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South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 29

Number 4

Orangeburg County Constructs New State-of-the-Art Detention Center



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CONTENTS

Date of Issue: March 2019

- 2 Immigration Policy and the Rule of Law Should Not be a Political Issue**
By U.S. Congressman William R. Timmons IV (SC-04)
- 4 Orangeburg County Constructs New State-of-the-Art Detention Center**
By W. Stuart Morgan III
- 8 Orangeburg County's New Public Services Building**
By W. Stuart Morgan III
- 12 Orangeburg County Incorporates Projects to Construct Two Memorial Plazas and Renovate Council Chambers**
Memorial Plazas Honor the Late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Veterans
By W. Stuart Morgan III
- 20 Pickens County Hosts Two-Day Sesquicentennial Event**
Gov. Henry McMaster Attends, Proclaiming October 5 & 6 'Pickens County Sesquicentennial Days'
By W. Stuart Morgan III
- 35 Why Buying Rental Car Loss Damage Waiver Can Pay Off**
By Bill Wilson, CPCU, ARM, AIM, AAM
- 38 The IMLA Report**
There's Nothing Social About Government Social Media Sites
By Charles W. Thompson Jr.
Executive Director and General Counsel, IMLA
- 44 A Roadside Guide to Charleston County, Part 1 of 2**
The County's Role in the American War for Independence
By Alexia Jones Helsley
- 50 County Update**

COVER Top: Artist's rendering of the new Orangeburg County Detention Center, scheduled to be completed by April 2020. (Courtesy of Moseley Architects and Oakbridge Consulting Management) **Bottom:** Orangeburg County Council (See story, P. 4)



County Focus Magazine is published quarterly by the
South Carolina Association of Counties

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Columbia, SC 29202-8207
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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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Immigration Policy and Enforcing the Rule of Law Should Not be a Political Issue

By U.S. Congressman William R. Timmons IV (SC-04)

On January 3, I was sworn in as a member of the 116th United States Congress to represent South Carolina's 4th Congressional District. It was a day marked both by celebration and a sobering sense of responsibility. I shared moments with family, friends, new colleagues, and staff commemorating the day, but the magnitude of my new responsibility was palpable when I walked into the House Chamber for the first time. The history that has taken place within these walls is humbling.

I began my time in public service a few years ago when I was elected to the South Carolina Senate. Initially, I ran for office because I was frustrated with the bureaucracy and inefficiency of government. As a small business owner, I consistently faced the unnecessary governmental hurdles that impeded daily operations and growth opportunities. This is an experience that many of us face every day.

In some ways, my time in the state legislature added an exclamation point to this frustration. Creating or amending laws can be a painstakingly deliberative process, even when it seems to be a simple issue. Fortunately, it also exposed opportunities that existed to make impactful changes to laws that govern the way we live our daily lives. Those opportunities are what motivated me to run for my current seat—to participate in the larger policy decisions that impact more South Carolinians—and will continue to keep me focused on taking thoughtful



U.S. Congressman William R. Timmons IV

“Our country’s system of government is beautiful and unique. We are truly a nation of laws—rules that we, as a nation, have agreed to live by so that we are safe, prosperous, free of tyranny, and may worship as we please. Consequently, laws matter. Our laws should be enforced and not disrespected or dismissed as mere suggestions.”

—U.S. Congressman William R. Timmons IV

policy positions and advocating for the enforcement of our existing laws.

Our country’s system of government is beautiful and unique. We are truly a nation of laws—rules that we, as a nation, have agreed to live by so that we are safe, prosperous, free from tyranny, and may worship as we please. Consequently, laws matter. Our laws should be enforced and not disrespected or dismissed as mere suggestions.

I spent my time as a state senator pursuing the enforcement of South Carolina laws. This pursuit took me from a local controversy involving a state-owned asset, to death penalty legislation, to immigration policy, and to ethics reform legislation. I plan to bring the same approach to Washington. If we determine that laws need to change, then I am committed to thoughtfully considering solutions until the best course of action is determined. This is the beauty of our system of government.

I began my term in Congress in the middle of what has proven to be the nation’s longest federal shutdown. The consequences of this shutdown on governmental operations, the lives of federal employees, and our nation’s security are real and heavy. The partisan rhetoric is difficult to ignore while each side lays blame on the other. The shutdown is the result of a disagreement about immigration policy and how the United States is able to successfully secure our borders. Ultimately, it is about whether or not we believe that our laws should be enforced.

Immigration enforcement is not a new issue for our country. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the United States began patrolling our borders to prevent illegal entry in 1904. In 1924, Congress established the U.S. Border Patrol as part of the Immigration Bureau. In 2003, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was established, making it the first joint border management agency in the world and the largest federal law enforcement agency in the United States.

In fiscal year 2018, the CBP reported 396,579 total apprehensions on the southwest border. By comparison, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services estimates that roughly 700,000 to 750,000 people participate in naturalization ceremonies every year. The data proves that the United States has immigration and naturalization policies and procedures in place that work; however, enforcing these policies and procedures is where the process breaks down and why the President of the United States and Congress are at an impasse.

Enforcing the rule of law should not be a political issue. If laws need to change, then it is incumbent upon the few representing the many to make those changes. In the meantime, because we are a country founded upon the rule of law, it is imperative that we insist that those laws are enforced. Even in the face of a shutdown, laws matter.

While my term in Congress is beginning at a time of historic disagreement, I have always been tremendously proud of our country and have believed in our ability to set our own course. When it comes to immigration, the course we have agreed upon as a nation is the one we should follow. I will always fight for and defend the rule of law, be a voice for reason that is louder than political noise, and remain committed to ensuring that our best days lie ahead of us.



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Orangeburg County Constructs New State-of-the-Art Detention Center

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Orangeburg County is scheduled to complete a new state-of-the-art \$26 million detention center by April 2020.

The 85,000-square-foot facility, under construction since March 2018, is being built on county-owned land adjacent to the old detention center near the sheriff's department on Ellis Avenue in Orangeburg.

