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South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 29

Number 2



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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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Making America Safe, Strong and Great Again

Promises Kept, Progress Made, Reasons for Optimism

By U.S. Representative Ralph W. Norman Jr. (5th District, S.C.)

It has just been a little over a year since I was given the greatest honor of swearing the Oath of Office and proudly representing the Fifth District of South Carolina. And in just one year, we have seen amazing progress, work, and growth throughout my district, and the country. Only six months ago, President Donald J. Trump signed the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act into law. Thanks to Republicans' pro-growth policies like lifting burdensome regulations and cutting taxes, our economy is booming!

Consumer confidence is at the highest level we have seen in 18 years. Wage increases for small business workers are at the largest in nearly 20 years. Our unemployment rate as of May is at a record low 3.8 percent (it hasn't been that low since 2000!). In fact, over the last 40 years, America has seen unemployment fall below 4 percent for only seven months. Two of those were April and May 2018.

For my constituents of the Fifth District, the average tax cut for individuals is \$1,334 dollars. We are putting money back into hard-working Americans pockets, so that they can decide how to spend their money and invest in their futures.

And since tax reform was enacted—which again was just SIX MONTHS ago—one million new jobs have been created. It is obvious to see that the pace of job creation is accelerating. As a matter of fact, there are now more job openings than people looking for jobs!



U.S. Rep. Ralph W. Norman Jr.

The monthly average pace this year is 207,000 jobs; last year's was 182,000 jobs. This only means better and more opportunities for South Carolinians, and all Americans.

Not only have we seen great growth in our economy, but there have been numerous legislative accomplishments made this last year.

I came to Congress eager to support our armed service members, hold our elected officials accountable, and rein in our reckless federal government spending. Some legislation, which I have introduced to achieve these goals, includes:

● Putting Our First Responders First Act which would provide tax relief for first responders who become permanently

disabled in the line of duty. Currently, those who are disabled start getting taxed on their disability when they hit their "retirement" age.

● The FLY Act which would require the heads of each federal agency to submit their official travel logs to the Government Accountability Office on a more regular basis, and restrict them from flying first class. This will provide more transparency for the American people about the actions of government officials, save taxpayer dollars, and prevent abuse of power. Simply because these officials are no longer beholden to their constituents, does not mean they should not be held accountable to the taxpayer.

● The SCRAP Act which would end unnecessary perks for former members of Congress. To some extent, these include retirement benefits, if eligible; access to the House and Senate floors, gyms, and dining rooms; and parking. If you leave Congress you shouldn't have any access the public does not. Our President was right: It is time to Drain the Swamp!

● My Wasteful Wednesday Initiative is a weekly initiative I started to highlight and tackle our out of control government spending. I introduced a resolution challenging every member of Congress to find at least \$100 million dollars of spending to be cut. Every Wednesday, I introduce a bill to cut programs or grants that have become wasteful. In eight weeks, the legislation that I have

(See Great Again, P. 4)



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Great Again ...

(Continued from P. 2)

introduced would eliminate more than \$300 million in spending.

While you may not hear of it from the mainstream media, the House and President Trump have remained committed to the promises made and are delivering real results to the American people.

The House has passed nearly 700 bills, and 175 bills have been signed and enacted into law.

Here are some great examples of what the House has achieved:

● **Opioid Crisis:** The House has passed more than 50 pieces of legislation to help combat the opioid epidemic that is affecting the country. Our bills focused on treatment and recovery, prevention, and giving our communities improved resources.

● **Small Business:** The Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act helps small businesses succeed and was signed into law. This bill will keep a closer eye on the program to ensure it continues efficiently for small businesses, and saves taxpayer dollars.

● **Veterans:** Roughly 60 bills supporting our nation's finest have passed the House this Congress, and more than 15 of them have been signed into law by President Trump. These bills increase accountability, expand healthcare options, improve education opportunities and provide job training.

President Trump has been in office just a little more than 500 days, and he and his Administration have shown strong leadership on difficult issues. The President has kept true to many promises he has made in order to make America safe, strong, and great again.

A few promises President Trump and the Administration have kept:

● **Supreme Court:** Neil Gorsuch was nominated and appointed to the Supreme Court. And now with Justice Kennedy's retirement, the President has nominated another outstanding candidate by choosing Brett Kavanaugh

to fill the vacant seat on the bench. President Trump has promised to nominate someone who is committed to upholding our Constitution, yet again.

● **Cutting Regulations:** President Trump and Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney have proposed to cut 22 regulations for every one that is created. In the President's first 11 months in office, they canceled or delayed hundreds of Obama-era regulations. Burdensome regulations put nearly \$2 trillion in compliance costs onto the economy. Congress has used the Congressional Review Act (CRA) 16 times to cancel other Obama-era regulations—previously the CRA had only been used ONCE in the past 16 years.

● **Bad Foreign Policy Deals:** The President has made it clear that we must start putting America first. He has removed the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, Iran Deal, and the UN Human Rights Council because they were terrible deals that in no way strengthened, protected, or benefited this country.

● **North Korea:** No other sitting president has ever had a meeting with a North Korean leader. Recently, we all saw President Trump meet with Kim Jung Un! This historic meeting was one step closer to denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and peace.

● **Pro-Israel:** The U.S. Embassy in Israel has been moved to Jerusalem, and is now officially recognized as the true Capital of Israel.

● **ISIS:** Under President Trump, ISIS has lost control of 100 percent of the territory it once controlled during the Obama years.

As you can see, in a relatively quick time we have seen vast improvements in our economy and national security. I am extremely optimistic about how much more we can accomplish with this Administration and will continue to work tirelessly with my colleagues in Washington, D.C. on the matters that mean the most to you.





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Lexington County Opens New Fleet Services Building

By Harrison Cahill
Lexington County Public Information Officer

Members of Lexington County's Fleet Service's division joined together with other departments in the county on May 23 to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the new Fleet Services building on Ball Park Road in Lexington.

The building boasts eight light-vehicle service bays, equipped with eight vehicle lifts and vehicle alignment capabilities, as well as 12 heavy-equipment bays for ambulances, fire apparatus, construction equipment, motor graders and large dump trucks; a vast improvement from the 1970s-era facility that the Fleet Services department previously occupied.

For Mechanic Victor Manuel Rivera, the new building allows him and his coworkers to maintain the County's fleet, which is made up of nearly 800 heavy and light vehicles, in a facility designed for safety and efficiency.

"This place has more room to work in," Cabrera said. "We used to be so close with so much stuff around us. Now we have better lifts, better machines and better equipment. Every time a car leaves my bay, I know I've done a good job."

"Now we have better lifts, better machines and better equipment. Every time a car leaves my bay, I know I've done a good job."

— Victor Manuel Rivera
Lexington County Mechanic

The state-of-the-art facility is a product of strategic planning and budgeting between County Administration and Council to ensure that the County's fleet will be taken care of for many decades to come.

"This facility is the product of foresight and strategic planning by council and county staff," said Lexington County Council Chairwoman Debbie Summers. "I am immensely proud of the work our fleet services staff carries out on a daily basis to ensure that our fleet is in working and service-ready condition."

Just days after the ribbon cutting, Assistant Fleet Manager Frank Powers, a 30-year veteran of the Fleet Services division,

sat in his new office, which had one priceless and immeasurable perk: A door.



"From time to time, I need to talk to an employee or a vendor in privacy," Powers said. "You wouldn't believe how much a door can mean to somebody."

Before, Powers would have to use Fleet Services Director Bill Kazmierczak's office to hold such meetings. Now he, like many other administrative staff within the department, has a place of his own, greatly improving work efficiency and morale.

"This building has brought us into the 21st century," Kazmierczak said. "Our employees can come into this facility and feel like a part of the County's family. We know we have the right tool to do

Lexington County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 55

the job."

Among other characteristics, the building is also fitted with a training room, break room, in-house parts room, technician reference library and 10 EMS ambulance charging stations in the parking lot.

Currently, the County employs 13 full-time mechanics to

work on and maintain its vast fleet. The spacious building easily accommodates them, but it also allows for more employees to be hired and be able to work in the facility comfortably and safely. Workspaces inside of the 30,000-square-foot facility

have been fitted to provide ergonomic and efficient areas for employees to maintain, fix and upgrade the County's fleet. A 10-ton bridge crane, capable of swapping truck bodies and
(Continued on next page)



Lexington County Fleet Services building, Ball Park Road, Lexington



Lexington County Fleet Services Director Bill Kazmierczak cuts the ribbon on May 23 to officially open the county's new Fleet Services building. Joining him for the group photo are Council Member Scott Whetstone (at Kazmierczak's left), Council Chairwoman Debbie Summers (at his right) and the staff of the county's new fleet services building. *(Photos by Harrison Cahill, Lexington County Public Information Officer)*

ambulance modules, fits seamlessly in with eight heavy-duty truck lifts and a portable set of 76,000-pound mobile columns, which can easily lift a firetruck.

Fire Apparatus Mechanic B.J. Johnson finds these lifting columns especially handy when working on any one of the County's firetrucks.

Before, timelines on repairs for firetrucks were at the mercy of space and the weather, since many had to be worked on outdoors. Johnson recalled working on firetrucks in the depths of the summer and mechanics having to cover up tools so that they didn't get baked in the sun, or waiting for a rain storm to pass so they could get back to work.

Now, Johnson says the ability to work on the trucks and have all of the necessary tools located indoors not only eliminates

variable weather conditions, but it improves on safety.

"Being able to work inside on firetrucks is a game changer," Johnson said. "You couldn't fit these trucks inside of the old facility. Now we can bring them into the building, raise them up securely and get to work. We could deal with the weather, but the safety aspect of this building is priceless."

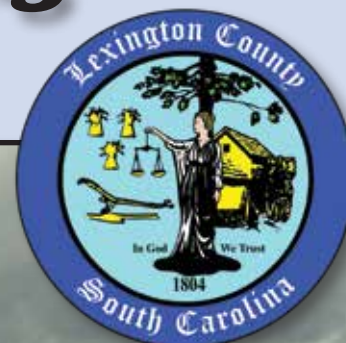
Maintenance projects that once took two to three days to complete now can be completed within an afternoon, Johnson said.

Built for longevity, all lighting systems in the building were outfitted with long-lasting LEDs and an economical heating system was installed, which utilizes five waste oil burning furnaces that will be fed by the waste oil generated from routine

(See Lexington County, P. 10)

Lexington County Fleet Services Building

*Photos by Harrison Cahill
Lexington County Public Information Officer*





Lexington County ...

(Continued from P. 8)

oil changes. On hot summer days, large bay doors can be opened to capture cross ventilation, and five 17-foot diameter fans can improve air circulation.

Kazmierczak said the installation of concrete flooring in the bays also aids in keeping working conditions cool.

"The concrete makes for a 30 degree difference inside of the bays," Kazmierczak said. "Due to the bays positioning, the concrete and the fans, we have increased productivity and morale."

As for the old Fleet Services building? It will be refashioned into a logistics building for the County's Public Safety departments. Right now, much of the equipment and vehicles that EMS utilizes for their Regional Medical Assistance Team are stored outside and are subject to the elements. Officials with EMS and Fire Service will now have a place to store important equipment and vehicles indoors.

