

COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 31

Number 4



**Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp
Wins 2020 J. Mitchell Graham
Memorial Award**



**Berkeley County's Project SEARCH Wins
2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial
Regional Cooperation Award**



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COVER: Top—Photo taken of Lancaster County EMS staff and graduates of the county's EMS Boot Camp shortly after the county received the 2020 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award on Nov. 23, 2020. (*See story, P. 6*) **Bottom photo**—Berkeley County's Project SEARCH won SCAC's 2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award. Shown are four interns, members of Project SEARCH's Class of 2020, scheduled to graduate in June. (*See story, P. 12*)



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Prioritizing South Carolina's Infrastructure to Thrive and Compete

By U.S. Representative Nancy Mace (R-SC-01)

Thanks to the hard work of countless South Carolina entrepreneurs and workers, we've become a world leader in industry—everything from manufacturing to tourism. Whether you're talking about the car and tire plants of the Upstate, the tourism hubs of the coast, or the Port of Charleston, South Carolina's economy has boomed over the last two decades. Everybody wants a piece of SC.

We can't take this success for granted. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, with more employees working remotely, it's that most businesses are finding ways to operate anywhere. As Americans take this as an opportunity to flee high-tax states like California and New York, South Carolina has emerged as an attractive alternative.

If our state is to continue to thrive, we have to compete on a state-by-state level, and successfully present our case that the Palmetto State is the best place to visit, live, work, and do business. For lawmakers, this starts with ensuring our state's infrastructure is second to none.

Roads, airports, broadband networks, seaports, and waterways are all vital to our state's economy. Without well-maintained roads, BMW can't move its cars out of Greer. Without an efficient airport, Boeing can't get its planes off the line in Charleston. Without free-flowing highways, tourists can't make it to our beautiful coastline. Without the Port of Charleston, the hard work of countless entrepreneurs and workers never reaches global markets.



U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace

For my constituents and me, this reality is all too real. Tourists come from across the country and around the globe to visit the Lowcountry for its natural beauty and rich history. But if visitors are forced to sit in hours of traffic every time they want to visit Hilton Head or Charleston, or elongate their trips and travel to avoid blocked up bridges, they will spend their hard-earned time and money elsewhere.

Failure here translates to real impacts on our families. Schools, police, firefighters, and countless other essential services we rely on lose critical resources if our economy stagnates, which in turn hurts our vulnerable population most.

I promised to work toward making

infrastructure among Washington's top priorities when I came to Congress. Fortunately, as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I'm in the best position possible to keep this promise.

We have a lot of work to do, but I'm determined to find a solution and make sure the Lowcountry, and South Carolina as a whole, are able to compete toe-to-toe with anyone, anywhere, for generations to come.

One of my biggest priorities is addressing the unfair way federal transportation funds are allocated across the country. These limited resources are supposed to be used to ensure every part of the country has a common level of infrastructure quality, in communities with the most need. But much of the money is going to areas that already enjoy some of the most well-developed infrastructure in the world.

For example, money has always flowed freely to build and expand roads in heavily urbanized areas like New York City, where white collar workers have infinite options when it comes to getting to and from work. Meanwhile, blue collar workers in South Carolina, who have no choice but to make use of our roads, are forced to travel by roadways in desperate need of repair.

The Lowcountry also relies on federal highways to connect tourist hotspots. If those roads are left to fall apart, the tens of billions of dollars generated by countless hotels, restaurants, and small

businesses in the Lowcountry, and South Carolina, will flow elsewhere.

Taxpayer dollars should be used where they can have the most impact. I can't think of a place that fits the bill more than South Carolina.

I'm committed to working to ensure the next generation of South Carolinians has the same opportunity to grow and thrive as we've had over the last two decades. I'm eager to work across the aisle to repair, improve, and expand the Palmetto State's infrastructure at every possible level. It's a massive challenge, one that will likely show little reward in the short-term. But it's an effort we must undertake for the future of our state and our country.



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SCAC's 2021 Directory of County Officials

SCAC's *2021 Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in March. 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 Partners; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

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

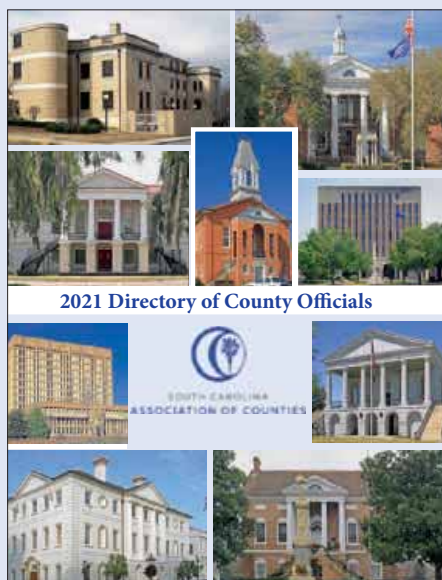
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Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp Wins 2020 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Lancaster County won SCAC's 2020 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its new EMS Boot Camp, an innovative program that addresses the county's shortage of certified emergency medical technicians.

The county won the prestigious award after competing in SCAC's 2020 Annual Awards Competition, held on August 26 at SCETV in Columbia.

"Driving home one evening and contemplating how to combat the ever

increasing shortage of emergency medical technicians in our county," recalled Clay Catoe, Lancaster County Director of EMS, "I asked myself the question: Why can't we hire and train new EMTs through an on-the-job training program?"

He presented his idea to Lancaster County's leaders, and they liked it.

"Our county's leaders, managed to rid themselves of the 'We've always done it this way' mentality, which often kills innova-



Lancaster County



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SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow (left) presents the 2020 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award to Lancaster County at a county council meeting on November 23. Accepting the award are (left to right) Clay Catoe, Lancaster County EMS Director; Stacey Chapman, EMS Compliance Manager, Lead EMS Boot Camp Instructor; Brian Collins, Assistant EMS Training Officer; EMS Boot Camp Graduates, EMT Gage Westerland and EMT Abigail Roberts; and Michelle Pease, Paramedic, EMS Field Training Officer, EMT Instructor.

tion, and demonstrated the value of thinking outside the box," Catoe explained. "An amazing team of professionals then took my idea and built our EMS Boot Camp from the ground up. They designed the curriculum, selected candidates, and acquired support and critical funding from the county. They also scheduled and taught classes, and monitored the progress of each student."

Six S.C. EMS Education and Training Centers, and nine other technical colleges in the state have programs that train EMTs.

Still, the S.C. EMS As-

sociation and Office of Healthcare Workforce reported in 2019 a severe under-enrollment at some EMT training programs, and a shortage of EMTs statewide. Many EMS services are critically understaffed, and EMTs often work overtime to staff ambulances and provide care.

EMS Boot Camp

Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp solves Lancaster County's shortage of qualified EMTs because it differs from other EMT training programs.

The EMS Boot Camp:

- Follows the curriculum of the National Registry of Medical Technicians (NRMT), but it has been expanded to provide 480 hours of classroom instruction instead of the normal 200 hours. Students also gain more hands-on experience driving and riding in EMS vehicles with two EMTs as they respond to emergencies.
- Is designed so students can complete it in 12 weeks, half the time required to complete NRMT's six-month curriculum.
- Provides the four certified EMS instructors, who work for Lancaster County's EMS Department, the

opportunity to get to know each student's work ethic.

- Prepares students to find employment as certified EMTs in Lancaster County's EMS Department.

EMTs, who receive CPR certifications, must pass the NRMT exam to receive EMT certification. The NRMT exam covers topics such as: airway management, ventilation, oxygen therapy, EMS operations, cardiology. The exam also tests an EMT's ability to handle: traumatic situations, including bleeding, fractures and joint dislocations; diabetic emergencies, and other medical emergencies.

(Continued on next page)



Students in Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp gain more hands-on experience than required by the National Registry of Medical Technicians (NRMT) by riding with EMTs as they respond to emergencies. They also receive significantly more classroom instruction than required by the NRMT.



gencies, including cardiac arrests and strokes.

Catoe said the greatest challenge Lancaster County faced when creating its EMS Boot Camp was funding—primarily to pay students attending Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp.

But he said Lancaster County Council voted to fund the program on a one-time trial basis due to the county's shortage of EMTs. The county's EMS Department, which employed 106 staff members in January 2021, had lost 10 EMTs in July 2019 just as the county was planning to add a new transport unit to the fast growing northern end of the

county near Charlotte, N.C. The county also needed to hire six new EMTs to run the new unit.

Lancaster County held its first EMS Boot Camp from January 19 to May 19,

“Our EMS Boot Camp has put EMS in the spotlight and opened what I call the pipeline for employment, and hopefully, provide a sustainable workforce for the future.”

— Clay Catoe

Lancaster County Director of EMS

over a slightly longer period than originally planned for the 12-week-long program due to the Coronavirus Pandemic that surfaced in March shortly after the EMS Boot Camp began.

York Technical College then partnered with Lancaster County after the EMS Boot Camp's trial run to establish and sponsor the program once the county funded it and the trial run proved successful. This partnership saved the county money and made the program work financially. The college offered the EMT training, and the county provided the four EMT-certified instructors.

“York County Technical College was

A Model EMS Boot Camp That Could Help Other Counties

Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp could serve as a model program for other counties seeking to solve their EMT shortages.

“Our EMS Boot Camp,” said Clay Catoe, Lancaster County Director of EMS, “could be modified to fit any county and help open the pipeline for new EMTs in our state and help resolve some of the EMT shortages across South Carolina. It could also be used as a teaching tool.

“The cost associated with running the program could be returned multiple times,” he added, “by retaining loyal employees, maintaining staffing levels to keep EMS units on the road, training EMTs and saving on overtime that must be paid due to staffing shortages. Future boot camps could also be funded by grants and scholarships.”

Steve Harper, Lancaster County Council Chairman, said winning this year's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award is a tribute to his county's amazing EMS, and that winning the award for the first time makes it extra special. He encouraged other South Carolina counties to adopt EMS Boot Camps to address any shortage of qualified EMTs they might have.

“Our past practice of stealing other counties' EMTs with higher pay addresses our county's shortage, but it doesn't address the over arching problem statewide,” Harper explained. “We have borrowed many ideas from past winners of SCAC's annual awards competition, and we hope other counties will feel free to duplicate our program.

“By working together to address the shortage of qualified EMTs,” Harper added, “we could make all of our citizens safer while maintaining reasonable budgets and without harming neighboring counties. After all, this cooperative spirit—to resolve problems together is the hallmark of the idea behind

SCAC's slogans, ‘Local Leaders. Statewide Strength,’ and ‘Building Stronger Counties for Tomorrow.’”

Stacey Chapman, Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp Coordinator, is the program's lead instructor and an adjunct EMT instructor at York Technical College.

She explained why the EMS Boot Camp works, and what makes it unique.

“EMS services often have to hire EMTs fresh out of EMT school to fill positions only to discover they have to retrain them,” Chapman said. “It's almost as if you have to educate and train students to first pass the NRMT exam and second, to prepare the student to be a good EMT. So, from the very first day, we expose students to trucks, equipment, other EMTs and paramedics, the hospital and all other aspects of an EMT's

job. We try to show students what EMS is about, and to bring students into the EMS family.

“We have an opportunity to recruit, train, and hopefully, retain them as employees for years to come,” she added, “and an opportunity to choose those who are interested in making EMS a career, not just a stepping stone for another profession.”

Chapman, the program's lead instructor, has a personal goal.

“I want to see that our program's students receive what they need to be successful and to hold them accountable in the process,” she said. “If I can instill in students the values of Lancaster County's EMS Department to make them good EMTs, and they turn around and share their values with others, then my job is done. My goal is to bring them in, build them up and send them out.”

a great partner,” Catoe said. “Its staff bent over backward to help make sure we had everything we needed.”

According to Catoe, there are two reasons why Lancaster County is probably the first county in South Carolina to

create a program to train EMTs: First, there has never been a way to guarantee that students would complete such EMT training; and second, there has never been a way to guarantee that the EMTs would accept a job once trained.

Yet, Lancaster County figured out a way to guarantee both!

The county attracted dedicated students for its first EMS Boot Camp by requiring them to sign contracts to reimburse the county for training if they failed to graduate, become certified and work for the county’s EMT Department for one year.

“This allows students to work off the debt, and they don’t run off and work somewhere else after we’ve paid for their training,” Catoe said.

Five students graduated in June from the county’s first EMS Boot Camp and received NRMT certifications, and all five now work for Lancaster County’s EMS Department. On January 18, the county launched its second EMS Boot Camp.

“Our EMS Boot Camp,” Catoe said, “has put EMS in the spotlight and opened what I call the pipeline for employment, and hopefully, provide a sustainable workforce for the future. People can begin a career with little or no out of pocket expenses and make a good living with benefits.

“Students enrolled in our EMS Boot Camp essentially participate in a 12 week job interview,” he added. “At the end of the boot camp, they understand our expectations, they develop a sense of loyalty to our agency, and they’re ready to hit the ground running.”



What Do EMS Boot Camp Graduates Think About the Program?

There is probably no better way to find out what graduates of Lancaster County’s EMS Boot Camp think about the new program than to ask them.

Three newly certified EMTs who graduated from the county’s first EMS Boot Camp volunteered to talk about the program, and to explain why they wanted to be emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

EMT Abigail Roberts, 23, a native of Lancaster County, learned about the EMS Boot Camp on Facebook. EMT Brandi Heydon, 36, of Memphis, Tenn., learned about the program in a local newspaper and on Facebook, and now lives in Lancaster. EMT Morgan P. Bowers, 22, lives in Heath Springs (Lancaster County).

Now, Roberts and Heydon work full time as EMTs for Lancaster County EMS (LCEMS). Bowers works part time as an EMT for LCEMS.