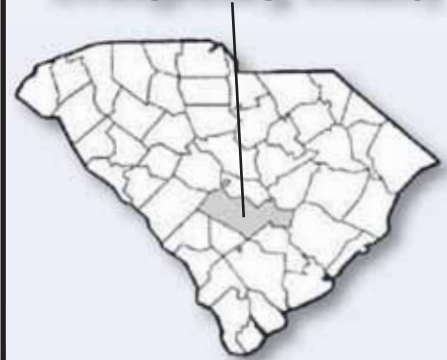
"The new detention facility will be able to house more than 300 inmates, and it's designed to prevent inmate escapes like the one that occurred last May at our old detention center," said Harold Young, Orangeburg County Administrator. "Because the detention center is designed to help reduce contact with inmates and includes new technology, the



facility will provide a better, safer work environment for officers and help insure the safety of citizens as well as inmates."

The county's previous detention center, designed and constructed 50 years ago, is outdated and incapable of complying with requirements of the

Orangeburg County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 55



Artist's rendering of the new Orangeburg County Detention Center, scheduled to be completed by April 2020. (Courtesy of Moseley Architects and Oakbridge Consulting Management)

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003. So, Orangeburg County has had to pay for other facilities to help house inmates for many years. The old facility, built before the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, is also non-ADA compliant.

Vernetia Dozier, Orangeburg County Detention Center Director, said the detention center's new design requires direct supervision within the inmate cell blocks and dormitories and more interaction between officers and inmates. A central corridor runs horizontally through the entire facility that separates the secured inmate side from the administrative side, enhancing visibility and security by providing a clear line of sight from one end of the building to the other.

"Placing officers in housing areas," Dozier explained, "allows officers to respond to trouble before it escalates."

The new Orangeburg County Deten-

"Because the detention center is designed to help reduce contact with inmates and includes new technology, the facility will provide a better, safer work environment for officers and help insure the safety of citizens as well as inmates."

— Harold Young
Orangeburg County Administrator

tion Center will feature:

- Nine pods to house more than 300 inmates (241 beds for male inmates and 63 beds for female inmates), satisfying state and federal jail standards for inmate separation;
- Conference rooms in each pod for classes, drug and alcohol counseling, and visits by attorneys and religious representatives;
- Recreational yards adjacent to each pod and within the facility's main walls and exterior walls to allow open air recreation;
- A central corridor (the facility's primary design feature) running horizontally through the entire facility that separates the secured inmate side from the administrative side;
- Multi-function rooms that allow inmates to be moved from one area of the facility to another without having to leave their cell blocks;
- A master control system linked to all areas of the facility;
- Cameras integrated to minimize areas that cannot be monitored from master control stations and positioned to prevent staff from having to enter unsafe areas;
- Cameras, alarms and call buttons on every door; an intercom system

(Continued on next page)



This photo of the new Orangeburg County Detention Center, taken on November 19, 2018, shows the progress made on the new facility as of that date. Note the county's old detention center (far right), located adjacent to the new facility under construction. (Photo courtesy of Oakbridge Consulting & Management)

connecting cells to inmate day rooms and staff; and electronic, keyless locking systems that reduce security concerns at all levels;

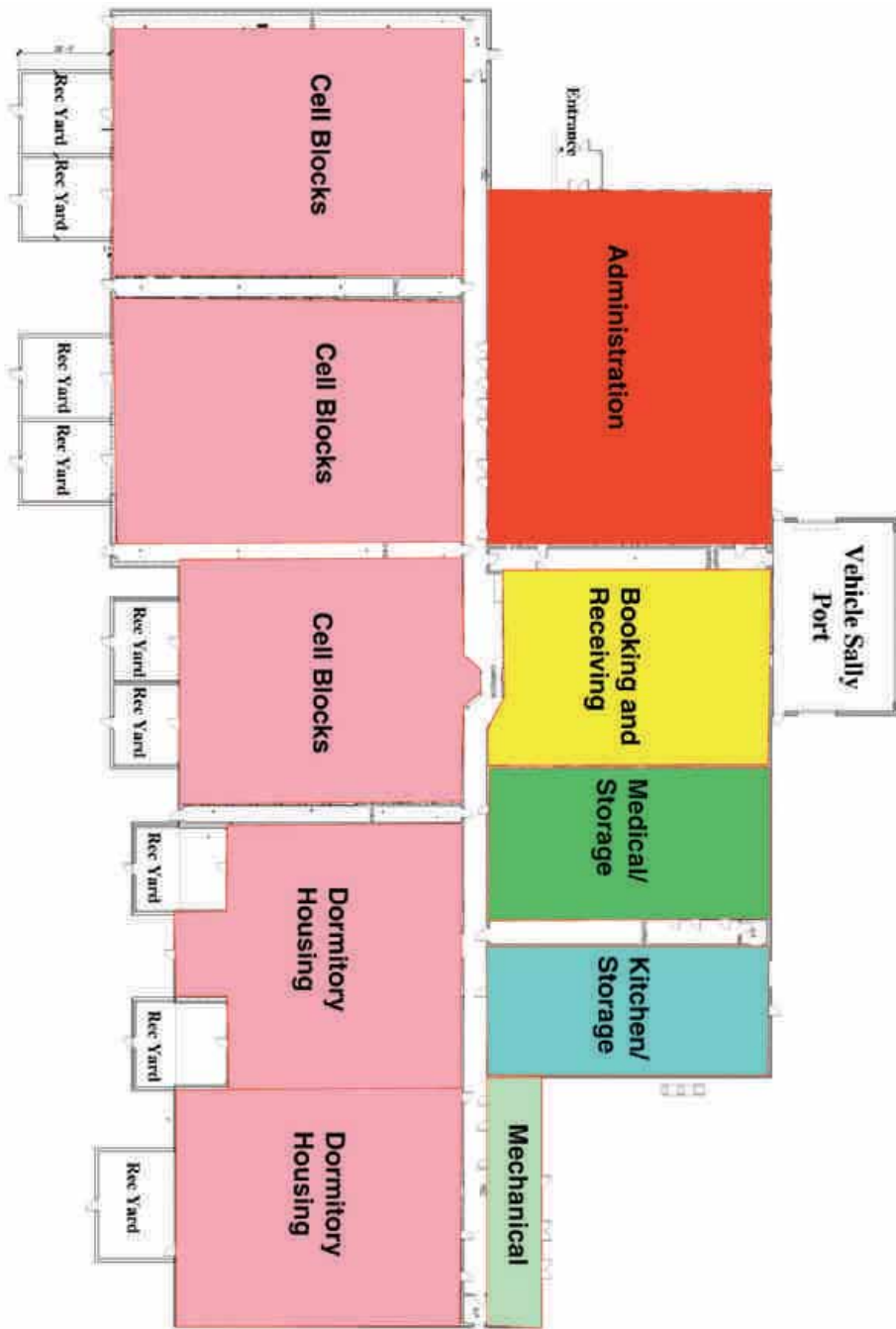
- A large sally port and booking/intake area designed to dramatically increase safety throughout the facility;
- Nursing/medical department, lo-

cated near facility's booking/intake area so medical staff will be able to conduct physical and mental health assessments; and a work area near the intake area so arresting officers can complete the required charging documents;

