax audit services; and competitive purchasing discounts through Forms and Supply, Inc. and the U.S. Communities purchasing cooperative.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

■ SCAC provides legal assistance to county governments by rendering legal opinions, preparing *amicus* briefs, drafting ordinances, and consulting with other county officials.

The Association provides support to counties involved in litigation that might affect other counties. It also sponsors the Local Government Attorneys' Institute, which provides six hours of continuing legal education for local government attorneys.

## SETOFF DEBT PROGRAM

■ South Carolina counties are able to collect delinquent emergency medical services debts, magistrate and family court fines, hospital debts, as well as other fees owed to the counties through SCAC's Setoff Debt Collection Program.

Debts are submitted through the Association to the S.C. Department of Revenue to be matched with income tax refunds. The debt is deducted from a refund and returned through SCAC to the claimant.

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

■ The S.C. General Assembly convenes each January in Columbia and adjourns sine die in May. One in every four bills introduced affects county governments.

SCAC monitors each bill as it is introduced and keeps its members up-to-date on all legislative activity with a weekly *Friday Report*. The Association also dispatches Legislative Alerts and publishes *Acts That Affect Counties* each year.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

■ SCAC publishes an annual *Directory of County Officials* listing addresses and telephone numbers of county offices and their elected and appointed officials. The Association also publishes *Carolina Counties Newsletter* five times a year to keep the Association's membership informed about legislation and various county news. *County Focus Magazine* is published four times a year and features articles on county trends, innovation, and other subjects of interest to county officials—including a "County Update" section.

## RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

■ SCAC provides research and technical assistance in many areas to those counties that request it. The Association staff annually responds to hundreds of inquiries from county officials ranging from simple requests for a sample ordinance to more complex questions requiring considerable research. The Association also develops technical research bulletins and conducts surveys on a variety of subjects. Regular publications such as the *Wage and Salary Report*, *Home Rule Handbook*, *A Handbook for County Government in South Carolina*, and *Case Law Affecting Local Government* are made available to county officials.

SCAC's website address is:

<http://www.sccounties.org>

The site provides county officials with the latest information on SCAC programs, services and meetings as well as legislative information, research and survey results, and links to other local government resources.

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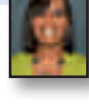
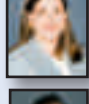
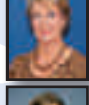
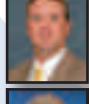
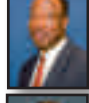
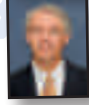
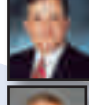
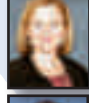
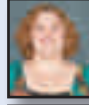
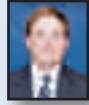
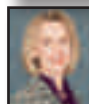
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# SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



## *History of the Trusts*

The S.C. Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) dates back to Nov. 1, 1984, when 11 counties began the fund with less than a half million dollars. More than 30 years later, the SCCWCT has grown to include 42 counties plus 47 additional agencies with ties to county government. The Property & Liability Trust (SCCP&LT) began on Aug. 1, 1995, with four members. The membership has grown to include 16 counties and 10 county-related agencies.

## *Boards of Trustees*

The Trusts were designed by and for county government with the goal of providing insurance to counties at the lowest rates possible, while providing services uniquely tailored to the needs of county governments. The Boards of Trustees are made up of county officials who are elected by the SCAC's Board of Directors. Although not a requirement, both boards currently share the same membership.

## *Risk Management*

Because member contributions (premiums) are based both on the accident histories of the individual counties (experience modifiers) and on the membership as a whole, both Trusts employ very aggressive risk management strategies. The philosophy adopted by the Trusts is that, if accidents are caused, they can be prevented. Risk Management services are provided by the SCAC staff. The payoff is lower premiums and a safer working environment.

## *Claims Administration and Management*

Ariel Third Party Administrators provides workers' compensation claims administration for the Workers' Compensation Trust. The SCAC staff provides claims administration for the Property & Liability Trust and provides the administration of both Trusts. ■

## **BOARDS OF TRUSTEES for South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and Property & Liability Trust**



**CHAIRMAN**  
David K. Summers Jr.  
Calhoun County  
Council Chairman



**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Waymon Mumford  
Florence County  
Council Member



**Gonza L. Bryant**  
Greenwood County  
Council Member



# Why the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust?

By Robert C. Collins, CPCU, CIC  
Director of Insurance Services, SCAC

**T**he operating principles behind group self-insurance are relatively simple. Members of the group contribute premiums into a Trust that is conservatively invested and tracked by policy year. The Trust pays each policy year's claims and expenses from member contributions, retaining any surplus from contributions and investments for the benefit of the members. Catastrophic insurance coverage is placed in excess of the group's self-funded layer to protect against the adverse impact of especially large claims. SCAC Risk Management staff has the special expertise needed to provide ongoing service to your SCCWCT. These services further protect your assets—both financial and non-financial.

The SCCWCT:

- Has insured counties and county-related entities since 1985.
- Provides budget stability minimizing the peaks and valleys of your contribution.
- Is a non-profit insurance trust, owned by the counties, for the counties.
- Does not answer to stockholders who are primarily concerned about return on equity.
- Only insures public entities.
- Provides complimentary access to online web-based safety training.
- Employs staff members who have 105 combined years of experience working on the Trust.

The SCCWCT does not charge you separately for:

- Actuarial studies
- Premium taxes charged by the S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission

- Second Injury Fund assessments
- Audited financial statements
- Claims handling services
- Loss control services
- The myriad of risk management classes that we provide throughout the year

Ariel TPA provides a dedicated medical only and lost time adjuster for your claims. Ariel TPA's average workers compensation caseload is only 110 claims per adjuster, which is extremely low for the workers compensation industry. Ariel's staff consists principally of former Companion TPA employees who have been working on the SCCWCT since 1998.

In addition, Ariel TPA adjusters work very closely with county contacts to manage return-to-work opportunities and settlement evaluations. Ariel TPA staff is uniquely versed in handling governmental claims, especially law enforcement, firefighters, EMT, first responders and also inmates and volunteers. Most other insurers do not understand the legal technicalities of volunteers as it relates workers compensation.

SCAC staff provides specialized Risk Control services for public entities plus staff who specialize in law enforcement and detention centers. John Henderson has been the principal provider of loss control services to South Carolina's counties since 1991. He makes frequent on-site visits to members to provide the following loss control services:

- 1) Management Consultation and Mentoring—SCAC staff works with members to develop the effective elements of successful risk management programs.
  - 2) Hazard Identification Surveys—SCAC staff conducts surveys
- (Continued on next page)*



Donald E. Hancock  
Saluda County  
Council Chairman



Clyde B. Livingston  
Orangeburg County  
Council Member



F. Pickens Williams Jr.  
Barnwell County  
Administrator



Steve Willis  
Lancaster County  
Administrator



**SECRETARY/  
TREASURER**  
Michael B. Cone  
Executive Director, SCAC



of members' property, work sites and general operations to identify hazards that could lead to accidents, property damage or liability exposures. Written recommendations are made to reduce identified hazards and exposures.

- 3) Training—SCAC staff provides customized training at members' facilities.
- 4) Risk Management Standards—SCAC staff conducts audits to ensure the minimum standards are being met. If not being met, SCAC staff conducts management consultation and training to assist members in meeting the standards.

Henderson also teaches the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving four-hour class.

Robert Benfield has provided risk management services to the members of the SCCWCT since 1993, and he specializes in the criminal justice community. He provides specialized law enforcement and detention center training approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA) for in-service credit. Benfield provides SCCJA-approved training and conducts on-site inspections, policy and procedures reviews, and detention center staffing assessments. He serves on the S.C. Detention Center Accreditation Council and participates on several Criminal Justice advisory committees. Benfield also provides complimentary jail staffing needs assessments.

SCCWCT provides complimentary online "In the Line of Duty" streaming videos with accredited hours. To help reduce officer injuries and litigation, the SCCWCT has contracted with "In the Line of Duty" to provide free online training to all of our Trust members. This training has been approved by the SCCJA for Continuing Law Enforcement Education credits. Each officer is assigned a unique tracking number, and all of their training is documented. Law enforcement and detention center officers will have unlimited access to more than 300 online courses. The department training officer will have access to all lesson plans, materials, tests and the ability to monitor their agency's training. Courses range from 50 minute sessions to 2 minute warning talks on specific current topics.

