

COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 28

Number 3



**SCAC Elects
Henry H. Livingston III
President**



**Belinda D. Copeland
Receives
President's Cup**



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CONTENTS

Date of Issue: November 2017

- 2 SCAC Elects Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III President**
- 3 SCAC Elects Other Officers**
- 6 The 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award Competition**
- 18 Charleston County Wins 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award
For Its DuPont/Wappoo Community Plan
By W. Stuart Morgan III**
- 24 Greenville County Wins 2017 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional
Cooperation Award
For Creating imap, a Dynamic Online Community Mapping Tool
By W. Stuart Morgan III**
- 32 SCAC Hosts 50th Annual Conference**
- 43 Executive Summary: SCAC 2017 President's Report**
- 85 Fentanyl: A Public Safety Employee's Nightmare
By Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
Risk Manager, SCAC**
- 90 Belinda D. Copeland Receives President's Cup**
- 92 Twenty-Three County Officials Graduate from the Institute of Government
for County Officials**
- 96 SCDDSN Presents Golden Palmetto Awards to Georgetown and
Williamsburg Counties**
- 100 A Roadside Guide to Barnwell County
The County's Role in the American War for Independence
By Alexia Jones Helsley**
- 106 County Update**



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

COVER PHOTOS Top Photo: Charleston County officials proudly show 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award at county council meeting on September 20. (Photo by Shawn Smetana, Charleston County PIO) (See Story, P. 18) Bottom Photo: Greenville County Council proudly shows 2017 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award at county council meeting on September 5. (Photo by Stuart Morgan) (See Story, P. 24) Lower-Left Photos: SCAC Elects Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III President. (See Story, P. 2) Belinda D. Copeland receives President's Cup. (See Story, P. 90)



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P.O. Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255
FAX: (803) 252-0379

W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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SCAC Elects Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston III President



The South Carolina Association of Counties elected officers for 2017–18 at its 50th Annual Conference, held July 29 – August 2. The SCAC also elected six board members.

Elected PRESIDENT was Newberry County Council Chairman Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston III. He succeeds Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie J. Armstrong, who served as SCAC

President for 2016–17.

“It is an honor for me to be elected as president of the South Carolina Association of Counties for the coming year,” said Henry Livingston. “Under the outstanding leadership of Julie Armstrong, we have come to the end of another challenging and successful year. I look forward to serving this Association, its members and Board of Directors, and to working with the SCAC Staff.

“This year, we’re recognizing the 50th anniversary of our Association,” Livingston added. “Our successes over the years are the result of working together with a single voice for county government. We must remain united in the challenges facing our citizens and counties. I will be calling on you in the coming months as we develop our legislative agenda for the 2018 legislative session. Now—more than ever—we must work together as leaders of our communities to achieve our common goal of true Home Rule. Our citizens deserve nothing less!”

Livingston retired after serving a 31-year-

long career in public education and is now a realtor for ERA Wilder in Newberry. He served on Newberry County Council from 1994 to 2002, and has served since he was elected again in 2007. Since 2009, Livingston has served as Council Chairman. He chairs Newberry County’s Finance Committee, and serves on the board of directors of the Central SC Alliance and as a board member of Capital City Lake Murray Tourism.

“It is an honor for me to be elected as President of the Association of Counties for the coming year. Under the outstanding leadership of Julie Armstrong, we have completed another challenging year. I look forward to serving the Association, its members and Board of Directors, and working with the SCAC staff.”

— SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III
(Newberry County Council Chairman)

Livingston and his wife, the former Rhonda Frick, have two daughters, Brooke Harmon and Hannah; one son, Derrick; and a son-in-law, Jessie Harmon. He and his family are members of the New Hope Methodist Church in Pomaria.

(See SCAC Board, P. 4)



SCAC President
Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston III
Newberry County Council Chairman

SCAC Elects Other Officers

**First
Vice President**



Charles T. Jennings
*McCormick County
Council Chairman*

**Second
Vice President**



Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
*Clarendon County
Council Chairman*

**Third
Vice President**



Franklin Fulmore Sr.
*Williamsburg County
Council Member*

**Immediate
Past President**



Julie J. Armstrong
*Charleston County
Clerk of Court*

Secretary



F. Pickens Williams Jr.
*Barnwell County
Administrator*

Treasurer



Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County

The SCAC elected other officers as follows: **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**—Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman; **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**—Dwight L. Stewart Jr., Clarendon County Council Chairman; **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**—Franklin Fulmore Sr., Williamsburg County Council Member; **SECRETARY**—F. Pickens Williams

Jr., Barnwell County Administrator; and **TREASURER**—Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County. ■

SCAC Presidents

| | | | | | |
|---------|---|------|---|---------|--|
| 2017 | Henry H. Livingston III <i>Newberry County</i> | 2001 | Steve S. Kelly Jr. <i>Kershaw County</i> | 1983 | James P. Whitlock <i>Pickens County</i> |
| 2016 | Julie J. Armstrong <i>Charleston County</i> | 2000 | James H. Rozier Jr. <i>Berkeley County</i> | 1982 | Lonnie Hamilton III <i>Charleston County</i> |
| 2015 | John Q. Atkinson Jr. <i>Marion County</i> | 1999 | Polly C. Jackson <i>Lancaster County</i> | 1981 | Alfred B. Schooler <i>Georgetown County</i> |
| 2014 | James R. Frazier <i>Horry County</i> | 1998 | Robert R. Nash Sr. <i>Pickens County</i> | 1980 | Howard A. Taylor <i>Charleston County</i> |
| 2013 | Joseph R. Branham <i>Chester County</i> | 1997 | Alzena Robinson <i>Bamberg County</i> | 1979 | Marjorie H. Sharpe <i>Lexington County</i> |
| 2012 | Charles T. Edens <i>Sumter County</i> | 1996 | Betty T. Roper <i>Clarendon County</i> | 1978 | Berry L. Mobley <i>Lancaster County</i> |
| 2011 | Joseph B. Dill <i>Greenville County</i> | 1995 | George E. Bomar <i>Greenville County</i> | 1977 | E.E. Johnson <i>Hampton County</i> |
| 2010 | R. Carlisle Roddey <i>Chester County</i> | 1994 | Raymond C. Eubanks Jr. <i>Spartanburg County</i> | 1976 | Harold L. King <i>Darlington County</i> |
| 2009 | Diane B. Anderson <i>Laurens County</i> | 1993 | William L. McBride <i>Beaufort County</i> | 1975 | Jack Q. Gerrald <i>Horry County</i> |
| 2008 | L. Gregory Pearce Jr. <i>Richland County</i> | 1992 | Belle J. Kennette <i>Greenwood County</i> | 1974 | Arthur H. Burton <i>Charleston County</i> |
| 2007 | K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. <i>Florence County</i> | 1991 | James R. McGee <i>Orangeburg County</i> | 1973 | James O. Thomason <i>Spartanburg County</i> |
| 2006 | Belinda D. Copeland <i>Darlington County</i> | 1990 | Kenneth R. Huckaby <i>Spartanburg County</i> | 1972 | J. Hugh McCutchen <i>Williamsburg County</i> |
| 2004-05 | Waymon Mumford <i>Florence County</i> | 1989 | Lowell C. (Butch) Spires <i>Lexington County</i> | 1971 | John L. Greer <i>Union County</i> |
| 2004 | Barrett S. Lawrimore <i>Charleston County</i> | 1988 | David K. Summers Jr. <i>Calhoun County</i> | 1969-70 | J. Mitchell Graham <i>Charleston County</i> |
| 2003 | Gonza L. Bryant <i>Greenwood County</i> | 1987 | Danny E. Allen <i>Spartanburg County</i> | 1967-68 | Charles W. Lawrimore <i>Georgetown County</i> |
| 2002 | James A. Coleman <i>Laurens County</i> | 1986 | O.V. Player Jr. <i>Sumter County</i> | | |
| | | 1985 | Sue H. Roe <i>Aiken County</i> | | |
| | | 1984 | Charlie I. Crews <i>Hampton County</i> | | |



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SCAC Board ...

(Continued from P. 2)

SCAC ELECTS SIX BOARD MEMBERS

The SCAC elected the following board members to four-year terms (2018–21): L. Gregory Pearce Jr., Richland County Council Member; R. Archie Scott, Dillon County Council Chairman; D. Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Chairman; Dwight L. Stewart Jr., Clarendon County Council Chairman; and Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman.

The Association also elected Florence County Council Member Alphonso Bradley and Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie J. Armstrong as board members to fulfill the unexpired terms of Clarendon County Council Chairman Dwight L. Stewart Jr. and Williamsburg County Council Member Franklin Fulmore Sr.



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**



Putting our **energy**
into South Carolina's **future.**



DEDICATED to a Better South Carolina

The 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held on July 30 at the 50th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (July 29 – August 2).

Counties competed equally for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, but were grouped in the following population categories:

- Under 50,000
- 50,000 to 150,000 and
- Greater than 150,000.



**Charleston County Wins
SCAC's 2017 J. Mitchell Graham
Memorial Award**

★ Charleston County won the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its DuPont|Wapoo (DuWap) Community Plan, a collaborative planning effort with community residents, area business owners and stakeholders. The plan addressed numerous issues including fragmented land use and zoning regulations, deteriorating traffic



Charleston County
Winner of the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham
Memorial Award



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 111



JUDGING SCAC'S 2017 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM/BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL AWARDS COMPETITION—Judges for this year's competition (identified on P. 14) carefully listened to county representatives presenting their respective county's 10-minute presentations. The judges evaluated each county's presentations and written entries when selecting winners of this year's J. Mitchell Graham and Barrett Lawrimore memorial awards. *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*

conditions, aging infrastructure and severe drainage problems.

"Through a series of community meetings and workshops, county staff members solicited public input on the

needs and desires of residents and business owners," said Bill Tomes, head judge for the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards *(See JMG/BL Awards, P. 8)*

Award-Winning Presentations

Charleston, Greenville, Marion and Williamsburg counties present their award-winning entries at the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition.



CHARLESTON COUNTY—Joel H. Evans, Director of Charleston County's Zoning and Planning Department (at podium) and Andrea N. Pietras, the department's deputy director, present Charleston County's entry which won this year's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award.

Photos by Stuart Morgan and Lynn Ballard



GREENVILLE COUNTY—John Hansley, Greenville County Deputy Administrator, presents his county's entry which won this year's Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award. (Photo by Lynn Ballard, Greenville County Council Member)



KERSHAW COUNTY—Julian Burns, Council Chairman (at podium) and Michael Conley, Director of Planning and Zoning, Kershaw County, present Kershaw County's entry which won an Honorable Mention in the 50,000 to 150,000 population category.



MARION COUNTY—Jody A. Martin, Pee Dee Food Hub Director, presents Marion County's entry which won an Honorable Mention in the under 50,000 population category.

JMG/BL Awards ...

(Continued from P. 6)

Competition, as entrants were recognized on August 1 at the conference's General Session. "They also met individually with each person who expressed concerns about proposed zoning changes.

"With support of the community, Charleston County's project has already resulted in a community watershed master plan, new playground equipment, sidewalk improvements, groundbreaking for a senior center, a community farmers

market, and traffic light synchronization," Tones added. "Additional improvement projects are in the planning stage. Although the project impacts only a portion of the county residents, it will serve as a model for collaborative planning efforts in other parts of the county, as well as other municipalities and counties." (See full story, P. 18)

Kershaw and Marion Counties Win Honorable Mentions



★ Kershaw County, in the category for counties with populations between 50,000 and 150,000, won an Honorable Mention for Vision Kershaw 2030, the county's proactive approach to address growth concerns.

"With assistance from the Santee-Lynches Council of Governments," Tones said, "the county



J. MITCHELL GRAHAM/BARRETT LAWRI MORE MEMORIAL AWARDS COMPETITION—(Top photo) Many county officials attended this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition to learn more about successful projects and programs South Carolina counties have conducted during the past year. (Left photo) The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award was placed on a table directly in front of the stage where presenters made their presentations. Judges are seated to the left of the stage. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

engaged in a community-wide visioning effort to provide a foundation for more detailed planning on issues such as county services, transportation, recreation, land

use, and economic development. As part of the implementation, the county uses the plan as a budgeting tool by allocating resources to the identified priorities.

“Critical to the success of this vision effort were the public engagement activities that took place,” he added. “More than 30 outreach events, such as workshops, briefings and listening sessions, along with the involvement of other local governments in the county, made this truly a countywide vision.”

★ **Marion County, in the category for counties with populations under 50,000, won an Honorable Mention** for implementing a Pee Dee Food Hub that connects quality, nutritional and safe foods from local farmers to local

customers. The food hub allows the county to help grow the rural economy and the county’s largest industry, agriculture, and improve the health and wellness of its citizens.


“The food hub includes a farm share program whose members receive a variety of freshly-picked fruits and vegetables bi-weekly throughout spring, summer and fall,” Tomes said. “In addition, members also have access to social activities and educational materials to help connect them to the farmers who produced the food.”

(Continued on next page)

HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS
J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

★ **Kershaw County**
 (50,000 to 150,000 Pop.)

★ **Marion County**
 (Under 50,000 Pop.)



See South Carolina County Map, Page 111



SUPPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS—Some who attended the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, like Charleston County officials (above), supported their county’s representatives when they delivered their presentations. Others, using smartphones, photographed the presentations. Greenville County Council Member Lynn Ballard (top-right) photographed Greenville County Council Chairman Herman G. Kirven Jr. as he presented Greenville County’s entry (See P. 7). Chester County Council Member Alex Oliphant (right) used two smartphones. He used Shane Stewart’s phone in his left hand to take photos for Stewart. In his right hand, Oliphant used his phone to take photos of Chester County’s presentation.



**Greenville County Wins
SCAC's 2017 Barrett
Lawrimore Regional
Cooperation Award**

★ Greenville County won SCAC's 2017 Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award—one of the competition's top honors—for leading a cooperative venture that created the county's dynamic map web application, a community mapping tool that provides information on all essential human services in the county.



(See full story, P. 24)
The cooperative effort included partners such as the Greenville Health System, Furman University, United Way of Greenville, and United Way Connects SC211.

"This dynamic

community mapping tool, which went live on June 20th, is an interactive platform that allows community agencies to share reliable and up-to-date human service information in a digital format," Tomes said. "Residents, visitors, businesses and any other organization can access vetted and verified information on food, housing, transportation, health care, recreation, and child care facilities at any time and from anywhere.

"This interactive platform," he added, "has unlimited potential for growth beyond Greenville County."

**The J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett
Lawrimore Memorial Awards
Competition**

This year marks the 45th year that the SCAC has held its annual J. Mitchell Graham Award Competition, and the 20th year that the Association has held its annual Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award Competition.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award recognizes counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens' quality of life in a unique way. The award, first presented in 1972, honors the memory of J. Mitchell Graham who served as SCAC's president from 1969 to 1970.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies and solutions. Competition for this award is open to two or more political subdivisions (counties or county partnerships formed with city, town, district or regional government organizations) that work together to complete an innovative project. The award is named in memory of Barrett S. Lawrimore who served as SCAC's president in 2004.

Judges

Serving as judges for this year's competition were: Head Judge—William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston; Dr. Bruce Ransom, Professor and Chair of the Policy Studies



Online Video Library of SCAC's 2017 Awards Competition

The SCAC is pleased to announce an online video library of the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition that was held in conjunction with the Association's 50th Annual Conference. The award presentations are available on the Association's website at:

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.

Program, Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University; and Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia. (See photo, P. 14)

Other Entities Recognized for Competing in the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

Tomes briefly described at the General Session on August 1 the 10

entries that were submitted in this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition. SCAC President Armstrong thanked and congratulated county officials, representing the counties that submitted
(Continued on next page)



CHARLESTON COUNTY WINS SCAC'S 2017 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD—Accepting SCAC's 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for Charleston County at the Association's Annual Conference Banquet on August 1 are (left to right): Charleston County Chief Deputy Clerk of Court Eddie Haselden; Deputy County Administrator Jim Armstrong; Council Member Anna Johnson; Clerk of Court Julie Armstrong; Board of Elections Dan Martin; Council Chairman Vic Rawl; and Deputy Clerk to Council Kristen Salisbury.



GREENVILLE COUNTY WINS SCAC'S 2017 BARRETT LAWRIMORE REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD—Accepting SCAC's 2017 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for Greenville County at the Association's Annual Conference Banquet on August 1 are (left to right): Greenville County Council Members G. Frederick Payne, Xanthene Norris and Joseph B. Dill (SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong presenting award); and Council Members Ennis Fant, Bob Taylor, Sid Cates and Rick Roberts. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

entries, as they stepped forward to accept plaques on behalf of their counties.

Entries have already been described for this year's four award-winning counties (Charleston, Greenville, Kershaw and Williamsburg). So, the

following descriptions are provided for the other six counties that submitted entries and competed.

J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Competition

■ **Chester County**—A citizen's ability to enter a government building to pay taxes, obtain probate information, or speak with the building and zoning department should be as simple as driving up, getting out of a car and entering the building with ease. However, for those 19 percent of individuals who face mobility challenges, it can be a struggle. By incorporating various methods of accessibility, Chester County has taken steps to improve the quality of life of these citizens by making it easier for them to conduct county business.

■ **Saluda County**—Rural Saluda County has long struggled to meet the emergency health needs of its residents. Prior to the 1970s, emergency transport was via the local funeral home hearse and the nearest critical care facility was more than 45 minutes away. Limited ambulance service by the local nursing home became available in the 1970s, but was not enough by the 21st Century. The county's journey to assume control of its ambulance services to provide quality emergency care for its residents has been nothing less than remarkable.

(See JMG/BL Awards, P. 14)



KERSHAW COUNTY WINS 2017 HONORABLE MENTION—Kershaw County won a 2017 Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in the category for counties with populations ranging from 50,000 to 150,000 at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference. Accepting the award are Kershaw County Council Member Ben Connell (left) and Council Vice Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. (right). SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong (center) presented the award.



MARION COUNTY WINS 2017 HONORABLE MENTION—Marion County won a 2017 Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in the category for counties with populations under 50,000 at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference. Accepting the award are (left to right): Jody Martin, Director of the Pee Dee Food Hub; Marion County Council Member Thomas E. Shaw; SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong, presenting the award; Marion County Administrator Tim Harper; and Council Member John Q. Atkinson Jr. *(Photos by Stuart Morgan)*



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JMG/BL Awards ...

(Continued from P. 12)

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award Competition

■ **Beaufort and Barnwell Counties**—Beaufort County partnered with Barnwell County to design and build a charging trailer to provide portable power for citizens to charge their electronic devices

at remote locations during and after a natural or man-made disaster. The trailer also provides amplified cell signals through an internal cell phone booster for commonly used cell frequencies. The trailer was constructed with solar power as a primary source and generator backup to ensure a continuous power source.

■ **Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties**—Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties and local partners formed the Disaster Recovery

Network(DRN) in response to severe flooding in the fall of 2015. Although the DRN was established to quickly assist with the rehabilitation of flooded homes, it became apparent that the group could fill a void within the tri-county community by assisting with any large disasters for years to come.

■ **Charleston County**—Charleston County's Hurricane Matthew Response and Recovery Project involved 13 municipalities, the South Carolina



RECOGNIZING COLLETON COUNTY, LAST YEAR'S WINNER OF THE J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD—Accepting a small replica of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for Colleton County to keep are (left to right): Colleton County Council Vice Chairman W. Gene Whetsell, Council Member Evon Robinson, Council Chairman Joseph F. Flowers and Council Member Phillip M. Taylor Sr. Also shown (far-right) is SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong, who presented the keepsake replica.



JUDGES—Serving as judges for this year's competition were (left to right): Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia; Dr. Bruce Ransom, Professor and Chair of the Policy Studies Program, Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University; and Head Judge William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

Department of Transportation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, and neighboring Colleton County. The project consisted of an initial response phase after hurricane landfall and a recovery phase including: emergency roadway debris clearance and repairs; debris collection, reduction, and disposal; and project close-out. The project efforts were essential to the economic viability and social well-being of the community.

— ■ **Dillon County**—Dillon County worked with numerous partners to develop property located next to CSX Transportation's main rail line and I-95. The Inland Port will offer shippers more efficient means of transporting their international cargo to and from the port. It will also provide positive and long-term quality of life changes for the region and the state.



Winners of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



| | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Charleston County | 2017 | Florence County | 1995 | Lexington County | 1974 |
| Colleton County | 2016 | Richland County | 1994 | Charleston County | 1973 |
| Barnwell County | 2015 | Charleston County | 1993 | | |
| Abbeville County | 2014 | York County | 1992 | | |
| Newberry County | 2013 | Greenwood County | 1991 | | |
| Colleton County | 2012 | Beaufort County | 1990 | | |
| Horry County | 2011 | Charleston County | 1989 | | |
| Orangeburg County | 2010 | Spartanburg County | 1988 | | |
| Georgetown County | 2009 | Beaufort County | 1987 | | |
| Lexington County | 2008 | Aiken County | 1986 | | |
| Greenwood County | 2007 | Greenwood County | 1985 | | |
| Newberry County | 2006 | Union County | 1984 | | |
| Georgetown County | 2005 | Greenville County | 1983 | | |
| Lexington County | 2004 | Chester County | 1982 | | |
| Orangeburg County | 2003 | Chesterfield County | 1981 | | |
| Anderson County | 2002 | York County | 1980 | | |
| Anderson County | 2001 | Beaufort County | 1979 | | |
| Horry County | 2000 | Oconee County | 1978 | | |
| York County | 1999 | Richland County | 1977 | | |
| Aiken County | 1998 | Beaufort County and | | | |
| Georgetown County | 1997 | Greenwood County | 1976 | | |
| Berkeley County | 1996 | Edgefield County | 1975 | | |



Winners of the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

| | |
|--|------|
| Greenville County | 2017 |
| Spartanburg County | 2016 |
| Spartanburg County | 2015 |
| Abbeville, Anderson, Barnwell and Jasper Counties | 2014 |
| Lexington and Richland Counties | 2012 |
| Beaufort and Jasper Counties | 2011 |
| Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee and Pickens Counties) | 2010 |
| Greenwood County and GLEAMNS | 2009 |
| Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee and Pickens Counties) | 2008 |
| Beaufort/Hampton/Jasper Counties | 2007 |
| Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force | 2006 |
| Berkeley/Charleston/Dorchester Counties | 2005 |
| Florence/Georgetown/Horry Counties | 2004 |
| Sumter/Lee Counties | 2003 |
| Anderson County Partnership | 2002 |
| Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority | 1999 |



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Charleston County Wins 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

For Its DuPont/Wappoo Community Plan

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Charleston County won the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its DuPont|Wappoo Community Plan on Tuesday, August 1, at the 50th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties.

