

COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 29

Number 1

Florence County Opens New State-of-the-Art Judicial Center



Florence County Council

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COVER PHOTOS Top Photo: Florence County's new judicial center, 181 N. Irby St., Florence Bottom Photo: FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL—(Left to right) Council Members H. Steven DeBerry IV, Roger M. Poston and James T. Schofield; Council Vice Chairman Willard Dorriety Jr.; Council Chairman Kent C. Caudle; Secretary/Chaplain Waymon Mumford; and Council Members Mitchell Kirby, Alphonzo Bradley and Jason Springs. *(See story, P. 6)*



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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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Reformed Tax Code Unleashes American Dream for Millions of People

By U.S. Representative Jeff Duncan (R, 3rd District, S.C.)

After decades of suffering under a burdensome tax code, tax relief for the American people was finally achieved. Years of hearings, roundtables, and analyses went into the creation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to reform the tax code, provide relief for families and businesses, and simplify the onerous tax filing process. The bill was aimed at helping each and every American. If you are a single mom, a family of four, a small business, or a large corporation that employs thousands of workers, the new tax law is for you.

Individuals and families will be able to take advantage of the nearly doubled standard deduction, which the majority of people in South Carolina utilize. Further, the law doubles the child tax credit and maintains popular provisions including the adoption tax credit, medical expense deduction, charitable contribution deduction, graduate student tuition waivers, and a modified mortgage deduction. All of these provisions along with lower effective tax rates across the board will allow families to get ahead, save for college, or plan for retirement.

Businesses of all sizes will also see phenomenal benefits of the new tax law. The law lowers the corporate tax rate from 35 percent, which was one of the highest rates in the industrialized world, to a much more competitive 21 percent. Small businesses are going to thrive as rates for pass-through income are lowered and more income can be written off. These changes will incentivize job creators



U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan

and investors to do more business in the United States and bring back overseas cash that was pushed out by an uncompetitive tax structure. Companies will plan for future investments and growth opportunities, take more risks, hire more workers here at home, and raise wages to be competitive with other businesses in their field.

Even after just four months with the new law, the successes of tax cuts have already been experienced by the people of South Carolina. Individuals and families are seeing more money in their paychecks, receiving bonuses or pay raises, or receiving increased employer benefits like paid leave or furthering

education opportunities. Four million workers have already benefited from the new tax law across the country, and companies have provided more than \$4 billion in bonuses so far. This is just the beginning!

Included in the tax reform package was the Investing in Opportunity Act (IIOA) to provide certain tax incentives to spur economic investment in distressed communities around the country. This is a result of my friend Senator Tim Scott's tireless work in ensuring that every community in the Palmetto State and the nation has access to thriving economic opportunities. His vision for creating "Opportunity Zones" is innovative and will help areas in South Carolina that need it the most.

In the congressional district I represent, 20 Opportunity Zones have been designated. These areas are rural and distressed, but now have a chance at economic revitalization. Companies will have confidence and incentive to open up shop in these Opportunity Zones to create jobs and bolster rural communities. This type of economic spark will bring life back to these areas and provide opportunities that haven't been available for quite some time. Opportunity Zones will deliver job security, higher wages, and a thriving Main Street.

The costly and burdensome Obamacare individual mandate, which disproportionately hurts the middle class, was repealed so individuals and

(See Tax Relief, P. 4)



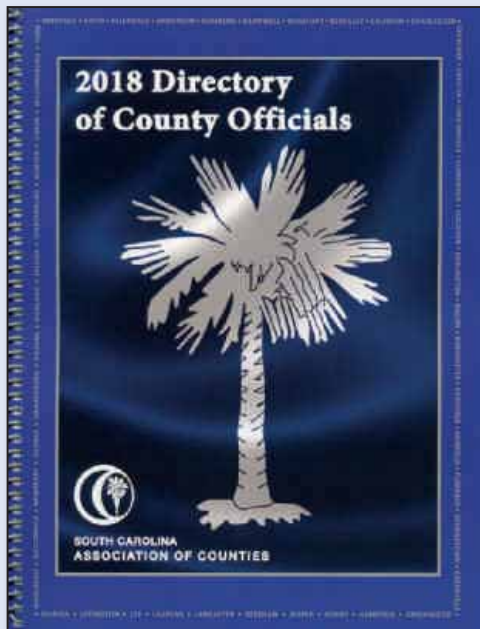
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Tax Relief ...

(Continued from P. 2)

families aren't coerced into purchasing government mandated insurance plans that don't work for them. Although it was not a full repeal of the unsustainable healthcare law, the individual mandate repeal will give families the freedom and liberty to decide how best they handle their health care.

The tax law also took a major step toward establishing energy independence for our nation by opening up land in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for energy exploration and production. As a supporter of an all-of-the-above energy approach, I believe this is a critical piece of the puzzle to ensure America is a dominant leader in energy production on the global stage, while also protecting the precious natural resources God has blessed us with.

For too long, the American people saw their freedom diminishing and their livelihood dwindling. The old tax code hindered people from getting ahead and stymied businesses from innovating and creating. But now, we have unleashed the American dream for millions of people by fighting for and implementing a pro-growth, pro-family tax plan that is all about higher wages, more jobs, and less government. This bill is going to put more money in the pockets of those who truly need it—the ones who earned it.

I am proud of the work we have done, and can't wait to see how this law positively impacts our nation as the years go by.





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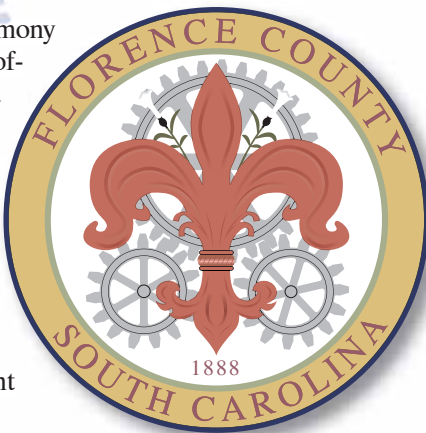
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Florence County Opens New State-of-the-Art Judicial Center

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Florence County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 23 to officially open its new state-of-the-art \$32 million judicial center, located directly across the street from the 11-story county complex, built in the early 1970s.

The three-story, 120,000-square-foot building was designed using a combination of brick, stone and glass to compliment other structures in historic downtown Florence. In fact, the judicial center's location was selected partly to help redevelop the area where the city's earliest development occurred in the early 1800s.



Florence County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 59



The Florence County Judicial Center, located at 181 N. Irby Street in downtown Florence, features a spacious public entrance plaza on the southeastern corner and a landscaped courtyard reminiscent of a historic courthouse square. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

“Our county’s new judicial center is truly a building that everyone can be very proud of, and one that will serve the citizens of Florence County for many years,” said Florence County Administrator K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr. He served as Florence County council chairman when the county formed an ad hoc study committee in 2005 and tasked it to determine if the county should build a new judicial center or renovate the existing county complex, housing the county’s administrative offices and judicial court system.

“Our county’s new judicial center is truly a building that everyone can be very proud of, and one that will serve the citizens of of Florence County for many years.”

— K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr.
Florence County
Administrator

Florence County’s Committee on Public Service and County Planning reviewed options provided by that ad hoc committee and determined by 2007 that it would be better to build a new judicial center. Shortly before county council voted for the project, Smith was hired to serve as Florence County Administrator.

The county then began purchasing land off North Irby Street for the site of the new facility as parcels became available there. Using Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds to fund the design and construction of the new judicial center, and the county’s General Fund to pay its operating costs, the county broke ground for the two-year project in April 2016.

“I have often said that it is the basic function of county government to protect the

lives and property of the citizens we represent,” Smith said. “Since 9-11, there have been numerous incidents across the nation and internationally that have caused local governments
(Continued on next page)



Looking through the rotunda of the new Florence County Judicial Center toward the Florence County Complex, located across the street.

to re-think the safety and security of their facilities, particularly courthouses. Our old building, which previously housed our county's court system, is structurally sound. But it is woefully inadequate when it comes to safety and/or security.

"Along with a rapidly growing population comes the inevitable increase in crime, and Florence is no exception to this formula," he added. "Our old building did not have the space to hold adequate hearings, jury pulls, first appearance hearings, roll calls for the public defender and solicitor offices, etc. We just ran out of space to safely handle the growing number of

individuals visiting the old building, which made it increasingly difficult to handle the business of the judicial system."

The new judicial center will have sufficient space to accommodate about 120 county employees.

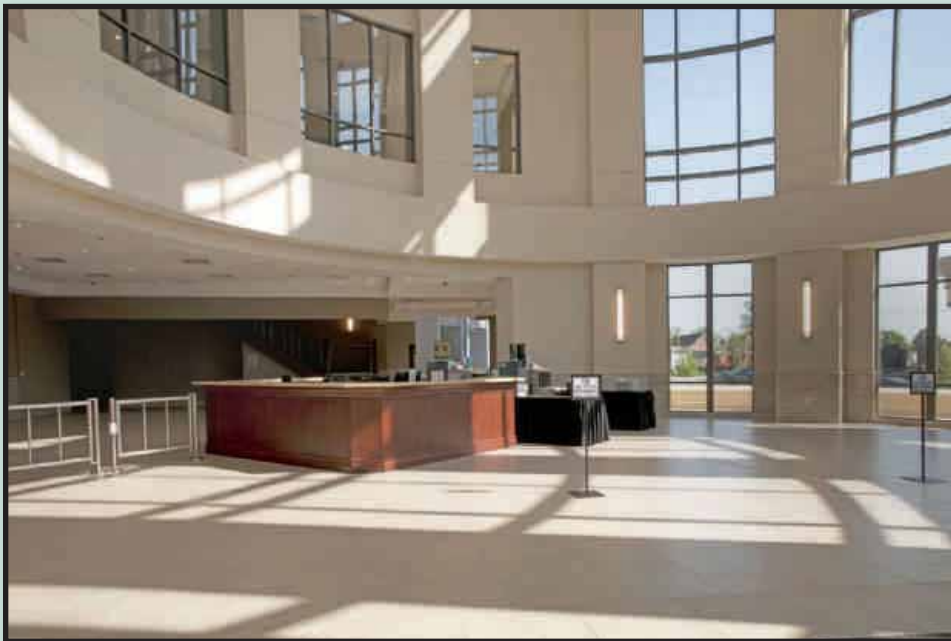
The Florence County Judicial Center

The Florence County Judicial Center is divided into three corridors or zones to ensure safety for everyone who enters—judges, juries, essential personnel, detainees and the public,

Florence County's New Judicial Center

Florence County's new three-story, 120,00-square-foot judicial center was built for the future. The building was constructed using a

combination of brick, stone and glass to complement other buildings in historic downtown Florence.



A security station, operated by Florence County Sheriff's Deputies, is located just within the judicial center's rotunda.



North Irby Street runs between Florence County's new judicial center (left) and the county complex (right).



One of three Circuit Court courtrooms



A section of the Florence County Clerk of Court's Office.

including victims and defendant families.

The building includes:

- 1) a public corridor, accessible by anyone entering through the building's front entrance on the ground (first) floor, and then passing through the rotunda and a security station;
- 2) a secure corridor for judges and staff members to use when walking between offices and courtrooms that prevents them from having to walk through public areas; and
- 3) a detention corridor that allows deputies to escort detainees between holding cells and courtrooms, and to secure

elevators or stairwells to ensure safety for everyone, including detainees. In fact, the only place where detainees come into direct contact with the public is in a courtroom.

The Florence County Judicial Center has seven courtrooms but could be expanded to include two more. The building is laid out as follows:

- **First Floor**—jury assembly room; probate court hearing room; clerk of court's office; a sheriff's sally port; prisoner holding cells; and a security work area, featuring secured

(Continued on next page)



Looking down one of the corridors facing downtown Florence.