“Lancaster County’s EMS Boot Camp is an extraordinary program, and it was everything I had hoped for and more. It’s a fast-paced program that gives you more one-on-one learning and training. While riding with EMTs, you see what happens in the field and how to put skills to use that you’ve acquired. The instructors as well as EMS crews go above and beyond to make sure that each student is confident in their knowledge and skills. This program gave me the opportunity to pursue a career as an EMT that I wanted. I chose EMS as a career simply because I love to help people, and I would highly recommend the EMS Boot Camp to anyone who wants to pursue a career in EMS.

— EMT Abigail Roberts

“I think the EMS Boot Camp was a genius idea. It’s a fast-track certification program that allowed me to acquire real-life experience at the same time. It was everything I had hoped it would be and more. The instructors, who made the biggest impact, provided a feeling of family in a learning environment. I still learn from them on a daily basis as an EMT, and they’re still like family to me. The excitement of being able to help people when they really need help, and the satisfaction that it brings is important to me. Employed as a full-time EMT with Lancaster County’s EMS Department since graduating, I’ve partnered with a paramedic who loves to teach. Learning from him is a highlight. As an EMT, I love going to work and meeting our patients. I love the work I do.”

— EMT Brandi Heydon

“I thought the EMS Boot Camp was great, and it was definitely the type program I was looking for. I’d recommend the EMS Boot Camp to anyone who wants to be an EMT because it is a great way to learn everything you need to know about being one. The program also allows you the opportunity to work with and learn from many amazing people who serve on the Lancaster County EMS staff. I wanted to be an EMT to help people in need and to comfort them and their families in medical emergencies. Working as an EMT is exciting and also very humbling. I really enjoy meeting everyone we have the opportunity to help. I also enjoy learning, and there is so much to learn and improve on. So, I’m very thankful to have the opportunity to learn more and to improve my skills on every shift while working as an EMT.

— EMT Morgan P. Bowers



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Berkeley County's Project SEARCH Wins 2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Berkeley County won SCAC's 2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for Project SEARCH, the county's collaborative effort with the Berkeley County School District and the Berkeley/Dorchester Office of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department that provides internships in county government for teens and young adults with special needs.

The county won the prestigious award after competing in SCAC's 2020 Annual Awards Competition, held on August 26 at SCETV in Columbia.

"I'm happy that Berkeley County is being recognized for their participation in Project SEARCH," said Craig Hige, who helped Berkeley County develop the program after he was hired as a teacher by the Berkeley County School District. "I'm also very proud of our interns, their dedication and what they've accomplished."

"I'm happy that Berkeley County is being recognized for their participation in Project SEARCH. I'm also very proud of our interns, their dedication and what they've accomplished."

— Craig Hige
Teacher, Berkeley County School District

"There's always room for improvement, and some students still have difficulty finding employment after completing their internships," Hige added.

"Yet, some employers, who have hired former interns, reach out to me every winter to ask me if our program has any good interns coming down the pipeline. And this, of course, is a sign that we're doing good work!"

Berkeley County previously shared winning the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award in 2005 with Charleston and Dorchester counties.

But this is the first time Berkeley County, alone, has won the award.

Project SEARCH

Fourteen interns have graduated from Project SEARCH: 5 in 2018, 5 in 2019, and 4 in 2020. Five more interns are scheduled to graduate in June with the Class of 2021.

Interns have filled internship positions in the following county departments: Real Property, Auditor, Delinquent Tax Collector, Information Technology, Facili-

ties and Grounds, Library, Courthouse, Animal Center, Administrative Services and Cypress Gardens. They have also filled internships at the courthouse and



Berkeley County

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Berkeley Cooperative Extension – Clemson University.

So far, Berkeley County has hired two graduates—one for the county's Real Property Department and the other for Cypress Gardens. One intern, a member of this year's Class of 2021, has already been hired by a local business.

Project SEARCH originated in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio. The Berkeley County School District introduced the program to the Lowcountry after asking Berkeley County to create one. In 2018, Berkeley County leaders decided to create a Project SEARCH program because they believed it fit the county's mission statement: "Bright History. Bright Future. One Berkeley."

"We always focus on what our interns can do and not on what their difficulties

are,” Hige explained. “Each year, I access my contacts in local high schools and with Vocational Rehabilitation counselors to identify students who would benefit from an intensive year of work-based learning. After students are identified, their parents are contacted to ensure that they’ll support them.”

Teens and young adults with special needs are selected to apply for available

internships. Once selected, they are evaluated to determine skills they need to improve, their level of independence and their interests.

The intern applicants and their parents are then required to visit the work site where the internship opportunity exists. A panel interviews each applicant to assess if they would make a good fit for the program, and interviews the family to

determine if they will support their children in their desire to join the workforce.

Interns rotate to three different county departments from August to May each school year so they can acquire a broad range of work experience.

Some internships require more direct observation by Project SEARCH’s staff than others.

(Continued on next page)

What Do Graduates of Berkeley County’s Project SEARCH Think About the Internship Program?

If you want to know what graduates of Berkeley County’s Project SEARCH think about the county’s intern program, just ask them!

The following four students, currently serving as interns and scheduled to graduate with Project SEARCH’s Class of 2021, volunteered to describe their experiences as interns: Dalton, 19, Hanahan High School; Emily, 20, Timberland High School; Catherine, 18, Cane Bay High School; and Lyric, 20, Stratford High School.

“I’m working with the custodial team, cleaning offices, hallways, restrooms and meeting rooms. I sweep, vacuum, clean windows, mop, empty garbage, clean drains and set up for meetings. Project SEARCH is helping me learn to be a good worker so I can be a custodian when the year is over. I just love working with my coworkers and being part of a team.”

— Dalton

“I work in the Real Property department. I open mail, sort the mail based on tax rate and type of property, and put data into the computer. I am learning how to work with adults and do my job well. The people here are very helpful and want me to be successful. I love working in an office and working with people who are friendly and are always willing to help me.”

— Emily

“I work in the mail room. I sort incoming mail, put mail into mailboxes, deliver mail around the building and enter in-



(Left to right) Students serving as interns in Berkeley County’s Project SEARCH, who are scheduled to graduate in June as members of the program’s Class of 2021: Dalton, Emily, Catherine and Lyric.

formation into the computer. Project SEARCH is helping me learn the rules of being an employee and meeting expectations. I’ve been able to try out different jobs so I’ll know what I want and don’t want to do. I’ve enjoyed working with my supervisor and getting more comfortable with her as the year has gone on.”

— Catherine

“I work as a greeter at the front entrance of Berkeley County’s administration building. I welcome guests into the building and help answer questions. I have learned how to be a hard worker and make my supervisor happy. I enjoy seeing new people every day and saying hello to them.”

— Lyric



(Back row, left to right) Berkeley County Council Members Phillip Obie, Caldwell Pinckney, Dan Owens, Steve Davis, Tommy Newell, Brandon Cox, Jack Schurlknight, and Josh Whitley; SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow, Berkeley County Supervisor Johnny Cribb, Berkeley County School District (BCSD) Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram; BCSD School Board Member Michael Ramsey; Craig Hige, teacher; Nikita Byrd, Skills Trainer; BCSD Director of Special Services Katie Stapleton; Vocational Rehabilitation Kelly Sieling; and BCSD Chief Academic and Innovation Officer Dr. Kelly Wulf; (Front row, left to right) Project SEARCH Interns, Class of 2020—Brittany Swihart, Mikal Shaw, Robert Bell, and Dave Limlingan.

“For internships, which require an intern to work side-by-side with a county employee,” Hige explained, “we mostly follow along and allow the mentor (county employee) to teach the intern the job. As the 10-week-long internship moves forward, we then reduce how much we observe the interns directly and follow their growth or progress by talking with their mentors.

“For other internships, which might require an intern to enter important tax information into a computer system,” he added, “we try to reduce how much we directly observe interns and instead check the accuracy of their work at the end of the day.”

Project SEARCH provides the experience that interns need to find employment after they graduate.

But the program accomplishes much more in the process.

“Project SEARCH is obviously important to interns and their families because it gives them the skills they need to join the workforce,” Hige said. “More broadly though, the program improves how people with intellectual disabilities and autism are viewed in the community.

“Berkeley County government employees and other people visiting the county’s different departments, where the interns work,” he added, “develop

an appreciation of people with intellectual disabilities when they see Project SEARCH’s interns working.”

“A Life-Changing Program”

Josh Whitley, Berkeley County Council Member, credited others for their incredible work that helped the county win this year’s SCAC’s Barrett

“Supporting (Project SEARCH) is a ‘no brainer’ because part of a public servant’s legacy is judged by how one treats the elderly, the young and those in need. Project SEARCH is a live-changing program.”

— Josh Whitley
Berkeley County Council Member

Lawmore Memorial Award, including: Craig Hige, Project SEARCH’s teacher; Hannah Moldenhauer, Berkeley County Public Information Officer, who helped prepare the county’s entry for SCAC’s 2020 Award Competition; and every county employee who “gave their heart” and served as examples for the program’s interns.

“I’m thrilled with the recognition we’ve received for Project SEARCH, its

testament to the quality of the program, and most excited that others will emulate the program,” Whitley said. “Supporting the program is a ‘no brainer’ because part of a public servant’s legacy is judged by how one treats the elderly, the young and those in need. Project SEARCH is a life-changing program.

“This program provides interns with opportunities they deserve but would otherwise not have access to,” he added. “It gives them an opportunity to experience in a workforce setting before they’re propelled into it after high school. They learn top-notch skills from seasoned employees, who want to see them succeed. And because of the program’s semester-long duration and the quality and variety of training offered, students résumés will ultimately be more eye-catching to potential employees.”

Johnny Cribb, Berkeley County Supervisor, is also pleased with Project SEARCH’s success, including this year’s big win.

“It’s an honor to receive this year’s Barrett Lawmore Memorial Award, however, the true reward is within the program,” Cribb said. “Project SEARCH students are an exemplary group, the program’s teachers are second to none, and county departments that provide internships for these students are incredible. It

takes teamwork to make a program like this thrive and become the success that it is today.

"As a former educator, I can honestly say that Project SEARCH is unlike any other program I've ever come across," he

"It's just encouraging to witness such a successful partnership between Berkeley County and the (Berkeley County) School District. The program's benefits reach far and wide."

— Johnny Cribb
Berkeley County Supervisor

added. "It's just encouraging to witness such a successful partnership between Berkeley County and the school district. The program's benefits reach far and wide. While students gain valuable skills through the program that carry through life, teachers and county departments also benefit daily because of the program's dedicated interns."

A Prime Example of Berkeley County's 'One County' Mission

According to Cribb, Project SEARCH embraces students' abilities and differences and makes Berkeley County stronger.

"Interns have proven themselves to be determined, dedicated and eager to learn as they've carried out a variety of duties across the county, from janitorial to clerical work," Cribb said. "They exhibit positive attitudes and exemplary work ethics, and it's a privilege to have these talented individuals working alongside county staff day in and day out."

"Our differences make us stronger," he added, "and Berkeley County government will continue to do its part promoting the program and introducing young people to the dignity and power of work."



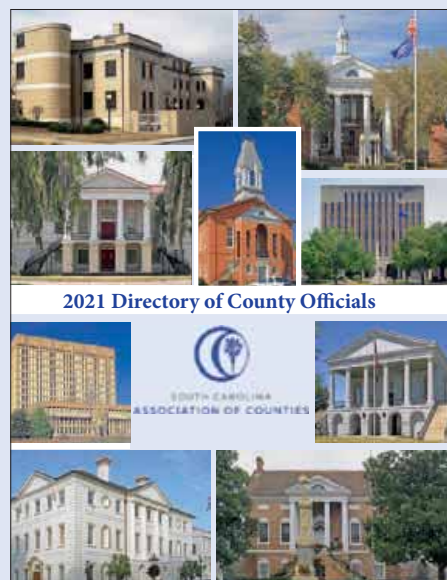
SCAC's 2021 Directory of County Officials

SCAC's 2021 *Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in March. 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 Partners; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

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

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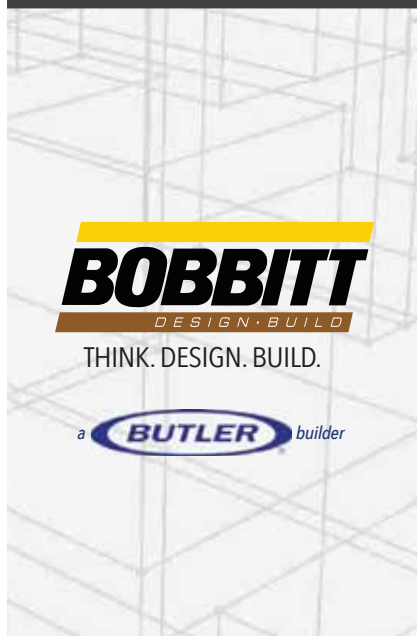
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2020 Home Rule Year in Review From the Courts

By John K. DeLoache, SCAC Senior Staff Attorney



While 2020 will long be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic, the various state courts issued several opinions positively and negatively impacting county home rule.

The year began on a positive note. In January 2020, Judge William A. McKinnon issued a decision in the long running litigation between the home building industry and York County over the county's decision to increase development impact fees on residential buildings. The South Carolina Code of Laws Sections 6-1-910 to 6-1-1000, authorize local governments to impose development impact fees to provide funds for the proportionate share of necessary capital improvements, such as new or renovated schools, utilities infrastructure or transportation improvements attributed to the new development. The county found that the increase in the impact fee was necessary to address the explosive growth in certain areas of the county, such as Fort Mill and Tega Cay. The Plaintiffs raised several arguments, including an allegation that the original state enacting legislation was unconstitutionally vague and denied the Plaintiff's due process, and that the county ordinance was an unconstitutional taking of private property. The circuit court rejected both arguments. The court held that the language used by the General Assembly was clear on its face. The Act, while it did not place a cap on the impact fee that a local government could impose, did provide a set of crite-



ria that must be considered before a fee can be imposed, including that the fee imposed must be based on the costs of stated projects apportioned to the new development. The court then rejected the Plaintiffs' taking claims by finding that the county had a legitimate government interest in providing the services funded by the fee, and that an essential nexus was provided by the legislation's limit of the fee to actual project costs, supported by sound engineering studies, and directly attributed to the development paying the fee. The Plaintiffs have appealed the circuit court's decision, and the State Supreme Court heard oral arguments on January 13, 2021. A decision should be expected by early summer.