"The addition of this building into the County's arsenal sets us apart as an agency," said Lexington County Administrator

Joe Mergo. "With this facility, we can expect our fleet to be well-maintained, our employees to be proud of their work place, and our County's residents and visitors to receive even better services."

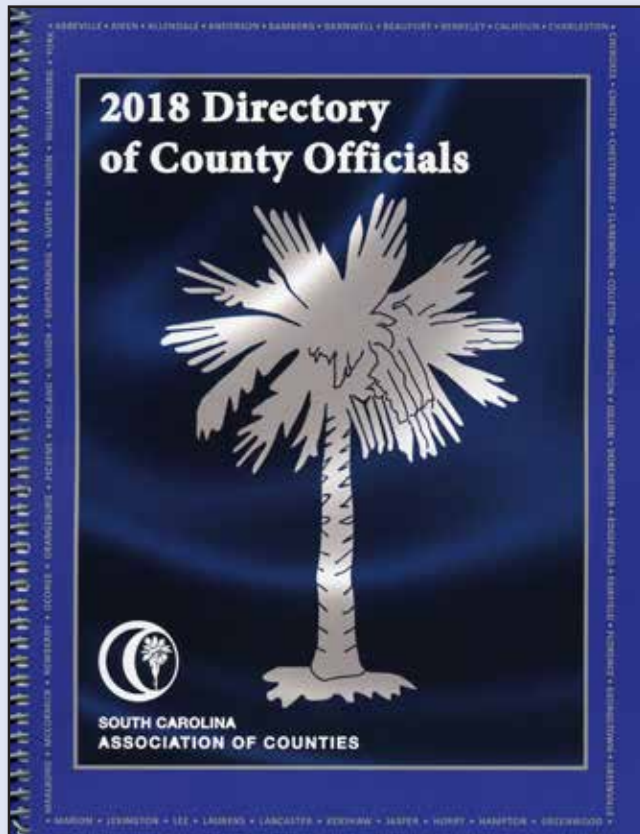
As the County's population and demands for service grow rapidly, the stresses placed on the County's fleet will continue to mount.

However, with this facility, the County of Lexington Fleet Services will be able to continue to maintain the County's fleet efficiently to ensure that the County's service to its residents and visitors stays well-oiled and done so as a cost savings by no longer needing to outsource needed repairs.



"With this facility, we can expect our fleet to be well-maintained, our employees to be proud of their work place, and our county's residents and visitors to receive even better service."

— Joe Mergo
Lexington County Administrator



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.

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05/18

Hampton County Renews Medical Air Transport Service

Five Neighboring Counties Benefit, Two More Counties Enroll

By W. Stuart Morgan III

If you live in Hampton County or one of five neighboring counties, your chances for having a better outcome following a stroke, heart attack or other traumatic injury or illness have dramatically improved during the past year.

Last June, Hampton County contracted with Air Methods, a medical air transport provider, to enroll the county's 19,992 residents in a one-year pilot membership program for 2017–18. The program, called Air Methods Advantage, provides medically-necessary air transport and covers anything over the amount that health insurance companies pay.

Based on the success of Air Methods Advantage,

Hampton County Council recently renewed the county's membership contract for 2018–19. Five neighboring counties—Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort and Jasper—are in various stages of enrolling in the same program. Allendale County enrolled in January for one year. Barnwell County enrolled in August 2017 for one year, and plans to renew this August for a second.

"Given our distance to the nearest trauma center," said Hampton County Administrator Rose Dobson-Elliott, "we've struggled for years with the issue of getting patients to care within the so-called 'golden hour,' within the first hour after they've suffered a life threatening or debilitating injury or health issue. But with this new medical air transport service, we've improved the chances that residents will have a full recovery, that they'll be able to return to a full quality of life after they



From June 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, Air Methods' LifeNet 4 helicopter (above) transported 112 patients requiring emergency medical care to definitive care facilities outside the county. The patients, residents of Hampton County, sustained life-threatening illnesses or injuries that required medical air transport. (All photos for this article by Stuart Morgan)



face a traumatic injury or illness, and that they won't return home to a high transport bill.

"This helps our county's EMS as well," Elliott added. "Ground transport requires a truck and crew, and most

importantly, at least one of our paramedics, which makes the truck and crew unavailable for other emergencies in the county for about four hours. Because we only have three EMS vehicles covering our entire county, EMS air

transport frees up our EMS ground transport services for other 911 calls."

Quality emergency care does not begin in an emergency room. It begins at the scene the moment someone suffers a stroke, heart attack or other life-threatening illness or injury. So, a person's chances of having a better outcome dramatically improve following a life-threatening event if they are transported to a definitive health care facility, like a state-designated stroke center, within an hour. The S.C. Bureau of EMS, and the bureau's stroke protocol require that EMS crews bypass the first available facilities and head instead to definitive care facilities for patients who receive a specific score on the protocol scale.

Air Methods, headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, is one of several air transport providers that has become the critical link for rural EMS providers and rural hospitals. The company, operating more than 300 bases in 48 states, provides emergency medical air transport service 24/7, 365 days per year for communities nationwide. Air Methods has five bases in South Carolina and provides air medical service across the entire state. When Air Methods first offered air medical service to Hampton County and its five neighboring counties last June, the agency began playing a critical role in a rural area of the Lowcountry that had limited resources to fund medical air transport.

(Continued on next page)

"... with this new medical air transport service, we've improved the chances that residents will have a full recovery, that they'll be able to return to a full quality of life after they face a traumatic injury or illness, and that they won't return home to a high transport bill."

— Rose Dobson-Elliott
Hampton County Administrator



LifeNet 4 lands on the Helo Pad near the Emergency Room entrance of Hampton Regional Medical Center in Hampton. The illustration of the South Carolina map (inset top-left), located on both sides of **LifeNet 4's** Fenestron (protected tail rotor), identifies Hampton County and the five neighboring counties that **LifeNet 4** serves.



As the **LifeNet 4's** pilot watches, two EMS crewmembers demonstrate the removal of a stretcher and medical equipment from the helicopter moments after it lands. **LifeNet 4** is essentially a flying, medically-equipped Intensive Care Unit that carries blood products and lifesaving equipment not offered on EMS ground transportation units.

“Time is Tissue.”

Hampton County EMS received 3,043 emergency calls between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, and 2,777 of the calls



Hampton County EMS Director Chris Altman often emphasizes “time is tissue” when explaining the importance of time when transporting patients who face life-threatening illnesses or injuries. Based on his experience using Air Methods, he has become an enthusiastic supporter of using air transport whenever necessary.

required medical transport. Of a total of 121 calls requiring air medical transport, the county requested 58 and Hampton Regional Medical Center requested 63. For county EMS, the senior paramedic on scene follows detailed protocols set by the S.C. Bureau of EMS before requesting medical emergency air transport. For the regional medical center, the attending physician in the emergency room is responsible for doing so.

Hampton County EMS Director Chris Altman said Air Methods’ medical air transport service is necessary because Hampton County is located approximately 75 miles from the nearest stroke, trauma and cardiac care facility. It is particularly important for residents of Hampton County and other rural counties where the availability of emergency room access is decreasing due to hospital closures, and transport distances to definitive medical care facilities exceed recommended times for the best patient outcomes.

Altman said it is impossible to determine exactly how many more patients survived, or to what extent they benefitted, because they were transported by air instead of by land for emergency medical care at definitive health care facilities. But he said only one of the 58 patients that Hampton County EMS requested medical air transport for last year died enroute to a hospital emergency room.

It is a well-established fact that time plays a critical role in a patient’s outcome after they suffer a life-threatening illness or

“In an emergency, our first and foremost priority is to provide our patients with the best care and transport possible, to give them the best chance at survival or recovery. Our patients benefit when Hampton County and its partners are governed by the simple rule, ‘Time is tissue.’”

— Chris Altman
Hampton County EMS Director



LIFENET 4'S CREW—(Left to right) EMS Flight Paramedic Wesley Compton, Lead Pilot Daron Roche and EMS Flight Nurse Robert Sizemore. (RIGHT) The helicopter's aviation maintenance technician, Brady Palmer.



injury.

“In an emergency,” Altman explained, “our first and foremost priority is to provide our patients with the best care and transport possible, to give them the best chance at survival or recovery. Our patients benefit when Hampton County and its partners are governed by the simple rule, ‘Time is tissue’. Regardless of the cause—whether it’s a stroke, a heart attack or some other trauma—cells die when they do not receive oxygen. So, if enough cells die, the patient dies.

“The less tissue loss, the better the outcome for the patient,” he added. “With EMS ground transport exceeding an hour and a half on a good day, cells are lost. And in the case of a stroke, blockage occurs and brain tissue begins to be lost due to a lack of oxygen. The longer it takes to clear the blockage by medicine or by surgery, the more damage occurs—resulting in symptoms such as slurred speech and loss of movement in a person’s extremities, to name a few.”

LifeNet 4

Air Methods’ *LifeNet 4* is a cool-looking, jet-powered Airbus EC130 helicopter, and it is fast.

But it is so much more.

It is essentially a flying, medically-equipped Intensive Care Unit (ICU) that carries blood products and lifesaving equipment NOT offered on EMS ground transport units. Since Hampton County signed its first annual contract with Air Methods last June, this flying ICU has served Hampton, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort and Jasper counties. This has helped lower the cost of providing medical air transport for all six counties.

The untold story is precisely *how* Hampton County has worked with the five neighboring counties and Air Methods during the past several years to provide this medical air transport service that the six-county area had needed for so long. The gist of this story is that officials of Hampton County, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort and Jasper counties worked together with Air Methods to choose the best location, the best training for all EMS personnel and

the best Air Methods Advantage program to provide the type medical air transport service that has provided better outcomes for residents of large cities for years.

(Continued on next page)



(INSET TOP-LEFT) *LifeNet 4* flies into Hampton County Airport. (ABOVE) *LifeNet 4* is shown moments after landing at the local airport, which includes a fueling station. Hampton County has rented temporary space, including a modular trailer, at its airport since June 30, 2017. However, the county is constructing a permanent building to serve as *LifeNet 4*’s base less than a mile away, near Hampton Regional Medical Center.



HAMPTON COUNTY LEADERS—Minutes after *LifeNet 4* lands at the landing pad in front of the Hampton County Regional Medical Center, Hampton County leaders stand in front of the helicopter’s tail section for a group photo. Shown (left to right) are: Rose Dobson-Elliott, Hampton County Administrator; Dr. Roy Hollingsworth, Council Chairman; H. “Buddy” Phillips, Council Vice Chairman; and Shedron D. Williams, Isaac Smith and Ronald G. “Breeze” Winn, Council Members.

The town of Hampton (Hampton County seat) was selected as the best location to base *LifeNet 4* and its crew.

Air Methods has rented temporary space, including a modular trailer, at the county's airport since June 30, 2017, for Air Methods's *LifeNet 4* and its four-member staff, including its three-member helicopter crew and aviation maintenance technician. Now, the county is constructing a permanent building to lease to Air Methods so the agency can base *LifeNet 4* and its staff near Hampton Regional Medical Center.

So far, Air Methods appears to be the solution that Hampton County and its neighboring counties have been struggling to find for years.

But it is an expensive one. The average air medical transport flight costs anywhere from \$25,000 to \$50,000. It also costs about \$3 million to operate one Air Methods base, which always includes paying a three-member crew—an EMS pilot, flight nurse and paramedic—and an aviation maintenance mechanic.