One of three Family Court courtrooms



Looking through the rotunda on the second floor, visitors are provided an excellent view of downtown Florence.



Looking down one of the corridors facing the Florence County Complex.



Visitors to the judicial center can access courtrooms and offices by using elevators and stairwells located just inside the rotunda.



Another view of the rotunda and stairwell

access opposite public entrances.

● **Second Floor**—family court system, including the Clerk of Family Court’s office, that provides easy access to courtrooms using nonpublic hallways; three courtrooms, featuring high-security cores, that connect to the sheriff’s holding area; and a nonpublic zone.

● **Third Floor**—Circuit Court, which includes three courtrooms.

The judicial center includes three sets of elevators—1) three elevators for the public to use, 2) one elevator for judges to use, and 3) two elevators for detainees to use while escorted by security personnel. For emergencies, it also includes one set of stairwells for detainees and one set for everyone else.

For security, cameras are mounted throughout the building. This enables security personnel to use multiple monitors to view and maintain constant surveillance of all areas inside the building as well as key areas outside.

Now that the new judicial center has opened, county administrative functions—the treasurer, auditor, tax assessor, solicitor, public defender and many other offices—will remain in the county complex.

For many years, Florence County has had to rent space in nearby buildings for the solicitor’s office and other departments to use because the county previously lacked space in the old county complex.

Now, the county will be able to renovate space in the county complex and move the solicitor’s office and other departments back to the county complex to reduce rental costs. Space left vacant in the old complex will be leased or rented because all

courtrooms and judicial offices have moved to the new judicial center.

Two Individuals Deserve Special Recognition

Two individuals deserve special recognition for the successful completion of the county’s judicial center project: James T. Schofield, a Florence County council member; and Suzanne S. King, the county’s administrative services director.

Smith credited Schofield for having the vision and foresight to initiate the process of building the new judicial center shortly after he was elected to county council in 2007. He also credited Schofield for becoming a driving force behind the project shortly

after he was elected council chairman in 2013.

“I am very pleased with the new judicial center, and that the safety and security of our citizens and county employees are much improved,” said Schofield,

whose background and experience in law enforcement provided the insight needed to help ensure that all security and safety issues were properly addressed in the project.

Schofield studied court facilities across South Carolina and firms that designed and constructed them. He and Michael G. Nettles, circuit court judge for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in South Carolina, and other court officials chaired the Judicial Center Advisory Committee that carefully evaluated every feature that a new judicial center should have. The committee served all the way from the judicial center’s design to its completion.

“The process of designing and building went relatively

“I am very pleased with the new judicial center, and that the safety and security of our citizens and county employees are much improved.”

— James T. Schofield

Florence County Council Member



FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL—(Left to right) Council Members H. Steven DeBerry IV, Roger M. Poston and James T. Schofield; Council Vice Chairman Willard Dorriety Jr.; Council Chairman Kent C. Caudle; Secretary/Chaplain Waymon Mumford; and Council Members Mitchell Kirby, Alphonso Bradley and Jason M. Springs.

smooth with the firms we hired for this project—Stevens & Wilkinson, Goforth and Brown, and Justice Planning Associates,” Schofield said. “They were all professional and very educated in the proper design of a new courthouse facility. BE&K building group was excellent to work with, and we appreciated the details of their work in our new facility.”

Smith said King was vital to the success of the project, that she was an active participant from the very beginning, and that she remained so all the way to the facility’s completion.

The Significance of Florence County’s New Judicial Center

Florence County Council Member James T. Schofield, credited as a driving force behind the project to build the Florence County Judicial Center, explained the significance of the county’s new facility.

“In 1768,” Schofield recounted, “the citizens of what is now Florence County petitioned the Royal Government in Charleston for a courthouse, saying that it was an indispensable condition of a civilized society. When they were refused one, under the leadership of Gideon Gibson of Mars Bluff, they engaged in armed conflict with British troops sent from Charleston in August that same year.

“This happened long before the ‘Shot Heard Around the World,’ the battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, in April 1775,” Schofield added. “The result of their efforts was the formation of a Circuit Court Act in 1769, which for the first time located courthouses outside Charleston. The courthouse and our legal system is the foundation that our nation and civilized society is built upon. Our court system and laws are what separates us from uncivilized anarchy. Our laws and the rule of law, in turn, are the very foundation of our nation, and the two are inseparable.”

He referenced a letter written to the editor of *The Morning News* several years ago by John Henry Waller Jr., who served as associate justice of the S.C. Supreme Court from 1994 until his retirement in 2009. A portion of the letter that Waller wrote to support the new Florence County Judicial Center project read: “The new judicial center should have a shape that imparts a sense of importance and a sense that great matters are being decided there, because there are. . . . Our courts are the very citadel of our liberty and freedom and are deeply woven into the fabric of our society.”

Schofield said Florence County Council members and county staff recognized that the county needed a new judicial center, and that they rose to meet the challenge.

“Today,” he added, “our citizens can be proud of a new state-of-the-art judicial center that is second to none in South Carolina.” ■

“Ms. King served on the selection committee that chose the architect, and she was the key contact for the county,” he added. “She also served on the Judicial Center Advisory Committee that oversaw the design of the interior spaces—not only for functionality purposes but also for the selection of carpet, wall coverings, tile and furniture. Once construction began, Ms. King was the day-to-day contact for the contractor and the architect for any issues or questions that arose. She helped keep the project on budget, and coordinated the moving of all departments from our old county complex to our new judicial center.”

Ashby Gressette, Principal and President of Stevens & Wilkinson, said the new judicial center materializes the vision of several Florence County leaders, and that the building’s design and placement will encourage further development in the downtown Florence area.

“Residents of Florence County should be proud of what their county has accomplished during these last few years of revitalization,” he added. “Simply put, I believe that this new judicial center is a balanced solution for three basic reasons: for functionality, the building provides security for court proceedings; aesthetically, as a large building, it fits well into the downtown area; and economically, it achieves maximum results on the county’s stringent budget.”




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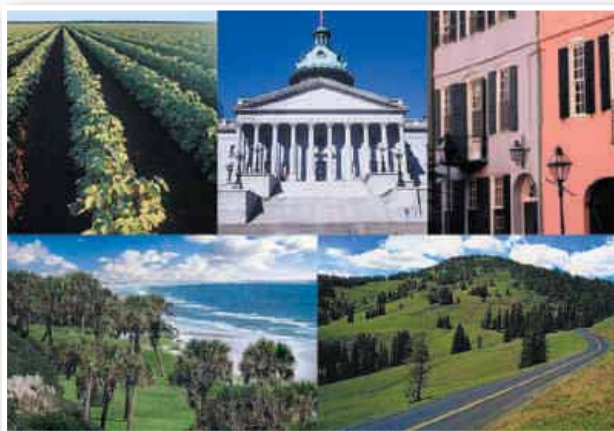


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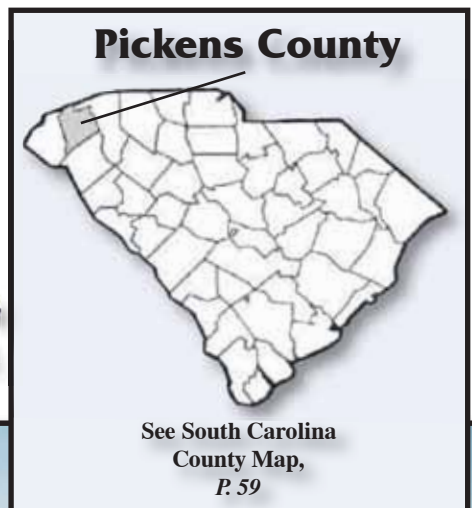
**"Developing alliances
one county at a time."**

– Deepal Eliatamby, P.E.

Pickens County Holds First Countywide Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Pickens County held its first countywide Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz on March 23, officially launching the county's first annual TeamUpAndCleanUp campaign. Designed to coincide with the county's year-long 150th anniversary celebration, the campaign is one of the most ambitious trash pick-up programs ever led by a South Carolina county.



Gathering for a group photo moments before the beginning of Pickens County's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz are some of more than 300 Pickens County employees who participated in the countywide trash pick-up on March 23. Joining for the group photo are Pickens County council members and members of the county's legislative delegation. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

More than 300 Pickens County employees volunteered after being given the day off to participate. Hundreds of residents and employees from businesses across the county, and members of Pickens County's legislative delegation joined the massive cleanup effort. Officially held from 8 a.m. to noon for county employees, the Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz—designed to encourage citizens to pick-up five pieces of trash on day five, Friday, of each week—netted a total of 34,620 pounds (17.3 tons) of trash!

“I was overwhelmed with the results of our recent countywide Five on Five anti-litter blitz, and I’m extremely optimistic about tackling any litter concerns in the county.”

— Roy Costner
Pickens County Council Chairman

“I was overwhelmed with the results of our recent countywide Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz, and I’m extremely optimistic about tackling any litter concerns in the county,” said Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner. “The success of our first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz confirms what I already knew about the people of Pickens County—that we care about our home, and we’re willing to clean it up. We just needed this

initiative and its tools.

(Continued on next page)

Anti-Litter Pep Rally

Pickens County held a pep rally for county employees at 8 a.m. the day of the county’s first Five to Five Anti-Litter Blitz to generate a little excitement and add a little fun.



Sarah Lyles, executive director of PalmettoPride, was among several speakers who addressed Pickens County employees at the pep rally.

Pickens County Council Member Ensley Feemster spoke at the pep rally.



Lisa Bryant (left), Pickens County Human Resources Director, holds the microphone for Council Chairman Roy Costner III to read one of several prize-winning door prize numbers during the pep rally. The top prize was secretly left on the side of a road somewhere in the county for a lucky volunteer to find during the Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz on March 23.



Pickens County employees begin showing up for the pep rally the county, held at 8 a.m. on March 23 at the Pickens County Performance Arts Center.

"The amount of litter we collected is impressive, but the overall participation was unprecedented," he added. "PalmettoPride, county and business employees, and our sponsors—Chick-Fil-A of Easley and Powdersville, South State Bank, and Pet Dairy—made this effort a huge success in so many ways."

PalmettoPride, South Carolina's anti-litter and beautification legislative initiative, supplied safety vests, gloves and supplies for all volunteers and cleanup supplies to use after the anti-litter pick up.

Costner believed it was extremely important to create a sense of excitement and to encourage county employees to lead Pickens County's anti-litter initiative. So, Pickens County teamed up with PalmettoPride to hold a pep rally for county employees at 8 a.m. the day of the county's first Five on Five Anti-litter Blitz. The pep rally was held at the Pickens County Performing Arts Center in Liberty.

"The amount of litter we collected is impressive, but the overall participation was unprecedented. PalmettoPride, county and business employees, and our sponsors—Chick-Fil-A of Easley and Powdersville, South State Bank, and Pet Dairy—made this effort a huge success in so many ways."