- A hearing room that employs a video

conferencing system, which allows detainees to have on-site court hearings and request bonds without having to be transported elsewhere;

- Mechanical chases (concealed areas) that will allow workers to work in safety when maintaining mechanical and plumbing systems;



This illustration shows the general layout of the new Orangeburg County Detention Center. The facility's new design requires direct supervision within the inmate cell blocks and dormitories and more interaction between officers and inmates. A central corridor runs horizontally through the entire facility that separates the secured inmate side from the administrative side, enhancing visibility and security by providing a clear line of sight from one end of the building to the other. (Illustration courtesy of Moseley Architects)

- Training room for staff, and separate locker rooms for male and female staff members;
- Kitchen, offices and storage areas; and
- An employee entrance, including a public lobby.

"The new detention center will be a big improvement in the work environment for corrections officers and the facility's administrative staff," Dozier said. "The central control room operator will be able to control all doors from one central location in case of an emergency. All electrical, fire panel and plumbing systems will be controlled from the central control room as well. All housing areas will be monitored by cameras, but officers will still be assigned to housing areas."

A portion of the old detention center will be saved to provide office space for the sheriff's department once the new detention center is completed and operational.

Then, the remainder of the old facility will be demolished and removed.

According to Richard Hall, Orangeburg County Planning/Development

Director, a project to construct a new detention center is unlike other county projects due to the security issues involved.

"Detention centers are expensive to construct, but Orangeburg County has worked diligently to create a safe and cost-effective building," Hall explained. "We have focused on creating the best environment for jail staff by creating separate break areas with windows, constructing secure parking areas and employing the best technology. A lot of

"... Orangeburg County has worked diligently to create a safe and cost-effective building. ... A lot of focus was put into not only creating a secure facility but also making it a good environment for staff members working there. It was also designed to accommodate future growth."

— Richard Hall
Orangeburg County Planning/
Development Director

focus was put into not only creating a secure facility but also making it a good environment for staff members working there. It was also designed to accommodate future growth."

Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman, said the old detention center could not be operated efficiently and did not provide for effective supervision.

"Inappropriately-sized housing units in the old facility result in staffing inefficiencies, and the old detention center's design made supervision difficult," Wright explained. "Last year's prison riot and escape show first-hand the problems that the facility's outdated design and layout created."

"The new detention center will be the first one built in Orangeburg County to use modern technology," he added. "It will include biometric scanning, video conferencing and arraignment as well as using a state-of-the-art, pre-cast or prefabricated steel cell system to reduce maintenance costs."

Approximately 95 staff members and officers will operate the new detention center.

According to Wright, feedback from local residents indicates so far that many appreciate that the county chose to construct the new detention adjacent to the old detention center. This has prevented a NIMBY (not in my backyard) response from residents that often follows when sites are selected for detention centers.

"We are happy with the style and design of the new detention center," Wright said. "We have enough capacity for future growth, and we have included enough technology to cut down the overall cost of housing inmates."



Moseley Architects of Charlotte, N.C., designed the Orangeburg County Detention Center, and McKnight Construction of Augusta, Ga., constructed it.



ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL—(Left to right) Council Vice Chairman Janie Cooper-Smith, Council Members Willie B. Owens and Harry F. Wimberly, Council Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr., and Council Members Heyward H. Livingston, Johnny Ravenell and Deloris Frazier. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

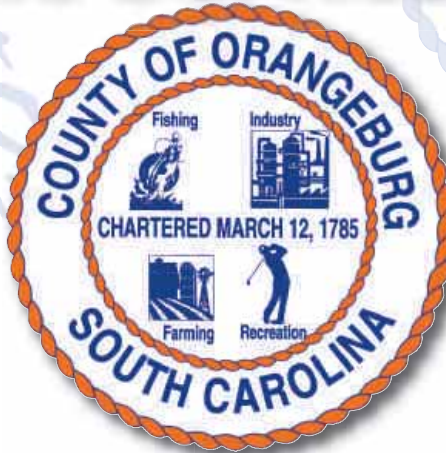
Orangeburg County's New Public Services Building

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Orangeburg County has finally constructed something that it has never had before—a Public Services building.

The county's Public Services Department is responsible for maintaining all county roads and bridges, solid waste disposal, recycling, solid waste collection sites, street signs and the county's entire fleet of vehicles.

Previously, the county housed its public services vehicles and equipment, and operated its Public Services Department in the Clemson Extension Building on



Henley Street in Orangeburg. Now, the county has combined its Public Services Department and Vehicle Maintenance Department under one roof on Ellis

Orangeburg County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 55

Avenue in Orangeburg.

"The building our Public Services department previously used was 30 plus



Orangeburg County's new Public Services building, located on Henley Street in Orangeburg (Photography by Stuart Morgan)

years old and far exceeded its useful life,” said Harold Young, Orangeburg County Administrator. “In today’s world, vehicles are more computerized, and a successful vehicle maintenance program requires a lot of technology and space to be successful. Our new building will allow us to see major savings when maintaining our county’s vehicle fleet, and allow citizens to meet public services staff to discuss roads and bridges issues, and in a more suitable environment.”

The new metal Public Services building cost \$800,000.

“Putting the county’s Public Services and Vehicle Maintenance departments under one roof to better serve citizens,” said Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman, “is much better than having such departments operating out of several different facilities.”