Many articles and studies focus on the benefits of air medical air transport and its cost.

Current reimbursement rates by Medicare, Medicaid and some private insurance companies fall short of what it actually costs to provide the life saving medical air transport. Seven out of 10 air medical patients have Medicare, Medicaid or no insurance at all, and the Medicare reimbursement rates have not been updated in nearly two decades.

Signing a one-year contract with Air Methods to obtain medical air transport is similar to purchasing a membership and nothing like purchasing insurance. For 2017–18, Hampton County paid a rate of \$2.50 per resident for a total of \$49,980 based on the county's population in 2017 (19,992). But the county will pay \$49,005 (\$975 less) for 2018–19 because its population has declined to 19,602. Last year's rate of \$2.50 per resident will remain the same.

The medical air transport industry is working to solve the poor reimbursement rates and out of network costs associated with private insurance companies, according to Christina Ward, director of communications at Air Methods. For example, Air

Methods has contracted with Hampton County EMS to allow the agency's helicopter crew to offer the same critical care by ground when medical air transport is not required.

Meanwhile, residents of Hampton County and its five neighboring counties are benefitting because they are quickly reaching appropriate medical facilities after facing life-threatening illnesses and injuries.

"Countywide memberships in the Air Methods Advantage Program that Hampton, Allendale and Barnwell counties now have in this area of South Carolina's Lowcountry," Ward said,

"ensure that residents of these three counties will receive air transport if they need it, and that the expense of the service will be covered by their insurance companies or the county's membership if a balance remains."

"As rural hospitals close at an alarming rate of nearly one per month, the air medical services supplied by 'flying ICUs' are becoming a critical component of our national healthcare network."

— Christina Ward

Director of Communications, Air Methods

More than 85 million Americans only have access to critical care via air medical services. But another 30 million Americans have no access to air medical services at all.

"As rural hospitals close at an alarming rate of nearly one per month," Ward explained, "the air medical services supplied by 'flying ICUs' are becoming a critical component of our national health care network. Without this service, many people will be left without access to the necessary care."

Other factors could make it more affordable to request a company like Air Methods to provide medical air transport. One is the time required for a county EMS to transport a patient by ground to a definitive care facility outside the county. Requesting a company to provide medical air transport service in the long-term, for example, might be a better option than building and operating more EMS stations and hiring more EMS staff members to run them in the future.

Meanwhile, Hampton County is working hard to offset the high cost of providing medically necessary air transport for residents by renewing its membership in the Air Methods Advantage program.

Residents of Hampton County or one of its neighboring counties are likely to appreciate the county's effort if they or someone they care about ever needs to be transported to a definitive health care facility as quickly as possible.

After all, "Time is tissue."

The time it takes someone to receive the best possible medical care immediately following a life-threatening illness or injury could dramatically affect their outcome and the quality of life they have afterward.

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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

Purpose of the SCAC

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

✦ For more information
about the SCAC, please contact:

**South Carolina
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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 27 or SCAC's website to obtain respective email addresses.



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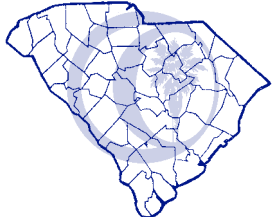
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WHAT IS THE SCAC?

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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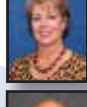
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SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



History of the Trusts

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

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

Boards of Trustees

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

Risk Management

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

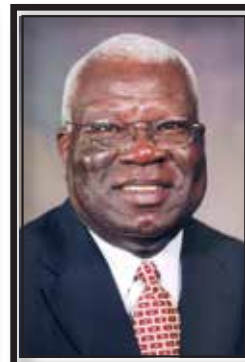
Claims Administration and Management

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

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



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Don't Get Harpooned, Avoid Spear Phishing

What is "spear phishing"?

Spear phishing emails are targeted to you and look like they came from a person or organization you trust, but in reality they're sent by hackers to get you to click on or open something that will give the hackers access to your computer.

Why are you at risk?

Hackers are actively targeting our organization because we have information that is valuable to them. Specifically, they may be interested in our financial, customer, or employee data. If one employee falls for a phishing attack, our entire system can potentially be accessed.

How to spot a spear phishing email

Hackers have gotten clever in how they design the emails they send out to make them look legitimate. But spear phishing emails often have the following characteristics:

- Made to look like they come from someone you'd trust:
 - FedEx, a bank, or some other outside organization you would recognize
 - Departments within our own organization, such as HR or IT
- Try to create a sense of urgency about responding
- May contain your personal information to encourage you to trust the email
- Direct you to click on a link to take action
- Ask you for your username and password, sometimes by replying to the email, but more often by clicking on link that takes you to a site where you're asked to input the information. **IMPORTANT: Nobody at our organization will ever ask you for your password.**
- Contain email addresses that don't match between the header and the body, are misspelled (like@gmail.com), or have unusual formats (@companyothersite.com)

(Article reprinted courtesy of Beazley Breach Solutions)

- Have links or e-mail addresses that show a different destination if you hover over them.

Here is an example of a recent phishing e-mail:

Appears to come from trusted sender
E-mail domain doesn't seem right

From: FedExcargo [mailto:nc-reply@zinsapprematrimoniallawyers.org]
 Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 2:24 PM
 To:
 Subject: Tracking code

This e-mail is sent to give you information at the demand of "FastMed Urgent Care, P.C.". Your order details below were to FedEx. Verify or repeal/Repeal or verify the shipping status of your shipping, track with your special tracking number.

From: FastMed Urgent Care, P.C.
 Service(s): Delivery
 Tracking (Ref. number): 1D 55T Z66E1 9534 158 1

Pack #: 2 Delivery Date: March/09/2018 weight: 3.3 lbs (US)

Receiver: [REDACTED]
 SSN: [REDACTED]

Details
Includes the target's Social Security number
Tries to create a sense of urgency

What you should do if you get a suspicious email if you suspect that an email is a phishing email:

- Do not open any links or attachments in the email
- Notify our IT department
- If you've already opened a link or attachment, disconnect your computer from the internet but do not turn it off, but then immediately call IT



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Beaufort County's Broadcast Services Team Wins 2018 Southeast EMMY for Coastal Kingdom Program

By Laura Fanelli
Beaufort County Communications Manager



Learning to live with neighbors can be a challenge, especially if they slither, waddle, lumber, meander, swim or fly. As more people visit and relocate to Beaufort County, it has become imperative to educate the community on how best to prepare for wildlife encounters, while building an understanding and appreciation for the natural environment.

Combining education, beautiful cinematography and a passion for Lowcountry wildlife is what the Beaufort County Channel's Broadcast Services team does with some of its television programming. Recently, the team won a 2018 Southeast EMMY Award for *Coastal Kingdom*, one such program recognized for Best On-Air Talent/Host, in addition to an EMMY nomination for Best Informational/Instructional TV Program.

Coastal Kingdom launched in 2009 and has debuted 23 episodes to date. The program is a joint production between The County Channel and The LowCountry Institute on Spring Island, with support from Beaufort County Council. The partnership allows for creative programming spotlighting nature and preservation efforts throughout the County, with segments including pond life, mating behavior, predators, nocturnal creatures, sharks and rays. The team also produces classroom resources for educators.

In 2007, Beaufort County introduced The County Channel to not only provide transparency into its proceedings and

give citizens access to information, but also to offer a variety of informational and educational programming about government programs and services, public safety, arts and culture, and the environment. *Coastal Kingdom* airs on South Carolina ETV and the South Carolina Channel, in addition to The County Channel, which is broadcast live on multiple cable channels and streamed

online at the Beaufort County website, where programming can be watched on demand after original airing.



Since 2015, the Beaufort County Channel's Broadcast Services Team has been video-recording SCAC's annual J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition.



EMMY AWARD-WINNING BROADCAST SERVICES TEAM—Taking a moment for a group photo while working at the Broad River Boat Landing in Beaufort are members of Beaufort County's Broadcast Services Team, which won a 2018 Southeast Emmy Award for its *Coastal Kingdom* television program: (left to right) Scott Grooms, Broadcast Services Manager; Rob Lewis, *Coastal Kingdom* Producer, Director, Cinematographer; Tony Mills, Host, holding a turtle; and Rachel Walman, Production. (Photo by Alec Bishop, Beaufort County Audio/Visual Specialist)

Special Tax Districts: Local Solutions to Local Issues

By Gary T. Pope Jr.
Public Finance Attorney, Pope Flynn

In October 2015 sustained torrential rains resulted in the breach of dams across the State of South Carolina, including approximately 20 dams in Richland County alone. These dams were predominately built by developers in the middle of the last century to create small lakes around which they could develop and sell attractive homesites.

After the dams breached, the homeowners found themselves living adjacent to very large mud pits—a major change from the formerly serene lakeside—and property values dropped significantly. Appeals to FEMA, the State, and other local sources to repair these dams were not met with a welcome reception. In the competition for scarce resources, restoring the property values of lake-front homes in a few dozen private communities was not at the top of the list for any public agency at any level. That was not to say that local government was not sympathetic; it was just not willing to allocate limited public resources to repair neighborhood dams. Once it became apparent to the residents living around these erstwhile lakes that no one was coming to save them, they began to assess their options, which rapidly dwindled to (A) do nothing, or (B) self-



Gary T. Pope Jr.



“Counties may create special taxing districts comprising the entire unincorporated area of the county on their own motion, but for smaller areas within the county two methods are available, both of which require direct citizen participation.”

— Gary T. Pope Jr.
Public Finance Attorney, Pope Flynn

help. Most were not willing to watch their biggest investment lose half of its value, but the question arose as to how to help themselves out of their situation?

The Home Rule amendments to the South Carolina Constitution and related implementing acts prohibited the creation of new single-county special purpose districts by the General Assembly, but in turn provided counties with their own tools to meet the specific local needs that were once met by the creation of special purpose districts. The Home Rule acts granted counties significant

“new” general powers as well as the specific power to create special taxing districts in a limited portion of a county to provide a limited service paid from a special tax or assessment. Counties may create special taxing districts comprising the entire unincorporated area of the county on their own motion, but for smaller areas within the county two methods are available, both of which require direct citizen participation.

The first method provides for a petition signed by at least 75 percent of the property owners owning at least 75 percent of the assessed value of property in a self-defined area to be presented to a county council describing the boundaries, the nature of the services to be provided, and the maximum level of taxes or user service charges.

The second, and more common, method allows for the creation of a special tax district upon receipt of a petition of 15 percent of the electors of a proposed special tax district and subsequent referendum of the electors in the proposed district. The ballot question specifies the boundaries, the nature of the services to be provided, and maximum level of taxes or user service charges. In all cases an ordinance of county council is required to create the tax district.

In the case of the homeowners left high and dry after the 2015 flood, five communities in Richland County pursued the 15 percent petition and referendum method, and worked with county

officials to establish and administer their respective special taxing districts. Once established and operating, the districts obtained federal loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to finance dam reconstruction. Three years later most are back to lakefront living. It could have easily been otherwise. As with so many things, knowing your options and what to suggest to constituents can mean the difference between success and failure, and between angry constituents and empowered participants in direct democracy.

