

COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 30

Number 2

PalmettoPride Wants You!

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Fighting to Keep South Carolina Litter-Free*



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P. 31

COUNTY FOCUS

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CONTENTS

Date of Issue: August 2019

- 2 Deleting Digital Deserts**
*By U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-06)
House Majority Whip*
- 4 PalmettoPride Wants You!**
*Show Your County Pride, Join Other Counties Fighting to Keep
South Carolina Litter-Free*
By W. Stuart Morgan III
- 14 Sumter County's New Patriot Park Pavilion**
The Newest Facility to Be Added to the County's Patriot Park Sportsplex
By W. Stuart Morgan III
- 22 SC RIA Closes the Gap in Financial Resources for
Infrastructure Improvements**
*By Liz Rosinski
Senior Program Manager, Marketing & Outreach
S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority*
- 33 Insurance Trusts' Update**
*By John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM
SCAC Director of Insurance Services*
- 36 The IMLA Report**
*Gerrymandering, the Census, Implied Consent to a Blood Test, a
Christian Symbol as a War Memorial and Other Cases*
*By Charles W. Thompson Jr.
Executive Director and General Counsel, IMLA*
- 40 A Roadside Guide to Cherokee County**
The County's Role in the American War for Independence
By Alexia Jones Helsley
- 46 County Update**

COVER—Photos of county-led efforts to fight litter from the Lowcountry to the Upstate since 2018.



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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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Deleting Digital Deserts

By U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-06)
House Majority Whip

When the French historian Alexis de Tocqueville visited this country, he observed its greatness and set out to find the source of the “genius” that made it so. After a significant search for the “genius and power” of America, he wrote in his book, *Democracy in America*, that, “the greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.” I have made it my mission in Congress to ensure that America’s greatness applies fairly and equitably to all of our citizens.

An existing inequity threatening our country’s greatness is the lackluster deployment and affordability of high-speed internet access, especially in rural parts of our state. There are too many communities in South Carolina that are digital deserts. In rural areas that do have access, service is often unreliable, unaffordable and too slow. This is a fault that is in desperate need of repair.

In order to solve this problem, we need to identify these digital deserts in a systematic way and target them with our resources. The most recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Deployment Report estimates that 21.3 million Americans lack access to high-speed internet. However, not all the FCC commissioners agree with that assessment—one of them calls that number “fundamentally flawed” and cites a separate analysis which concludes:



By U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn

“[A]s many as 162 million people across the country do not use internet service at broadband speeds.”

In South Carolina, the numbers are just as wide-ranging. According to 2017 American Community Survey data, 79.2 percent of households have high-speed internet. The FCC reports that 89.9 percent of South Carolinians have access. This is contradicted by an implausible HighSpeedInternet.com report that 97 percent of South Carolinians can get broadband internet. Numbers that are

this far apart underscore our challenge.

Reliable mapping is critical to adequately addressing inequities in rural internet access. My daughter, Mignon, a former FCC Commissioner, acknowledges that the current system for mapping is flawed. Today, entire census blocks are counted as having access if just one household in the block has internet service. As a result, there is a huge undercount in the number of American homes that are without access.

Everyone agrees, however, that rural areas lag behind. Even the FCC’s optimistic projections find that while only 1.7 percent of Americans living in urban areas lack access to high-speed service, more than 26 percent of rural Americans are unable to purchase service at any price. The FCC’s numbers for South Carolina are virtually identical to those for the nation as a whole.

High-speed internet access is essential to education, health care and employment in rural communities. Without connectivity, rural households will continue to be left behind. I have heard stories of students doing homework in their family cars in parking lots of local libraries and fast food restaurants because these are the only places to access WiFi in their communities. This should not be.

The relatively recent closure of five rural hospitals in South Carolina may not have occurred if the communities they served had high-speed internet access to

regional and teaching hospitals and could utilize telemedicine. I have also heard stories of industrial prospects losing interest in certain locations because of the lack of reliable high-speed internet service.

So how do we address this rural digital divide?

In May, I launched a Task Force on Rural Broadband in the United States House of Representatives. The Task Force, with more than two dozen members of Congress, is working to ensure all Americans have access to affordable high-speed internet by 2025. We are consulting with key stakeholders, including rural advocates, market participants, local governments, and Administration officials to eliminate digital deserts and ensure rural communities can thrive in the 21st century information economy.

Congress is currently considering several pieces of legislation to expand broadband access. One is the Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's (LIFT) America Act. If enacted, this \$40 billion effort would expand access to communities nationwide. While I support all efforts to bring rural America into the digital age, we must not allow perfect to be the enemy of good.

There are also significant discussions taking place about the need to upgrade our internet speed to 5G. However, I remind my colleagues that many of the communities I serve currently have no G. As the technology continues to improve, we must ensure rural communities' needs are addressed.

I equate the challenge of expanding broadband in rural America to the efforts undertaken by the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to bring electricity to rural America almost a century ago. The REA established electric cooperatives for the construction and operation of power plants and lines in rural areas. These electric co-ops still exist and they have the expertise and infrastructure that can be tapped to deploy high-speed internet to the communities they serve. We must provide the federal investments, and I am working to make that happen.

An example of this can-do co-op model is Carolina Connect, which is providing fiber optic high-speed inter-

net service to electric co-op customers in several areas of the state. It is a model that can be replicated with other co-ops and is something that should be expanded statewide. Although 2025 may seem to be a long way off to many of us, there are other more immediate solutions.

Currently, the South Carolina Office of Rural Health is partnering with the South Carolina Hospital Association and Palmetto Care Connect to get rural communities connected for the delivery of telemedicine. The group is working to digitally map the entire state and expects to be completed in the next few months.

Their plan is to relocate South Carolina Educational Television broadcast towers to bring down the cost of internet deployment. This is a promising idea that may speed wireless internet service to rural communities in a relatively short time while we continue to pursue the gold standard of fiber optic service in the future. I am meeting with people in the internet business throughout South Carolina to find partnerships to make this possible.

Repairing the faults that have plagued rural communities in our country for too long requires innovative and sometimes outside-of-the-box thinking and actions. If we fail in our pursuit of universal broadband deployment, the health and wealth gaps will continue to grow and further threaten the beauty and greatness of our state and nation.



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- *To promote and encourage education of county officials*
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- *To cooperate with other organizations*
- *To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina*

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PalmettoPride Wants You!

Show Your County Pride, Join Other Counties Fighting to Keep South Carolina Litter-free

By W. Stuart Morgan III

PalmettoPride is the statewide anti-litter organization that has been leading the fight against litter in South Carolina for 20 years.

Now, this nonprofit organization is encouraging more counties in the Palmetto State to join the fight!

“We believe that every county benefits from litter prevention efforts, whether it’s through employee pickup days, litter control or a Keep America Beautiful affiliation,” said Sarah Lyles, Executive Director of PalmettoPride. “Counties also should encourage anti-litter curriculum in schools.

“But counties do not need to work alone, because we’re here to help,” she added. “This spring, we helped the Low-country Regional Cleanup, which involved Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. Now, we’re preparing to mark our 20th anniversary with a statewide cleanup event for Earth Day 2020.” (See **Earth Day 2020, P. 5**)

PalmettoPride has worked successfully with local governments, state agencies and more than a half-million volunteers since its founding in 2001, and reduced litter about 60 percent by removing 62 million pounds of litter from the state’s roads and natural areas. This has saved local governments an estimated

\$24.5 million in cleanup costs.

Still, litter remains a problem—especially along the state’s secondary roads. As the state’s population—now exceeding 5 million—continues to grow, fighting litter is also becoming a bigger challenge. Making matters worse, it’s becoming more difficult to find volunteers.

“Litter is a *big deal*,” Lyles said. “Elected county officials can make a difference by supporting litter pickup infrastructure and law enforcement efforts.



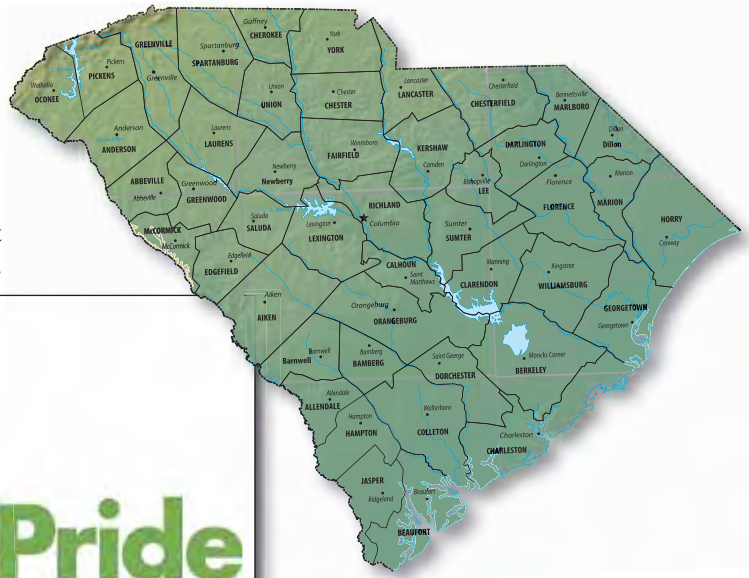
“... every county benefits from litter prevention efforts, whether it’s through employee pickup days, litter control or a Keep America Beautiful affiliation. Counties also should encourage anti-litter curriculum in schools.”

— Sarah Lyles
Executive Director, PalmettoPride

We must build awareness through anti-litter curriculum education in schools and among our adult population. Everyone benefits from litter reduction.”

According to the “Broken Windows Theory,” litter, dilapidated buildings and vandalism are triggers that invite crime into communities.

“From an economic standpoint, litter discourages businesses from locating in certain areas,” Lyles explained. “As for highway safety, drivers often have to swerve to avoid litter. Flying debris from unsecured loads in truck beds also causes highway accidents.”



Trends in litter prevention and litter pick-up have come and gone during the past 20 years.

“When we began, community clean-ups were being held across the country,” Lyles recalled. “We had successes with 14 countywide blitzes through 2010. Then, community gardens became the popular litter prevention tactic. After that, recycling drives were the trend. Now, litter pickup is at the forefront of needs.”

(See **PalmettoPride**, P. 7)



PalmettoPride's executive director, Sarah Lyles, speaks last year at a county litter pick-up event. Lyles and other members of the organization's staff are available to help counties implement programs to prevent litter or to pick up litter. In addition to awarding grants, PalmettoPride provides supplies for litter pick-ups, like the green bag shown below. Volunteers leave the bags along roads and highways after a day's work for waste disposal crews to pick-up and properly dispose of later.



Litter spoils the beauty of Columbia and other South Carolina municipalities.

