

COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 27

Number 2



Georgetown County Council



**Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament
Spotlights Georgetown County's
Marine Complex**



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COVER PHOTOS: Top Photo—GEORGETOWN COUNTY COUNCIL—Standing at one of the launch ramps at the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex on the Sampit River are (l to r) Georgetown Council Members John Thomas, Lillie Jean Johnson, Steve Goggans, Vice Chairman Ron Charlton, Leona Miller, Austin Beard and Chairman Johnny Morant. **Middle Photo**—Aerial photo showing the crowd at the weigh-in on the final day of the Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament. **Bottom Photo**—Aerial photo of the marine complex, taken on Day 1 of the tournament. (Photos by Jackie Broach, Georgetown County Public Information Officer) (See story, P. 6)



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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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Make America Competitive Again

How Outdated, Burdensome Policies Are Stifling the U.S. Economy, Hindering Growth and Limiting Americans

By U.S. Congressman Tom Rice
(R-S.C., 7th District)

One of my favorite nicknames for America is Land of Opportunity. However, after what we've experienced in recent years, that's become harder and harder to believe.

- Since 2008, median household income has declined by 8.7 percent.

- Since 2010, more small businesses have closed than have opened. (Worst in 80 years)

- Because so many Americans have simply given up on finding a job, the labor force participation rate is 62 percent. (Worst in 40 years)

- The largest contributor to American wealth is home ownership. Only 63 percent of Americans now own a home. (Worst in 50 years)

- Two-thirds of Americans now believe their kids won't have the same opportunities they've had.

Eight years ago we were promised hope and change, and boy did we get it. Just not the kind of change we'd hoped for.

We have to recognize that these harrowing facts are signs of a still struggling economy that is hindering growth and limiting Americans. Our current economy is a direct result of the lack of American competitiveness, which is stifled under outdated, decades-old policies coupled with massive growth of government and the burdensome rules enacted by this Administration.

Under President Obama, big companies and small businesses alike have been inundated with regulations. When you



U.S. Congressman Tom Rice

look up the word regulation in the dictionary, synonyms include "control" and "supervision." With a VA nearly corrupt beyond repair, social security reaching bankruptcy, and welfare programs that don't uplift people but instead trap them in poverty, how can we in good faith give the government more control over our country?

This administration has averaged 81 major regulations per year since 2008. That's a 30 percent increase from the previous administration. Last year, federal regulations cost the United States 1.89 trillion dollars in lost growth and productivity.

For example, take the disastrous Dodd-Frank regulation law passed in 2010 after the financial crisis. This law is estimated to have created \$24 billion in

compliance costs and 61 million hours in paperwork for businesses. According to the Small Business Administration, the cost of federal regulations on a small business of less than 20 employees is \$10,585 per employee per year.

Another legacy of regulations enacted by this administration is Obamacare. Fifty nine percent of small business owners in America say Obamacare costs have negatively impacted their business. The confusion of this law is a headache for owners and results in thousands of dollars in compliance fees. How are small business owners supposed to thrive if their already-limited resources are running dry trying to comply with a tangled mess of redundant government mandates?

Small businesses aren't the only ones suffering from regulations that stifle competition. Under our current tax system, the corporate tax rate puts America at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world. Currently, our corporate tax rate is 35 percent—the highest of any developed country on earth. In 1960, 17 of the 20 largest global companies were headquartered in the United States. As of this year, that number has fallen to just six. Compare the U.S. corporate tax rate to Ireland's 12.5 percent rate or even 17 percent in Singapore, and it's no wonder corporations ship operations overseas and take jobs with them.

Outdated policies are also hurting American competition. The Administrative Procedure Act is the law that governs

(See **U.S. Economy**, P. 4)



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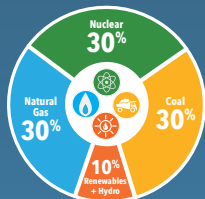
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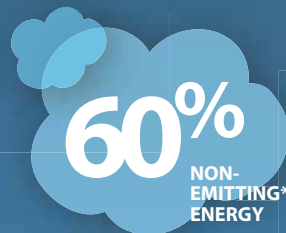
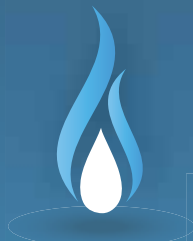
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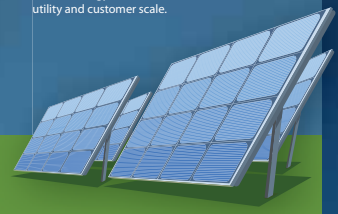


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U.S. Economy ...

(Continued from P. 2)

our regulators and is now 70 years old. When this document was signed into law, World War II had just ended and Harry Truman was President. With the rise of the Internet and advancements in technology happening nearly every day, calling this law outdated is an understatement.

The solution to our problems is growing opportunity, not our government. The way to grow opportunity is to focus on American competitiveness and roll back the absurd amount of regulations that are stifling economic growth.

This is not a Democrat versus Republican issue; this is an America versus the world issue. What we have to recognize is there are people around the world who get up every day in different countries with the sole goal of figuring out how to beat America economically. There's nothing wrong with that, the only problem is this President refuses to compete. Other

countries are winning because we have outdated and burdensome policies driving our country.

In Congress, everything we do should be viewed through the lens of restoring American competitiveness. When businesses and people are able to compete, our country is at its prime, our economy is stronger, and the quality of life improves for all Americans.

Restoring American competitiveness is a priority for our country now more than ever. Congress will continue to work against this Administration's flawed proposals and instead focus on policy that helps restore America's place in the world, but it's up to you, the voter, to decide what kind of path America will travel the next four years. Will it be a path of more control or will it be a path of restoring America's competitive spirit? I think it's time to make America competitive again.



Use SCAC's Mobile App at This Year's Annual Conference!



This useful app contains the annual conference's schedule, speaker information, exhibitor information, and maps of the venue. It updates automatically, making sure users always have the most current information right at their fingertips.

The app also highlights speakers and includes their biographies and photos.

When a user clicks on a session, he or she will see an overview including a brief description of the session and other pertinent information. The app also includes links to session materials when available. The same information is available in regard to exhibitors and sponsors with an exhibition hall map and a list of exhibitors and sponsors with descriptions and contact information.

Another benefit of the app is the ability for county officials to find contact information for their legislators via a link to the S.C. Statehouse website. Users can learn about policies affecting counties and then easily reach out to legislators who help shape those policies.

The app is free and is available for download from the App Store or Google Play by searching for "SCAC." Users may need to know their App Store or Google Play password in order to download the app. For users who want to use the app on a Windows phone, on a Blackberry, or even from a desktop, the web app is available online at www.scacapp.com.

South Carolina's 2016 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's 2016 *Directory of County Officials* has been published and distributed. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government. Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling). To order a copy, please contact:

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Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament Spotlights Georgetown County's Marine Complex

By Jackie Broach
Georgetown County Public Information Officer

From April 7 to 10, an estimated 27,500 people participated in events surrounding the Huk Performance Fishing Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament at Georgetown County's Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex.

That attendance figure makes the tournament one of the top five best at-

tended Elite tournaments since the national series' beginning, according to Bassmaster officials. Additionally, they reported the Elite LIVE show—broadcast online over three days—generated more than 93,000 video plays and more than 3.2 million minutes of viewing time. Fans were highly engaged and spent an average of 34 minutes watching LIVE.



Britt Myers of Lake Wylie holds the championship trophy after winning the Bassmaster Elite Series on April 10 at Winyah Bay in Georgetown County. His four-day weigh-in total was 56 pounds, 3 ounces. This was his first Elite Series win. (Photo by Jackie Broach)



Georgetown County



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"To fishing, the Elite Series is what the PGA is to golf. Being selected to host an event of this caliber is a huge achievement for our community and an honor."

— Sel Hemingway
Georgetown County Administrator

The Elite Series is known as the premier fishing tournament series in the world, and it's estimated that the recent tournament had a direct economic impact of \$2 million on the county. More than \$100,000 was estimated to have been spent on fuel alone. Those numbers don't factor in revenue associated solely with events that were arranged to tie in with the tournament, including a concert series, the Winyah Bay Heritage Festival and Palmetto Dock Dogs shows.

"To fishing, the Elite Series is what the PGA Tour is to golf," said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "Being selected to host an event of this caliber is a huge achievement for our community and an honor. This was the kind of opportunity we had been hoping for to prove we can host a large-scale national event and not only compete

with, but outdo other areas in other states that are competing for this type of event.”

It was the kind of national spotlight Georgetown County officials envisioned when they began making plans to build the Campbell Marine Complex a decade ago, according to County Council Chairman Johnny Morant.