This is the fourth time the county has won the prestigious award, which it previously won in 1973 (the first time the award was presented), 1989 and 1993.

"We are very honored to have won the J. Mitchell



Graham Award for Charleston County this year," said Joel Evans, Charleston County Zoning and Planning Director. "The fact that it has been 14 years since we last won the award made winning it



Seal for the City of Charleston

again this year especially meaningful."

The DuPont|Wappoo Community Plan—better known locally as the DuWap Community Plan—is a vision and an implementation guide for future development and infrastructure improvements in the DuPont|Wappoo Community. (See illustration, P. 21) The community generally includes the area bounded by Sam Rittenburg Boulevard,

Photo by Shawn Smetana



Joel Evans



DuPont | Wappoo Community Plan



A collaborative planning effort of the residents of the DuPont | Wappoo Community, area business owners, stakeholders, the City of Charleston, and Charleston County



Adopted November 1, 2016

Charleston County

Winner of the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



See
South Carolina
County Map,
Page 111

Wappoo Road and Savannah Highway. About 60 percent of the area is located in the City of Charleston. The remaining 40 percent is unincorporated.

The DuPont|Wappoo Community—a well-established community in the Charleston area—has been redeveloped haphazardly for a variety of mixed uses since the end of WWII.

Many of the land uses and structures developed over the years are obsolete or soon will be. Land use and zoning designations have become fragmented, and traffic conditions have worsened as the transportation system has deteriorated. The community also has major drainage issues due to intense development in and around the community and its proximity to tidal creeks and rivers.

Despite such problems, the community has become a prime area for redevelopment. But many residents, business owners and other stakeholders have increasingly expressed concerns in recent years that their community was losing its identity due to development efforts.

Leaders of Charleston County and the City of Charleston, prompted by such concerns, asked staffs of their respective planning and zoning departments to work together to address the area's land use, zoning, infrastructure and economic issues.

The collaborative effort began in 2015 when county and city planning and zoning staffs worked with the community to determine the plan's geographic area. County and city staffs then collaborated to host seven public workshops in the DuPont|Wappoo Community during 2015 and 2016 to solicit input from the community. Joint county/city notifications and advertisements were

published in *The (Charleston) Post & Courier*, approximately 50 signs were posted and about 2,000 letters and e-mails were distributed to announce each public workshop.

The response was strong. A total of 650 individuals attended the workshops. Many participants expressed the widely held belief within the DuPont|Wappoo Community that their neighborhoods had not received the attention that other areas of Charleston had received over the years.

They wanted:

- Redevelopment in DuPont|Wappoo Community to be handled with forethought and planning;
- A neighborhood center to be created, one that would be cohesive with the greater West Ashley Area;
- Predictable development patterns for future growth and redevelopment;
- Mitigation of drainage and flooding issues; and
- Improvement of traffic conditions and transportation infrastructure.

"We had high levels of community participation at the meetings," Evans recalled. "In fact, during the final public hearing phase, several residents were still

concerned about the plan. So, we met with them one-on-one, listened to their concerns and made adjustments. We continue to solicit input from residents and make adjustments whenever necessary."

The City of Charleston adopted the DuPont|Wappoo Community Plan in September 2016, and Charleston County adopted the plan in November that same year with full community support and without any opposition due to the success of those meetings, according to Evans.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the county and the city was adopted to allow both government entities to work together to implement the plan's strategies. Amendments for the county's and city's respective comprehensive plans were also made to ensure consistent land use and design/development requirements, including but not limited to, overlay zoning districts and zoning district changes, as applicable.

"Everyone in the DuPont|Wappoo Community—especially those who attended and voiced their concerns at the public workshops—were the real drivers of the DuWap Community Plan and its
(See DuWap, P. 21)



J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD WINNERS—At Charleston County Council's meeting on September 19, Charleston County officials proudly show the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award that their county won at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference. Shown (left to right) are: Jennifer Miller, County Administrator; Walt Smalls, Chief Deputy Administrator; Joel H. Evans, Director, and Andrea N. Pietras, Deputy Director, Zoning and Planning Department; Charlie Smith, a resident of the DuPont|Wappoo Community and former Planning Commission member; and A. Victor Rawl, Council Chairman. (Photo by Shawn Smetana, Charleston County PIO)

“Truly a Collaborative Effort”

Developing the DuPont | Wappoo Community Plan “truly was a collaborative effort” between Charleston County and the City of Charleston, said Andrea Pietras, Charleston County Deputy Zoning and Planning Director.

That effort and winning SCAC’s 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for the Community Plan also means a lot to the community’s residents, business owners and other stakeholders.

“Everyone in the community—especially those who participated in the public workshops—worked so hard on the plan to ensure that their community would develop with its own unique character in the future,” Pietras said. “For me, in my role as a planner, the most fulfilling part of creating the community plan was seeing the high level

of participation in the workshops we held for the public. That participation really showed how much residents, business owners and others care about their community.”

Pietras worked with Amanda (Mandi) Herring, West Ashley Project Coordinator, who led the effort to create the plan on behalf of the City of Charleston. Together, they coordinated with key staff members in their respective Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Stormwater and Transportation Departments to organize and advertise community workshops and produce

Photo by Shawn Smetana



Andrea Pietras

materials and presentations for the public workshops. Afterward, Pietras and Herring analyzed the input received and determined how to turn that information into realistic, implementable strategies.

Then, they drafted the community plan, memorandum of understanding (MOU) and comprehensive plan amendments, and zoning and land development regulations to work in county and city ordinances. They also found methods to bridge the differences in the ways Charleston County and the City of Charleston regulated and operated; took the DuWap Community Plan, MOU, comprehensive plan amendments, and zoning and land development regulations through the adoption process; and coordinated to prioritize and implement the plan’s strategies.

The project to develop the Dupont | Wappoo Community Plan was a challenge, one that Charleston County and the City of Charleston met in an award-winning way. After the adoption of the community plan, the county and city began implementing the Plan’s strategies. The county also submitted an application for the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition.

For Pietras, the competition’s application process was a new experience.

“I had no idea what to expect when I started the application process,” she said. “At first, I was intimidated by the application questions and the 10-minute presentation requirement. However, once I started writing the application, it just flowed. It was a lot of fun to work with my colleagues to finalize the application and produce the video for the presentation. I’d never had the opportunity to work on a video before, and I really enjoyed that aspect of the application process. I thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience.

“I would definitely encourage other counties to submit entries in the future,” she added. “Regardless of whether or not they submit entries, I would also encourage county officials and others to attend the competition each year. It’s a great way to learn about projects in other communities. It’s also a great way to meet colleagues around the state and build relationships.” ■

Major Achievements

So far, the DuPont | Wappoo Community Plan has achieved the following major objectives:

- Expanded opportunities for property owners in the area to develop or redevelop their land and to establish new businesses and jobs.
- Began the DuPont | Wappoo Community Watershed Master Plan.
- Demolished the shell of an abandoned building in Randolph Park, and replaced aging playground equipment in the park with new playground equipment.
- Helped recruit a local hardware store to replace the True Value Hardware Store at Ashley Oaks Plaza that had recently closed.
- Launched a project to construct a safer connection between the West Ashley Greenway and the West Ashley Bikeway at the intersection of Savannah Highway and Wappoo Road.
- Began a project to install a sidewalk along Stinson Drive to connect the Savannah Highway to the West Ashley Greenway.
- Launched a project to improve the intersection at Stinson Drive and the West Ashley Greenway and create a raised crosswalk to make it safer.
- Broke ground for the Louis Waring Senior Center on Jan. 23, 2017, located three miles from the DuPont | Wappoo Community.
- Established the West Ashley Farmers Market.
- Synchronized signals along the Savannah Highway to better handle the high volume of traffic on the highway.

To benefit the DuPont/Wappoo Community, the City of Charleston has requested that four sidewalk improvement projects be funded by the 2018 Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Annual Allocation Program. Funding is under consideration, but no decisions have been made yet.

DuWap ...

(Continued from P. 19)

implementation,” Evans said. “It became clear during the development process for the plan that they felt their public service and infrastructure needs had largely been ignored in recent years, and that they had a great desire to change that trend.

“This project,” he emphasized, “was extremely significant to them.”

The DuPont | Wappoo Community Plan has achieved some major objectives so far. (See P. 20)

Most significant, funding has been approved for the West Ashley Greenway and West Ashley Bikeway connection at the intersection of the Savannah Highway and Wappoo Road.

Implementation of the Tiger Swamp Watershed Master Plan is also underway. (See illustration, P. 22) According to Evans, the drainage plan’s implementation will probably be the most challenging portion of the plan due to the scope of the work and the funding that it will require.

“I believe this project exemplifies how jurisdictions can work together with communities in developing plans and ordinances and the value of citizen participation.”

— Joel Evans
Charleston County Zoning and Planning Director

The cost of financing the DuPont | Wappoo Community plan, MOU, comprehensive plan amendments and zoning and land regulation amendments were shared equally by Charleston County and the City of Charleston. But the county and

the city have sought additional funding from other sources, including grants and sales tax allocation programs.

“I believe all involved in this project knew we were setting the stage for future multi-jurisdictional planning efforts,” Evans said. “More importantly, I believe

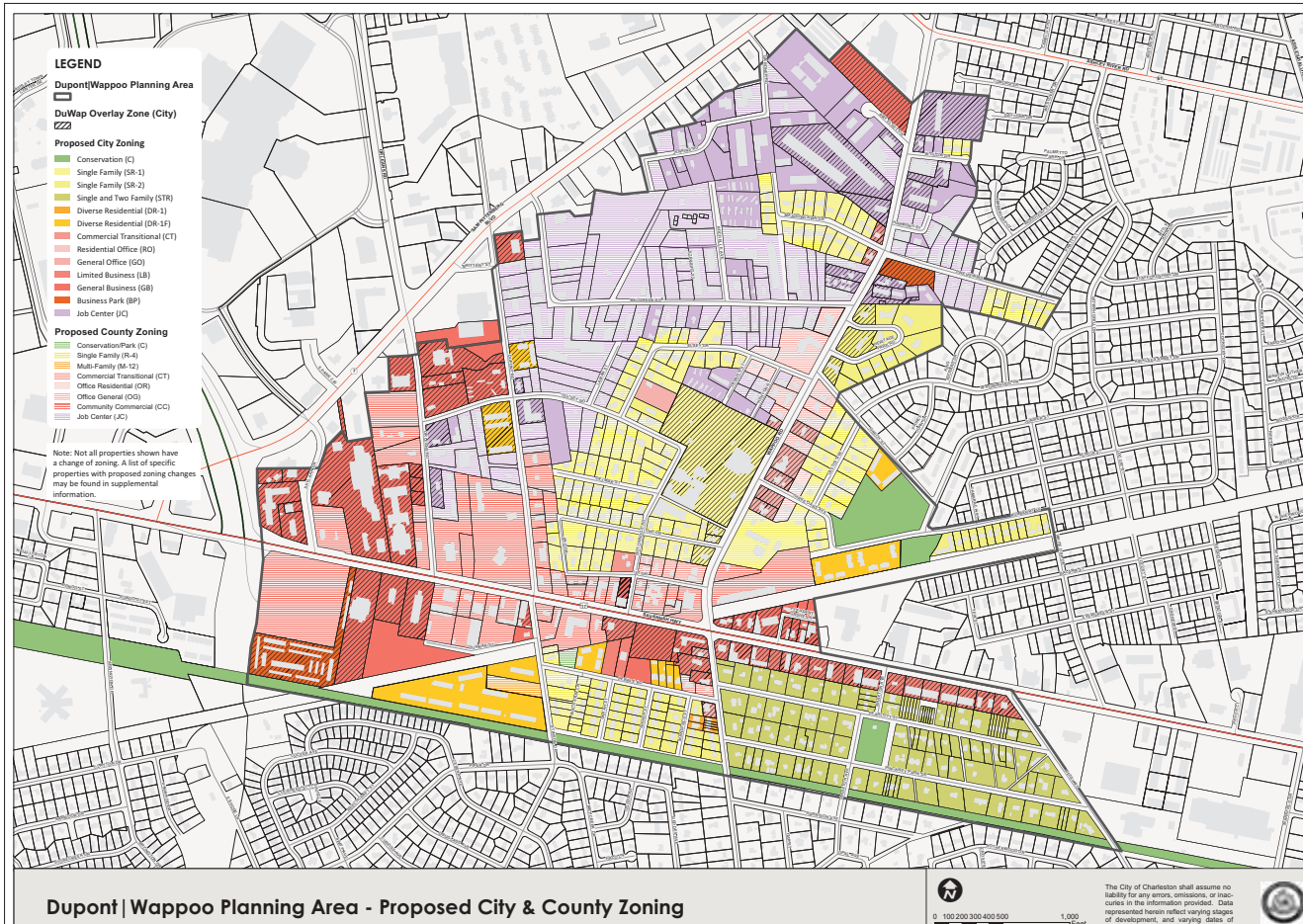
this project exemplifies how jurisdictions can work together with communities in developing plans and ordinances and the value of citizen participation. Ultimately, it’s their plan.”

Counties and municipalities often coordinate to create consistent land use and development standards to set the stage for how, where and what type of development can occur.

However, the DuPont | Wappoo Community Plan is unique. It goes further.

(Continued on next page)

DuPont | Wappoo Community Plan



The map above shows the proposed zoning for both the incorporated and unincorporated properties within the project area. This map was created on April 18, 2016.

Evans described the plan as “multi-dimensional,” because it encompasses every aspect of the DuPont|Wappoo Community—including land use, design, transportation, bicycle connectivity and major drainage improvements. The plan also involves a high level of coordination between Charleston County and the City of Charleston, and a strong effort that solicited massive input from the community.

Residents, business owners and other stakeholders in the DuPont|Wappoo Community will benefit directly from the plan, because it addresses development standards and infrastructure improvements such as land use, drainage and transportation improvements. Public facilities and services will be improved, and the character of the community will be transformed in future redevelopment projects.

However, the bicycle and pedestrian

connectivity portion of the Community Plan will also benefit residents, businesses and other stakeholders outside the DuPont|Wappoo Community. The connection, in its initial construction phase, is expected to be completed by 2020.

The Tiger Swamp Watershed Master Plan, when it is completed, will help address drainage and flooding issues in the DuPont|Wappoo Community as well as other communities within and adjacent to the Tiger Swamp Watershed.

Meanwhile, the DuPont|Wappoo Community Plan template is already being used for other communities in Charleston County. The county’s Zoning and Planning Department staff is using the template to develop community plans and overlay zoning districts for the Parkers Ferry Community in the western area of the county and the Sol Legare Community on James Island.

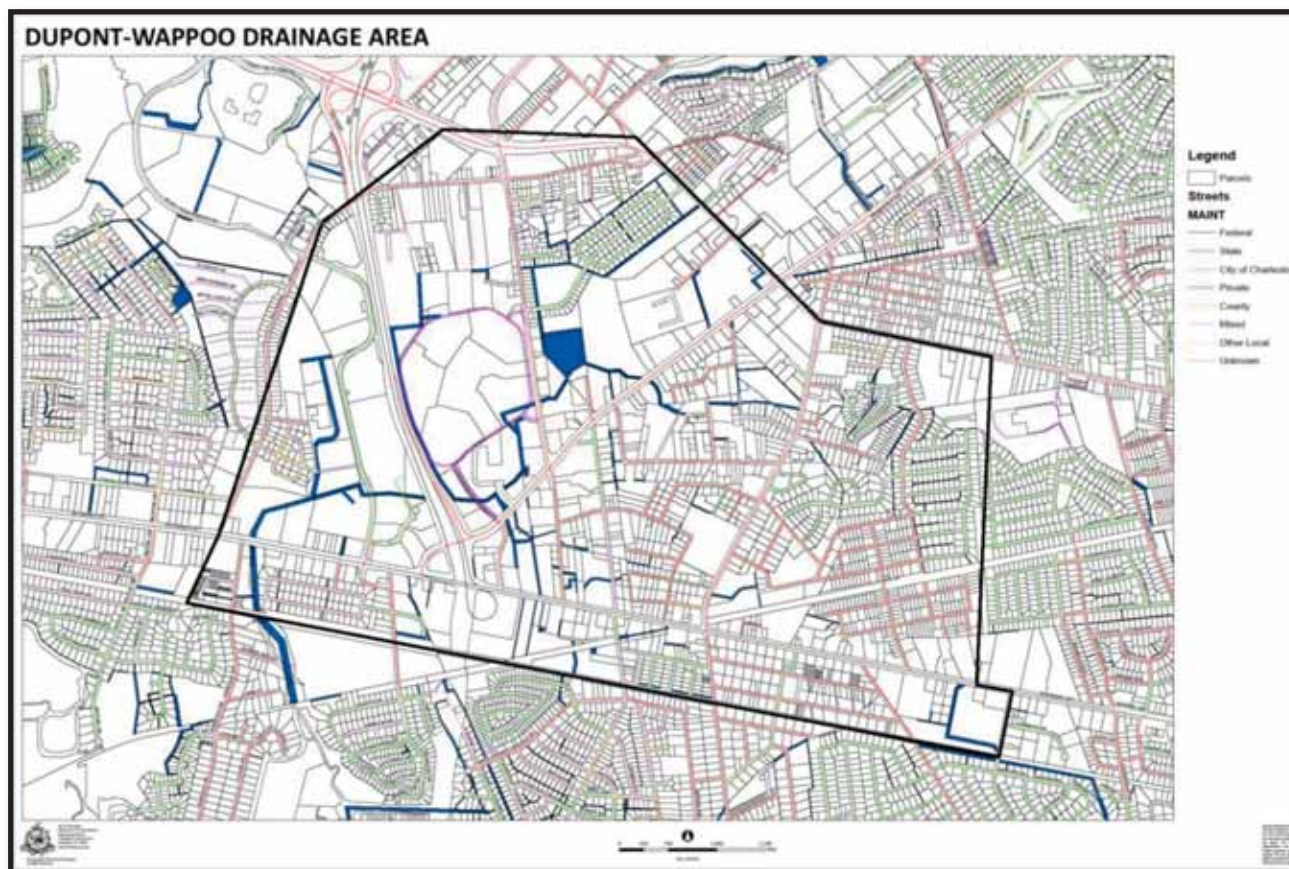
In the future, the template for the DuPont|Wappoo Community Plan is expected to benefit other communities as well.

“This project,” Evans said, “set the template for future community plans where multiple jurisdictions are required to work together with their citizens to develop a cohesive community plan.

“Our county’s Zoning and Planning Department staff—with participation of our Public Works and Transportation Departments—worked very hard on this project,” he added. “Combined with the dedication of everyone in the DuPont|Wappoo Community, this collaborative effort between county and city staff members made this community plan successful.”



NOTE: Charleston County’s complete written entry—including photos and illustrations, and a video of the county’s presentation—is available on SCAC’s Website at: SCCounties.org/awards





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Greenville County Wins 2017 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

For Creating imap, a Dynamic Online Community Mapping Tool

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Greenville County won the 2017 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award on Tuesday, August 1, at the 50th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties for creating imap, a dynamic online community mapping tool.



The interactive platform—accessible free of charge to anyone at greenvilleimap.com—is designed to help residents, businesses, organizations and visitors find information on essential services anytime, anywhere and for any purpose.

“Winning this year’s regional cooperation award is a testament to our county team—council members, staff and administrator,” said Herman G. Kirven Jr., Greenville County Council Chairman. “Little can be accomplished without teamwork. In this project, we learned the value of a unified



approach to accomplishing goals.

“The lessons we learned are invaluable,” he added. “Working together, there is no limit to what can be accomplished through innovation and technology. In this case, imap will save people valuable time and money, and make their lives richer in the process.”

Greenville County partnered with the Greenville Health System, Furman University, United Way of Greenville, and United Way Connects SC211 to create imap.

“This partnership was the key

“Working together, there is no limit to what can be accomplished through innovation and technology. In this case, imap will save people valuable time and money, and make their lives richer in the process.”

— Herman G. Kirven Jr.
Chairman
Greenville County Council

WINNER OF THE
BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL
REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD

Greenville County



See
South Carolina
County Map,
Page 111

reason why Greenville County won this year’s award,” Kirven emphasized. “Each partner contributed an essential component to make Greenville imap work.”

The online community mapping tool provides reliable and up-to-date information. It informs and educates users on the broad range of services available in Greenville County, and enables them to quickly locate the services that best fit their particular needs, including:

- Bus stops,
- Parks,
- Educational institutions,
- Affordable housing,
- Health centers,
- Quality childcare,
- Food pantries,
- Recreation centers,

- Shelters,
- Community gardens,
- Farmer's markets,
- Employment assistance,
- Elderly assistance and
- Government offices.

The tool will continue to grow as more services are added.

"When visiting the imap site, you'll see the layers of information available as well as tools to search for and identify relevant services," explained Taylor Kite, Greenville County GIS Analyst. "Search is definitely one of the application's most important, and perhaps most unique, features. Using search to find a specific resource brings up all kinds of useful information about that resource such as location, phone number, website and hours of operation. In fact,

my favorite imap feature is the dialog box that pops up when you click on the symbol representing a specific resource. The box provides all of the relevant information in an easy to read format as well as directions via Google Maps, and the ability to call directly when imap is used on a device that permits cellular communication.