In June, the counties were disappointed when the State Supreme Court

decided not to hear Georgetown County's appeal of a decision in its litigation against the state Department of Transportation that resulted from work done by the Department that caused damage to certain county property. The county argued that the damage was, in effect, a taking of property. The county, supported by SCAC, argued that the circuit court relied on more than 100-year-old, pre-home rule, case law holding that county property was state property because counties are a creation of the General Assembly. The circuit court held that the state could not "take" its own property and that the state constitution only protected "private property."

In September, the State Supreme Court issued its opinion in a case involving the power of unelected board mem-

bers of special purpose districts (SPD). In *Weaver v. Richland County Recreation District*, the court upheld the General Assembly's authority to enact legislation that set a base line millage rate for certain SPDs and clarified how those SPDs could then alter that millage rate in the future. Prior to this case the Supreme Court struck down a law allowing appointed SPD boards to impose a property tax millage for their operations. The court held that law violated the state Constitution as it resulted in taxation without representation. The legislation that resulted from this earlier opinion provided avenues for effected SPDs to increase millage rates by voter referendum, or by approval of the governing body of the county, if the SPD was located within a single county. The court held that the provisions of the new legislation provided the methods for citizen representation in addressing future taxation, and that these methods did not infringe upon the county's home rule authority.

In the closing days of 2020, the state Court of Appeals issued an opinion clari-

fying the length of time during which a purchaser of certain real property must file for an exemption from property tax rates after an assessable transfer of interest (ATI). The Court held that purchasers of affected property must be given until January of the next tax year after the purchase to file for an exemption of an ATI. This recognized that property tax bills are for the preceding tax year. The court reasoned that a purchaser buying a property in January should not have twelve months to file, while a purchaser in October would only have three months. The court also clarified that a purchaser buying property during an implementation of the five-year reassessment would have to file for an ATI exemption before the next reassessment period.

First Victory of 2021

The Supreme Court handed a victory to county government in February. The court held that the S.C. Public Interest Foundation waited too long to challenge Calhoun County voter's approval to fund

several projects in the county's successful Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) referendum. Last year a circuit court judge issued an order granting the county summary judgement saying that state law required any challenge to the referendum had to be filed within 30-days of the vote certification. The Supreme Court agreed and further held that the 30-day requirement meant challenges to both election procedures and the individual projects contained in the referendum question. The Foundation waited four months to challenge individual projects listed in the referendum. Since both courts only ruled on the issue of timing of the challenge, neither considered the remaining issue of whether the individual projects were allowed under the CPST statute. Those issues will have to be considered in the future. The Supreme Court's decision means that collection and appropriation of the CPST funds can move forward.





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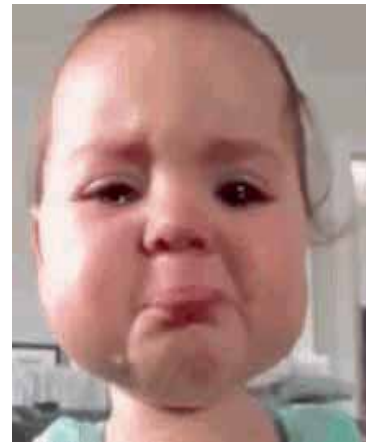


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Sumter Public Safety Complex

Lancaster County Sheriff's Office Educates Public on Use of Force Challenges Facing Law Enforcement Officers

*By Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
SCAC Director of Risk Management Services*

It has been a challenging year for law enforcement agencies and officers across the nation. This is particularly true when it comes to allegations of excessive use of force, racial profiling, and officer training. In this age of live video streaming and media broadcasts law enforcement agencies must address these accusations and public perceptions.

Overall, a very small percentage of officers engage in these behaviors. Most officers put their lives on the line every day trying to protect and serve all citizens as part of their sworn duty. However, it is critical that every allegation be investigated, reviewed, and corrective actions taken where applicable.

One of the most difficult challenges is trying to get the public to understand what the officer is going through in that split second when he has to make a critical use of force decision.

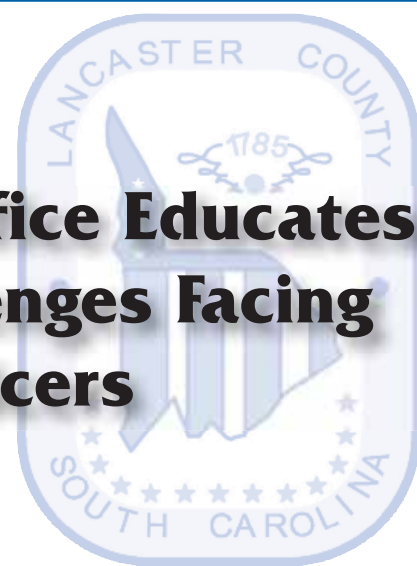
Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff and member of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council, has taken a proactive response in trying to educate the public on the use of force challenges facing officers. On Aug. 27, 2020, Sheriff Faile hosted a use of force presentation for the Community Powerhouse group led by the Rev. Anthony E. Pelham. This organization is dedicated to helping at-risk African American males complete their education and develop critical thinking and job skills for legal and gainful employment. The young men and their parents participated in this presentation.



I asked Sheriff Faile why he thought the training was important and to describe what the attendees went through.

"Law enforcement across America is being scrutinized by citizens and the media because of recent events that have been widely publicized," Sheriff Faile responded. "Although the public is quick to reach the conclusion that police routinely use excessive force particularly when incidents result in shooting deaths by the police, the public does not have the full picture. Our objective with this presentation was to educate these young men on this topic."

The presentation was broken down into two pieces. First, attendees were shown a PowerPoint presentation that combined statistics and videos of police use of force incidents including



Lancaster County



See
S.C. Carolina
County Map,
P. 67



the discharge of firearms by police and suspects. In 2019, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office responded to more than 70,000 calls for service and made almost 4,000 arrests resulting in only 89 use of force incidents. In addition, officers pointed a firearm at a subject 52 times but did not fire a single shot. Officers presented a Taser 13 times and deployed one 8 times.

"These numbers show that use of force incidents and their severity are dramatically overstated by the media and, therefore, by the public. I believe the media and the public also inaccurately portray African Americans as the targets of police use of force. Our statistics do not support that conclusion." Sheriff Faile said.

The purpose of the use of force videos was to show the young men and their parents just how quickly events develop and how little time officers have to react to resistive, aggressive, and sometimes deadly actions by suspects. The videos also illustrate how dangerous it is for an officer in a confrontation with an armed suspect and sometimes how difficult it is for the officer to determine whether the suspect is in fact armed until it is too late.

During the second piece of the presentation, these young men and their parents had the opportunity to participate as officers in very realistic scenarios using the sheriff's office electronic use of force simulator. They watched videos of officers responding to threats of great bodily injury or death and presumably determined how they, as the officers, would have reacted. In the simulator, they became the officers, held the guns, and had to determine whether to shoot.

"I believe the exercise was eye opening for them and gave them a better understanding of the whole picture rather than just the edited snippets we see on the news. Transparency and good community relations are important to me as Sheriff of Lancaster County," Sheriff Faile said. "We have nothing to hide. We go above and beyond the state mandated annual training for police officers to avoid the occurrence of negative events like we have seen around the country. We have partnerships and open lines of communication with community leaders and groups so that if something does happen, communication can begin immediately so community concerns about our actions can be addressed.

"The law enforcement community needs to defend itself by getting accurate information out to the public about use of force issues," he added. "We thought this presentation was a good start. I believe we got our point across to some of these young men and their parents, and we look forward to the opportunity to share this information with other groups. In addition to this training session, Sheriff Faile recognizes the value and importance of developing and maintaining relationships with other county officials and the community."

I asked Steve Willis, Lancaster Coun-

ty Administrator, about his relationship with Sheriff Faile.

"Lancaster County is blessed to have a sheriff, Barry Faile, who believes in working with all community partners to make sure that laws are enforced fairly and equitably," Willis said. "A large part of this is reaching out to community members to discuss concerns before they reach the point of becoming a problem. Barry has the interest of the entire county at heart and he instills that philosophy in all of his deputies, correctional officers, and staff."

Willis provided two examples:

1). During recent protests regarding the death of several African Americans in law enforcement custody, Sheriff Faile reached out to the organizers about how to ensure these were peaceful events. Some were community-led events, one was led by area pastors, but in all cases he made sure there was adequate security for any parades and speeches, adequate bottled water and medical care on hot days, and even made sure restroom facilities would be available for participants.

2). Sheriff Faile is also constantly looking for new ideas and training on how to engage with the community. Quentin Williams of the non-profit Dedication to the Community is scheduled to deliver training to the Sheriff's Office staff in the coming weeks.

"It is this kind of dedicated devotion to duty and our residents that makes the life of a county administrator so much easier," Willis said. "When it is time to ask for resources for the Sheriff's Office

there is no question that it is needed and that it will find support from our county council members. I also know that at all times our deputies, correctional officers, and civilian staffs are acting in the best interest of our county and our citizens."

As we move into a new year these critical issues will continue to resonate across America. However, through training, good policies, practices, and education, and working with our communities, it is possible to make positive changes and develop relationships to help overcome many of these challenges. The relationships that Sheriff Faile and his staff have built with community leaders and other elected officials in Lancaster County is a testament that progress is possible.



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SCCounties.org is the primary resource for information about South Carolina's counties and issues affecting county government.

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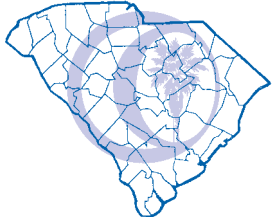


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WHAT IS THE SCAC?

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 S.C. General Assembly 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, conducts the Institute of Government for County Officials (Level I, Level II, and Advanced levels). Clemson University's Master of Public Administration program is a sponsor of the Institute.

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 webinars on a variety of topics for county officials and employees throughout the year at no charge to counties. Recordings of the webinars are made available in the Association's online educational library via SCCounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars.

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; 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 curiae* 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, innovations, 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:

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.



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Advocacy. Education. Collaboration.

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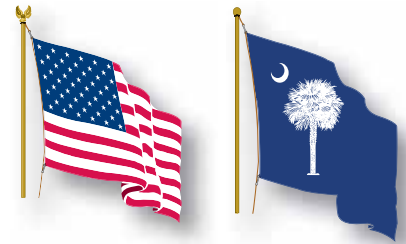
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SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



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

SCAC's staff administers the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust.

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



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Calhoun County
Council Chairman



VICE CHAIRMAN
Waymon Mumford
Florence County
Council Member



Joseph R. Branham
Chester County
Council Vice Chairman

SCCWCT and SCCP< Risk Management Awards

*By Robert Benfield, ARM, AINS, SCAC Director of Risk Management Services, and
Van Henson, CPM, SCAC Risk Manager*

Each year risk management awards are given to recognize counties who have made significant achievements in their risk management and safety programs. These awards are a great way to recognize your employees for their hard work and commitment to safety.

The winners of this year's Risk Management Awards were announced during our Risk Management Awards webinar which was held on January 28, 2021. The webinar has been archived and is available for viewing at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/507100797>

To help recognize our winners and provide information to our members on their activities, I have summarized each winner's project/activity below. I have also included the county contact person for each award. If you see an activity or achievement that you are interested in, please contact the listed person for more information or assistance. All of our winners will be glad to share their information and/or processes with you.

Van and I will be glad to re-present these awards at the winning member's county council meeting. These presentations are a great way to let everyone in your county know about your risk management activities and the positive impact that it is having on employee safety and the citizens of your county.

Risk Management Award Categories

The Most Improved County Award is presented to the county or member entity that has shown the most improvement in their risk management and safety program during the past year.

The Outstanding Safety Achievement Award is given to counties or member entities that have made significant progress in a specific area of their risk management and safety program. This award is intended to recognize specific projects or achieve-

ments rather than general overall improvement in safety and risk management.

The Service Award was created to recognize risk managers who have made significant efforts to help other members and/or their local communities improve risk management programs.

The Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award is given to members who meet or exceed all of the Basic Risk Management Standards consistently.

The SCCWCT Lag Time Awards are given to the three members who had the lowest average claims reporting time in the WC Trust.

The SCCWCT Experience Modifier Awards are given to the three members who had the lowest experience modifier in the WC Trust.

The SCCPLT Lag Time Awards are given to the three members who had the lowest average claims reporting time in the PL Trust.

Berkeley County Risk Management Awards

OUTSTANDING SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hydraulic Lift Attachments

Berkeley County collaborated with a fabricator to develop hydraulic lift attachments that allow county lawnmowers, gators, golf carts, and other small motorized items to be securely lifted in the air for maintenance. This helps prevent back injuries and other sprains and strains to county employees working on these devices.

(Continued on next page)



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County
Council Chairman



Gary M. Mixon
Sumter County
Administrator



Debra B. Summers
Lexington County
Council Member



Steve Willis
Lancaster County
Administrator



**SECRETARY/
TREASURER**
Timothy C. Winslow
Executive Director, SCAC



SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD

For continuing to exceed the Basic Risk Management Standards and excelling in their risk management and safety program.

County Contact

Jerry Crolley, Safety Superintendent
jerry.crolley@berkeleycountysc.gov
 (843) 719-2611

Colleton County Risk Management Award

MOST IMPROVED COUNTY AWARD

Colleton County devoted significant resources, time, and effort into turning around their risk management program. With the support of county council, the county administrator, department heads, and the employees, the county was able to reduce their workers compensation claims frequency, severity, and experience modification factor. This resulted in fewer injuries to their employees and significant savings to taxpayers.