— Roy Costner

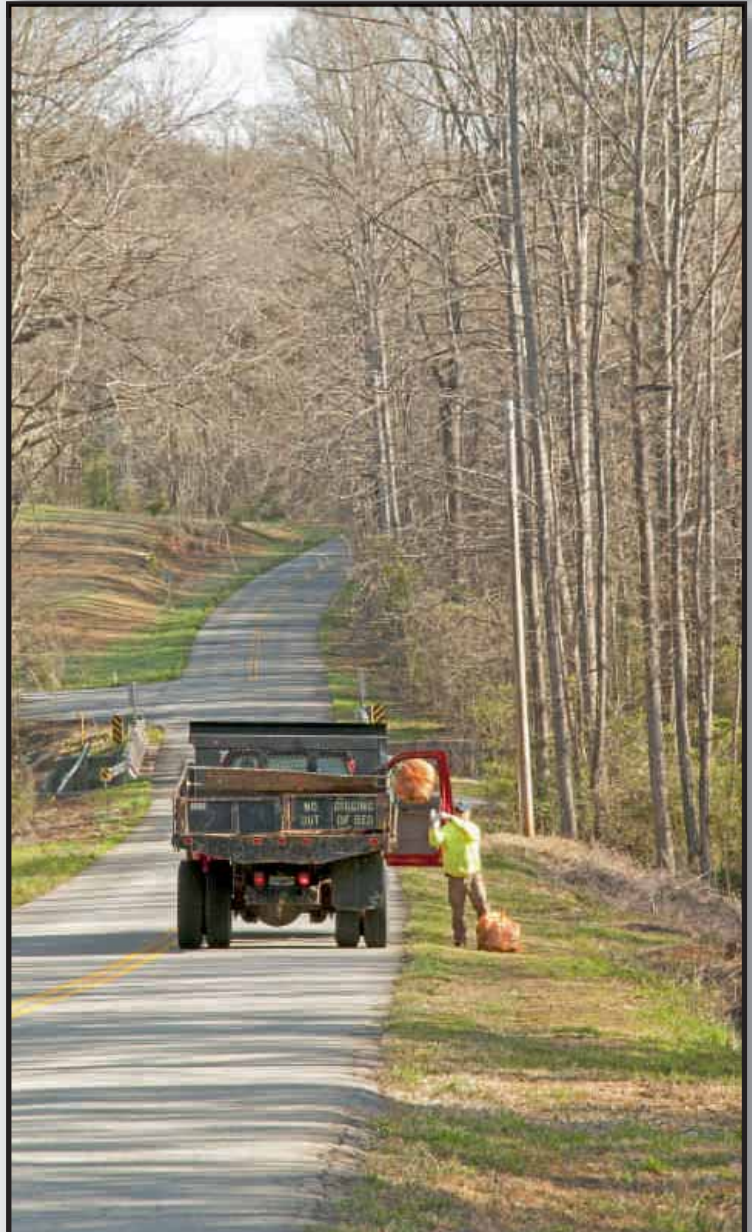
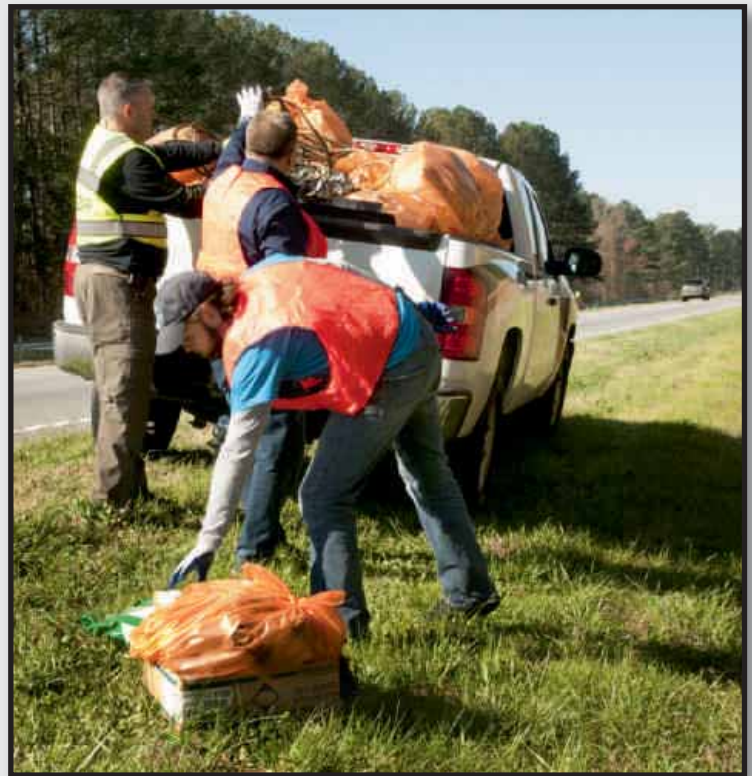
Pickens County Council Chairman

Popcorn, Chick-Fil-A sandwiches, Pet Dairy ice cream, orange juice, water and soft drinks were served. Swag bags containing Pickens County sesquicentennial hats, stickers, pens, Chick-Fil-A food promo cards, etc. were handed out to county employees and anyone else attending the rally. The event's speakers included Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner, County Administrator Gerald Wilson and Sarah Lyles, executive director of Palmetto Pride.

Pickens County provided a big incentive to help motivate everyone to participate in the county's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz—a Golden Ticket Prize, valued at \$1,000, for a three-night stay in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The prize, inserted in an envelope, was secretly dropped like litter off the shoulder of the road somewhere in the county the evening before for someone to pick up the following day. Dale Owens, a resident of Pickens County, who found the Golden Ticket while picking up litter the day of the Five on Five Anti-Litter Pickup, claimed the prize by the midnight deadline on March 24.

The county's community relations department played a key role in making the county's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz successful by creating a thorough and aggressive media outreach campaign, which officially began on March 1 and followed a scheduled timeline prior to and including the county's anti-litter blitz on March 23. The outreach campaign was led by Pickens County Community Relations Director Sharon Johnson, working closely with PalmettoPride.

(See **Anti-Litter Blitz**, P 18)





Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz

Pickens County employees, members of the state's legislative delegation and local residents participated in the county's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz on March 23. The pep rally held in the morning before the litter pick up generated excitement. As the official 8 a.m. to noon

litter pick up drew to a close, some county employees and council members took selfies.



Anti-Litter Blitz...

(Continued from P. 16)

Pickens County distributed a news release on March 1 to explain the purpose of the TeamUpAndCleanUp Campaign and announce the campaign's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz while PalmettoPride provided the campaign's graphics. PalmettoPride promoted the anti-litter blitz by targeting Pickens County residents. The county's communications department promoted the anti-litter blitz by posting a series of videos for county employees and other videos to share information with community volunteers. (*Search for Google Anti-Litter Videos on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.*)

The local media—noticing community interest in the county's anti-litter initiative on social media, especially the county's anti-litter videos—responded. The county's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz was covered in all local newspapers and on all television stations. *The Sentinel-Progress* and *Pickens County Courier* published stories before and after the event. WSPA, Channel 7 (CBS), FOX Carolina (FOX) and WYFF, News 4 (NBC) covered the event for television news and promoted it on their websites as well.

"When we decided to clean up our county before the beginning of our sesquicentennial celebrations," Costner explained, "we began looking for ideas on how to get everyone in the county excited about our upcoming year, and how we could showcase the pride we all feel for Pickens County."

"The answer came pretty quickly," he added. "If we wanted to get the entire county involved, we needed to lead by example. We also needed to develop a plan based on who could help and when. Knowing that weekends are valuable and a busy time for our employees and their families, we wanted to find a way to allow them to be involved in this tremendously worthy community project but without taking away family time."

Many county employees volunteered to help the county prepare for the blitz and to wrap up the effort afterward.

Pickens County employees focused on picking-up trash along one of the county's busiest highways, Highway 123,

running through Easley, and Highway 93, running through the communities of Liberty, Dacusville, Six Mile, Pickens and Clemson.

Sheriff Rick Clark and his deputies joined county employees cleaning up Highway 123.

County residents and business owners were asked to participate in the litter pick up, and encouraged to first clean roadways closest to their homes or businesses.

Emergency fire and EMS crews participated across the county, some members joining other county employees in the effort. Fire station employees, who provided locations for volunteers to take breaks if necessary, also operated the official litter drop off locations across the county. In fact, some essential employees in law enforcement, emergency services and court proceedings volunteered to continue the countywide clean up through the weekend.

The following Saturday, Pickens County Council Member Trey Whitehurst led a cleanup through the Six Mile community to contribute to the first countywide anti-litter blitz.

"We were extremely busy from the start of our morning litter pick up until we finished at noon on March 23," Costner said. "Coordinating the effort was a monumental task. So, several county staff members helped map out a strategy to pick up the maximum amount of litter possible."

"This first countywide anti-litter blitz was a huge beginning for our

TeamUpAndCleanUp campaign, and we know there's much more to be done," he added. "But this first effort gave us the momentum we needed to embrace cleaning up our county. We want to shift the culture by encouraging citizens in our communities to take pride in where we live and how clean it is. Our hope and prayer is that this cultural change is dominate with the next generation and those who follow."

Pickens County is posting social media blasts every Friday to promote the weekly Five on Five Anti-Litter blitzes across the county to maintain the momentum generated by the success of county's first anti-litter blitz. The county is also promoting weekly clean-up efforts prior to and during holiday events and festivals.

(See Anti-Litter Blitz, P. 20)



Members of Pickens County's legislative delegation participated in the county's first countywide Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz on March 23. Shown left to right are: Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner; Council Vice Chairman Chris Bowers; Rep. Gary E. Clary (District 3); Pickens County Council Member Ensley Feemster; Rep. Neal A. Collins (District 5); and Rep. David R. Hiott (District 4).



Litter stops here in Pickens.

Thank you for your efforts to pick up Pickens County!



Anti-Litter Blitz...

(Continued from P. 18)

"We're always looking for other events or ways to 'talk trash,'" said Costner.

Costner's reputation for "talking trash" and his county's recent anti-litter blitz prompted the S.C. Litter Control Association and PalmettoPride to ask him to speak to state legislators at the State House on April 11 to help kick off of this year's Zero Tolerance for Litter campaign. The Zero Tolerance campaign is an annual event that unites law enforcement officers in a dual-mission campaign to enforce state and local litter laws and to educate the public on the effects of litter in their communities.

"I was proud to represent Pickens County and share the success of our event, and join state leaders to support the statewide anti-litter initiative," Costner said. "As for Pickens County, we will definitely team up our county employees to clean up our county again next year. We'll be looking for ways to make our county's anti-litter TeamUpAndCleanUp campaign bigger and better, and more successful. We'll also be looking for ways to partner with neighboring counties to create something even bigger for this coming fall and next spring.

"God has blessed us with the most beautiful place on earth," he added. "The people who live here know this, and they want to keep it this way. Because of the people who live here, I believe we're on the cusp of something extraordinary."

Pickens County Administrator Gerald Wilson expressed similar sentiments. He said Pickens County, with its mountains and lakes, is a beautiful place to live. But he noted that the county's residents had long recognized that the county's litter problem was hurting its image.

"During Pickens County's upcoming sesquicentennial celebration events," Wilson explained, "we'll honor our county's past as we embrace and prepare for our county's future.

"One of our future goals is to grow our economy," he added. "Tourism can be a vital part of our economy if we plan for it, and this includes county beautification. Our TeamUpAndCleanUp anti-litter campaign is our first big step, because we needed to

clean up our county before inviting others here to celebrate our county's 150th anniversary with us."

Sarah Lyles of PalmettoPride congratulated Pickens County employees for volunteering to participate in the county's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz, and told them that they provided an example for county employees in other counties to follow. She also applauded Pickens County for the success of the county's first anti-litter blitz and for launching the county's year-long TeamUpAndCleanUp Campaign.

"Pickens County's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz

was largely successful," Lyles explained, "because of the enthusiasm and leadership of the county's top-tier officials like Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner; the county's tourism director, Jay Pitts; and County Administrator Gerald Wilson.

"The relationship between how county, municipal and state administrations handle litter and a community's appearance, and how people treat their communities are linked," she added. "If all of our government officials made community health an important issue, we would then see changes in behavior across the board.

"Why should a litterbug," Lyles asked, "care about throwing out trash if those in charge don't care?"

She encouraged other county leaders in South Carolina to care, and to look at what Pickens County recently accomplished. Lyles also said that PalmettoPride

is willing to partner with any county in the state that wants to create a similar anti-litter program.



NOTE: The National Association of Counties (NACo) notified Pickens County in May that it had granted the county a NACo Achievement Award for its newly-launched annual TeamUpAndCleanUp Campaign, including its weekly Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitzes. The county received the national award in the category recognizing county resiliency; infrastructure, energy and sustainability. The NACo Achievement Award honors innovative, effective county programs that strengthen services for residents.