“When Georgetown County was in the early stages of creat-

ing a long-range capital improvement plan,” Morant said, “we knew it needed to incorporate recreational facilities that would meet the needs of a local population that had grown significantly. However, we also saw great potential for recreational tourism in the plan.

“That’s an area of huge growth right now, with many com-
(See **Bassmaster Elite Series**, P. 9)



This aerial photo shows the crowd at the weigh-in on the final day of the Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament, Georgetown County and Bassmaster estimated a four-day crowd total of 27,500, making the tournament one of the top five best-attended Elite events since the beginning of the Series.



This aerial photo of Georgetown County’s Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex, located on the Sampit River, was taken on Day 1 of the tournament. (Photos by Jackie Broach)



▲GEORGETOWN COUNTY COUNCIL—Standing at the entrance to the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex are (l to r) County Council Members Lillie Jean Johnson, Chairman Johnny Morant, Council Member John Thomas, Vice Chairman Ron Charlton and Council Members Austin Beard, Steve Goggans and Leona Miller.

*Photos by
Jackie Broach*



▼Britt Myers celebrates after winning the Bassmaster Elite Series at Winyah Bay.



➤Angler Randy Howell shows off a fish during the final day weigh-in. Howell, a former Bassmaster Classic winner, came in fifth place with a total weight of 47 pounds, 11 ounces.



▲Backstage, Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway (right) and County Council Member Austin Beard watch the tournament weigh-in. Hemingway, who was instrumental in luring the Bassmaster Elite Series to Georgetown County, worked closely with Bassmaster staff during the event to ensure the tournament went smoothly, and that Bassmaster and tournament anglers had everything they needed.



▲Hemingway addresses anglers at a captains meeting the day before the tournament started.





▲ Angler James Elam shows off one of his biggest catches of the tournament. Despite bringing in a seven-pound, eight-ounce bass on Day 3, he missed being in the final round by one spot, finishing in 13th place.



▲ Excited fans welcome anglers as they arrive for the final day weigh-in during the Bassmaster Elite Series at Winyah Bay, held April 7–10 in Georgetown County.

Bassmaster Elite Series ...

(Continued from P. 7)

munities competing to attract tournaments, athletic training camps and the like,” he added. “With our existing appeal as a tourist destination due to our proximity to the ocean and five rivers, we knew we already had an edge. We just needed the right facilities.”

Council made the decision to incorporate recreational facilities capable of accommodating large tournaments in its 10-year capital improvement plan, known as Visions. The Campbell Marine Complex on the Sampit River was one of those facilities. The 20-acre facility opened in 2010, with six boat launch ramps, courtesy docking and parking for 200 vehicles with boat trailers, as well as an outdoor event stage. It was immediately lauded as a “win for boaters, anglers and taxpayers,” winning the 2010 BoatUS Recreation Boating Access Award. And within a couple of years, the facility was regularly attracting tournaments.

Still, officials anticipated it would take at least a decade to work up to pulling in an event of the Bassmaster Elite Series’ magnitude.

“Things progressed a little quicker than we expected, but that just shows we were on the right track,” Hemingway said. “There are a lot of communities out there competing for these tournaments, but with everything we have to offer in addition to our rivers and bays—the beach, great hunting, opportunities to enjoy art and history—that sets us apart from the competition. This is a place where anglers want to come, but also their wives and children, other family members who otherwise might stay home for a tournament, they want to come along for a trip here too.”

County officials indeed saw many anglers bring wives, girlfriends, parents and children along for the event, and worked with Bassmaster to make sure those guests stayed entertained during the mornings and early afternoons while anglers were on the water. A ladies’ shooting day on the outdoor range at Backwoods Quail Club was one event offered to keep guests entertained.

The crowd at the final day’s weigh-in was excited to see a South Carolina resident win the championship. Britt Myers of Lake Wylie took home the trophy and a \$100,000 prize with a four-day weigh-in total of 56 pounds, 3 ounces. His wife Missy, sons Britt and Carson, mother Renee, and other family members traveled to Georgetown with him and were present to witness his win. His sister, Lori Myers, made sure to publicly thank county officials for “such great hospitality and for the great support” of her brother and the tournament.

“Everywhere we went,” Myers said, “we would meet people telling us they were pulling for him and the crowd of cheers grew bigger by the day. You made him, and us, feel special.

“We will be back,” she promised.

The county received similar comments from the families of numerous anglers, and the tournament participants themselves—on a national stage—repeatedly said how much they enjoyed their stay, fishing on local waters and the hospitality

they received while in Georgetown County.

A year earlier, the county hosted the B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship tournament, and county staff, under council's direction, worked closely with B.A.S.S. officials during that event to make sure the tournament went off without

a hitch and event staff had everything they needed. The success of that event led Bassmaster to approach Hemingway about having the county host the elite series this year. Staff worked with Bassmaster in a similar fashion from that point through the end of the Elite event and has already been in talks with the group about hosting future tournaments.

During the Elite Series, Hemingway also worked with Bassmaster and ESPN staff to make sure the footage that aired during the national TV broadcast of the tournament highlighted all of Georgetown County's many attractions. While the anglers were on the water, the championship trophy took a tour of the county and was filmed in some of Georgetown County's scenic locations, including the beach at Pawleys Island, the Georgetown Harborwalk and Caledonia golf course. Hemingway said county staff wanted to make sure audiences got a comprehensive look at the county and its attractions.

Economic impact estimates do not include pre-fishing trips each angler made to the area leading up to the tournament. Those trips would have started around January.

According to Lauren Joseph, tourism marketing director for Georgetown County, accommodations tax figures for the month of the tournament were up 23 percent over the previous fiscal year. But numbers for the months leading up to the tournament were up, too—something she said was related to pre-tournament fishing trips made by the 108 anglers who fished the Elite Series in Georgetown County. Numbers were up 10 percent in March and a whopping 46 percent in January over the previous fiscal year.

With the current phase of Georgetown County's long-range capital improvement plan scheduled to wrap up next year, county council members are again looking to the future as they begin planning the next phase and meeting with county staff and residents to determine the type of projects that will be completed in the next decade.



Online Video Library of the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

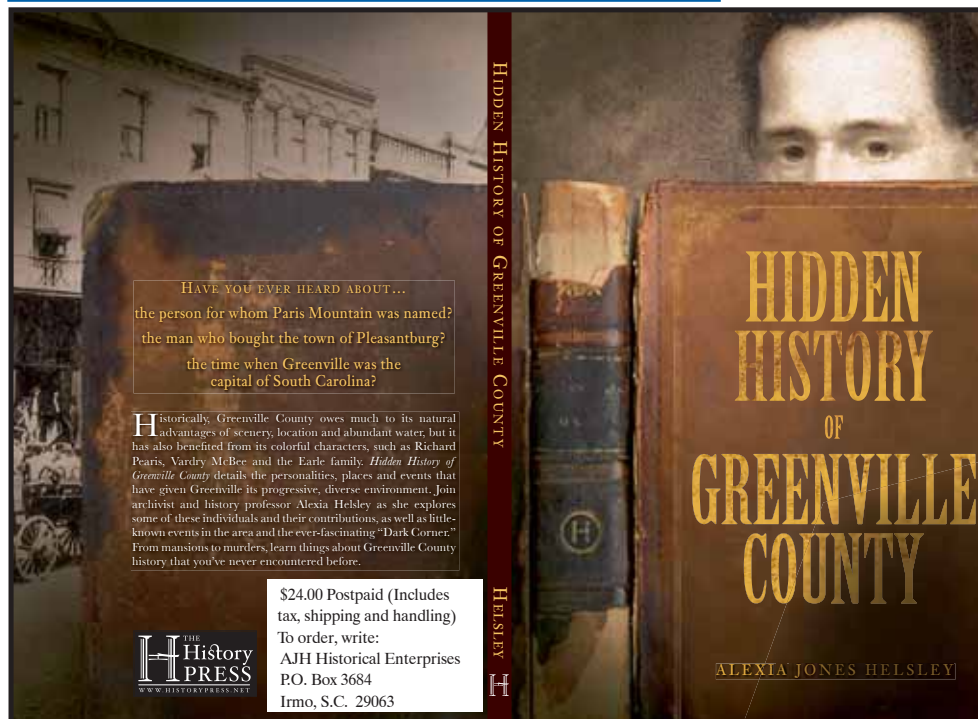


The SCAC is pleased to announce an online video library of the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition that was held in conjunction with the Association's 49th Annual Conference. The award presentations are available via streaming video on the SCAC website at:

<http://www.sccounties.org/awards>

The Association is grateful to Beaufort County and the Beaufort County Channel for providing video production resources. As a result of this partnership, all county officials are able to learn from the innovative ideas and solutions that were presented during the competition.