Earth Day 2020

PalmettoPride and several county leaders representing counties across the state are planning to hold Earth Day 2020 on April 22, 2020. The plan is to have all 46 counties in South Carolina conduct all-volunteer countywide cleanups on this date.

So far this year, 11 counties have held countywide cleanups: Anderson, Beaufort, Chesterfield, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, Lee, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Pickens and Williamsburg. Horry County is planning to hold one in the fall.

“The number of countywide cleanups that took place during 2019 was the highest that we have worked with in our 20 years as an organization,” said Sarah Lyles, Executive Director of PalmettoPride. “We believe that we can all come together in a joint mission and have the biggest one-day litter pickup event in our state's history.”

Would you like to volunteer to serve on the planning committee for Earth Day 2020, or want to learn more about PalmettoPride? If so, please contact Lyles at (803) 758-6034 or slyles@PalmettoPride.org ■

County-Led Efforts to Fight Litter From the Lowcountry to the Upstate Since 2018



PalmettoPride ...

(Continued from P. 5)



Litter spoils the beauty of South Carolina's countryside.

At its core, PalmettoPride is a volunteer organization whose ultimate goal is to change behavior that creates litter.

"We believe that litter prevention is better than litter pick-up," Lyles said. "But litter pick-up is a tactic of litter prevention, and it is what's most-needed at this time."

PalmettoPride encourages leaders of other organizations committed to fighting litter to share their ideas and information to reduce litter.

Grants and Programs

Since 2001, PalmettoPride has awarded \$6.9 million in grants to counties, municipalities and state groups.

Currently, this organization offers four types of grants: 1) Litter Prevention Grants 2) Tree Grants 3) Keep South Carolina Beautiful Grants and 4) Litter Task Force Grants. (See **PalmettoPride Grants, right**)

PalmettoPride also has a treasure trove of programs that can be tailored to the needs of any county. Perhaps best of all, it has resources to share, and a staff to help counties implement programs to fight litter. (See **Treasure Trove of Programs, P. 8**)

Partnering With Counties and Supporting Counties

PalmettoPride has a strong record of partnering and supporting county anti-litter efforts, and plenty of county officials are willing to share their positive experiences working with the organization. (See Pp. 9 & 10)

Each year since 2008, PalmettoPride has partnered with Berkeley and Charleston counties, and Keep Berkeley County Beautiful and Berkeley County Sheriff's Department to hold the Francis Marion National Forest Cleanup.

During the past several years, the organization has supported the Low Country Clean Project for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties and the Keep SC Beautiful Network for Anderson, Florence and Horry counties.

PalmettoPride has provided grant funding and supplies to support Adopt-A-Road programs for Lexington, Marlboro, Pickens and Orangeburg counties. It has also helped implement litter prevention programs like Adopt-A-Road and certify KSCB affiliates in Aiken, Anderson, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Greenville, Greenwood and York counties.

Presenting Elected County Officials "Leaders Against Litter Awards"

PalmettoPride is impressed with the efforts of some county leaders who have joined the fight against litter in South Carolina.

On February 20, the organization presented its first Leaders Against Litter Awards at SCAC's 2019 Mid-Year Conference to elected county officials who have led efforts to change how counties address litter by working with administrations, employees and citizens.

Receiving the awards were:

(Continued on next page)

PalmettoPride Grants

Each year, PalmettoPride offers four types of grants:

- 1) **Litter Prevention Grants**—Awards up to \$15,000 on a competitive basis to litter control organizations, government departments, government organizations and nonprofit organizations in South Carolina. Application date—October 1; Deadline—November 15; Awards announced—December 15.
 - 2) **Tree Grants**—Donates two- to six-foot trees, set in five-gallon nursery pots, for beautification projects around the state to recipients who must plant the trees on public spaces accessible to all citizens. Application date—August 1; Deadline—September 15; Awards announced—October 1; Pickup Date for Trees—October 26.
 - 3) **Keep South Carolina Beautiful Grants**—Awards a \$5,000 New KSCB Affiliate Startup funding for populations under 15,000 and \$10,000 for populations 15,000 and greater, and Annual Support funding up to \$15,000 to certified KSCB affiliates. Application date—September 1; Deadline—November 1; Awards announced—December 1.
 - 4) **Litter Task Force Grants (Pilot Program)**—A competitive award of up to \$20,000 to county governments and Sheriff's departments to fund a part-time litter control officer dedicated to enforcing state and local litter laws. Application date—May 20; Rolling deadline.
- During 2018, alone, PalmettoPride awarded: 1,105 Tree Grants to 19 groups; 20 KSCB grants, totalling \$210,913; and 33 Litter Prevention Grants, totalling \$213,071.
- The Litter Task Force Grant is new, but so far it has been awarded to Sumter, Chesterfield and Pickens counties. Each county, which received \$20,000 the first year, will receive an additional \$20,000 for a second year if they satisfy criteria.

- Roy Costner III, Pickens County Council Chairman, who spearheaded the first all-county employee litter pick-up event in South Carolina on March 23, 2018, called the TeamUpandCleanUp Anti-Litter Blitz;
- Janie Cooper-Smith, Orangeburg County Council Member, who spearheaded important changes to county ordinances to improve litter control enforcement efforts; and
- D. Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman, who spearheaded organizing Adopt-A-Highway volunteers at council meetings. He also played an integral role in the all-county fall litter pick-up, and in bringing awareness to the impact litter has on economic development.

"We believe it's important to recognize county leaders who have led efforts to fight litter," Lyles said. "It's a good way to show other county officials what is possible. After all, if county leaders do not care about the quality of life or commu-

nity safety concerns that comes with litter, then why should their citizens?"

"No one wants to pay higher taxes to pay for litter pickup needs, and no administration wants to spend its budget on cleaning up litter," she added. "But we will all pay for it one way or another—most often with a loss of economic opportunities. We want to show that yes, you can make a difference without affecting your bottom line."

Sometimes, it's the little things that



You've heard or seen PalmettoPride's "Report a Litterbug" ads, like the one posted on the rear doors of this vehicle. So, report a litter bug when you spot one! The S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles will send a confidential letter to notify the litterbug that they were witnessed littering and to warn them about the penalties for doing so.

help. For example, Lyles said she loves what Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman D. Paul Sommerville started in Beaufort County.

"Sommerville began recognizing Adopt-A-Highway groups at county council meetings," she noted. "It doesn't cost his county a thing, but it made a big difference by improving the morale among volunteers. Picking up litter can be a thankless job, and knowing that more litter appears later makes it harder to retain willing participants."

Recognizing County Employees and Aiken County

PalmettoPride recognized the following county employees at SCAC's 2019 Mid-Year Conference for implementing plans to improve litter control: Lisa Bryant, Pickens County Director of Human Resources; Marie Canty, Orangeburg County Department Manager for Litter Control; and Dave Wilhelm, Beaufort County Director of Public Works.

The organization also recognized Aiken County for addressing litter by creating a community service pick-up model Assign-A-Road and supporting the (See *PalmettoPride*, P. 11)

Treasure Trove of Programs

PalmettoPride has a treasure trove of programs, which have been implemented and vetted elsewhere, that can be tailored to the needs of any county. Over the years, this organization has:

- Supported county tarp campaigns by providing information on tarp ordinances, and supplying tarps and bungee cords to cover truck beds.
- Shared and shaped the language of county litter ordinances, and created litter prevention programs based on state laws and/or neighboring state programs.
- Implemented litter pickup programs to satisfy community service requirements for all infractions, not just litter infractions, by working with county administrations, magistrates, law enforcement and county code enforcement officers.
- Supported anti-litter pickup efforts by providing grants and supplies, such as trash cans, bags, safety vests, gloves and litter grabbers.
- Provided grants and supplies, and participated in statewide networks and programs like the SC Litter Control Association, Keep South Carolina Beautiful (KSCB), Adopt-A-Highway, RecycleMoreSC and Green Steps schools.
- Created and promoted litter prevention and litter pick-up programs like Adopt-A-Highway; provided startup funding and helped counties become KSCB affiliates; and supported existing anti-litter programs like KSCB, code enforcement officers, county councils and other groups by helping everyone work together to improve their anti-litter efforts.
- Awarded grants to sheriffs departments to pay officers overtime pay to increase litter enforcement and litter pick up efforts; and to litter prevention grants to purchase signage, including billboard space, and a broad range of items, including cameras, binoculars, tarps, kayaks, gator utility vehicles, waste baskets, cigarette bins and more. ■

What County Officials Have to Say About PalmettoPride

PalmettoPride's strong record of partnering and supporting county anti-litter efforts across South Carolina is reflected in what county officials said when they were asked:

1). How PalmettoPride had helped their county fight litter? and

2) Would they recommend that other county officials contact PalmettoPride for support if they wanted to implement a litter prevention or litter pick-up event or program?

The support from PalmettoPride has enhanced the litter prevention efforts in Aiken County. PalmettoPride aids us in the fight against litter by supplying essential tools such as trash bags, safety vests and gloves for our court-ordered, litter pick-up, community service program and other litter reduction projects. More importantly, PalmettoPride ensures that our enforcement officers are abreast of the newest laws, updated safety protocols and latest trends in littering behavior. Without their financial and in-kind contributions, the litter prevention efforts in our county would suffer.

Of course, I recommend that other county officials seek the support of PalmettoPride! PalmettoPride offers manpower, advertising, grants and a network of like-minded individuals. Partnering with PalmettoPride is a great way to help your county succeed in the fight against litter.

— **Samuel Ford**

Aiken County Code Enforcement

PalmettoPride's Keep South Carolina Beautiful program has helped Berkeley County with decreasing litter in many ways:

- A) The Annual Grant to Keep Berkeley Beautiful (KBB) has helped us purchase bags, gloves, litter pick-up sticks, water, hand sanitizer, bug spray and safety vests for Berkeley County Cleanups, Berkeley County Adopt-A-Highway Groups, and Berkeley County Adopt-A-Landing Groups. They have also provided the funds for litter prevention signs, litter cameras and advertising. Through Palmetto Pride, Berkeley County is deterring litter by beautifying with the live oak trees planted along Live Oak Drive in Moncks Corner and trying to begin a Beautifying Gateway Project at desolate intersections.
- B) PalmettoPride, the Francis Marion National Forest and Berkeley County all team-up for the Annual Francis Marion National Forest Cleanup on the first Saturday of each February.
- C) PalmettoPride hosted a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Class in July 2018 for the Community.
- D) PalmettoPride has promoted Berkeley County cleanups through social media.

E) KBB works closely with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department in their efforts to decrease litter by education and enforcement.

Yes, I would recommend that other county officials contact PalmettoPride for support if they want to implement a litter prevention or litter pick-up event or program to help with the purchase of cleanup supplies, social media support and community engagement.