The SCCWCT underwriter, Pam Collins, has worked with county government insurance programs in the states of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina since 1992. Collins has underwritten members in the SCCWCT since 1998.

The SCCWCT has a relationship dating back to the 1990s with Casualty Actuarial Consultants, Inc. (CACI). CACI develops a premium analysis, reserve analysis and deductible factors on an annual basis. Additionally, large deductible members also receive

a county-specific Reserve Analysis Report and Loss Projection Report.

Ray Williamson, CPA, The Brittingham Group, LLC, has been assembling the financial reports for the SCCWCT since the 1990s. He generates a quarterly financial statement that is reviewed and signed by the Secretary/Treasurer of the SCCWCT and the report is submitted quarterly to the SC Workers Compensation Commission. In addition, Williamson compiles an annual audited financial statement that also is submitted to the SC Workers Compensation Commission.

The SCCWCT outsources premium auditing services to Research Technical Services (RTS). Unlike most insurance company's premium audit employees, RTS has a stable workforce who intimately understands the nature of public entities. The county, therefore, does not have to "train" the premium auditor annually, which avoids an extremely time consuming and frustrating process. These audits are conducted on-site and assist counties with proper employee classification which produces more effective risk management engagement and ensures premium accuracy.

RTS premium auditors also help explain the importance of securing certificates of insurance, which further protect you from workers compensation claims from uninsured subcontractors. In addition, a certificate of insurance has a direct impact on your premium contribution.

More than 95 percent of your contributions stay in South Carolina. The remainder is used to purchase excess workers compensation insurance. This is in contrast to traditional insurance companies, where only about 15 percent of your total premium contribution remains local. Participation in the SCCWCT allows a greater percentage of your taxpayers' dollars to remain in the State of South Carolina and helps provide future financial security and a guarantee of stable workers compensation benefits for participating counties.

The SCCWCT hosts an Annual Membership Meeting in January where current trends affecting public entities are presented, in addition to Occupational Safety and Health Administration and employment law updates. The SCCWCT pays the cost of a hotel room at the Annual Membership Meeting in January for designated attendees that include the County Council Chairperson, the County Administrator and the Risk Manager.

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# The IMLA Report

## *Should a County Bear Liability for the Actions of a Sheriff?*

By Charles W. Thompson Jr.  
Executive Director and General Counsel, IMLA

**IMLA** recently filed an amicus brief in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals supporting Gage County, Neb. in an important case involving county liability. The facts might eventually wind up in a podcast or TV show like *Serial* or *Making of a Murderer*. While not necessarily “facts,” the following rendition of this story taken from the court’s opinion describes the case in lurid detail.

Joann Taylor, Thomas Winslow, James Dean and Kathleen Gonzalez, along with two others, were convicted in 1989 for participating in the 1985 rape and murder of Helen Wilson in Beatrice, Neb. However, in 2008, DNA testing established that the semen and type B blood found in Wilson’s apartment were from Bruce Allen Smith, an individual who had no connection to them. After receiving full pardons from the Nebraska Pardons Board, they individually filed causes of action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against the county prosecutor, the Sheriff and members of the sheriff’s department who investigated the Wilson murder and against Gage County.

As the basis of their lawsuit, the Beatrice 6, as they became known, contended their rights were violated when the Sheriff’s deputies and the prosecutor recklessly investigated the Wilson murder and coerced them into pleading guilty of various crimes. Helen Wilson’s body was discovered in her apartment in Beatrice on Feb. 6, 1985. She had been raped and murdered. The Beatrice Police Department (BPD) took



the lead in opening an investigation into the murder. The BPD failed to charge anyone in the case, and the case remained unsolved. Burdette Searcey was employed as an investigator with BPD from 1977 to 1982, but by 1985 he had left the force and was working as a farmer. After securing the permission of Wilson’s daughter, Searcey began his own independent investigation into the Wilson murder. Searcey interviewed a number of former confidential informants who assisted him in identifying several persons who frequented the area where the Wilson homicide occurred. At that time, Searcey identified Joseph White, Thomas Winslow, Joann Taylor, Cliff Shelden, Mark Goodson, Beth Johnson, Deb Shelden and Charlotte Bishop as persons of interest.

Searcey believed that the Wilson murder had been committed by multiple persons, including White, Taylor and Winslow. In 1987, Jerry DeWitt became sheriff of Gage County and hired Searcey as a deputy sheriff. DeWitt and Richard Smith, who was the Gage County attorney, held a series of meetings concerning

Searcey’s previous investigative efforts. In January 1989, DeWitt and Smith gave Searcey permission to commence an official investigation into the Wilson murder.

Lisa Podendorf was Searcey’s lead witness. Podendorf claimed that on Feb. 6, 1985, Taylor confessed to Podendorf that Taylor, along with Joseph White, murdered Wilson. Podendorf repeated this account in her recorded statement with Searcey in January 1989. Podendorf also claimed in the interview that she saw Taylor, Winslow, White and Johnson get out of a car near Wilson’s apartment on the night of Wilson’s murder. Podendorf indicated that Taylor’s confession came at 7:30 a.m. as Taylor and Podendorf observed several police cars at the apartment complex where Wilson’s body was found. Searcey was aware that Wilson’s body was not discovered until approximately 9:00 a.m., and apparently chose to overlook this discrepancy in Podendorf’s testimony.

### **Podendorf’s Testimony**

Searcey conducted a number of interviews that in retrospect confirm that the witnesses being interviewed either had imprecise recollections or that their recollections often did not mesh well with the actual facts that Searcey knew. Nevertheless, Searcey used bits and pieces of the information to secure arrest warrants for two of his suspects. On March 14, 1989, Searcey finalized a sworn



affidavit for an arrest warrant for Taylor and White. That same day, Searcey, Sheriff DeWitt, and the prosecutor traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska, to take a statement from Winslow that had been prearranged by Winslow's counsel. Winslow believed that providing Searcey with the statement would help him in his unrelated assault case, because of promises Searcey made to him.

Winslow offered an account of the night of the murder and described the involvement of several of his friends, originally denying any significant involvement himself. After a break in the interview to consult with counsel, Winslow changed his story and agreed that he, Taylor, White and Johnson went into Helen Wilson's apartment. Winslow stated that Taylor and White attacked Wilson, and that he panicked and left with Johnson. In recounting his interview with Searcey to explain why he fashioned a story at odds with the truth, Winslow stated that Searcey would signal his approval or disapproval of certain responses through body language: "He would move his papers and slap them down on the table when he disapproved. And when he approved, he would move them closer to him. And he would smile and gesture[.]"

Based on Winslow's story, Taylor was arrested on a fugitive warrant in North Carolina on March 15, 1989. Before any prosecutor or deputy talked to Taylor, Taylor admitted to local law enforcement in North Carolina that she had been present during the Wilson homicide. Although Taylor confessed to being present at the Wilson murder, she stated that she only admitted her involvement after North Carolina officials told her she was there. Taylor could not recall basic facts about the Wilson homicide, such as the type of building that Wilson lived in and what time of day the crime occurred. Other parts of her testimony call into question Taylor's mental health, both during the interview and in 1985: She made multiple references to the fact that she had a personality disorder that was not being treated, she abused drugs and alcohol in 1985, she had previously attempted suicide, and she intended to inflict bodily harm on herself. Other

statements signaled that Taylor was out of touch with reality in 1985, including her statement that she could not remember "much of '85 at all," and that she once believed that White was her father, even though White was only a year older than her. Taylor indicated that an individual named "Lobo," an alias established for White, committed the murder. Taylor also stated that another male was involved, but she did not remember the identity.

In response to a series of leading questions from Searcey and Stevens, Taylor began to give testimony more in line with the evidence found at the Wilson crime scene. Although Stevens and Searcey asked a number of leading questions that included descriptions of Winslow, Taylor could not supply the name of the other male that she said assisted in killing Wilson. Taylor's account of how the event happened shifted each time that she told her story.

After Taylor eventually identified Winslow as a participant in the crime, Searcey drafted an affidavit for an arrest warrant for Winslow. Winslow was arrested and booked into the Gage County Jail. At that time, Winslow recanted his previous statement that he was a witness to the Wilson murder and instead fashioned a version of his story in which Taylor and White returned to his apartment with blood on their clothes.