"Tourism can be a vital part of our economy if we plan for it, and this includes county beautification. Our TeamUpAndCleanUp anti-litter campaign is our first big step, because we needed to clean up our county before inviting others here to celebrate our county's 150th anniversary with us."

— Roy Costner
Pickens County Council Chairman



Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner is interviewed shortly after the official end of Pickens County's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz.

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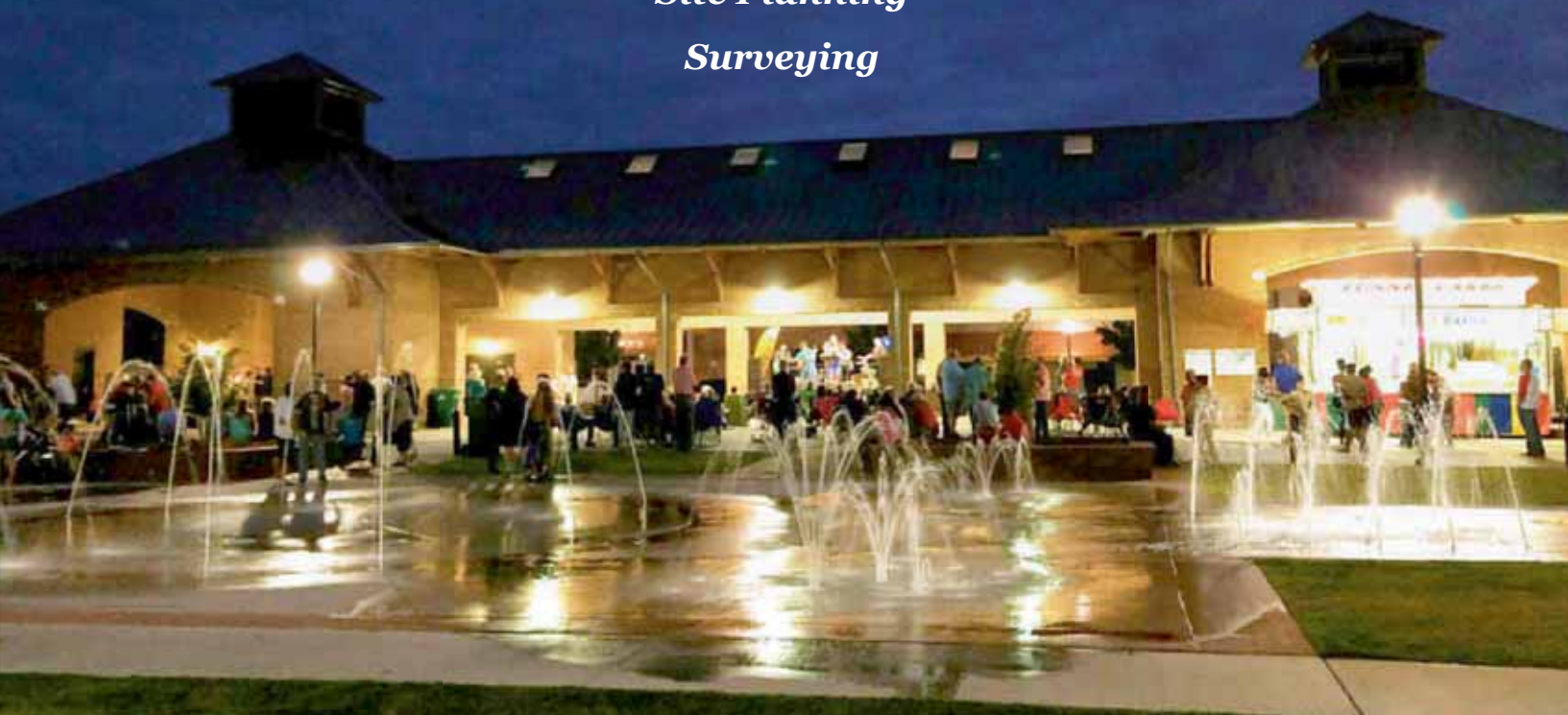
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- *To promote more efficient county governments*
- *To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government*
- *To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials*
- *To promote and encourage education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

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Need Information? Visit SCAC's Website at www.SCCounties.org

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

Visitors to [SCCounties.org](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 29 or SCAC's website to obtain respective email addresses.

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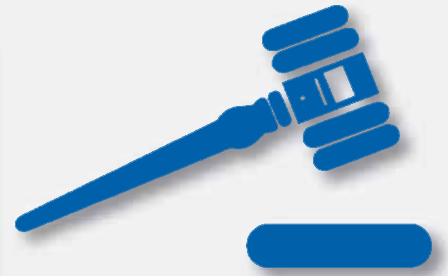
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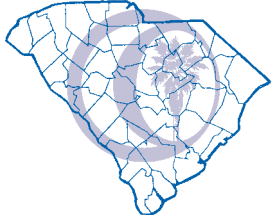
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WHAT IS THE SCAC?

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.



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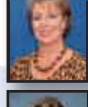
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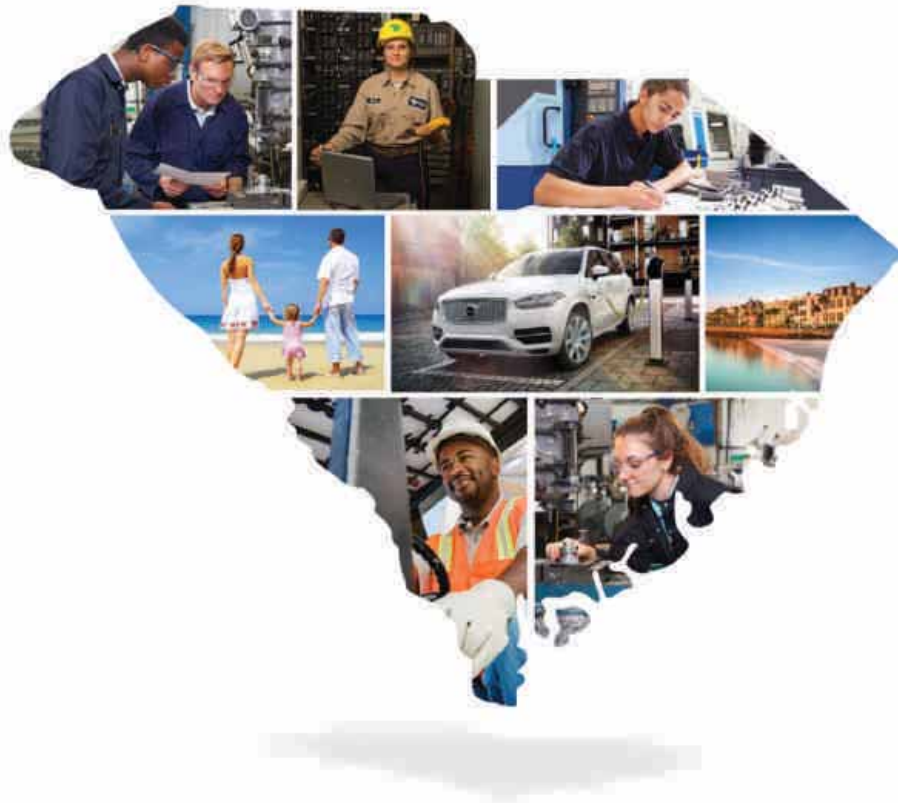
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History of the Trusts

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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Florence County
Council Member



Gonza L. Bryant
Greenwood County
Council Member

Insurance Trusts Hold Annual Membership Meeting

The South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and the South Carolina Counties Property & Liability Trust held the annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting on January 24 and 25 in Myrtle Beach. The 137 county officials in attendance heard from several speakers on a variety of risk management topics. At the conclusion of the meeting, risk management awards were presented to several counties.

Robert Collins began the meeting by recognizing Pickens Williams for his many years of service on the Boards of both Trusts. Pickens is retiring in 2018. Collins explained that the purpose of the Annual Membership Meeting is to educate and engage risk managers, county administrators and County Council in the shared challenge of building and maintaining an effective risk management program that will protect a county's assets as well as maximize safety and security for their employees and residents.

Collins stated that an experience modification factor is analogous to a credit score, but for workers' compensation. Risk managers were thanked for their hard work which is evidenced by the average trust-wide 1.00 experience modification factor for the 2017-18 policy term.

Next, Angela Pinson, Director of Safety and Risk Management at Berkeley County Government, explained the importance of communication and accountability. Pinson began by stating that she tracks claims closely because "you have to know where you have been—your loss history—in order to get where you want to be—having a successful risk management program."

She presented a series of Excel worksheets that she created and that are used to communicate claims information to supervisors, sheriff, county council and department heads. These

(Continued on next page)



Insurance Trusts Annual Membership Meeting, Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach, Jan. 24



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County
Council Chairman



Gary M. Mixon
Sumter County
Administrator



Debra B. Summers
Lexington County
Council Chairman



Steve Willis
Lancaster County
Administrator



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



Barnwell County Administrator F. Pickens Williams Jr. (center) recently retired after serving for many years as a board member for the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust. This photo, showing Robert C. Collins, Director of Insurance Services (left), and John D. Henderson, Director of Risk Management Services (right), was taken shortly after Williams was recognized for his service at the beginning of the Trusts' Annual Membership Meeting.

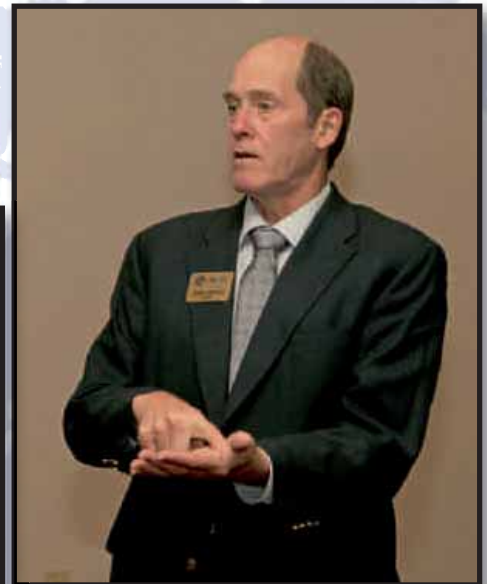
Insurance Staff Members Discuss Risk Management Issues



Robert C. Collins, CPCU, CIC
Director of Insurance Services
SCCWCT and SCCP<



Lang C. Kelly, ARM, AIC
Claims Manager
SCCWCT



John V. Jervy, AIC
Claims Manager
SCCP<



John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM
Director of Risk Management Services
SCCWCT and SCCP<



Pam S. Collins, ARM
Program Coordinator
SCCWCT



Robert E. Benfield, ARM
Risk Manager
SCCWCT and SCCP<

Excel spreadsheets tell her “where she has been” and are used to fine tune her risk management attention. She cautioned the audience to be especially careful with confidential information.

Daniel Plyler, Davidson & Lindemann, PA, next provided a presentation on “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.” He stated that there has been an incredible surge of attention to sexual harassment after recent, highly publicized scandals. Plyler mentioned that the #TIMESUP movement seeks to 1) introduce new legislation to penalize companies that “tolerate persistent harassment” and 2) encourage gender parity. He anticipates an increase in claims alleging sexual

harassment across all industries.

Part of the #TIMESUP movement has been the creation of a legal defense fund that “will provide subsidized legal support to women and men who have experienced sexual harassment, assault, or abuse in the workplace and while in pursuit of their careers. The Fund will ultimately be housed at and administered by the National Women’s Law Center, an established, national women’s rights legal organization. A network of lawyers and public relations professionals across the country will work with the Center’s Legal Network for Gender Equity to provide assistance to those ready to stand up. Access to prompt and comprehensive legal and communications help will mean empowerment for these individuals and long term growth for our culture and communities as a whole.”