— **Sarah McCarthy Smith**

Director of Keep Berkeley Beautiful & Recycling/Adopt-A-Highway, Berkeley County

PalmettoPride provided us with the resources we needed to make our very first County-Wide Litter Pick-Up Day a success. They provided us with gloves, bags and grabbers for our cleanup day. Representatives from PalmettoPride actually helped in picking up the litter, visiting schools, and helped in educating our citizens on litter control by providing us with posters and handouts. We also received a 2019 Litter Task Force Grant from PalmettoPride, which will help tremendously.

I definitely would recommend PalmettoPride to anyone who is in need of guidance and support in implementing a litter prevention program. PalmettoPride's staff has so much information on litter control and is so full of knowledge regarding state laws on litter control. This was our first County-Wide Litter Pick-Up Day, but will not be our last!

— **Susie Boswell**

Clerk to Council, Chesterfield County

PalmettoPride has been supportive of Dorchester County's litter enforcement program for many years. The grant opportunities that are offered through PalmettoPride have enabled the Dorchester County Environmental/Solid Waste department to purchase much needed equipment for our officers to assist in litter enforcement, litter cleanups and education.

PalmettoPride was instrumental in assisting Dorchester County Environmental/Solid Waste implement the Assign-A-Highway program utilizing probationers to clean up litter in assigned areas throughout the County. PalmettoPride partners with the South Carolina Litter Control Association to offer invaluable training opportunities which help our officers perform their duties in a safe and professional manner.

Most recently, Dorchester County Environmental/Solid Waste was awarded a grant which was combined with a Keep South Carolina Beautiful grant awarded to the Dorchester County Recycling department and Keep Dorchester County Beautiful for litter removal. This project may not have been possible without the support given by PalmettoPride.

(Continued on next page)

The support shown to us by each individual at PalmettoPride is tremendous. I strongly recommend to any county, municipality or cleanup/beautification group in South Carolina to make contact with PalmettoPride. If Dorchester County Environmental/Solid Waste did not have the support of PalmettoPride, the many litter cleanup projects, enforcement equipment and supplies would be limited. Our communities are the strongest benefactor in Dorchester County from the support given by PalmettoPride. I truly cannot imagine this job without their support and constant encouragement.

— **Donna D. Thomas**

Senior Environmental/Litter Officer

Public Works/Solid Waste, Dorchester County

PalmettoPride has consistently provided Lexington County's Solid Waste Management department with grant money, accurate information, and a significant amount of additional supplies. In 2018, funds were used to purchase 2,210 tarps which were distributed to residents as part of a "Tarp Your Load" campaign.

In 2019, funds are being used for an educational "Love Lexington County; Don't Trash It" campaign and to buy supplies for our litter crew. PalmettoPride is also providing a generous amount of additional supplies for a new "Lexington County Litter Control Champion" program which encourages residents and businesses to pick up litter around their homes and businesses in return for a litter supply kit and recognition.

Between March and mid-June, 21 residents, 3 businesses and 2 home school groups have become Litter Champions

and together they have picked up 70 bags of litter (approximately 501 pounds or 0.25 tons), 2 mattresses, 22 tires, 1 car fender, 1 door and 2 five-gallon buckets of aluminum cans. This new program continues to grow weekly and would not be possible without PalmettoPride's support.

I absolutely recommend that other county officials ask for PalmettoPride's assistance. Their team is pleasant and easy to work with, they approve of design work quickly, and they are often generous with money and supplies.

— **Traude Sander**

Recycling Coordinator

*Department of Solid Waste Management,
Lexington County*

Keep Oconee Beautiful Association (KOBA) uses grant funding from PalmettoPride for our elementary education program and public litter prevention programs as well as special clean up projects that we do throughout the county. They provide us with the necessary clean up supplies, litter grabbers, gloves, vests and bags. They also help to promote our events.

Yes, we often refer various organizations to PalmettoPride! We also encourage county officials and organizations to contact KOBA for interest in litter prevention and litter clean ups since we are PalmettoPride's local affiliate. We appreciate the support that we receive from PalmettoPride and our on going relationship.

— **Danielle Pankuch**

Executive Director

Keep Oconee Beautiful Association



Helping SC counties clean up since 1999.



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PalmettoPride ...

(Continued from P. 8)

creation of Keep Aiken County Beautiful.

"Everyone can do something to change the social norm for how we handle litter," Lyles said. "Reduce what you buy. Carry a reusable water bottle. Cover your loads. Talk about litter in your neighborhood association meetings. Elect candidates who care about preventing litter. And finally, throw your trash in a trash can."



For more information about PalmettoPride, to ask for help implementing a litter prevention or litter pick-up program, or to nominate an elected county official for a Leaders Against Litter Award, contact PalmettoPride at 1-877-725-7733 (toll-free) or visit:

www.PalmettoPride.org

PalmettoPride, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, is based in Columbia. It is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors consisting of five members appointed by the governor, one House member and two members appointed by the House, one Senator and two members appointed by the Senate.

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Sumter County's New Patriot Park Pavilion

*The Newest Facility to Be Added to the
County's Patriot Park Sportsplex*

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Photos by Joe Perry

Sumter County Communications Coordinator

Sumter County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 15, 2018, to officially open Patriot Park Pavilion, the newest facility to be added to Sumter's 200-acre Patriot Park Sportsplex.

The Pavilion's design and construction, which cost approximately \$900,000, were funded primarily by Sumter County's 2008 Local Option Sales Tax, with some assistance from the state.

"We're thrilled with how our new Pavilion turned out and look forward to this wonderful facility serving the citizens of Sumter County for a long time," said James T. McCain Jr., Sumter County Council Chairman. "Because the Pavilion will also serve as an outdoor classroom, I'm excited that students will be able to take



lessons in biology and other subjects there. The facility greatly enhances the soccer, softball and baseball facilities already in

Sumter County ...



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 51

place at the Sportsplex, and I know it will benefit sports tourism as well."

McCain described the Pavilion as an investment in Sumter County's future.

"We're investing in ourselves, and we're thinking long-term," he explained. "Sports tourism is a win-win, and when people spread the word about our facilities at Sumter's Patriot Park Sportsplex—including the Pavilion—our county benefits in terms of money spent in our community. Revenue from hotel rooms and restaurants boosts the bottom line of our Accommodations Tax, and the Pavilion is another way for our county to put its best foot forward, so to speak, and to show off our county to visitors."



Entrance to the Sumter County Patriot Park Sportsplex

Patriot Park Pavilion

Patriot Park Pavilion is located in a picturesque setting near the center of the Sportsplex, between the soccer fields and baseball/softball facility.

It's surrounded on three sides by a 10-acre pond. A boardwalk, featuring a covered Gazebo, connects the Pavilion to 10 miles of looped walking trails (paved and natural surfaces) that wind through the park.

The facility, which has 6,000-square-feet of usable space, includes:

- 1,600-square-foot, partially-covered porch;
- catering/warming kitchen;
- large multi-purpose room; and an
- outdoor classroom on the lower level, which includes picnic tables.

The multi-purpose room includes: a 90-inch screen, which can be used during meetings; different types of tables, which can be used for a variety of events; and 100 chairs, which can be used as

needed.

The Pavilion has Bluetooth and wireless connectivity; multiple audio options, including wireless microphones; a CD

“We’re thrilled with how our new Pavilion turned out and look forward to this wonderful facility serving the citizens of Sumter County for a long time.”

— James T. McCain Jr.
Sumter County Council Chairman

player; and USB and SD card players.

The Pavilion, available for rental except during Thanksgiving and Christmas, is set up to serve as:

- a venue for public/private meetings, special events, family reunions, church picnics, corporate retreats and weddings;
- a science classroom; and
- a headquarters for sports tourna-

ments held at the Sportsplex.

The Pavilion's color scheme consists of shades of red, white and blue.

Meredith Drakeford of Drakeford Architects in Sumter said he used a “put the hay where the cows eat” design when designing the Pavilion.

For example, the facility was designed to be a passive solar building. This allows the facility to take advantage of the sun and use high and low air pressures surrounding it to create a breeze.

“Air conditioning inside isn’t required,” Drakeford explained. “Sun on one side and shade on the other makes air move from one side to the other. As the sun moves around the building, there’s always a breeze inside. The facility has been opened up and its exterior spaces covered.

“The Pavilion’s design works like a champ,” he added. “The facility’s design allows its interior to more or less cool itself by 10 to 15 degrees. Provided you’re

(Continued on next page)



The new Patriot Park Pavilion, overlooking a 10-acre pond

“dressed appropriately, you’d feel comfortable attending a meeting in the middle of the summer.”

Sumter Patriot Park Sports Sportsplex

You need to know something about the Sumter Patriot Park Sportsplex, which officially opened on Sept. 25, 2008, to fully understand and appreciate how the new Pavilion fits in.

The sports complex, or Sportsplex, is located just off S.C. 380 (Patriot Parkway) near Shaw Air Force Base and many hotels and restaurants where so much commercial and residential growth is occurring.

The Sportsplex was the first recreational facility Sumter County had constructed since 1977. In fact, it was the

subject of an article published in SCAC’s *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 21, No. 1) when Sumter County hosted the 2009 Dixie Youth Softball World Series there.

The number of baseball, softball and soccer participants in Sumter County grew from 1,700 to more than 3,000 between 1977 and 2010, and the Sportsplex was built to accommodate the county’s growing population and growing local interest in recreational facilities.

Sumter County tried but failed to pass a Local Option Sales Tax referendums in 2000 and 2006 to build the

Sportsplex before allocating \$4.3 million in 2007 to fund the project’s first phase. This first phase included construction of the soccer pavilion, six regulation soccer fields and more than 350 parking spaces between 2007 and 2008.