The proliferation of special tax districts created in response to the 2015 flood was the direct result of constituent education, but they are nothing new. Recent examples of uses include running sewer lines where the local water provider could not or would not justify the expense, repaving roads in a subdivision before turning them over to the county, and creating and maintaining streetlights. However, the Home Rule act provides more flexibility than is commonly used. Permissible purposes for special tax districts include paying for "roads, drainage, street lighting, and other public works; water treatment and distribution; sewage collection and treatment; courts and criminal justice administration; correctional institutions; public health; social services; transportation; planning; economic development; recreation; public safety, including police and fire protection, disaster preparedness, regulatory code enforcement; hospital and medical care; sanitation, including solid waste collection and disposal; elections; [and] libraries." S.C. Code Ann. § 4-9-30(5)(a). Constituents in a defined portion of a county seeking these services, or a higher level of service than is being provided, can band together with their neighbors and solve their local issue.

It must be noted that simply because citizens can initiate the organizational process for a special tax district does not mean they should or that county council should create the tax district even if the referendum passes or it receives a 75 percent petition. The administration of a special tax district presents an additional burden on county staff and the

district may be poorly conceived in terms of maximum millage rate, provision of service, conception of the capital project, or a combination of all three. For these reasons, it is important that county staff vet proposed tax districts as the private citizen promoters of the district proceed down the path. Successful tax districts are the result of a successful collaboration between the county and the citizens organizing the district.

Constituents in need of public infrastructure often approach their county elected officials in search of a solution to their local issue. However, a member of county council is only one vote on a county council. The elected representative of the aggrieved citizen may find that there is very little political will among her colleagues for a county to expend the resources of the entire county for improvements that will benefit the few, if zealous, proponents of a particular capital project. However, a lack of enthusiasm on council for dipping into the county's general fund does not mean that there is no method available to citizens seeking to obtain additional public works in their part of the county.

Despite a general aversion to citizen initiatives and referenda under the South Carolina Constitution, the ability of citizens to initiate the creation of special tax districts represents a unique exception and allows for direct democracy to address localized capital needs.



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S.C. RIA Awards Grants to Help Counties Modernize and Upgrade Water and Sewer Infrastructure

How Clarendon and Dorchester Counties Are Using RIA Grant Funds

By Liz Rosinski
Senior Program Manager, Marketing and Outreach
South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority

In a recent presentation to planning and zoning officials through the SCAC's Continuing Education webcast series, Bonnie Ammons, executive director of the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) offered insight and resources to county leaders, stressing the importance of investing in their utility systems.

It is widely accepted that much of the current water and sewer infrastructure is old and outdated; it often lacks capacity to serve residents and businesses. Furthermore, technology changes lead to difficulty in meeting regulatory requirements, and delays in making such improvements can lead to real costs and, more importantly, missed opportunities. Team South Carolina has cultivated a robust economy; jobs are being created and more people are moving to the state



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than ever before. Now is the time to be planning for the next 10 to 20 years so the investments to modernize and upgrade water and sewer infrastructure made today will yield success for South Carolina counties in the future.

That's exactly what Clarendon and Dorchester Counties are doing with the help of RIA grant funds recently awarded.

Dorchester County is upgrading neighborhood sewer lines that have experienced frequent line breaks and disruptions of service. With the proposed improvements, residents will

have a reliable sanitary sewer system, which will enhance the sustainability of the community.

Meanwhile, Clarendon County is installing a new well and connecting two small community water systems

that are currently experiencing low water quality. These improvements will provide safe drinking water and adequate pressure to meet household needs as well as to accommodate additional customers in the future.

County leaders and their respective utility systems need to take several steps when considering upgrades and improvements. They include:

- Identify existing needs—inventory the system, identifying location, size, age, useful life remaining and areas requiring frequent maintenance.
- Forecast future demand—review population projections and other pertinent data that could impact the services needed.
- Prepare cost estimates—this helps when budgeting for immediate needs versus other projects that can be

RIA to Award \$25 Million in Grants for Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Projects

For fiscal year 2019, RIA will make available \$25 million in competitive grants for water, wastewater and storm water projects.

This funding is designed to promote projects that protect public health and water quality or build infrastructure capacity to support economic development and employment opportunities. The RIA offers statewide assistance to counties, cities and other

eligible entities.

To download a grant application and learn more about the program, visit www.ria.sc.gov

APPLICATION DUE DATES

Round 1: September 10, 2018

Round 2: March 11, 2019

RIA's Redesigned Website

Check out the redesigned RIA website that serves as a resource for communities. The website allows users to access information about grant and loan financing options as well as other programs and technical assistance.

- completed over time.
- Consider alternative solutions—seek out what others in similar situations may have done. Ask if there is newer technology that may save costs in

- the long run. Select the most cost effective solution.
- Develop a financial strategy—make sure revenues will cover expenses AND planned capital improvements.

- Compile a timeline to implement the investments. Prepare for short-term and long-term projects. Often times, these investments (See SC RIA, next page)

RIA Grant Recipients for 2018

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure (RIA) awarded \$22 million to 51 projects for Fiscal Year 2018. In the first of two rounds, RIA approved grant assistance for 28 projects, totaling \$12 million, in November 2017. In the second round, RIA approved grant assistance for 23 more projects, totaling more than \$10 million, in May 2018.

Recognizing there is a critical need to upgrade infrastructure across the state, the projects funded will increase water and sewer system capacity and improve stormwater drainage. Grant recipients share in the cost of these projects by paying for non-construction activities and, in many cases, by providing additional funds for construction.

Working with local officials, RIA supports community projects most in need and works to address infrastructure issues that have the potential to hinder economic development and growth.

“Often times, infrastructure investments go unnoticed once construction is complete, but the benefit does not. These types of projects lead to improved quality of life, protection of the environment and community sustainability,” said SC RIA Executive Director Bonnie Ammons.

The impact of such projects can have long-lasting effects on the 71,000 residential and business customers served by the infrastructure being improved—whether it is providing additional capacity for new or expanding businesses that will generate jobs and private investment or ensuring safe drinking water and sanitary sewer treatment.

RIA grants are awarded twice a year through a competitive process that considers the need for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability and economic development. Applications are selected by the RIA board based on criteria, including: severity of the problem, expected impact and project feasibility.

To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit www.ria.sc.gov.

Included in the Second Round of Grant Recipients for Fiscal Year 2018

Announced May 2018

Anderson County	Economic Water Infrastructure	\$ 47,314
Berkeley County	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Calhoun County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Dorchester County	Sewer System Improvements	\$457,312
Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission	Water Line Upgrades	\$500,000
Union County	Water Tank Improvements	\$130,000
York County	Water Tank Construction	\$500,000

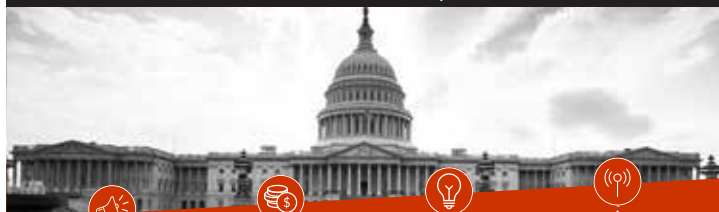
Included in the First Round of Grant Recipients for Fiscal Year 2018

Announced November 2017

Aiken County – Breezy Hill Water and Sewer Company	Water and Sewer Improvements	\$500,000
Beaufort – Jasper County Water and Sewer Authority	Sewer Line Extension	\$500,000
Berkeley County Water and Sanitation	Pump Station Upgrade	\$500,000
Clarendon County	Water System Improvements	\$486,080
Dillon County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Georgetown County Water and Sewer District	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Horry County	Drainage System Upgrade	\$336,226
Lancaster County Water and Sewer District	Water Line Improvements	\$500,000
Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority	Water Tank Improvements	\$404,000
Saluda County	Economic Water Infrastructure	\$338,663



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SC RIA ...

(Continued from previous page)

can be expensive, and many systems cannot implement improvements without access to outside funding sources, such as the RIA, which offers grants as well as below market interest rate loans through the State Revolving Fund.

Utilizing asset management and financial planning tools can help ensure that capital improvements are conducted in a timely manner to protect the environment, support economic development and enhance long-term sustainability.



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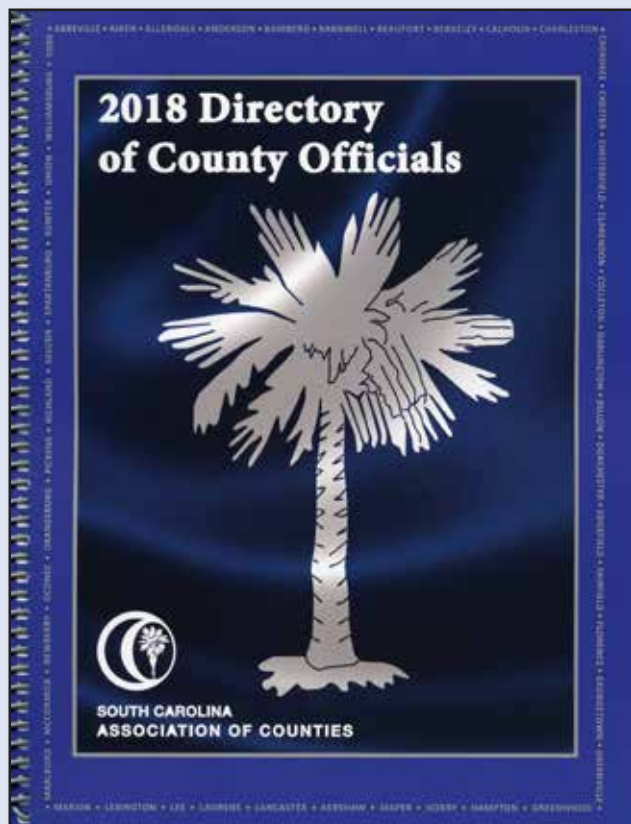


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South Carolina's 2018 Directory of County Officials

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).

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

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A Roadside Guide to Berkeley County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

Part 2 of 2

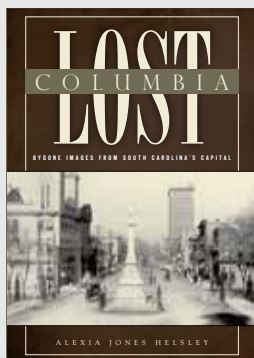
By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

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

The year 1780 was a critical one in South Carolina's history. In May, General Benjamin Lincoln dealt the Patriot cause

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. 55



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



a major blow when he surrendered an army of more than 6000 men to the British. Lincoln's surrender effectively wiped out the southern Continental army. The British under Sir Henry Clinton and Charles, Lord Cornwallis moved swiftly to solidify their control of South Carolina, once a "jewel" of the British Empire.

American troops were paroled or imprisoned and some of the Continentals exchanged. But initially,

gloom spread across the new state as the inland forts surrendered to the British as well. Nevertheless, two bright spots appeared on the horizon. One was General Thomas Sumter, who rallied Patriots in the Catawba Nation, and the other was Brigadier General Francis Marion, who avoided capture as he was home recuperating from an ankle injury. Marion who had commanded the Second Regiment, Continental Line, led a group of



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former Continentals and other volunteers and offered his services to American troops in North Carolina. In time, these leaders and others joined forces to mount an active resistance to British control.