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the time when Greenville was the
capital of South Carolina?

Historically, Greenville County owes much to its natural advantages of scenery, location and abundant water, but it has also benefited from its colorful characters, such as Richard Pearis, Vardry McBee and the Earle family. *Hidden History of Greenville County* details the personalities, places and events that have given Greenville its progressive, diverse environment. Join archivist and history professor Alexia Helsley as she explores some of these individuals and their contributions, as well as little-known events in the area and the ever-fascinating "Dark Corner." From mansions to murders, learn things about Greenville County history that you've never encountered before.

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Georgetown County Opens Newly-Renovated Howard Community Center

By Jackie Broach
Georgetown County
Public Information Officer

Georgetown County officially opened its newly-renovated Howard Community Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 1.

Formerly the home of Howard High School, the center now houses a community gymnasium, auditorium and meeting rooms, all managed by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. With the recent upgrades, the building can accommodate a broad array of community recreational and cultural activities and events.

"This is a long-awaited moment for



all who have been active in the renovations, and those in the community who have been anxiously waiting for the center to reopen," Council Member Lillie Jean

Georgetown County



See South Carolina
County Map,
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RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY—Cutting the ribbon during a ceremony officially opening the newly-renovated Howard Community Center are (l to r) S.C. Sen. Ronnie A. Sabb(District 32); Georgetown County Council Member John Thomas, Council Chairman Johnny Morant, Council Member Lillie Jean Johnson, Parks and Recreation Member Marvin Neal, Vice Chairman Ron Charlton, the Rev. Eric Manning of Bethel AME Church, Clerk of Court Alma White and S.C. Rep. Carl L. Anderson (District 103). (Photo by Jackie Broach)

"This is a long-awaited moment for all who have been active in the renovations, and those in the community who have been anxiously waiting for the center to reopen."

— Lillie Jean Johnson
Georgetown Council Council Member

Johnson told a large crowd gathered around the center's steps for the ribbon cutting.

The community was very involved in the planning process for facility renovations, and she expects to see that involvement continue as the center comes back into use. The center is a community landmark and one Johnson said she is

thrilled to see brought back to its former glory with new seating, lights and curtains in the auditorium, new gymnasium floors and bleachers, and much more.

Many of those who attended the ribbon cutting were Howard alumni who shared Johnson's excitement as they looked over improvements to the facility. A group in Howard alumni T-shirts settled in the auditorium during a tour of the building to admire the changes and reminisce about the building's past.

"Look at those speakers. Listen to

how clear and loud the music is," Janette Graham said. "They didn't sound like that when we went to school here, that's for sure."

Alumni were also pleased to see a portion of the original auditorium curtain, featuring the Howard H, framed and displayed prominently in the facility.

There is also a floor-to-ceiling display case at the building's main entrance to pay homage to the buildings heritage as a high school with Howard High memo-
(See **Center**, P. 15)



A sign in front of the newly-renovated Howard Community Center advertises free movie showings during the entire summer in the facility's auditorium. (Photo by Jackie Broach)

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*Photos by
Jackie Broach*



▲ A display case in the center's entryway, leading into the auditorium, will be filled with memorabilia paying tribute to the building's past as a high school.



▲ A piece of the original auditorium curtain from the building's days as a high school is preserved and displayed in the hallway outside the auditorium.



▲ The auditorium in the facility was gutted and completely renovated with new seating, stage curtains, lighting and sound equipment.



▲ This multipurpose room, with a retractable dividing wall down the center, can be used for meetings, receptions and other events.

Center ...

(Continued from P. 13)

rabilia contributed by alumni.

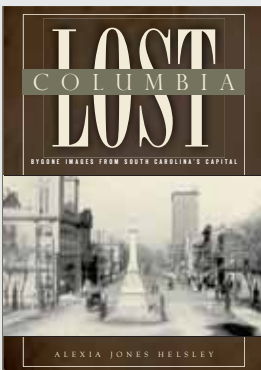
Events, including the AME 7th Episcopal District Annual Conference, have been scheduled at the venue. More events and activities are on the way as more community members discover all the facility has to offer.

Since its opening, the Howard Center has already been used for a public program featuring nationally renowned motivational speaker Clay Dyer, and as the site of registration and a reception for anglers participating in the April 2016 Bassmaster Elite Series at Winyah Bay. Additionally, summer recreational programs and free summer movie screenings are now taking place daily in the center. Renovations to the center were completed as part of Georgetown County's long-range capital improvement plan, which will wrap up next year.



Lost Columbia: Bygone Images of South Carolina's Capital City (Charleston: the History Press, 2008)

Lost Columbia combines an overview of the turbulent history of Columbia with rare and little seen images of the city's destruction in 1865, the Assembly Street farmers' market, the changing face of Main Street and lost institutions and neighborhoods.



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Great GASB!

What Local Governments Need to Know About the Onerous New Disclosure Requirements of GASB 77

By Will Johnson and Edward Kluiters
Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.

The Challenge

First, the bad news. Statement No. 77 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB 77), issued in August 2015, imposes onerous new financial reporting requirements on state and local government entities in connection with tax abatement agreements. Perhaps most notably, counties, cities and school districts will face disclosure requirements for all fee in lieu of tax (FILOT) and infrastructure or special source revenue credit (SSRC) agreements in effect for the applicable reporting period, even agreements that may be 20 or more years old.

The good news is that there are steps you can take to avoid noncompliance. The remainder of this article sets out the key issues and concludes with next steps to take in the short term in order to ensure that you are a step ahead when the time for compliance arrives.

Timing

GASB 77 is effective for financial statements for periods beginning after Dec. 15, 2015. For local governments with fiscal years ending June 30, GASB 77 will first apply to the July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 fiscal year. For local governments with fiscal years ending on December 31, GASB 77 will first apply to the Jan. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2016 fiscal year.

Haynsworth
Sinkler Boyd, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW



Edward Kluiters



Will Johnson

Required Disclosures

GASB 77 requires disclosure of all reductions in tax revenues resulting from tax abatement agreements, whether entered into by the local government itself or by another government entity. A tax abatement agreement must include one or more governments promising to forego tax revenues to which they are otherwise entitled and an individual or entity promising to take a specific action after the agreement has been entered into that contributes to economic

development or otherwise provides public benefits. Reductions in tax revenues generally do not include grants and loans, although local governments must disclose other commitments they make in a tax abatement agreement.

Local governments may provide disclosures in the aggregate, within a particular type of program (such as all FILOT agreements), or they may provide disclosures for each individual agreement. If they provide any individual disclosures, they must provide the same information for all agreements over a quantitative threshold that they establish in their professional judgment. GASB 77 disclosures are required for all agreements

that reduce tax revenues during the applicable reporting period, not just agreements entered into during that period.

Help

Many local governments have inquired as to whether the South Carolina Department of Revenue (DOR) is going to help. DOR has issued a new supplement to the PT-300 forms for FILOT agreements, Form PT-300G, which is to be completed by the taxpayer as part of the PT-300 annual return

and mailed directly to county auditors. However, this form is limited in scope and provides only valuation information that is self-reported by the taxpayer. The form does not take into account property tax abatements, which must be factored in to provide accurate reporting, and the fact that DOR is providing the form does not mean that the self-reported valuation information will ensure compliance with GASB 77. In fact, in some cases, using cost as a proxy for fair market value may be preferable.

Further, DOR has no enforcement mechanism with which to require taxpayers to file Form PT-300G with county auditors, and for SSRC agreements that are not part of a larger FILOT agreement the form will not even be provided to the taxpayer. Thus, the form is not a comprehensive solution on which local governments can rely. Because DOR had no part in implementing this requirement and does not have sufficient staff to undertake what would be a monumental task in preparing the required disclosures statewide, local governments will have the primary responsibility for ensuring that they are compliant. In most counties, the administrator, attorney, auditor,

assessor, treasurer, finance director, and economic development director all may have important roles in this process.

Next Steps

Local governments should start preparing for GASB 77 compliance without delay. In particular, counties, cities, and school districts should coordinate with each other to allocate responsibility for preparing the required disclosures and sharing the relevant information. Counties are likely to be best equipped to lead the effort, and county officials should work to ensure that their personnel are trained to access key property tax information through their access to DOR databases. The relevant county personnel should allocate responsibilities among themselves early on in the process. In addition, counties should develop checklists of all incentive agreements that are impacting their revenues for the applicable year and begin the process of gathering the relevant agreements and property tax filings (via the DOR database). Local governments will need to have multi-county park documentation readily

GASB 77 Webinar

Are the new GASB Statement No. 77 reporting requirements on your radar? Is your county preparing for these new financial reporting requirements for tax abatements?