County Contact

George Welch, Risk Manager
gwelch@colletoncounty.org
 (843) 549-5221

Dorchester County

OUTSTANDING SAFETY AWARD

Using Data to Improve Safety Success

Dorchester County utilizes software to analyze claims data and provide online portal access for employees and the public to view workers compensation claim trends and obtain contact information to report claims or hazards. The risk management department shares claims information with the county administrator and department supervisors to increase awareness and accountability. Their motto is "That which is measured improves, that which is measured and reported improves exponentially!"

By importing claims data into their software program they are able to produce charts and graphs relating to claim frequency and severity broken out by department, claim type, and time frame. They also track safety statistics relating to the type and number of safety classes conducted, number of drug tests conducted, and other risk management activities. By analyzing their claims and safety data they are able to identify and focus their resources on high priority hazards and identify opportunities for improvement.

County Contact

Nancy Johnson, Director of Risk Management and Safety
Njohnson@dorchestercountysc.gov
 (843) 832-0216

Horry County Risk Management Award

OUTSTANDING SAFETY AWARD

Strategies for Safer Encounters with Sensory Sensitive Individuals

Horry County likely has more than 6,000 residents and as many as 300,000 visitors a year who might have autism. Ninety percent of autistic people have some sensory sensitivity to exter-



DORCHESTER COUNTY RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD—SCAC Risk Manager Van Henson presented Dorchester County County Council and the County Risk Management and Safety (RMS) Department the Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for their efforts to better report and track workers' compensation claims. Shown (front row, left to right) are: Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman Jay Byars; Claims Assistant Audrey Holzhausen; Nancy Johnson, Director of RMS; Van Henson, SCAC Representative; Safety Officer Harvey Taylor; (back row, left to right) County Administrator Jason L. Ward; Council Member David Chinnis; Council Chairman Bill Hearn; and Council Members Todd Friddle, Eddie Crosby and George Bailey.

nal stimuli such as noise, lights, smells, and textures. In stressful encounters they may fail to make eye contact, answer questions appropriately, follow simple commands, or withdraw entirely. Police officers are trained to be suspicious of these types of responses and these encounters can quickly deteriorate into a scenario where both the officer and individual are at a higher risk for injury.

To help deescalate crisis situations involving persons with sensory concerns and ultimately reduce the chance for injuries to everyone involved, the Horry County Police Department (HCPD) developed a plan to increase safety during these encounters. Their goal was to provide each patrol officer with a Sensory Toy Kit containing items such as fidget spinners and textured toys. These items have been proven to help people suffering from overstimulation to focus and calm themselves. To help secure funding to outfit all 170 patrol vehicles with these kits the HCPD reached out to the community for help. The response was overwhelming and their goal was exceeded within days. Not only were they able to equip all 170 patrol vehicles, they were also able to provide these kits to all investigative staff, Horry County Fire Rescues' fire engines and ambulances.

The project not only provided the HCPD with the important tools they needed, it also engaged the community on a new level, built relationships, and prepared officers to serve a vulnerable segment of the population.

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD

For continuing to exceed the Basic Risk Management Standards and excelling in their risk management and safety program.

County Contact

Shelly Moore, Assistant Risk Manager
MooreS@horrycounty.org
(843) 915-7356

Kershaw County Risk Management Award

OUTSTANDING SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

New Employee Risk Management Training Program

Kershaw County implemented a new employee risk management training program. All new hires meet with the risk manager to enhance their understanding and knowledge of the county's risk management program. The risk manager conducts



John Henderson, SCAC Insurance Services Director, presented an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award to Barry Catoe, Kershaw County Risk Manager, at the Kershaw County Council meeting on February 9.

training with small groups using PowerPoint presentations and discussions. There is "absolute amnesty" and no question is off the table. All departments in the county participate, including the sheriff, detention center, EMS, and fire.

Employees gain a better understanding and appreciation of the county's risk management efforts and processes. The training classes help establish trust and build relationships with the risk manager. Employees feel like they are part of the "team" and are more likely to ask for help and assistance going forward.

County Contact

Barry Catoe, Risk Manager
Barry.catoe@kershaw.sc.gov
(803) 425-7238

Lancaster County Risk Management Awards

OUTSTANDING SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Covid-19 Response and Resiliency Video

Covid-19's arrival has touched every employee and impacted every government service provided to the citizens of Lancaster County. The unprecedented nature of the pandemic, concern for the safety and health of their employees and their families, the overwhelming amount of information and guidance coming in from federal and state agencies, and the rapid spread of the virus in their region mandated a deliberate, focused, and proactive approach to the crisis.

The proactive and combined efforts of county council, the county administrator, and staff along with the unwavering commitment to their employees allowed Lancaster County to serve their citizens and provide critical government services to residents. The county produced a video to highlight the activities and services they provided to continue providing a high level of service to county residents and businesses while keeping their employees healthy and safe.

SERVICE AWARD

Ryan Whitaker, Lancaster County Risk Manager, received the Service Award for assisting several other counties with their risk management and safety programs.

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD

For continuing to exceed the Basic Risk Management Standards and excelling in their risk management and safety program.

County Contact

Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager
Rwhitaker@lancastersc.net
(803) 416-9490

(Continued on next page)

Spartanburg County Risk Management Awards

OUTSTANDING SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Donning/Doffing Face Masks and Gloves

Spartanburg County's risk management program has continued to be successful primarily because of its commitment to safety and health from not only the risk manager, but with the full support from the county administrator and deputy administrator as well.

The county wants its employees to know that they are valued as employees and they welcome all input and concerns they may have. The county implemented the Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) method to their programs which gives them the opportunity to continue to monitor their programs and make changes and/or updates to better serve their employees and the community.

Spartanburg County received numerous questions from employees on how to properly don/doff masks and gloves. To address these questions the county created a video demonstrating the proper techniques for donning/doffing these items. The video was placed on the county's payroll system and all employees were mandated to watch the video. After watching the video, employees were able to assist/remind other employees on the proper techniques for donning/doffing of masks and gloves without having to involve the risk management department. This created a win/win for everyone!

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD

For continuing to exceed the Basic Risk Management Standards and excelling in their risk management and safety program.

County Contact

Terry Booker, Risk Manager
Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org
(864) 596-3542

SSCCP< LAG TIME AWARDS

Edgefield County .83 Days

County Contact

Lee Ann Anderson, Personnel Director
Landerson@edgefieldcounty.sc.gov
(803) 637-4096

Saluda County .90 Days

County Contact

Hardee Horne, Risk Manager
H.horne@saludacounty.sc.gov
(864) 445-4500

Greenwood County 1.3 Days

County Contact

Anita Baylor, Purchasing Officer/Risk Manager
Abaylor@greenwoodsc.gov
(864) 942-8799

SCCWCT LAG TIME AWARDS

Spartanburg County .06 Days

County Contact

Terry Booker, Risk Manager
Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org
(864) 596-3542

Clarendon County .33 Days

County Contact

Tammy Rodvansky, Benefits Coordinator
Clarendonhr@clarendoncountygov.org
(803) 435-9654

Colleton County .37 Days

County Contact

George Welch, Risk Manager
Gwelch@colletoncounty.org
(843) 549-5221

SCCWCT EXPERIENCE MODIFIER AWARDS

Abbeville County .57

County Contact

Barry Devore, Finance Director
Bdevore@abbevillecountysc.com
(864) 366-6690

Colleton County .58

County Contact

George Welch, Risk Manager
Gwelch@colletoncounty.org
(843) 549-5221

Spartanburg County .58

County Contact

Terry Booker, Risk Manager
Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org
(864) 596-3542

Calhoun County .60

County Contact

Brandy Roberson, Human Resources Director
Broberson@calhouncounty.sc.gov
(803) 874-2435





McDaniel Supply Company is located in Jesup, Georgia. It began in 1971 as McDaniel Vending and Food Service. In 2002, the company transitioned to become McDaniel Supply Company, focusing on commissary for jails and prisons. Company founder Jerry D. McDaniel believed in two primary philosophies: Treat others as you would like to be treated; and take care of your customers. Mr. McDaniel passed away in 2016, and his son Jerry has continued to guide the company under those philosophies.

McDaniel Supply has 55,400 square feet of warehouse space and provides commissary to various local, state, and federal correctional institutions located throughout the southeast and ranging in population from 50 to over 2,000 inmates. McDaniel Supply Company is a partner of Georgia Commissary Suppliers, which provides all commissary products to the Georgia Department of Corrections.

McDaniel prides itself on its proprietary inmate accounting software called MACS. MACS was developed with input of each facility over the years, and our in-house programmers have developed the most user-friendly commissary program on the market. Understanding the ever changing needs of jails, we have developed the following new features: mail scanning, E-messaging, and Staff Messaging.

With mail scanning, all inmate mail can be scanned into MACS and inmates will then read their mail on the kiosk. This helps eliminate contraband entering the facility. E-Messaging allows the inmates to communicate with loved ones electronically, further curbing contraband. Finally, staff messaging has become a favorite feature of facilities. Jail staff members no longer have to go to the pods to inform an inmate of a new court date or that their visit has changed, for example. A simple message to the inmate through the kiosk, and it's done. The facility can message a pod or the entire facility.

McDaniel Supply Company is among the most respected commissary companies in the business. With our tireless efforts to provide the best products and most innovative services, it's easy to see why.



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Orangeburg County's New North Branch Library

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Orangeburg County has constructed a new regional branch library in the Town of North to better serve local residents.

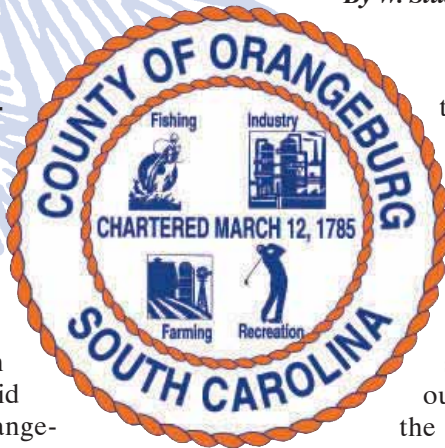
"I'm very happy with our new North Branch Library," said Harold Young, Orangeburg County Administrator. "The library gives Orangeburg County autonomy over the facility.

"It's larger than the previous library, it's up-to-date, and it allows us to offer more for the Town of North," Young added. "It also includes ample on-site parking and outdoor space."

North Branch Library replaces an older building Orangeburg County had leased for many years from the Town of North to serve as a library. However, the previous building's size and condition limited services that the new library can now provide.

North Branch Library

North Branch Library's front, facing the Savannah Highway downtown, looks historic because it is. Constructed in 1910,



"It's larger than the previous library, it's up-to-date, and it allows us to offer more for the Town of North. It also includes ample on-site parking and outdoor space."

— Harold Young
Orangeburg County Administrator

the one story brick structure originally served as a mercantile warehouse.

The new library has 3,240-square-feet of floor space, four times more space than the previous one. This permits the library to hold three times the amount of material, such as books, audiobooks, DVDs and more. The library also complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The library features:

- More than 480-square-feet of shelving, much of which is on wheels, that allows the main front area of the library to be cleared to permit large indoor events.
 - Separate computer and reading sections, and reading areas dedicated for children, teens and adults,
 - Space for programs and meetings, which can be reserved by request. (Applications to reserve space are provided by the library.) and
 - A pergola-covered patio and a paved parking area behind the library that can also be used for library events.
- Orangeburg County paid \$775,000

Orangeburg County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 67

to re-purpose the old warehouse site to serve as a library, using funds provided by the county's fourth One Penny Sales Tax, approved in November 2018, and Capital Improvement Funds.

The county succeeded in ensuring that the library retained the character of other old buildings downtown.

The former warehouse was almost completely renovated for its new role as a library. But its exterior front face was left intact. Also left intact within the interior were the exposed brick walls, bead board ceilings, wood beams and columns, and concrete floor.

"Investing in libraries means investing in our citizens, present and future," Young said. "Access to resources is fundamental, and access to the Internet isn't available everywhere yet.

"North Branch Library is helping

residents of the Town of North during the current Coronavirus Pandemic, and it will continue to benefit them longer after the pandemic ends,” he added. “Like other libraries, it offers a temporary alternative for virtual learning and/or research. Beyond satisfying Internet needs, library collections can help us social distance and/or quarantine. But getting lost in a new book doesn’t have to be an activity that’s limited to a pandemic.”

Young quoted Mason Cooley (1927-2002), an American aphorist known for witty aphorisms, who said, “Books give us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.”

Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright said North Branch

Library will remain a local place for people to gather, celebrate, learn and enjoy the Town of North when the current

“Investing in libraries means investing in communities. People of all ages and backgrounds will be able to use our many library services, whether they want to read, use the Internet, do research, or want to meet new people in a safe way.”

— Johnnie Wright
Orangeburg County Council Chairman

Coronavirus Pandemic ends.

“Investing in libraries means investing in communities,” Wright said. “People of all ages and backgrounds will be able to use our many library services, whether they want to read, use the Internet, do research, or want to meet new people in a safe way.”

Anna T. Zacherl, Orangeburg County Library Director, said Orangeburg County is committed to public education, and prioritizing the construction of libraries and expanding library services countywide.

North Branch Library, she added, is a reaffirmation of the county’s commitment to public education, and there is
(Continued on next page)



North Branch Library's Interior ...

North Branch Library features more interior space than the previous library. The photos below show some of the library's main sections, including the main section near the front entrance where several large portable shelves are located. The shelves, which have wheels, can be moved to permit large indoor events. The photos also show space that provides space for programs and meetings; separate computer and reading sections, and reading areas dedicated for children, teens and adults.



➤ and Back Entrance ...

North Branch Library includes a paved parking area in back. A pergola-covered patio is also located at the back entrance.



more to come.

Orangeburg County is also building a new main library in downtown Orangeburg and a new branch library in Bowman.

"The Orangeburg community depends on the services that the staff of the county's library system provides six days per week. We're working very hard to extend our brick and mortar locations so we can provide services to people where they live."