Henry Summers, Orangeburg County Public Services Director, said that it was important to create a warm, inviting environment for citizens to come and voice concerns. Because the county’s previous vehicle maintenance garage was not equipped to allow mechanics to maintain large vehicles, it was also important to modify the new Public Services

building so more vehicle maintenance could be handled in-house. A taller ceiling was constructed for the garage, and more space and larger bays were added so maintenance personnel could work there.

“Putting the county’s Public Services and Vehicle Maintenance departments under one roof to better serve citizens is much better than having such departments operating out of several different facilities.”

— Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County Council Chairman

The new Orangeburg County Public Services building, which includes 15,000-square-feet of floor space, includes:

- 12-bay garage
- Parts inventory room
- Conference room
- Five offices
- Waiting area
- Receptionist area

“We needed a building that would be more useful for every division of our

Public Services Department,” Summers explained. “So, we designed a building to accommodate their needs.”

An office manager and three administrative staff members operate the Public Services department. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., this team takes calls from citizens concerning road repairs and day to day operations—from bookkeeping to paving procedures.

A maintenance staff supervisor and several vehicle staff members work in the building’s cavernous 12-bay garage area. Inventory personnel, responsible for the accounting side of the shop, also work there.

The Public Services Department’s Construction Division is responsible for maintaining all bridges and 1,029.99 miles of road in four camps or areas of the county—Orangeburg, Neeses, Vance and Bowman.

The construction division supports four roads and bridges teams, each led by a supervisor. The teams are responsible for ensuring the safety of the county’s roads and bridges. The four construction teams scrape dirt roads; clean ditches; maintain roads by repairing potholes, etc.; pave roads and maintain bridges

(Continued on next page)



This view of Orangeburg County’s new Public Services building shows the facility’s forward section, which includes the conference room, offices and waiting area. It also shows the rear section, which includes the 12-bay garage.

within each of the four areas.

The Public Services Department's mechanics are trained to handle vehicle maintenance for the county's entire fleet of vehicles. Other staff members are responsible for managing the county's landfill and convenience sites, and maintaining street signs across the county.

"We save our county a great deal of money throughout the year by handling maintenance and doing most repairs in-

house," Summers said. "Now, mechanics in our Public Services Department can

"Now, mechanics in our Public Services Department can maintain equipment in a proper and safe environment."

— Henry Summers

Orangeburg County Public Services Director

maintain equipment in a proper and safe environment."

The county's Public Services Department operates out of one large space, which includes one office for the department's director.

"Now, the director and each administrative staff member have appropriate, air-conditioned offices to work in," Summers said. "They no longer have to leave when private matters are discussed. We also have a conference room for staff meetings and large gatherings."



Gary Shaw with G3S architecture + design of Lexington designed Orangeburg County's Public Services building, and Brantley Construction of Charleston built it.



A closer view of the Public Services building's garage bays



Orangeburg County's new 15,000-square-foot public services building features a cavernous garage. Ample room provides space for mechanics to work on large vehicles like ambulances, fire trucks and dump trucks.

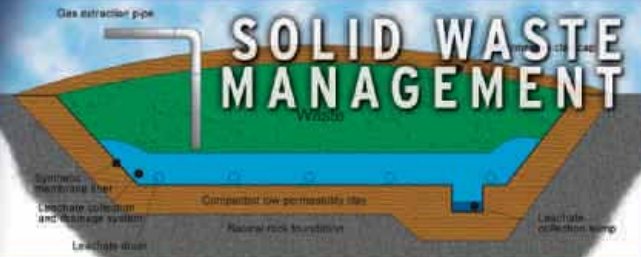
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Orangeburg County Incorporates Projects to Construct Two Memorial Plazas and Renovate Council Chambers

Memorial Plazas Honor the Late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Veterans

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Orangeburg County launched a project in February 2017 to address parking, drainage and access issues in front of the county courthouse and between the courthouse and in the county administration building. The project also addressed security issues.

But when the project was in its design phase, Orangeburg County council members and the county's administrator recognized an opportunity to incorporate the construction of memorial plazas honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.



As the two plazas were under construction, they next decided to renovate and update county council chambers that had

Orangeburg County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 55

not been altered since the administration building was completed in the late 1980s.

"This multi-phase project was understandably ambitious," admitted



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza features a statue of the Dr. King (inset-left). Inscribed across the top of the memorial is one of his quotes, "INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE." (Photography by Stuart Morgan)



Veterans Plaza honoring veterans who have served in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces—Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard.

Johnny Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman. “But the project has redefined and repositioned our county’s

facilities in a way that has never been done before—whether for lack of political will, funding or focus.

“The vision for creating a government campus of sorts,” Wright added,
(Continued on next page)



(Above-left) a monument honoring veterans of the U.S. Army, one of five monuments honoring each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. (Above-center) A plaque explaining the purpose of the Veterans Plaza.

Entrance to Orangeburg County Council Chambers



View looking from the Orangeburg County Administration Building toward the Veterans Plaza and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza (center), located on the opposite side of Amelia Street behind the Orangeburg County Courthouse and Judicial Center.

“has been three years in the making and prompted by, among other reasons, the need to provide a better and more modern workspace for county government and its employees. It started with the understanding that our buildings belong to the people, who, when they see them, should be proud of how their tax money was used.”

Plazas Honoring the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Military Veterans

Richard Hall, Orangeburg County Planning/Development Director, said he is very excited about the completion of both memorial plazas.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza is located adjacent to the courthouse.

“The plaza depicts Dr. King delivering his famous ‘I have a dream’ speech on

August 28, 1963, in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.,” Hall said. “The plaza features a statue of Dr. King and a small reflection pool, and benches for seating.”

The Veterans Plaza is located across Amelia Street in front of the county administration building.

“The Veterans Plaza,” Hall said, “flanks a winding walkway leading to the county administration building. The plaza features monuments honoring veterans who have served in each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces—the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.”

Newly-Renovated and Updated Council Chambers

The newly-renovated and updated council chambers enhances Orangeburg County’s ability to host public meetings. Soon, it will also allow the county the ability to stream meetings in real time.

Connie Portee, Orangeburg County Clerk to Council, worked closely with the county’s planning/development director (Hall) during the project to renovate and update council chambers. She helped select fabrics, paint colors and granite tops.

Perhaps more than anyone else, Portee understands the significance of the county council chambers.