Finally, Plyler suggested that now is a good time for risk managers and HR professionals to:

- 1) review the applicable case law and guidelines on what sexual

harassment is,

- 2) revise, if needed, your policies on sexual harassment, as well as your procedures relating to reporting and investigating complaints, and
- 3) retrain, if needed, all employees on your policies and procedures relating to sexual harassment.

A risk management roundtable discussion was also held as the final component of the agenda on day one, which carried over into day two’s opening. This year, the roundtable session panel participants included Van Henson (SCLLR/OSHA), Daniel Plyler, Angela Pinson and Terry Booker, Risk Manager at Spartanburg County Government. This segment opened the discussion to a wide range of topics of interest to risk managers, administrators and county council members. Topics ranged from Vehicle Accident Review Boards to certificates of insurance. The importance of having concise and clearly written job descriptions

(Continued on next page)

Speakers Provide Updates on Employment Issues and Recent OSHA Developments



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*Photos by
Stuart Morgan*

Panelists Discuss Topics of Interest to County Risk Managers, Administrators and Council Members



Angela Pinson
*Director of Safety and Risk Management
Berkeley County*



Van Henson
*Training and Education Supervisor
SCLLR/OSHA*



Daniel Plyler
*Attorney
Davidson & Lindemann, PA*



A roundtable panel discussion was held to address a wide range of topics of interest to risk managers, administrators and county council members. Participating as panelists in the discussion were: (left to right) Terry Booker, Risk Manager, Spartanburg County; Van Henson, Training and Education Supervisor, SCLLR/OSHA; Angela Pinson, Director of Safety and Risk Management, Berkeley County Government; and Daniel Plyler, Attorney with Davidson & Lindemann, PA.

was emphasized. For example, the written job description should include the weight limit that a convenience center employee should be expected to lift without causing an injury.

On the second day of the meeting, Robert Benfield and John Henderson provided an update on areas of risk management on which all members of the Trust should focus. Benfield reminded the audience that preventing one vehicle accident may actually prevent three claims including a workers compensation claim, an auto physical damage claim and an auto liability claim. He also pointed out that law enforcement personnel receive significantly more training on firearms that are used only occasionally as compared to driver training in spite of the fact that vehicles are used daily.

Benfield also provided an update on law enforcement

liability, one of today's most popular topics. Not unexpectedly, he enunciated that law enforcement has significantly more claims than detention centers, EMS and firefighting activities. Benfield then displayed a chart that showed motor vehicle accidents account for seven times the amount of claims as compared to the next category which is law enforcement liability. Again, this is not surprising as law enforcement officers are on the road 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(See Trusts, P. 40)

Photos of Risk Management Award Winners for 2017 Shown on Pages 38-39.

County Officials Ask Questions and Explain What Works in Their Counties



Stephen O. Edwards, Director of Finance and Administration, Williamsburg County



Ed Salyer, Risk Manager, Lexington County



Nannette Powell, Human Resources Manager/Safety Coordinator, Horry County Solid Waste



Doretta Elliott, Bamberg County Assessor/Risk Manager



Linwood Vereen, Risk Manager, Horry County



Charles Pinson, Safety Director, Anderson County

Lynden Anthony, Chief Financial Officer, Clarendon County



Chris Murrin, Human Resources Director, Lexington County

2017 Risk Management Award Winners

Outstanding Safety Achievement Awards

Berkeley County
Horry County
Horry County Solid Waste Authority
Kershaw County
Lancaster County
Oconee County
Spartanburg County

Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Awards

Berkeley County
Horry County
Lancaster County
Spartanburg County

Service Award

Terry Booker, Spartanburg County

Best Experience Modifier

Abbeville County
1st Runner Up - Chester County & Greenwood County (tie)
2nd Runner Up – Spartanburg County

Workers' Compensation Lag Time Awards for Counties

1st Place – Lancaster County
2nd Place – Marlboro County
3rd Place – Anderson County

Non-County Entities - Workers' Compensation Lag Time Awards

1st Place – Berkeley County Water & Sanitation
2nd Place – Horry County Solid Waste Authority
3rd Place – Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority

Property and Liability Lag Time Awards

1st Place – Sumter County
2nd Place – Fairfield County
3rd Place – Greenwood County

County governments have long recognized that investment in risk management and safety programs is an effective stewardship of tax payer dollars. Risk management also supports a healthy and safe workplace.

Risk Management Award Winners for 2017



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Berkeley County are: (left to right) Patricia Travis, Insurance Specialist; Angela Pinson, Director of Safety and Risk Management; Bidd Smith, Safety Specialist; and Jerry Crolley, Safety Superintendent. They also accepted a Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award for Berkeley County.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) is Nannette Powell, Human Resources Manager/Safety Coordinator. She also accepted a 2nd Place Workers' Compensation Lag Time Award for the Horry County SWA.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Kershaw County is Barry Catoe, Risk Manager.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Horry County are: (left to right) Linwood Vereen, Risk Manager; Shelly Moore, Safety Manager; and Allison Mackey, Workers' Compensation Claims Manager. They also accepted a Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award for Horry County.



► Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Lancaster County is Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager. He also accepted Sustained Excellence in Risk Management and Workers' Compensation Lag Time awards.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Oconee County is Debbie Smith, Risk Manager.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Spartanburg County is Terry Booker, Risk Manager. Booker, who received a Service Award, also accepted a Sustained Excellence in Risk Management and 2nd Runner Up Experience Modifier awards for Spartanburg County.



Chester County and Greenwood County tied for the 1st Runner Up Experience Modifier Award. Robert Hall, Chester County Maintenance Director, accepted Chester County's award.



Accepting a 3rd Place Workers' Compensation Lag Time Award for Three Rivers Solid Waste is Charles Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman.

▼ Accepting the Best Experience Modifier Award for Abbeville County are: (left to right) David Garner, County Director; and Barry Devore, Finance Director.



Accepting a Workers' Compensation 3rd Place Workers' Compensation Lag Time Award for Anderson County is Charles Pinson, Safety Director.



Accepting a 2nd Place Workers' Compensation Lag Time Award for Malboro County is Grover McQueen, Human Resources Director/Risk Manager.



◀ Accepting a 1st Place Workers' Compensation Lag Time Award for Berkeley County Solid Waste and Sanitation is Jerry Crolley, Safety Superintendent.



Accepting the 1st Place Property and Liability Lag Time Award for Sumter County are: (left to right) Eric Hayes, Emergency Management Director; Donna Dew, Emergency Management; and James McCain, Council Chairman.

Trusts ...

(Continued from P. 36)

Benfield next recommended that all first responders should carry Narcan, which is a life-saving antidote for opioid overdoses. He explained ways for county personnel to protect themselves from exposure to fentanyl by wearing gloves and never field testing suspected fentanyl.

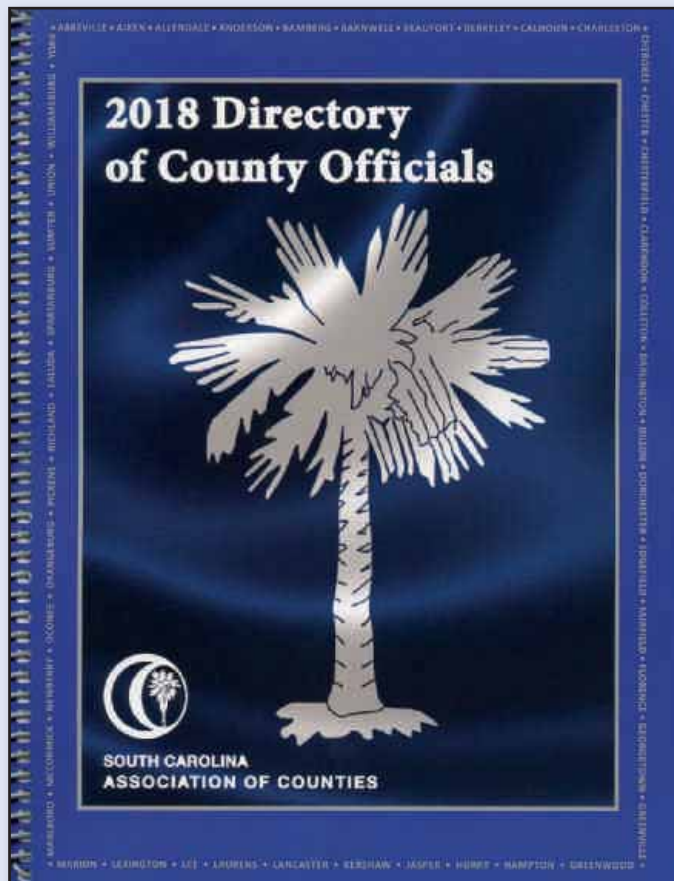
John Henderson shared the importance of implementing the basic risk management standards that address accident reporting, accident investigations, return-to-work programs, directing medical care and completing the annual self-audit. The value of using transitional work for injured workers was stressed as an effective means to reduce costs and recovery time. Henderson reiterated that all First Reports of Injury should be submitted to Ariel within three days of the member's knowledge of an accident. All accidents should be investigated using the Accident Investigation Form found at <http://www.sccounties.org/trust-forms>. All members should complete a self-audit annually of the risk management program.

Next Van Henson, SC OSHA, gave an update on recent OSHA developments.

The final segment of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of risk management awards. Many counties were

recognized for their successful efforts to preserve county assets.

The complete listing of risk management awards is listed on page 37.



South Carolina's 2018 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's 2018 *Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

The directory identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's officers, board of directors and corporate supporters; regional councils of government; federal and state officials; and state senators and representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

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

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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 Jervey, AIC
Property & Liability Claims Manager
since 1997
jjervey@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

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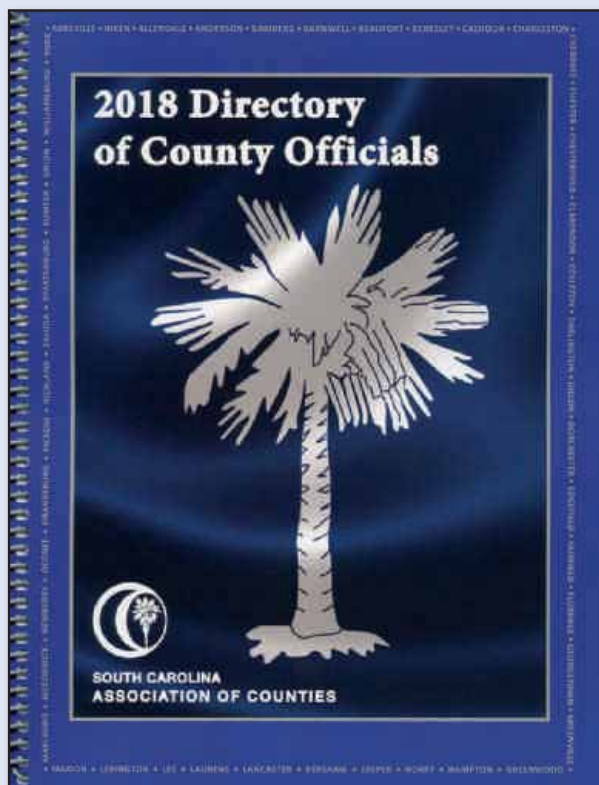
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Too Much of a Bad Thing: Municipalities and the Opioid Curse

Read this excellent article which discusses in-depth the history of the opioid crisis, the status of the federal Multi-District Litigation and notable state court actions, various issues to consider in assessing litigation strategies, and possible remedial actions.