When Searcey confronted Winslow with his various statements, Winslow stated that "this story is the true one and if you don't want to believe it that's fine. I'll go back to my cell, I feel better now because it's off my chest."

By mid-March, the sheriff's deputies had arrested Taylor, Winslow, and White as suspects. Biogenetic samples were taken from Taylor and Winslow for testing; neither was a positive match for the type B blood found at the crime scene. Cliff Shelden claimed he also had information relating to the Wilson murder. After three and a half hours of interrogation, Cliff gave a recorded statement. In the statement, Cliff claimed that he received a letter from Taylor three to four months after the Wilson homicide in which Taylor admitted to participating in the homicide with Winslow and White. Cliff also stated that Winslow had told

him about the Wilson murder, and that Taylor, White, Winslow and Deb Shelden were present.

Searcey and Lamkin interviewed Deb Shelden on Apr. 13, 1989. In the recorded portion of her interview, Deb indicated that she was present at the Wilson murder with Taylor, White and Winslow. Shelden stated that she watched the assault and murder, and that Taylor, Winslow and White all played an active role in the homicide. Shelden indicated that she hit her head and began bleeding after she was pushed by White. Following her interview, Shelden was arrested and placed in the Gage County Jail. She then submitted to biogenetic testing.

James Dean was arrested and booked into the Gage County Jail on April 15 based on information provided by Shelden. Biogenetic samples were taken from Dean at that time, which revealed that Dean's blood type was O negative. Dean denied any knowledge as to the Wilson homicide. When Dean stated that he wanted a lawyer, the deputies continued asking Dean questions.

On April 16, Searcey, Lamkin, Sheriff DeWitt and county prosecutor Smith interviewed Dean for more than two hours. As before, Dean repeatedly requested the presence of counsel and denied any knowledge of or participation in the crime. One of the defendants responded that Dean "did not need a lawyer and ... needed to tell them what happened." Searcey, Lamkin and Sheriff DeWitt conducted a third interview for three hours on April 17. During this interview, Dean was told that Taylor, Shelden and Kathy Gonzalez had all implicated him in the case. Dean was arraigned on April 17 and was appointed counsel at that time. However, Searcey, Lamkin, Sheriff DeWitt, and county prosecutor Smith continued to talk to Dean outside the presence of his counsel on numerous occasions. They told Dean that if he did not cooperate, he would get the electric chair. Dean took a polygraph test on April 29, and the polygraph examiner reported that Dean was being deceptive.

On May 2, 1989, Dean had a consultation with Price. In addition to being a commissioned deputy sheriff



with the Gage County Sheriff's Office, Price served as the Gage County police psychologist. During his consultation, Dean again denied any involvement in the Wilson homicide. But when Price told Dean about the polygraph's indication that Dean was being deceptive, Dean began to doubt himself.

Price counseled Dean that Dean was subconsciously aware of his role in the Wilson murder and that "continuing supportive therapy" would help him to recall his repressed memories. Dean agreed to continue therapy sessions with Price. In subsequent meetings with defendants, Dean was shown photographs and videos of the crime scene. Searcey and Lamkin also escorted Dean to the apartment where Wilson had been murdered. Dean eventually agreed to make a plea bargain.

On May 8, 1989, in conjunction with the plea agreement, Dean gave a recorded statement to Sheriff DeWitt and county prosecutor Smith in the presence of his own attorney. In his statement, Dean indicated he was present at the Wilson homicide along with Taylor, Winslow, White and Shelden. When Smith asked Dean why he was now admitting his involvement in the crime, Dean answered:

"Well I, I feel that I remembered it in my sleep. I obviously had some kind of a subconscious block or something I don't know what it was for sure and I couldn't remember and I thought I was telling the truth naturally and I said I was not there."

Searcy and Sheriff Dewitt interviewed Dean again receiving different accounts of the event each time, always recounting a lack of memory and never remembering the murder or sexual assault. On May 17, 1989, Searcey and Sheriff DeWitt interviewed Dean yet again in the presence of Dean's counsel. In this interview, Dean stated that he witnessed Taylor, Winslow and White sexually assaulting Wilson. Dean also added that he remembered seeing another person in the doorway of the apartment. Although Dean gave a physical description, he could not remember the gender or name

of that person. Dean claimed he thought the other person was a woman, and that he had "an idea" who she was. But he did

not want "to put a wrong name in there and get you guys in trouble."

(Continued on next page)

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When Dean pled guilty, the court asked the prosecutor to sum up the facts that would support the guilty plea and the prosecutor ran through a lengthy statement inculcating Dean through Shelden's statements and Searcey's reports that included statements from Dean and some of the others. After the prosecutor finished, the court asked Dean and Dean's counsel if they wanted to tell the court anything. Dean replied, "No, sir." His counsel stated that he thought "the summary that's been recited by the county attorney fairly well sets forth the facts." The court then asked Dean: "Did you participate in the events that the county attorney has outlined, Mr. Dean?" Dean responded, "Yes."

On May 24, 1989, Searcey interviewed Dean again in the presence of Sheriff DeWitt and Dean's counsel. In this interview, Dean stated that he now remembered Gonzalez was present in the apartment, and that she had been injured during the Wilson altercation. Also on May 24, Searcey and Lamkin interviewed Shelden in the presence of her counsel. Like Dean, Shelden stated that she now remembered seeing Gonzalez present in Wilson's apartment and that Gonzalez had a bloody nose.

Searcey arrested Gonzalez in Denver and transported her back to Beatrice, where she gave biogenetic samples for testing, and was booked into the Gage County Jail. Price, the police psychologist, interviewed Gonzalez at that time. Gonzalez indicated that she had no memory of being present during the Wilson homicide. Gonzalez asked Price to hypnotize her so that she could recall being present, but Price refused. Price told Gonzalez that another witness charged with the crime had implicated Gonzalez. When Gonzalez asked Price how she could refresh her memory, Price told Gonzalez that she would remember if she relaxed and that her memories might return to her in dreams. When Gonzalez asked Price what would happen if she did not remember being involved, Price responded, "[T]hen it's up to a court to decide . . ." Price also told Gonzalez that if she were "there and not participating" at the Wilson homicide it would be "a very different situation" than if she were "there

participating." Price then asked Gonzalez whether White would implicate her if it meant saving himself, and Gonzalez agreed White might do such a thing. Price told Gonzalez that "the important thing is the odds are at this time it looks like you were in but did in fact block it. With two people pinpointing you in the event of [sic] each other, a good chance. And if you can help you out by remembering it will help you . . . We don't want you held responsible for anything you didn't do and you know I have no idea of what uh [White] or [Taylor] and Winslow are going to say about you."

Price indicated that he would work with Gonzalez to help her recover her blocked memory. When Gonzalez's blood test results came back, it indicated that she had type B blood, but that her blood differed by one genetic marker from the blood found at the crime scene. Defendants told Gonzalez that the test results showed a 100 percent match.

On Sept. 1, 1989, Taylor pled guilty to "caus[ing] the death of Helen Wilson intentionally, but without premeditation." On October 5, Gonzalez entered a plea of nolo contendere to the charge of aiding and abetting second-degree murder. On November 9, White was found guilty after a jury trial of first-degree felony murder. Taylor, Dean, Gonzalez and Shelden all testified against White at his trial. Winslow refused to testify. On December 8, Winslow withdrew his not guilty plea and entered a no contest plea to a charge that he did "aid, abet, procure or cause another to cause the death of Wilson intentionally, but without premeditation."

White was sentenced to life imprisonment. Winslow was sentenced to fifty years imprisonment. Taylor received a sentence of forty years imprisonment. Dean and Gonzalez both received ten-year prison terms.

In 2008, DNA testing revealed that the blood and semen collected from Wilson's apartment matched Bruce Allen Smith, a person wholly unconnected to the Plaintiffs. As a result of this new testing, the Nebraska Pardons Board granted Plaintiffs full pardons. By the time the case went to trial, Sheriff DeWitt had died. The jury found in favor of

the Beatrice 6 awarding them over \$28 million and attorney's fees of over \$1.5 million, but despite the evidence, the jury found in favor of Sheriff DeWitt.