SCAC will host a webinar on **December 8, 2016**, at 10:00 a.m. regarding GASB 77. In addition to receiving an overview of the disclosure requirements, participants will learn steps they should take to be in compliance for the FY 2016-2017 financial audit. Webinar panelists will include Edward G. Kluiters, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.; William H. Hancock, CPA, The Brittingham Group, LLP; and county



finance officers. The target audience for the webinar will be county chief administrative officers, finance officers, attorneys, auditors, assessors, treasurers, and economic development directors.

More detailed information including registration will be available in October.

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For more information, including current advertising rates and a recent copy of *County Focus Magazine*, please contact:

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available for each project involving FILOT or SSRC agreements in order to determine exactly how the applicable revenues are allocated with partner counties and within each county.

Companies with fiscal years ending December 31 should have made their 2016 PT-300 filings on or before April 30, 2016. All companies with fiscal years ending other than December 31 should have made their 2016 PT-300 filings prior to such time. As of the date of this article, counties should have all information needed to prepare the required disclosures for the first year, other than the applicable millage rates and local option sales tax factors, if those items are not yet established. Compiling all of that information early and identifying what additional information is needed will be critical to ensuring compliance.



Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd assists a broad range of clients who are locating or expanding in South Carolina in obtaining attractive incentive packages that minimize start-up costs and maximize tax savings. The firm's attorneys work with state, county, and local officials to secure incentives at every level of government. They have extensive experience advising taxpayers on the savings that incentive programs, including FILOT and SSRC arrangements, will provide. They routinely prepare in-

depth calculations of the fiscal impact of proposed incentive packages in the same manner that will be required for GASB 77 reporting.

For additional information, please contact Will Johnson at wjohnson@hsblawfirm.com or Edward Kluiters at ekluiters@hsblawfirm.com, 1201 Main St., 22 floor, Columbia SC, www.hsblawfirm.com.

Legal disclaimer: This article is intended to provide general information on the topics covered. The contents are not intended and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinions or pertaining to specific factual situations. Readers should consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice regarding particular situations.



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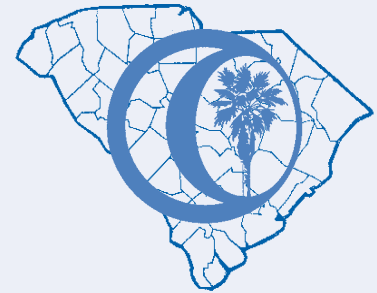
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- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of 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

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Need Information? Visit SCAC's Website at 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 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 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 25 or SCAC's website to obtain respective email addresses.

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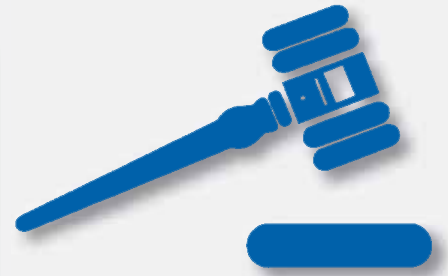
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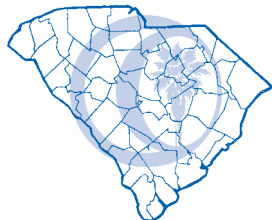
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Preparing Counties for Tomorrow ...



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. A lot has changed, and so has county government. As county government becomes more important to the quality of life in the state, SCAC is committed to preparing county officials for tomorrow.

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, College of Charleston, and the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University, conducts the Institute of Government (Level I, Level II and Advanced Level) for County Officials.

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 web-based training is broadcast live, county officials and employees are able to access the session as a video on demand from the webcast library on the SCAC website at <http://www.sccounties.org>.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

■ SCAC offers a number of financial services to its member counties. SCAC sponsors three self-funded insurance Trusts designed specifically to meet the needs and requirements of local government agencies, including the Workers' Compensation Trust, the Property and Liability Trust, and OPEB Trust. SCAC offers a program for the internet auction of surplus equipment through GovDeals and property tax audit services via Tax Management Associates, Inc. The Association also offers purchasing discounts in line with state government contract pricing for office supplies through Forms and Supply.

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 South Carolina 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 South Carolina General Assembly convenes each January in Columbia and adjourns sine die in June. 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 Action 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, innovations, and various other subjects of interest to county officials. The magazine includes a section called "County Update."

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 Governments 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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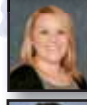
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SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



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<) began on Aug. 1, 1995, with four members. The membership has grown to include 16 counties and 9 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. ■

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Meet the Actuary

By Ellen Pierce, FCAS, MAAA
Vice President
Casualty Actuarial Consultants, Inc.

Sometimes when someone asks me what I do for a living, I am tempted to not respond with “actuary” to avoid the explanation of what it entails in fear of boring the listener. But, really, I LOVE my job. I have had the pleasure of being the actuary for the South Carolina Counties Workers’ Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) since 1993 and began work for the Property and Liability Trust (SCCPLT) before its inception in 1995.

The two primary roles I have for the insurance trusts are to establish reserves for claims that have already occurred and to project losses and set rates for the upcoming policy periods. We also do individual reports for counties of the SCCWCT that have large deductibles.

Actuaries are divided into two types: health, life and pension of which there are about 26,000 (these will have the letters ASA or FSA after their names) and property and casualty of which there are about 6,000 (these will have the letters ACAS or FCAS after their names) in North America.

I am an FCAS which stands for Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and indicates that I have passed all 10 of their grueling exams which I spent most the 1990s taking. Each of the exams requires about 400 hours to study for, and the society only passes about 30 percent of those taking the test each time.

An actuary usually works for an insurance company, but a handful of us are consultants for self-insured programs like SCCWCT and SCCPLT. Our company is headquartered in Brentwood, Tennessee where I worked until 1999 before moving back home to Louisiana and opening our office there. We have more than 200 clients with insurance programs like the Association’s.

So, what do we do?

The accountants are required to book the best estimate

of what is left to be paid for all claims that have occurred as of June 30th of each year-end regardless of whether they have been reported yet or not. The additional development on reported claims, and the additional amount on unreported claims are together known as IBNR (incurred but not reported).

Our IBNR estimates are included on the financial statements and are based on the loss development histories of South Carolina counties. Second, to set the rates for the upcoming policy period, we look at the most recent five years’ experience. We make adjustments for changes in the S.C. statutes, inflation and the exposure of the program (payroll, vehicles, insured values, etc.). Our loss projections are combined with the other operating expenses of the trusts to set the premiums for each county prior to each July 1st. We work closely with the staff at the Association to have these estimates out to the individual counties.

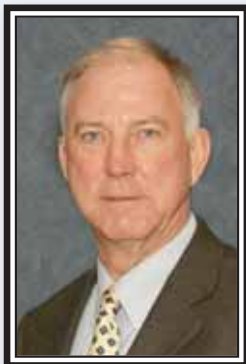


Ellen Pierce, FCAS, MAAA

Photo courtesy of Paige Henderson Studio

To Sum It All Up

The self-insurance programs provide enormous benefits to counties. From loss control for specific types of losses that counties experience to control over the program from a rating standpoint instead of being at the mercy of the big company marketplace, self-insurance is a win-win for counties. The staff at the Association has been involved with these programs for so long, and I am honored to have been a part of the heart and soul of the programs with them. It really is number crunching at its finest.



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The IMLA Report

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

State Preemption

Around the country, state legislatures are attacking local authority and preempting local elected officials from responding to their constituents seeking local regulation, policy or action. While the issues can divide people across the spectrum of political belief, the action of preemption renews the historical question of where authority to regulate ought to lie and who ought to be able to exercise that authority. Should authority rest with those elected by the community being regulated and closer to it, or with those whose interests are foreign, diverse and representative of other interests?

While Home Rule offers a traditional resolution to the question in favor of local governments, enabling acts that grant a broad range of powers to local government can do the same thing. In either solution, the State's retained legislative powers often erodes those powers granted. In terms of Home Rule, the concepts that drive its viability grow generally from the basic principle that the government closest to the people offers the best form of government. That principle shares foundational support for either broad enabling power or Home Rule.