— Anna T. Zacherl

Orangeburg County Library Director

"The Orangeburg community depends on the services that the staff of the county's library system provides six days per week," Zacherl said. "We're working very hard to extend our brick and mortar locations so we can provide services to people where they live."

"North Branch Library has everything and more that the previous library lacked," she added. "It has a dedicated room for children to use, meeting spaces for the public to reserve, and now, sufficient parking spaces. The library's look and feel is totally different from the previous one, and I'm most excited to have an outdoor area and options for dedicated programming spaces."



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Got Drones?

*By Joe Burgett, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Nieri Family Department of Construction Science and Management
College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, Clemson University*

The use of drones has significantly increased over the past five years. They have gone from a novelty to a powerful tool to support a wide range of industries and agencies.



Starting a drone program can seem daunting. Knowing the regulations, understanding what equipment to buy, and accessing qualified training has been



Dr. Joe Burgett
*Clemson University Associate Professor and
SCiDUC President*



a barrier to starting a program for many agencies.

Those barriers led to the creation of the South Carolina Interagency Drone Users Consortium (SCiDUC). SCiDUC, pronounced “sky-duck,” is a 501c3 non-profit drone association exclusive to SC government employees. The volunteer board of directors is made up of employees from DHEC, Forestry Commission, USC, law enforcement, and other state agencies.

The organization is funded by industry sponsors, and membership is free for any South Carolina government employee. It has nearly 200 members from more than 70 different government agencies. SCiDUC is a place for South Carolina

government employees to network, learn from and leverage each other’s strengths to support the missions of their respective agencies.

So what can SCiDUC do for your agency or local government? First, it’s a great place to network with others who are using drones. For those new to the technology, it’s a space where you can leverage the experience and existing resources already developed by seasoned programs. Meetings are held once a quarter, either virtually or responsibly, outside with the appropriate social distancing and PPE. Another benefit of joining is that you get access to the latest drone information.

Commercial drone use is an em-

merging field with regulations struggling to keep up. SCiDUC forwards relevant information and provides a narrative outlining how changes impact SC agencies specifically. SCiDUC also has quarterly "SCi-CAST," which is their video podcast series. A new and relevant topic is selected every quarter, and an expert in that field speaks to the subject. "Drone Privacy" was a recent topic that was very well received.

SCiDUC also organizes training events for its members. At a recent training event, Clemson and DHEC set up various targets and obstacle courses at the Harbison Center (Forestry Commission) for pilots to practice their skills. While seasoned drone operators found it to be a valuable event, perhaps the members who had the most benefit were those without any experience at all. A training area was set up where one-on-one instruction

(Continued on next page)



Clemson University Offers Online Drone Course for Professionals

Many local agencies and government offices are looking to take advantage of drone technology but struggle with where to start. Barriers like the required FAA license, lack of flight skills, or knowing the air-space keep many organizations from taking advantage of this powerful tool. These barriers led Dr. Joe Burgett, of Clemson University, to develop the Applied Drone Technology course for professionals. This non-credit course offered through the University provides a comprehensive curriculum to safely use drones, legally and effectively.

This five-module course teaches fundamental commercial drone operations and software applications. The key learning objectives include 1) passing the FAA Part 107 exam, 2) learning to create 3-D models from drone data, 3) a wide range of practical skillsets such as filing FAA waivers, requesting ATC authorization, and programming autonomous missions, and 4) flight skills. The 3-D models and maps will be created using ContextCapture, one of the industry's leading SfM software packages. The course uses a cutting-edge flight simulation program to teach flight skills. Access to ContextCapture and the flight simulator are included with the course.

Applied Drone Technology

Through Clemson University



**Provided by
Joe Burgett Ph.D.**

The course has a self-paced and instructor-led offering. The self-paced offering contains a comprehensive library of videos, voiceover PowerPoints, and written e-material. Students complete the course at their own speed over a 10-week period. The instructor-led offering provides a more structured approach with weekly online classes led by Dr. Burgett. This offering allows an accelerated five-week course delivery.

For more information, visit the course website at www.clemsondrone.com or the course overview video at https://ensemble.clemson.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/Applied_Drone_Technology/view. You can also contact Dr. Joe Burgett at jmburg@clemson.edu with any questions.



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The next quarterly meeting and training session is on April 14. For more information, contact Dr. Joe Burgett, Clemson University, at jmburg@clemson.edu



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The IMLA Report

Police Reform

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

The topic of police reform animates debate across the country and around the world. For some, the call to “defund the police” resonates from a history of perceived oppression, while for others the call raises the specter of anarchy, chaos and loss of safety. Regularly, the media reports on abusive police behavior, excessive force and misguided policies, while almost simultaneously reporting on brazen attacks on and murder of police officers. The divide is real, and society requires that we bridge that divide.

Putting aside issues of bad and illegal police conduct, much of the anger directed toward the police could be misdirected and the bridge society needs could be built by focusing on some of the core problems that cause negative interactions between the police and the community. Bear in mind that the police enforce laws, they do not make them.

As part of a solution toward restoring positive police community relations, federal, state and local governments can inventory their laws to determine which have a disproportionate impact on the poor and minority populations and which have little current value to the community; i.e., laws that are not enforced, only sporadically enforced, or ones that may no longer survive legal challenge. Coronavirus not only taught us that people can work remotely; it taught that many incarcerated people could be freed without significant detriment to public safety or the administration of justice.

As part of inventorying the laws,



studying how the laws are enforced could lead to reevaluating whether penalties are proportionate to the crime or proportionate to the defendant. A \$500 fine for high weeds might get the attention of someone owning a midsize home but might be overwhelming to a person just scraping by and have no appreciable impact on the owner of a multi-million-dollar home. A traffic ticket impacts people of different means differently and a one size fits all approach affects the poor far differently than those with wealth. Thus, evaluating how penalties can be structured to deter prohibited conduct while penalizing offenders in ways that are proportionate to their wealth can help reduce victimization of people by the justice system.

Similarly, holding someone in jail to collect a fine or fee may be constitutional but doing so generally affects the poor much differently from those with wealth. Rarely, will holding someone in jail to pay off a fine make economic sense. In many parts of the country, the court reduces a fine or fee obligation by a small amount for each day the person is held in jail. The

cost of housing the person usually exceeds those costs and where those communities charge the person for those costs, it only adds more to the debt and makes the system more a debtor's prison than a measure of public safety.

There are other issues with jails that call for reform. For years, jails have had contracts with companies that charge inmates and their families exorbitant amounts to make calls to loved ones. That practice cannot be justified. With space limited, many inmates are housed far from home, causing a barrier to visits from family which affects the poor disproportionately. Other barriers, such as limited visiting hours and restrictions on the number of visits can adversely affect the poor. Many of these practices can be changed while still maintaining security. As to specific police practices, the number of civil rights cases that arise from failed charges of disorderly conduct or resisting arrest are legion. To remedy this problem local governments should create a system to review every disorderly charge and every resisting arrest charge. If following a careful review, police management needs to discipline officers when they find the charges were not legally sustainable. Other policies and practices should be evaluated. Not every search and seizure warrant or arrest warrant requires SWAT, or no-knock, but some do. Developing policies that de-militarize police operations while preserving officer safety can go a long way to changing the public's perception of the police.

Few believe that society can exist without police. At the same time, it seems incongruous that families seeking help for relatives who are suicidal or suffering a mental health crisis end up seeing their relatives killed by the police rather than helped. In those situations, the families rightly argue that they asked for help and to have their relative protected, not killed; while police officers, rightly argue that they only act with deadly force when their lives or the lives of others are threatened.

As America deinstitutionalized, the number of people in a community having mental health issues expanded. Consequently, jails house a disproportionate number of people who have mental health issues and many people on the streets suffer from mental illness. Police officers who might expect a person to respond to a command or a question rationally, face a far more difficult task when people respond irrationally. Often, these interactions lead to violent conflicts. These problems stem from the unwillingness of communities

to fund mental health services and the inadequate solutions society has for dealing with people who have unresolvable mental health issues.

In addressing interactions between the police and the mentally ill, some communities have adopted programs that embed social service workers with police when responding to calls where the mental health of a person seems an issue. In some communities, people argue that only social service workers should respond in many of these situations. Whether a protocol for response can be developed that eliminates the police as "first responders" to a mental health crisis involves many practical considerations but should not be discounted without study.

Communities across the United States are implementing plans to address the loss of confidence in police policies. A Civilian Review component in police oversight has become a common choice designed to address community distrust of the police. Because elected leaders represent the communities that elect

them, it's somewhat ironic that a community believes additional oversight by an appointed board offers a better vision into police policies and practices. Nevertheless, civilian review boards continue expanding throughout the country. Often these boards are little more than a platform for those with grievances against the police and they fail in bringing change. To be effective these boards need the support of the police and the community which can only come from transparency and perceived fairness.

Reforming the police should not mean eliminating the police or making it more difficult for officers to do their jobs. If nothing else, local governments need to assess the issues within their communities and focus on finding ways to bridge the current divide.



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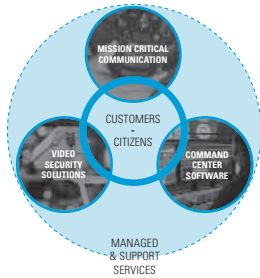
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Orangeburg County's New Detention Center

By W. Stuart Morgan III

“Safety, safety and safety,” responded Orangeburg County Administrator Harold Young when asked to give three reasons why he was happy his county had finally completed its new \$26 million detention center.

Orangeburg County's 85,000 square foot detention center, located near the sheriff's office in the City of Orangeburg, was constructed between March 2018 and September 2020. Now, the old jail, located nearby, is being demolished to



create new parking spaces.

“Our detention officers are much safer because contact with inmates has been reduced, and a monitoring system

Orangeburg County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 67



Front view of Orangeburg County's new detention center. (Aerial photo by Orangeburg County GIS)

provides a greater range of visibility,” Young explained. “Inmates are safer because the facility satisfies all state requirements for detention centers, and fully complies with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and Americans with Disabilities Act. Local residents are safer because the facility was designed to prevent escapes, a problem we had with the old jail, which was constructed in the 1960s.

“Our new state-of-the-art detention center,” he added, “also features technology that’s designed to cut the overall cost of housing inmates and to accommodate future expansion.”

Vernetia Dozier, Orangeburg County Detention Center Director, said the new facility has nine pods capable of housing more than 300 inmates (241 beds for male inmates and 63 beds for female inmates). This, she noted, satisfies state and federal standards for inmate separation.

Dozier then identified many of the new detention center’s features, as follows:

- Conference rooms in each pod for classes, drug and alcohol counseling, and visits by attorneys and religious representatives;
- Recreation yards adjacent to each pod, and within the facility’s main walls and exterior walls to allow open air recreation;
- Multi-function rooms that allow inmates to be moved from one area of

the facility to another without having to leave their cell blocks;

- A large sally port and booking/intake area designed to dramatically increase safety throughout the facility;
- Nursing/medical department, located near facility’s booking/intake area allowing medical staff to conduct physical and mental health assessments; and a work area near the intake area that allows arresting officers to complete required charging documents;
- A hearing room, which employs a video conferencing system, that allows detainees to have on-site court hearings and request bonds without having to be transported elsewhere;

“By using cutting-edge technology, we’re allowed to do what a detention center is required to do: to house inmates and keep them safe in a suitable environment while they’re in our custody; to carry out all responsibilities according to state and federal jail management regulations; and to deliver inmates to court for due processing.”

— Vernetia Dozier
Orangeburg County
Detention Center Director

- Maintenance corridors (concealed areas) that allow workers to work safely away from inmate cell areas when maintaining mechanical and plumbing systems;
- Training room for staff, and separate locker rooms for male and female staff members;
- Kitchen, offices and storage areas;
- An employee entrance, including a public lobby; and
- Most important feature—a central corridor (the facility’s primary design feature) running horizontally through the entire facility that separates the secured inmate side from the administration side. A central control station in this corridor controls all electrical, plumbing and fire panels in the facility if there is an emergency.

Dozier said the detention center employs other cutting-edge technology, including: a master control system that links all areas of the facility; cameras that are integrated to minimize areas that cannot be monitored from master control stations and positioned to prevent staff from having to enter unsafe areas; and scanners that are used to prevent contraband from being brought into the facility.

The facility also includes: cameras, alarms and call buttons on every door; an intercom system that connects cells to in-

(See *Orangeburg Co.*, P. 53)



Front entrance view of Orangeburg County’s new detention center



One of the large maximum security bays, which includes: video conferencing stations (left) that allow inmates to communicate with attorneys and family members; an enclosed recreational area (at the far end of the bay); and a shower enclosure, which is out of view but shown in another photo (inset).



The front entrance, which includes a kiosk, leads to a public lobby inside.



The detention center's central corridor, which runs horizontally through the entire facility, separates the secured inmate side from the administration side. A central control station controls all electrical, plumbing and fire panels in the facility.



Room, including videoconference stations



Rear view of Orangeburg County's new detention center. (Aerial photo by Orangeburg County GIS)



Booking/intake area

Orangeburg Co. ...

(Continued from P. 51)

mate day rooms and staff; and electronic, keyless locking systems to reduce security concerns at all levels.

“By using cutting-edge technology,” Dozier explained, “we’re allowed to do what a detention center is required to do: to house inmates and keep them safe in a suitable environment while they’re in our custody; to carry out all responsibilities according to state and federal jail management regulations; and to deliver inmates to court for due processing.

“Our old jail was designed and constructed in the linear fashion, which was used many years ago,” she added. “But our new detention center doesn’t require as many employees due to its newer design and construction, and the technology it employs. In fact, it’s currently rated to house up to 265 inmates, and required to have 97 staff members, including correctional officers.”

Correctional officers and other staff members, assigned to operate the new detention center, completed 80 hours of required training between June and September 2020 that taught them how to respond to a broad range of situations, including emergencies.