### **This Is Where IMLA Comes In**

Brought to America with the English colonists, the sheriff in America was a different office from that in England. In England, the sheriff was a tax collector, the county administrator and the person who enforced the law on behalf of the sovereign. In America, only the law enforcement role immigrated with the colonists. The Sheriff enforced the laws on behalf of the sovereign, kept custody of prisoners, served court orders and executed on court process. Faced with the question of whether a county should be held liable for the acts of the sheriff for Civil Rights violations the Supreme Court in evaluating Alabama law concluded that it should not. But times change and the law varies by state. The 8th Circuit concluded that Gage County was liable for the acts of the Sheriff where the Sheriff was a "policy maker" on behalf of the county.

Bear in mind that under Section 1983 jurisprudence, a city or county cannot be found liable for the acts of its officers or employees on the theory of vicarious liability, but rather there must be evidence that the city or county adopted a custom, policy or practice that was the cause of the constitutional injury. To find custom, policy or practice a person acting as a "policy maker" for the city or county must have either adopted the custom, policy or practice or must have ignored a recurring violation to the extent that non-action amounts to a custom, policy or practice. In this case the 8th Circuit concluded that the Sheriff was the Gage County policy maker. But the jury found in favor of Sheriff DeWitt (despite the facts).

In this case, despite finding in favor of the Beatrice 6, the jury did not find Sheriff DeWitt liable. The \$20 plus million question, then, is if the Sheriff is not liable, how can the county be liable? IMLA supported Gage County to help it get a favorable answer. The posture of the case and the facts make that result



difficult, but without IMLA the county would have few friends in court. With a verdict this high, Gage County is not only trying to get it reversed, but suing the Nebraska Risk Pool and an insurer from the time these events took place for coverage. One of the more intriguing claims and one that affects must public risk pools is this recounted by *The Lincoln Journal Star*:

“Furthermore, the county says, the risk-sharing pool failed in its duty to inform its member counties of the increasing risk of lawsuits from long-incarcerated prisoners seeking testing on DNA evidence, or in offering them new coverage to protect against those claims.”

This may be a new theory of liability for risk pools to consider—must they make their members aware of increasing risks of lawsuits? At IMLA, we include programming on insurance coverage issues and this looks like it would make for an interesting topic.

The issue of liability for acts of the sheriff varies from state to state based on the law in each state, but from a policy perspective, if the county leaders cannot supervise and direct the actions of the sheriff, then they should not be liable.



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# A Roadside Guide to Allendale County

## *The County's Role in the American War for Independence*

By Alexia Jones Helsley  
[www.historyismybag.com](http://www.historyismybag.com)

### Allendale County

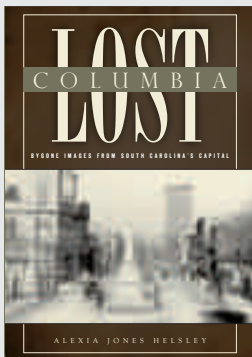


See South Carolina  
 County Map,  
 P. 55

**A**lthough Allendale is South Carolina's youngest county, it boasts a long and interesting history. During the Revolutionary years, the area was a target for Loyalists based in Georgia. The Savannah River was not an adequate barrier and during the critical year—1781—the area intimately experienced more than its fair share of the havoc of war as Patriots and Loyalists clashed along the Savannah River. These engagements occurred at Brier Creek, Wiggins Hill and Matthews Bluff.

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### Brier Creek

Brier Creek was a settlement along the Savannah River. In January of 1781, a Georgia Loyalist named Col. Daniel McGirth led his troops across the Savannah River in search of Patriots. Allegedly, he had vowed to eradicate any who refused to swear allegiance to the King. At Brier Creek, the Georgia Loyalists attacked and killed 17 citizens and razed the settlement. Some of the women and children escaped certain death by hiding in the woods. Among those killed were Henry Moore and the father of Tarlton Brown.

Brown in his memoirs, published in 1862, remembered when "McGeart and his company of Tories" crossed the Savannah near Stone's Ferry. In addition to killing 17, McGirth and the Georgia Loyalists burned Brown's home and destroyed all they could not carry away. Brown's mother and sisters escaped and survived by hiding in the woods. According to contemporary accounts, McGirth and his raiders left a 30-mile wide swathe of destruction in their wake.

Despite the brutality of the attack, one of those left for dead, John Cave, survived and lived to share the horrors



of the massacre. As a result of this unprovoked attack, Patriot leaders Captain James McKay and Colonel William Harden summoned Patriot militia and launched a search for Loyalists skulkers.

### Wiggins Hill

Also along the Savannah River, on January 23, Lt. Col. Thomas Brown and a large troop of British regulars, Loyalists and Creek Indians camped at Wiggins Plantation—about 30 miles from Black Swamp. Brown, a notorious Loyalist, commanded the force which included 200 King's Rangers, 2 British regiments, 100 Loyalist militiamen and 30 Creek warriors. Brown and his force had crossed into South Carolina in search of Patriots to harass.

Learning of the Loyalists encampment, Lt. Col. William Harden and Patriots in the area planned a surprise attack. A little after midnight on January 24, Harden and his men rode through the camp frightening the militia. But the British regulars held their ground and drove the Patriots from the camp. Later in the morning, the Patriots regrouped and attacked again. Once again, the Loyalist



militia dispersed and according to some accounts, a few even joined the Patriots. Nevertheless, the Rangers, regulars and Creek held their ground and forced the Patriots into the Coosawhatchie Swamp. The Wiggins Hill engagement temporarily ended effective Patriot efforts in the area.

Lt. Col. William Harden was an important partisan who commanded the Upper Granville Militia. Earlier in the war, Harden served with the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery, the Fourth Regiment, S.C. Continental Line and commanded Fort Lyttleton near Beaufort. He had notable successes capturing a Loyalist outpost at Red Hill and Fort Balfour. Nevertheless, Gov. John Rutledge who recognized Harden's bravery complained that his troops lacked discipline. So, when Rutledge appointed John Barnwell to command the southern militia in South Carolina, Harden resigned in November 1781.

Daniel McGirth, who commanded the Georgia Loyalists, was known for his vicious and indiscriminate attacks on Patriot and Loyalist farms and settlements. Before the American Revolution, McGirth lived in Kershaw District and may have originally supported the Patriot cause. Nevertheless, a dispute involving either an attempt to impress his horse or McGirth's attempt to steal Patriot horses led him to the King's cause. The British

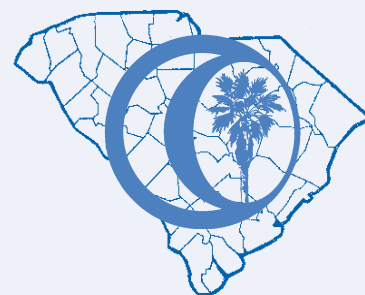
commissioned McGirth as a lieutenant colonel in the East Florida Rangers, commanded by Thomas Brown. He conducted bloody, vicious raids on South Georgia plantations. After the British captured Savannah, McGirth relocated to the Augusta area, but famously refused to assist the British during the Battle of Kettle Creek. His raids were so heinous, including the torturing of women and children, that even the British Governor of Georgia, James Wright, complained. At one point, Wright offered a reward for his capture. Even though sought by both sides, McGirth continued his raiding murderous ways, but by the spring of 1781 had returned to East Florida.

### Matthew's Bluff

The third known engagement in Allendale occurred at Matthew's Bluff, but the date is disputed. In either April or January of 1781, Capt. James McKay, with a force of Patriot militia from Georgia, was operating in South Carolina capturing British supply vessels traveling on the Savannah River. According to some sources, McKay was seeking revenge for the Brier Creek Massacre. If that were the case, the conflict occurred on January 22. During these exercises, McKay and his militia encountered and ambushed a force

*(Continued on next page)*

## Purpose of the SCAC



- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of county officials
- To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government
- To cooperate with other organizations
- To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina

✦ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

**South Carolina  
Association of Counties**  
P.O. Box 8207  
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of Georgia Loyalists. Lt. Col. Thomas Brown had dispatched Lt. Kemp and a company of Loyalist militia and rangers to end McKay's efforts to disrupt British supply lines. Instead, McKay and his men overwhelmed the Georgia force and killed or captured most of Kemp's company.

The Revolutionary War was a bloody civil war. The events in Allendale County clearly detail the human cost of war and the challenges of daily life along the Savannah River.