“County Council Chambers is where our county ordinances, resolutions, official actions and proclamations are voted on by our seven county council district representatives,” she explained. “Our County Council Chambers not only serves as a meeting place for county council every first



▲ Looking left upon entering Orangeburg County’s newly-renovated council chambers



and third Monday of each month, but also serves as the meeting place for our county's Legislative Delegation meetings, for training county employees, and hosting public forums.

"It is important," she added, "for our county to have a meeting place that is comfortable, technology-based and driven by excellence."

The newly-renovated and updated 1800-square-foot Orangeburg County Council Chambers, capable of seating 99 people (same as before), features:

- Improved accessibility;
- New and improved lighting; and
- New cutting-edge technology.

Previously, the council dais (platform for seating council members) was located at ground level. This prevented council members from having a clear view of the entire audience seated before them.

Now, the council dais has been raised 12 inches higher to provide council members a clear view. A step, providing access from the clerk to council's area to council dais, has also been removed to put both sections on the same level. This change and the installation of LED lighting has eliminated a tripping hazard between the clerk to council's area and council dais.

An audio/video system was installed to permit video recording and streaming of meetings as well as to enhance existing audio capabilities.

According to Portee, Orangeburg County is the last local government entity in the county to renovate its council chambers. All 17 municipalities in the county have already renovated their municipal council chambers.

"While municipalities

were able to enjoy nice, big screen monitors on the walls of their council

"It is important for our county to have a meeting place that is comfortable, technologically-based and driven by excellence."

— Connie Portee

Orangeburg County Clerk to Council

chambers," Portee recalled, "we were still using a projector and a screen, mounted to the ceiling, to view presentations. We also hadn't addressed that tripping hazard between the clerk to council's area and council's dais in council chambers."

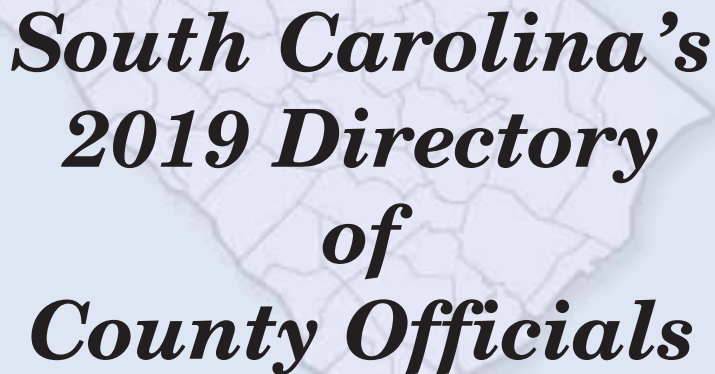
The \$276,000 Orangeburg County paid to renovate and update council chambers has made a big difference.

"Our county's newly-renovated and
(Continued on next page)



At the the county council dais, each council member has a computer, keyboard and mouse. Each council member can view his or her computer screen, which has been built into the dais before them.





South Carolina's 2019 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2019 Directory of County Officials* is scheduled to be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

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updated council chambers, and its new sound system are unique," Portee said. "But I believe the most unique feature we've added are the personal computer monitors that have been installed in the dais before each council member. Each member also has a mouse and a keyboard they can use when necessary."

Portee said she likes everything about the newly-renovated council chambers, but likes these three features the most: 1) The two new big monitors on the wall that save her from having to produce printed copies of each meeting's agenda for citizens. Now, citizens can see the agenda on those monitors. 2) The new camera system that allows her to record video and audio for each meeting, and 3) the Orangeburg County seal, prominently positioned on the wall behind the council dais, that can be viewed from the audience.

"Our county seal adds a special touch to council chambers," Portee said. "After seeing the outcome of the project to renovate and update our county's council chambers—how the colors, fabrics and granite tops flow together—it brings me joy knowing that I had a role in making it beautiful."

Harold Young, Orangeburg County Administrator, said it was time for Orangeburg County to renovate and update its council chambers.

"After seeing the outcome of the project to renovate and update our county's council chambers—how the colors, fabrics and granite tops flow together—it brings me joy knowing that I had a role in making it beautiful."

— Connie Portee
Orangeburg County Clerk to Council

"As citizens across the nation continue to demand transparency," Young explained, "we wanted to have the capability to record meetings for public viewing. More important or equally important as providing transparency, the technology upgrades we've made will accommodate our county's training needs."

“As citizens across the nation continue to demand transparency, we wanted to have the capability to record meetings for public viewing. More important or equally important as providing transparency, the technology upgrades we’ve made will accommodate our county’s training needs.”

— Harold Young
Orangeburg County Administrator

“We now have the capability to record training sessions in council chambers that can be viewed later,” he added. “Ultimately, we want to be able to conduct training sessions in chambers and have county employees at remote sites across the county be able to view and participate via satellite. So, we are more than pleased with how we’ve improved and modernized our council chambers and extremely excited about its new

capabilities.”



Gary Shaw with G3S architecture + design of Lexington designed the renovation of Orangeburg County Council Chambers, and F.E. Gaskins of North renovated it.

Herbert W. Gilliam, P.E., of Johnson, Laschober & Associates, PC, of Augusta, Ga., was the engineer for the parking lot, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Veterans memorial plazas. AOS Contractors of Lexington constructed the parking lot and both memorial plazas.

Stan Watts of Atlas Bronze Casting in Kearn, Utah, created the sculpture for the Dr.

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Pickens County Hosts Two-Day Sesquicentennial Event

Gov. Henry McMaster Attends, Proclaiming October 5 & 6 'Pickens County Sesquicentennial Days'

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Gov. Henry McMaster participated in opening ceremonies on Oct. 5, 2018, to help kick off a two-day Pickens County Sesquicentennial event. The celebration was one of many the county has held so far in its year-long effort to celebrate the county's milestone achievement.

The celebration was held on Oct. 5 & 6 at the Pickens County Courthouse in the City of Pickens (county seat).

"Our two-day celebration was a tremendous success," said Roy Costner, Pickens County Council Chairman. "Most of us like to celebrate birthdays. But when you reach the milestone of 150 years, it's definitely a time to celebrate!"