The Battles of Kings Mountain in October 1780 and Cowpens in January 1781 were game changers for the American cause. General Nathanael Greene's Continentals fought with South Carolina militia to turn the tide not only in South Carolina but also in the Revolution as a whole. First, the militia victory at Kings Mountain deprived the British of Major Patrick Ferguson, an active recruiter of Loyalist volunteers and of substantial Loyalist support in the backcountry. Cowpens was a major turning point as Continentals under Brigadier General Daniel Morgan with militia support defeated British regulars led by the infamous Sir Banastre Tarleton. Both victories pointed the way to Yorktown and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis.

In the summer of 1781, as Greene directed a "mopping up" operation in South Carolina, the British and their Loyalist supporters gradually withdrew from large swathes of the state and concentrated their resistance on the port city of Charlestown. These were challenging times, especially for areas around the Capital City, such as modern Berkeley County as Moncks Corner was a major British supply depot.

July 17, 1781: Quinby Bridge & Shubrick Plantation

During this time of intermittent skirmishes, foraging raids and counter attacks, British and American forces clashed often in Berkeley County. The waning months of 1781 and the year 1782 produced a cat and mouse game of foraging and desperate struggles for position. In July, several of these threads produced a dubious cocktail of Patriot losses and hard-fought-for British breathing room. Fearing a Patriot attack, Lt. Colonel John Coates, commander of the British 19th Regiment, decided to transfer British supplies from Monck's Corner to a more secure position. Coates moved the supplies to Biggin Church. Nevertheless, with the advance of Brigadier General

Thomas Sumter and a force of more than 600 men, Coates decided the church position was untenable. He set fire to the church and its contents and marched his 600 or so men off toward Quinby Bridge. American scouts noticed the smoke and alerted Sumter. Coates split his force into two parts as did Sumter with his Patriots. Sumter's force included men under the command of Brigadier General Francis Marion and Lt. Colonel Henry Lee. Unfortunately, in an effort to travel more quickly, Sumter left his artillery behind.

Before reaching the bridge, Lee's men with Colonel Wade Hampton's state troops split forces near Wadboo River. Hampton unsuccessfully tried to prevent a troop of British Loyalists from crossing the river. Lee and his Continentals continued toward Quinby Bridge. Before reaching their destination, they engaged and overpowered a British force commanded by Captain Colin Campbell and captured their baggage. Lee continued toward the bridge where Lt. Colonel Coates had ordered his men to remove and/or loosen the wooden planks of the bridge.

He left enough planks for his men to cross and then camped on the other side. His men unsaddled their horses and began cooking breakfast. With the approach of Lee's cavalry, Coates assembled his men and trained a howitzer to guard the bridge

crossing.

Lt. Colonel Hezekiah Maham's Americans charged across the bridge scattering the British soldiers and artillerymen. Unfortunately, for the next wave of Americans, Maham's dash effectively jarred loose the loosened boards. American troops had to walk on the wooden bridge underpinnings in order to reach the other side. In the skirmish, Maham lost his horse.

Patriot troops under Captain James McCauley and Captain James Armstrong pursued their advantage and attacked the British encampment. The scene was chaotic as most of the members of Coates' regiment were raw recruits. With Lee and his men trying to repair the bridge and Colonel Thomas Taylor's sniper picking off British soldiers, Coates decided to retire to the relative safety of Shubrick/Quinby plantation. Ironically, Captain Shubrick, the owner of the plantation, was one of the Americans captured when General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered Charlestown in May 1780.

At Shubrick's Plantation, the British commander organized his troops with the howitzer as the centerpiece. Lee and Marion seeing the British defenses waited for Brigadier General Sumter to arrive with artillery. Sumter arrived

(Continued on next page)

without the sorely needed artillery, took command of all the troops present and planned a poorly conceived three-pronged attack. He showed partiality and placed his men in the center of the attack in an area around the plantation slave street where the slave dwellings offered some protection. He ordered Marion's men to advance across open fields in front of the fortified plantation and placed Lee's cavalry in reserve. Marion, unwilling to risk the lives of his men unnecessarily, protested the plan, but Sumter summarily ordered him to attack immediately.

The attack went badly. Colonel Thomas Taylor's troop of riflemen initially drove the British back into the house and fired with deadly accuracy, but his men only had seven rounds of ammunition and no bayonets. Out of ammunition, the British counterattacked with bayonets and pushed them back. Marion's men rushed to aid Taylor's withdrawal with great carnage. Reports suggest that the British killed or wounded 50 of Marion's men during the engagement.

Taylor chastised Sumter for not supporting him and left Sumter's command. The battle lasted more than three hours until darkness precluded further conflict. By that time, Marion's men were also out of ammunition. General Sumter led the surviving troops in retreat to await the arrival of artillery. Many of Marion's men did not wait with him, and the following day both Brigadier General Marion and Lt. Colonel Lee left

Sumter's command. After the events of Shubrick's Plantation, neither Marion nor Lee ever fought under Sumter again.

Lord Rawdon arrived with British reinforcements and Sumter had to continue his retreat. Casualties were heavily for the Americans with approximately 60 killed or wounded. Nevertheless, the British had more than 40 killed or wounded and many more captured. The British also lost wagons, ammunition and the baggage of the 19th Regiment. Yet, the British victory provided a temporary respite for the embattled defenders of the King.

August 1781

The month of August saw more raids in Berkeley County. Major General Nathanael Greene sent Brigadier General Francis Marion to disrupt British supply and communication routes between Charlestown and the interior. Consequently, Marion detailed Colonel John Ervin to operate along the Santee River. Ervin successfully intercepted and captured a British convoy, and four British soldiers, including three officers. Marion's militia were also involved in others raids near Charlestown and at Dorchester.

Fair Lawn

In the fall of 1781, the Moncks Corner area was once again the scene of a major revolutionary drama. The site was Fair Lawn Plantation. In April 1780, the British

seized control of the plantation, fortified the Colleton house and built a fort. In 2016, the *Berkeley Observer* reported that the Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust and South Carolina Battlefield Trust had arranged "permanent protection" of Fort Fairlawn, one of only two surviving Revolutionary forts in South Carolina. Ninety-Six is the other. The fort on the Cooper River was an important British outpost overseeing communication lines between Charlestown and Camden.

Perhaps, in November 1781, Brigadier General Francis Marion detailed Lt. Colonel Hezekiah Maham with a force that included Maham's cavalry as well as 200 men furnished by Colonel Isaac Shelby and Colonel John Sevier of North Carolina to raid Fair Lawn Plantation. Maham and his troops deemed the fortified house too great a challenge and instead attacked one of the outbuildings—a hospital. With Shelby and his expert riflemen providing cover, Maham and his men approached the facility and demanded its surrender. Maham captured significant stores of arms as well as the staff and patients. He burned the hospital, marched the ambulatory of his captives to Marion's camp and paroled the rest.

1782 – Last Year of the War

By the dawning of 1782, Greene's plan was working and Patriot forces had the British contained in Charlestown. Nevertheless, even with defeat in the wind and peace negotiations winding down, the British commanders continued to control South Carolina's capital city. With food supplies limited or nonexistent in the city, the British regularly sent foraging parties in search of food—livestock, sweet potatoes, or whatever was available, but they also launched raids attempting to disrupt American maneuvers.

Many of these raids occurred in Berkeley County. Of special note in the waning months of British occupation were the battles of Videau's Bridge, Wambau Bridge, Tidyman's Plantation, and Wadboo Swamp.

The Battle of Videau's Bridge, fought on January 3, 1782, illustrates some of the challenges of the times. In January, British forces focused on keeping the waterways

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open to Charlestown. Major General Alexander Leslie, British commander in Charlestown, had armed galleys that guarded British outposts to protect foraging parties. One of these galleys frequented the Wando River to protect an outpost on Daniel Island. The Berkeley County Militia under the command of Colonel Richard Richardson kept watch.

On January 2, Leslie sent Major William Brereton with 350 men to forage and seek vulnerabilities in Marion's network. Richardson with untried reinforcements attempted to stop Brereton. The two sides met at Videau's Bridge with disastrous results. The Patriots eventually escaped, but Brereton continued raiding cattle deep in Berkeley County. Even though the British were "contained" in Charlestown, the British commanders continued to exploit every opportunity and all engagements were not Patriot victories.

Wambau Bridge was another case in point. In 1782, the Americans controlled enough of South Carolina for state government to function. Consequently, voters elected members of the first General Assembly since the fall of Charlestown in 1780. The assembly met at Jacksonborough in January and February 1782. An unexpected consequence of this return to state government was the disruption of the state's defenses. Voters elected Brigadier General Francis Marion and Lt. Colonel Hezekiah Maham to the General Assembly. In order to attend, both men had to turn over their military commands to others.

Marion turned over his brigade to Lt. Colonel Peter Horry. This move upset Maham who eventually turned over his command to Captain John Carraway Smith. Unfortunately, Horry became very ill and surrendered control of Marion's brigade to Colonel Archibald McDonald. With good intelligence, the British learned of the rift between Maham and Horry and Colonel Benjamin Thompson led a force of approximately 700 men to attack Marion's brigade. Patriot troops spotted the British advance and Colonel Lemuel Benton rushed to Colonel MacDonald with the news. While few believed him, Benton led his men toward the British army. The two forces met on Wambau

Bridge. Unfortunately, the weight of so many men and horses was too much and the bridge collapsed. Some of Benton's men died trying to swim the creek.

The remaining members of Marion's brigade moved to Tidyman's Plantation. When Marion heard the disturbing news, he and Maham left the Assembly. While Maham headed home, Marion took Maham's troops and hastened to rejoin the brigade. When Marion and Thompson's men unexpectedly met, Marion ordered a cavalry charge that went seriously awry when the cavalry captain abandoned the field. In the rout that followed, 20 died, and the British captured horses, baggage and even Marion's tent. So many died that South Carolina Governor John Mathews combined Maham and Horry's men into a new regiment under the command of Maham. Horry once again resigned in protest, but Marion named him commander of Georgetown in March.

By August 1782, Brigadier General Francis Marion had left Georgetown and was operating at Fair Lawn. In Charlestown, Major General Alexander Leslie had a pressing need—meat for the ill and wounded in his hospital. Consequently, thinking Marion was still in Georgetown, he detailed Major Thomas Fraser to forage for food. Marion organized a cleverly executed ambush and killed or captured a number of Fraser's dragoons. He then retired from the field and from the war.

Berkeley County, the scene of many Revolutionary battles and skirmishes was also the scene of the last battle fought by perhaps South Carolina's most famous revolutionary general. Events in Berkeley were critical to South Carolina's success and the eventual withdrawal of British troops in December 1782.



Author's Note: For more information about these and other Revolutionary battles in South Carolina, please see the research of Walter Edgar, J. D. Lewis, Terry W. Lipscomb, and Henry Lumpkin.