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*Also see advertising index, page 56*



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## ★ Counties Reporting in This Issue of County Update:

Abbeville	Greenwood
Aiken	Hampton
Allendale	★ Horry
Anderson	★ Jasper
★ Bamberg	Kershaw
Barnwell	Lancaster
★ Beaufort	Laurens
Berkeley	Lee
Calhoun	★ Lexington
★ Charleston	Marion
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★ Chester	★ McCormick
Chesterfield	Newberry
Clarendon	Oconee
Colleton	Orangeburg
Darlington	Pickens
Dillon	Richland
Dorchester	Saluda
Edgefield	Spartanburg
Fairfield	Sumter
Florence	Union
★ Georgetown	Williamsburg
Greenville	★ York

# County Update



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 55

*Keeping you informed  
about what's happening in  
South Carolina's counties.*

## COUNTY FOCUS

This section of *County Focus Magazine* provides South Carolina county officials an opportunity to submit newsworthy items that may be of interest to the magazine's readers. For more information, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081.

### Bamberg County

● Bamberg County recently recognized the following county employees for their service: 3 YEARS—Joseph H. Guess Jr. and K. Trent Kinard, County Council members; Ronnie O. Fail, Public Works; Lillie Marie Smith, Evelyn Collins and Donnie Ayer, Convenience Site; Michelle Kinsey, Probate Court; Latonya Broxton, Detention Center; and Thressa



## SCAC Presidents

2016	Julie J. Armstrong <i>Charleston County</i>	2000	James H. Rozier Jr. <i>Berkeley County</i>	1984	Charlie I. Crews <i>Hampton County</i>
2015	John Q. Atkinson Jr. <i>Marion County</i>	1999	Polly C. Jackson <i>Lancaster County</i>	1983	James P. Whitlock <i>Pickens County</i>
2014	James R. Frazier <i>Horry County</i>	1998	Robert R. Nash Sr. <i>Pickens County</i>	1982	Lonnie Hamilton III <i>Charleston County</i>
2013	Joseph R. Branham <i>Chester County</i>	1997	Alzena Robinson <i>Bamberg County</i>	1981	Alfred B. Schooler <i>Georgetown County</i>
2012	Charles T. Edens <i>Sumter County</i>	1996	Betty T. Roper <i>Clarendon County</i>	1980	Howard A. Taylor <i>Charleston County</i>
2011	Joseph B. Dill <i>Greenville County</i>	1995	George E. Bomar <i>Greenville County</i>	1979	Marjorie H. Sharpe <i>Lexington County</i>
2010	R. Carlisle Roddey <i>Chester County</i>	1994	Raymond C. Eubanks Jr. <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1978	Berry L. Mobley <i>Lancaster County</i>
2009	Diane B. Anderson <i>Laurens County</i>	1993	William L. McBride <i>Beaufort County</i>	1977	E.E. Johnson <i>Hampton County</i>
2008	L. Gregory Pearce Jr. <i>Richland County</i>	1992	Belle J. Kennette <i>Greenwood County</i>	1976	Harold L. King <i>Darlington County</i>
2007	K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. <i>Florence County</i>	1991	James R. McGee <i>Orangeburg County</i>	1975	Jack Q. Gerrald <i>Horry County</i>
2006	Belinda D. Copeland <i>Darlington County</i>	1990	Kenneth R. Huckaby <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1974	Arthur H. Burton <i>Charleston County</i>
2004-05	Waymon Mumford <i>Florence County</i>	1989	Lowell C. (Butch) Spires <i>Lexington County</i>	1973	James O. Thomason <i>Spartanburg County</i>
2004	Barrett S. Lawrimore <i>Charleston County</i>	1988	David K. Summers Jr. <i>Calhoun County</i>	1972	J. Hugh McCutchen <i>Williamsburg County</i>
2003	Gonza L. Bryant <i>Greenwood County</i>	1987	Danny E. Allen <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1971	John L. Greer <i>Union County</i>
2002	James A. Coleman <i>Laurens County</i>	1986	O.V. Player Jr. <i>Sumter County</i>	1969-70	J. Mitchell Graham <i>Charleston County</i>
2001	Steve S. Kelly Jr. <i>Kershaw County</i>	1985	Sue H. Roe <i>Aiken County</i>	1967-68	Charles W. Lawrimore <i>Georgetown County</i>



**Laurey**, Dispatching; 5 YEARS—**Evert Comer Jr** and **Larry M. Haynes**, County Council members; **Kenneth Kinard**, Building and Maintenance; **Libby Ayers Mobley**, Convenience Site; **Derrick Adams**, Detention Center; and **C. Derek Jeffcoat**, Dispatching; 10 YEARS—**James Edward Granlund**, Convenience Site; **Capt. Latarcha H. Wilson**, Detention Center; The Honorable **Ed Freeman**, Magistrate's Office; 15 YEARS—**Queen Esther Broughton**, Building and Maintenance; and The Honorable **Craig Threatt**, Magistrate's Office; 20 YEARS—**Ruthie F. Brown**, Administration; 25 YEARS—**Wanda W. Johnson**, Magistrate's Office; 30 YEARS—**Matthew Johnson**, Public Works; and 40 YEARS—**Doretta Elliott**, Tax Assessor's Office.

● Bamberg County announced on Jan. 6 the opening of the Treasurer Office's drive-thru service. The drive-thru is located to the right side of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex Building, with the entrance to the drive-thru being on North Street. The service is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except when county offices are closed for scheduled holidays. The drive-thru window may be used for current vehicle or property payments only.

● Bamberg County employees **Brittany M. Barnwell**, Emergency Services Director, and **Mallory D. Biering**, Keep Bamberg County Beautiful Director and Public Information Officer, completed a grant certification course in December. The course, taught by the University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie, was paid by the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance. The certification program, offered over a four-day period, covered grant writing, needs-based assessments, intermediate grant writing, program evaluation and more.

● PalmettoPride and Keep South Carolina

Beautiful in December awarded Keep Bamberg County Beautiful and Bamberg County Code Enforcement \$20,458 in grant funding. Keep Bamberg County Beautiful, in conjunction with Bamberg County, applied for the Keep South Carolina Beautiful Grant and the Community Pride Grant earlier in the third quarter of 2016. The award for

the Keep South Carolina Beautiful Grant was \$10,000 and the Community Pride Grant award was \$8,000. Funds will be used to purchase marketing materials, pay for training at conferences throughout the nation, implement programs at the Educational Experience Park and continue operating the

(Continued on next page)



## SCAC'S 2017 WEBCAST CALENDAR

**Thursday, May 18**

**9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Planning and Zoning Continuing Education**

For more information, please contact Leslie Christy-Jennings, SCAC, at (803) 252-7255 or [ljennings@scac.sc](mailto:ljennings@scac.sc). Or visit SCAC's webcast page at: <http://www.sccounties.org/webcast-training>

## SCAC's 2017 Conference Calendar

**July 29–30**  
**July 30–Aug. 2**

**Institute of Government  
Annual Conference  
Hilton Head Marriott**

**Aug. 15**

**Setoff Debt/Gear  
Embassy Suites, Columbia**

**TBD**

**Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers  
TBD**

**Sept. 13–14**

**Policy Steering Committee Meetings  
SCAC Office, Columbia**

**Oct. 18**  
**Oct. 19**

**Institute of Government  
County Council Coalition  
Embassy Suites, Columbia**

**Nov. 7–8**

**Policy Steering Committee Meetings  
SCAC Office, Columbia**

**Nov. 30–Dec. 2**

**Legislative Conference  
Renaissance Charleston**

**Dec. 8**

**S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia**

## NEWS BRIEFS

**NOTE:** Important news items—especially time-sensitive items that fall between issues of SCAC's *Carolina Counties Newsletter*—will be published in this space whenever necessary. For more information, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081.

You can register and pay online for SCAC conferences at [www.sccounties.org/meetings](http://www.sccounties.org/meetings).



**July 21–24**

**Annual Conference and Exposition  
Columbus, Ohio**

## NACo's 2017 Conference Calendar



programs and events of the department.

● Bamberg County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 18 for the county's new 12,180-square-foot Courthouse Annex in Bamberg, the county seat. The annex, located behind the county's historic courthouse, consolidates county services and provides for future expansion of judicial services. **Joey R. Preston**, Bamberg County Administrator, welcomed approximately 200 attendees and provided opening remarks.