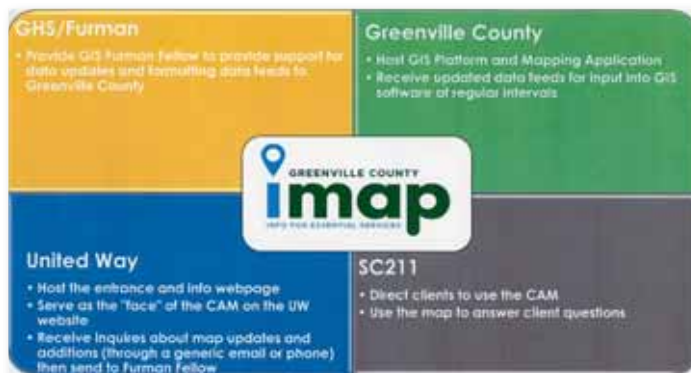
"This web application (imap) is designed to be agnostic," Kite added.

"This means that the app can be accessed using any browser on any smartphone, tablet or computer."

For counties and municipalities wishing to create an app like imap, there is good news. No special programs or equipment are required to create a similar online community mapping tool, according to Kite. The imap app relies on Javascript, specifically ESRI's Javascript API, and it can be created and edited in any text editor.

How the imap Idea Originated

The Greenville Health System (GHS) recognized the need to create a tool that would allow residents to access healthcare provider information and all aspects
(See *imap*, P. 27)



AWARD-WINNING IMAP PARTNERS—Representing the partners that worked with Greenville County to create imap are (left to right): Mike Winiski, GIS Professor, Furman University; Charles Davis, First Gentleman, Furman University & Board Member, United Way of Greenville County; Shannon Herman, Assistant County Administrator, Greenville County; Rhett Baker, GIS Programmer/Analyst, Greenville County; Jennifer Snow, Director of Accountable Communities, Greenville Health System; Richard LaPratt, Executive Vice President of Contact Center Services, 2-1-1; Jensine Reeder, Data and Technology Manager, United Way of Greenville County; and Candice Hipp, Manager, Medical Neighborhoods, Greenville Health System. (Photo courtesy of Greenville Health System)



Among the numerous categories of services identified in iMap are bus routes, including bus stops; elderly care and child care facilities; libraries and other educational facilities; and hospitals and other health care facilities.



Brookdale at Cleveland Park, a senior living facility in Greenville



Primrose Schools, a child care facility



Hughes Main Library, one of many branches within the Greenville County library system



Greenlink, Greenville County's Transit Authority, located in downtown Greenville



One of many bus stops located across the county



A Greenlink bus, parked at the county's Transit Authority facility downtown.



Greenville Memorial Hospital

imap ...

(Continued from P. 25)

of human services across the county, regardless of provider.

In 2015, GHS and Furman University convinced Greenville County to partner in a project to find a way to create a tool to provide such information. Greenville County's GIS Department, also recognizing the value of creating an app for this purpose, next persuaded United Way of Greenville and United Way Connects SC211 to become partners.

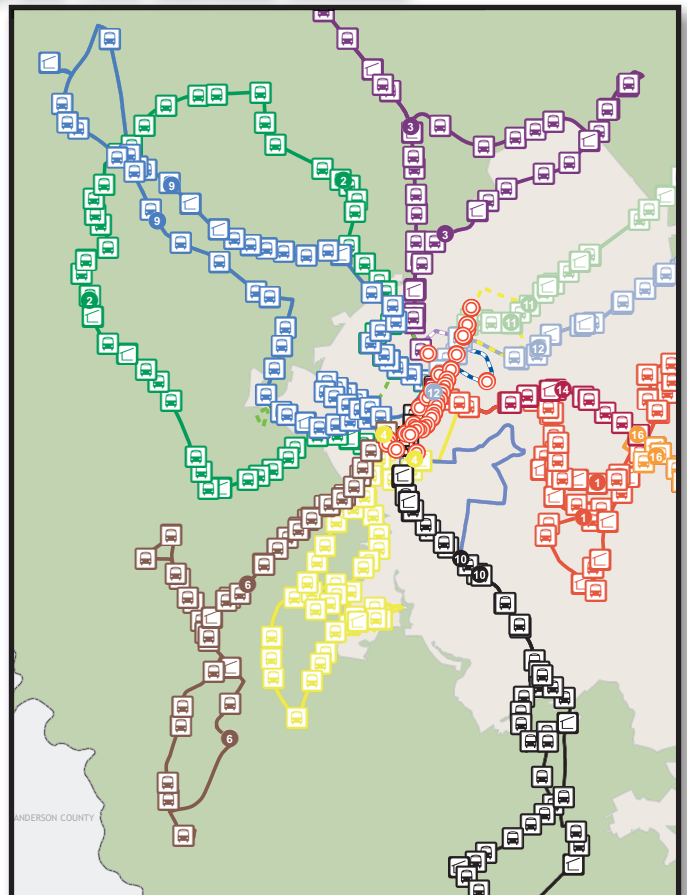
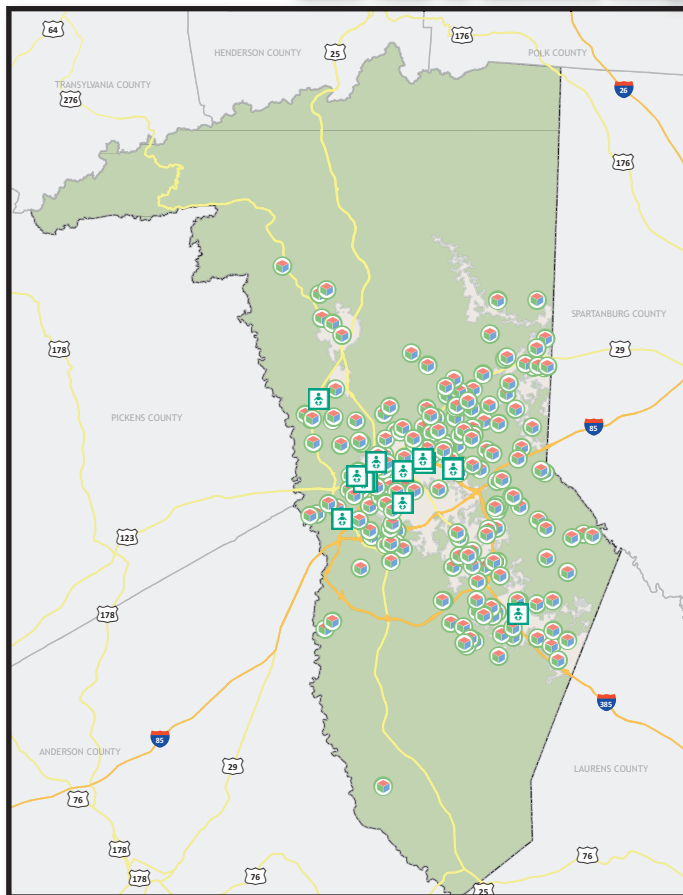
"We then defined partnership roles," recalled Rhett Baker, Greenville
(Continued on next page)

Working closely with Greenville County's partners to create imap were (left to right) Rhett Baker, GIS Programmer/Analyst, and Taylor Kite, GIS Analyst, Greenville County.



imap: Verified and Vetted Information

More Than 50 Identified Categories and 1,000 Individual Locations



The illustrations above (imap screen shots) provide five categories or five layers of services. The illustration at left identifies child care facilities and parenting resources. The illustration at right identifies bus routes, bus stops and bus stops with shelters.

County GIS Programmer/Analyst. “A tool, such as imap, is multifaceted in application and upkeep. So, regular maintenance of information provided in the application is just as vital as the tool’s design and creation.

“Having experienced GIS professionals as well as quality mapping data underpinning the application are critical,” Baker added. “Defining capabilities and parameters is also important so users understand what they gain from the app, and users trust the information contained in it.”

Launched in July, imap only identifies essential human services so far. But the app could be expanded greatly, and there are plans to phase-in more resources and categories later. Still, expanding imap to include more services is being delayed until it is possible to ensure that information is up-to-date and well-vetted.

“Our county is responsible for fairly providing information on all quality resources for each identified category that are available within the county,” Baker explained. “Therefore, the key to making imap useful to the community is constantly keeping the data updated and verified, and adding more data that is pertinent to the communities the county serves.”

The partnership, which created imap, will play an instrumental role by controlling the significant amount of research hours required to operate, maintain and grow imap’s listing of services.

“If I didn’t have help from the partner agencies on data collection and verification,” Baker explained, “it would have been extremely difficult to create the data serving the imap program. Now that imap is live, it’s not that hard to maintain.



GREENVILLE COUNTY WINNERS—At the Greenville County Council Meeting on September 5, Greenville County Council proudly showed the 2017 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award that their county won at SCAC’s 50th Annual Conference. Shown (front row, left to right) are: G. Frederick Payne and Xanthene Norris, Council Members; (Holding Award) Herman G. Kirven Jr., Council Chairman and Joseph B. Dill, Council Member; Elizabeth Seman, Council Member; Willis Meadows, Council Vice Chair; (back row, left to right) Mike Barnes, Ennis Fant, Rick Roberts, Sid Cates and Lynn Ballard, Council Members. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

NOTE: Greenville County’s complete written entry—including photos and illustrations, and a video of the county’s presentation—is available on SCAC’s Website at: SCCounties.org/awards

“The imap app fills a void that was needed in our community. It provides a central location to obtain information about essential community services.”

— Rhett Baker
GIS Programmer/Analyst

applications like these usually gain more attention by word of mouth after people have used it and found it helpful. So, I believe that usage will rise a year from now.”

It is possible that many South Carolina county officials

already know about Greenville imap. After all, many watched Greenville County’s imap presentation at SCAC’s 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Awards Competition on July 30.

“SCAC’s annual awards competition serves a great purpose,” noted Greenville County Council Chairman Kirven. “That’s why our county likes to compete every year. One county’s good idea is exposed to all, and this helps make South Carolina a better place for all our citizens to live.”

It just requires routine updates. Partner agencies provide the vetted data, and we enter the data into imap’s database.” Greenville County and its partners are promoting imap through word of mouth, social media and community programs. County employees, who work with the public and businesses, are promoting the new app as well. “It’s hard to say how many people have used imap,” Baker acknowledged. “The imap app fills a void that was needed in our community. It provides a central location to obtain information about essential community resources. But

already know about Greenville imap. After all, many watched Greenville County’s imap presentation at SCAC’s 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Awards Competition on July 30.

“SCAC’s annual awards competition serves a great purpose,” noted Greenville County Council Chairman Kirven. “That’s why our county likes to compete every year. One county’s good idea is exposed to all, and this helps make South Carolina a better place for all our citizens to live.”



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Advertising Deadline: December 29, 2017

South Carolina's *2018 Directory of County Officials*, currently in production, will be distributed in February to elected and appointed county officials, and many state offices in South Carolina.

The *2018 Directory* will list elected and appointed county officials in the state and identify SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors, Past Presidents, Patrons and Sponsors; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers will be included for county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly. Additional information will be included as well.

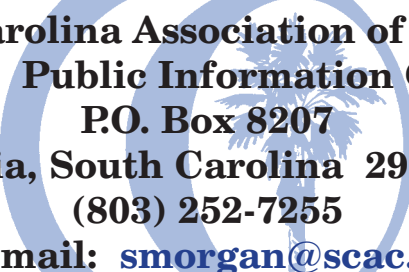
Cost:

- Full-page, full-color advertisement (7" W X 10" H) — \$600.00 NET
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- Full-page B&W advertisement (7" W X 10" H) — \$350.00 NET.
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- To add one or two more colors to a full-page or half-page B&W ad, the cost is \$90.00 NET for each additional color. Colors will be built in process.

The deadline for placing an advertisement in the upcoming *2018 Directory* is **5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, 2017**. So, your check or money order (made payable to SCAC) and ad must be received by this date at the SCAC Office (NO EXCEPTIONS).

A .pdf of the *2018 Directory* (a complete version including advertisements that can be viewed, downloaded and printed) is posted each year on SCAC's website at www.SCCounties.org. After the *2018 Directory of County Officials* is distributed to South Carolina's counties and SCAC's Corporate Supporters, additional copies will be sold at a cost of \$25.00 per copy.

● To place an ad in the upcoming edition of South Carolina's *2018 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



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SCAC Hosts 50th Annual Conference

The South Carolina Association of Counties celebrated a half century of service at its 50th Annual Conference, held July 30 – August 2 in Hilton Head.

The conference—designed to help county leaders lead and serve more effectively—offered training sessions, workshops and opportunities for county leaders to network and discuss challenges they face. It also allowed county leaders to meet with corporate supporters, exhibitors and others. New SCAC officers and board members were elected.

Top county programs and projects were presented and recognized. Awards were also presented.

Conference Speakers

General Session

NACo President Roy Charles Brooks (Tarrant County, Tex., Commissioner), spoke at the general session on Tuesday, Aug. 1.
(See SCAC Hosts 50th, P. 39)



SCAC's Newly-Elected President, 2017-18
Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III
Newberry County Council Chairman



Speaker for the General Session
NACo President Roy Charles Brooks
Tarrant County, Tex., Commissioner



SCAC President, 2016-17
Julie J. Armstrong
Charleston County Clerk of Court



Head table, General Session, SCAC's 50th Annual Conference, August 1.



Keynote Speaker
Dr. Fred Carter

President, Francis Marion University



Beaufort County Council Chairman D. Paul Sommerville welcomes everyone to Beaufort County, host county for SCAC's 50th Annual Conference.



Bo Shetterly, SCAC's former executive director, talks about the formation and development of the Association since the Home Rule Act of 1967.



William E. Tones, head judge for this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, briefly describes this year's entries at the General Session.

General Session

Photos by
Stuart Morgan



SCAC Board Member Waymon Mumford (Florence County Council Member) provides the General Session's invocation.



Institute of Government



Dr. Kendra Stewart (above), Professor and Director, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, and Monica Spells (right), Assistant County Administrator, Beaufort County, teach the Effective Public Engagement class.

► Steven Hamm, Interim Executive Director, S.C. State Ethics Commission, teaches the Ethical Leadership and Public Service class.



► SCAC Staff Member Nilda Padgett poses with Ashlyn Anderson at the Exhibitors' Reception on July 30.



▼ Gina Smith, CPA, Controller, Bamberg County, teaches the Financial Management class.



Walter Goldsmith, First Tryon Securities, teaches the Capital Improvement Planning and Financing class.

Workshops



Improving the Quality of Life Through Nuisance Abatement Workshop



Ann Shetterly and her husband, Bo

2017 J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

Shortly after SCAC's 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition on July 30, members of the competition's three-judge panel posed for this group photo with Anna Berger (far right), SCAC's Director of Research and Training, who presided over the competition. Shown (left to right) are: Dr. Bruce Ransom, Professor and Chair of the Policy Studies Program, Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University; Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia; and the Head Judge—William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston.



▼ More conference attendees are using their smartphones to take photos at meetings. Lois Park Mole (below) uses her smartphone to take photos of the S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs presenting Golden Palmetto Awards at the end of the County Council Coalition Meeting on July 31.



The Combatting Mental Illness in County Jails Workshop was held on July 31. Panelists included (right to left) Matt Chase (at podium), NACo Executive Director; Roy Charles Brooks, NACo President; Sheriff Will Montgomery, Fairfield County; Kathy White, Medical Administrator, Spartanburg County Detention Facility; and Heather Witt, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of the Piedmont.



SCAC Staff Members Dana Homesley and Rick Ucinski thank SCANA, which received special recognition for generously supporting SCAC's 50th Annual Conference as a conference sponsor.



▲ NACo President Roy Charles Brooks speaks at the S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials on August 1 shortly after addressing SCAC's General Session. Brooks also spoke at the Combatting Mental Illness in County Jails Workshop, held on July 31.



SCAC Staff Members Mary Williams and Pearlina Khalif-Govan thank the 13 companies that supported SCAC's 50th Annual Conference as benefactors.

Workshops



Participating in a panel discussion at the S.C. County Managers, Administrators and Supervisors Meeting on July 31 are (left to right): Rep. V. Stephen Moss (District 30); Rep. Joseph A. McEachern (District 77); Rep. Roger K. Kirby (District 61); Rep. F. Lucas Atkinson (District 57); Rep. Terry Alexander (District 59); Sen. Michael W. Gambrell (District 4); and Sen. Mike Fanning (District 17). SCAC Assistant General Counsel Josh Rhodes presided.

County Council Coalition Meeting



Visiting the Exhibit Hall at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference are (left to right): SCAC Treasurer Belinda D. Copeland; SCAC First Vice President Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman); and Charleston County Clerk to Council Beverly T. Craven. Moments earlier, they were talking with Debi Wilcox and Rick Callaham (background, l to r), who were working the exhibit for E-VAL Right of Way Analysts & Consultants.



County Council Coalition President Sammie Tucker Jr. (Kershaw County Council Vice Chairman) presides over the County Council Coalition Meeting on July 31.



LEGISLATIVE PANEL DISCUSSION—Participating in the legislative panel discussion at the County Council Coalition Meeting, held on July 1 (District 66); Sen. A. Shane Massey (District 25); Sen. Gerald Malloy (District 29); Sen. Marlon E. Kimpson (District 42); and Sen. Thomas D.

Exhibits



NACo Executive Director Matthew D. Chase provides a Federal Issues Update at the County Council Coalition Meeting.

► Joanna C. Pitsikoulis, Geographer, U.S. Census Bureau, Atlanta Regional Office, talks about Getting the Most Out of Your 2020 Census at the County Council Coalition Meeting.



Forty-nine companies exhibited at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference. This is one of three aisles in the exhibit hall, as seen from the entrance to the exhibit area.



During a question and answer session at the County Council Coalition Meeting, Aiken County Council Member J. Charles Smith and other county officials line up to ask questions.



Allendale County Council Chairperson Theresa Harvey Taylor (center) and her daughters-in-law (left to right), Kesah Paul and Kristin Lewis, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's exhibit. (Right to left) Doris G. Greene (seated) and Laura S. McClettie (white jacket), partnership specialists for the U.S. Census Bureau, ran the exhibit to answer questions and provide information concerning the upcoming U.S. Census.



during SCAC's 50th Annual Conference are (left to right): Rep. Ronald Young (District 84); Rep. Russell L. Ott (District 93); Rep. Gilda Y. Cobb-Hunter Davis (District 46).



Laura Rawl, wife of Charleston County Council Chairman Victor Rawl; Charleston County Clerk of Council Beverly T. Craven; and Barbara Jansen



◀ Laurens County Council Member Diane Anderson and her granddaughter, Naomi Robinson, at the Betty T. Roper Women Officials' Luncheon.



◀ Imogene Armstrong and her mother, Julie (Charleston County Clerk of Court and 2016-17 SCAC President) at the Betty T. Roper Luncheon



► Bo Shetterly and his wife, Ann



Loretta Graham, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina Council, speaks at the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon on July 31.

Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon, Annual Conference Awards Banquet



SCAC's newly-elected president, Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III; NACo President Roy Charles Brooks; SCAC's Immediate Past President Julie J. Armstrong; and SCAC's new first vice president, Charles T. Jennings.



Head table at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference Banquet, August 1

SCAC Hosts 50th ...

(Continued from P. 32)

Active in NACo since 1991, Brooks most recently chaired NACo's Large Urban County Caucus, which works to address the challenges facing the nation's 100 largest counties. He has served on NACo's Board of Directors and chaired NACo's Health Steering Committee Subcommittee on Health Reform and NACo's Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board.

Brooks is chairman of the National Organization of Black County Officials. For more than 30 years, he has represented his community as a volunteer, a city official and a county commissioner. Tarrant County, located in the north central part of Texas, serves a population of approximately 1.8 million residents.

Elected to serve as a Tarrant County commissioner in 2004, Brooks has dedicated himself to addressing human services issues since taking office. He has taken on issues such as healthcare for the homeless, infant mortality, obesity, health disparities and AIDS education.

Brooks, who has served in numerous local, state and federal leadership positions, is passionate about improving residents' health and welfare. He has spearheaded many programs in Tarrant County, including the Tarrant County Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program, the Nurse Family Partnership—an evidence-based nursing home visitation program for first-time mothers and their children—and a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare for the Homeless.

Dr. Fred Carter was the general session's keynote speaker. Since 1999, he has served as president of Francis Marion University (FMU), presiding over a period of exceptional growth and development for the university. Dr. Carter is the longest-serving president in FMU history and the longest-serving public university president in South Carolina. His entire career has been devoted to public service.

Previously, Dr. Carter served as the chief of staff to Governor Mark Sanford, executive director of the S.C. Budget and Control Board, and senior executive assistant to S.C. Gov. Carroll Campbell. He also served as chairman of the political science department at the College of Charleston and on the faculties of the University of Central Florida and Western Kentucky University.

Presently, Dr. Carter chairs the Governor's Graduate Medical Education Advisory Council, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and S.C. Commission for International Cooperation and Agreements. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Carolinas Hospital System, S.C. Bar Association's Commission for an Independent Judiciary, S.C. Research Authority and W.O. Powers Foundation.

Dr. Carter is the recipient of the S.C. Order of the Palmetto, and honorary degrees from the College of Charleston, Lander University and The Citadel. His career of service has been recognized by the National Governor's Association (Distinguished State Executive Award), American Association of University Professors (Ralph Brown Award), S.C. Chamber of Commerce (Public Servant of the Year Award), International Federation of German-

American Clubs (Lucius Clay Award), S.C. Humanities Council (Governor's Award in the Humanities), and S.C. Regional Council of Governments (Public Official of the Year Award).

Dr. Carter received his B.A. degree from the University of Central Florida and was awarded its distinguished alumnus award in 1999. He earned his M.P.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of South Carolina and was recognized by the university's College of Arts and Sciences as its distinguished graduate alumnus in 2006. Dr. Carter has authored five books and numerous juried chapters and articles.

He served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and retired as a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

(Continued on next page)



2016-17 SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong recognizes the Association's previous president, John Q. Atkinson Jr., for his hard work and dedication during her term. Atkinson served as president from 2015 to 2016.