Written by IMLA Assistant General Counsel/Editor Erich Eiselt, the piece was published in the March-April 2018 Issue of Municipal Lawyer, the Journal of Local Government Law. As a courtesy and for the benefit of County Focus Magazine's readers, IMLA has provided the following link to Mr. Eiselt's article:

http://imla.org/images/links/Too_Much_of_a_Bad_Thing-5-14-2018.pdf



"Too Much of a Bad Thing: Municipalities and the Opioid Curse" explains how the Frederick Purdue Company, a little-known pharmaceutical enterprise originally headquartered in New York City's West Village, developed a novel long-release oxycodone drug in 1996. Purdue's discovery coincided with an emerging American obsession about treating pain, and its product, OxyContin, skyrocketed to success via a marketing campaign that repeatedly understated the dangers of long-term opioid use.

Over the next two decades, billions of tablets of Purdue's OxyContin—and many similarly addictive pain remedies—were delivered into the nation's municipalities without adequate safeguards. The resulting toll has been immense, with 64,000 dead from overdose in 2016 alone and more than two million Americans now addicted. In many communities, law enforcement, social services, EMS and other resources have been stretched to the

breaking point.

As of June 2018, more than 700 cities, counties, tribes and hospitals have filed suit against the opioid makers, distributors, prescribers and retailers in federal court, all of which are now encompassed in the National Prescription Opiate Litigation MDL (17-md-2804) before Judge Dan Polster in Ohio's Northern District. Scores of other cases are making their way through state courts. At stake are potential billions in compensation. The decision about whether and where a municipality should file a complaint in the opioid litigation is daunting, but one which many municipal attorneys must be prepared to make.

About IMLA

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

IMLA Offers Podcasts and Longer, More-In-Depth Programming

IMLA recently began offering podcasts. During the week, short programs discuss some interesting facts, news items or cases that local government leaders will find relevant and interesting.

IMLA also offers longer, more in-depth programming on topics associated with local government policy and legal issues. IMLA podcasts can be accessed through iTunes or SoundCloud. In addition, IMLA has formed an Opioid Litigation Work Group that regularly discusses ongoing developments.

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

For more information on membership, programs or getting involved with IMLA, contact Chuck Thompson at:

cthompson@imla.org

Or call him at (202) 742-1016.

A Roadside Guide to Berkeley County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

Part 1

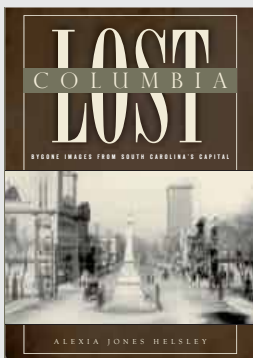
By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

So much heavy fighting occurred during the American War for Independence in the area of present day Berkeley County that it will require two issues of County Focus Magazine to explain the county's role during the war. This is part 1. Part 2 will be published in the next issue of the magazine (summer, Vol. 29, No. 2).

“Historic Berkeley County, although established in 1882, has its roots in one of South Carolina's original counties. The

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

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



Lost Columbia is available in bookstores such as Barnes & Noble, from Amazon.com, or by mail from AJH Historical Enterprises, P.O. Box 3683, Irmo, SC 29063.

Berkeley County



See South Carolina
 County Map,
 P. 59



SLC
 Berkeley County's
 Role in the
 American War
 for Independence



name of the first Berkeley County, created in 1682, honors two of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina—John and William Berkeley. Berkeley, with its proximity to the capital of Charlestown, was the site of a number of military engagements during the American Revolution.

The Battle of Monck's Corner

The first major military battle

in present-day Berkeley County occurred on April 14, 1780. The Battle of Monck's Corner, also known as the Battle of Biggin Church, was a disaster for besieged Continental troops in Charlestown. Biggin Church was the parish church of St. John Berkeley. Revolutionary leaders such as Henry Laurens, vice-president of South Carolina and one-time president of the Continental Congress and General William Moultrie were parish



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vestrymen.

British forces included regular army troops led by General Henry Clinton, leader of the ground troops besieging the capital, and a large Loyalist contingent. Loyalist forces included the Loyalist British Legion, under the command of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, as well as other units led by Major Patrick Ferguson, of Kings Mountain fame, and Col. James Webster.

Brig. Gen. Isaac Huger commanded the Patriot troops stationed at Monck's Corner. General Benjamin Lincoln, commander of the Continental Army in the South, detached Huger and a force of cavalry with dragoons and North Carolina militia to defend Biggin Bridge near Monck's Corner.

The superior British force of 650 surprised and defeated the Patriots who numbered about 500. Unfortunately, Huger and the Patriot contingent had not posted guards and were caught unawares. Patriot casualties included 20 killed or wounded and 67 captured. Perhaps three British soldiers were wounded. Despite the Patriot losses, most of the troops including Huger and Washington escaped. But the British captured Patriot horses and supply wagons and severed General Benjamin Lincoln's communication lines with the interior. Lincoln, the commander of the continental army, was desperately trying to defend Charlestown. The British had mounted a land and sea attack on April 2, 1780 and were slowly drawing their net tighter around the embattled city. The British victory at Monck's Corner closed a possible avenue of escape for the beleaguered Continental troops and was a precursor to the British capture of Charlestown in May 1780—a dark day for South Carolina Patriots.

Battle of Lenud's Ferry

On May 6, 1780, Tarleton and the Loyalist British Legion encountered Patriot forces at Lenud's Ferry, a crossing on the Santee River. The Patriots involved in this engagement were veterans of the Battle of Monck's Corner. After that defeat, these men regrouped and joined a company of Virginia dragoons. Colonel Anthony Walton White commanded the

dragoons. White and his men captured a number of British soldiers in a raid near Awendaw Creek and then marched with their prisoners to Lenud's Ferry on the Santee River. At the ferry, White planned to rendezvous with other Patriot cavalry detachments.

Unfortunately, Tarleton was patrolling in the area. Loyalist spies alerted him to the Patriot location and activities. Tarleton's force then completely surprised the unprepared Patriots, killed and wounded more than 40 of them and took 67 prisoner. He also freed the British prisoners and seized Patriot supplies, arms and highly-prized horses. According to Tarleton, some of the Patriot force abandoned their horses and escaped by swimming the river, but others drowned in the effort. The battle was a major British victory. Tarleton's attack destroyed virtually all of the American cavalry.

Wantoot Plantation

On January 30, 1781, Captain Daniel Conyers with a small force from the Kingstree militia surprised a much larger British force near Wantoot Plantation on the Santee River. The Patriots used their advantage and captured 46 soldiers as well as several wagons loaded with supplies, included much-needed salt. Today, the

site of Wantoot Plantation is covered by Lake Moultrie.

Wadboo Bridge and Monck's Corner, Again

The following day, there were other supply train raids in the neighborhood. Seeking to damage British supply lines and bases, Brigadier General Francis Marion had dispatched several patrols. One of these, commanded by Captain John Postell, Jr., successfully attacked a supply train, captured the British escort and destroyed valuable supplies of rum. According to Tarleton Brown, Postell and his troops safely delivered the supplies and prisoners. Postell's command included several companies of militia from Kingstree and elsewhere.

Later that same day, Postell and his men attacked a supply depot near Monck's Corner with equal success. The Patriot force captured more than 25 British soldiers, burned some supply wagons and retired without loss with their prisoners and a number of heavily loaded wagons.

(See Berkeley County, next page)

HIDDEN HISTORY OF GREENVILLE COUNTY

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT...
the person for whom Paris Mountain was named?
the man who bought the town of Pleasantburg?
the time when Greenville was the
capital of South Carolina?

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

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- An invitation to register at the group rate to attend SCAC's Annual Conference each year, and
- An exhibitors' notice around April 1 each year that provides an opportunity on a "first-come, first-served" basis to lease exhibit space at SCAC's Annual Conference.

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For more information about the SCAC or to join, please contact:

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Association of Counties**
Attn.: Public Information Director
P.O. Box 8207
Columbia, S.C. 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255

E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc

Berkeley County ...

(Continued from previous page)

July 1781

The month of July 1781 was a particularly dangerous time to be in Berkeley County. British and American troops clashed frequently as the occupied colony struggled to regain its independence. Engagements included minor skirmishes such as Goose Creek Bridge, the parish church of St. James Goose Creek, Strawberry Ferry, as well as larger engagement, such as Biggin Bridge, Quinby Bridge and Shubrick's Plantation.

In the summer of 1781, Brigadier General Thomas Sumter, the Gamecock, dispatched troops to challenge British efforts to supply Charlestown and disrupt communications between the interior and the capital.

Colonel Wade Hampton and his men challenged the British on several occasions. On 15 July 1781 he seized control of Goose Creek Bridge. From there he moved onto the parish church of St. James Goose Creek where he captured a number of Loyalists in the church. He paroled the Loyalists, but took several horses for military use. Hampton's troops included state troops and militia.

Hampton continued his raids and near Strawberry Ferry learned that two British vessels had landed. When Hampton arrived, most of the British were ashore gathering foodstuffs such as beans and corn. Hampton's men captured and burned the ships loaded with indigo and then intercepted the soldiers whom he paroled. Hampton's efforts undermined the confidence of the British in Charlestown and prevented needed supplies of food from reaching the city.



NOTE: *Part 2 of Berkeley County's Role in the American War for Independence will be published in the next Roadside Guide column, scheduled to be published in the summer issue of County Focus Magazine (Vol. 29, No. 2).*

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County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 59

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

Bamberg County

● On April 14, 2018, Bamberg County hosted its first Patriotic Parade to commemorate the reunion of Carlisle Military School alumni, to honor local veterans and as a kickoff to the groundbreaking for the new Bamberg County Veterans Memorial Trail. A flyover by Celebrate Freedom Foundation's COBRA helicopter, *Maggie*, kicked off the parade. The Special Forces Association Parachute Team parachuted into the Ness Sports Complex. Military equipment was displayed, food trucks were available, and tethered balloon rides were provided. Following the parade, a groundbreaking was held for the Bamberg County Veterans Memorial Trail on Railroad Ave., between Cannon and Faust Streets.

● Keep Bamberg County Beautiful (KBCB) sponsored a Bamberg County Cleanup Blitz from April 21 to 28. Residents were encouraged to gather friends, family, and community groups to participate in removing litter from the county. Participants were encouraged to choose a location anywhere in the county to conduct a litter clean-up. KBCB suggested areas that needed to be cleaned up and provided trash bags, plastic gloves, safety vests and litter sticks. Litter pickups, which reported to KBCB, were eligible to enter a raffle on May 4.

● Bamberg County Council Member **Sharon Hammond** introduced a Women's History Resolution at the county council meeting on March 5 to honor the progress women have made and the challenges that still exist. Bamberg County Council unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

March was designated as National Women's History Month in 1987.

Hammond recently hosted an Elected Officials Women's Day working luncheon in the county's gazebo directly across from the county's new courthouse to create stronger relationships and strengthen partnerships between the female elected officials in Bamberg County. All local elected women officials—mayors, council members, school board members and county officials—were invited to the luncheon.

● **Mallory Biering**, Keep South Carolina Beautiful Director, recognized **Jerry Bell**, Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce

Director, on Feb. 22. Bell was awarded the Outstanding Program Award at the Keep SC Beautiful annual conference in Myrtle Beach. The award recognizes an outstanding program in South Carolina that creates and protects a cleaner community or that enhances the beauty of a public space. Bell was nominated for his outstanding work to promote the Bamberg County portion of the Edisto River and his efforts to clean up the county's four boat landings on the river.

Bell, a retired teacher, now serves as Director of the Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce.

● The South Carolina Litter Control Association (SCLA) recognized Bamberg County Litter Enforcement Officer **Farrell Pulaski** on February 22. Officer Pulaski was awarded the Lower Region Individual Leadership Award during the SCLA's annual conference in Myrtle Beach. The award recognizes outstanding leadership to the cause of litter awareness, enforcement, and pickup programs in South Carolina.

Pulaski began working for Bamberg County in April 2017 after retiring as game warden from the S.C. Department of Natural Resources in 2012. He now serves as the county's only full-time Litter Enforcement officer.