The county then metaphorically hit a home run on the third attempt when
(See *Pavilion*, P. 18)

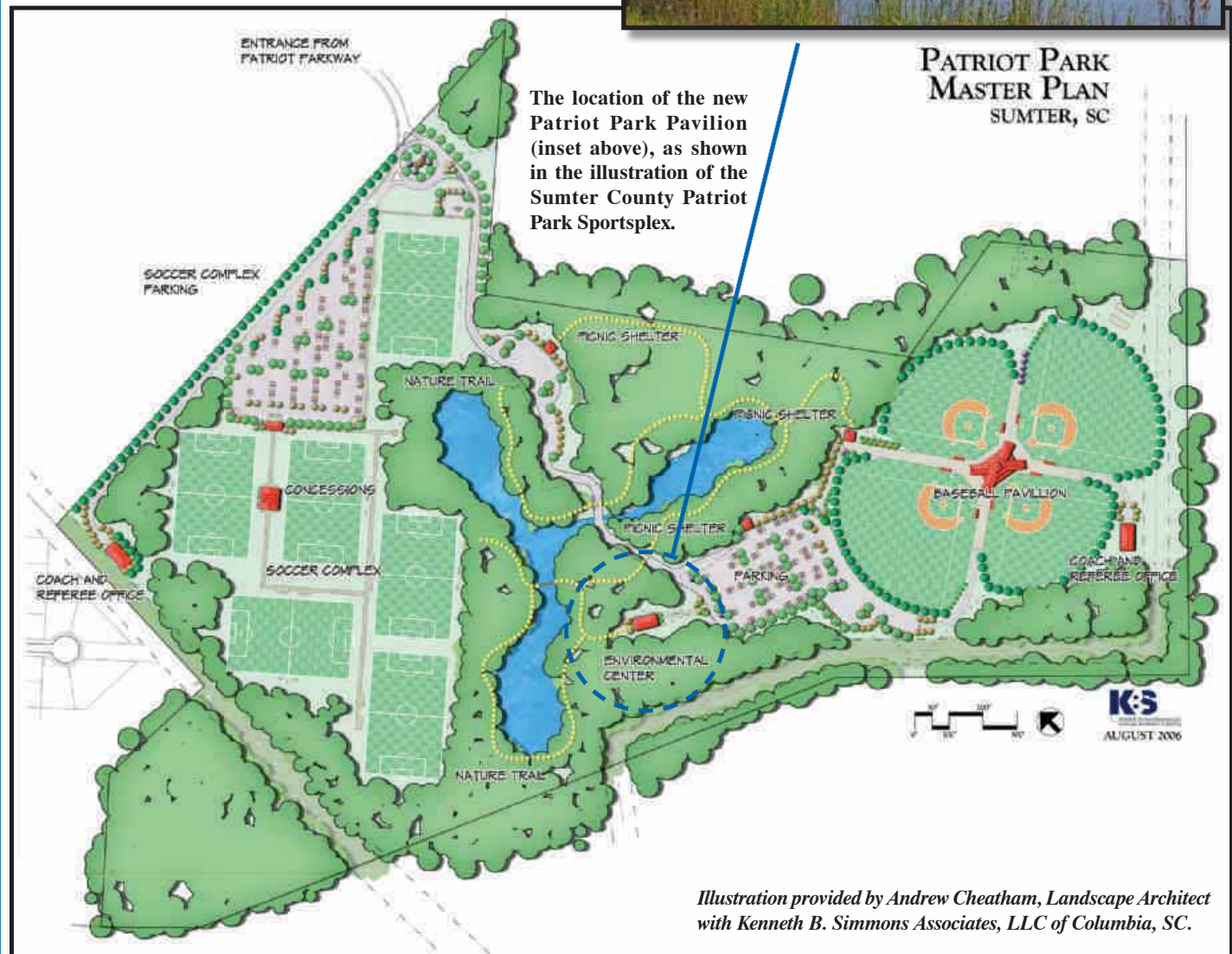


Illustration provided by Andrew Cheatham, Landscape Architect with Kenneth B. Simmons Associates, LLC of Columbia, SC.



The photo above and the one at the bottom of this page provide different views of the Patriot Park Pavilion, including its long boardwalk, which connects the facility to a 10-mile-long trail that runs through the Sportsplex.



► The Patriot Park Pavilion includes a catering kitchen and large room, which can be used for a broad range of activities.



Pavilion ...

(Continued from P. 16)

voters approved a Local Option Sales Tax in November 2008 to provide \$75 million in funding for 16 projects, including the Sportsplex's second phase.

This second phase included construction of the baseball/softball facility, its central pavilion and more than 550 more parking spaces between December 2008 and July 2009. This phase also included the design and construction of the new Patriot Park Pavilion.

Sumter County has hosted many state and national tournaments since opening the Sportsplex. Most recently, it hosted the 2017 Dixie Youth Softball World Series.

Protecting the Ecosystem

Sumter County has been leasing the new Patriot Park Pavilion as a venue for a broad range of purposes since it opened late last year, and bookings to use the facility have steadily increased since then.

But the county wants to remain a good steward of the facility and the area surrounding it, which includes an ecosystem of native wetland vegetation, animals

and plants. So, the county is carefully limiting the facility's use.

Gary M. Mixon, Sumter County Administrator, said "the Pavilion's location in the center of the Sportsplex is unique, because it allows the county to provide educational opportunities in an urban setting."

"the Pavilion's location in the center of the Sportsplex is unique, because it allows the county to provide educational opportunities in an urban setting."

— Gary M. Mixon
Sumter County Administrator

Mixon began his local government career serving as athletic director for the City of Sumter's Recreation Department. He later helped Sumter County develop its recreation department while serving as the department's director for more than 20 years.

During the late 1970s, Sumter County expanded its recreational sports programs across the county as the City of Sumter transitioned recreational facilities to the county.

"As the demand dictated then,"

Mixon said, "the county added sports fields to address the county's growth in local programs and to strengthen its position for South Carolina's growing sports tourism market. This explains why we constructed our premier Patriot Park Sportsplex.

"I knew the Sportsplex was a game changer when we opened it 11 years ago, and my gut instinct told me we were on the right path," he added. "The park's new Patriot Park Pavilion is easily accessible for county residents and students, who can get immersed in natural areas such as Carolina Bays and wetlands, and it's complimented by manmade aquatic features that surround it."

Coming "Full Circle"

The Sumter Debs won the 2009 Dixie Youth Softball World Series when the county hosted its first major tournament a little over one year after the Sportsplex was completed.

"Being able to call our hometown team the new World Series Champions was icing on the cake," Mixon said. "When several of the ladies who played on that World Series team 11 years earlier showed up to watch Dixie Youth World Series games at Patriot Park during the



RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW PATRIOT PARK PAVILION—On Nov. 15, 2018, Sumter County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new Patriot Park Pavilion. Standing in the front row left to right (between the yellow marks) are: Council Member Eugene Baten, Council Member Artie Baker, Council Chairman James T. McCain Jr., Council Member Charles T. Edens, Council Vice Chairman Jimmy Byrd Jr., County Administrator Gary Mixon and Assistant County Administrator Lorraine Dennis.

summer of 2017, we came full circle.”

He credited two Sumter companies for shaping the Sumter Patriot Park Sportsplex into what it is today: Drakeford Architects, and Hawkins and Kolb Construction, the general contractor.

“We were pleased that Drakeford, the architect, came back on board for this Pavilion project, because we wanted to keep our vision for the Sportsplex intact,” Mixon said.

He and Sumter County Council Chairman McCain said they’re both grateful for the partnerships that have provided and continue to provide the underlying support for the Sumter Patriot Park Sportsplex, including the new Patriot Park Pavilion.

“This is what happens when community partners come together to address a need,” Mixon said, “and it reflects the strong bonds among Sumter County, the City of Sumter, the State of South Carolina and our other partners.”

McCain credited the City of Sumter and Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, which he described as “Team Sumter,” for helping make possible the new Pavilion.

“There are strong bonds between these entities that work together,” McCain said, “and I’m proud to play a small role in ensuring that an esprit de corps continues to play a role in our county’s overall success.”



South Carolina's 2019 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2019 Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know “Who’s Who” in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC’s Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Supporters; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

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

● To order your copy of the *2019 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:

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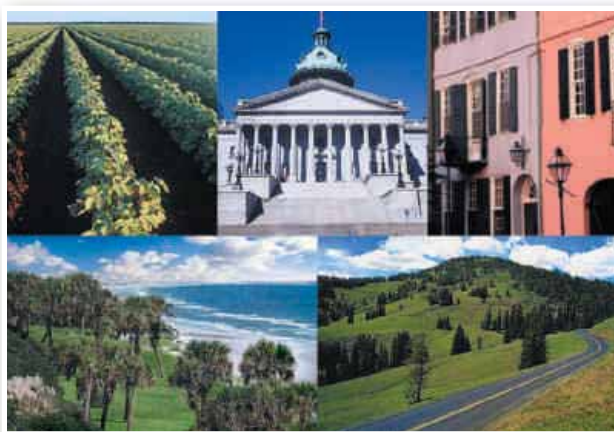
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S.C. RIA Closes the Gap in Financial Resources for Infrastructure Improvements

By Liz Rosinski

Senior Program Manager, Marketing & Outreach
S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority

South Carolina is growing in population, business investment and jobs. And, the state's 46 counties continue to play an important role in supporting existing companies and recruiting new and diverse businesses in an effort to set the table for long-lasting economic success for residents.

By laying the proper infrastructure foundation, counties are preparing for a

more sustainable future by ensuring reliable water and sewer services for both existing and new businesses. Often, these companies are some of the largest users of such services.

Counties are

eligible to apply to the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority's (RIA) economic infrastructure grant program to help build or enhance local infrastructure to support economic development, which will in turn, create and retain jobs and boost opportunities for future economic impact. To date, more than half of South



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RIA Announces \$25 Million in Grants

For fiscal year 2020, RIA will make available \$25 million in competitive grants for water, wastewater and storm water projects.

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

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

APPLICATION DUE DATES

Round 1: Sept. 9, 2019

Round 2: March 16, 2020



Gateway Industrial Park, home of Harbor Freight Tools' East Coast distribution center near Inland Port Dillon

Carolina's counties have directly accessed RIA's economic infrastructure grant program.

For two counties, much-needed capacity was added to accommodate existing industries that have a significant impact on the local economy.

For example, Dillon County is home to one of only two inland ports in the state. Near the inland port is the publicly-owned Gateway Industrial Park, which is home to Harbor Freight Tools' East Coast distribution center. Harbor Freight, one of the largest employers in the county with 850 current jobs, proposed a major expansion with an \$80 million capital investment and 400 new jobs. To facilitate this expansion, additional water, sewer and other infrastructure were needed. RIA provided a \$500,000 grant to assist with the water and sewer improvements. The S.C. Department of Commerce and Dillon County also contributed to this project.

Dorchester County was awarded a \$500,000 grant to install a new gravity sewer to serve the Ridgeville Industrial Campus. This project provided the necessary capacity to serve a global manufacturer of aluminum cast products, which

is locating in the park. The company announced plans to invest \$50 million and create 130 new jobs. In response to increased demand for its product, the company has announced an expansion which will add another 100 jobs and \$40 million in investment, positively impacting the surrounding community.