SCAC's newly-elected president, Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III, recognizes Julie J. Armstrong for her hard work and dedication as the Association's president from 2016 to 2017.

J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 30.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President and Charleston County Council Chairman J. Mitchell Graham, recognizes excellence in governmental performance. The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President Barrett S. Lawrimore, recognizes the most outstanding regional cooperative effort of two or more political subdivisions.

County Council Coalition Meeting

The County Council Coalition Meeting was held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, July 31. At the end of the meeting, the S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs presented the annual Golden Palmetto Award.

Meetings, Workshops and Other Activities

Several county official groups held meetings during the conference, but most groups met from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, July 31. The following four workshops, focusing on specific issues facing county government, were offered from 2 to 4 p.m.:

- Getting the Most Out of Your 2020 Census Count
- Improving Quality of Life through Nuisance Abatement and Litter Control
- Legislative Update
- Stepping Up—Combatting Mental Illness in County Jails

Institute of Government for County Officials

The Institute of Government for County Officials was held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, July 30, preceding the annual conference. The Institute offered the following courses:

- Orientation I
- Understanding and Seeking Differences
- Ethical Leadership and Public Service

Saturday, July 29

- Decision-Making in a Political Environment
- Effective Public Engagement: From Informing to Involving

Sunday, July 30

- Legal Issues in County Government
- Financial Management
- Capital Improvement Planning and Financing

Monday, July 31

Loretta Graham spoke at the annual Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon at 12 noon on Monday, July 31. She joined the Girl Scouts organization in 1991, beginning her career in the areas of membership and marketing.

Graham has more than 20 years of experience devoted to nonprofits, including serving as regional director for Dakota Horizons Girl Scouts and CEO for Sakakawea Council of Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina in 2008. She also served as director of REM, N.D., a non-profit organization that assists families to achieve their goals through program coordination, teaching and support. Graham grew up in Coward and later attended Morris College in Sumter where she earned a bachelor's degree in communication.

SCAC's annual awards banquet was held at 6:45 p.m.



Charleston County Clerk of Council Beverly T. Craven and 2016-17 SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court)



Officially completing her term as SCAC President, Julie J. Armstrong presents the president's gavel to Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III, the Association's new president.

SCAC 50th Annual Conference

EXHIBITORS

Advanced Imaging Systems
American Financial Credit Services
Archer Company, LLC
AT&T
Becker Complete Compactor
Boomerang Design
Brownstone
Building Officials Association of SC
CEC
Clemson University Cooperative Extension
Coast2Coast Discount Rx Card
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Thomas & Hutton
Thompson Turner Construction
Trane Carolinas
U.S. Census Bureau

Conference

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2017 President's Report

JULIE J. ARMSTRONG, PRESIDENT



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LOCAL LEADERS. STATEWIDE STRENGTH.™

The State of South Carolina.

At a Convention of the people of the State of South Carolina begun and holden at Columbia on the Tenth day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Ninety five, and thence continued by divers adjournments to the Fourth day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Ninety five.

Constitution OF THE State of South Carolina.

We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, grateful to God for our liberties, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the preservation and perpetuation of the same.

Article I.

Declaration of Rights.

Section I. All political power is vested in and derived from the people only, therefore they have the right at all times to modify their form of government.

Section II. Representation in the House of Representatives shall be apportioned according to population.

Section III. The General Assembly ought frequently to assemble for the redress of grievances and for making new laws, as the common good may require.

A Letter from the 2016-17 President

Dear County Officials,

This year, we are pleased to celebrate the South Carolina Association of Counties' (SCAC's) 50th anniversary. To honor this special occasion, the *2017 President's Report* reflects on key milestones of county government and the Association, and highlights SCAC's accomplishments over the past year. The full report is available via SCCounties.org. In the meantime, I hope you will take time to review this special summary to learn more about our shared history and the Association's contributions to county government and our citizens.

Today, we reap the benefits of enlightened county leaders who understood the value of bringing together **Local Leaders** to create **Statewide Strength** in 1967. These leaders worked diligently during SCAC's formative years to create a strong association that would meet the needs of county governments through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

The Association's legislative advocacy program played an integral role in the passage of the local government constitutional amendment in 1972 and the Home Rule Act in 1975, and continues to work persistently to protect Home Rule principles for county government. Our legal team is committed to representing and protecting county interests at the State House and in county litigation of statewide interests.

SCAC's educational and collaborative resources provide us with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to be effective leaders and to serve our citizens. The Association's training programs, research, publications, insurance trusts, and debt collection services are invaluable assets to all 46 counties.

Our Association is one of the premier county associations in the nation, which is attributable to the strong leadership in our current and past boards of directors and our dedicated staff. Most importantly, our Association's success is owed to the remarkable involvement of our county officials. I challenge you to continue your active involvement in your Association.

As we pay tribute to the history of county government and SCAC, I would like to thank you for your support during my term. It has truly been a privilege and honor to serve you as president in our joint effort of *Building Stronger Counties for Tomorrow*. I look forward to working with you and our Association as we continue to make great strides over the next 50 years.

Sincerely,



Julie J. Armstrong, Past President
South Carolina Association of Counties
Charleston County Clerk of Court



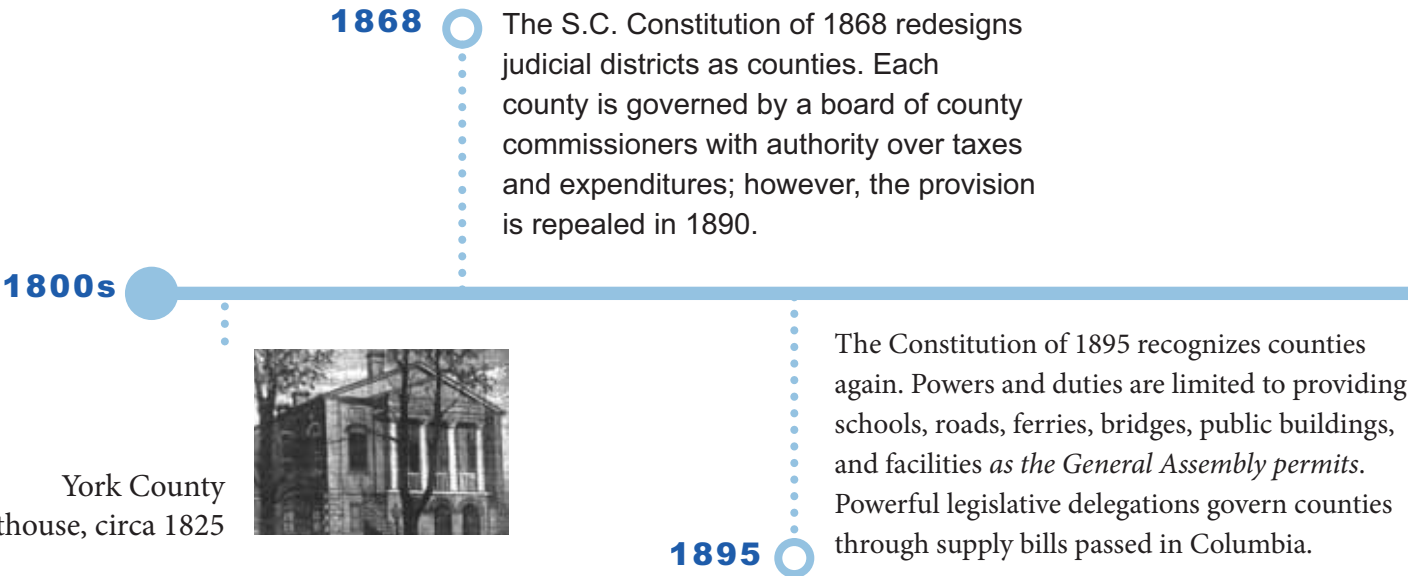
Looking back. Moving forward.

SCAC was formed 50 years ago to unite and enable county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

In the early history of our state, government was centered in Charleston. Anglican parishes served as election districts and also addressed education, roads, and vital statistics. Later, counties and judicial districts were laid out, and county courts were created after the American Revolution.

Even far into the 20th century, counties were largely run from the State House in Columbia.

The following timeline traces the history of county government in South Carolina and illustrates how county officials have worked together—through SCAC—to address statewide challenges.





In 1948, the General Assembly authorizes a county council for Charleston County. Act 764 becomes the cornerstone for a statewide movement toward Home Rule. Charleston County Council members are sworn into office in 1949. A county manager is hired, and a council-manager form of government begins operating on July 1.



Charleston County's first bookmobile hits the road in October 1931.

1945

At the end of World War II, the Public Administration Service conducts a study of the Charleston area. Recommendations include creating a county board of commissioners with the power to levy and collect taxes, control expenditures, incur debt, contract, and pass local ordinances.

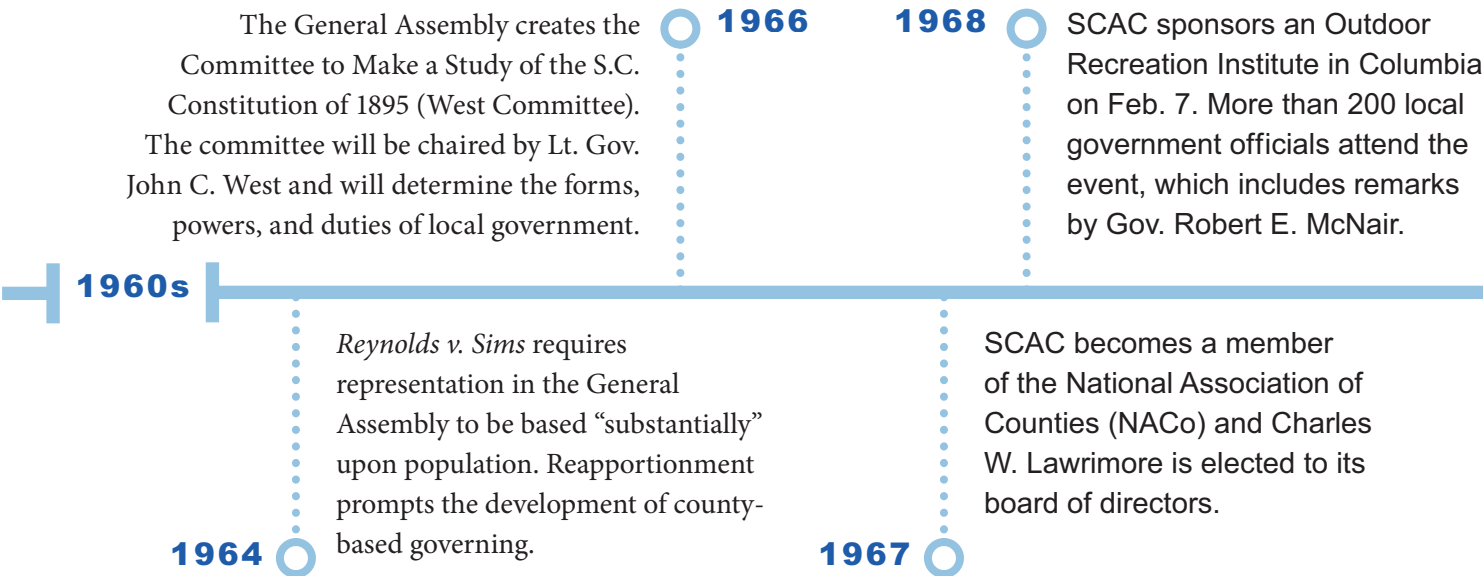
1900s-1940s

South Carolina experiences significant population growth, making it difficult for legislators to oversee county operations while focusing on state issues. County officials form statewide affiliate associations to foster peer learning and collaboration.



“...the days of all the details of county government being run by a majority of the delegation including the Senator must inevitably be coming to an end. When our population was smaller, when we were still a rural state, when persons running for the legislature knew most of their constituents by name, government by the Senator and majority of the House—or by the Senator alone...worked remarkably well. Today, however, the problems of county government have become far more complex, far more time-consuming than they were 50, 25 or even 10 years ago.”

– Lt. Gov. John C. West, April 13, 1965





Gov. Robert E. McNair and SCAC President Charles W. Lawrimore at SCAC's first large conference, Sept. 12-14, 1968.

1967 – State associations of county auditors and treasurers, clerks of court and recorders of deeds, probate judges, and road officials advocate for a statewide organization of all county officials. They appoint an organizational committee with Georgetown County Treasurer Charles W. Lawrimore as chairman.

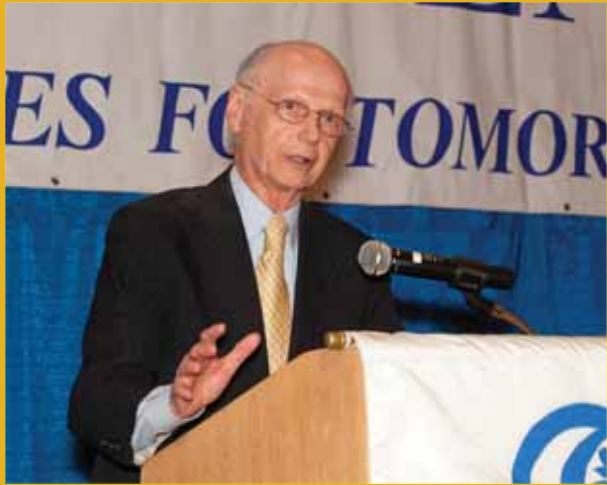
County officials meet on June 1 to form SCAC, adopt a constitution and bylaws, and elect a board of directors. SCAC is incorporated as a private corporation and will charge a service fee. Lawrimore becomes president. SCAC's main objective is "promoting more efficient government."

Thirty-one counties have joined SCAC and the Association holds its first large conference. Nearly 300 attend, and members adopt a budget. Gov. McNair encourages counties to press for progress in per capita income, industrial expansion, and education. He says counties can help the state achieve progress, as county government is "where the action really is."

The West Committee issues its final report. The report recommends 17 new articles for the state constitution, including one to address local government.

James C. Shipman becomes SCAC's first executive director, working from an office at 1400 Bull Street in Columbia. Russell B. "Bo" Shetterly is also hired as assistant director.

More than 600 participants attend SCAC's second conference in August. Lt. Gov. West addresses the importance of county government and the need for constitutional revision in his remarks to delegates.



Former U.S. Secretary of Education and S.C. Governor Richard W. Riley delivers the keynote address at SCAC’s 2012 Annual Conference. He reflects on his career in public service, including his role in the passage of the Home Rule Act.

1972 – Sen. Richard W. Riley sponsors S. 556 to provide a new constitutional article addressing local government—Article VIII. The General Assembly proposes Article VIII to voters in the fall election, and the measure passes by a vote of 55.4% to 44.5%.

1970 Bo Shetterly becomes SCAC’s second executive director.

The Association adopts its present logo and the slogan “Building Stronger Counties for Tomorrow.” SCAC also publishes the first directory of S.C. county officials and *Carolina Report* newsletter.

1970s

SCAC sends each county a “Red Book” of information collected through surveys to help officials make sound decisions about areas of concern.

SCAC President J. Hugh McCutchen (Williamsburg County) forms a study committee to develop plans for implementing the new local government constitutional amendment.

1972



Charleston County Manager Richard L. Black and Council Chairman James J. Price display SCAC's top awards.

The President's Cup is established to recognize a county official who provides outstanding leadership and service to SCAC and county government. Charleston County Manager Richard L. Black receives the first cup.

SCAC announces the J. Mitchell Graham Award to recognize county innovation, and Charleston County wins the first award.

1973

1973



The General Assembly ratifies the amendments approved by voters, also known as the "Home Rule Amendment," on March 7.

By November, SCAC includes 44 counties, and Michael B. "Mike" Cone becomes its assistant director.

In April, SCAC's County Government Study Committee issues a preliminary report, *Five Forms of County Government: "A Step to the Future."* The final report will be presented to the General Assembly and will provide a framework for the Home Rule enabling legislation.

“

It is clearly intended that home rule be given to the counties and that county government should function in the county seats rather than at the State Capitol. If the counties are to remain units of government, the power to function must exist at the county level. Quite obviously, the framers of Article VIII had this in mind.”

– *Knight v. Salisbury*
1974

“There will be Home Rule, whether granted by political graybeards or their youthful replacements.”

– SCAC President
James O. Thomason, Aug. 23, 1974

1975 ○ *Booth v. Grissom* concludes that the General Assembly can no longer pass county supply bills because they violate Article VIII of the State Constitution.

1974 ○

The S.C. Supreme Court rules that a legislative act forming the Lower Dorchester Recreation District is unconstitutional per Home Rule. *Knight v. Salisbury* confirms the General Assembly cannot create special purpose districts or pass county-specific legislation.

President James O. Thomason addresses the critical need to pass enabling legislation for the Home Rule Amendment at SCAC’s Annual Conference. He also appoints a committee, chaired by Greenwood County Executive Secretary J. Eugene Klugh, to study the needs of county government and recommend a course of action upon the passage of Home Rule legislation.



GOV. JAMES B. EDWARDS SIGNS THE HOME RULE ACT (ACT 283) ON JUNE 25, 1975 WITH REP. JEAN TOAL (RICHLAND), REP. ROBERT MCFADDEN (YORK), SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE REX CARTER (GREENVILLE) AND REP. CECIL COLLINS (ANDERSON). COUNTIES ARE REQUIRED TO CHOOSE A FORM OF GOVERNMENT VIA REFERENDUM BY JULY 1, 1976.

SCAC publishes a *Guide to S.C. County Government* and offers local workshops to review the Home Rule Act. The Association also publishes a booklet of attorneys general opinions affecting county government and a *County Information Handbook*.

1976

The S.C. Supreme Court rules that the county board of commissioners form of government is unconstitutional in *Duncan v. County of York*. Counties must operate under the council, council-supervisor, council-administrator, or council-manager form of government.

Sen. Riley sponsors S.18, which provides for alternate forms, structure, organization, powers, and duties of county government. It passes the General Assembly on June 12.

SCAC develops a collaborative process to define legislative goals. The first Legislative Conference is held in December. Representatives from all member counties vote to select the Association's top priorities.



1979

SCAC membership includes all 46 counties.



1985 – The County Council Coalition, formed to unite council members and support legislative efforts, holds its first meeting on August 12.



1982 SCAC moves to a small house at 1817 Hampton Street.

1985 In the mid-1980s SCAC distributes the weekly *Friday Report* to involve county officials in the legislative process and inform them of the General Assembly’s actions.

1980s

SCAC’s Board of Directors forms the S.C. Counties Workers’ Compensation Trust in response to a crisis in the commercial insurance market. Eleven counties begin the fund with less than \$500,000.

1984

1989

“THE POWERS OF A COUNTY MUST BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED IN FAVOR OF THE COUNTY AND THE SPECIFIC MENTION OF PARTICULAR POWERS MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED AS LIMITING IN ANY MANNER THE GENERAL POWERS OF COUNTIES.”

— S.C. CODE ANN. § 4-9-25

1987 Bo Shetterly resigns after serving as executive director for 18 years. Mike Cone becomes SCAC’s executive director and Robert E. “Bob” Lyon Jr. is named assistant director and general counsel.

1988 SCAC hosts its first Mid-Year Conference to address legislative priorities.



1986

The S.C. Tort Claims Act authorizes property and liability insurance pools, allowing counties and municipalities to form intergovernmental agreements for property and liability insurance.

The first formal report of all new laws that affect county operations is published in September. The report provides a foundation for SCAC’s current publication *Acts That Affect Counties*.



IN 1989, SCAC ESTABLISHES THE INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY. THE PROGRAM EQUIPS LOCAL LEADERS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND SHARPENS THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS.

The first graduates of SCAC's Institute of Government (1990). Front Row: Elise Cahaly, Anderson County Council; Alzena Robinson, Bamberg County Council; Shirley Corbett, Florence County Council; Wilhelmina Johnson, Darlington County Council; and Lachian Hyatt, Spartanburg County Council Chairman. Back Row: Harris Beach Jr., Colleton County Council Vice Chairman; Carl Sellers, Dorchester County Council; and Laurie McLeod, Horry County Council Chairman. Not pictured: Jim Stone, Darlington County Council.

1988

Carolina Counties replaces the *Carolina Report* newsletter.



Counties are granted general police powers. The statute reverses Dillon's Rule—a doctrine that local governments are creatures of the state and may *only* perform functions that are delegated by the state.

Act 487 permits counties to offer a fee in lieu of taxes for industrial developments valued at \$85 million or more and financed by industrial revenue bonds.

Act 6 allows counties to form multi-county industrial or business parks.

1990s

1989



1991 – The General Assembly passes the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act. It requires counties to develop plans to reduce landfill waste by increasing the recovery and recycling of materials.

David K. Summers Jr., Chairman of Calhoun County Council and Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority (TRSWA), signs paperwork to issue \$21.5 million in bonds. TRSWA constructed one of the nation's first publicly-owned, multi-county landfills in the 1990s—offering nine counties a long-term recycling and waste disposal solution.

1990 ○ Act 317 grants the first local government sales tax, permitting counties to impose a one-cent sales tax if approved by referendum.

1991 ○ The State Aid to Subdivisions Act allocates state-shared revenue to local governments. The Local Government Fund—the largest part of the act—is allocated per statutory formula to counties and municipalities. Before passage, counties and municipalities received a portion of multiple state taxes that varied each year.

SCAC publishes the first edition of *County Focus* magazine.

● Nine county officials graduate from the Institute of Government for County Council Members.

● Gov. Carroll A. Campbell Jr. signs Act 171, authorizing fiscal impact statements for all legislative bills that require county or municipal expenditures of funds, personnel, equipment, or facilities.



1990s

Representatives from SCAC and the Municipal Association of South Carolina meet with Gov. Carroll A. Campbell Jr. to stress the need for alternate sources of revenue. Advocates include Columbia Mayor T. Patton Adams, Anderson Council Member Beatrice R. Thompson, Rock Hill Mayor Betty Jo Rhea, Berkeley County Supervisor Johnnie T. Flynn, and County Council Members Lowell C. “Butch” Spires (Lexington) and O.V. Player Jr. (Sumter).