Guest speakers included: **Diane Price**, Pike McFarland Hall Associates, Inc.; **J. Christopher Wilson**, Chairman of Bamberg County's Capital Project Sales Tax Committee; **Ray E. Jones** of Parker Poe Attorneys & Counselors at Law; and **Leonard G. "Jerry" Bell**, Director of the Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce.

Speakers also included: **Darryl Booker**, Bamberg County Economic Development Project Manager for Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance; **Sen. C. Bradley Hutto** (D-District 40); and the **Rev. Isaiah Odom**, Bamberg County Council Chairman, who also provided the invocation. **Preston** provided the closing remarks immediately before the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance to the new Bamberg County Courthouse Annex.

#### **Beaufort County**

● The Beaufort County Library recently partnered with The Literacy Center and the University of South Carolina-Beaufort (USCB) to teach English to parents and their children, aged 4 to 10. Family Literacy 360, an initiative using the Parents and Children Together (PACT) model of instruction, was developed by **Dr. Elizabeth Brinkerhoff**, Assistant Professor and Assessment Coordinator at USCB Department of Education.

The goal is to establish and sustain a network of common literacy services across Beaufort County addressing family literacy and providing skills promoting the growth of English capability within the family. The services are designed to improve language development and reading skills, transforming the home into a more active learning environment.

The Beaufort County Library began offering the first session of Family Literacy 360 at the Beaufort, Bluffton and Hilton Head branches in January. Other sites providing classes are The Deep Well Project, Holy Family Catholic Church and Antioch Education Center. The Literacy Center provides training as well as all lessons, supplies, and materials for classes.

● The Beaufort County Library announced in December that it received a \$25,000 planning grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. The funds will support the development of a creative curation project as part of the comprehensive plan to create a Beaufort County Interpretative Center on Reconstruction History. Partners for the project include SCETV, the University of South Carolina-Beaufort, the University of South Carolina's College of Education, The Mitchelville Project, Historic Penn Center, the Lowcountry Digital Library, the City of Beaufort and its mayor, **Billy Keyserling**. The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation supports land conservation, artistic vitality, and regional collections for the people of the Chicago region and the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

● Beaufort County on Dec. 12 recognized **William "Bill" McBride** for 40 years of service on county council. McBride has served on council for all but two years since it was chartered under the state's Home Rule Act in 1975.

McBride is a retired high school science teacher and a former high school department head with the Beaufort County School District. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a master's degree from South Carolina State University and his Ed.S from The Citadel. He has served in all leadership capacities on council, including as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Parliamentarian. McBride was Beaufort County's first, and to date, the only African-American to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Beaufort County Council.

He was SCAC President in 1993 and received the President's Cup in 1998, one of the Association's highest honors. McBride's other achievements include helping to develop the Beaufort County seal and craft the county's initial, comprehensive land management plan. In 2000, he also helped steer Beaufort County Council from its previous format of several at-large seats to its current single-member district makeup.

● The S.C. Office of the Comptroller General recently congratulated Beaufort County for making the county's check register available online. In a letter sent to Beaufort County Administrator **Gary Kubic**, South Carolina Comptroller General **Richard Eckstrom** acknowledged that access to this information is a valuable service to citizens and demonstrates Beaufort County's commitment to fiscal transparency. Last year, the county introduced its online financial transparency site as a user-friendly resource to help provide meaningful information about how the county utilizes public funds. The information is available via the county's

website at [www.bcgov.net](http://www.bcgov.net) via the "Financial Transparency" link.

The data found within the financial transparency site is updated weekly. Anyone with access to the Internet can sort, search, analyze and download the county's financial information. Users can review total spending to date, examine how funds are appropriated by department, see which vendors receive payments in a given year or research spending for any area of the county, including non-tax dollar expenditures. Interactive charts and graphs allow for easy analysis of the data and give meaning and clarity to those numbers.

The Office of the Comptroller General likewise maintains the S.C. Fiscal Transparency Website for state government that shows expenditures for all state agencies and provides links to the transparency portals of many local governments, school districts, colleges and universities across South Carolina. A link to Beaufort County's financial transparency website is also included.

● Beaufort County recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Bluffton Parkway 5A Flyover, a mile-long elevated roadway designed to link Bluffton Parkway at Buckingham Plantation Drive to U.S. 278 and the bridges to Hilton Head Island. The flyover opening marks years of public engagement, planning, coordination, dedication, and collaboration, as well as design and construction.

The \$46 million project, which began in May 2013, was funded by a one cent sales tax approved by Beaufort County voters in 2006 and a Federal Highway Administration grant of \$15 million via the S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT). More than 53,000 vehicles travel daily on this stretch of U.S. 278. Based on estimates by the SCDOT, traffic is expected to decrease from U.S. 278 by 25-percent with about 13,000 vehicles being diverted to the flyover. The flyover will add to public safety by giving motorists an alternate evacuation route that will serve Beaufort County well for years to come.

● Beaufort County announced in December that it received \$1 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the S.C. Department of Commerce (SCDOC) to extend sewer service in the Bonaire Estates subdivision off Parris Island Gateway. The project will provide sewer service to about 175 households along Bonaire Circle and interior streets of Joppa Road, Winsor Road and Falls Road. The sewer work and connections will be deeded to the Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority (BJWSA) once the project is completed. The cost of the project includes capacity fees that will be covered by BJWSA.



Professional services for surveying and plat work will be paid for by Beaufort County.

Each year, South Carolina communities apply for competitive CDBG funds. Beaufort County's Communications and Accountability Department and Stormwater Management Department collaborated on behalf of Beaufort County with Lowcountry Council of Governments and BJWSA to submit a grant application to SCDOC. CDBG grants can fund a wide variety of projects, such as revitalizing neighborhoods, improving community infrastructure, or constructing public facilities. The state program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

● Beaufort County recently launched a new disaster recovery website at [www.beaufortcountydasterrecovery.net](http://www.beaufortcountydasterrecovery.net) that will serve as a one-stop portal for residents, businesses and municipalities to gain information about services available to them in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

The website features information on shelter and food resources, debris removal guidelines, Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) updates, information on utilities and other hurricane-related information for Beaufort County residents. County departments and other agencies are able to collaborate, analyze and share information about their collective recovery efforts, and put residents in contact with support agencies to address their specific needs.

● Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administered by the S.C. State Library (SCSL), a pilot partnership between Beaufort County's public schools and libraries seeking to bring Internet access to some families living in rural, northern Beaufort County has been so successful that the library has been awarded a \$23,194 grant to expand the program.

The Beaufort County Library has partnered with Beaufort County, the Beaufort County School District and Kajeet to expand the reach and benefits of free access to the internet to underserved youth and communities by expanding the SmartSpot Educational Broadband Program. The grant allows for 50 middle school students and their families in the areas of Lobeco, Sheldon, St. Helena Island and Yemassee to borrow the hotspot devices for the remainder of the school year.

SmartSpot devices use cellular networks to create a personal broadband internet hotspot and provide portable, high-speed internet connectivity that can be shared between multiple users. The program will

not cost the school district because Beaufort County funded the initial pilot project for Kajeet MiFi devices and Internet access through the county's library budget. This initiative will help bridge a major gap in the availability of the Internet for a critical segment of Beaufort County's population that has the most to gain from its use. The SmartSpot Program provides quality access and allows users to continue to learn, work, explore and create beyond library and school hours.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums.

#### Charleston County

● The Charleston County Environmental Management and the City of Charleston recently partnered to promote the county's Table to Farm campaign and the state's Don't Waste Food S.C. campaign. Both initiatives address the state's number one thrown-away item, wasted food.

The Don't Waste Food S.C. campaign is aimed at educating and empowering individuals, businesses and communities to take action by preventing, composting or donating surplus food. The campaign is working toward a goal of reducing food waste in the state by 50 percent by the year 2030.

The campaign is also intended to raise awareness about the availability for restaurant operators to compost their pre- and post-consumer food scraps. Food scraps generated from local restaurants are collected and hauled to Charleston County's Bees Ferry Compost Facility. Upon arrival, the food scraps and compostable serve ware are processed to create compost, a nutrient-rich soil amendment, which area farmers can apply to their crops. Local restaurants can complete the composting loop by purveying from local farmers.