"The most important and valuable

feature we have as a county are the people who live here," Costner added. "So, celebrating our heritage and the families who continue to make Pickens County a natural destination for education, jobs, raising a family, outdoor recreation, Appalachian culture, world-class

Pickens County



See South Carolina County Map, P. 55

manufacturing and local businesses is something we should always do.

"This year gave us the opportunity to showcase all of this."

Approximately 300 people gathered



Approximately 300 people gathered on Oct. 5 in front of the Pickens County Courthouse to watch opening ceremonies for the county's two-day Sesquicentennial event. The event was one of many held so far celebrating the county's Sesquicentennial. (Photography by Stuart Morgan)

in front of the Pickens County Courthouse to observe the ceremonies. Many spectators wore outfits worn 50 years earlier. Some wore outfits like those worn as far back as 150 years ago.

Gov. McMaster, Pickens County Council members, several municipal officials, members of the county's legislative delegation and other guests sat on a stage set up on the courthouse's front steps. The Sweet Potato Pie Kids sang Appalachian songs on one side of the stage, and the Pickens County High School band performed on the other.

Rep. David R. Hiott (District 4), Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner, Council Member Wes Hendricks and others addressed the crowd. Hendricks reflected upon the events of 1968—the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Apollo Lunar Mission of 1968, which preceded the Apollo 11 moon landing the following year. He then told students attending the ceremony that they would be the torchbearers of the future, and that the future rested on their shoulders.

Gov. McMaster received a big welcome as he approached the podium. He

also addressed the crowd before reading a proclamation declaring October 5 and 6, 2018, "Pickens County Sesquicentennial Days."

The governor then retrieved many items of a bygone era from a 50-year-

"We focused on opening the 50-year-old time capsule as the precursor for the birthday bash—the 'Blue Ribbon Bash'—that we held the following day."

— Roy Costner

Pickens County Council Chairman

old time capsule that had been buried in front of the courthouse when the county celebrated its centennial in 1968.

"We focused on opening the 50-year-old time capsule as the precursor for the birthday bash—the 'Blue Ribbon Birthday Bash'—that we held the following day," Costner said. "We invited everyone with ties to Pickens County to be a part of the unveiling."

Gov. McMaster, wearing white gloves like a museum curator, carefully pulled each item from the 50-year-old time capsule. Assisted by Pickens County Council Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, also wearing white gloves, the governor
(Continued on next page)



Gov. Henry McMaster speaks at opening ceremonies, held on Oct. 5 for the county's two-day "Pickens County Days" celebration.

State of South Carolina Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, located in the northwest portion of South Carolina's Upstate, Pickens County was named after Revolutionary War General Andrew Pickens and existed as Cherokee territory and part of the Ninety-Six Judicial, Washington, Greenville and Pendleton, and Pickens Districts before its permanent establishment by the South Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1868; and

WHEREAS, from Cherokee Indian territory, Fort Prince George, and European - Indian trade to cotton farms, mills, and cloth making to the manufacturing and other industry operations of today, Pickens County has had a significant impact on the historical development and economic prosperity of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, home to two universities, a technical college, and numerous museums and historical sites, as well as magnificent scenic beauty with the mountains, waterfalls, and lakes, and unlimited recreational opportunities, Pickens County is a true gem in the South Carolina Upstate; and

WHEREAS, this year, Pickens County is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 5 - 6, 2018, as

PICKENS COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL DAYS

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many important contributions made by the people and places in Pickens County to the rich history of the Palmetto State.



Henry McMaster

HENRY McMMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

carefully unwrapped and opened each of the relics, including:

- A large copy of the Pickens County seal used in the county's centennial celebration 50 years ago;
- A hand-written letter from Sen. Strom Thurmond thanking Pickens County for giving him the highest percentage vote in the Senate write-in campaign of 1954 of any county, and wishing Pickens County a great future; and
- A bottle of tonic (a replica of an elixir from an earlier era touted to cure anything) from a local drug store.

A variety of reactions, mostly laughter, followed as Costner described each of the items retrieved from the time capsule. For many, however, someone's initials left on the time capsule 50 years ago generated the most interest.

Several individuals, witnessing the time capsule's opening, recognized the initials and said they belonged to a man who had died. But someone else quickly spoke-up, claiming that the initials be-

longed to Joe Waldrop, who was cutting his grass at home a couple of blocks away. That individual left to persuade Walker to attend the ceremony.

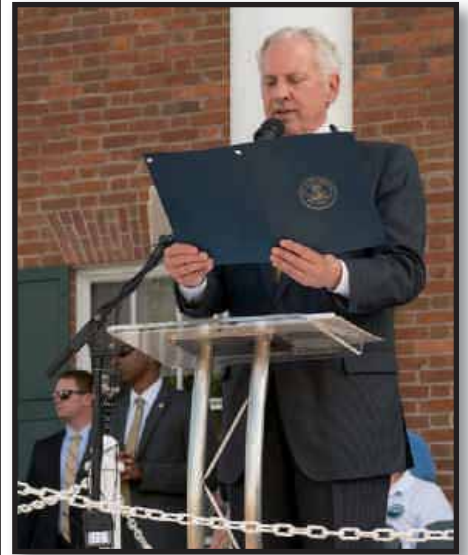
Waldrop was 22 years old when he left his initials on the time capsule in 1968.

When Costner asked Waldrop, now 72, if he ever thought he would be the center of attention at the time capsule's opening, he replied: "No, but this has been fun, and I plan to be around when the next time capsule is opened 50 years from now!"

Costner said he loved Waldrop's enthusiasm, and thought that if Waldrop could hope to be around 50 years from now so could he.

Items removed from the time capsule were taken to the Pickens County Museum to be exhibited later.

On Dec. 16, 2018, Pickens County and the City of Pickens co-sponsored a Sesquicentennial Parade that attracted more spectators than any of the parades held in Pickens during the past several



Gov. Henry McMaster reads his proclamation on Oct. 5 declaring Oct. 5 & 6, 2018, "Pickens County Days." The proclamation is shown on the previous page.

years. A new time capsule, to be opened in when Pickens County celebrates its Bicentennial in 2068, was buried at the end of the day in front of the courthouse.