1992 SCAC purchases an office building at 1901 Gadsden Street and celebrates its 25th anniversary.



The Institute of Government for County Council Members becomes the Institute of Government for County Officials, and Level II certification is added.



Brown v. Horry County upholds an ordinance to impose a road maintenance fee on all motor vehicles registered in Horry County. The S.C. Supreme Court rules that counties may impose a uniform service fee on users, rather than increasing the general county property tax.



In 1994, the Association conducts a comprehensive study of unfunded mandates at the request of South Carolina's Tax Structure Ad Hoc Committee.

1993 ○ Act 157 prevents any general law that requires local governments to expend funds unless the General Assembly determines the law fulfills a state interest and it is approved by a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

1995 ○ SCAC announces the results of the unfunded mandates study during a State House press conference. County governments also host regional press conferences to address this issue.

• An amendment to the Setoff Debt Collections Act allows local governments to participate in the state's Setoff Debt Collection Program. Acting as an agent for nine counties and 11 county hospitals, SCAC submits nearly 27,000 delinquent debts to the S.C. Tax Commission.



1997 – Counties and municipalities are granted three local option sales tax provisions: the capital project sales tax, local accommodations tax, and local hospitality tax.

1995

SCAC establishes the S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust to address rising liability insurance premiums.

The Association sponsors its first Local Government Attorneys' Institute to review statutory and case law pertaining to local governments.



Act 52 grants counties the authority to impose a transportation sales tax or toll to finance transportation projects by referendum.

Counties defeat H. 3446, the “Hog Bill,” which would erode Home Rule by exempting industrial hog and poultry farms from community review.



1998 – SCAC establishes a Regional Cooperation Award. The award is renamed in memory of former Charleston County Council Chairman and SCAC President Barrett S. Lawrimore in 2004.

1997 SCAC develops a website at SCCounties.org.



The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability Trusts hold their first joint meeting and recognize the first graduates of the Certified County Risk Manager program.

More than 400 county employees participate in SCAC's first educational teleconference via S.C. Educational Television (ETV).

1996

SCAC hosts its first statewide orientation for newly-elected county council members.



1999

In 2000, SCAC's current office building is completed and occupied.



SCAC officers open the Association's new building on Oct. 27, 2000. Front row: Past President Polly C. Jackson; President James H. Rozier Jr.; Former President Robert R. Nash Sr., Ph.D.; First Vice President Steve S. Kelly Jr.; and Treasurer Patsy G. Knight. Back Row: Third Vice President Gonza L. Bryant; Secretary Robert M. Haynie; and Second Vice President James A. Coleman.

2002 SCAC helps county entities pursue debt collection through Governmental Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR), in addition to the Setoff Debt Program. GEAR offers additional collection tools implemented by the S.C. Department of Revenue.

2000s

2001

The S.C. Counties Insurance Trusts offer Occupational Safety and Health Administration training conducted by the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

2004

The Association introduces *County Profiles*, a reference with economic, employment, tax, and financial data for each of the 46 counties.



2006 – Act 388 restricts local governments' ability to raise revenue. The act creates a 15 percent assessment limit over a five-year period and imposes a cap on local government millage rates. It also exempts owner-occupied residential properties from school operating millage.

2005 SCAC receives approval to provide orientation training for local planning/zoning officials and employees. The Association also offers continuing education training, beginning in 2006.

2007 Counties successfully oppose H. 3615 to cap local expenditures based on a prescribed formula, which would erode Home Rule and hinder economic development.

2006 SCAC publishes its first issue of *Property Tax Rates by County*.

2008 SCAC prevents the passage of S. 1105, which would permit single-county legislation, enable county council decisions to be reversed by the legislative delegation, and effectively end Home Rule.



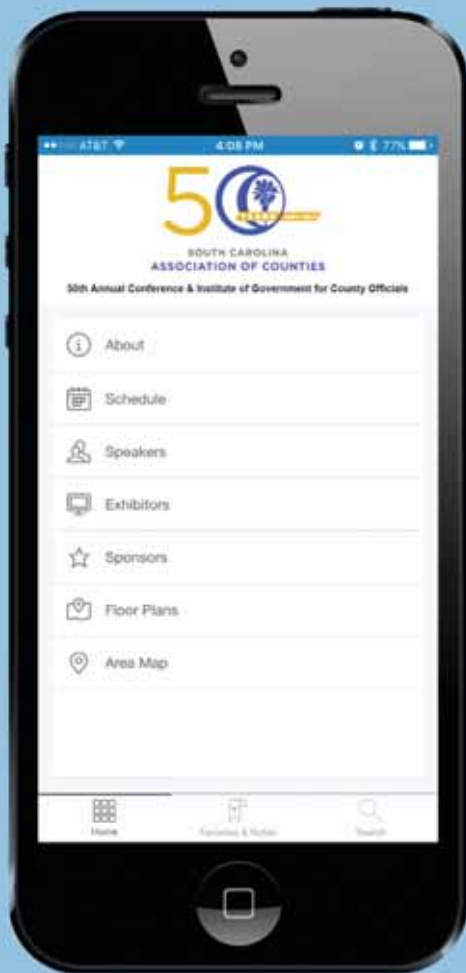
2013-14 – SCAC joins a coalition of citizens and organizations to protect South Carolina from becoming the nation’s dumping ground. The “Don’t Dump on SC” campaign successfully blocks legislation that would cripple local governments’ authority to manage solid waste.

2008 The Association forms a new trust in response to a 2004 standard issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The trust allows counties to pool their other postemployment benefits (OPEB) and invest them to gain a higher rate of return.

2010 SCAC offers webcast training for county officials and employees. Each live webcast is made available on-demand at SCCounties.org.

2009 SCAC and county officials host State House press conferences, voicing their opposition to a proposed cut in the Local Government Fund (LGF).





SCAC connects county officials to information and resources. The Association's technology solutions include an Annual Conference app and a secure member portal.

2012 ○ Clemson University, Francis Marion University, and the University of South Carolina collaborate to research the impact of state mandates upon South Carolina's county governments.

2016 ○ SCAC launches a secure portal, allowing members to update their contact information, register for events, and view Institute of Government for County Officials' records via the internet.



As the recession deepens, the General Assembly cuts state and local agency budgets significantly. SCAC fights for a budget proviso allowing counties to reduce funding for state-mandated programs or state requirements by up to the percentage reduction in the LGF appropriation.

2013 ○

SCAC, NACo, the International Municipal Lawyers Association, and several state and county solid waste authorities unite to protect local governments' management of solid waste. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals affirms *Sandlands v. Horry County*, ruling in favor of Horry County.



Leadership

SCAC IS ONE OF THE PREMIER COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS IN THE NATION, WHICH IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE STRONG LEADERSHIP WE'VE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO ENJOY OVER THE PAST FIVE DECADES.



CHARLES W. LAWRIMORE was born in Georgetown in 1918 and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics from the University of South Carolina. After serving in World War II, he returned to Georgetown and was elected county treasurer in 1946.

Lawrimore was elected president when SCAC was formed in 1967, and was re-elected in 1968. During his presidency, Lawrimore worked tirelessly to build the Association.

Lawrimore became the first South Carolinian elected to the NACo Board of Directors, and was a board member for the National Association of Regional Councils. He remained on SCAC's board until 1973 and retired in 1985, after serving as Georgetown County treasurer for 39 years.



J. MITCHELL GRAHAM became SCAC's second president in 1969 and was re-elected in 1970.

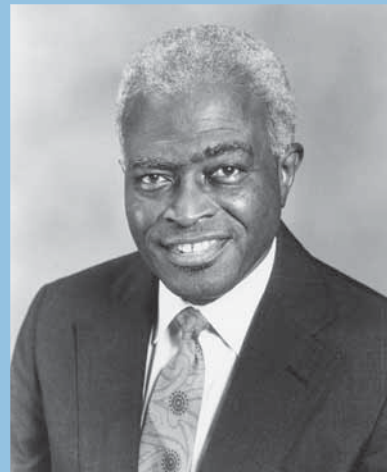
Born in 1926, Graham was a native of McClellanville who graduated from the University of South Carolina and its law school. He was elected to Charleston County Council in 1954 and served for 17 years, including 12 years as chairman.

Graham supported Charles W. Lawrimore's efforts to form SCAC and chaired the Association's budget committee for 1967-68. Graham was a strong advocate of Home Rule and brought his entire county council to SCAC events. Shortly after becoming SCAC's president, Graham noted, "When county officials who represent more than 300,000 persons still have to go to Columbia to get permission to pick up dogs, it is time to realize the [current] form of government is backward."

Graham died in office at age 46, two weeks after voters passed the ballot measure to provide Home Rule. As a tribute to his leadership and service, SCAC established the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in 1973.



MARJORIE H. SHARPE was elected as the Association's first female president in 1979. She served as Lexington County treasurer for 28 years and as president of the S.C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors in 1972.



LONNIE HAMILTON III became SCAC's first African-American president in 1982. Hamilton was a member of Charleston County Council from 1971-1994, serving twice as council chairman. The Charleston County public services building and the interchange of Interstates 26 and 526 are named in his honor.

Additional Presidents

1970s

John L. Greer, Union County
J. Hugh McCutchen, Williamsburg County
James O. Thomason, Spartanburg County
Arthur H. Burton, Charleston County
Jack Q. Gerrald, Horry County
Harold L. King, Darlington County
E.E. Johnson, Hampton County
Berry L. Mobley, Lancaster County
Marjorie H. Sharpe, Lexington County

1990s

Kenneth R. Huckaby, Spartanburg County
James R. McGee, Orangeburg County
Belle J. Kennette, Greenwood County
William L. McBride, Beaufort County
Raymond C. Eubanks Jr., Spartanburg County
George E. Bomar, Greenville County
Betty T. Roper, Clarendon County
Alzena Robinson, Bamberg County
Robert R. Nash Sr., Ph.D., Pickens County
Polly C. Jackson, Lancaster County

2010 to Present

Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County
R. Carlisle Roddey, Chester County
Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County
Charles T. Edens, Sumter County
Joseph R. Branham, Chester County
James R. Frazier, Horry County
John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County
Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County
Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County

1980s

Howard A. Taylor, Charleston County
Alfred B. Schooler, Georgetown County
Lonnie Hamilton III, Charleston County
James P. Whitlock, Pickens County
Charlie I. Crews, Hampton County
Sue H. Roe, Aiken County
O.V. Player Jr., Sumter County
Danny E. Allen, Spartanburg County
David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County
Lowell C. “Butch” Spires, Lexington County

2000-09

James H. Rozier, Jr., Berkeley County
Steve S. Kelly Jr., Kershaw County
James A. Coleman, Laurens County
Gonza L. Bryant, Greenwood County
Barrett S. Lawrimore, Charleston County
Waymon Mumford, Florence County
Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County
K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr., Florence County
L. Gregory Pearce Jr., Richland County

Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.™

SCAC 2017 Executive Summary

For 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration. SCAC is the only organization dedicated to the statewide representation of county government in South Carolina. By bringing together **Local Leaders**, the Association and county officials are able to create **Statewide Strength**.

JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
2016-17 PRESIDENT

This summary
covers the period from
August 2016 to August 2017

2016-17 Program Highlights



500

Local leaders graduated from the Institute of Government for County Officials since 1989



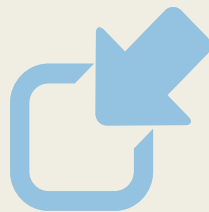
Responded to an average of 50 requests per month for information and resources

438

Bills monitored



\$110 million collected through SCAC's debt collection programs



1,000+ received *County Focus* magazine and *Carolina Counties* newsletter

1,071 county officials received *Friday Reports*

1,400+

County officials received monthly *What's New* e-mail messages



Detention officers completed Detention Center Risk Management training

Your County Advocates



The foremost reason for creating the Association in 1967 was to provide legislative advocacy and statewide representation for counties. Advocacy continues to be one of SCAC's most visible services. In addition to achieving specific legislative goals, the Association works to safeguard Home Rule—the principle that the best form of government is that closest to the people.

Legislative Advocacy

In December 2016, SCAC's Legislative Committee adopted 71 policy positions to set the course for the 2017 Legislative Session. These objectives were published in *Policy Positions for the 2017 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly*. Their development spanned five months and included input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees.

During the 2017 legislative session, SCAC monitored 438 bills concerning county government. This included reviewing all new bills and requesting

comments from county officials who served on 20 tracking groups, organized according to specific areas of expertise.

E-mailed to more than 1,000 county officials and staff each week of the session, *SCAC Friday Reports* recapped legislative action and highlighted new bills addressing county government. The Association also sent eight *Legislative Alerts* to inform local leaders when critical issues required immediate attention.

SCAC's 2016-17 Legislative Priorities

SCAC was successful in achieving its policy positions and amending or blocking harmful legislation:

Local Government Fund (LGF) – The General Assembly increased the LGF's base funding level by \$10 million, providing \$222.6 million in recurring funds.

State Retirement System – Pension reform addressed the retirement system's unfunded liability by increasing contribution rates. However, the FY 2017-18 state budget includes \$34 million to help local governments offset a portion of the employer increase.

Roads and Infrastructure – SCAC's persistent advocacy helped counties avoid harmful legislation. The General Assembly created an Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund and provided \$40 million of additional funding for county transportation committees. SCAC also ensured that the ownership of state roads was not transferred to counties.

After the session, SCAC published *2017 Acts that Affect Counties*, a comprehensive guide to new and revised laws that impact county government.



Legal Advocacy

Since the Association was formed, it has supported county officials who seek legal advice regarding local government operations. The Association's legal team spends hundreds of hours each year conducting research, providing consultation, preparing advisory opinions, and appearing as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court).

This year, SCAC addressed three cases of statewide significance:

- ***Richland County v. the S.C. Department of Revenue, et al.*** – The Department of Revenue (DOR) withheld transportation penny sales tax revenue paid by Richland County taxpayers because of certain county expenditures. SCAC provided research and filed an amicus brief to support the county in collecting this revenue. The circuit court directed DOR to release Richland County's quarterly payments, but denied a permanent injunction.
- ***Repko v. Georgetown County*** – The S.C. Court of Appeals held Georgetown County liable for a property owner's loss, after a developer declared bankruptcy without completing infrastructure and failed to maintain a surety bond. An appeal is pending before the S.C. Supreme Court.
- ***Montgomery v. Spartanburg County Assessor*** – SCAC successfully supported Spartanburg County's case in the S.C. Court of Appeals. The court ruled that the state constitution and property tax statutes intended for agricultural land and farm structures to be valued separately. The taxpayer has appealed to the S.C. Supreme Court.

First offered in 1995, the Association's Local Government Attorneys' Institute provides valuable training to local and state attorneys. More than 200 attorneys attended SCAC's 2016 event.

Education & Training



Throughout its history, SCAC has worked to develop competent county leaders. Today, the Association offers a strong portfolio of educational programs with opportunities for orientation, certification, e-learning, and collaboration.

The Institute of Government for County Officials

SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials provides training to help policymakers and executive staff address critical issues, meet the daily needs of their communities, and monitor the county's performance.

The Institute is offered in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College

of Charleston and the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs at Clemson University. Its curriculum includes two levels of certification and advanced courses to address timely issues.

Institute of Government Highlights



Local leaders graduated from the Institute of Government for County Officials since 1989

242

This year, 242 county officials attended classes for Levels I and II, and 69 officials attended advanced classes.



Newly-elected council members attended a free, full-day orientation in December.

They earned six hours of credit from the Institute.



In February, 20 council chairmen and vice chairmen learned strategies for running effective meetings, the importance of rules of procedure, and the value of building effective working relationships.

E-learning

SCAC began providing training to county officials and employees via distance education programs in 1996.

Today, the Association hosts training via webcasts and webinars. Each training session is also made available via streaming video through SCCounties.org or a loaned DVD. The Association's e-learning library is a valuable tool for providing education at no cost to the counties.

This year, SCAC hosted e-learning events to address workplace change, the S.C. Freedom of Information Act, new income disclosure requirements, and GASB No. 77.

More than 450 local officials and employees participated in these events.

SCAC also provided mandatory training for planning and zoning officials/employees, as outlined in Act 39 of 2003. In addition to orientation training, the Association offered continuing education to address current issues and changes in state law.

Nearly 250 officials and employees from 32 local governments participated in the 2017 continuing education event; and all training sessions are available via streaming video or loaned DVDs.

Collaborative Learning

SCAC hosts online discussion forums for five groups of county officials, allowing them to post questions and share important information. Listserv groups include chief administrative officers; the S.C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors; the S.C. Association of Assessing Officials; finance officers; and personnel directors.

The Association's annual awards competition also offers a unique opportunity for local leaders to learn about innovative practices, technology, and trends. After the event, SCAC hosts an online video library of all presentations via SCCounties.org and highlights all entries in *County Focus* magazine.

Connecting Counties



SCAC helps counties address the daily needs of their communities by providing research, technical assistance, publications, and other resources.

Research Tools, Technical Assistance, and Technology

Research web pages connect counties to a variety of useful publications and information, including statistics, financial documents, council rules of procedure, and county codes of ordinances. Local Government Fund allocation estimates, millage rate caps, and state salary supplements for county elected officials are also provided.

This year, SCAC published 2016 editions of three popular research tools: *County Profiles*, *Property Tax Rates by County*, and the *Wage and Salary Report*.

SCCounties.org offers county officials and employees access to educational resources, research, publications, employment ads, and insurance services. The website also provides advocacy tools, including contact information for state legislators. Its web pages for *Friday Reports* and *Legislative Alerts* collectively average more than 5,600 unique page views each year.

In addition to its website, SCAC also offers a meeting app, streaming webcasts, and live webinars.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 1,400 county officials received *What's New* e-mail messages, alerting them to new information available at SCCounties.org.
- SCAC's research staff responded to an average of 50 requests for information and resources per month.
- Four memos advised chief administrative officers of state regulations that impact county government.
- Extensive research addressed unfunded state mandates, the history of Home Rule, and state-shared revenue in other states.
- Staff also collected county-level data about a variety of topics through 15 surveys.

Award-Winning Publications

SCAC produces three award-winning publications and all are available via SCCounties.org. Since 1991, they have received 90 national awards and 33 state awards.

Carolina Counties newsletter is published five times per year. Its circulation of more than 1,000 includes county officials, regional councils of governments (COGs), and corporate supporters.

County Focus is a quarterly magazine that addresses legislative issues, county programs, and successful projects. It has a circulation of 1,300 including county officials, COGs, state officials, and corporate supporters.

SCAC's *Directory of County Officials* provides contact information for county, COG, state, and federal officials. Copies are sent to all officials listed in the directory and to state associations of counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide.

Financial Services



For more than 30 years, SCAC has offered financial solutions to help counties save money. The Association's self-funded insurance pools, risk management services, and debt collection programs are valuable resources for all counties.

Self-Funded Insurance Programs

The Association sponsors two self-insurance trusts, open to member counties and agencies with county government-related functions. Both the Workers' Compensation and the Property & Liability Trusts are governed by boards of trustees appointed by SCAC's Board of Directors. The trusts employ independent auditors and actuaries to ensure financial strength.

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust has 88 members, including 41 counties. Claims administration is provided via contract by Ariel TPA and general administration is handled by SCAC's insurance staff. **The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust** has 24 members, including 16 counties.

SCAC employs seven full-time insurance professionals with a combined 137 years of experience. In order to provide targeted risk management solutions for both trusts, staff members monitor claims and develop training to address areas of concern.

Loss exposures from law enforcement operations are the highest cost driver for both trusts, and vehicle accidents outweigh all other law enforcement claims.

SCAC's staff works with counties to reduce the frequency and severity of these claims. Staff members also conduct detention center inspections and staffing studies.

The trusts continue to fund online training for law enforcement and detention center officers through lineofduty.com. Forty-one member counties employ this training, which offers Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) credit and reduces officer injuries, litigation, and training expenses. SCAC has also developed three additional CLEE classes to address law enforcement exposure, overall risk management and liability, risks specific to jails, and inmate supervision.

Each year, SCAC offers a seminar for risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators. OSHA standards training is also offered, with hundreds of members participating in 14 classes during the policy year. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Office of Voluntary Programs provides instructors for this training.

Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator – Police defensive-driving classes were conducted for about 160 deputies.

160

700 About 700 county employees attended classes for Inmate Supervision.

800

Nearly 800 detention officers attended Detention Center Risk Management training.



The S.C. Counties OPEB Trust

SCAC offers a qualified irrevocable trust to assist county governments in prefunding retirement benefits other than pensions, i.e. “other postemployment benefits (OPEB).”

Debt Collection Programs

In cooperation with the S.C. Department of Revenue, SCAC collected more than \$110 million in delinquent debts owed to 302 participating entities. Collections address delinquent debts for emergency medical

The S.C. Counties OPEB Trust pools member funds, allowing counties to share administrative and investment-related expenses, to take advantage of negotiated rates for actuarial reports, and to obtain a higher rate of return.

services, hospital care, court fines, delinquent taxes, water and sewer services, public housing, etc. This revenue helps counties avoid raising taxes.

Cooperative Service Programs

SCAC also offered innovative, affordable solutions to help counties address other common challenges. These solutions included:

- Property Tax Auditing and Discovery;
- Internet Auction of Surplus Equipment;

- Purchasing Discounts for supplies and equipment; and
- Prescription Drug Discounts.



Tools for 21st Century Leaders

Local leaders must anticipate and adapt to emerging issues to keep counties safe, healthy, prosperous, and resilient. From firefighting, law enforcement and emergency medical services to economic development, public works and disaster preparedness, counties play a critical role in every aspect of our lives.

As SCAC celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is remarkable to see how counties have changed, but it is also important to note that the Association’s founding principles have not.

SCAC’s primary focus will continue to be strengthening all 46 counties and advocating for their needs at the state level.