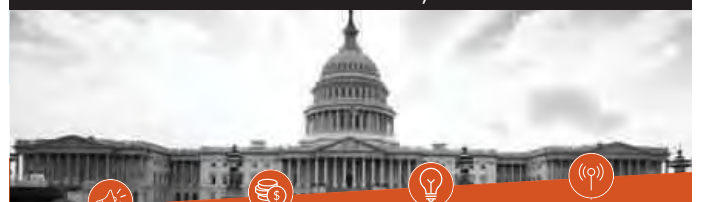
"RIA investments in infrastructure are changing communities and changing lives by giving our citizens job opportunities closer to home," said Dorchester County Administrator Jason Ward.

Reliable infrastructure benefits both new and existing businesses and positions counties to attract additional

investments that will contribute to long-term community sustainability.



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SCAC's website provides general information for all 46 counties—including contact information for county officials, links to county websites, and county job postings. The site is a conduit to a number of other resources too, such as the National Association of Counties, the S.C. General Assembly, U.S. Congress, federal agencies, as well as national and state associations.

Visit [SCCounties.org](http://www.SCCounties.org) during the legislative session to view the most current *Friday Report* or *Legislative Alerts*. You'll also find articles relevant to the positions of the Association and information on how to reach out to your legislative delegation.



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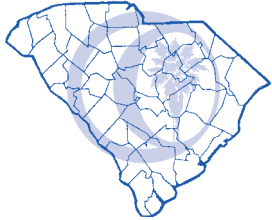


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WHAT IS THE SCAC?

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.

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■ 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 continuing education webcasts and webinars for county officials and employees throughout the year at no charge to counties. Within a few weeks after the live broadcast, county officials and employees are able to access the session as a video on demand via SCCounties.org.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

■ SCAC offers a number of financial services to its member counties. The Association sponsors two self-funded insurance trusts to provide workers' compensation and property and liability coverage. The trusts are designed specifically to meet the unique needs of local governments.

SCAC also offers the following services through affiliate organizations: GovDeals internet auction of surplus assets; 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, innovation, and other subjects of interest to county officials—including a "County Update" section.

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

■ SCAC provides research and technical assistance in many areas to those counties that request it. The Association staff annually responds to hundreds of inquiries from county officials ranging from simple requests for a sample ordinance to more complex questions requiring considerable research. The Association also develops technical research bulletins and conducts surveys on a variety of subjects. Regular publications such as the *Wage and Salary Report*, *Home Rule Handbook*, *A Handbook for County Government*

in South Carolina, and *Case Law Affecting Local Government* are made available to county officials.

SCAC's website address is:

SCCounties.org

The site provides county officials with the latest information on SCAC programs, services, and meetings as well as legislative information, research and survey results, and links to other local government resources.



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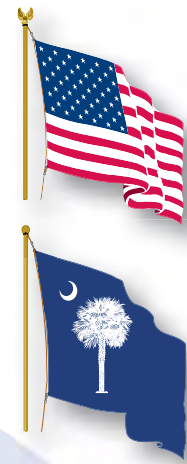
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SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



History of the Trusts

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

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

Boards of Trustees

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

Risk Management

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

Claims Administration

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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Insurance Trusts' Update

By John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM
SCAC Director of Insurance Services

On July 1st, the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust started handling all workers' compensation claims with its own in house operation. Claims had been handled for the past eight years by Ariel Third-Party Administrators.



All claims personnel from Ariel have since joined SCAC, effective July 1st. We are very fortunate to maintain this continuity. Members will continue to work with their same adjusters who will now be employees of SCAC.

Collectively, we now have 122 years of experience handling claims for the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and 310 years of experience in the workers' compensation field. Additionally, to make the transition seamless, the same claims processing software is being used.

Medical bills are being reviewed for additional cost reduction opportunities by a new vendor, Corvel.

We will also be offering members the opportunity to receive monthly loss reports electronically. If any members still wish to receive paper monthly loss reports, we will be happy to continue paper reports. Members who receive electronic loss reports have the added benefits of data being much less likely to be stolen or viewed by unauthorized persons. Members will also have quicker access to their data which can be easily merged into internal loss

reports customized by the member.

SCAC risk managers can help members determine methods for utilizing electronic loss data to help determine where to focus their risk management efforts for maximum efficiency.



The South Carolina Counties Property & Liability Trust has also seen recent changes. The retirement of John Jervey, who served as Claims Manager for many years, has resulted in the hiring of a new Claims Manager, Mark McKinney, and a Senior Adjuster, Chris Hinson. Collectively, these two claims professionals have 47 years of experience. The increase in claims staff for the SCCP< will improve service for members.



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The IMLA Report

Gerrymandering, the Census, Implied Consent to a Blood Test, a Christian Symbol as a War Memorial and Other Cases

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

At the end of each June, the Supreme Court issues opinions in cases that were argued during the annual term. Most are controversial, as the Court disposes of the easy ones first. This year, the Court did not disappoint and decided cases involving political gerrymandering, the census, the implied consent to a blood test, whether a liquor law can impose a residency requirement, whether a governmental agency can maintain a Christian symbol as a war memorial and a myriad of other significant cases that were not as newsworthy.

In *American Legion v. American Humanist Assn.*, the Court considered whether a government agency could maintain a Latin Cross, more than 40 feet tall and standing in the middle of a major highway, under the Establishment Clause. The Court concluded that under the facts of the case as the majority recited them, the agency did not violate the Establishment Clause. The Court found that following WWI, the grieving mothers of servicemen killed during the war, other members of their community and the American Legion raised money and erected the cross, not as homage to Christianity, but in memory of their war dead. The agency ultimately took title to the property and included the cross in a mix of other memorials to those who sacrificed their lives in other wars.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, writing for herself, and Justice Sotomayor dissented noting that servicemen of many faiths died during the war that a Latin Cross cannot honor. She recounted different facts to argue that the Cross had been erected for



partly religious reasons and its continued maintenance by a governmental agency fostered a view that the government favored Christianity over other faiths, thus violating the Establishment Clause.

The upshot for local government officials trying to understand how this case might affect their decision-making can be summarized simply: What may have been acceptable 90-plus years ago likely would not pass muster today. In other words, there are many historical linkages to religion in our American history that survive to this day, whether they are monuments like the one in this case or the homage to religion in the names of cities, counties and geographical features. These artifacts of the past need not be sacrificed to the Establishment Clause, but the Court will likely strike down decisions made today to favor religion over non-religion whether it is building a creche for the holidays or putting a monumental cross on the city hall or county courthouse.

In *Knick v. Township of Scott*, the Court threw a fastball at the heads of state and local government by concluding that when a state or local government acts to “take” property from a person, the person harmed

can immediately file suit in federal court for a violation of that person’s rights under the Constitution. For many years, allegations that a municipal or county regulation effected a “taking” required that the suit begin in state court to determine the two important questions of whether there was a “taking” and if so, what compensation must be paid. Now, those cases may begin in federal court and state and local policy makers must be very wary of how their actions may be perceived insofar as those actions affect the rights of property owners.

Unlike Eminent Domain (or a condemnation case), where policy makers identify property needed for a public purpose and for which a budget item exists to pay for the “taking,” a regulatory measure generally passes under the assumption that legal authority exists to pass the measure and that its implementation will not violate anyone’s rights. So, there’s no budget item in place to pay for property that a court concludes has been “taken” by the measure.

It is still too early to speculate on the extent of the effects of this decision. However, its conclusion that a right to sue in federal court flows immediately from an action “taking” property without immediate compensation raises a host of concerns. Now, every local regulation affecting property must be viewed under the lens of whether it goes so far as to constitute a taking and if the benefits of the regulation may be outweighed by the fear of litigation under Section 1983.

In *Mitchell v. Wisconsin*, the question before the Court involved the issue of whether an implied consent statute allowed

police to draw blood from an unconscious person who was suspected of drunk driving. Rather than answer the question, the Court concluded that when it comes to drawing blood for a drunk driving case, exigency dictates that the blood must be drawn promptly. The Court sidestepped the question of implied consent to the annoyance of several of the justices. Indeed, the dissent politely noted that the State of Wisconsin had not even argued that exigency supported its position. On the positive side, IMLA argued that exigency supported the decision to draw blood.

In *Department of Commerce v. New York*, the Court concluded that the Secretary of Commerce had offered suspect reasons for including a question on the census about citizenship. The case was among several that dealt with administrative law issues. It seemed that a majority of the Court believed that the Secretary could have exercised discretion to include the question on the census for many reasons, including that the new Administration felt the question ought to be asked, but felt the reason stated was contrived and therefore violated the Administrative Procedures Act.

In *PDR Network, LLC v. Carlton Harris Chiropractic, Inc.*, the Court considered the question of whether a federal law could deprive the Court (and litigants) of the opportunity to question an agency's interpretation of law. A federal law provides that a person can challenge an order of the FCC and a couple other agencies within 60 days of its adoption in a direct action at the Court of Appeals. But, what about someone who only learned of the potential effect of the law on them later—are they foreclosed from challenging the law and is the federal court deprived of jurisdiction? The short answer seems to be it depends and the case was sent back to the lower courts to ferret out some facts, but in trying to count votes, it looks as if a majority of the Court will find that federal courts can review agency interpretations of law and cannot be deprived of the jurisdiction to do so.

In *Manhattan Community Access Corp. v. Halleck*, the operator of a public access channel determined that submissions from a contributor to the channel's programming violated its rules based on the content of the material. The operator blocked the contributor from adding content and refused to

broadcast the content. A federal court concluded that the operator was acting on behalf of the government and therefore censoring content violated the First Amendment. The Supreme Court concluded that the operator was not acting for the government, was distinct from the government and despite the fact that the cable franchise agreement required the cable company to offer public access channels to the local government, that the government's support for a private entity to act as the operator of the channel sufficiently distances the government from the private operator's conduct. Therefore, the Court concluded that no First Amendment violation occurred.

This case, like most cases, involves facts that, should they change, might lead to a different result. The law seems clear that when a third-party acts at the direction of the government, then its censorship can violate the First Amendment because it is essentially the action of the government. So, could a county or city turn over bus advertising or other venue advertising to a third-party to limit the types of advertising that appears on the buses or at the venues? Maybe.

In *Tennessee Wine and Spirits Retailers Assn. v. Thomas*, the Court struck down a Tennessee residency requirement for liquor licensees. Following Prohibition, many states adopted laws that attempted to ameliorate the problems of alcohol abuse including disruptive behavior at bars and taverns. Believing that a licensee with ties to the community, living in the community where the bar or tavern operated, might be more inclined to exercise strict oversight over the conduct of the business to avoid confrontations with neighbors and upsetting other members of the community, residency requirements were common place. The Supreme Court concluded that the residency requirement violates the Commerce Clause and could not be saved by the Twenty-First Amendment. In what might be a nod to judicial chutzpa, the Court noted that there might be other ways to control the problems that the measure had been designed for, such as: limit the number of licenses or limit the amount of liquor sold. It seems an odd world in which the Supreme Court concludes it cannot decide whether political gerrymandering violates the Constitution, but can act as a super liquor board to decide what measures make sense in controlling

nuisances.