Almost 50 years ago, Professor Kenneth Van Landingham wrote about Home Rule and discussed the several reasons generally considered to support Home Rule:

Although no concrete evidence can



be produced to measure precisely the value of home rule, various theoretical arguments can be advanced in its favor. First, to the extent that municipalities will adopt and exercise home rule powers, the state legislature and governor will have more time to devote to matters of state-wide importance. Following World War II, Maryland adopted home rule because local requests for legislation placed too great a burden on its state legislature. Second, home rule not only should decrease state meddling and interference in the internal affairs of cities, but also should lessen log-rolling or legislative trading common in the enactment of much local legislation. Third, it should allow municipalities to initiate immediate action to resolve their peculiarly local problems without waiting for state legislative authorization. This advantage possesses greatest significance in states with biennial legislative sessions. Fourth, it is sometimes believed that home

rule cities possess more potential powers than non-home rule cities. The Supreme Court of Alaska, for instance, has commented that Juneau "acquired greater legislative power upon becoming a home rule city." Actually, however, there is reason to doubt whether the Alaska court's assertion is valid for most home rule cities. McBain's observation that non-home rule cities do not suffer from any lack of powers, but suffer rather from restrictions on the manner in which powers granted may be exercised probably remains correct. . . .

. . . Fifth, home rule may possess some psychological advantage in that it can foster a sense of civic responsibility in local citizenry. Last, inasmuch as municipalities usually acquire the legislation they consider necessary, it may be worthwhile in the first instance to grant them home rule. Home rule is in accordance with American tradition, since historically Americans have strongly believed, and still believe, in the idea of local self-government. Although its fruits sometimes may be difficult to assess, in general, it has had a salutary influence on municipal government.

Two forms of Home Rule prevail in the United States: constitutional Home Rule and legislative Home Rule, but under each variations exist. In most states the prevailing exception to a community's Home Rule authority lies

in “matters of state interest.” These can be issues that if regulated by the local government might disrupt state operations or add burdens to the state, for example a local law that creates a new cause of action to be decided in the state courts, or issues where the state has a significant regulatory interest such as liquor regulation, environmental regulation and the like.

So, when a city decided to pass an anti-discrimination law that offers more protections to a class of people than the state protects, is that a matter of state concern? What if the city concludes that its liveability standards require higher wages, is that a matter of state concern? Topics at risk of preemption around the country, include (in no order) fracking, cigarette smoking, marijuana use, minimum wages, firearms, pesticides, oil and gas regulation, abortion, annual leave, sick leave and parental leave, plastic bag regulations, rental housing, car sharing, and the shared economy among many others. In some states, super preemption bills seek to prevent local governments from entering into almost every form of regulatory activity on virtually all issues.

The common thread that often runs through both the desire to regulate and the desire to preempt can be described as “special interests.” Industries want to level the playing fields throughout a state by seeking state regulation and preemption rather than face a city by city or county by county patchwork of regulation. Some groups seek local legislation because state legislatures tend to be more conservative than cities and they see chances for legislation at the local level increased. What was once a tawdry scene of political gamesmanship on national issues playing out at the Congress, now finds playhouses at both the state and local levels with national interest groups seeking to push their agenda through local legislation where they have a better chance and competing national interest groups seeking preemption of local legislation they deem threatening.

Neighbors who see their property values affected and the quiet enjoyment of their homes threatened by unrestrained

transitory housing want their local leaders to respond by regulating chronic nuisance housing and platforms like Airbnb. Taxi owners and communities that have developed regulations designed to protect safety and to ensure all members of the community are served and those communities who were underserved and unprotected want their local leaders to protect their interests against unfair competition. Property owners who fear that their only source of water will be lost, want limits on uses that endanger their water sources. Other than the taxi owners, these are not the “special interests” driving the debate in most jurisdiction they are merely residents with concerns about their home, play and work life.

The battle for local autonomy while not lost, seems to be a losing one. While IMLA can offer support in the courts, local officials need to challenge their constituencies to petition their state legislatures for local autonomy and state constitutional protections against state preemption. A person who deals with a neighboring property that is being used for weekend parties through Airbnb rentals ought to be able to seek local protection rather than have the state legislature prevent the local government from acting. A person who because of their race or the community in which they live should not be prevented by state legislation from local recourse against a “ride-sharing” company.

Implied Consent

This past term the Supreme Court took three cases to consider the issue of whether states could impose criminal penalties on drivers who refused blood alcohol tests. These laws acted in tandem with state licensing laws that required a driver’s “implied consent” to the tests if stopped by a police officer on suspicion of driving under the influence.

While the media adequately described how the loss of Justice Scalia caused several 4-4 decisions in important cases, the media has not offered views on his loss in these cases. The cases in which these issues were decided titled *Birchfield v. North Dakota* (decided June

23, 2016) offer a glimpse into the effect of his passing. While each of the cases included an “implied consent” provision in its question, the Court displayed an amazing reluctance to analyze that issue. Instead, the court and dissent focused on the question of whether a breath test and a blood test were “warrantless searches.”

Let me explain why the absence of Justice Scalia must have played a part in the 5-3 decision upholding the breath test and the statute criminalizing the driver’s failure to take the test while concluding that warrantless blood draw tests are not constitutional. For the most part since *Schmerber v. California*, 384 U.S. 757 (1966) governments recognized that blood tests for alcohol where drawing blood is required involved intrusions into a person’s body that unless required by an emergency could not be obtained absent a warrant. Breathalyzers and similar equipment do not require invasions of the body to take samples for analysis. So, they have been routinely accepted as a constitutional method for determining a driver’s blood alcohol levels. And now, the Supreme Court has given its imprimatur to them.

But, if the question before the court was whether a driver, who by seeking a driver’s license impliedly consents to be tested under state policies, regulations and laws by signing an application for the license that clearly offers that consent how does it matter that a breath test may be taken without a warrant and a blood test (absent exigent circumstances) cannot?

My guess is that to get the tie-breaking vote, the court needed to limit its discussion of “implied consent” in favor of discussing the warrant requirements for blood and breath tests. So, rather than a clear decision on the issue of “implied consent” laws, we are left to wonder to what extend regulatory measures can require consent to a search as a part of the licensing protocols. Does a liquor license venue consent to a search of its facilities, does a homeowner or contractor consent to a search of the premises subject to a building permit? Obviously, we can go on to include a myriad of other laws. At this point however, one must conclude that
(See **The IMLA Report**, P. 32)

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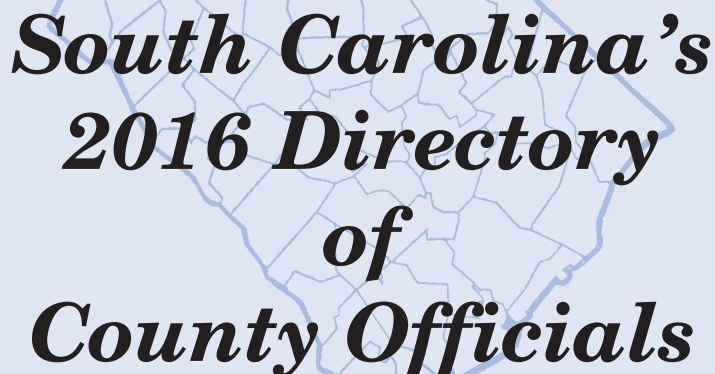
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The IMLA Report ...

(Continued from P. 30)

for implied consent to be effective the regulatory scheme must reflect a clear need for the searches without warrants, offer significant proof that that the person being held to the consent fully understood the approval being given and that the whole process amounts to a search that can be considered "reasonable."



IMLA provides assistance to local government attorneys whose municipalities are members and it supports local governments throughout the United States as an amicus in many cases at the U.S. Supreme Court and in the federal circuits and in state supreme courts. IMLA provides local government attorneys with a forum to seek help and to gain understanding of the law.

If you or your county is not a member of IMLA, consider joining. IMLA offers a number of low-cost programs each year to help attorneys and city/county managers keep abreast of emerging issues or to refresh their knowledge of local government law.

For more information on membership, programs or getting involved with IMLA, contact Chuck Thompson at cthompson@imla.org or call him at (202) 742-1016.

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South Carolina Counties in the American War for Independence

Introduction to a New Series of Roadside Guide Columns, Beginning With this Issue

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

Welcome to a new history series for *County Focus Magazine*. This series of columns will honor South Carolina's critical role in winning American independence by remembering Revolutionary events that occurred in South Carolina counties. According to nineteenth century historian Edward McCrady, more skirmishes and battles occurred in South Carolina than any of the other 13 colonies. With more than 200 documented battles and skirmishes, most South Carolina counties saw military action during the War for American Independence.