Our Association is honored to be of service to South Carolina’s 46 counties. Please visit SCCounties.org to access the full version of this report and to learn more about Association programs and services.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Page 44 – Access provided by the S.C. Department of Archives and History
Page 46 – Culture & Heritage Museums of York County
Images of York Collection
Page 47 – Charleston County Public Information Office/County Council
Charleston County Public Library/Bookmobile

Page 48 – John C. West Papers, South Carolina Political Collections, University of South Carolina
Page 49 – *The (Charleston) Post and Courier* (Sept. 1968)
Page 51 – *The (Charleston) News and Courier/Murton* (Aug. 21, 1973)
Page 53 – Municipal Association of South Carolina
Page 58 – Municipal Association of South Carolina



Advertise in South Carolina's 2018 Directory of County Officials!

Advertising Deadline: December 29, 2017

South Carolina's *2018 Directory of County Officials*, currently in production, will be distributed in February to elected and appointed county officials, and many state offices in South Carolina.

The *2018 Directory* will list elected and appointed county officials in the state and identify SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors, Past Presidents, Patrons and Sponsors; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers will be included for county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly. Additional information will be included as well.

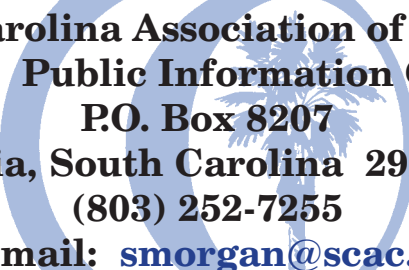
Cost:

- Full-page, full-color advertisement (7" W X 10" H) — \$600.00 NET
- Half-page, full-color advertisement (7" W X 4 7/8" H) — \$450.00 NET
- Full-page B&W advertisement (7" W X 10" H) — \$350.00 NET.
- Half-page B&W advertisement (7" W X 4 7/8" H) — \$200.00 NET
- To add one or two more colors to a full-page or half-page B&W ad, the cost is \$90.00 NET for each additional color. Colors will be built in process.

The deadline for placing an advertisement in the upcoming *2018 Directory* is **5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, 2017**. So, your check or money order (made payable to SCAC) and ad must be received by this date at the SCAC Office (NO EXCEPTIONS).

A .pdf of the *2018 Directory* (a complete version including advertisements that can be viewed, downloaded and printed) is posted each year on SCAC's website at www.SCCounties.org. After the *2018 Directory of County Officials* is distributed to South Carolina's counties and SCAC's Corporate Supporters, additional copies will be sold at a cost of \$25.00 per copy.

● To place an ad in the upcoming edition of South Carolina's *2018 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



South Carolina Association of Counties
Attn.: Public Information Office
P.O. Box 8207
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255
E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc

PRINTSOUTH
printing inc.

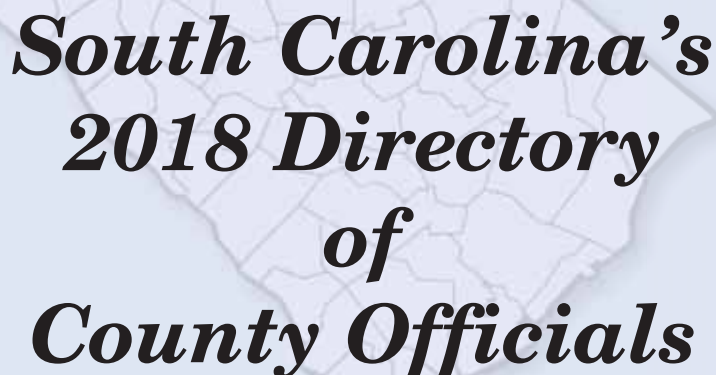
**QUALITY IS NOT
OUR GOAL . . .**

**IT IS OUR
STANDARD**

1114 SILSTAR ROAD
WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29170

803.796.2619 **p**
803.796.2744 **f**

info@myprintsouth.com



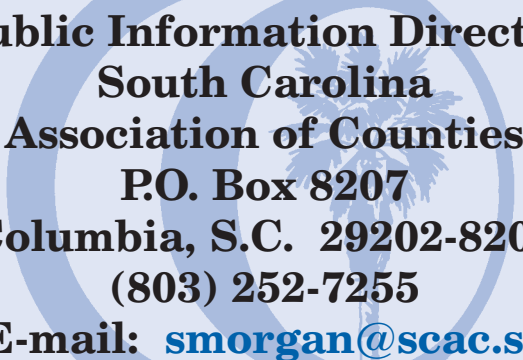
South Carolina's 2018 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2018 Directory of County Officials* will be 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).

● To order your copy of the *2018 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



**Public Information Director
South Carolina
Association of Counties
P.O. Box 8207
Columbia, S.C. 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255
E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc**



SCAC Corporate Supporters

SCAC appreciates its corporate supporters. If you would like to support the Association and receive sponsorship benefits, please contact the SCAC Office at (803) 252-7255. Sponsorship benefits are listed on page 98.

PATRONS

ARIEL Third Party Administrators, Inc.
Columbia, SC

BB&T Governmental Finance
Columbia, SC

Brownstone
Columbia, SC

Duke Energy
Florence, SC

Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
Cayce, SC

Enterprise Fleet Management
Columbia, SC

GEL Engineering, LLC
Charleston, SC

McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture
Spartanburg, SC

Medshore Ambulance Service
Anderson, SC

Oakbridge Consulting & Management
Columbia, SC

Pope Flynn Group
Columbia and Spartanburg, SC; Charlotte, NC

Santee Cooper
Moncks Corner, SC

SCANA Corporation
Columbia, SC

South Carolina Power Team
Columbia, SC

Southern Health Partners, Inc.
Chattanooga, TN

THC, Inc.
Columbia, SC

SPONSORS

Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Bluffton, Columbia and Greenville, SC;
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Analog Digital Solutions, Inc.
Fuquay-Varina, NC

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AT&T
Columbia, SC

Bamberg Board of Public Works
Bamberg, SC

Beaufort County Channel
Beaufort, SC

Becker Complete Compactor, Inc.
West Columbia, SC

Blanchard Machinery
Columbia, SC

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Pickens, SC

Celebrate Freedom Foundation
West Columbia, SC

**Clemson University
Cooperative Extension**
Clemson, SC

Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Walterboro, SC

Coast2Coast Discount Rx Card
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Collins Engineers, Inc.
Charleston, SC

Compass Municipal Advisors, LLC
Columbia, SC

Davis & Floyd, Inc.
Charleston, SC

Dennis Corporation
Columbia, SC

Dominion Voting Systems
Denver, CO

E-VAL Right of Way Analysts & Consultants

Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Winnsboro, SC

Five Star Computing, Inc.
Columbia, SC

Foundation Forward, Inc.
Morganton, NC

GOODWIN|MILLS|CAWOOD
Greenville, SC

GovWorld Auctions, LLC
Greelyville, SC

Greene Finney & Horton, LLP
Mauldin, SC

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA
Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Greenville and
Myrtle Beach, SC; Charlotte, NC

HDR Engineering, Inc.
Columbia, Greenville, North Charleston, Rock Hill
and West Columbia, SC

Holt Consulting Company, LLC
Columbia, SC

Horry County Solid Waste Authority
Conway, SC

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Conway, SC

Howell Linkous & Nettles, LLC
Charleston, SC

Hulsey McCormick & Wallace, Inc.
Piedmont, SC

Hussey Gay Bell
Columbia, SC

Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, PLLC
Columbia, SC

J.M. Wood Auction Company, Inc.
Columbia, SC and Montgomery, AL

K&K Systems, Inc.
Tupelo, MS

Lowcountry Billing Services, Inc.
Lexington, SC

M. B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.
Columbia, SC

McNair Law Firm, PA
Anderson, Bluffton, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Hilton Head, Myrtle Beach and Pawleys Island, SC; Charlotte, NC

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Lexington, SC

Morris Business Solutions/Xerox
Duncan and Greenville, SC; Asheville and Charlotte, NC

Moseley Architects
Charlotte, NC

Motorola Solutions – Palmetto 800
Columbia, SC

Municode/Municipal Code Corporation
Tallahassee, FL

NBSC, a division of Synovus Bank
Columbia, SC

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
Charleston, Columbia, Greenville and Myrtle Beach, SC; Washington, DC

Newberry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Newberry, SC

Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Hilton Head Island, SC

PalmettoPride
Columbia, SC

Piedmont Natural Gas
Greenville, SC

Pike McFarland Hall Associates
Myrtle Beach, SC

QS/1 Governmental Solutions
Spartanburg, SC

Raymond Engineering–Georgia, Inc.
Greer, SC

South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
Columbia, SC

South Eastern Road Treatment, Inc.
Evans, GA

Spirit Communications
Columbia, SC

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
North Charleston, SC

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

Thomas & Hutton
Columbia and Mount Pleasant, SC

Thompson Turner Construction
Sumter, SC

TraksUS
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Uptate South Carolina Alliance
Greenville, SC

Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc.
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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.



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
1919 Thurmond Mall
Columbia, SC 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255
smorgan@scac.sc

[Contact](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



Building Stronger Counties for Tomorrow

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](http://www.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://www.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 83 or SCAC's website to obtain respective email addresses.



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

P.O. Box 8207

Columbia, S.C. 29202-8207

Telephone: (803) 252-7255

1-800-922-6081 (Toll-Free in South Carolina)

Email: scac@scac.sc

Fax: (803) 252-0379

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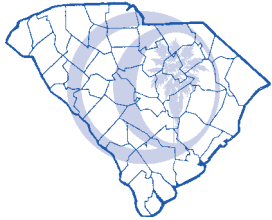


Johnnie Wright Sr.
*Orangeburg County
Council Chairman*



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, nonprofit 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.

Advocacy. Education. Collaboration.



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SCAC Staff

**South Carolina
Association of Counties**
P.O. Box 8207, Columbia, SC 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255
General office email: scac@scac.sc
Website: www.SCCounties.org



Timothy C. Winslow
Deputy General Counsel
twinslow@scac.sc

Tish F. Anderson
Deputy Director of Administrative Services
tanderson@scac.sc

Anna B. Berger
Director of Research and Training
aberger@scac.sc

Leslie M. Christy-Jennings
Special Projects Coordinator
ljennings@scac.sc

Robert C. Collins, CPCU, CIC
Director of Insurance Services
rcollins@scac.sc

Robert S. Croom
Of Counsel
rcroom@scac.sc

John K. DeLoache
Senior Staff Attorney
jdeloache@scac.sc

Jennifer M. Haworth
Webmaster
jhaworth@scac.sc

Dana T. Homesley
Administrative Assistant
dtomlinson@scac.sc

Pearlena A. Khalif-Govan
Administrative Assistant
pkhalif@scac.sc

Lang C. Kelly, ARM, AIC
Workers' Compensation Claims Manager
lkelly@scac.sc

Robert J. Lyon, CPM, CPPB
IT/Procurement Director
rlyon@scac.sc

W. Stuart Morgan III
Public Information Director
smorgan@scac.sc

Alexander W. Smith
Staff Attorney
asmith@scac.sc

Rick K. Ucinski
Field Representative
rucinski@scac.sc

Michael B. Cone
Executive Director
scac@scac.sc

Robert E. Lyon Jr.
*Deputy Executive Director
and General Counsel*
blyon@scac.sc

Joshua C. Rhodes
Assistant General Counsel
jrhodes@scac.sc

Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
Risk Manager
rbenfield@scac.sc

Sharon D. Berkowitz
Special Program Assistant Coordinator
sberkowitz@scac.sc

Pam S. Collins, ARM
*Program Coordinator
SCCWCT and SCCP<*
pcollins@scac.sc

H. Warren Counts Jr., CPA
Controller
wcounts@scac.sc

Caroline Deevey, CIC, AAI, CISR, CRIS, INS
Insurance Trusts' Assistant Coordinator
cdeevey@scac.sc

S. Ruthie Duvall
Special Program Coordinator
rduvall@scac.sc

John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM
Director of Risk Management Services
jhenderson@scac.sc

John V. Jervy, AIC
Property & Liability Claims Manager
jjervy@scac.sc

James F. Knox
Staff Attorney
jknnox@scac.sc

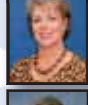
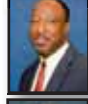
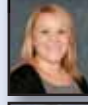
M. Kent Lesesne
Senior Staff Attorney
klesesne@scac.sc

Owen A. McBride
Staff Attorney
omcbride@scac.sc

Nilda A. Padgett
Director of Administrative Services
npadgett@scac.sc

Susan Turkopuls
Senior Research Associate
sturkopuls@scac.sc

Mary E. Williams
Administrative Assistant
mwilliams@scac.sc



SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



History of the Trusts

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 with only 11 counties. Today, the membership consists of 41 of South Carolina's 46 counties and an additional 47 county-related entities. SCCWCT is approved as a self-insured trust by the S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission in accordance with South Carolina statutes. It provides statutory workers' compensation coverage for its members.

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust (SCCP<) was formed in 1995 due largely to the success of the Workers' Compensation Trust. SCCP< started with only four members and now has 24 members, including 16 counties.

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



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Council Member

Fentanyl: A Public Safety Employee's Nightmare

By Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
Risk Manager, SCAC

Our public safety employees put their lives on the line every day responding to incidents and calls for help. With the increase in the illegal use of fentanyl and its analogs, particularly carfentanyl, their jobs have become significantly more dangerous.

In May, an Ohio police officer collapsed and was rushed to the hospital after he brushed fentanyl residue off his uniform. A Pennsylvania officer was exposed to a white powdery substance that went airborne when he opened the center console of a car. He felt dizzy, fell to his knees and passed out. A South Carolina suspect being booked into a detention center went into a seizure during the booking process and required two doses of Narcan to save his life. These are just a few examples of how our public safety employees are being exposed to fentanyl laced drugs.

The nationwide opioid epidemic is impacting both the drug users and our public safety employees. In 2016, approximately 9,580 deaths in the United States were linked to fentanyl related drugs and synthetic opioids according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. This was a 73 percent increase from 2015.

According to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, overdoses involving heroin increased by 57 percent from 2014 to 2015. In 2016, deaths from heroin and opioid overdoses outnumbered homicides. South Carolina EMS personnel administered naloxone, a medication used to block the effects of opioid overdoses, 4,600 times in 2015, and 6,400 times in 2016, a 39 percent increase!

Our public safety employees are responding to more calls for help and detaining more suspects being booked into our detention facilities on opioid related drug offenses.

This increased exposure to opioids laced with fentanyl poses a significant safety hazard to our employees. Whether providing care at the scene of an accident, collecting evidence, making an arrest or patting down a suspect during

(Continued on next page)

SOUTH CAROLINA'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC



In 2015, 594 SC residents died from an opioid-related drug overdose, up from 459 in 2014.



In 2016, nearly five million opioid prescriptions were dispensed in SC for a population of 4,961,119.



In 2015, overdoses involving heroin increased by 57% from 2014.



In 2016, deaths from heroin and opioid overdoses outnumbered homicides.

SAVING LIVES

Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.



South Carolina EMS personnel administered naloxone approximately 4,600 times in 2015 and 6,400 times in 2016.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - NALOXONE LEON

LEON - a partnership between DHEC, DAODOS, and the 5th Circuit Solicitor's Office - trains law enforcement officers to administer naloxone.



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County
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Barnwell County
Administrator



Steve Willis
Lancaster County
Administrator



SECRETARY/
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Executive Director, SCAC

booking, these employees are being exposed to substances that can kill them. Exposure to fentanyl can occur through contact with the skin, inhalation, and ingestion.

It is critical that we provide our employees with the appropriate training and proper personal protective equipment to keep them safe. The following recommendations should be incorporated into your fentanyl exposure training program:

1. Educate employees on the dangers of fentanyl.

Fentanyl is being used as a cutting agent in heroin and pressed into pills. The drugs you encounter today can have fentanyl in it and you would never know it.

2. Understand the possible exposure routes of fentanyl.



This image shows the lethal (deadly) amount of each drug shown.

Fentanyl can be absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or ingested. If you touch heroin or pills laced with fentanyl with your bare skin it can be absorbed into your body. If the drugs are laced with carfentanil it could be deadly. Always wear protective gloves!

Carfentanil — 100 times more potent than fentanyl

3. Conduct a job hazard assessment.

Every agency should conduct a job hazard assessment to identify and control physical and health hazards. Once the possible hazards have been identified, employees should receive training and appropriate personal protective equipment to mitigate the identified exposures.

A good job hazard analysis guide is available on the Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA) website at: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3071.pdf>

4. Do not field test or handle any substances that you suspect could contain fentanyl.

If you believe that you have discovered a substance that might contain fentanyl, please do not attempt to field test or transport the substance. We have had incidents in South Carolina where deputies were field testing a white powdery substance found in a vehicle and the substance was blown into the officer's face by the wind current created by a passing truck.

Whether you discover the substance on the scene of an accident, while executing a search warrant or patting down a suspect, please do not move the substance. Contact a designated properly trained individual who can safely move and identify the substance.

5. Implement a naloxone program.

Naloxone reverses an opiate overdose. If you are exposed to fentanyl and are experiencing overdose symptoms, naloxone may reverse the overdose and save your life!

Naloxone can be injected or sprayed into the nose. The effects of naloxone can last from 30 minutes to an hour. Multiple doses may be required, as the duration of action of most opioids is greater than that of naloxone.

Naloxone should be carried by EMS and law enforcement officers in their vehicles and should be available through the inmate medical provider at all detention facilities. Several South Carolina law enforcement agencies and detention centers currently carry or have access to naloxone.

South Carolina has been proactive in dealing with the opioid epidemic and the



NARCAN® Nasal Spray is a prescription medicine used for the treatment of an opioid emergency such as an overdose.



The hand-held auto-injector is designed to administer a single dose of a drug called naloxone.

exposures faced by our public safety employees. After the South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act became law in 2015, DHEC, in collaboration with the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office and the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), created the Law Enforcement Officer Naloxone (LEON) program, which focuses on law enforcement officers who are frequently the first emergency responders to arrive on scene and response time is critical to saving lives.

The South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act, S.C. Code Ann. §44-130-60, protects a caregiver who gives naloxone to a person whom the caregiver believes in good faith is experiencing an opioid overdose from civil or criminal liability.

LEON's goal is to provide comprehensive training to law enforcement agencies across South Carolina that focuses on identification, treatment and reporting of drug overdoses attributed to opioids. This program has trained 3,400 officers in 96 law enforcement agencies in South Carolina to carry and administer naloxone. For additional information on the SCLEON program, please contact Arnold Alier, EdD, NRP, DHEC LEON Program Director, at (803) 545-4958.

The goal of our risk management and safety programs is to

“keep bad stuff from happening.” While we cannot control the environment or the people that our employees encounter on a daily basis, we can help guide and protect our employees. Proper training and the use of personal protective equipment is critical to their safety.

By conducting a job hazard assessment, training and providing appropriate personal protective equipment to your employees, and providing them with access to naloxone, you can reduce the potential hazards faced by your employees and help them go home to their families at the end of their shift.

Links on fentanyl and the exposure risks facing public safety employees can be found on SCAC’s website at:

www.SCCounties.org/fentanyl-exposure-risk



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Experience Counts.

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Covering South Carolina's Counties since 1984



Robert Collins, CPCU, CIC
*Director of Insurance Services
since 2013*
rcollins@scac.sc



John Henderson, ARM, ALCM
*Director of Risk Management Services
since 1991*
jhenderson@scac.sc



Robert Benfield, ARM, AINS
*Risk Manager
since 1993*
rbenfield@scac.sc



Lang Kelly, ARM, AIC
*Workers' Comp Claims Manager
since 2013*
lkelly@scac.sc



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John Jerve, AIC
*Property & Liability Claims Manager
since 1997*
jjerve@scac.sc



Pam Collins, ARM
*Program Coordinator
since 1992*
pcollins@scac.sc



Caroline Deevey, CIC, AAI, CISR, CRIS, INC
*Insurance Trusts' Assistant Coordinator
2017*
cdeevey@scac.sc

Advantages of S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust

- No charge for mid-term additions to your insurance schedules.
- Claims are handled by SCAC staff.
- Cyber Liability coverage is included.
- No coinsurance penalty for Real Property, Contractors Equipment or Electronic Data Processing Equipment.
- No vacancy provision.
- Coverage for law enforcement dogs.
- Coverage for Crime (employee dishonesty).

Unique Law Enforcement Services

- Law Enforcement and Detention Center Risk Management and Inmate Supervision Classes approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for Continuing Law Enforcement Education Credit
- Detention Center Staffing Needs Assessments
- Law Enforcement and Detention Center Policy and Procedure Manual Reviews
- Free Online Law Enforcement and Detention Center Training (In the Line of Duty)

SCAC's insurance staff members are already familiar with your county, its employees and operations. You already have experienced our workers' compensation benefits.

Now is the time to review your property and liability insurance coverages.

For a property and liability insurance proposal, please contact Robert Collins at 1-800-922-6081 or rcollins@scac.sc.

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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Belinda D. Copeland Receives President's Cup

South Carolina Association of Counties President Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court) presented the President's Cup—one of the Association's highest honors—to former Darlington County Treasurer Belinda D. Copeland at the Association's 50th Annual Conference, held July 29 – August 2.

The prestigious award was presented to Copeland on August 1 at SCAC's annual awards banquet. Each year, SCAC honors the county official who has merited special recognition for service to county governments and assistance to Association's president during the past year.

"Belinda Copeland is a devoted advocate of local government and the South Carolina Association of Counties, and like many of you, I have great respect for her leadership and experience," said SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong, who presented the award. "Her experience has been invaluable in addressing critical issues related to South Carolina's tax system—including local assessment, collection and administrative functions. She is a knowledgeable and experienced legislative advocate and also acts as a liaison between county treasurers and lawmakers."

This year, Copeland completed her eighth term as Darlington County



SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong presents the President's Cup to Belinda D. Copeland on August 1 during SCAC's 50th Annual Conference Banquet.

"Belinda Copeland is a devoted advocate of local government and the South Carolina Association of Counties, and like many of you, I have great respect for her leadership and experience."

— SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong
(Charleston County Clerk of Court)

Treasurer.