Training focused on each staff member’s assigned area or areas; emergency response procedures, including CPR and first aid; and how to use Automated External Defibrillators, and operate control panels, video systems and other equipment.

Approximately 250 inmates were then moved from the old detention center to the new one on September 10.

Transferring inmates from one facility to another is no easy task.

The move required the following 10 agencies: Orangeburg County Detention Center Staff and Administration, Orangeburg County Fire, Orangeburg County EMS, Orangeburg County Maintenance, Orangeburg County GIS, Orangeburg County Sheriff’s Office, SWAT and K9, Orangeburg Department of Public Safety, State Law Enforcement Division, and Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office.

Richard Hall, Orangeburg County Planning/Development Director, said detention centers are expensive to construct because they must be secure and safe.

He then explained why Orangeburg County’s new detention center was an expensive project.

High security areas incorporate solid poured block walls reinforced by steel, and individual cells are constructed of steel and welded together. Sally ports (two-door access ways) provide extra levels of security when moving inmates through the facility. To help eliminate the possibility of escapes, the facility includes security doors, camera systems, electronic locks, ventilation systems and other security components required by

“We had a great team working to make our new detention center safe and effective for many years to come, and Orangeburg County residents can rest assured that the facility will save money in the long run.”

— Johnny Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County Council Chairman

federal and state regulations.

According to Hall, Orangeburg County carefully evaluated every purchase to balance up-front costs and long term maintenance costs associated with the detention center project.

He said the county used metal panels on the backside of the detention center not facing the street and polished concrete floors throughout cell areas, which reduced the cost of flooring while ensuring lower long-term maintenance costs.

The county purchased cells and HVAC systems directly to cut the cost of the systems 15 percent; and control systems, which allow mechanical systems to be constantly monitored, to increase efficiency and lower utility costs.

The county also purchased LED lighting, which is important in a facility that operates 24-7, to ensure that lighting will not have to be replaced frequently, and to lower operating costs.

Orangeburg County built a detention center to fulfill its primary mission of

housing inmates, but managed to create one that has a good work environment for the employees who work there every day.

“We realized that we also had to put as much thought into creating a work environment,” Hall said. “So, the facility includes employee break rooms with windows that allow employees to decompress.”

Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr. credited teamwork for making the detention center project a success.

“We had a great team working to make our new detention center safe and effective for many years to come, and Orangeburg County residents can rest-assured that the facility will save money in the long run,” Wright said. “Inmates no longer have to be housed in out-of-county facilities, and transported to and from such facilities for court appearances. Our correctional officers have a much safer work environment, everyone is much safer when they visit, and inmates are safer because the facility meets state and federal regulations, including PREA standards. The facility is also designed to remain safe and secure during natural disasters and emergencies, such as internal flooding and fires.

“I’m extremely satisfied with this project, and what our team has achieved,” Wright added. “Teamwork is the key to building a detention center, and our great team members produced a great one.”



A Roadside Guide to Darlington County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

Darlington County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 67

During the American Revolution, Darlington County was part of Old Cheraw District. The Circuit Court Act of 1769 made Cheraw a judicial district. The seat of government for Old Cheraw District was Long Bluff (later Society Hill), east of the Pee Dee River. By 1772, the district had a courthouse and jail.

In November 1774, the Circuit Court was meeting in the courthouse at Long Bluff. On November 15th, a petit-jury adopted one of the earliest statements in South Carolina of opposition to Parliamentary taxation of the Colonials. The



petit-jury denied the right of Parliament to tax them without representation: "This right of being exempted from all laws but those enacted with the consent of Representatives of our own election, we deem so essential to our freedom ... that members of the jury also pledged to defend this right ... at the hazard of our lives and fortunes ..."

During the early years of the conflict, partisan strife in the area was sporadic. Nevertheless, following the Fall of Charlestown in 1780, the situation changed dramatically. The British presence in Charlestown altered the power balance in the Cheraw District. Some Patriots, possibly under duress, signed the oath of allegiance to the King, while others remained adamant in their opposition to the Crown. In addition, leading Loyalists raised two militia regiments in the district. Dr. William Henry Mills led one and Major John Harrison commanded Harrison's Rangers. With increased raiding and counter-attacks life in the district became more dangerous.

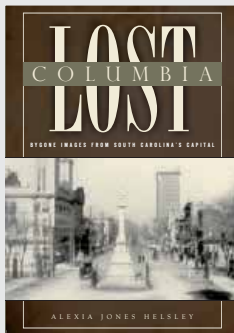
Harrison's rangers, including his brothers, were infamous raiders. For example, in 1780, they accompanied Major James Wemyss on a foray to reduce

dissent in the backcountry. Troops commanded by Harrison and Wemyss reportedly left a 70-mile-long stretch of destruction between Kingstree and Cheraw. During this raid, Wemyss clashed with Adam Cusack, a Patriot operating the ferry over Black Creek. The British officer ordered Cusack to transport the British troops by ferry over the creek. Cusack boldly refused. The British seized him and took him to Cheraw for trial. Wemyss found him guilty and ordered his execution. Transported to Long Bluff, with his family watching, the British hanged Cusack. Cusack's execution prompted many to join the Patriot militia.

Given their strategic importance, British troops occupied Cheraw and Long Bluff in 1780. Loyalists and British clashed with Patriot militia frequently in the district. Many of these were small raids and counter raids. The Continental Army defeat in Camden in August 1780 increased pressure on the district. Hundreds of British and Loyalists troops reoccupied Long Bluff prompting widespread resistance. Reporting to Lord Cornwallis, Wemyss emphasized the gravity of the situation: "...I have burned & laid waste
(See *Darlington Co.*, P. 56)

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Darlington Co. ...

(Continued from P. 54)

about 50 Houses & Plantations, mostly belonging to People who have either broke their Paroles or Oath of Allegiance, & are now in Arms against us." With the district in rebellion, British control of the region was in decline.

Notable Darlington Revolutionaries

Reverend Evan Pugh (1729-1802)

A native of Pennsylvania, Evan Pugh immigrated from the Valley of Virginia to the Welsh Neck. Ordained in 1764 Pugh was a Baptist minister who pastored several churches in the Charleston Baptist Association including Welsh Neck, the

first Baptist church in the area, and Mount Pleasant. On June 15, 1778, Pugh signed an "oath of allegiance & fidelity" "as directed by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina." In 1777, Pugh composed a letter for the Charleston Baptist Association that supported the new constitution (South Carolina's first in 1776) and "the measures taken by America in general and this State in particular, to secure our liberties." Pugh and many other Baptist and Presbyterian leaders in South Carolina were interested in the establishment of religious liberty in the State – specifically, the disestablishment of the Anglican Church. Prior to the fall of Charlestown, Pugh visited militia musters and occasionally preached for the troops.

Colonel Lemuel Benton (1754-1818)

Lemuel Benton, a native of North Carolina, immigrated to the Cheraw District. Elected Major in 1777, Benton served with the Cheraw regiment during the Revolutionary War. He fought with Brigadier General Francis Marion and Major General Nathanael Greene. He successfully survived a number of military engagements, including the Battle of Great Savannah. In 1781, he was elected colonel, but later resigned his commission. After the Revolution, Benton served in both the SC House of Representatives and the US House of Representatives.

Samuel Bacot (1745-1795)

Fleeing religious persecution, Samuel Bacot's grandfather, a Huguenot, left France and immigrated to Charlestown in the 1690s. By 1770, Samuel Bacot had moved to the Cheraw District. An ardent supporter of American Independence, Bacot served as a lieutenant under Francis Marion. On May 12, 1780, British troops captured Bacot and other Patriots near Camden. The British planned to transport the men to prison in Charlestown. In a daring escapade, now a family legend, Bacot and his companions escaped and continued their fight for independence.

Andrew Hunter (d. 1823)

Andrew Hunter was a patriot who not only furnished corn and other needed supplies to the Patriot forces, but also, served in the militia. Hunter was one of Francis Marion's invaluable scouts. While scouting across the state line in North Carolina, Hunter encountered difficulties. Colonel David Fanning, an

(See *Darlington Co.*, P. 58)

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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 Partners; 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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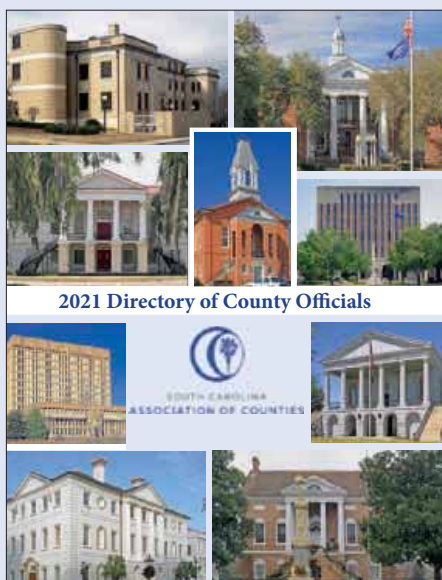
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Roadside Guide ...

(Continued from P. 56)

infamous Loyalist, captured Hunter. Fanning was active in many daring raids and apparently loved to boast of his military accomplishments. In this instance, though, the tables were turned. Hunter managed to not only escape, but also to seize Fanning's pistols and other belongings. After the Revolution, Hunter served in the SC House of Representatives.

Representative Revolutionary Engagements in Darlington County

Marr's Bluff (a/k/a Hunt's Bluff) July 25 1780 [alternatively, August 1, 1780]

Marr's Bluff was an unusual Revolutionary engagement. British officer John Nairne with a force of regulars and Colonel William Henry [or Robert] Mills with a Loyalist contingent were escorting a convoy of British flatboats from Cheraw down the Pee Dee River. The boats carried more than 100 ill British soldiers, perhaps suffering from malaria, who needed medical attention. The soldiers were part of the British force occupying Cheraw.

Learning of the evacuation, Patriot forces planned an ambush at a bend in the river – Marr's Bluff (aka Hunt's Bluff). Major Tristram Thomas [or John Irvin] commanded the Patriot troops. Lacking cannon, Thomas' men arrayed fake ones and then pretended to load them while yelling for the British to surrender.

The ruse worked. Some of the Loyalists on the flatboats seized control of them and surrendered to Thomas and his Patriot militia. According to J. D. Lewis, Thomas' men captured the flatboats. 107 British troop, while almost 100 Loyalist militiamen deserted.

Williamson's Bridge September 16, 1780

By 1771, Williamson's Bridge spanned Black Creek. Here, in 1780, a Patriot force commanded by Lt. Colonel Lemuel Benton clashed with a group of Loyalist militia. Lt. Colonel Benton commanded the Cheraw regi-

ment, part of Brig. General Francis Marion's brigade. Benton's men forced the Loyalists from the bridge, pursued them several miles, and eventually defeated them in close-combat.

Darlington County played a critical role in South Carolina's long fight for independence.



SCAC's Digital Communications:

Are You in the Know on the S.C. General Assembly's Actions and Association Events?

SCAC is now distributing *Friday Reports*, *Legislative Alerts*, and conference registration information digitally through social media, Constant Contact emails, and on its website. Paper copies will no longer be mailed. As local leaders, SCAC wants to make sure all county officials and staff members continue to receive critical legislative and conference information. If you have not been receiving the *Friday Report* e-mails, please contact Jennifer Haworth, SCAC Member Services Coordinator, at jhaworth@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

Follow SCAC on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to learn what's happening at the State House and how SCAC's programs, services, and conferences can benefit your county. Find us at SCCounties on Facebook and Twitter, and South Carolina Association of Counties on LinkedIn. Help us amplify your county's good news by tagging SCAC in your posts and/or using the #SCCounties, #LocalLeaders, and #State-wideStrength hashtags.



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A New SCAC and NACo Partnership: Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level by Attending NACo's Leadership Academies

SCAC is pleased to announce a new partnership with NACo to build strong county leaders. The [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) is an online 12-week program that empowers frontline county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties. The [NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy](#) is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity and IT.

NACo launched these programs in partnership with the team from the Professional Development Academy, including General Colin Powell, Dr. Marshall Goldsmith, and many other executives from both private industry and government agencies.

Over 1,600 counties have enrolled emerging and existing leaders since the launch of the program last year, with incredible feedback and results. In fact, the positive feedback and demand for this NACo program has been truly unprecedented.



 3,300+ County Participants
 1,600+ Counties
 4m+ In Scholarship Savings

The programs have proven relevant and practical for leaders and are convenient and non-disruptive to busy schedules. The 12 weeks of content are expertly facilitated online, and it takes about 4-5 hours per week for participants to fully engage in the program.

\$1,545 per enrollee for South Carolina counties. The retail price is \$2,495.

To enroll visit the [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) and [NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy](#) webpages at naco.org/skills. For questions and assistance in enrolling please contact Luke Afeman at lukea@pdaleadership.com, Professional Development Academy/NACo Leadership Academy.



"This is a transformational leadership program that has proven to be the most scalable, cost effective, and efficient way to make your leaders better."

General Colin Powell

"The commitment of time and energy towards this program served as an important reminder of the value of continued learning and professional development...for all levels of public servants/leaders. The High Performance Leadership Program completely reignited my passion and commitment to my career in local government service."

*Beth Goodale
Georgetown County (SC) Recreation
& Community Services Director*

"I think it would be helpful to all levels of leadership in the organization, but especially to mid-level managers that are seen as "rising stars"...I thought it was an excellent program."

*Clay Killian
Aiken County (SC) Administrator*

SCAC/NACo Partnership Offers New Online Leadership Academy

SCAC recently announced a new partnership with NACo to build strong county leaders. The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that empowers county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties.

The NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity, IT, and risk management. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a registration fee of \$1,545 (instead of the \$2,495 retail price).

For more information about High Performance Leadership Academy, visit: <https://www.naco.org/resources/education-and-training/naco-high-performance-leadership-academy>.