This term IMLA participated in a number of these cases as an *Amicus*, both at the *certiorari* stage and on the merits. Without doubt many of these decisions affect local governments and we believe that offering the views of our members contributes to getting better results. We appreciate the support of our members so that we can continue to argue to protect local government autonomy and fiscal health.



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

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

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

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

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

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A Roadside Guide to Cherokee County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

Cherokee County




See South Carolina
 County Map,
 P. 51

Cherokee County, one of South Carolina's more recent creations, was pivotal in the success of the Revolutionary effort in South Carolina and the nation. Located on the state line, settlement in the area spanned the North/South Carolina boundary line. Named for the historic Cherokee Nation, the county was the site of at least three Revolutionary engagements: Thicketty Fort, the Road to Burr's Mill and, most significantly, Cowpens.

All these engagements occurred during the critical six months following the fall of Charlestown in May of 1780. The battle at Thicketty Fort happened




 Cherokee County's
 Role in the
 American War
 for Independence



on July 26, 1780. Patriots and Loyalists clashed on the road to Burr's Mill on January 15, 1781, and on January 17, 1781, modern Cherokee County was the site of the great American victory at Cowpens.

Thicketty Fort

Thicketty Fort, also known as Anderson's Fort, was originally a Colonial fort. Located 10 miles from Cowpens, early in the Revolution, Loyalists reformed the site. In 1780, Captain Patrick Moore commanded a force of Loyalists at Thicketty Fort. The fort was a training point for Loyalist recruits and a base for Loyalist raids in the area around the Pacolet River and Fairforest Creek. In July, Major Patrick Ferguson was leading a major British force into the backcountry to recruit new Loyalist volunteers.

Seeking to neutralize the threat at Thicketty Fort, a combined Patriot force from North Carolina and Georgia moved toward the fort. Colonel Isaac Shelby of North Carolina coordinated troops commanded by Colonel Elijah Clark, Georgia, and Colonel Andrew Hamilton, also of North Carolina. Enroute, two companies of South Carolinians the

Spartan regiment joined them.

At daybreak on July 26 or 30, the Patriots reached the fort and demanded its surrender. Captain Moore categorically refused. At which point, Shelby arrayed his forces openly around the fort and once again asked the Loyalists to surrender. As the more than 600 Patriot troops greatly outnumbered the 90 or so men in the fort, Moore changed his mind and surrendered the fort without offering any resistance.

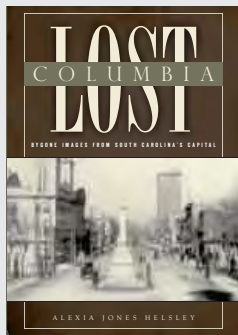
In addition to the fort, the Patriots captured much-needed arms, ammunition and prisoners. The Battle of Thicketty Fort was a precursor to the Battle of Kings Mountain where Shelby played an important role in that Patriot victory.

Road to Burr's Mill

Allegedly, in January 1781, a Patriot force commanded by Captain George Gresham encountered a small contingent of Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton's men and captured two prisoners. Little is known about the engagement, but according to Nathanael Greene's correspondence, Morgan and his detachment were operating in the area and moved

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

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from Burr's Mill toward Cowpens.

Cowpens

On January 17, 1781, a bitterly cold day, Daniel Morgan of the Continental Line dealt a major blow to British aspirations in the Southern colonies. In 1778, the British launched their so-called "Southern Strategy" and successfully seized the port of Savannah, Georgia on December 29, 1778. The British then moved into South Carolina and defeated Continental troops at Charlestown and Camden. With South Carolina under their control, British leaders expected to move north and squeeze the beleaguered commander-in-chief General George Washington between occupying British troops to the north and advancing British troops from the south.

After the disastrous surrender of Charlestown to the British, it was several months before Washington found a suitable commander to salvage the situation in South Carolina. That man was General Nathanael Greene, the "Fighting Quaker." With only 949 Continentals and 533 militia, Greene faced a daunting task. Acting counter to perceived strategic wisdom, Greene divided his small force and on December 21, 1781, sent Brigadier General Daniel Morgan with 600 men to the area between the Pacolet and Broad Rivers. Morgan had two goals—locate and acquire much needed supplies and rally the demoralized civilians to the Patriot cause.

Lord Charles Cornwallis commanded the British army in South Carolina. At the time Greene entered the state, Cornwallis was planning to invade North Carolina, the next stepping stone in the British southern strategy. Learning of Morgan's foray into the South Carolina backcountry, Cornwallis assumed the strategic fort of Ninety-Six was his target. Acting upon this misconception, Cornwallis detached the infamous Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton to intercept and defeat Morgan and his men and then rejoin him in North Carolina.

Though only 26 years of age, Tarleton had earned a reputation at Buford's Massacre and the Battle of Waxhaws for great skill and cruelty. Tarleton had a

legion of approximately 600 men under his command. He reached Ninety Six and determined that Morgan's true goal was the Broad River and turned east in pursuit. He marched his men with little rest and little food toward the river.

Meanwhile, Morgan had gained additional fighting men including Colonel Andrew Pickens and his militia. With approximately 1000 men under his command, Morgan determined to make a stand at Cowpens (either Hiram Sanders' or Hannah's). As a large body of Morgan's troops were militia—with a reputation for abandoning the field under fire—he arrayed his men in three lines between the Pacolet and Broad Rivers. The location made retreat difficult, if not impossible. On the frontline were 150 sharpshooters. Andrew Pickens commanded 300 militiamen in the second line and 500 or so seasoned Continentals comprised the third line.

Morgan organized this battle formation (with his flanks vulnerable) to lure Tarleton into a frontal assault. He kept William Washington and his cavalry in reserve. Morgan moved from campsite to campsite encouraging his men for the upcoming battle. While his men were in good spirits, Morgan had doubts.

In the wee hours of January 17, Tarleton roused his exhausted troops

and hastened to confront Morgan. Seeing the battle array, he ordered his dragoons to make a frontal attack. Morgan's sharpshooters aimed for officers with deadly accuracy. The second line fired two rounds before dropping back and as the British moved in, Washington and his cavalry entered the fray. The British scattered; the Continentals fired in unison and then launched a bayonet charge.

The battle lasted less than an hour. Tarleton and a small party fled the scene of battle. In a dramatic confrontation, Washington dashed in hot pursuit, outran his men and dueled virtually one-on-one with Tarleton. Only the timely intervention of a young bugler saved Washington's life. The young man shot an Englishman with a raised sabre. Washington survived, but Tarleton shot his horse.

Cowpens was a decisive victory for the American troops. As Morgan noted, he had given Tarleton "a devil of a whipping." While Morgan and the Patriots lost 12 killed and 60 wounded, the British lost 110 killed and more than 200 wounded. In addition, Morgan's men captured 500 of Tarleton's crack troops.

Morgan buried the dead and moved north across the Broad River with his prisoners. Troops took the captives to Salisbury, North Carolina and then on

(Continued on next page)

HIDDEN HISTORY OF GREENVILLE COUNTY

ALEXIA JONES HELSLEY

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the man who bought the town of Pleasantburg?
the time when Greenville was the
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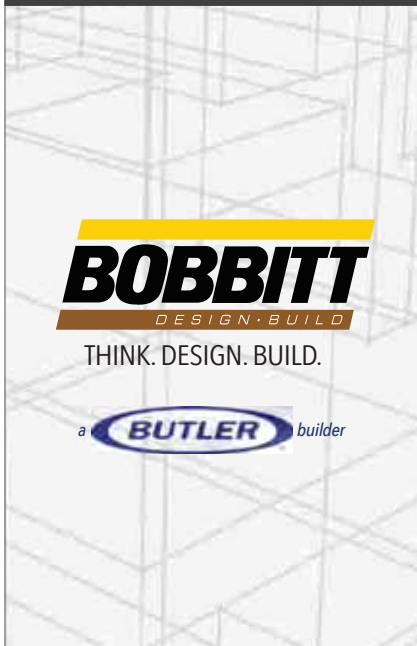
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to Winchester, Virginia. Morgan rejoined Greene who now turned his attention to obtaining needed supplies in Virginia.

Tarleton escaped to share the disastrous news with a much surprised and devastated Lord Cornwallis. Much shaken, Cornwallis burned his baggage and hastened after Greene's army inadvertently paving the way to Yorktown.



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*Businesses selling products and services
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County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 51

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

Bamberg County

● Margaret Meyer, who resides in the Colston Community, will retire on June 30 after a distinguished 28-year career as Bamberg County Auditor. Prior to being elected auditor in 1991, Meyer worked for the Bamberg County's Treasurer's office and the City of Denmark. She has two sons and three grandchildren.

● NACo announced in May that it had recognized Bamberg County with a 2019 Achievement Award in the Health Category for its program titled, "A Regional Solution to a Healthcare Desert: A Freestanding Emergency Center." This collaborative project involved Bamberg, Barnwell, Orangeburg, and Calhoun counties, the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun, South-

ern Carolina Alliance, SC Department of Health and Human Services, and the local legislative delegation including **Sen. C.B. Hutto** (District 40), **Sen. John W. Matthews Jr.** (District 39), **Rep. Justin T. Bamberg** (District 90), and **Rep. Lonnie Hosey** (District 91).

The Regional Medical Center's Barnwell-Bamberg Emergency Medical Center is a collaborative, multi-county project that required the participation of four counties and multiple organizations to secure funding, land, provide infrastructure, and guarantee 24-hour staffing of medical professionals. The effort also creates a plan that can be modeled to other regions throughout the state and the nation that find themselves in similar healthcare deserts. (See cover story for fall 2018 issue of SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 29, No. 3))

Each year, NACo presents Achievement Awards to counties that implement innovative programs, which enhance residents' quality of life every day.

● Keep Bamberg County Beautiful (KBCB) sponsored a Make a Difference May Cleanup Blitz in May. Individuals and groups were encouraged to choose locations anywhere in Bamberg County to conduct a litter clean-up. Litter pickups were reported to KBCB and prizes were presented to recognize the volunteers who helped. KBCB sponsors the national Great American Cleanup from March to May each year. Earth Day is also observed on April 22 each year. KBCB

hosted the recent clean-up to honor both events.

● Bamberg County recently recognized National Peace Officers Memorial Day at a ceremony honoring the county's past and present officers. The ceremony was held on May 14 at the Bamberg County gazebo in front of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex, located at 1234 North St. in Bamberg.