● Bamberg County Sheriff's Department announced recently hired **Kelly Jo Lawson** to serve as the new Victim Advocate Coordinator. Lawson will be responsible for offering information and support to victims and witnesses of violent crimes, and will advocate for those in the criminal justice system.

Lawson moved to Bamberg County from Charleston, where she worked as permit coordinator for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. She received an associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Midlands Technical College. She also previously worked for the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and the Crossroads Center Postal Unit.

● Bamberg County Voter Registration Board of Elections announced in February the hiring of **Melinda Johnson** as Director of Voter Registration and Elections. Johnson was a clerk in the Bamberg County Voter Registration and Election department.

The Bamberg County Board of Elections consists of seven community members. The state delegation recommends the members to the Governor, who appoints the members to four-year terms.

Johnson began working as a clerk in the county's Department of Voter Registration and Elections in September 2016, after working in other county departments. She previously worked for 17 years in banking and

★ *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 |
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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.

was also a small business owner.

● Bamberg County announced at the February 5 county council meeting that **Candace Fralix** was the first winner of the county's Employee of the Quarter award. The award spotlights excellent employees who contribute to making Bamberg County a great place to live and work. It recognizes employees who exemplify Bamberg County's commitment to high standards of service and professionalism.

Fralix, Bamberg County Deputy Treasurer, was recognized for her excellence in the Treasurer's Department, her professionalism with the public and helpfulness with her coworkers. She began working for Bamberg County in 2010, left for a short time, and returned as a clerk in the Treasurer's Office in 2012. She was promoted to Deputy Treasurer in June 2017.

Barnwell County

● **Deloris Charlton**, County Detention Center Administrator, retired on June 23, 2017.

Gloria Myers, Detention Center Sergeant, retired on July 9, 2017.

Wendall P. Gibson Jr., Treasurer, retired on Aug. 31, 2017.

Janice Bates, Magistrate Court Clerk, retired on January 31.

Pickens Williams Jr. retired as county administrator on February 28.

Barnwell County hired **Timothy R. Bennett** as county administrator on March 12.

Charleston County

● Charleston County government held seven public workshops in different areas of the county from March 19 to 29 to gather input on proposed amendments to the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan as part of the plan's 10-year update of the plan.

The county's comprehensive plan is an expression of the county's intent for where and how future growth and development should occur. The plan identifies parts of the county that may or may not be appropriate for certain types of growth, given the Lowcountry's unique character and natural conditions.

The public had an opportunity to provide input on the proposed amendments to the plan during workshops. Participants were encouraged to submit comments and suggestions before leaving the workshops, and to view and submit comments and suggestions on the county's website at <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/zoning-planning/comp-plan.php>.

Title 6, Chapter 29 of the *South Carolina*

Code of Laws requires that the comprehensive plan be reviewed at least once every five years and updated at least once every 10 years. County Council adopted the original comprehensive plan on Apr. 20, 1999. The first five-year review was adopted on Nov. 18, 2003. The first 10-year update was adopted on Nov. 18, 2008. The second five-year review was completed in October 2013 and

implemented in January 2015.

The Charleston County Planning Commission reviewed all 10 elements of the plan during 2017, and now is in the process of presenting proposed amendments to the public.

● Charleston County Council Chairman **A. Victor Rawl**, City of Charleston Mayor
(Continued on next page)



Webcasts & Webinars for 2018

Webcasts and webinars will be published on this calendar when scheduled. So, please check this calendar often.

For more information, please contact Anna Berger, SCAC, at (803) 252-7255 or aberger@scac.sc. Or visit SCAC's website at: <http://www.sccounties.org/education-training>

SCAC's 2018 Conference Calendar

Aug. 4-5
Aug. 5-8

Institute of Government
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

Aug. 16

Setoff Debt/GEAR
Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia

TBD

Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers, Etc.

Oct. 24
Oct. 25

Institute of Government
County Council Coalition
Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia

Nov. 16

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

Nov. 29-Dec. 1

Legislative Conference
Renaissance, Charleston

Dec. 11

Newly-Elected Council Member Orientation
Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia

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



July 13-16

NACo's 2018 Conference Calendar

Annual Conference and Exposition
Nashville, Tenn.

John Tecklenburg, and the Charleston County Transportation Development staff invited the public to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the SC-7 at SC-61 Intersection Improvements Project. The goal of the SC-7 (Sam Rittenberg Boulevard) / SC-61 (Ashley River Road) Intersection Improvements Project is to improve safety and provide relief from traffic congestion experienced at the intersection. The improvements extend along SC-61 from Wallace School Road to Wappoo Road and along SC-7 from Gardner Road to Wappoo Road.

● **Judge Irv Condon** and **Judge Tamara Curry** were honored to have **Anita Zucker**, Chair and CEO of The InterTech Group, Inc., deliver the Ninth Judicial Circuit Adult Drug Court commencement address on April 4 at the Charleston County Judicial Center.

Drug Courts, nationwide, have proven to be an innovative alternative for individuals caught up in the cycle of re-arrests due to an addiction to drugs and alcohol. The Ninth Judicial Circuit (Charleston and Berkeley Counties) Adult Drug Court, which started in 1998, provides a cost-effective alternative to traditional prosecution and incarceration of nonviolent offenders with substance abuse problems.

The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and personal responsibility through accountability. Participants plea to an average prison term of five years before entering the program, which takes at least 15 months to complete. To graduate from the program, participants must have a job and/or studying to complete their education, pay restitution, attend weekly counseling sessions, meet treatment goals, be subject to random daily drug testing, pay \$30 weekly toward the cost of the program, have a sponsor, and attend self-help meetings. Incentives and sanctions are used to mold behavior.

● On April 18, the Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center went live with **911HelpMe.com**—a dedicated website for citizens to report emergencies. Citizens should use **911HelpMe.com** only when they are unable to contact 9-1-1 by a voice call or text to 9-1-1.

This is how the new system works: If a citizen cannot call or text to 9-1-1 but has internet access, they enter **911HelpMe.com** into their browser; fill out the required information—address and nature of the emergency; and provide their contact information. They can attach photos, but they cannot attach videos. Dispatchers then send the appropriate public safety agency to the citizen's location.

Clarendon County

● Clarendon County has provided the following service awards:

JANUARY 2018—**Terrance Levy**, five years as deputy sheriff; and **Harold Morris**, five years as chief deputy sheriff.

FEBRUARY 2018—**Gerald Cadden**, five years as maintenance supervisor with facilities; **Kimberly Hill**, five years as a victim's advocate; **Joey Henry**, 30 years as a maintenance supervisor for the Recreation Department; and **Freddie Huth**, 10 years as a sheriff's deputy.

MARCH 2018—**Betty Phillips**, 10 years as budget analyst with the Finance Department; **Sharon Yomtob**, 10 years as a part time archivist; **Christine Edwards**, 15 years as economic development coordinator for the Development Board; and **Robert Felder**, 30 years as a lieutenant with the Detention Center.

APRIL 2018—**Shateka Holliday**, five years as senior buyer with Procurement; and **William Timmons** five years as an engineer;

MAY 2018—**Leroy Ellerbee**, five years as bailiff with the Sheriff's Department; **Mavis Cindy McInnis**, 10 years as a receptionist with the Finance Department; **Georgette Murray**, 10 years an administrative assistant with the Sheriff's Department; and **Lebon Jove**, 20 years as recreation director.

The county has also provided awards for service expected to be completed as follows:

JUNE 2018—**Vanessa Johnson**, 15 years as a tax collector with the Treasurer's Office;

JULY 2018—**Tyler Floyd**, five years as deputy sheriff; **Bobbi Adams**, 15 years with the Water and Sewer Department; **Patricia Pringle**, 15 years as county auditor.

AUGUST 2018—**Brandon Braxley**, five years as a firefighter; and **Terri Ridgeway**, five years as a senior secretary for the county administrator; **Pamela Joyner**, 10 years with the Clerk of Court's Office; **Ronald Shepp**, 30 years as a heavy equipment operator with the Public Works Department; and **Linda Jones Sabb**, 30 years with the Magistrate's Office.

Edgefield County

● Edgefield County has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

● A "Rapid Response" program has been initiated by Edgefield County to be more responsive to businesses and industries seeking to create jobs or house developments.

This program provides a response to questions within two business days and includes participation from Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority and the Towns of Edgefield, Johnston and Trenton as well.

A five-year strategic plan was adopted by Edgefield County Council on January 9 that should guide the county's future. The development of the plan began in the fall of 2016 to identify issues facing county government. There were joint meetings between County Council and the Edgefield County School board, the County Planning Commission, the County Transportation Committee, Edgefield County Hospital Board and the Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority. Council also conducted five "Listening Tour" meetings at various locations in the county to gain citizen input and two public input sessions for the strategic plan in the fall of 2017.

● Edgefield County Council hosted the annual Intergovernmental Meeting on January 29. The meeting is held each year so many of the governmental entities can share what they achieved in 2017 and their plans for 2018.

Speakers included: Edgefield Mayor **Ken Durham**, Johnston Mayor **Terrence Culbreath**, Trenton Town Administrator **Roger Leduc**; Edgefield County School District's Superintendent, **Dr. Robert Maddox**; Edgefield County Transportation Committee Chairman **Sam Crouch Jr.**; Edgefield County Planning Commission Chairman **Fab Burt**; Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority General Manager **John Hare**; and members of the Edgefield County Legislative Delegation, including **Sen. Shane Massey**, **R-Edgefield**; **Rep. Bill Clyburn**, **D-Aiken**; and **Rep. Bill Hixon**, **R-North Augusta**.

● Edgefield County has contracted with the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC) team to develop a first-of-a-kind branding package for the county. This branding project was approved by Edgefield County Council in February. The whole package includes the county creating a brand and implementation of that brand, including a new county website and a social media strategy.

Florence County

● Florence County held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 23 to officially open a new \$32 million judicial center that includes technology and safety features designed to make the building safer and more secure. The 130,000-square-foot complex, which opened in stages between March and April, is located on North Irby Street directly across the street

from the county's administration building.

The three-story facility houses: a jury assembly room; clerk of court and probate courts; Sheriff's Office Civil Division offices with high security cells, capable of holding 84 inmates; a family court system and seven courts, including family court, probate court, circuit court, and space to add a fourth; solicitor's office; and much more.

An in-depth article on Florence County's new judicial center can be found on P. 6 of this issue of *County Focus Magazine*.

Georgetown County

● **Mike Young**, Georgetown County Building Official, retired in January after 16 years of service. He was credited for making several significant improvements in the county's Planning and Building Department, including: leading an effort that improved the county's national Flood Insurance Program rating and creating a home insurance savings for residents across the county. His efforts resulted in his being named the county's Manager of the Year for 2016. Young, who also served as the county's floodplain manager, was part of the Plan Review Committee. He was active in the SC Coastal Code Enforcement

Association, serving two years as its president.

● The Georgetown County Stormwater Division recently participated in a project to create a constructed wetland in Murrells Inlet. The project was part of a grant managed by Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments. The effort also involved Murrells Inlet 2020 and Horry County. The project will help remove fecal coliform bacteria from the water before it enters the inlet. Sediment laden runoff transports bacteria that is contributing to shellfish bed closures. This type of installation helps improve water quality and prevent those closures. The wetland is located on Business 17, at the south end of Murrells Inlet.

● Georgetown County was recognized in February by the National Weather Service as a StormReady and TsunamiReady jurisdiction. Cindy Grace, the county's emergency management coordinator, accepted the recognition at an Integrated Warning Team meeting in Wilmington, N.C. This is the fifth time Georgetown County has received this recognition.

Horry County

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority

(SWA) recently recognized Myrtle Beach area resident **Tim Brady** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for March. Brady is a regular recycler at the Carolina Forest Recycling Center.