#### Chester County

● **Mr. Raymond Carlisle Roddey**, 79, President of the S.C. Association of Counties (SCAC) from 2010 to 2011, died on Jan. 9 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C. He was among only a few county officials in South Carolina to ever receive the President's Cup—one of SCAC's highest honors—more than once, receiving the prestigious award in 1995 and 2014.

Mr. Roddey's family received friends prior to the funeral service at the Chester Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church with the **Rev. Clint Davis** and **Dr. Dwight**

**Pearson** officiating. Interment was held in Chester Memorial Gardens.

Born on Aug. 13, 1937 in Chester County, Mr. Roddey was a son of the late Belvin Barber Roddey, Sr. and Juanita Dunn Roddey Thrailkill. He was a graduate of Chester High School and a member of the Chester Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church where he served as Deacon. Mr. Roddey also enjoyed cooking for church functions.

He was former Civil Defense Director of Chester County, founding member of the Chester County Rescue Squad in 1964, the first director of the Chester County Emergency Services and was formerly employed with Wrights Home for Funerals. Mr. Roddey was elected Chester County Manager in 1974 and served as such for 32 years. Mr. Roddey was known as the voice of Chester High School Cyclones for more than 47 years.

He is survived by his wife of more than 59 years, **Lois Hyatt Roddey**, two sons, John Carlisle and Lee (wife, Pam), both of Chester; two grandsons, Andrew Roddey and Evan Roddey, both of Chester; one sister, Bernice Roddey Miller of Chester and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, B.B. Jr. and Harry Roddey, and two sisters, Aileen Knox and Eloise Bagley.

Memorials may be made to the Chester A.R.P. Church, P.O. Box 174, Chester, S.C. 29706.

#### Georgetown County

● EnviroSep, located in the Georgetown County Airport Industrial Park, announced in December that it plans to invest \$5.2 million to expand its operations and create 100 new jobs over the next five years. EnviroSep specializes in modular chiller, boiler and pump packages in the industrial and commercial markets, and designs and manufactures integrated solutions with automation and controls for fluid handling, heat transfer and energy recovery.

● **Bill Dougan**, a firefighter/paramedic with Midway Fire Rescue, was named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2016. He has been employed with the department for four years. In addition to the normal duties of a firefighter/paramedic, Dougan is an instructor for the department's EMS in-service training and for DHEC's required continuing education program for fire/rescue staff. He also serves as Midway's infection control coordinator, ensuring staff receives appropriate vaccinations and making sure appropriate steps are followed in cases of exposure to infectious illness.

*(Continued on next page)*



● **Mike Young**, Georgetown County Building Official, has been selected as Georgetown County's Manager of the Year for 2016. Young, employed with the county for 16 years, was promoted in January from Senior Building Inspector to his current position. Young oversees eight employees and creates the Building Division's budget for review and approval by the Planning Director.

Since working for the county, he has made several significant improvements that benefit the Building Division as well as county residents. Most notable, Young led the effort to improve the county's national Flood Insurance Program rating from an 8 to a 7. This improvement decreased flood insurance premiums 5 percent for county residents. Young also led the most successful damage assessment process to date this fall after Hurricane Matthew. Currently, he is pursuing additional actions to further improve the rating.

● **Barry Stone** and **George Avant Jr.** were recognized in December as Georgetown County Government's 2016 Volunteers of the Year.

The county's Parks and Recreation Department opened the first of its many new tournament-level facilities in 2012 and began attracting tournaments from near and far. Since the county hosted its first large event at one of the facilities, Stone has become a major asset by volunteering to serve as a staff member or every major event and proven to be a major asset.

Avant, an employee of the county's Public Services Department, has provided outstanding volunteer service to the county by volunteering to work for Georgetown County Fire/EMS. He is a National First Responder and a National Child Safety Seat Technician. He is also a certified instructor for CPR, First Aid, AED use and for blood borne pathogens.

● After 36 years and nine elections, Georgetown County Probate **Judge Waldo Maring**, 65, retired in January. Maring was

first elected as probate judge in 1980.

**Leigh Powers Boan** won the Republican Primary election in June and the general election unopposed in November when Maring chose not to seek re-election.

● **Early Walker** of the Georgetown County Public Services Department was named the county's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2016 after his consistently outstanding job performance. Walker has been employed with the department for 13 years, serving as a truck, backhoe and track hoe driver; roll paker; motor grader operator; equipment operator and crew leader.

● Students from eight S.C. middle schools participated in the 16th annual S.C. Bar Georgetown Regional Middle School Mock Trial Competition, hosted by Clerk of Court Alma White and the Georgetown County Judicial Center on Nov. 12 in Georgetown. This was the first time that Georgetown County had ever hosted the event.

The competition was held at the Judicial Center on Cleland Street. Participating middle schools were: Ashley Hall, Buist Academy for Advanced Studies, Cario, Charleston Charter School of Math and Science, Hemingway M.B. Lee, Kingstree Middle School of the Arts, Moultrie and Phillip Simmons. Students presented the prosecution and defense sides of a fictitious criminal case before a panel of local volunteer lawyers and judges. They also filled the roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs and timekeepers. Each team was judged on its presentation skills, rather than the legal merits of the case.

This fictitious criminal case was *State of South Carolina v. Langley Parker*. The winner of the competition advanced to the State Middle School Mock Trial Competition, held Dec. 2-3 in Lexington County. High school teams also competed in the regional in February, hosted by the Georgetown County Judicial Center.

● Georgetown County's Department of Public Services and Director **Ray Funnys** paid tribute in December to the department's outstanding employees and presented several awards for dedication and hard work.

The department recognized three employees for demonstrating excellence during 2016: Public Services Employee of the Year—the late **Dan Eckis**, a former engineer with the Stormwater Division who died on June 29. The award is

traditionally announced as a surprise each November, but was presented to Eckis in a ceremony in May shortly before he died at his home in Murrells Inlet.

The 2016 Professional Achievement Award was presented to **Harold West**. West was recognized for his professional work ethic, including his continuous efforts to support the Public Services Department as well as other departments, for being a great team player, and for being responsible and dependable.

● Georgetown County announced in November that county residents may be eligible for an additional savings on flood insurance rates, thanks to measures taken by the county's planning and building departments. Prior to the announcement, the county learned that the it had received an improved Class 7 rating by the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

The county's previous rating qualified residents for a discount up to 10 percent on flood insurance. The new rating should add 5 percent to the existing discount when the rating goes into effect May 2017. The Community Rating System is a voluntary incentive program, which recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum national requirements. It plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. Flood insurance premium rates may be discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the rating system.

● Andrews Airport celebrated the opening of a new \$283,475 steel building housing four hangars for private planes on Nov. 1. The opening of the new hangar building is expected to become a catalyst to moving forward with construction of another group of hangars and continuing to attract more aircraft and grow aviation in the Andrews area. This is expected to attract companies and help the area's economic development efforts.

#### Horry County

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recognized Duford area resident **George Clegg** as the Caught Green Handed recipient for December. The Horry County SWA recognized Ketchuptown area resident **Matthew Willoughby** as the Caught Green Handed recipient for November. The Horry County SWA recognized Aynor area resident **Raymond H Hallam Jr.** as the Caught Green Handed recipient for the month of