She became interested in politics in 1972 while working for Darlington County's legislative delegation, and

eventually became secretary of the county's Democratic Party. Copeland was first elected to serve on Darlington County Council and also served as council chair. She was then elected county treasurer in 1985 and re-elected seven times.

Copeland was elected to SCAC's Board of Directors in 1988, and elected President in 2006. For the past 10 years, she has served as the Association's treasurer.

"In addition to chairing SCAC's Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Steering Committee for 12 years," SCAC President Armstrong said, "Belinda has chaired the Association's Legislative, Nominating and Scholarship committees. Her contributions to Darlington County and other South Carolina communities reflect her exemplary character and leadership."

Copeland previously served on the Board of Directors for Carolina Bank and Trust, and on the Advisory Board for Bank of America.

At this year's Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon, held on July 31 during SCAC's 50th Annual Conference, Copeland was awarded the Thanks II Badge—the highest award that the Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina Council (GSESC) bestows on an adult. (See photos, next page) Loretta Graham, Chief Executive Officer, GSESC Council, who spoke at the

Elected Women Officials' Luncheon, presented the award. Copeland previously received the Thanks Badge from the GSESC, a prerequisite for receiving the Thanks II Badge.

Copeland received the S.C. Department of Revenue Director's Award for outstanding public service in 2006. Elected President of the S.C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors, she also received the President's Award and L.H. "Sonny" Siau Award of Excellence.

For 25 years, Copeland served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments (COG). For 36 years, she served on the Pee Dee Regional COG's Revolving Loan Committee. She also chaired the boards of Byerly Hospital, Epworth Children's Home and the Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina.

Copeland is a member and past president of the Coker College Alumni Association and a former member of the Coker College Board of Trustees.

"More important than all of her accomplishments," Armstrong said, "Belinda is a modest, thoughtful person who is a loyal and gracious

colleague.

"Many public servants hope to leave a legacy of their leadership," she added. "While Copeland's service to benefit the citizens of Darlington County, the Pee Dee Region and the State of South Carolina will eventually conclude, we can rest assured that her contributions will extend well into the future."

Copeland has two daughters, Ashley Burchfield and Jenifer Crawford, and three grandsons, Toby Burchfield, Copeland and Craig Crawford. She is a graduate of Coker College.



Loretta Graham, CEO, Girl Scouts of Eastern Carolina Council (GSESC), presents the Thanks II Badge—the highest award that the GSESC bestows on an adult—to Belinda D. Copeland. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)



Recipients of the SCAC President's Cup



- 2017—Belinda D. Copeland, *Darlington County*
- 2016—K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr., *Florence County*
- 2015—Patricia S. Hartley, *Horry County*
- 2014—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*
- 2013—William T. Noonan, *Sumter County*
- 2012—Willis H. Meadows, *Greenville County*
- 2011—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*
- 2010—James A. Coleman, *Laurens County*
- 2009—Steve S. Kelly, Jr., *Kershaw County*
- 2008—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*
- 2007—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*
- 2006—K.G. "Rusty" Smith, Jr., *Florence County*
- 2005—Ed Favor, *Charleston County*
- 2004—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*
- 2003—Roland H. Windham, *Charleston County*
- 2002—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*
- 2001—Judith Spooner, *Berkeley County*
- 2000—Gonza L. Bryant, *Greenwood County*
- 1999—Polly C. Jackson, *Lancaster County*
- 1998—William L. McBride, *Beaufort County*
- 1997—James H. Rozier, Jr., *Berkeley County*
- 1996—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*
- 1995—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*
- 1994—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*
- 1993—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*
- 1992—Lonnie Hamilton III, *Charleston County*
- 1991—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*
- 1990—Lachlan H. Hyatt, *Spartanburg County*
- 1989—James R. McGee, *Orangeburg County*
- 1988—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*
- 1987—Howard A. "Buck" Taylor, *Charleston County*
- 1986—Howard C. "Butch" Spires, *Lexington County*
- 1985—Mary L. Barry, *Lancaster County*
- 1984—Johnnie Flynn, *Berkeley County*
- 1983—Candy Y. Waites, *Richland County*
- 1982—Robert W. Ragin, *Charleston County*
- 1981—James R. Barber III, *Richland County*
- 1980—Charles W. Lawrimore, *Georgetown County*
- 1979—L.H. "Sonny" Siau, *Georgetown County*
- 1978—James O. Thomason, *Spartanburg County*
- 1977—Oren L. Brady, Jr., *Spartanburg County*
- 1976—J. Eugene Klugh, *York County*
- 1975—Richard L. Black, *Charleston County*

Twenty-Three County Officials Graduate from the Institute of Government for County Officials

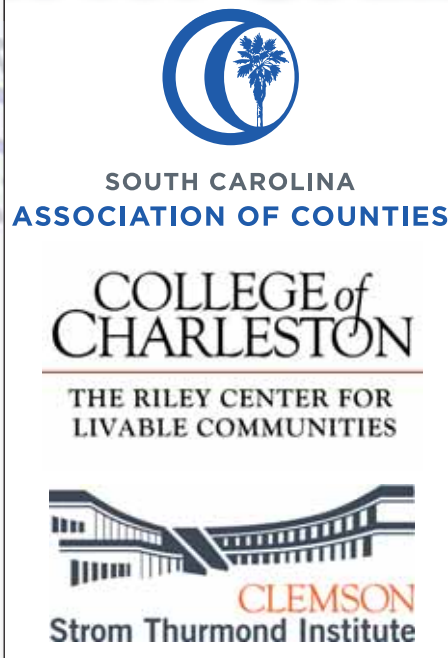
Twenty-three county officials graduated from Levels I and II of the Institute of Government for County Officials at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference, held July 29 – August 2.

"We are proud of your achievement," said SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court), who recognized graduates at the conference's general session. "Your commitment to county government is admirable, your perseverance is commendable, and your success is well-deserved."



LEVEL I

Graduating from Level I were: ABBEVILLE COUNTY—**David Porter**, former Abbeville County Director; BARNWELL COUNTY—**Jerry R. Creech**, Council Member; BERKELEY COUNTY—**William W. Peagler III**, Supervisor/Chairman, and **Ronald L. Blankenship**, Assistant County Attorney; CALHOUN COUNTY—**Theodore B. Felder**, Assistant County Administrator; CHESTERFIELD COUNTY—**Rob Lee**, Chief Deputy; FAIRFIELD COUNTY—**Dan W. Ruff III**, Council Member; WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY—**Betty F. Matthews**, Probate Judge.



LEVEL I GRADUATES—(Seated, left to right) Jerry R. Creech, Barnwell County Council Member; Betty F. Matthews, Williamsburg County Probate Judge; and Dan W. Ruff III, Fairfield County Council Member; and (standing, left to right) Theodore B. Felder, Assistant County Administrator, Calhoun County; and Ronald L. "Les" Blankenship, Assistant County Attorney, Berkeley County.

LEVEL II



Graduating from Level II were: BARNWELL COUNTY—**Harold Buckmon**, Council Member; BEAUFORT COUNTY—**Monica N. Spells**, Assistant County Administrator/Civic Engagement and Outreach; CALHOUN COUNTY—**John D. Nelson**, Council Member; CHESTERFIELD COUNTY—**Rob Lee**, Chief Deputy; GREENVILLE COUNTY—**H.G. "Butch" Kirven Jr.**, and **Lynn Ballard**, Council Members; GREENWOOD COUNTY—**Steven**

J. Brown, Council Chairman; LANCASTER COUNTY—**Steven Robert Harper**, Council Chairman, and **J. Ryan Whitaker**, Risk Manager; LAURENS COUNTY—**Mary D. Parker**, Human Resources Manager; LEXINGTON COUNTY—**Larry Brigham**, Council Member; NEWBERRY COUNTY—**R. Scott Cain** and **Travis D. Reeder**, Council Members, and **Laurie N. Renwick**, Clerk to Council; SUMTER COUNTY—**James T. McCain Jr.**, Council Chairman; and WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY—**Norma L. Cyrus**, Tax Collector.

The SCAC, in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston,



LEVEL II GRADUATES—(Front row, left to right) Norma L. Cyrus, Williamsburg County Tax Collector; Monica N. Spells, Assistant County Administrator/Civic Engagement and Outreach, Beaufort County; Mary D. Parker, Laurens County Human Resources Manager; and Laurie N. Renwick, Newberry Clerk to Council; (Back row, left to right) J. Ryan Whitaker, Lancaster County Risk Manager; H.G. “Butch” Kirven Jr., Greenville County Council Chairman; R. Scott Cain, Newberry County Council Member; John D. Nelson, Calhoun County Council Member; Travis D. Reeder, Newberry County Council Member; and Lynn Ballard, Greenville County Council Member. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

and the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University—holds the Institute of Government for County Officials three times per year. The Institute of Government provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities in order to function more effectively.

County officials must complete 27 hours of instruction to graduate from Level I and 18 hours of instruction to graduate from Level II.



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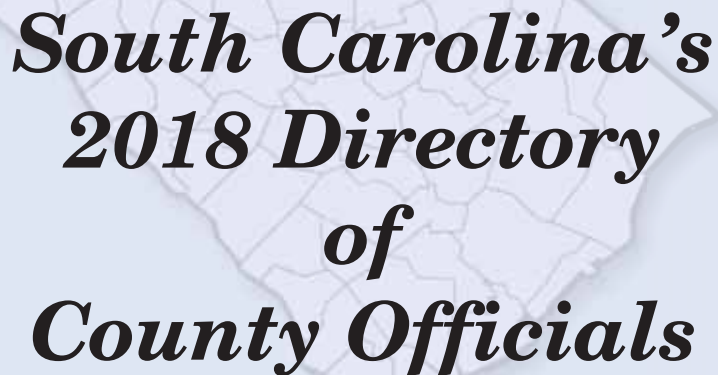
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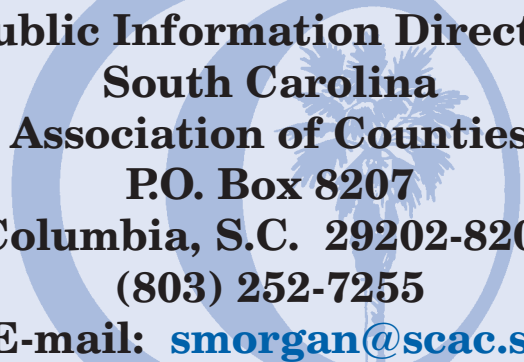
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SCDDSN Presents Golden Palmetto Awards to Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties

The S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) presented Golden Palmetto awards to Georgetown and Williamsburg counties on July 31 at SCAC's 50th Annual Conference, held July 29 – August 2. The award



Gary Lemel, Vice Chairman, S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs, presents the Golden Palmetto Award to John Thomas, Georgetown County Council Member, who accepts the award for his county.

recognizes South Carolina counties that provide exemplary support to people with disabilities.

"Georgetown and Williamsburg counties have each done an exemplary job," said Gary Lemel, Vice Chairman, SCDDSN, when presenting the awards. "Significant improvements have resulted from their commitment to people with

disabilities, and these two counties richly deserve this honor. Meaningful jobs, having friends and earning money are very important to people with disabilities, just like everyone else. Georgetown and Williamsburg counties' enthusiasm and commitment to individuals with disabilities

are transforming peoples' lives daily through jobs, essential services and increased community involvement."

Lemel highlighted some of Georgetown County's accomplishments:

The county's Parks and Recreation Department hired two individuals with disabilities to work as facility attendants.



Gary Lemel presents the Golden Palmetto Award to Stanley S. Pasley, Williamsburg County Supervisor/Chairman, who accepts the award for his county.

Recipients of the Golden Palmetto Award



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 111

Georgetown County

The county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff went above and beyond the call of duty during Hurricane Matthew, and the EOC's guidance saved lives. The county's Disabilities and Special Needs Board's primary evacuation site is in Florence, but that location was devastated by inland flooding and water interruption. County EOC staff played a critical role in determining where the safest place was to shelter 40 vulnerable people with disabilities and 20 dedicated staff members who remained with them to provide care and support.

The Georgetown Disabilities and Special Needs Board operates

the HUGS for HORSES Therapeutic Riding Program, which serves more than 60 children and adults year-round. The county's Parks and Recreation staff members help the Annual Horse Show draw hundreds of people, and the show raises funds vital to the program. Members of the county's Fire Department teach fire safety and 911 training, and volunteer to serve food at the annual FUN DAY Event.

"The many different ways we work with the Disabilities and Special

Needs Board," said Georgetown County Council Member John Thomas, "demonstrate how natural it is to include people with disabilities in all aspects of our community."

Lemel then highlighted some of Williamsburg County's accomplishments:

The county has employed 10 people with disabilities to provide janitorial services for county offices.

The county provides more than \$12,000 in local funds to support the
(See **Golden Palmetto**, P. 98)

"Georgetown and Williamsburg counties have each done an exemplary job. Significant improvements have resulted from their commitment to people with disabilities, and these two counties deserve this honor."

— Gary Lemel
Vice Chairman
S.C. Commission on
Disabilities and Special Needs



GEORGETOWN COUNTY WINS GOLDEN PALMETTO AWARD—Shown after winning this year's Golden Palmetto Award are (left to right): Elizabeth Krauss, Executive Director, and Thomas Williams Sr., Chairman, Georgetown County Disabilities and Special Needs Board; Gary Lemel, Vice Chairman, S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs; John Thomas, Ron Charlton and Everett Carolina, Georgetown County Council Members.



WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY WINS GOLDEN PALMETTO AWARD—Shown after winning this year's Golden Palmetto Award are (left to right): the Rev. Franklin Fulmore, Sr., Williamsburg County Council Member; Ruby Greene, Job Developer, Williamsburg County Disabilities and Special Needs Board (DSNB); Jeanie Brown-Burrows, Williamsburg County Council Member; Faye Dozier, Executive Director, Williamsburg County DSNB; the Rev. Dr. Linwood Cooper, Chairman, Williamsburg County DSNB; Gary Lemel, Vice Chairman, S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs; Stanley S. Pasley, Williamsburg County Supervisor/Chairman; Andy McKnight Sr., Williamsburg County Council Member; Arthur Tisdale, Health and Safety Coordinator, Williamsburg County DSNB; Sam Floyd, Jonathan Miller and W.B. Wilson, Williamsburg County Council Members. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

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- Two complimentary tickets to attend the Association's Annual Conference Banquet, and
- Greater recognition in SCAC's *County Focus Magazine*, annual *Directory of County Officials* and *Annual Conference Program*.

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Golden Palmetto ...

(Continued from P. 97)

Williamsburg Disabilities and Special Needs Day Program. The county is also generously donating space in its 911 Emergency Building so disabilities services can be provided daily without interruption while the Disabilities and Special Needs Board completes the much needed expansion of the day program building.

The county approved funds for a generator, essential for emergency preparedness at community residences, supported the Annual Prom, and participates in the Disability Awareness Walk in March every year.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished in Williamsburg County," said Williamsburg County Council Chairman/Supervisor Stanley Pasley. "We are so glad to be able to provide all this assistance, and look forward to more successes in the future."

SCDDSN is the state agency that provides services to people with severe, lifelong intellectual and related disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and similar disability. SCDDSN has presented the Golden Palmetto Award annually since 1975 to the most deserving counties in South Carolina.

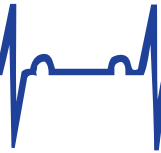
"This is our way of thanking county governments for making the lives of people with disabilities a priority in their communities," Lemel said. "Increasing demands, limited resources and balancing competing needs reinforce the importance and necessity of strong partnerships. County government efforts in partnership with their local disabilities and special needs boards are greater and more valuable than ever before. The Disabilities and Special Needs Commission applauds the leadership and dedication of all county governments across South Carolina."





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A Roadside Guide to Barnwell County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

Barnwell County




See South Carolina
 County Map,
 P. 111

Barnwell, one of South Carolina's older counties, saw bitter strife in the waning months of the American Revolution. Patriots and Loyalists clashed at least three times within the confines of modern Barnwell County, and Barnwell and Bamberg counties share the murder of George Hartzog at Rush's Mill in 1782.

The only three conflicts known to have occurred in Barnwell County were at Morris Ford Earthworks, Windy Hill and Vince's Fort on Steel Creek.




 Barnwell County's
 Role in the
 American War
 for Independence



Morris Earthworks

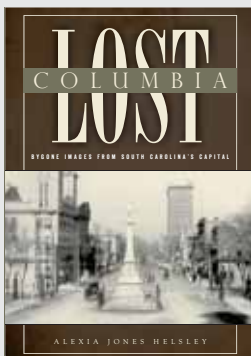
General Benjamin Lincoln's surrender of Charlestown to the British was the lowest point in South Carolina's fight for independence. After the British success on May 12, 1780, Patriot forces across South Carolina faced difficult choices. Some surrendered the forts under their control, but others sought to escape

the conquering British and connect with those still fighting for American independence.

Captain John Mumford of the Colleton County militia was one of those who chose to continue the fight. En route to connecting with Patriot troops, a Loyalist force under the command of Ben John attacked Mumford at Morris's Earthworks near Morris Ford on the Salkehatchie

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River. Morris's Ford was a major crossing of the Salkehatchie River, and early in 1780, John and his Loyalists built the earthworks. During the skirmish, Mumford was killed. His compatriots buried him under a large tree near the earthworks. Mumford was one of many patriots who paid the ultimate price during the Revolutionary War.

According to Bobby Moss's research, Mumford was a captain who served under Colonel James Thompson. In 1777, Mumford was wounded in an engagement near Hutson's Ferry in Georgia. According to the Memoirs of Tarleton Brown, in July 1777, Brown accompanied Mumford on an expedition to Georgia. The Patriot force planned to surprise a Loyalist guard near Hutson's Ferry on the Savannah River. Unfortunately, the Loyalists were on alert and with deadly fire decimated the attacking Patriots. During the attack, Captain Mumford was "severely wounded in the knee." Consequently, the Patriots gathered their wounded and retired across the Savannah to South Carolina.

During the Civil War, Major Joseph Wheeler and his cavalry rebuilt the earthworks at Morris Ford. Today, a South Carolina historical marker commemorates the historical significance the earthworks.

Windy Hill (a/k/a) Slaughter Field

On Dec. 23, 1781, Patriots under Captain Benjamin Odom Jr. clashed with Loyalists near the juncture of Windy Hill and Sheepford Branch Creek, a few miles northeast of Blackville. Odom was attached to the Upper Granville County militia.

Before dawn, a Loyalist contingent, possibly commanded by Major William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham, attacked Odom and his men. During the attack, 16 Patriots died. According to some accounts, the dead lay unclaimed for three days. Traditionally, Patrick Cain was one of the casualties. His wife buried him in the hole left by an uprooted tree. Despite the high death toll, Benjamin Odom and his brother Daniel survived the attack. Due to the high death toll,

the site is known as "Slaughter Field."

Vince's Fort on Steel Creek

According to the pension application of James Young, there was a skirmish between Loyalist and Patriot forces at Vince's Fort in October 1781. Young volunteered for the state militia and served under Captain Joseph Vince. Vince's company was part of Colonel James McCoy's regiment which operated along the Savannah River trying to limit movement of Loyalists between Georgia and South Carolina and prevent the shipment of arms and ammunition to Augusta. The home base for Vince's company—known as Vince's Fort—was on Steel Creek.

In October 1781, while Young and 14 others were guarding the fort, they learned that a Loyalist force of perhaps 100 men was approaching. Colonel Hezekiah Williams of the Williams Regiment of Loyalist Militia commanded the Loyalists. Normally, Williams operated from a base in the swamps of the Edisto River.

The two groups exchanged shots and one Patriot died. But the Loyalists withdrew and did not launch a full attack. According

to Terry W. Lipscomb, the site of Vince's Fort is now within the confines of the Savannah River Plant.

Protecting Patriot interests along the Savannah River was dangerous. Revolutionary events in Bamberg and Barnwell vividly detail the uncertainty of civilian and military lives in this critical corner of Revolutionary South Carolina.

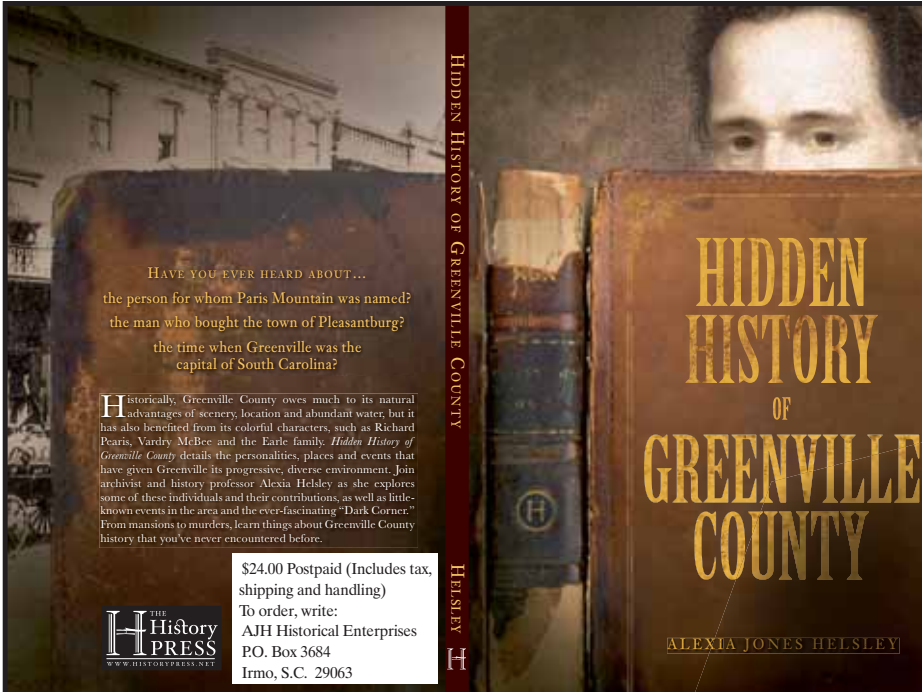



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County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 111

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

Bamberg County

● The Denmark Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. hosted its 2017 Candle Lights in the Dark banquet on August 26 in Denmark. The banquet honors individuals who serve as builders in their communities.