As Rep. Gary F. Clary (District 3) and Sen. Rex F. Rice (District 2) watch at left, Rep. David R. Hiott (District 4) presents a framed copy of the governor's proclamation declaring Oct. 5 & 6, 2018, "Pickens County Days" to Pickens County Council—(left to right) Council Members Carl Hudson and Wes Hendricks, Council Chairman Roy Costner, Council Member Trey Whitehurst, Council Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and Sen. Thomas C. Alexander (District 1).



Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner, with microphone at left, describes one of many items pulled from the time capsule to the crowd in front of the courthouse—a large copy of the county seal celebrating the county’s centennial celebration, held Sept. 28 to Oct. 5, 1968.

Blue Ribbon Birthday Bash, October 6, 2018

On October 6, the second day of the two-day Sesquicentennial event, United Christian Industries sponsored a 5K Feet for Heat run in the morning to kick-off a full day “Blue Ribbon Birthday Bash” at the J.B. Owens Recreation Complex in Easley.

Following the presentation of awards for the 5K run, the daylong birthday bash began. Designed for families, festivities included carnival rides and contests, including a barbeque cook-off, baking competition and a beard competition like the one held when the county celebrated

(Continued on next page)



Gov. Henry McMaster pulls a bottle of tonic (a replica of an elixir touted to cure anything) from a local drug store. This was one of many items placed in the time capsule 50 years ago.

its centennial. Local artists displayed and sold their work, and Appalachian vendors sold their goods and services.

The Swinging Medallions, a Beach Music Group, performed later in the afternoon. Fifteen contestants from the Upstate competed in the day's last event, Pickens County's Got Talent, to win \$2,500 in cash and prizes. Five finalists received "front of the line" passes to

audition on Dec. 15, 2018, for America's Got Talent.

Members of the audience texted their votes, and a panel of judges evaluated contestants to select the winners.

The Hot Foot Cloggers from the Town of Six Mile, a group that won the top prize in Pickens County's Got Talent competition, performed again as the fireworks (courtesy of the City of Easley), signalled the end of fun-filled

day.

"At a time when we've become so divided as a nation," Costner said, "the people of Pickens County came together for a unified purpose to celebrate."

Pickens County's year-long Sesquicentennial celebration was designed to be special, to be different than the county's centennial celebration, and it was.

Jay Pitts, Pickens County Tourism and Marketing Director, set up the advisory committee that planned the county's year-long celebration. The committee—consisting of individuals representing chambers of commerce, local event organizers, individuals



These three photos were among many that Jamie Burns, Pickens County Community Relations officer, captured with her smartphone on Oct. 6 at the Blue Ribbon Bash.



Everyone attending the opening ceremonies on Oct. 5 had an opportunity to view items from the county's past. The Pickens County Museum displayed the items on the portico of the Pickens County Courthouse.

representing municipalities and others across the county—helped create the vision for the celebration and provided significant input to make it successful.

Pickens County's Sesquicentennial, A Year-Long Celebration

To help launch the Pickens County year-long Sesquicentennial celebration, the county held a ground-breaking ceremony last March for its expanded airport hangars to highlight the county's growth. Next, the county held its first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz that same month, officially launching its first TeamUpAnd-CleanUp campaign to coincide with the county's year-long 150th celebration. Partnering with PalmettoPride, South Carolina's

anti-litter and beautification legislative initiative, Pickens County designed the Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz to encourage citizens to pick-up five pieces of trash on day five, Friday, of each week.

Pickens County leaders were concerned that trash was tarnishing their county's otherwise beautiful, pristine image, and figured that creating and launching a successful anti-litter program would help clean up that image before the county's year-long celebration began.

It worked.

The county's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz last October collected 34,620 pounds (17.3) tons of trash! "Just as you would clean up your home before inviting friends to come visit," Costner said, "we believed that we should do the same thing for our county."

Costner, like others, believed a year-long celebration was required to include other events planned by municipalities, businesses and other organizations across the county.

Pickens County hosted The Winter Bluegrass Jamboree on January 26 in Pickens.

The county, hoping to partner with Anderson, Greenville and Oconee counties, will conduct its third TeamUpAndCleanUp Anti-Litter Blitz on April 26.

The culminating event in Pickens County's Sesquicentennial celebration, *Electrify Your Strings*, will be held at 7 p.m. on April 13 at the Liberty High School football stadium in Liberty.

More than 700 middle and high school students in Pickens County will perform in one of the largest student orchestras ever created. Mark Wood, one of the original founding members of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra (TSO), produced the TSO-style show. He will spend about a week prior to next month's show educating and preparing students in schools across the county for the perfor-



A PHOTO WITH THE GOVERNOR—When opening ceremonies ended on Oct. 5, Pickens County Council and the county's legislative delegation gathered for a photo with the governor. Shown left to right are: Pickens County Council Member Wes Hendricks; Sen. Rex F. Rice (District 2); Pickens County Council Members Ensley Feemster, and Carl Hudson; Gov. Henry McMaster; Pickens County Council Member Trey Whitehurst; Rep. Gary F. Clary (District 3); Pickens County Council Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and Council Chairman Roy Costner; Rep. David R. Hiott (District 4) and Sen. Thomas C. Alexander (District 1).

Pickens County held its first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz last March to officially launch its first TeamUpAndCleanUp campaign and to clean-up the county for its year-long Sesquicentennial.

mance, which is sure to become a once in a lifetime experience.

Pickens County's Sesquicentennial is a milestone achievement indeed.

"We're celebrating 150 years—15 decades—of history that we've built," emphasized Gerald Wilson, Pickens County Administrator.

"Sometimes, we focus so much on the next task at hand that we fail to celebrate all we have achieved already," Wilson added. "It is important to take time to reflect on and to be encouraged by all the work that those who preceded

us have already done so we can live and work in such a great county. Pickens County is full of history and natural beauty, and in order to make the rest of the world believe this, we have to believe it ourselves."

Wilson credited the Pickens County Tourism Director Jay Pitts and the Sesquicentennial Advisory Committee that Pitts set up for the instrumental role they played in helping the county promote its Sesquicentennial and selecting activities to celebrate it.

"We think Pickens County is the greatest place to live, work and raise a family," Wilson said. "Our year-long Sesquicentennial—including our Pickens Days celebration in October—was the perfect opportunity to really celebrate how fortunate we are to experience it every day."