The colony of South Carolina was a leader in pursuing independence. The colony's leaders adopted the state's first constitution in 1776 establishing a new state government. The British early focused on Charleston, South Carolina's capital and major port. South Carolina and the British had vast trading connections, and the British considered South Carolina essential for their so-called "Southern Strategy." While many South Carolinians supported the Patriot or Whig cause, large numbers also remained loyal to the King. These King's Men, or Tories/Loyalists fought against the Patriots throughout the war years. Consequently, the Revolution



The historic 13 star U.S. flag, known as the Betsy Ross Flag



South Carolina's Moultrie Flag, also known as the "Moultrie Flag." The Revolutionary Council on Safety asked Colonel William Moultrie in 1775 to design a flag for South Carolina troops to use during the American Revolutionary War. The Palmetto was added in 1861.

in South Carolina was a civil war. State troops and Patriot and Loyalist militia contended with each other and with British regulars and American Continentals.

The American Revolution was a great test of Patriot resolve. The newly independent 13 states had to work together in the Provincial Congress in order to raise a "national" army—the Continental Army—commanded by General George

Washington, supply that army, and fund the war effort. State support was essential to the war effort, but the Congress had no enforcement powers. So, few of the original 13 colonies actually met their financial and manpower requisitions. South Carolina was one of those that met its obligations to the new government.

South Carolina was critical to American success. Despite the staggering loss of Charleston to the British in 1780, South Carolinians, such as Thomas Sumter, John Rutledge and Francis Marion, persevered. As a result, they and General Nathanael Greene and his Continental army were able to break the British hold on South Carolina. The battles of Kings Mountain and Cowpens were turning points in the war. South Carolina victories drove Charles, Lord Cornwallis from South Carolina toward eventual

defeat at Yorktown, Virginia.

A Roadside Guide to Abbeville County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

(See P. 36)



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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.



A Roadside Guide to Abbeville County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

At the time of the American Revolution, Abbeville County was part of Old Ninety-Six District. Ninety-Six District was one of seven court districts created by the District Court Act of 1769. This act was South Carolina's first attempt at establishing local government. Enacted in response to the Regulator movement, this act established the first courts and jails in the South Carolina upstate. The court districts were Beaufort, Camden, Charleston, Cheraws, Georgetown, Orangeburgh, and Ninety-Six.

In the 1780s, the town of Ninety-Six boasted a courthouse and jail. This important transportation hub was an essential link connecting the backcountry with the lowcountry. Consequently, both British and Patriot forces sought to control the area. Ninety-Six, now in Greenwood County, will figure prominently in subsequent columns.

Modern Abbeville County was the site of at least three significant Revolutionary engagements—Beattie's Mill, Pratt's Mill and McCord's Creek. All three involved Patriot and Loyalist troops during the turnaround year of 1781.

Beattie's Mill

On March 23, 1781, rival forces clashed at Beattie's Mill. The Patriot leader was Colonel Elijah Clarke. Clarke (1742–99), a native of Anson County, N.C., commanded Georgia state militiamen. Wounded in December 1780, Clarke had recovered and was recruiting

new enlistments near Long Cane Creek in Abbeville County when he learned that a Loyalist force was foraging in the Little River District. Major James Dunlop of



South Carolina's Moultrie Flag, also known as the "Moultrie Flag." Used by South Carolina troops during the American Revolutionary War. The Palmetto was added in 1861.

the Queens Rangers with 90 Loyalists had left Ninety-Six, and he and his men were foraging near Beattie's Mill. Dunlop was known for his harsh treatment of Patriots. Clarke had 180 men with him, but many of them lacked arms and ammunition. Clarke detailed Lt. Colonel James McColl with a small detachment to seize the bridge behind Dunlop. At that point, Clarke and his men charged. While a number of Loyalists fled, Dunlop held out for several hours. Eventually, personally wounded, he surrendered.

Clarke then sent Dunlop and the other prisoners to Gilbert Town inutherford County, N.C., for safe-keeping. General Andrew Pickens met up with Clarke and reported to General Nathaniel Greene, Continental Commander in

Abbeville County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 43

the South, that the Loyalists had suffered 34 casualties and Clarke had captured 42 prisoners. Regrettably, while under guard, Patriot militiamen killed Dunlop. Although Pickens offered a reward for information about the murder, the culprit was never discovered.

The efforts of Clarke and Pickens disrupted Loyalist activities in Ninety-Six District and forced many of them to take their families to the town of Ninety-Six for safety. The Patriot victory at Beattie's Mill energized Patriot troops to redouble their activities in Georgia and the backcountry. After the Revolution, the state of Georgia gave Clarke a plantation in appreciation. Clarke County and the Elijah Clarke State Park near Lincolnton also honor this Georgia war hero.

Pratt's Mill

On Oct. 3, 1781, at Pratt's Mill, Patriot Captain John Norwood (1750–98) skirmished with the infamous Loyalist, Major William Cunningham. Norwood was an Abbeville County landowner who raised a militia company and served under Colonel Andrew Pickens. Besides Pratt's Mill, Norwood also fought at Cowpens. Pratt's Mill was on the Little River, about eight miles from Abbeville, the county seat of Abbeville County. William Pratt who owned the mill was also a member of Norwood's Little River militia. Norwood and 30 militiamen guarded the mill until Cunningham, with a force of Loyalists and Cherokee warriors, raided

and burned the mill. The Patriot forces escaped, but Cunningham and his men captured 30 of their horses.

Major William “Bloody Bill” Cunningham (1756–87) was the cousin of fellow Loyalists, the brothers Robert and Patrick Cunningham. In 1775, William Cunningham sided with the Patriots, but after the 1776 expedition against the Cherokee, he switched his allegiance to the King’s forces. Cunningham was known for his brutality and his persistent efforts to recruit volunteers for Loyalist military service. He harassed Patriot forces in Ninety-Six District and the South Carolina lowcountry. In November, he earned his nickname at the Battles of Hayes Station and Cloud’s Creek where he allegedly permitted his men to attack Patriot militia after they had surrendered. After the British evacuated Charleston in 1782, Cunningham relocated to East Florida, but was later expelled by the Spanish and died in the Bahamas.

McCord’s Creek

Captain John Crawford, a well-known Loyalist, led a large Loyalist force on a path of death and destruction across Ninety-Six District. He attacked White Hall, the plantation of former Patriot officer, Brigadier General Andrew Williamson. He defeated the Patriot garrison there and destroyed Patriot fortifications. Crawford also commanded a company of Loyalist militia during the British evacuation of Charleston.

On Dec. 7, 1781, near Andrew Pickens’ Blockhouse (present-day Abbeville), just east of McCord’s Creek, Captain John Crawford and a large Loyalist force clashed with Patriot militia commanded by Captain Moses Liddell. On Dec. 7, Crawford and his men surprised and attacked a convoy guarded by Captain Moses Liddell of the Upper Ninety-Six District militia. Crawford and his troops dispersed Liddell’s men killing several of them. Then, Crawford burned all the wagons and captured the teamsters driving the wagons. Crawford and his Loyalists then fled to Cherokee territory with their prisoners. There, he turned the prisoners over to the Cherokee who tortured and killed many of them. Among the prison-

ers captured, tortured and killed was John Pickens, the brother of Brigadier General Andrew Pickens, the “Wizard Owl.”

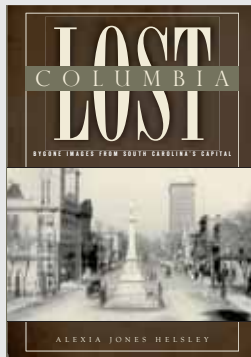
In addition, Liddell served in the Cherokee expedition of 1776, the Battle of Eutaw Springs, the Florida expedition and skirmishes such as the one at Alexander’s Mill. He was seriously wounded, but survived wounds and illness and fought for the Patriots until the war ended.

These engagements reflect the changing vicissitudes of the war. The battle of Beattie’s Mill occurred before British General—Charles, Lord Cornwallis—surrendered at Yorktown in October, 1781. Although the British surrender at Yorktown brought peace between Great Britain and her former colonists, the ground war, especially in the South, continued until 1782 when the British finally evacuated Charleston. So, the battles of Pratt’s Mill and McCord’s Creek were part of the American effort to drive the British from the state of South Carolina. Therefore, the year 1781 in Abbeville was just one chapter in the dangerous, turbulent history of the American Revolution in South Carolina.



Lost Columbia: Bygone Images of South Carolina’s Capital City (Charleston: the History Press, 2008)

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- 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

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County Update



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*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.