Willie Jeffries, Head Football Coach Emeritus at South Carolina State University, was the keynote speaker. Jeffries was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2010 after a successful college football coaching career.

Honored at the banquet were:

Bamberg County Administrator **Joey Preston** for his "innovative leadership and vision in leading Bamberg County during some difficult economic times ... by

improving the county in the areas of finance, infrastructure, economic development, and beautification/litter control."

The Rev. **Ted Robertson** for his "many years of spiritual support to the citizens of Bamberg County and unending support of the needs of the community and his dedication to litter control." The Rev. Robertson serves on the Keep Bamberg County Beautiful Board of Directors.

Kappa Alpha Psi Alumnus **Evert Comer Jr.** (Bamberg County Council Chairman) for his service to Bamberg County.

Also honored were:

Brad Hudson of First Baptist Church of Bamberg; **Robert Hurst Jr.** of Phoenix Specialty; **Jerry Halmon** of *The Advertiser Herald*; **Kevin "Butch" Crosby**, head football coach at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School; and **Franklin Bamberg Jr.** for his many years of work in law enforcement.

Danny Singleton Sr. received the Kappa Alpha Psi Achievement Award for his outstanding accomplishments within the community.

● Bamberg County's Department of Emergency Services installed a new Emergency Medical Dispatching System (EMDS) in June. The system was paid for by 911 Funds, a national program that collects one dollar per month from each landline in Bamberg County.

EMDS provides a dispatcher with specific instructions before Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrives on the scene,

and helps dispatchers in a wide variety of medical situations until EMS is able to reach the patient.

EMDS, especially helpful in rural areas like Bamberg County, can be a life-saver in emergency medical situations or when EMS is unable to arrive quickly. The system minimizes potential mistakes by using user-friendly graphics, providing prompts to help the dispatcher prioritize response, and alerting the dispatcher, patient(s), and bystanders to potential safety concerns at the site, an often overlooked issue in emergency response. All 911 dispatchers in the Bamberg County Communications-911 Center are trained and certified to use the EMDS.

● U.S. Senator **Lindsey Graham** participated in a roundtable discussion in Bamberg on August 11. The one-hour discussion was held in Bamberg County Council Chambers, located in the county's new courthouse annex. Bamberg County Council and approximately 50 residents attended.

The roundtable discussion was part of Sen. Graham's initiative to communicate with residents of rural South Carolina. Sen. Graham discussed current issues in national politics, including health insurance reform, social security reform, and national security issues, specifically the recent developments with North Korea.

● Nine Bamberg County employees from three different departments recently received training and certifications from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia.

Bill Johnson, Bamberg County Director of Operations, attended a two-week training to earn his Basic Class 3 Law Enforcement certification. The training and certification was necessary for Johnson's role as a Litter Enforcement Officer and other roles in the county.

The following six dispatchers, who work in the county's Communications-911 Center, earned Class 4 Telecommunications Officer Certification during the past year: **Derek Jeffcoat**, **Cassandra Carter**, **Theresa Laurey**, **Tyjah Deputy**, **Amanda Jeffers** and **Lauren Threatt**. The dispatchers attended a two-week, 80-hour training program at the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

Bamberg County now has eight dispatchers who have achieved the same level of certification.

● Two Detention Center officers have graduated from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy's Basic Detention Training Program. Officers **Zepheniah Grimes** and **Shannon Glover** received certification as a Class 2 Law Enforcement Officer after completing the three-week, 120-hour training course.

★ **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 |
| Cherokee | Marlboro |
| 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 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.

Charleston County

● **Beverly Craven**, longtime Charleston County Clerk of Council, retired on August 22. She worked for more than 42 members of Charleston County Council during her long career, which spanned almost 30 years.

"I met Beverly Craven through her husband Judge James Craven, one of the first family court judges in Charleston County in front of whom I practiced. She has been, and still is, the graceful representative and face of Charleston County for many years," said Charleston County Council Chairman Vic Rawl. "Her retirement is a milestone for the County and the passing of an era."

In 2007, Council recognized Craven with a resolution after learning she had been named the 2007 Outstanding Older Worker of the Year from Experience Works, a national charitable organization that aims to improve the lives of older people through employment, community service and training.

In 2010, County Council dedicated Council Chambers to the longtime clerk by naming its official meeting place the Beverly T. Craven Council Chambers.

Most recently, in June, Craven was given the Lawrimore Craven award by the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau for her dedication to quality and growth in the hospitality industry.

County Council recently named Deputy Clerk **Kristen Salisbury** as Clerk of Council. Salisbury has served as deputy clerk for the last 16 years.

The clerk of council and deputy clerk provide administrative support and maintain official records of Charleston County Council meetings and activities.

● Chief Justice **Donald Beatty** filed an order on June 28 designating chief judges and associate chief judges for administrative purposes of the Summary Court. In Charleston County: Judge **Leroy Linen** was designated Chief Magistrate Judge, and Judge **Thomas E. Lynn** was designated Associate Chief Judge.

Linen, a magistrate for Charleston County since 1973, is the longest serving magistrate judge in South Carolina.

● Charleston County Economic Development was a title sponsor of the third annual High School STEM Career Fair, held on Oct. 12 at the North Charleston Convention Center. Students from schools across Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties connected with local companies showcasing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career opportunities available after graduation. Organized by the

Charleston Regional Business Journal, the career fair encourages companies to bring interactive exhibits with a goal of sharing the high-demand, high-wage workforce opportunities available in the Lowcountry.

● **David J. LeBlanc Sr.**, a 1981 graduate of The Citadel, recently succeeded **Donald O. Morillo Sr.** as the new Director of Veterans Affairs for Charleston County.

Morillo retired in March. Appointed by the Charleston County Legislative Delegation on August 14, LeBlanc assumed his new responsibilities on Sept. 1.

He served 29 years in a variety of leadership, operational and staff positions in the U.S. Navy before retiring as a captain. After retiring from the U.S. Navy, LeBlanc

(Continued on next page)



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9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17, 2018
S.C. Bar Conference Center

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SCAC's 2017-18 Conference Calendar

Nov. 30-Dec. 2

Legislative Conference
Renaissance Charleston, Charleston

Dec. 8

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

2018

Jan. 24-25

S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting
Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach

Feb. 21
Feb. 22

Mid-Year Conference
Institute of Government
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Aug. 4-5
Aug. 5-8

Institute of Government
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

TBD

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



March 3-7

Legislative Conference
Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.

July 13-16

Annual Conference and Exposition
Nashville, Tenn.

NACo's 2018 Conference Calendar



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- 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:

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worked on Charleston's waterfront as a safety director for Stevens Shipping & Terminal Co. and project manager for the Scientific Research Corporation.

● Charleston County announced on September 19 that the county's Greenbelt Program had reached its goal of preserving 30 percent of county lands or a total of 200,000 acres.

About 160,000 acres were protected when the program began in 2015. Since then, 198,000 acres have been protected. The Greenbelt Program has preserved 21,000 acres, and conservation partners have protected almost 17,000 acres.

The Greenbelt Program is funded by the 2004 and 2016 Transportation Tax. Before deciding how to preserve the 40,000 acres, the Greenbelt Advisory Board gathered input from Charleston County residents.

Georgetown County

● A six-month-long strategic business plan has been completed for the Georgetown County Airport. Twenty-two people representing state, county and city governments, the aviation industry and private business contributed significant time and effort toward developing the plan. The executive summary of the plan, available for public review, was presented to Georgetown County Council for review and endorsement at a special meeting held at the airport on Aug. 22.

● Voters approved Georgetown County's One Cent Capital Project Sales Tax in 2014. Since then, the county has completed one dredging project, constructed two fire substations and completed about half the paving projects. The county's One Cent Capital Project Sales Tax will end on Apr. 30, 2019.

● **Ronald Montgomery**, a firefighter and EMT with Midway Fire Rescue, was named the Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter this year. He was also selected as employee of the month in March.

Montgomery's supervisors, who described Montgomery as an exemplary employee, said he stepped into a leadership role by spending time with new hires and guiding them through the processes at Midway. He has also volunteered to reorganize the uniform and gear supply room at the Midway Station 81.

Montgomery, employed by the county for four years, qualified to drive the station's fire engines last fall and recently qualified to drive other vehicles, including the station's tanker.

● Georgetown County recently announced that the Bassmaster Tournament will return next year. The fishing tournament will bring its B.A.S.S. Nation Eastern Regional Championship to the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex June 20-22, 2018.

● **Henry Hulit**, a master firefighter/paramedic with Midway Fire Rescue, was deployed August 22 to Texas where he assisted with emergency response efforts related to Hurricane Harvey. The storm caused record flooding in areas, including Houston. Hulit was deployed for one week as part of a National Disaster Medical System team (NDMS). NDMS is a federally-coordinated healthcare system and partnership of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Defense and Veterans Affairs.

● Midway Fire and Rescue Captain **Joseph Ruffennach** was recently awarded an educational scholarship by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). He is one of only 44 firefighters in the U.S. to receive one of the scholarships this year. The IAFC Foundation provides scholarships that make it possible for fire and EMS first responders to access advanced educational opportunities required to lead the fire service and serve and protect citizens.

● The S.C. State Firefighters' Association recently awarded its inaugural Fitness in Action Award for 2016 to Midway Fire Rescue. The department received the award for its "combination departments," which includes career and volunteer firefighters. The award recognizes departments that have made significant contributions to improving the health and lifestyles of members as a whole.

● **Candice Thompson**, Georgetown County's deputy director of Economic Development, was named Employee of the Quarter for this year's second quarter in August. Employed by the county for two years, Thompson was nominated for her extraordinary work on Project Queen, which included the county's economic development partners. She represented the county during the visit, hosted foreign visitors and worked with the Department of Commerce's project manager during the project. She was also credited for: streamlining Georgetown County's Economic Development Department and completely revamping the department's website, saving it more than \$20,000; and working with the United Way to develop a workforce hub, where job seekers, employers, nonprofits and agencies can more efficiently connect residents with job skills.

Thompson, who serves on the county's Morale Committee, was described as always

willing and happy to help perform any administrative duties within the county's administration building, which includes the Economic Development Department and four other departments.

● Georgetown County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 14 for the new \$5 million Choppee Recreation Center at Northwest Regional Park. The 25,145-square-foot center, one of many projects included in the county's Capital Improvement Plan, houses a 10,560-square-foot gymnasium, program spaces, meeting room and catering spaces. The center opened for regular hours on Sept. 18.

Horry County

● The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) recently inducted Horry County E-911 Director **Renee Hardwick** into NENA's Hall of Fame, the highest honor the organization bestows.

Hardwick received the honor due to her significant contributions toward the objectives of NENA while serving a full term as President of NENA. She was also chosen for her vision on NENA's future, highlighting her desire for the organization to tackle technology, staffing and funding issues.

Harwick has been employed with Horry County for 33 years and has worked in the E-911 Department for 27 of those years.

NENA serves more than 11,000 members and the greater public safety community as the only non-profit professional organization solely focused on 9-1-1 policy, technology, operations, and education issues. The association develops standards and resources for 9-1-1 systems and operations; provides education, training, and certifications for 9-1-1 professionals; informs policy makers about issues facing 9-1-1; and educates the public about 9-1-1 systems, their importance, and their proper uses.

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (HCSWA) recently recognized Conway area resident **Bary Dorsey** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of May, Conway area resident **Becky Newby** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of June, and Murrells Inlet area resident **Burton Bowman** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of August.

The "Caught Green Handed" recognition is presented monthly to a Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling. It's HCSWA's way of recognizing and thanking citizens who have made the effort to recycle.

Through such efforts, natural resources are saved and the amount of waste being land filled is reduced.

● The Horry County Board of Architectural Review's Legacy Business Recognition Program held ribbon-cutting ceremonies for two North Myrtle Beach businesses on July 13: Dew's, a family-owned appliance and HVAC business, and Hoskins Restaurant.

Dew's Appliances, located at 2203 S. Highway 17, has been a local tradition in surrounding North and South Carolina communities since 1947. Hoskins Restaurant, located at 405 Main St., was opened in 1948 by Hubert and Leona Hoskins. Today, the restaurant continues to be staffed and run by family members.

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, recently awarded a \$26.3 million contract for the Myrtle Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, LLC, to place approximately 1.2 million cubic yards
(Continued on next page)



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of material on North Myrtle Beach and Garden City and Surfside Beaches. This project is funded through federal emergency beach rehabilitation funding from Hurricane *Matthew*, along with cost-shared construction funding appropriated through Congress.

Construction began in the vicinity of Surfside Pier in July and proceeded northward to Myrtle Beach State Park. This portion of the project is estimated to take 25 to 35 days, barring any significant weather or mechanical delays.

Renourishment will then move southward from the Surfside Beach Pier to the southern project boundary in Georgetown County. This second section, expected to take an additional 30 to 35 days, should be completed by mid-September.

The Corps will place approximately 800,000 cubic yards of material on

approximately 7.5 miles of Garden City and Surfside Beaches. The North Myrtle Beach portion of the project is expected to begin mid-September or October when 400,000 cubic yards of material will be placed on areas of the beach without adequate dune protection.

Orangeburg County

● Orangeburg County broke ground for its new DSS building in July. The 30,000-square-foot, one-story building, designed by Columbia-based Studio 2LR Inc., will include several Department of Health and Human Services and economic services interview rooms, job development space, two visiting rooms, an observation room and a board room. The project, which began in August, is expected to be completed

by early fall of 2018. The county hired North Carolina-based Piedmont Companies Inc. to construct the facility.

Richland County

● In July:

Richland County switched from an annual to a biennium budget when county council passed its first biennium budget (FY 18-19) with a third and final reading.

The county announced the Vector Control division would increase its spray missions to help minimize mosquito populations in the county after a bird was found that tested positive for West Nile virus.

Deputy Treasurer **Stacey Hamm** was named the county's new finance director.

Council members celebrated the grand reopening of Richland Library after it closed for several months for renovations.

Council members participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the grand opening of several upgrades and new features at Owens Field Park.

Council Members helped break ground for the start of the Three Rivers Greenway, a three-mile-long public walkway along the Saluda River that is funded by the County's Transportation Program.

● In August:

Richland County was one of the best counties on the East Coast to watch the total solar eclipse on August 21. Columbia, the county seat, hosted 120 eclipse-related festivals and events from August 18–21. For more information, visit: www.totaleclipsecolumbiasc.com. For some excellent photos of the total eclipse, some taken by Richland County's public information staff, visit: www.thestate.com/news/local/article168474217.html

The county unveiled the first of several banners to be displayed along the Broad River Road Corridor as part of an initiative to re-brand the area.

The county joined Columbia Relief, a partnership with several local agencies, to combine efforts to provide assistance to Hurricane Harvey victims.

Council Chair **Joyce Dickerson**, District 2, was appointed chair of the S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials.

Council Member **Norman Jackson**, District 11, was unanimously elected chair of the Central Midlands Council of Governments Board of Directors.

The county's Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center held a school supply drive and donated collected items to children with parents detained at the jail.

FEMA authorized federal funding



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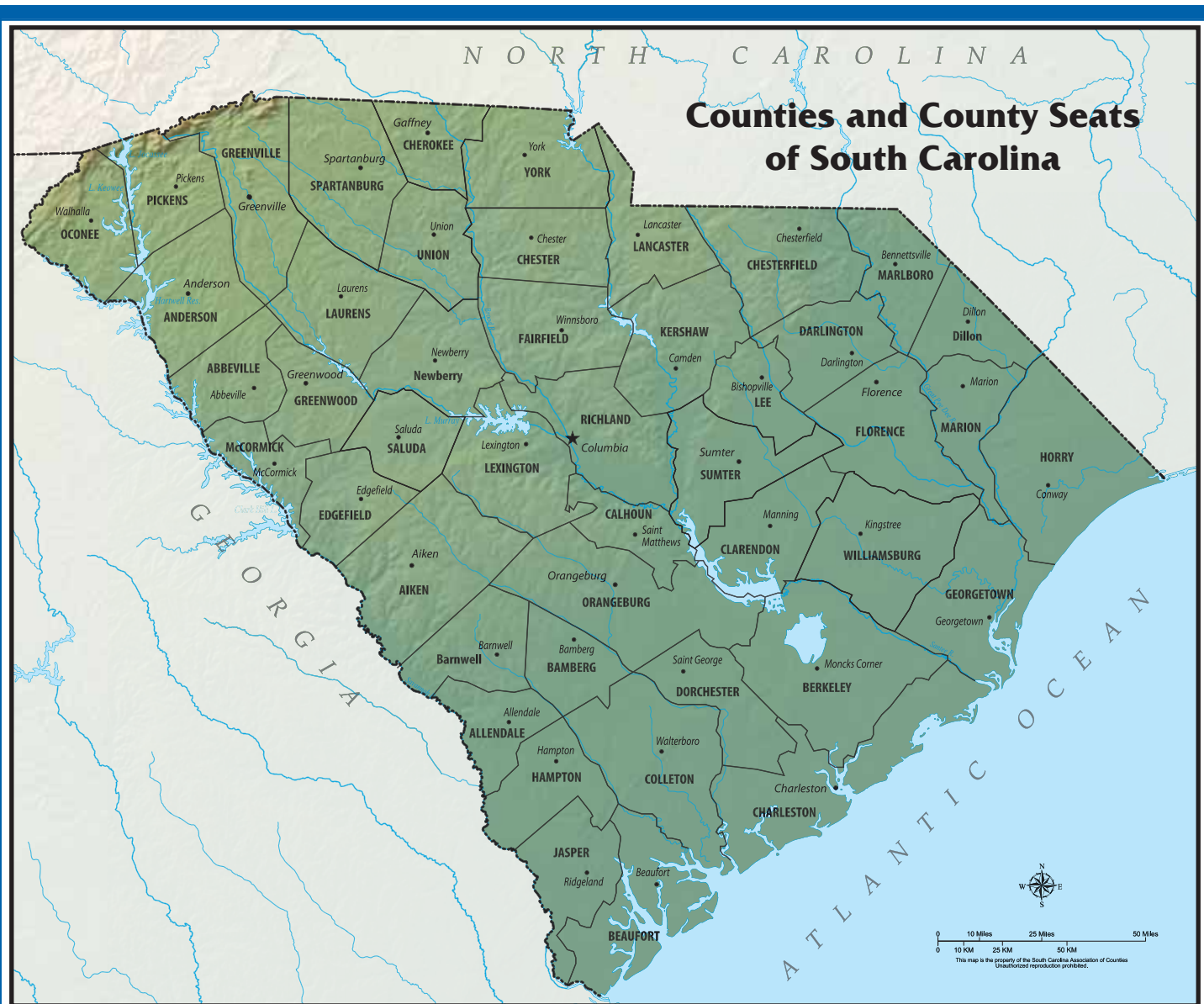
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for two of the county's applications that permitted the acquisition of 29 properties damaged in the October 2015 flood. The properties will be turned into greenspaces.

● The county's innovative weather system, RC WINDS, helps regional weather experts evaluate real-time situations and send emergency alerts keeping residents safe and informed. RC WINDS (Richland County's Weather Information Network Systems) is a sophisticated network of dozens of professional-grade, automated weather monitoring stations located in and around the county. The county's weather system was the cover story for the winter 2015 issue of SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 25, No. 4).

The fact that RC WINDS, originally intended to be a free resource for Richland County residents, has since become a reliable

resource for weather experts across the Midlands is an added bonus.

● **Suzi Roberts**, crowned Miss South Carolina on June 24, spotlighted Richland

County when she spoke for a cause she's passionate about: child advocacy and volunteering with Richland County Court
(Continued on next page)

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Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Roberts has been involved with the organization since 2015, serving as a *Guardian ad Litem*, a legal representative who speaks on behalf of abused and mistreated children in family court.

Richland County's CASA Program has 650 volunteers who receive training to speak for the best interests of more than

1,500 children. The program has received more than a dozen awards from the National CASA Association and other organizations for exceptional service and exemplary work. Without CASA representatives, some of those children could be placed in unsafe homes or remain entangled in the family court system for years.

Roberts continued to promote the

importance of volunteerism and Guardians ad Litem as she took the national stage in the Miss America competition in Atlantic City, N.J. in September.

York County

● York County recently launched three re-designed websites: for York County Government, the Sheriff's Office and the county's Pennies for Progress Program.

The county's newly-redesigned website, www.yorkcountygov.com, uses enhanced technology to feature a new modern user friendly design that provides useful information regarding county services and projects.

The county's new Pennies for Progress website, www.penniesforprogress.net, provides easily accessible information and resources to readers regarding the program and its projects.

The Sheriff's Office's website, www.yorkcountysheriff.com, has a fresh new look and many new features. The site was built on a new powerful, efficient and user-friendly content management system that uses CivicPlus, an integrated technology platform for local governments.

Trish Startup, York County Information Technology Department and Public Information Officer, led all three website projects. ■



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| Carolina Billing Services | 87 |
| Celebrate Freedom Foundation | 104 |
| Davis & Floyd | 95 |
| Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina | Inside-Front Cover |
| Enterprise Fleet Management | 31 |
| E-VAL Right of Way Analysts & Consultants | 109 |
| <i>Hidden History of Greenville County</i> | 101 |
| Mitchell Hamline Online HR Compliance Certification | 42 |
| McMillan Pazdan Smith | Inside-Back Cover |
| <i>Lost Columbia</i> | 100 |
| Medshore Ambulance Service | 99 |
| National Association of Counties | 87, 100 & 112 |
| NBSC, a division of Synovus Bank | 4 |
| PalmettoPride | 29 & 79 |
| PrintSouth Printing, Inc. | 77, 87 & 94 |
| Professional Printers | 93, 101 & 110 |
| QS/1 Governmental Solutions | 102 |
| Santee Cooper | 23 |
| Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects | 89 |
| SCANA Corporation | 5 |
| SCCWCT and SCCP< | 88 |

The Palmetto Directory Index

(See page 105)

LISTINGS:

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