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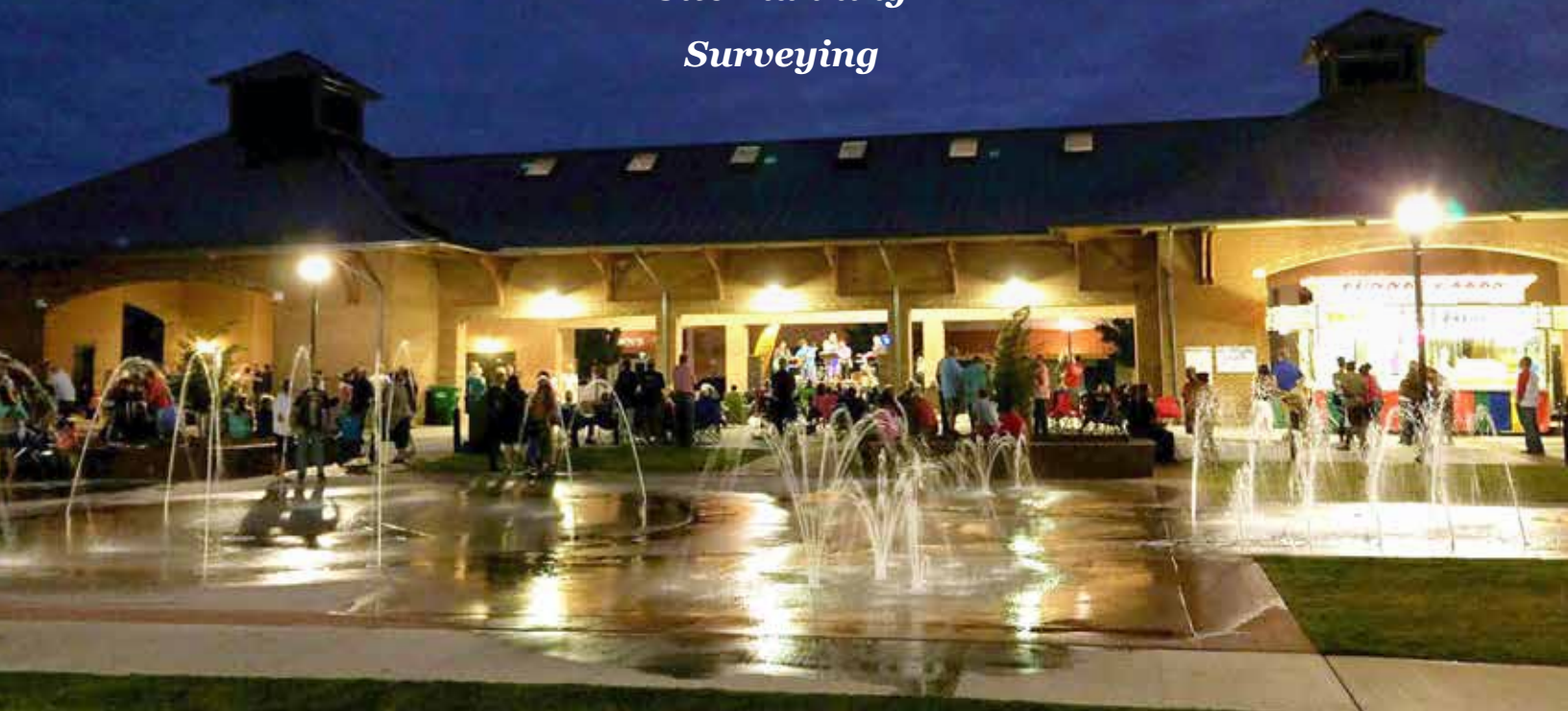
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County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,

Page 55

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

Bamberg County

● **David Harley**, Bamberg County Sheriff's Department Deputy, graduated from the S.C. Justice Academy on June 15 after completing Basic Law Enforcement coursework to become a certified Class 1 Law Enforcement Officer. Harley began working for the county as a detention officer in 2012 and later worked as a litter enforcement officer before joining the Sheriff's Department in March 2017.

● Bamberg County Council approved a resolution on June 4 supporting a plan to finance the renovation of the historic Bamberg County courthouse. The historic Bamberg Courthouse was built in 1897, the same year the county was formed from a portion of Barnwell County. The building was designed by Architect **L.F. Goodrich**, who designed

Burke County Courthouse and City Hall for Athens, Ga. Bamberg County's historic courthouse, originally located in the center of Bamberg, was moved to its current location on Main Highway in 1950. Although the building was also renovated and expanded, the structure remains unchanged since its relocation 68 years ago.

● Bamberg County hosted the Office of the State Fire Marshal for a Fire Safe South Carolina meeting on June 7. The meeting, open to the public, provided an overview of Fire Safe SC, a community risk reduction program. Current state and county community risk profiles were reviewed, risk reduction activities were discussed, and state and local stakeholders were given an opportunity to network.

● Keep Bamberg County Beautiful (KBCB) announced winners of the Bamberg County Cleanup Blitz on May 18. KBCB sponsored a week-long, county-wide cleanup celebrating Earth Day, Palmetto Pride's Zero Tolerance for Litter campaign, and Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup. Participants in KBCB's Cleanup Blitz submitted pictures of their cleanup to win participation prizes for their efforts. Winners of \$100 Visa Gift Cards included: Denmark Youth Soccer League, Bamberg County Democratic Party, Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce, and **Linda Faust-Keyton** (Denmark resident). More than 30 volunteers, who participated in the county's 2018 Cleanup Blitz, removed 22 bags of litter

from Bamberg County roadsides.

● The Center for Heirs' Property held a seminar for Bamberg County residents on June 2 at Denmark Public Library. The seminar provided information on the risks, rights, and responsibilities of owning heirs' property. The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, based in Charleston, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to protect heirs' property and promote its sustainable use to provide increased economic benefit to historically under-served families. The organization provides legal education and services, and sustainable forestry education, technical assistance and resources.

● Bamberg County announced in May that county resident **Ted Brandt** had donated property to Bamberg County for the construction of a fire substation. The property, located in the Rivers Bridge area, will be the site of a future fire substation.

● The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control announced in May that some Bamberg County residents were eligible for services through the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program, funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HopeHealth Edisto of Orangeburg was awarded the contract for Bamberg County residents. Grant funding is currently available, and services will be provided through March 31, 2019. The HOPWA program was established to provide housing assistance and supportive services for low-income persons with AIDS and their families. The goal of the program is to prevent homelessness and to strengthen housing stability.

Beaufort County

● The Beaufort County Channel's Coastal Kingdom television program recently received a 2018 Southeast EMMY Award for Best On-Air Talent/Host, in addition to an EMMY nomination for Best Informational/Instructional TV Program. The Southeast EMMY Awards are a division of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Coastal Kingdom is produced and hosted by naturalist and educator Tony Mills and is a joint production between The County Channel and The LowCountry Institute on Spring Island. Coastal Kingdom airs live Wednesday nights at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 12 noon and Sundays at 8 p.m. on Comcast channel 2, Hargray channels 9 and 113, and Spectrum channel 63. Viewers can watch programming live and on-demand at the County Channel's website, www.bcgov.net, on South Carolina ETV or the South Carolina Channel.

● Beaufort History Museum, which

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

Abbeville	Greenwood
Aiken	Hampton
Allendale	★ Horry
Anderson	★ Jasper
★ Bamberg	★ Kershaw
★ Barnwell	★ Lancaster
★ Beaufort	Laurens
★ Berkeley	Lee
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★ Edgefield	Spartanburg
★ Fairfield	Sumter
★ Florence	Union
★ Georgetown	Williamsburg
★ Greenville	York

COUNTY FOCUS

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

occupies the second floor of the historic Arsenal at 713 Craven St. in Beaufort, announced on May 24 that the renovation of the museum's exhibit hall was completed and open to the public. The museum focuses on the history of the Beaufort District in storyboards organized into separate subject areas such as First People, European Exploration, Rice and Cotton, the Civil War, 20th Century Tourism and more. It has three sections, which focus on Ecology, Discovery and Early Settlement, and Modernization and Growth.

● Beaufort County Council Member **Mike Covert** participated in the National Association of Counties' Cambridge Leadership Institute (CLI) June 3 – 7 in Washington, D.C. So far, he is the fourth elected official to be chosen to represent South Carolina at the Institute, now in its 15th year. Covert serves on NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee. At the CLI, he met fellow elected officials from across the nation to discuss personal and county challenges elected officials face. Covert discussed his county challenge—stormwater runoff and how best to collaborate with neighboring counties on the possibility of a regional stormwater management agency. The CLI is designed for elected or appointed officials at the policy-making level with a demonstrated interest in innovative approaches to governance. The program is designed to help participants to identify and implement innovative solutions to the complex challenges facing county government in the 21st century.

Charleston County

● Charleston County EMS announced on June 13 that it had received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks. More than 250,000 people each year experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), the deadliest type of heart attack caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it is critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

● Charleston County is the first county in the nation to launch Citibot, America's first interactive text messaging and customer service software system for civic engagement with government. Using text messages, Citibot can help a citizen

report a problem, ask a question, or send in a message and Citibot responds in real time, anytime. Citibot, LLC is a Charleston-based tech startup, formed in 2016. The company's cofounder and CEO, **Bratton Riley**, was inspired by the evolution of the

conversational chatbot to help governments be more accessible and accountable to every citizen.

● Charleston County Government held a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 8 for
(Continued on next page)



2018 Webinars

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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 2018–19 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

Sept. 26

Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers, Etc.
Embassy Suites, Columbia

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 Workshop
Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia

2019

Jan. 30–31

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

Feb. 20
Feb. 21

Mid-Year Conference
Institute of Government
Embassy Suites, Columbia



March 2–6

Legislative Conference
Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.

NACo's 2019 Conference Calendar

the completion of the Folly Road at Camp Road Intersection Improvements Project. The project's goal is to improve safety and provide relief from traffic congestion at the intersection. The improvements extend along Folly Road from 1,000 feet south of Camp Road to the intersection with Eugene Gibbs Street and Rivers Point Row, and improvements to Camp Road from West Madison Avenue to Oyster Point Row.

● The Charleston County Zoning and Planning Department announced on June 19 that it had been awarded an African American Civil Rights Grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. The grant will fund *A Journey to Equal Education: Stories from Historic African-American Communities*, an oral history project that will share the experiences of students on the cusp of desegregation of public schools in the 1950s and 1960s. The project will focus on conversations with alumni from W. Gresham Meggett High School, an equalization school that was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To assist with outreach, the county will be partnering with the Heritage Community Development Corporation, a local non-profit organization. The grant work began immediately and will conclude in April 2020. This project is funded by the African American Civil Rights program of the Historic Preservation Fund, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

Dorchester County

● Dorchester County has been awarded a \$13.25 million grant from the US Department of Transportation TIGER Grant Program for Phase II of the Highway 78 Improvement Project.

● **Rebecca Vance** joined the Dorchester County Team as the Deputy Administrator of Community Services on March 20. Prior to joining the county, Vance served as the City Manager for the City of Cayce.

● Dorchester County Deputy Coroner, **Linda Walsh** recently earned her designation as a Certified Registered Medicolegal Death Investigator, with Diplomate status (D-ABMDI) from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. The D-ABMDI certification is the national standard of excellence for coroners, deputy coroners and other death investigators. It also recognizes and identifies individuals that have demonstrated professional knowledge and competence in the field of death investigation, and adhere to high standards of professional practice and conduct.

● The German-based company, Paul Bippus GmbH, announced on April 17 the

launch of its first U.S. plant in Dorchester County. The precision parts manufacturer will create 45 new jobs and invest \$16.1 million into our community.

● Dorchester County Emergency Management Department recently unveiled new hurricane evacuation zones. Residents can locate their zone and closest hurricane evacuation route online at DorchesterCountySC.gov/EMD

● Coastal Corrugated, a direct manufacturer of corrugated packaging, announced on May 22 the expansion of its Dorchester County operations. The company is investing \$3.25 million into equipment and machinery.