Beaufort County

- Women in Philanthropy, a Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, awarded Friends of the Beaufort Library a \$7,500 grant in 2015. The grant was used to fund programs at the library designed to educate citizens on the importance of protecting the Lowcountry environment.
- Beaufort Branch Library earlier this year



SCAC Presidents

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>
2000	James H. Rozier Jr. <i>Berkeley County</i>	1984	Charlie I. Crews <i>Hampton County</i>		

introduced a new collection of Launchpad Educational Learning Tablets for young library customers as part of a pilot project funded by the county's Public Library Foundation. The new launchpads are available for checkout with a library card at the Bluffton Branch Library.

Calhoun County

● Calhoun County Museum recently received the following two state awards, the Achievement of Excellence Award from the

Confederation of S.C. Local Historical Societies, and the State and Local History Budget Award. **Debbie Roland**, museum director, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Charleston County

● Charleston County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) recently joined the White House's Data Driven Justice initiative to implement reforms to safely reduce the jail population and create a more effective local criminal justice system. These efforts were

already underway by the CJCC.

The national initiative is a bipartisan coalition of 67 city, county and state governments that have committed to using data-driven strategies to provide alternatives to jail for low-level offenders with mental health and substance use disorders and to enhance the pretrial process.

The CJCC's initiatives in jail reform were launched earlier this year when the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded the group \$2.25 million to implement reforms. Charleston County is one of 11

NEWS BRIEF

When important news items can-not be included or published in-full in SCAC's *Carolina Counties Newsletter*, they may be published in this space. For more information, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081.

RIA Announces Funding for Local Governments

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) recently announced the availability of \$25 million in competitive grants for the program year that begins July 1. This financial assistance is available to local governments and public utilities statewide through two competitive grant program categories—Basic Infrastructure and Economic Infrastructure.

The application deadline is Sept. 12, 2016 and March 13, 2017.

RIA assists qualified infrastructure projects that improve water, wastewater and stormwater facilities to address public health and regulatory standards or build the necessary capacity to support economic and employment opportunities. RIA's website serves as the central information resource for potential applicants and other interested parties. Applicants can access the **2016-17 Program Strategy** and the grant application forms under Quick Links on the Home Page at www.ria.sc.gov.

If you wish to be added to RIA's email list to receive future correspondence, please contact Pamela Williams at (803) 737-0390 or info@ria.sc.gov. ■



SCAC'S 2016 WEBCAST CALENDAR

Thursday, Oct. 6
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Taking Charge of Change

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

SCAC's 2016 Conference Calendar

July 31–Aug. 3
July 30–31

Annual Conference
Institute of Government
Hilton Head Marriott, Hilton Head Island

Aug. 16

Setoff Debt/GEAR
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Sept. 15

Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Oct. 19
Oct. 20

Institute of Government
County Council Coalition Meeting
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Nov. 18

S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Dec. 1-2

Legislative Conference
The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel, Charleston

You can now register and pay online for SCAC conferences at www.sccounties.org/meetings.



July 22–25

Annual Conference and Exposition
Los Angeles County (Long Beach), Calif.

NACo's 2016 Conference Calendar

jurisdictions in the country that was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation to receive funding and access to expert technical assistance to implement a plan for reform. The CJCC's goal is to reduce the jail population by 25 percent in the next three years.

● Charleston County's proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2017 will aim to address the needs of a growing population. The proposal includes no property tax increases and adds 25 new positions to provide direct services to citizens and addresses the increasing service demand. The positions include 11 new employees for the drainage program recently approved by Council to meet federal mandates and improve service to the community.

Georgetown County

● Georgetown County held a groundbreaking ceremony in May to build the Northwest Regional Recreation Center in Choppee. The project to construct the new \$4.9 million facility began on May 31, and is expected to be completed in May 2017. When completed, the center will serve residents in all communities in the northwestern portion of Georgetown County.

The facility will be nearly identical to the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center that opened in Pawleys Island in 2013, and it will have the same amenities, including a gymnasium, aerobics room, cardio and weight room, rock climbing wall and indoor walking track. The 24,000-square-foot center will also house a catering kitchen, locker room, and program and meeting rooms, as well as recreation staff offices. Several outdoor recreation components at the site have already been completed, including athletic fields and tennis courts. All components are part of the county's long-range Capital Improvement Plan, now in its final phase.

● **Donna Mahn**, Georgetown County's director of Elections and Voter Registration, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the S.C. Association of Registration and Election Officials. In May, Mahn was appointed to fill the unexpired term for the District 7 Director. She will be responsible for contacting and representing counties in the District 7 region on a state level. Mahn has headed Georgetown County Voter Registration and Elections for the last 10 years. She previously worked as the assistant elections director in Florence.

● On May 19 as part of National Public Works Week, the Georgetown County Public Services Department presented employee excellence awards to four staff members for providing exemplary public service.

Dan Eckis, Stormwater Division, re-

ceived the Public Services Employee of the Year award for going above and beyond in every task he is assigned, and for his expertise, exceptional organization skills and keen sense of humor.

Terri Davis, Stormwater Division, received the Green Earth Award for her dedication to the environment and efforts to keep area waters clean, recycle and prevent pollution.

Donnie Cummings, long-time county employee and volunteer, received the Leadership Award for the instrumental role he played while helping the county host the Bassmaster Elite Series tournament in April.

Monroe Githens, Public Works Division, received the Team Player Award for meeting the challenges of his job professionally and in a timely manner, and for treating all residents with respect and courtesy.

● As part of its celebration of National Public Works Week, the Georgetown County Department of Public Services hosted the 22nd annual Backhoe Rodeo, a regional American Public Works Association competition. Twelve backhoe operators, representing Georgetown County, Charleston County, the City of Charleston and Berkeley County and other jurisdictions, competed.

Kevin Brown of Charleston County won the first place award. **Mark Dirks** of Berkeley County won the second place award. **Harold West** of Georgetown County won the third place award.

Georgetown County also hosted a Truck Rodeo and a Zero Turn Radius competition

Sandra Drayton, a recycling center attendant with Georgetown County, won first place in the Truck Rodeo, becoming the first woman to win the event. **Leroy Davis** won the Zero Turn Radius event.

● Master Firefighter **Joe Palombi** was named Georgetown County Emergency Services' Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of this year (Jan. – March). He has been employed by the Midway Fire Rescue for five years.

● Lowcountry Preparatory School, a preparatory school in Pawleys Island, is now an officially authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. School officials pursued authorization over the standard three-year transition period.

Now, the school will offer the IB Diploma Program starting in the coming academic year. The IB Diploma Program is for students aged 16 to 19. Its curriculum includes six subject groups, as well as Theory of Knowledge (TOK); Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS); and the Extended Essay. The program is recognized and well respected by the world's leading universities.

● Georgetown County Sheriff's Deputy **Amanda "Mandy" Glover** was honored on June 16 at the South Strand Optimist Club's "Recognition of Law Enforcement Officers" program. The purpose of the program is to recognize law enforcement officers who have provided exceptional service or aid to local youth. Glover was nominated for the award by Sheriff Lane Cribb, who praised her 22 years of service to Georgetown County.