Beaufort County

● Hilton Head Island Airport officials held a press conference on June 17 to celebrate a newly launched service between Hilton Head Island (HHH) and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL). The first flight from Atlanta to Hilton Head Island Airport arrived on May 23, officially marking the start of service to Delta's global hub at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

● The County Channel recently received four Southeastern EMMY nominations.

Two of The County Channel's award-winning nature series, *Coastal Kingdom* and *Night Skies of Beaufort County*, were nominated to receive Southeastern EMMY Awards for 2019 in multiple categories.

Coastal Kingdom received two nominations for the episodes, "Remarkable Birds," and "The Sandhills." Host Tony Mills, who won last year for best on-camera talent, was nominated again this year.

The stargazing series, *Night Skies of Beaufort County*, was also nominated for its episode, "Supermoons & King Tides."

This is not the first Emmy nomination for The County Channel, but it is the first time *Coastal Kingdom* has received three nods in one year. The final EMMY winners will be announced in June.

● Beaufort County Airports Director **Jon Rembold** recently announced that Hilton Head Island Airport had received a \$10 million supplemental funding award for infrastructure investment from the U.S. Department Transportation. The funding is specifically designated for investments in important infrastructure needs at the nation's airports, especially those serving smaller and rural communities like Beaufort County.

Rembold noted that Hilton Head Island Airport's supplemental funding will be used for the commercial terminal expansion and renovation project currently in the early stages. The construction and equipment supported by this funding increases the airport's safety, efficiency, emergency response capabilities, capacity, and could support further potential growth and development.

● Beaufort County recently launched

★ Counties Reporting in This Issue of County Update:

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

COUNTY FOCUS

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

its new website www.beaufortcountysc.gov. The new site is mobile (touch) friendly and features visual improvements, an enhanced and searchable archives section, and more streamlined navigation. The site also has an upgraded public meetings calendar and news section, and maintains access to the county's financial transparency portal, comprehensive public meeting video center and news subscription area.

The new domain beaufortcountysc.gov better describes the county than the previous one, bcgov.net. Having an approved ".gov" site also confirms to users that it represents an official unit of government.

Charleston County

● Charleston County EMS has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

The Mission: Lifeline initiative provides tools, training and other resources to support heart attack care following protocols from the most recent evidence-based treatment guidelines. Mission: Lifeline's EMS recognition program recognizes emergency medical services for their efforts in improving systems of care to rapidly identify suspected heart attack patients, promptly notify the medical center and trigger an early response from the awaiting hospital personnel.

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for acute coronary syndrome patients. The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology clinical treatment guidelines.

● NexGen Containers & Shelters, a specialty manufacturer of ISO containers and shelters for both commercial and defense applications, has invested \$100,000 in its new 25,000 square foot manufacturing facility located at 7251 Cross Park Drive in North Charleston.

NexGen's products include dry and refrigerated ISO containers as well as expandable containers of various sizes and configurations. NexGen also builds various modular shelters. NexGen's Personnel Transport Module (PTM) Shelter for the Navy hovercraft fleet is a flat-pack modular shelter that can handle extreme loads and harsh environments.

The PTM Shelter is about 900 square

feet, can accommodate up to 180 people and is equipped with ventilation, lights, and seats.

Beginning with five employees in 2016, NexGen Containers and Shelters has more than doubled its workforce and is hiring quality management, production technicians and other positions.

Georgetown County

● Building on the creation of South Carolina's first coastal public-use community forest, the Open Space Institute and Georgetown County are expanding Rocky Point, with the help of the South Carolina Conservation Bank. This newest acquisition
(Continued on next page)



Webcasts & Webinars

We'll always post future webcasts and webinars here when they're scheduled. So, please check this schedule whenever you receive *County Focus Magazine*.

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

SCAC's 2019 Conference Calendar

Aug. 3 – 4
Aug. 4 – 7

Institute of Government
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

Aug. 22

SetOff Debt/GEAR
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Sept. 18

Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers
DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia

Oct. 23
Oct. 24

Institute of Government
County Council Coalition
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Nov. 22

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

Dec. 5 – 7

Legislative Conference
Renaissance, Charleston

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



NACo's 2020 Conference Calendar

Feb. 29 – March 4

Legislative Conference
Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.

July 16 – 20

Annual Conference
Orlando, Florida

tion furthers efforts in improving access to, and protecting water resources and sensitive habitat within, the celebrated Black River. Conservation of the 19-acre property protects both sides of the Choppee Road entrance to the Community Forest. The forested tract will be incorporated into the management and recreation for the now 680-acre Community Forest owned and managed by Winyah Rivers Foundation and Georgetown County. The Open Space Institute, a critical partner in the acquisition of the initial 460-acre property, secured most of the funding needed to

purchase the addition.

● **Vicki Bourus**, executive director of the Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry counties, retired on May 31, ending a 32-year career of advocating and providing services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Bourus has led the Family Justice Center for the past seven years. Since joining the board with the Family Justice Center in early 2012, she has guided the nonprofit through tremendous growth. That growth included expansion into Horry County, an increase in services available to victims, increased financial stability and the construction of a new head-quarters in Georgetown. Last year, the center provided services to 1,336 clients, including children.

● **Gerald G. Owens**, 74, died on April 11/ Born in Hemingway, he was the son of the late James T. and Vernise Cribb Owens. He served as deputy sheriff for Georgetown County and had retired from Smurfit-Stone Container in Florence in 2007. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Kiesel Owens; two sons, Robbie and Jamie Lee Owens; two brothers, Johnnie Owens and George Owens. Funeral services were April 14 at Union United Methodist Church. Burial, directed by Morris Funeral Home of Hemingway, was in the church cemetery.

● **Harold West**, employed by the Georgetown County's Public Works Division for 16 years, was recognized April 23 as the county's Employee of the Quarter. He has been employed in the positions of heavy equipment operator, infrastructure inspector, interim public works manager and special projects coordinator.

West ensures that drainage infrastructure is maintained and organizes infrastructure improvement projects where necessary. He supervises the activities of his workers, helps collect survey data, and coordinates stormwater issues with the Watershed Committee, along with investigating matters of concern related to the duties of his position.

West also assists with the acquisition of new equipment by working with Fleet Services and the Public Works Manager on specification and pricing, and general recommendations.

● **James Kinley "Kin" McKenzie Jr.** was sworn in as Georgetown County's newest magistrate on May 20. Judge McKenzie will serve the Murrells Inlet community, replacing former Judge John Benso, who retired on April 30, after eight years.

McKenzie, an Inlet resident, worked in law enforcement for 34 years, including 27 years with the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED). For the last 14 years with

SLED, he was a captain over criminal investigations. The oath of office was delivered to Judge McKenzie by **Judge Tony Love**, the associate chief magistrate and magistrate in charge of central traffic court.

● The Georgetown County Public Services Department hosted the 25th annual Lowcountry Backhoe "Roadeo" in May as part of its celebration of National Public Works Week. The event provided an opportunity to recognize hard-working employees responsible for tasks including constructing and maintaining roadways, safeguarding the environment, designing infrastructure, monitoring stormwater runoff and more.

Nineteen competitors representing the following counties and municipalities competed: Georgetown, Horry, Charleston and Berkeley counties; and cities of Georgetown, Charleston, North Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

This year's winner was **James Harris** of Horry County. **Rodney Prince Jr.** of the Town of Summerville won second place, and **Willie Myers** of Surfside Beach won third place.

The following employees of the Public Services Department were recognized for their outstanding service: **Vicky Smith, Janet Combs and Rob Burris**.

Smith received the Green Earth Award for setting an example in environmental awareness and dedication to recycling.

Combs, executive assistant for the Public Services Director, received the Team Player Award.

Burris, a tradesman/technician, received the 2019 Leadership Award.

● Facility Services Manager **Herb Puckett** retired on May 31 after serving the county 16 years. He was responsible for many of the county's building projects over the years, including the renovation of the historic county courthouse on Screven Street.

● **Chip Balthis** retired on May 10 after serving the county 34 years. He was in charge of the county's GIS division.

● **Donny Cummings** was recently promoted to Facilities Service Manager in the county's Public Services Department. He replaces **Herb Puckett**, who recently retired. Cummings previously served as Judicial Center Facility Manager. He has been a valued member of the county's Public Services team since he joined the Facilities Division in 1999.

● Georgetown County Elections Director **Donna Maria Hatchell Mahn**, 60, of Florence and Georgetown, died on June 23. Born in Darlington, she was the daughter of the late John B. Hatchell Sr. and Ramona Stokes Hatchell. Mahn graduated in 1977 from St. Johns High School. She worked in Florence County for 11 years and in Georgetown



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Purpose of the SCAC

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

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SCCounties.org

County as Director of Elections and Voter Registration for the last 14 years.

● **Sharon Moultrie**, a Georgetown County Public Works employee, has been named this year's most outstanding public works employee in the state.

Moultrie was recognized in Columbia on June 20 by the S.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association, which presented her with the 2019 Outstanding Public Works Employee Award. The award is based on outstanding achievements, level of activity in professional organizations, endorsements from others in the field, initiative and how much the nominee is valued by their employer.

Moultrie, hired as an administrative assistant for the county's Public Works Division in 1990, has served as an operations specialist since 2014.

● The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office honored Employees of the Quarter at the detention center and emergency communications during a luncheon at the Sheriff's Office on July 2. Receiving plaques were: **Nicole Greene**, Correctional Officer of the Quarter and **Becca Filyaw**, Telecommunicator of the Quarter. Greene has been employed at the Detention Center since November. Filyaw has been employed at Central Dispatch since

February 2015.

Horry County

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority has recognized Conway area resident **Eugene Parker** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of May. Parker is a regular recycler at the Recycle Road Recycling Center.

SWA recognized Longs area resident **Laurie Wells** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of April. Wells is a regular recycler at the Longs Recycling Center.

● **Joe Huffman** resigned his position as Assistant County Administrator for Public Safety, effective June 10, 2019.

● On June 11, Horry County announced that Emergency Management Director **Randy Webster** would serve as the interim Assistant County Administrator for Public Safety until the position is filled.

● Emergency Management Director **Randy Webster** retired on July 31, 2019.

Webster has more than 35 years of public safety experience in Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service and Fire Service. In 2016, Webster was named Emergency Management Director of the

Year during the annual S.C. Emergency Management Association Workshop.

He has presented at conferences regionally and nationally and he has served on many boards and committees throughout the state including the S.C. Homeland Security Advisory Council, the National Hurricane Conference Response Committee, and as President of the S.C. Emergency Management Association.

● On June 7, the Horry County Emergency Management Department hosted a meeting with S.C. Governor Henry McMaster. The governor met with county officials to discuss and promote hurricane preparedness measures.