● Dorchester County Water & Sewer Department was recently awarded a \$457,312 grant by the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority for sewer system improvements.

● Dorchester County Fire Chief **Tres Atkinson** was sworn in on May 25 as the 72nd President of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association.

● ICL, a leading global supplier of specialty minerals and chemicals, recently announced that it is expanding its existing manufacturing operations in Dorchester County. Aiming to increase capacity, the company's investment is projected to create approximately 25 new jobs.

● On Thursday, June 14, Dorchester County worked in tandem with Edisto River Adventures and Keep Dorchester County Beautiful to remove an abandoned boat that was being used as an illegal dumpsite from the Edisto River. Captain **Earl Johnston** of Edisto River Adventures towed the abandoned boat to T.W. Messervy Landing where he was met by **Ernie Knight** and **Kip Carter** with Dorchester County Fleet Services and **Donna Thomas**, Dorchester County Litter Control Officer, who removed the boat from the river and disposed of it properly.

● Dorchester County Business License Administrator, **Joy Krutek** earned her Accreditation in Business Licensing (ABL) from the S.C. Business Licensing Officials Association.

Georgetown County

● Georgetown County Administrator **Henry E. "Sel" Hemingway** recently completed his 2017–18 term as president of the S.C. City and County Management Association (SCCCMA), the professional association for South Carolina local government managers. First established in 1948, SCCCMA's goal is to improve the quality of public administration in South Carolina local government, and

enhance the proficiency of local government managers, administrators, and other staff. An affiliate of the International City/County Management Association, SCCCMA's membership consists of approximately 180 county and city managers, administrators, assistants, and other staff members. Other South Carolina county administrators who have served as president of SCCCMA include: **Chris Eldridge**, Horry County Administrator (2013–14); **J. Milton Pope**, Richland County Administrator (2010–11); **L. Jason Ward**, Dorchester County Administrator (2009–10); **Roland H. Windham Jr.**, Spartanburg County Administrator (1997–98); **Robert M. Haynie**, Greenwood County Manager (1994–95); and **Gary A. Smoak**, Orangeburg County Administrator (1991–92).

● Georgetown County broke ground for a new boat landing and kayak launch on May 17 at Rocky Point Community Forest. The county plans to add a number of uses to the 662-acre property, which is being developed into coastal South Carolina's first public-use community forest. Plans include adding hiking, biking and equine trails and camping grounds. The project, expected to be completed around September 15, involves a partnership between several different agencies, including The Winyah Rivers Foundation, which acquired the deed to the property in 2016. The previous owner had closed the property to the public for a number of years before then. The purchase by the Winyah Rivers Foundation and bringing the property back to the supervision of the county and public use was made possible by the Nature Conservancy. The Open Space Institute and a water resources grant it received from Duke Energy have also been integral to the process. The grant provides \$55,000 for the kayak launch. The county will provide \$150,000 to fund the construction of the new boat landing.

● The Georgetown County Public Services Department had a grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration on April 25 for its new Mosquito Control Division building, located at Georgetown Airport. The building will be used to store chemicals and other materials used by the division. The total cost was kept to \$35,000 by having the project built entirely by staff in the county's Facility Services Division. A new Mosquito Control building has been long needed and was in the works for several years. But work had to be delayed repeatedly as staff was diverted several times for storm recovery efforts and other capital projects. Completion came just in time for the start of Mosquito Control's busy season this year.

● Georgetown County Economic Development recently announced that

three areas of Georgetown County have been selected by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to be designated as qualified federal "Opportunity Zones." The areas selected in Georgetown County include the City of Georgetown, the area immediately south of the City along Winyah Bay and as far as the Yawkey Wildlife Center, and the area southwest of the city along Highway 521 to Andrews. Opportunity Zones are a new national community investment program created to connect private capital with low-income communities across the U.S. The goal is to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide by offering tax incentives for businesses that locate within designated Opportunity Zones. These zones are to be established in every state and U.S. territory. Designations in 18 states have been announced. Qualified Opportunity Zones retain this designation for 10 years. Investors can defer tax on any prior gains until no later than Dec. 31, 2026, so long as the gain is reinvested in a Qualified Opportunity Fund, an investment vehicle organized to make investments in Opportunity Zones.

● A portrait of retired Probate **Judge Waldo Maring** was unveiled on April 13 at the Georgetown County Judicial Center. The portrait was commissioned by the Georgetown County Bar Association in honor of Maring's 36 years of service to the county. Maring, first elected as probate judge for Georgetown County in 1980, presided over the first two juried probate trials in the state.

● The Georgetown County Public Services Department had a grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration on March 29 for its new corporate hangar at the Georgetown Airport. The 12,000-square-foot hangar will help provide much needed space for corporate and private planes.

● Georgetown County Economic Development held a ground breaking ceremony on April 3 for a new speculative industrial building at the Georgetown County Business Center in Andrews. Once completed, the new spec building will offer 50,000 square feet on nearly 10 acres, with a variety of options for expansion. The site layout and building design will allow for full customization, while mitigating risk and construction delays for the new tenant. The county and partner, the Samet Corporation, are already marketing the new site.

● **Matthew Miele**, a capital projects designer with Georgetown County's Public Services Department, has been named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2018. He has been employed with the county for two

and a half years. His job entails hydrology and hydraulic studies supporting drainage studies, Auto CAD design for county projects, permitting and project management support, and compliance inspections. Miele joined the department's Capital Projects Division after graduating from college.

Horry County

● The Horry County Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation (BAR) unveiled a George Whitefield historical marker at Little River United Methodist Church on June 26. The church is located on the corner of Highway 17 and Mineola Avenue in Little River.

● **Representative and Mrs. Kevin Hardee** hosted the dedication ceremony for the Lois Earle Highway on June 15 in the multipurpose room on the second floor of the Horry County Government & Justice Center in Conway. Signs for Lois Earle Highway will be located at the intersection of Highway 378 and Highway 501 and at the intersection of Highway 378 and Old Bethel Road. The extension between those intersections will be designated as Lois Earle Highway.

● Horry County Government hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Splash Pad at the **James R. Frazier** Community Center in Bucksport on June 6. The Splash Pad is part of a larger beautification project at the James R. Frazier Community Center which will include the Splash Pad and a Born Learning Trail. The splash pad is a 707 square foot wet play area for children adding another amenity for families at a beloved community center.

● Horry County hosted a ground breaking ceremony on May 29 for the new Horry County Fire Rescue Aynor Station.

● Horry County Fire Rescue (HCFR) officials recently announced that the deployment model being tested in three fire/rescue districts has increased paramedic coverage by an average of 83 percent across the three districts in the initial 19 days of the model. The new deployment model is currently being tested in three stations: Station 18 (Stephens Crossroads), Station 7 (Lake Arrowhead), and Station 20 (Scipio). In the first 19 days of the deployment model, those stations ran a combined 344 emergency medical calls for service. Of those calls, 300 of the patients (87 percent) required basic life support (BLS) interventions, and 44 patients (13 percent) required advanced life support (ALS) interventions. So far, the immediate benefits include: 1) increasing the availability of paramedics working in those three districts to respond to life threatening emergencies,

2) increasing paramedic availability and coverage in these three districts by an average of 83 percent, and 3) decreasing the amount of overtime required of paramedics.

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recently recognized Little River area resident **David Stanley** as the Caught Green Handed recipient for the month of May. Stanley, a regular recycler at the Brooksville Recycling Center, was surprised and honored to receive this recognition. The Caught Green Handed recognition is presented monthly to a Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling. It's SWA's way of recognizing and thanking citizens who have made the effort to recycle. Through their recycling efforts, natural resources are saved and the amount of waste being landfilled is reduced.

● The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in May receipt of an additional \$29 million in federal funding for beachfront renourishment projects along the Grand Strand. The funding for the Myrtle Beach Shore Protection Project will repair damages caused by recent natural disasters. A regional effort, led by Horry County Council Chairman **Mark Lazarus** and local municipal partners has been instrumental in getting funding for the beaches in the area after the damage caused by Hurricane Irma. The effort was supported strongly by **Rep. Tom Rice, Sen. Lindsey Graham, and Sen. Tim Scott** who have advocated for this critical part of the local economy. In addition, the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce and the State Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism have been actively assisting the region in moving this project forward with the Army Corps.

The funding allocated yesterday by the Army Corps is 100 percent federally funded. The Army Corps Charleston District handled the bid for construction, and it is anticipated that construction for projects in North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, Garden City, and Myrtle Beach will begin this summer.

The Myrtle Beach Shore Protection Project was authorized for construction by the Water Resources Development Act. The project covers three reaches: Reach 1 (generally the City of North Myrtle Beach), Reach 2 (generally the City of Myrtle Beach), and Reach 3 (the Town of Surfside Beach, unincorporated Horry County south of Myrtle Beach State Park, and a small segment of Georgetown County). This project provides for periodic beach renourishment to provide shore protection to one of the nation's most popular tourist destinations (17.9 million visitors annually) and more than \$3.5 billion in improved property. Beach

(Continued on next page)

renourishment is paid 65 percent by the federal government and 35 percent by the state and local governments, with emergency repairs being paid 100 percent by the federal government.

● Horry County Government hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the East Coast Greenway Shared Use Path on North Waccamaw Drive in Garden City on April 26. The path is a new eight-foot-wide shared-use path for bicycle and pedestrian use along Waccamaw Drive in the north end of Garden City connecting to existing sidewalks at both ends of the project—south of Woodland Drive and north of Melody Lane in the Town of Surfside Beach. In addition, this project completes another section of the East Coast Greenway within unincorporated Horry County. The East Coast Greenway is a 3,000-mile biking and walking route linking the major cities of the Atlantic coast of the United States from Calais, Maine, to Key West, Florida.

Kershaw County

● Kershaw County was named a 2018 All-America City by the National Civic League (NCL) at its annual awards ceremony in Denver, Co. The NCL cited the county for embracing the changing faces of its rapidly growing community, balancing its rural past and suburban future, with its business owners, residents, and elected officials reflecting that diversity and building programs to ensure equity in healthcare, education, and economic growth.” Kershaw County’s **Clinton Washington** was recognized for his community commitment as he received the 2018 Youth Leadership Award. With help from **Johnny Deal**, the county also received the Social Media Award for its exceptional social media presence and activities.

The Kershaw County delegation (*identified below*) was composed of leaders from all areas of the county, including state, county and municipal elected officials, civic organization leaders, healthcare professionals, and area youth leaders.