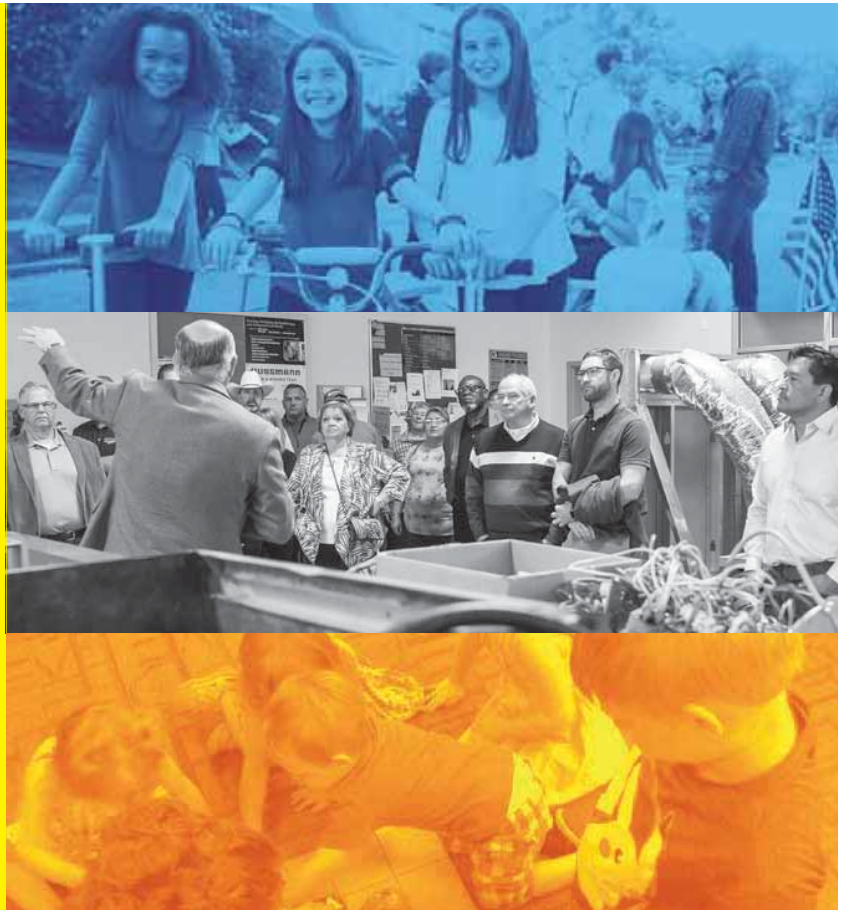


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County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 67

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

Bamberg County

● Bamberg County held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 10 for the newly constructed Rivers Bridge Fire Substation. In 2018, Bamberg County resident **Ted Brandt** donated property to Bamberg County. The county has worked since then to secure funding, including a low-cost USDA loan, with assistance of U.S. Congressman **Jim Clyburn** and U.S. Senator **Tim Scott**, to construct the facility.

Guest speakers included: **Joey Preston**, Bamberg County Administrator; **Al Jenkins**, Regional Director for **Sen. Tim Scott**; **Larry Haynes** and **Clint Carter**, Bamberg County Council members; **Chad Dilling**, Ehrhardt Police and Fire Chief; and **Paul Eubanks**, Bamberg County Fire Coordinator. Bamberg

County Fire Chaplain **Sunny Mooney** opened and closed the ceremony with a blessing over the station, those who work within its walls, and those served by the station. Council Member **Spencer Donaldson** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bamberg County is planning to build a similar fire substation in the Holmans Bridge area of Denmark, on Charleston-Augusta Highway. A new pumper truck will be purchased in 2021 in accordance with the Bamberg County equipment replacement plan.

Beaufort County

● Beaufort County hosted a Virtual and In-Person Grand Opening with Ribbon Cutting for the New Shanklin Road EMS Station on March 3. This is the first stand-alone facil-

ity the county has constructed for Beaufort County EMS operations, located at 88 Shanklin Road in Beaufort.

Guest speakers included: Beaufort County Public Safety Directory **Phil Foot**; EMS Director **Donna Ownby** and County Council Member **Gerald Dawson**.

● A recent Beaufort County purchase will ensure Protection of the Historic Port Royal Battlefield Site. The purchase will permanently protect 12 acres along Highway 21, known as The Port Royal Island Battlefield, a Revolutionary War site.

The site, which is protected as a critical piece of the county's rich cultural landscape, is protected in a partnership with the Department of Defense, Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Program, the S.C. State Conservation Bank, and the S.C. Battleground Trust. The property, a long-sought acquisition, fulfills cross-cutting goals—to support the military installation, protect critical cultural resources, and connect with the S.C. Liberty Trail.

● Beaufort County announced on January 6 that the Beaufort County Channel had won its second Southeastern EMMY Award for Best On Camera Talent/Host for the Nature Series Coastal Kingdom.

The Coastal Kingdom TV program, which won its first EMMY Award in 2018, has been nominated three times specifically for the Best TV Host EMMY Award and seven times for an EMMY Award since the
(Continued on next page)

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

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

SCAC Now Offers Orientation for Newly Elected County Officials Webinars Online!

SCAC has now made the Orientation for Newly Elected County Officials webinars available online! Both part one and part two have been combined into a single course on SCAC's Learning Portal.

County officials can take this online course to learn important information on topics such as the structure of county government, the roles and responsibilities of county council, and the various services and programs SCAC offers among many other topics.

Upon completion, participants will receive credit in the Institute of Government for County Officials for both Orientation to County Government I and Orientation to County Government II, which are both Level I required courses.

This is a great opportunity for county officials to begin earning credit towards a Level I certificate.

In order to access the course on SCAC's Learning Portal, officials will need to first have an account with SCAC. For assistance, please contact Ryan Tooley, SCAC, at rtooley@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.



TV Program was created 11 years ago.

Coastal Kingdom is cosponsored by The County Channel and the LowCountry Institute on Spring Island. The program was created by **Tony Mills**, a naturalist and educator on Spring Island, and **Rob Lewis**, a producer for The County Channel.

The Southeastern EMMY Awards Program is a division of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Charleston County

- Omatic Software, a data integration company, expanded its operations in Charleston County in February 2020. The \$450,000 investment is expected to create approximately 100 new jobs over the next five years.

Founded in 2002, the company provides data health and integration solutions for nonprofits by democratizing data access and insight. The company services thousands of nonprofit organizations with innovative integration solutions to eliminate manual processes and provide up-to-date and complete data.

Located at the Portside Ferry Wharf in Mount Pleasant, Omatic Software's expansion will serve as the company's corporate headquarters and its main hub for software research and development, as well as sales and operations.

- Charleston County Environmental Management launched a campaign on January 5 to combat non-recyclable contamination found in the county's recycling program.

Non-recyclables frequently found in recycling carts include: plastic bags and plastic wrap, food waste, wood, concrete, Styrofoam, clothing, blankets, tangles (i.e. cables, cords, hoses, belts), large plastic items, and household garbage. Non-recyclable contamination damages equipment, poses worker safety issues, and increases the cost of recycling. To help reduce the contamination rate, county employees began peeking into recycling carts in January.

Staff began flipping cart lids at random to ensure contents are accepted in the program. Carts with non-compliant contents will receive an "Oops" tag with educational information. With the opening of the county's new Material Recovery Facility (MRF), citizens are being asked to ensure that they are "Recycling Right." The county recycling program only accepts glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles and containers, paperboard and cardboard, and paper. Overflow recyclable material must be dropped off at any one of Charleston County's many dropsite locations.

- Charleston County broke ground on December 4 for the Social Services Hub. The 175,000 square foot, three-story healthcare and office facility is designed to consolidate local and state operated services in a single location. It will be built on Rivers Avenue across from the former Naval Hospital.

The hub will include: Charleston County's Department of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS); S.C. Department of Health clinics, administrative offices and vital records; S.C. Department of Social Services; and S.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Social Services Hub is expected to be complete by winter of 2022. The campus will include a CARTA hub, North Charleston police substation, and a library.

- Charleston County leaders officially opened the new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) with a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 1. Located in North Charleston at 8099 Palmetto Commerce Parkway, the county's new recycling center is designed to meet future regional recycling needs.

The site features 82,000 square feet of building space, including a multi-media education center, state-of-the-art recycling equipment, administrative offices and the collections fleet. Components of the new MRF include: state-of-the-art processing equipment, such as optical sorting equipment and robotics; fully automated scales; and capacity to process 25 tons of recyclables per hour.

- Charleston County Clerk of Court **Julie Armstrong** began using electronic sentence sheets in General Session Court on October 12 shortly after the S.C. Department of Corrections indicated to a Legislative Oversight Committee that their data entry errors were caused from misreading judges' handwritten court forms.

In response, Clerk of Court Armstrong developed a new secure electronic sentence sheet that will help the S.C. Department of Corrections. While various agencies from across the state are working on a solution, Armstrong launched her electronic sentence sheet shortly after she began using electronic sentence sheets on October 12.

The electronic sentence sheet, which captures data as a judge enters it, allows the data to be shared with any agency that needs the information. This cuts down on data entry errors and reduces or eliminates re-keying of data by multiple agencies. In addition, an interface to share data between the Charleston County Clerk of Court's and Solicitor's Offices was introduced in the fall.

- On September 22, Deputy County Administrator **Eric Watson** was selected as one of 30 candidates to attend the U.S. Department

of Homeland Security Naval Postgraduate Executive Leaders School 2021 Cohort in Monterey, Calif. Watson was selected from top executive leaders from across the United States based on his years of executive experience in public safety, education, and his current role as Deputy County Administrator of Public Safety.

While participating in the Naval Postgraduate Executive Leaders Program, Watson will continue to hold his current position as Deputy County Administrator of Public Safety for Charleston County Government. Watson is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

- Charleston County is now a Class 3 Community in the Community Rating System (CRS) through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The designation qualifies the county for a 35 percent discount on flood insurance, the highest coastal county flood insurance discount received nationwide.

The county has undertaken a series of meaningful activities to protect its citizens from losses caused by flooding, and has significantly exceeded the requirements for NFIP participation and effective floodplain management. These activities include public outreach on hazards, flood insurance promotion, map information services, open space preservation, higher regulatory standards, stormwater management, and flood and dam warning and response.

There are 1,517 communities that participate in the CRS program nationwide, and Charleston County ranks among the top 1 percent.

Dorchester County

- In January 2021, Dorchester County Deputy Coroners **Jerome Farris** and **Shakur Tucker** received Law Enforcement Class Three certifications from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

- At the Dorchester County Council Meeting on January 4, council adopted a resolution recognizing and honoring **Doug Warren**, Director of Dorchester County EMS, for his 23 years of service.

- On January 4, **Joe Crowder** joined Dorchester County as Deputy Director of EMS.

- On January 19, **Brian Watts** joined Dorchester County as Director of EMS.

- On January 22, **Wayne Welch** retired as county assessor after 13 years of service.

- On February 8, **Bryan Havir** joined Dorchester County as Assistant Administrator of Community Services.

- On February 24, Dorchester County Fire-Rescue received 100 carbon monoxide alarms and 15 MSA Altair carbon monoxide

gas monitors from the Jeffrey Lee Williams Foundation.

- On March 1, **Van Henson**, SCAC Risk Manager, presented the Outstanding Safety Achievement Award to Dorchester County.

Georgetown County

- Georgetown County Council Member **Ron Charlton** and Coroner **Kenny Johnson**, both of whom were first elected to their current positions in 1996, retired from their positions on Jan. 1.

- Library staff members spent several days in January preparing the county's newest library, the Southern Georgetown Community branch library, for a soft opening on January 11. A grand opening for the new 9,000-square-foot branch library, located at 4187 Powell Road, was then held on February 11. The library will serve the areas of Sampit, North Santee and surrounding communities. **Sharea Drayton**, a library employee since 2006, who was selected as branch manager for the new library, began training staff on December 29.

Books for the library were purchased, thanks to donations from the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and the Frances P. Bunnell Foundation.

- A partnership consisting of Georgetown County, Coastal Carolina University, and the Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve has received international recognition for its contributions toward addressing local sustainable development challenges. The partnership, Georgetown RISE, received the coveted Outstanding Flagship Project designation from the Global RCE Network in the 2020 RCE Awards for Innovative Projects on Education for Sustainable Development. Georgetown County was recognized along with other communities, including Atlanta, Ga.; Portland, Oreg.; and Nairobi, Kenya.

Georgetown RISE is dedicated to enhancing knowledge and research on sustainable development in Georgetown County. The partnership promotes science-based research and decision-making by unifying community members, educators, businesses, elected officials, and youth across the county with the goal of a sustainable and resilient future. It is the only United Nations Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) in the Southeastern United States.

- The Georgetown County Public Services Department recognized three employees in December 2020 for exceptional work ethic and job performance during what has been an especially challenging year. Recognized were:

- **Eddie Parsons** was named the department's Employee of the Year. Parsons is a heavy equipment operator with the Public Works and Construction Services Division;

- **Victoria Sammis** received the Customer Service Award. She is collections and recycling supervisor with the Environmental Services Division.

- **Matthew Miele**, project coordinator with the Engineering and Capital Projects Division, received the Professional Achievement Award.

- **Wesley Bryant**, longtime county attorney who was named Deputy County Administrator in the summer of 2020, joined the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps. after completing his last day with the county on December 31. Bryant graduated from The Citadel.

- Waccamaw Library staff members received the Georgetown County's Innovation Award in December for their success in the library's 2020 summer reading program. Despite the Coronavirus Pandemic and being unable to have in-person programming,

the library had the highest summer reading program participation ever, thanks to their efforts. Staff used the library's laser cutter to create sea creature mobiles for kids to paint, held online STEM workshops with accompanying take home kits, offered online Natural Resources Heritage Programs, and even had Adult Summer Reading Bingo. And of course there were virtual storytimes and summer reading logs for kids, helping to stem the summer slide.