● The Horry County SWA recently recognized Conway area resident **Charles Hardee** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of February. Hardee is a regular recycler at the Dorman's Crossroads Recycling Center.

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

● The Horry County Board of Architectural Review's Legacy Business Recognition Program recognized the Galivants Ferry Convenience Store on March 7 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The ceremony was free and open to the public. **Joseph William (J.W.) Holliday** opened a farm supply store in 1869 in Galivants Ferry next to the Little Pee Dee River. The original establishment, called The

(Continued on next page)



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Pee Dee Store, became a major provider of farm supplies in the Western portion of Horry County.

Today, patrons know the store as the Galivants Ferry Convenience Store, which supplies visitors and residents alike with a variety of items. Currently, the store is owned by Holliday's descendants; **Billy Holliday**, **Betty Holliday McLeod**, **Judson Holliday**, **Christy Holliday Douglas**, and **Russell Holliday**, and stands on the historical site of the Galivants Ferry Stump Meetings. 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 Galivants Ferry Convenience Store is located at 135 Highway 501, in Galivants Ferry.

Lancaster County

● Lancaster County will be joining the South Carolina I-77 Alliance, the public-private partnership that promotes business and industrial opportunities in the corridor from Charlotte to Columbia. Effective July 1, Lancaster will join York, Chester, Fairfield and Richland counties as the fifth county in the S.C. I-77 Alliance.

The I-77 Alliance helps identify and network with prospects and markets for corridor counties, as well as provides value-added products and services to local developers, such as strategic planning, workforce assessment, research services and data platforms.

Lexington County

● Lexington County 911 Communications and Dispatch Center recently received its fourth consecutive Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation. However, this accomplishment is unlike others that have been awarded to the county's 911 Center in the past. This is the first accreditation that comes with zero file maintenance and non-compliant findings. The CALEA Board of Commissioners voted to award the accreditation to representatives of Lexington County's 911 and Public Safety team in Frisco, Tex., on March 24. The county's dispatch and call center is one of five CALEA accredited 911 centers in the state of South Carolina.

● Lexington County celebrated the completion of several renovation projects in March aimed at delivering more efficient service to the public and enhancing employee workspace.

On March 16, Lexington County officials, joined by the Lexington County's legis-

lative delegation, cut the ribbon to celebrate the renovation of the county's Auxiliary Administration Building. The building houses the county's Elections Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The three-year project makes it easier to distinguish the two departments providing each department its own entry ways and exit ways, and improves work and meeting spaces for future utilization.

On March 26, Lexington County officials, joined by members of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, cut the ribbon to celebrate the completion of the runway widening project at the Lexington County Airport. The widening of the runway is critical to the airport's future because it allows larger aircraft to land, the first step needed before the runway can be lengthened to accommodate jet aircraft.

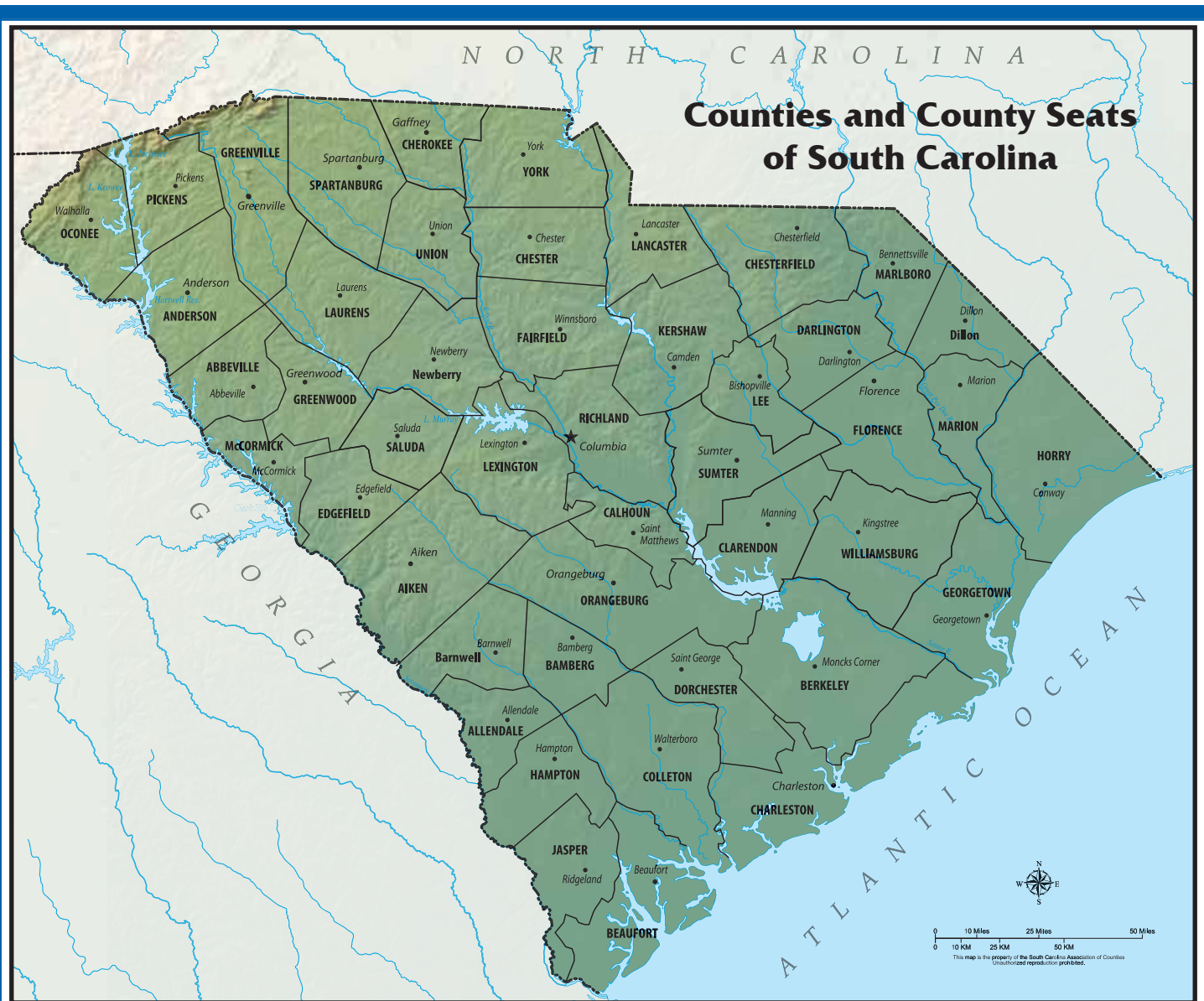
The Federal Aviation Administration provided \$3.6 million in funding for the project. Lexington County provided a approximately \$200,000, which was matched by the S.C. Aeronautics Commission.

Pickens County

More than 300 Pickens County employees, and hundreds of business and resident volunteers teamed up to clean up trash along roadways across Pickens County on March 23 to help kickoff the county's year-long 150th anniversary celebration. Volunteers picked up 17.3 tons of trash in the countywide anti-litter effort, which was probably one the first such countywide efforts ever conducted in South Carolina, according to **Sarah Lyles**, executive director of PalmettoPride, the state's legislative anti-litter initiative. Lyles was one of the speakers who spoke at a pep rally, held at the Pickens County Performance Arts Center immediately before Pickens County's recent anti-litter effort. PalmettoPride provided safety vests, gloves and supplies.

Pickens County Council Chairman **Roy Costner** said he is proud of the county's employees, resident volunteers, and business sponsors—Chick-Fil-A of Easley and Powdersville, South State Bank, and Pet Dairy. Pickens County's recent countywide anti-litter effort, called "TeamUpAndCleanUp," launches the county's weekly Five on Five anti-litter initiative that encourages citizens to pick up five pieces of trash on day five, Friday, of each week.

An in-depth article on Pickens County's First Annual TeamUpAndCleanUp Anti-Litter Campaign can be found in this issue of *County Focus Magazine*.



Richland County

● Richland County Community Development held planning events in April to showcase how federally funded programs make a positive difference in the lives of low- and moderate-income families. Programs like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, provide important resources for local residents, such as affordable housing opportunities, down payment assistance and neighborhood revitalization projects. The federal funding the county receives through these programs is administered by the Community Development Division, which celebrated National Community Development April 2-6. At Richland County Council's meeting

on April 3, council presented a proclamation to Community Development staff and partners.

● In an ongoing effort to spread the message that only rain should go down a storm drain and protect local waterways, Richland County Stormwater Management and Columbia Water recruited community volunteers to help mark storm drains in April as a part of the "My River Starts Here" campaign, an initiative to reduce water pollution. By helping adhere round medallions reading "No Dumping/Drains to River" in front of storm drains throughout their community, volunteers will remind their neighbors to be mindful of storm drain pollutants and to keep storm drains free of debris such as leaves, litter and yard waste.

Residents witnessing storm drain pollution and major blockages to storm drains

are encouraged to report them by calling the county's Ombudsman's Office.

● Residents of Richland County seeking copies of their tax bills and other information can skip the trip to the county administration building. Since March 8, real estate, vehicle, business and personal property tax information is available online by making just three clicks and entering some basic data. Residents are being encouraged to access their tax information by visiting rcgov.us, clicking "Online Payments" at the top of the gray menu box, clicking the tax payments link (the first link listed) then clicking the "Real Estate" button.

County staff continues to provide tax information to residents at the County Administration Building, though the in-person process requires residents to first wait in line

(Continued on next page)

for a tax map number at the Assessor's Office, then wait in line at the Treasurer's Office for a copy of the actual tax bill.

Residents can make property value inquiries, look up tax map numbers and more on the Assessor's Office page at rcgov.us. Other payments available online include family court, central traffic court, hospital-ity tax, water and sewer payments, business licenses and more.

● Colite International, a world leader in full-service sign manufacturing, announced a \$2.5-million capital investment into its operations at 5 Technology Circle in Richland County. The investment will allow the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment to keep the company competitive in national and international markets. Colite is a full-service sign manufacturing company that combines the right people, products and technology to deliver signage programs on time and on budget to some of the world's best-known companies.

● A new study by a statewide organization shows Richland County's airport contributes \$16.1 million annually to the local economy. In its *2018 Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Report*, the S.C. Carolina Aeronautics Commission studied the financial effects of each of the state's six commercial airports

and 51 general aviation airports, like the county's Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport (CUB). The report analyzed key factors like employment, payroll, annual spending, visitor spending and capital investments. The single-runway, 182-acre airport is located in the Rosewood community, near the University of South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium. One of the airport's busiest times of year is during college football season, when fans fly in to attend games.

The S.C. Aeronautics Commission study also found that 14,195 visitors arrive in South Carolina annually by way of the Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport. Those visitors spend money in the local economy on lodging, food, ground transportation and entertainment, contributing to the airport's indirect economic impact. The airport contributes to 116 total area jobs and annual tax revenues estimated at \$688,900.

Richland County Airport Commission Chairman **Stuart Hope** said the study's findings came as no surprise. The Aeronautics Commission noted that the Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport's "annual economic impact far exceeds its annual financial need for maintenance and improvement" and shows the airport is "well worth the investment."

● Richland County announced on March

2 that **Ronaldo Myers** would return as head of the county's Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center, a position he held for 13 years before resigning nearly a year ago. The 1,150-bed detention center is located on Bluff Road. **Myers**, who previously served as head of a regional jail system in Virginia, resumed the jail director position in Richland County on April 2.

Interim Director **Shane Kitchen** will resume his position as second in command. He was named to the interim post in March 2017, a few months after leaving Newberry County to join Richland County.

The detention center, located off Bluff Road in Lower Richland, houses on average each day about 800 detainees, consisting of people arrested in the unincorporated areas and the municipalities in the County. In addition to 1,120 beds for adults, the facility also has 24 beds for juveniles. ■

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