2018 TEAM MEMBERS

- **Sophia Alteri**
- **Caroline Anderson**
- **Chairman Julian Burns, Kershaw County Council**
- **Jaelen Bussey**
- **Elizabeth Carpenter**
- **Laurey Carpenter**
- **Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County Administrator**
- **Michael Conley**

- **Johnny Deal**
- **Kimberly Dixon**
- **Richard Dixon, Jr.**
- **Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford, City of Camden**
- **Mayor Melissa Emmons, Town of Elgin**
- **Amy Eudy**
- **Representative Laurie Slade Funderburk, State of South Carolina**
- **Ed Garrison**
- **Evelyn Gibson**
- **George Gibson**
- **Cate Goff**
- **Tyler Hampton**
- **Kathryn Johnson**
- **Roberta Langley**
- **Gina Marthers**
- **Jerry Marthers**
- **Brian Mayes**
- **Laurie Parks**
- **Daniel Putnam**
- **Julie Putnam**
- **Shawn Putnam**
- **Merri Seigler**
- **Katherine Spadacenta**
- **Vice Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr., Kershaw County Council**
- **Clinton Washington**
- **Susan Witkowski**

Lancaster County

● Lancaster County Coroner **Karla Knight Deese** was named South Carolina Coroner of the year on June 27 at the SC Coroner’s Association Annual Conference. Her nomination for the award stated that she “is very passionate about bringing awareness to (Lancaster County) with the hope that she may make a small difference in someone’s life.” Deese was credited for the outstanding work she has done during the past year to battle the rising opioid epidemic. She has served the Lancaster County Coroner’s office since 2005, first serving as deputy coroner from 2005 to 2007. Deese then became the first chief deputy coroner to be appointed in Lancaster County, a position she held from 2007 to 2017. Deese, who received the Life Point Dove Award for outstanding commitment to organ and tissue procurement in 2011, has been certified as an American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigator. She is currently the first and only person in Lancaster County to hold this certification. Deese, an avid community advocate, serves as secretary and as a board member for Care Health as well as the Training Director for the S.C. Coroners Association.

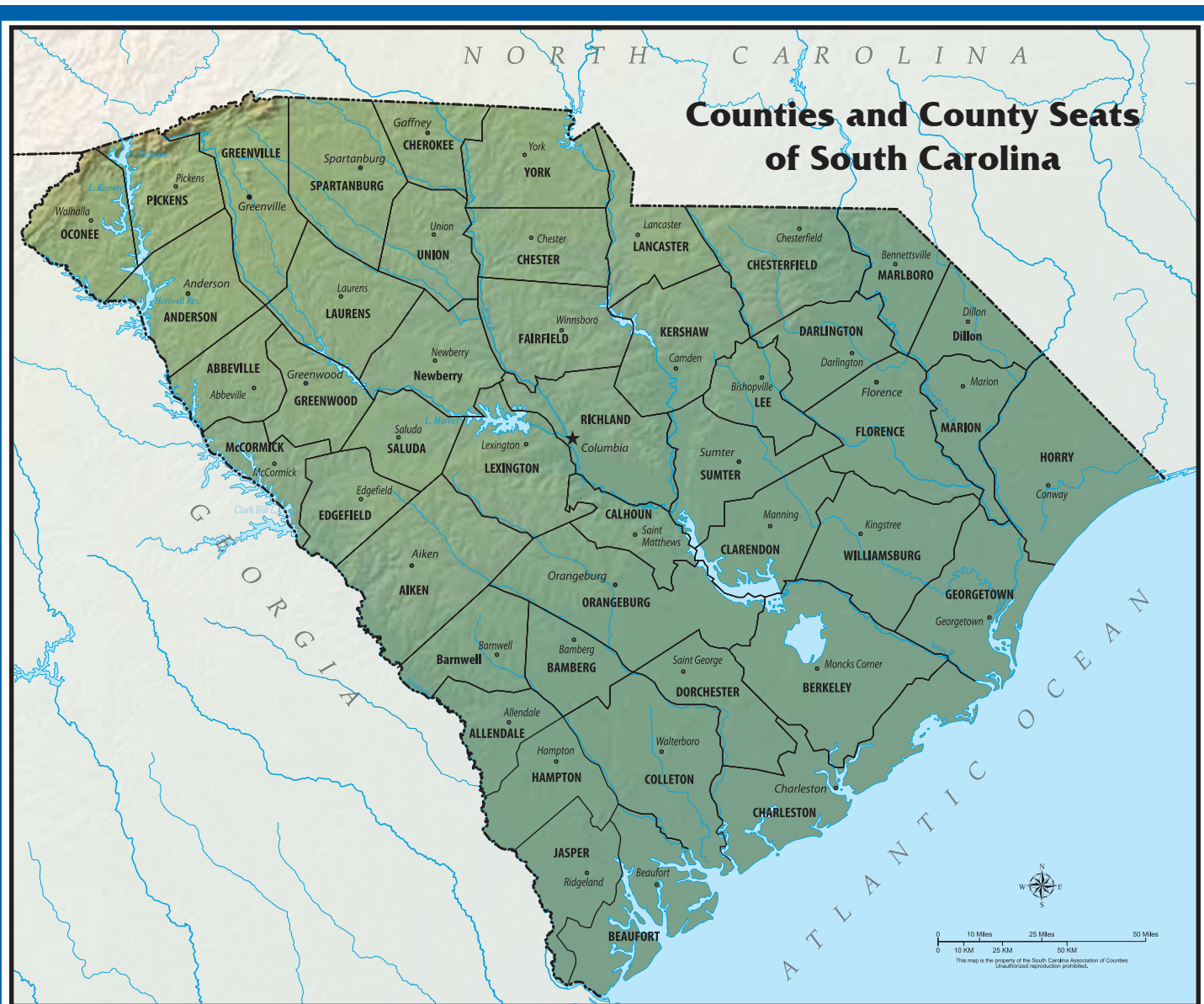
● **Jamie Gilbert** of Lancaster County was one of two local leaders who completed the S.C. Economic Development Institute

(Institute) and received a Certificate of Completion at the conclusion of the Institute’s community development session, held on May 18 in Lake City. The Institute, a partnership between the S.C. Department of Commerce and the S.C. Economic Developers’ Association (SCEDA), emphasizes elements necessary to be competitive in today’s global economy and educates supporters of economic development on emerging trends in community and economic development.

In its 28th year, the program consists of quarterly, two-day sessions for which participants travel to various locations throughout South Carolina that have been successful in community development and attracting and expanding their business and industrial base. Attendees gain insight into issues relating to: water and wastewater infrastructure; available industrial or business buildings; and the importance of other community development components necessary to attract investment. The Institute is open to participants from a wide variety of organizations and entities, including: city, town and county councils; local economic development practitioners; county economic development boards; county school boards; regional economic development boards; utility companies; and local and state government employees. Approximately 60 participants are enrolled in the program’s 2018 class, which began in February and will conclude this November.

● The S.C. Sheriff’s Association in May selected Lancaster County Sheriff **Barry Faile** as the association’s 2018 Sheriff of the Year in May, and presented him the award at its annual conference in July. Since he was elected, Faile has been an advocate for the Sheriffs’ Association and works tirelessly to promote the Association in a positive light across the state, said Horry County Sheriff **Phillip Thompson** and Newberry County Sheriff **Lee Foster** when nominating Faile for the award. They also said Sheriff Faile’s life and career had centered on serving others and is certainly worthy of recognition as Sheriff of the Year.

Faile began his career at the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office in 1989 as a patrol deputy. Since then, he has served as a patrol deputy, criminal investigator, narcotics investigator, Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force commander, patrol captain, and chief deputy. Elected to his first term as sheriff in 2009, Faile is credited for helping make the Lancaster



County Sheriff's Office one the top law enforcement agencies in the state.

- Lancaster County joined the SC I-77 Alliance in April after the Alliance notified the county that its board of directors had voted unanimously to invite the county to become the fifth member county.

- Three local businesses—Movement Mortgage, PCI Group and Fab Fours—were recognized in April with Industry Impact Awards, receiving first place awards in three different categories.

Richland County

- In April, the first of several flood survivors received a new mobile home through the county's flood recovery program, which is funded by federal emergency grants. More than 300 residents, whose homes were

damaged by the 2015 flood, are receiving new or repaired houses.

- Richland County received \$1,655,504 from FEMA to reimburse costs for restoring sewer lines and connecting manholes in the East Public Service District damaged during the 2015 flood.

- Richland County collected more than 77 tons of household waste from residents who participated in Richland Recycles Day, the County's major annual recycling event. The waste was diverted from landfills and will instead be recycled or disposed of properly by various vendors.

- Richland County's Fleet Management Division, which oversees more than 1,500 County vehicles and pieces of equipment, is ranked number 15 in this year's "100 Best Fleets in the Americas." Richland County has received numerous "100 Best Fleets"

accolades in recent years, though the number 15 ranking is the highest the County has ever achieved. Fleet Management consists of just two County employees, Richland County Fleet Manager **Bill Peters** and Administrative Coordinator **Jaci Ricks**, who work closely with maintenance provider First Vehicle Services. First Vehicle Services has 24 technicians and staff members. County vehicles range from older model sedans and hybrid SUVs to ambulances and heavy equipment, and they are used daily by building inspectors, code enforcement officers, animal care staff, roads and drainage crews and emergency responders. Fleet Management recently assumed the responsibility of maintaining 125 fire apparatuses that provide fire protection in Richland County and the City of Columbia.

- For the fourth consecutive year, Richland

(Continued on next page)

County EMS won the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Award for the outstanding care it provides to patients suffering from a STEMI—a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart. The award indicates an organization's efforts to provide the best pre-hospital care possible to patients.

● Richland County officials commemorated new gateway signage that identifies the Broad River Road community as a "Neighborly Place." The gateway signage is part of the Broad River Road Corridor and Community Master Plan adopted by County Council as a way to revitalize the area while maintaining its character.

● Richland County Council members attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the reopening of the historic Hampton-Preston Mansion, one of Richland County's oldest structures. Richland County provided key funding for the restorations, which include introducing period-appropriate plants and structures in the property's historic gardens.

● Hundreds of firefighters from across the state visited Richland County in June to participate in two simultaneous conferences—the 2018 Fire-Rescue Conference and S.C. State Association of Fire Chief's 74th Annual Leadership Conference. The conferences,

held at multiple locations, offered training and classroom instruction. Live demonstrations were also held.

● The life and career of Richland County Magistrate **Judge Hattie Sims** were commemorated when her portrait, installed for display in Courtroom 3 of the Decker Center in Columbia, was unveiled in a private ceremony on May 11. Sims, the first African American female magistrate judge in Richland County, served the Gadsden community.

● For the second year, the Civil Rights: It Still Matters conference was held in April to coincide with national Fair Housing Month. This year's event focused on fair and affordable housing, with a special emphasis on the Latino community. Information was presented in English and Spanish about homeownership basics, housing discrimination and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The winner of the 2018 Modjeska Monteith Simkins Award for Human Rights and Social Justice was also announced. Food trucks, live music and door prizes were part of the event.

● The Richland County Public Information Office recently won six national awards in the NACIO's 2018 Awards of Excellence Competition. NACIO (National Association of County Information Officers), an affiliate of the National Association of Counties

(NACo), holds the competition each year to recognize the best communication efforts of county and state association public information officers.

The Richland County Public Information Office won the following awards:

- Excellence in Public Education for Richland Renaissance, the capital projects and revitalization project
 - Excellence in Video Series for "The Recap," a monthly news video
 - Excellence in Logos for Engage Richland, the newly launched year-round series of public events
 - Excellence in Electronic Communications for *The Richland Weekly Review*, a weekly e-newsletter
 - Meritorious in two areas—Logos, and Public Education—for Returning Home, the County's flood recovery effort
- NACIO will present the awards for this year's competition in July.



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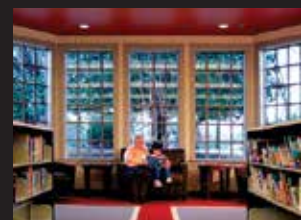
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