Main contributors were: **Amy King, Donald Dennis, Chris Bell, Kendra Corey, Mallary Allen**, and former children's assistant, **Ashley Brooks**.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation and the county's Public Services departments, and community volunteers held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new section of bikeway in January. Parks and Recreation staff members then worked to open up a new track and field complex in Georgetown in February, and to complete a new multipurpose field and
(Continued on next page)



Webcasts and Webinars

NEW!

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SCAC's 2021 Conference Calendar

July 30 – Aug. 1
Aug. 1 – 3

Institute of Government for County Officials
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

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



NACo's 2021 Conference Calendar

Annual Conference
Details to be announced soon.

playground in Andrews this spring.

- A small ceremony was held on January 15 to open the newest section of the Waccamaw Bikeway, which runs from Trace Drive to Boyle Drive in North Litchfield. The section connects two significant stretches of bikeway that run from Willbrook Blvd. up Business 17 and through Murrells Inlet that allows cyclists to ride safely from Litchfield to the Georgetown/Horry County line on a designated, paved bikeway. The project was largely funded by a \$100,000 grant from S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Bike the Neck, a fundraising and advocacy group for bike trails on the Waccamaw Neck, along with Georgetown County, provided matching funds.

- **Loren Wallace**, recreation manager for Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, has been appointed to two voluntary board positions—as board secretary for the S.C. Recreation and Parks Association, and as a member of the Tidelands Health Board of Trustees Community Engagement Committee.

- **Gene Turner** and Master Firefighter **Justin Lenker** of Midway Fire and Rescue were recognized in January by Georgetown County for their volunteer efforts. Turner was named the county's Volunteer of the Year for 2020 and Lenker was named Employee Volunteer of the Year for 2020.

Turner has been a dedicated volunteer with Midway Fire and Rescue for the last six years. He typically volunteers several days a week to run the department's front office, fielding phone calls and inquiries, as well as walk-ins. Turner has also developed a vast knowledge of fire department procedures and operations, which makes him a great asset in this role.

Lenker has made shirts and sold them to the public to raise money for various cancer-related organizations, and given hundreds of hours to fight for a bill that would aid firefighters who develop cancer. He was also instrumental in getting Autism kits placed on Midway's medic units to assist with calming children with Autism to make their experiences in an emergency as comfortable as possible.

- A new book, *Alice: Alice Ravenel Huger Smith, Charleston Renaissance Artist*, by Georgetown County's Library Director, **Dwight McInvaill**, officially hit the shelves in February. The book tells the story of a woman McInvaill remembers as something of a third grandmother to him as he was growing up in Charleston. She was a close friend to his parents, **Harry** and **Talulah**, and wrote them more than 400 personal letters during the years of World War II and the following

decade. Those letters that were the primary inspiration for McInvaill's book. Smith was known for her incredible Lowcountry scenes, which depicted the area as it was at the time, before development.

- **Truman Winns**, IT Manager for the Georgetown County Library System, was recognized earlier this year as Georgetown County's Manager of the Year for 2020. He is the IT Manager for the Georgetown County Library system and has worked for the county for the last 14 years.

- **Brigitte Jayroe**, a data entry clerk with the Georgetown County Building Department, was recognized earlier this year as Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the last quarter of 2020. Jayroe has been employed with the county for five years.

Greenwood County

- **George McKinney**, who has served as the Emergency Management Coordinator for almost eight years, received the Upstate Unsung Hero Award on November 18 for his efforts during Coronavirus Pandemic.

McKinney has attacked this pandemic with professionalism and poise, earning the respect of the community in which he serves. He has made it his business to ensure the county and the public were aware of all information relating to the pandemic. He is the lifeline for the county, and works tirelessly to ensure the frontline personnel has the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to aid in the treatment of the sick and injured.

McKinney has explored all available resources, and was able to acquire enough equipment to keep operations going without disruption. He has also served as the liaison between the Chamber of Commerce and the county, pushing a project that helped businesses with a grant to aid in the revenue loss suffered during the pandemic. McKinney has been a true example to the people of Greenwood County of what an Unsung Hero is.

Horry County

- Horry County Council and Horry County Government celebrated the official groundbreaking for the county's new Emergency Operations and Communications Center on November 19. Located off Industrial Park Road in Conway, the 43,600 square foot structure will house the Horry County Emergency Management Department and Horry County 911.

The center was built to withstand category 5 hurricane wind loads, and features critical redundant building systems to keep vital public safety services operational for

days at a time should major utilities go down. The center also features dedicated sleeping quarters, ample meeting space, and a media briefing room. Construction of the facility is expected to be completed in spring 2022.

Richland County

- **Sensor Electronic Technology Inc.** (SETi), a leading global supplier of ultraviolet light-emitting diodes (UV LEDs), announced plans on December 9 to expand operations in Richland County. The \$55 million investment is expected to create 40 new jobs.

Founded in 1999, SETi manufactures and sells UV LED products for use in curing, sterilization, sensors, biomedical devices, and home appliances. The full expansion is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2022. The Coordinating Council for Economic Development awarded Richland County a \$250,000 set-aside grant for costs related to the project.

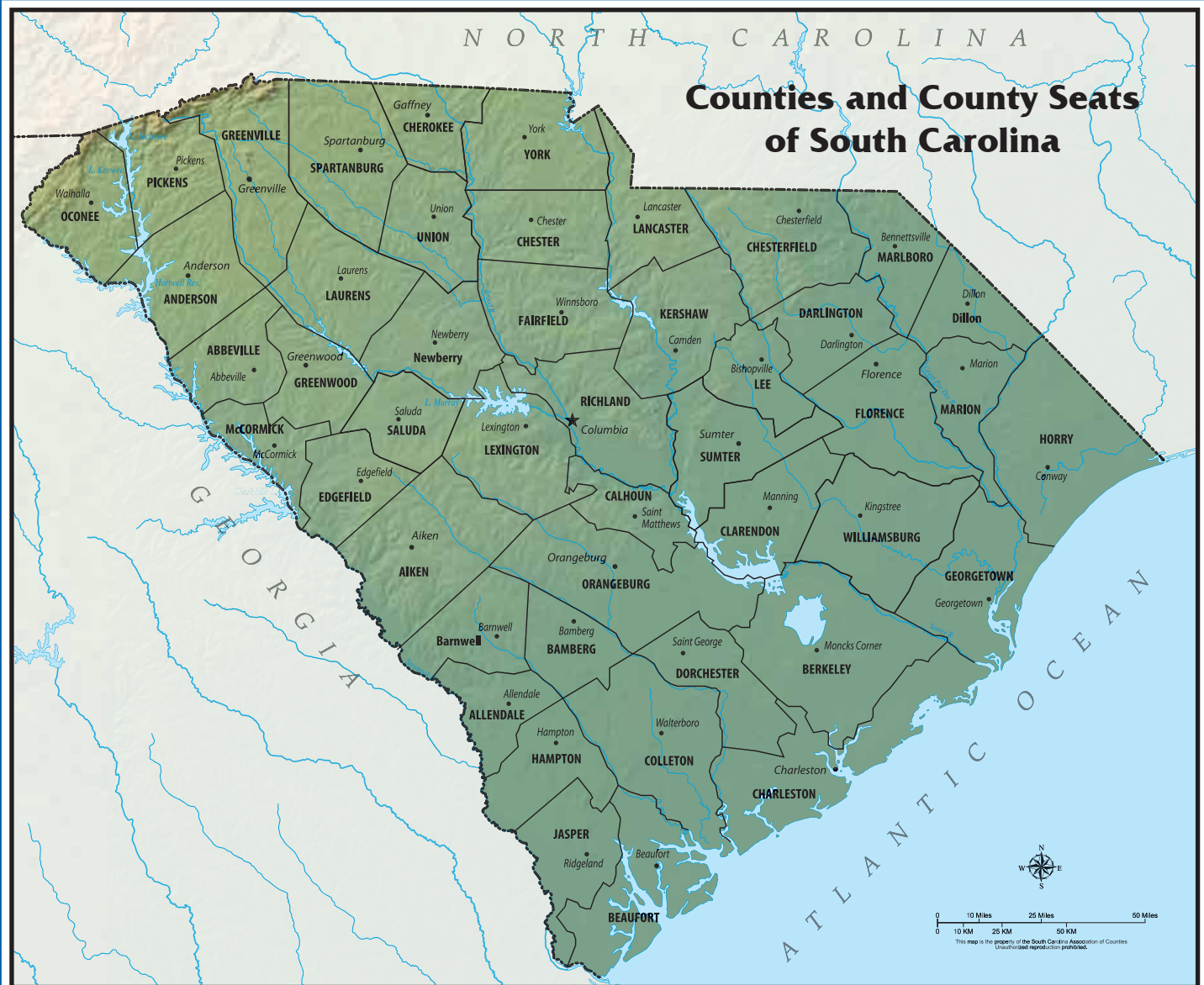
- Richland County is investing in an innovative training and recruiting program, aimed at creating a talent pipeline to increase the number and diversity of software engineers and meet local demand in the area's growing technology industry.

Create Opportunity Columbia—a public-private partnership consisting of Richland County, the City of Columbia, Midlands Technical College and other corporate partners—is designed to train people from non-technical backgrounds. Participants enter the program through an aptitude-based screening that identifies a person's ability to become a successful software engineer. No prior knowledge, educational background or experience is required. Individuals undergo an intense, six-month training followed by a two-year, paid software development apprenticeship with local employers.

Richland County and the City of Columbia are providing \$65,000 in funding for the program.

- A new educational tool from the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) features lessons aimed at the next generation of conservationists in Richland County and beyond. The RSWCD recently published a pollinator conservation educators' guide for teachers, informal educators, and parents to use with students in grades one through six.

Free to download online, the guide includes instructions and printable materials for four hands-on activities on pollination and pollinator conservation. The guide was created by **Mary Hannah Lindsay**, community outreach coordinator for the RSWCD, and **Chanda Cooper**, Richland County Con-



servation Education Analyst. The authors developed the activities, then piloted them with various age groups at local schools.

The guide ties in with the National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 2020 environmental stewardship theme, "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?". It's also featured on the NACD's educational resources website.

- **Mark Anthony Brewing** announced plans on November 10 to build a new, state-of-the-art brewery and production facility in Richland County. The company's \$400 million investment, expected to create 300 new jobs, represents one of the largest economic investments in Richland County history. This will be one of the largest breweries built in the U.S. in more than 25 years.

The brewer provides supply chain management and brewing services for The Mark

Anthony Group, one of North America's fastest-growing beverage companies, and is the leader in the explosive Hard Seltzer and Flavored Malt Beverage categories, according to IRI Worldwide data.

- An educational camp that is developing virtual environmental field trips for students in Richland County is getting a boost to further its efforts: a \$1,000 Conservation Education Mini-Grant. The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) awarded the Mini-Grant to Camp Discovery, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit situated on 116 acres in Blythewood. Founded in 1985, Camp Discovery aims to provide children and teens an ideal outdoor setting for year-round exploration and hands-on learning. Visit: www.richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd.

- **Jamison Browder**, a pre-kindergarten educator who has secured several grants for

campus gardening projects, was named the county's Conservation Teacher of the Year on October 18 by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD). Browder leads environmental education initiatives at Meadowfield Elementary School in Richland County School District One, where he has coordinated multiple gardening and bird-watching projects. Along with integrating gardening into the classroom, Browder has used technology and Socratic seminars to better engage students. Browder will receive a \$100 cash award and a \$500 Conservation Education Mini-Grant to further Meadowfield Elementary's conservation projects.

The Conservation Teacher of the Year program seeks to recognize and reward educators who prioritize environmental learning and teach their traditional curriculum through

(Continued on next page)

a conservation-minded lens. Nominations for Richland County's 2021 Conservation Teacher of the Year will be accepted through April 30, 2021. Details are available online.

- The \$24.1 million Southeast Richland County Sewer and Water Project to expand water and sewer access in Lower Richland is taking shape along several streets, six months after breaking ground and becoming one of the county's largest infrastructure investments after the transportation program. The sewer expansion project began on Apr. 15, 2020. When completed, the system will link public water and sewer services to residences, small businesses, schools and churches, as well as McEntire Joint National Guard Base, with the goal of improving water quality and easing

environmental concerns in Lower Richland.

- International Paper Company, a global producer of renewable fiber-based packaging, pulp and paper products, announced plans on September 1 to invest \$175 million over the next 10 years to support cost efficiency, environmental and planned maintenance initiatives that ensure safe and reliable operations at its mill in Eastover. The International Paper Eastover, S.C. Mill, located at 4001 McCords Ferry Road, employs approximately 700 team members and provides an economic impact of roughly \$90 million annually for the community. The plant manufactures uncoated freesheet paper and pulp that is converted into products used for education, communication and personal hygiene.

York County

- York County announced in December that it had hired **Michael Moore** to join York County's management team as an assistant county manager. Moore had a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy where he obtained more than 20 years of leadership, supervisory and program management experience. Moore will oversee the Engineering, Public Works and Parks Departments. His last assignment in the U.S. Navy was as Chief of Staff at Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. After retiring from the U.S. Navy, he completed a three-month fellowship with the City of Chesapeake, Va., a cooperative program completed through the International City and County Managers Association.

Moore received a Master's of Science, Accounting and Financial Management from the University of Maryland Global Campus, Adelphi, Md.; Masters of Science, Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee Space Institute, Tullahoma, Tenn.; and, a B.A. in General Engineering from U.S. Naval Academy.

- York County announced in February that it had opened its first athletic park and is on the cusp of finishing updates from Ebenezer Park Masterplan at Ebenezer Park.



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What is a secured load?

A load is secure when nothing can slide, shift, fall, or sift onto the roadway, or become airborne. Tie down using rope, netting, straps, or chains; or cover your load with a tarp.

Loose items — lightweight or heavy, individual items and bagged, can fly out of a vehicle or truck bed. Each year, heavy items such as large truck tires, spools of wire, and large pieces of wood fall from vehicles and end up on our roadways creating hazards for motorists.

Take the time to always secure your load.

Even with a small load, items can shift and become loose or airborne. Don't risk it – secure your load.



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