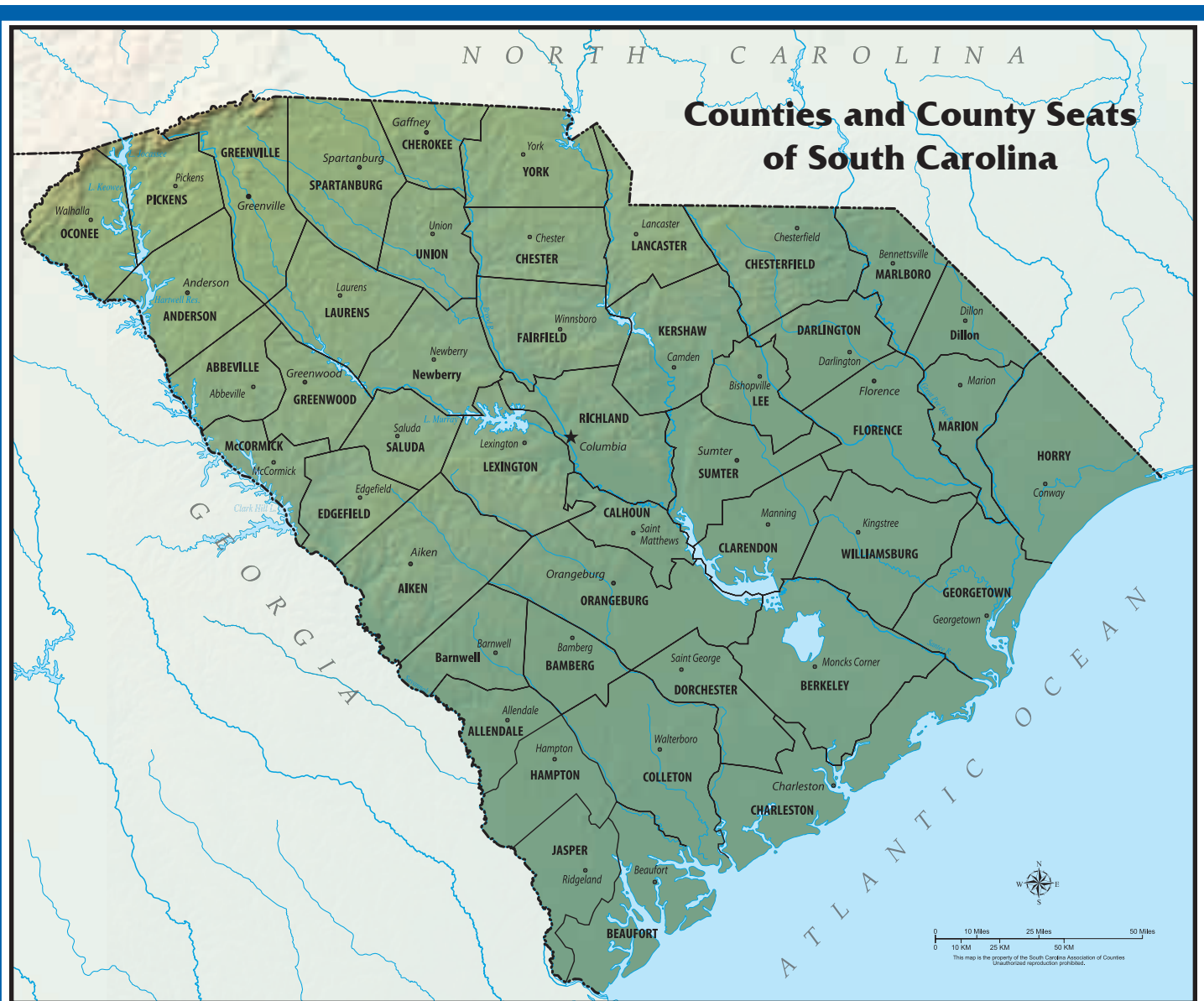
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The Caught Green Handed recognition is presented monthly to a Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling. It is the SWA's way of recognizing and thanking citizens who have made the effort to recycle. Through their recycling efforts, natural resources are saved and the amount of waste being landfilled is reduced.

● The Horry County Police Department announced on Dec. 19 the hiring of **Krystal Dotson** as the department's new civilian public information officer. Dotson, who assumed her duties on Jan. 9, will release information about crimes in the county through press releases and public interest articles. She will also be responsible for managing the department's social media pages and website, in addition to overseeing community outreach efforts on behalf of the department.

Born in Myrtle Beach, Dotson has more than 10 years of experience in public service and community development, including Horry County. She is also active in the community. Dotson previously worked for the Myrtle Beach Police Department for two years. She was responsible for the department's proactive community relations, and managed communication plans and multiple social media platforms for the department.

Dotson, a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C., assumed her duties as the department's Public Information Officer on Jan. 9.

● Interim Horry County Department of Airports Director **Scott Van Moppes**, AAE, has been named the new Airport Director. Moppes has 12 years of airport experience, and an intimate knowledge of airport systems. He began his career with Horry

County Government, working in the county's Information Technologies Office in Jan. 2003. Moppes then transferred to the Myrtle Beach International Airport in 2004 where he became Airport Technology Manager, responsible for designing systems for the upcoming terminal. Given the opportunity to pursue airport management, he successfully tackled the new challenge and achieved Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) status in February 2015. The AAE accreditation is the highest accreditation awarded by the American Association of Airport Executives. Moppes served as interim airport director from July 2016 until his recent promotion to airport director.

● The Horry County Board of Architectural Review's Legacy Business Recognition Program recognize WF Cox, Wolpert's  
(Continued on next page)



Department Store, and Loris Drug Store on Oct. 21. WF Cox opened in 1953, Wolpert's Department Store opened in 1938, and Loris Drug Store has been in business since 1947. The program also recognized the Friendly Barber Shop on Oct. 1. The shop, located in Myrtle Beach and originally named the Bamboo Barber shop, opened in 1958. The Horry County Legacy Business Recognition Program pays tribute to local businesses that have contributed to the economic heritage of Horry County for more than 50 continuous years.

● Horry County Council and the Horry County Police Department attended the swearing in ceremony of **Joseph Hill**, the new Chief of Police, held on Sept. 30 at the Horry County Government & Justice Center Council Chambers in Conway.

#### Jasper County

● Jasper County hosted a ground breaking ceremony for its new Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport Expansion on Jan. 17. The guest speakers included: **Rusty Nealis**, Program Manager, Federal Aviation Administration; and **James Stephens**, Executive Director, S.C. Aeronautics Commission. The ceremony honored the late **Claude Dean**, for whom Jasper County Council passed a resolution in 2015 to name the airport expansion in his honor. Dean, who grew up in Ridgeland, was a W.W. II veteran. As s chairman of the Jasper

County Aeronautics Commission, Dean helped expand the airport in its earlier years.

● Jasper County honored the late **Sen. Clementa C. Pinckney** by naming its government building in honor of the senator who was slain in June 2015 along with eight other individuals at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. The Rev. Pinckney, who represented Jasper County in the S.C. Senate, also pastored Emanuel AME. **U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn** (6th District, S.C.) spoke at the the dedication ceremony. The late Rev. Pinckney's widow, **Jennifer**, also spoke.

#### Lexington County

● For the 29th consecutive year, Lexington County's Financial Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Lexington County's full CAFR is available on the county's website, bolstering the County's transparency. The county's CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit

of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the County's financial story and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

#### McCormick County

● McCormick County hosted a centennial banquet on Nov. 19, concluding the county's year-long celebration that began at the McCormick County Courthouse on Feb. 19, 2016. Approximately 215 people attended the banquet, held at McCormick Middle School in McCormick, the county seat, and hosted by McCormick JROTC.

#### York County

● The Yorkville Historical Society, in partnership with the York County Culture and Heritage Museums, held a ceremony to unveil a state Historical Marker for the newly-renovated York County Courthouse in York on Dec. 10. The ceremony, held in front of the courthouse, preceded the annual Christmas Tour of Historic Homes and sites.

● York County Council and the county's clerk of court then hosted a grand opening ceremony, including ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremonies, on Jan. 29 for the county's newly-renovated historic courthouse. The project to renovate the 102-year-old building cost about \$10 million. (See cover story, this issue)



## ADVERTISING INDEX

Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.	21 & 23
ARIEL Third Party Administrators, Inc.	40
Celebrate Freedom Foundation	48
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina	Inside-Front Cover
E VAL Right of Way Analysts & Consultants	24
GEL Engineering LLC	38
<i>Hidden History of Greenville County</i>	47
McMillan Pazdan Smith	Inside-Back Cover
<i>Lost Columbia</i>	46
National Association of Counties	20 & 36
NBSC, a division of Synovus Bank	45
PalmettoPride	27
PrintSouth Printing, Inc.	54
Professional Printers	22 & 48
QS/1 Governmental Solutions	39
Santee Cooper	26
Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects	13
SCANA/SCE&G	11
SCCWCT and SCCP&LT	37
York County Courthouse Historical Booklet	10 & 24

## The Palmetto Directory Index

(See page 49)

#### LISTINGS:

Alliance Consulting  
Engineers, Inc.  
BB&T Governmental Finance  
Celebrate Freedom Foundation  
E VAL Right of Way Analysts &  
Consultants  
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