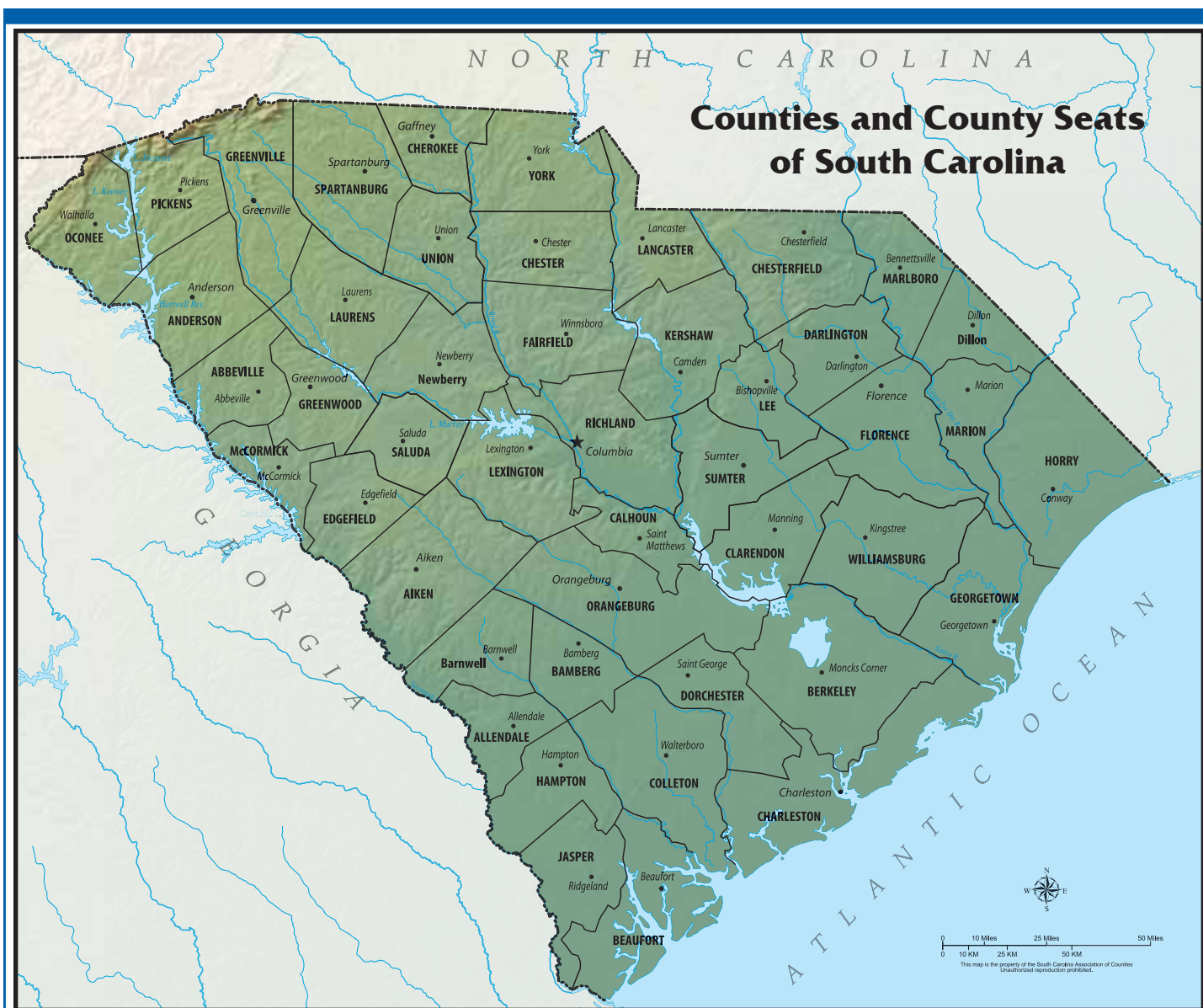
Horry County

● The National Emergency Association recently appointed a new slate of board members during its Annual Conference & Expo in Indiana. **Renee Hardwick**, Horry County E-911 Deputy Director, was appointed board president. Hardwick was chosen for her vision on NENA's future, highlighting her desire for the organization to tackle technology, staffing and funding issues. Hardwick has been employed with Horry County for 32 years and has worked in the E-911 Department for 26 of those years.

● After serving as director of the Horry County Department of Airports since February 8, 2014, Director **Pat Apone** has chosen to take a position with the Louisville Regional Airport Authority. Prior to being director, Apone was made the assistant director in September of 2011 and began her career with Horry County in the Finance Department in November 1997. Current Assistant Airport Director **Scott VanMoppes** will act as Interim Airport Director. Horry County will initiate the recruitment process for a new airport director immediately.

● After serving the Horry County Police Department since December 2012, Interim Police Chief **Kelvin Waites** has resigned to become the Police Chief for the City of Georgetown. **Waites** began his employment as Deputy Chief until most recently being appointed the Interim Chief. **Lance Winburn** will act as Interim Chief until a permanent chief is hired.

● The Horry County Board of Architectural Review's Legacy Business Recognition Program recognized the Gay Dolphin and the Bowery on June 24, 2016, with ribbon cutting ceremonies. The family-owned and operated Gay Dolphin Gift Cove, located at 916 N. Ocean Blvd., in Myrtle Beach, was opened in 1946. The Bowery, located at 110 9th Ave. N in Myrtle Beach, has been a Myrtle Beach landmark since 1944, and its house band from 1973–80 was the famous country group, Alabama. 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.

● The Horry County Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation held their annual Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on May 17 at the Horry County Museum in Conway. The ceremony showcased historic preservation efforts throughout Horry County during the past year.

Recognized were the Ark Plantation archaeology dig and Rosenwald Schools of Horry County. All properties designated as historic between May 2015 and April 2016 received certificates acknowledging the honor. Also recognized were: **Ben Burroughs** for years of historic preservation activities in Horry County; **Herbert Riley** for telling the story of Charlie's Place in Myrtle Beach; **Jack Thompson** for historic photographic coverage of Horry County; Nye's Pharmacy for preserving an icon in the community; students for

their participation in the annual High School Historic Sites & Structures Video Contest; and businesses that have been honored by the Legacy Business Recognition Program.

● Each month, the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recognizes a Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling. The SWA recognized Conway area resident **Edith A. Hucks** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for May. The SWA recognized Galivants Ferry area residents **Cathy Hyatt** and her brother, **Randy Powell**, as the "Caught Green Handed" recipients for April.

● On May 4, 2016, SWA presented **Noah Hellaby**, a junior at Myrtle Beach High School, the 2016 Recycling Student of the Year Award for demonstrating a willingness to "Protect Tomorrow's Environment Today" through tireless efforts to clean up our community.

● The Conway Chamber of Commerce

recently recognized **Samantha McGee Binder**, a senior at Socastee High School, as the county's 2016 Most Outstanding Senior at the chamber's Salute to Education Ceremony, held on May 18 at Horry Electric Cooperative. Binder is ranked third in her graduating class.

Other 2016 Salute to Education nominees included: **Anna Carpenter**, Academy for Technology and Academics; **Brandon Lynch**, Academy for Arts, Science, and Technology; **Bailey Richardson**, Aynor High School; **Alex Del Castillo**, HSC Early College High School; **Nicole Hardwick**, Carolina Forest High School; **Lauren Kosin**, Conway Christian School; **Alyssa Waibel**, Conway High School; **Hailey Todd**, Green Sea Floyds High School; **Taylor Kennedy**, Loris High School; **Carly Sincavitch**, Myrtle Beach High School; **Mara Hartsell**, North Myrtle Beach High School; **Jamie Karl**, Scholars Academy Program; and

Alexandra Valcourt, St. James High School.

Lancaster County

● Lancaster County recently hired **Jamie C. Gilbert** as director of the county's Department of Economic Development. Gilbert is expected to assume his new position in mid-July. Gilbert previously worked for Chester, Md. where he served as the Executive Director of the Queen Anne's County Department of Economic Development.

He has also worked in Georgia as well as for Abbeville and Greenwood counties and Columbia. Gilbert received a B.A. degree in Political Science from University of Maryland-Baltimore County in 1990, a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Clemson University in 1992, and he is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute in 2001.

Richland County

● In June, Richland County Solid Waste & Recycling debuted its new free mobile phone app and online tool that can send residents reminders about taking their roll carts to the curb for trash and recycle collection. Both the app and online tool also include the "Waste Wizard," a feature that identifies whether a specific item belongs in the trash or recycle cart. (*Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for "Richland Solid Waste" to obtain and download a free copy of the app.*)

● The S.C. Department of Revenue (DOR) was ordered to release Richland County's penny sales tax revenues to its Finance Department after the case was argued in state court.

● Richland County held the first in a series of Community Flood Recovery Meetings that aim to garner residents' input about which flood recovery projects they would like to see prioritized with the \$23.5 million federal grant money the county will receive from the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development.

● Richland County Conservation Department employee **Chanda Cooper** was named the 2016 S.C. Project Learning Tree Jerry L. Shrum Outstanding Educator of the Year award by the S.C. Forestry Commission.

● Richland County Councilman **Jim Manning**, who represents District 8, was unanimously

voted chair of the Office of Small Business Opportunity Ad Hoc Committee.

● Richland County Solid Waste & Recycling announced its sale of compost bins for residents to purchase for back yard composting. Included in the \$54.90 price is a small countertop receptacle and a box of compostable bags.

● Councilman **Norman Jackson** invited the community to celebrate the one-year anniversary of Pinewood Lake Park in Hopkins with a special commemorative celebration.


● Richland County employees participated in CPR and first aid certification and other safety training courses as the Risk Management Department celebrated Employee Safety Week.

● Richland County's Small, Local Business Enterprises began offering free courses to provide small, local businesses with information to help further build their knowledge base and capacity.

● Richland County Councilwoman **Joyce Dickerson** hosted a two-day event Moving Forward Together: A National Summit of Schools, Communities & Law Enforcement. It focused on strengthening positive relationships between law enforcement, young people and residents.

● A grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission provided funding for the research and publication of a new booklet, *Mother of SC Pride: Harriet Hancock and the struggle for gay equality in South Carolina*.

● Richland County Councilwoman **Julie-Ann Dixon** held her annual Community Festival that welcomed residents to enjoy friendship, food, family time and live music.



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