● Horry County held a grand opening ceremony on June 5 to officially open the new Horry County Fire Rescue Aynor Station. Aynor Station 24, is located at 670 Jordanville Road in Aynor.

● In an effort to recognize the many U.S. military veterans in Horry County, the Horry County Veteran's Affairs Office has begun a monthly recognition program entitled, "Horry's Heroes," in which a veteran will be featured each month on the County's social media platforms each month. All honorably discharged veterans (active duty, reserve,

(Continued on next page)



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retired and/or deceased), who have served since 1900, are eligible to be featured.

The veteran of the month for June 2019 is U.S. Navy Aviation Electronics Mate **Joshua M. Jawad** of Horry County. Jawad has served at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., "A" School in Pensacola, Fla., and most recently at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va.

● Horry County Memorial Library announced on May 28 that it had received a \$4.4 million dollar bequest from the estates of **John C. Thompson** and **Barbara Thompson**.

The Horry County Memorial Library Board and Administration and local community leaders recognized the family at an event celebrating of the 70th anniversary of the Conway Library on August 21 at the Library Administration Offices (formerly the Conway Library), located at 1008 5th Ave.

The gift, the single largest donation in the library's history, was given in memory of John's parents, **Frank A. Thompson**, an attorney, and **Donna C. Thompson**, a teacher. Thompson was one of the founding members of the Horry County Memorial Library.

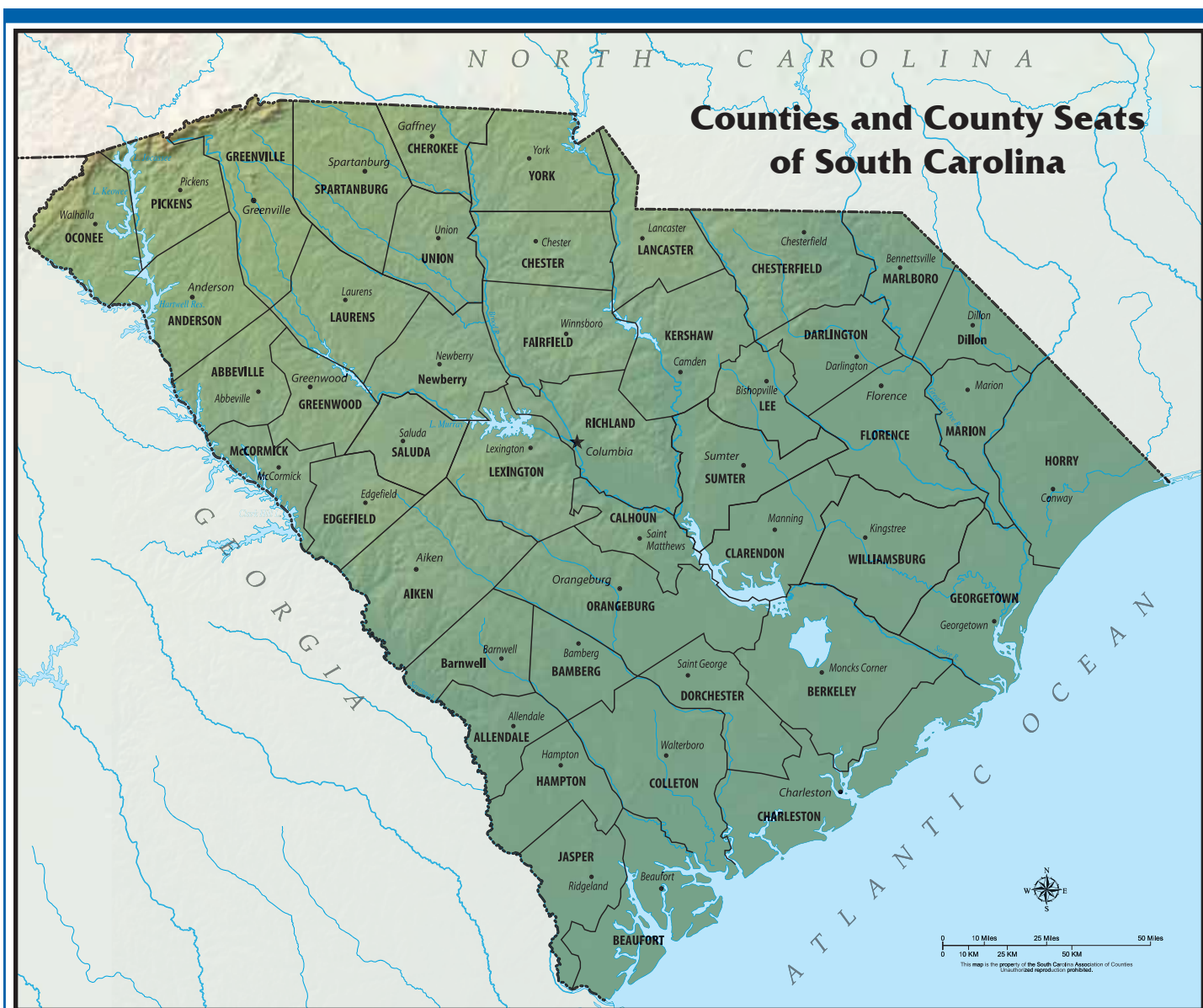
John and Barbara Thompson dedicated their lives to helping the community and investing in education.

● In May, the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) awarded nine Environmental Scholarships to high school seniors interested in protecting the environment. Each recipient received a \$1,000 scholarship after having completed public education volunteering with SWA.

Every year SWA awards one eligible graduating high school senior from each high school in Horry County, a one-time \$1,000 scholarship. Over the past 10 years, the SWA has awarded \$135,000 in scholarships through this program.

The following seniors received 2018-2019 Environmental Scholarships: **Zoe McNelis**, Academy for Arts, Science & Technology; **Madeline Beverly**, Academy for Technology and Academics; **Raleigh Cook**, Conway High School; **Thelicia Weaver**, Early College High School; **Logan Gore**, Green Sea Floyds High School; **Haven Flesch**, Loris High School; **Austin Randall**, Myrtle Beach High School; **Nicholas Gallagher**, North Myrtle Beach High School; and **Tinsley Carter**, Socastee High School.

● The National Association of Counties (NACo) has awarded Horry County Government's App, HCCoconnect, an Achievement Award in the category of Information Technology. HCCoconnect was created to provide a technology platform to inform, engage, and connect with the people of Horry County. This is a first of its kind app, developed com-



pletely in house, creating a direct channel for citizen driven communication and feedback.

The NACo Achievement Award honors innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents. NACo will recognize award-winning counties at its 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition July 12 – 15 in Las Vegas (Clark County), Nevada.

Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB) continued its “Secure Your Load” Tarp Giveaway campaign during the month of May. Initiated in 2017 as an effort to reduce the amount of roadside litter and debris, the program focused on residents and small business owners who use their personal vehicles for hauling. KHCB and the Horry County Police Department distributed free tarps at five locations in the county in May, courtesy of a PalmettoPride Grant.

Pickens County

● Pickens County has appointed **Ken Roper** as Acting County Administrator. Roper served as the County Attorney from 2004 until July 1, 2019, when his new role took effect. He succeeds **Gerald Wilson**, who will retire in August with 30 years of service to Pickens County, the last three of which he held the title of County Administrator. In addition to serving as the County’s attorney for fifteen years, Roper was the head of the Legal Services Division and oversaw the County’s Risk Management, Human Resources, County Prison and Animal Shelter.

Richland County

● A Richland County employee, **Tyler Dearman**, will have his extensive research

published in the *Journal of Geomorphology* (Elsevier). Dearman, Watershed Program Coordinator in the Stormwater Management Division, co-authored “Patterns of Legacy Sediment Deposits in a Small South Carolina Piedmont Catchment, USA” (Dearman, T.L., and James, L.A., 2019). The paper has passed peer-review and been accepted for publication. *Geomorphology* publishes peer-reviewed works from fundamental theory and science to applied research of relevance to sustainable management of the environment. The new edition of the journal will be published later this year.

● Richland County Council announced in June that **Leonardo Brown** would be the new Richland County Administrator.

Brown, who currently serves as County Administrator for Smith County, Tex., is
(Continued on next page)

scheduled to start on July 15. He has 19 years of progressive management and leadership experience in the public and private sectors. During his eight years with Smith County, Tx., which has a population of about 250,000 and a total comprehensive budget of about \$250 million, Brown advanced from the position of director of Human Resources to administrator.

His areas of responsibility as county administrator will include executive leadership management, financial planning and budgetary issues, human resource development, public works and communications.

Prior to his positions within the Smith

County administration, Brown worked in the private sector.

Brown, a native of Shreveport, La., received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Dillard University, a Master of Business Administration degree from Louisiana State University (Shreveport), and a Certified Public Manager credential from Stephen F. Austin State University.

● Eastover Solar, a wholly owned subsidiary of Community Energy, an experienced utility-scale solar project developer, announced plans in May to construct a new solar farm in Lower Richland.

The company is investing \$80 million in the project.

Designed to generate the equivalent electricity required to power approximately 18,000 homes, this new, 73-megawatt project will be located on a 740-acre site in Eastover. The project is scheduled to be completed by the first quarter of 2021. Eastover Solar will sell the electricity it produces to Dominion Energy.

● Conservation educator **Jennifer Mancke**, known by her colleagues for having a classroom that is a “model of sustainability,” was recognized in May as Richland County Conservation Teacher of the Year. Mancke teaches first through fifth grade at Harmony School, a non-profit school in Forest Acres where she enforces the concepts of reuse, reduce, recycle and compost. Students also get in touch with nature by growing herbs and vegetables and raising chickens.

Mancke received a cash reward, \$500

Conservation Education Mini-Grant, and will progress to the statewide Conservation Teacher of the Year competition.

● The Assessor’s Division announced in April that it had implemented a new online portal (app) and installed kiosks at the Assessor’s Division to make it easier for new homeowners to submit applications to establish their primary residency in Richland County for real property tax purposes.

The IT Department and the Assessor’s Division worked together for more than a year to develop the application. The time put into the development of this online tool ensures the ease of completion for the property owner, as well as enabling the data control specialist to track and process the application much more efficiently. Homeowners may access a link to the app online at Richlandcountysc.gov/assessor.



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PrintSouth Printing, Inc.	11 & 22
Professional Printers	11 & 24
PROVAL Property Valuation & Analytics	49
PUBLIQ Software	20
Santee Cooper	44
Stevens & Wilkinson	34
Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects	38
Synovus	39

The Palmetto Directory Index

(See page 45)

LISTINGS:

Alliance Consulting
Engineers, Inc.
BB&T Governmental Finance
Celebrate Freedom Foundation
Oakbridge Consulting &
Management
PalmettoPride
PROVAL Property Valuation &
Analytics
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