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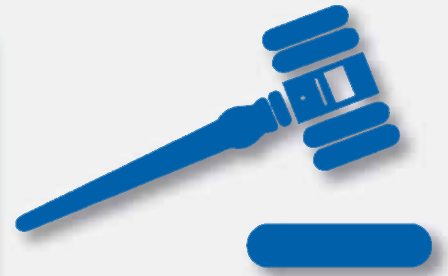
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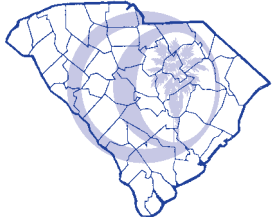


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WHAT IS THE SCAC?

South Carolina Association of Counties, chartered on June 22, 1967, is the only organization dedicated to statewide representation of county government in South Carolina. A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with a full-time staff in Columbia, SCAC is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors selected by county officials at the Association's Annual Conference.



Counties have made tremendous progress since the enactment of the Home Rule Act in 1975. County government has also become more diverse in order to meet the increasing needs of its citizens. SCAC is dedicated to providing programs and services that equip county officials with the tools to govern effectively.

CONFERENCES

■ SCAC provides many opportunities for county officials to meet and learn, among them:

★ **Mid-Year Conference** — Held in late winter in Columbia, this conference enables all county officials to become better informed about the Association's legislative program. The Association also hosts a reception for all members of the S.C. General Assembly during this conference.

★ **Annual Conference** — Held in August, this conference is open to all elected and appointed officials. The conference includes a business session, general session, workshops, group meetings, and exhibits of county products and services.

★ **Legislative Conference** — Held in December, this conference allows members of the Legislative Committee to discuss and adopt a legislative program for the upcoming year. The committee is composed of each council chairman along with the Association's Board of Directors.

EDUCATION

■ The Association, in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston and the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University, conducts the Institute of Government for County Officials (Level I, Level II, and Advanced levels).

This certificate program helps county officials enhance their skills and abilities. Courses are offered at the Annual and Mid-Year Conferences and at the County Council Coalition Meeting in the fall.

SCAC also sponsors a number of continuing education webcasts 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* 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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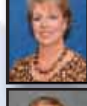
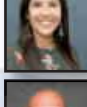
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SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



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 and Management

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

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



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Why Buying Rental Car Loss Damage Waiver Can Pay Off

By Bill Wilson, CPCU, ARM, AIM, AAM

I have written a lot about buying the rental car loss damage waiver (LDW), but still the vast majority of internet and other articles tell people their insurance covers them so no need to buy the LDW. On a personal note, just recently I was involved in my first auto accident since 1968 (I may have a story to tell about my claim experience soon).

My personal auto policy includes coverage for a rental car while my vehicle is being repaired. I asked the adjuster if I negotiated a rental rate that included the LDW that was within my daily coverage limit, would they pay for it. The answer was no and the adjuster went on to say that I didn't need it since my policy extended to non-owned autos. When I advised that the LDW potentially covered a lot of things my policy doesn't, I got the email equivalent of a blank stare. But this isn't the story I wanted to share in this article.

Back to the issue at hand. ... Here is an account from David Thompson of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents from a couple of weeks ago demonstrating why buying the LDW can pay off...and he only had a cracked windshield, not a \$5,000 diminished value charge, to contend with.

This past weekend I took my daughter, Leslie, on what I think was our 16th father/daughter trip in about the past 18-20 years. We've travelled from Alaska to Europe. This trip was a fast-paced and a somewhat short trip to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks; my fourth visit to each park, but her first. They rank as numbers three and four on my list of 21 of the 59 national parks I have visited.

A few days before the trip, I was swapping email with Chris Boggs of IIABA; he is the Executive Director of the Virtual University where I serve as one of his 50 or so volunteers. Chris and I swap numerous emails each day discussing various coverage issues, each of us sort of "trying to start a fight to prove the other

wrong." (I usually win! He will tell you that I only THINK I win!) I told Chris, "You'll have a few days off without me pestering you; I'm taking my daughter out west and shutting down email." He told me to have a good trip and I closed with, "Maybe I'll come back with a good insurance story." Chris' reply was, "I'll hold you to it." Well, that is exactly what happened; so the whole dang thing is his fault!

We flew into Las Vegas and picked up our rental car. (Chevy Equinox SUV; Leslie "has" to ride in a SUV, not a sedan!) After a few quick turns and a mile or so, we were on I-15 heading north towards Bryce Canyon National Park and then within a mile WHAM! A large stone flew up from the road as a car ahead of us drove over it. It sounded like someone took a baseball bat and hit the windshield! Right there in my line of sight was a quarter-sized rock hole; no doubt that was a full replacement and not a repair. I don't think the rock had fallen to the road before Leslie said, "Good thing you bought the insurance, Dad." See, she didn't even have to ask, "Dad, did you buy the insurance?" Let's just say that she knows me pretty well!

I asked Leslie (my navigator and Internet servant) to research the cost of a windshield for that vehicle. Several websites had the cost at about \$400. Add to that the charges I'd expect the rental car firm to impose on me too; probably a charge for at least one day of loss of use and likely an administrative fee; I've seen those as high as \$200. Plus, when returning the vehicle (at 4:30 a.m.) I would have had to fill out the incident report. Instead, for a mere \$82.50 for the three-day rental I showed the damage to the Hertz agent as he checked me in. His response was simple, "You bought the damage waiver, you are smart... most are not. Here is your receipt, have a nice flight."

Ironically, it was almost exactly eight years ago to the day
(Continued on next page)



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Loss Damage Waiver ...

(Continued from previous page)

that I rented a vehicle at the same airport and the exact same incident happened. It was the first time I was in a rental vehicle that was damaged. From 2010 to this past weekend makes the fourth time I have “dropped the keys and walked away.”

Bill Wilson (Founder of the Virtual University, recently retired from IIABA, now founder/CEO of InsuranceCommentary.com, and author of a great “Insurance Nerd” book *When Words Collide: Resolving Insurance Coverage and Claims Disputes*) has a similar horror story of a rental in Phoenix. We both teach about this issue and both get amused at the amount of misinformation there is out there about how the loss damage waiver is a waste of money. I sent Bill a text photo of the car and rental contract. His “tongue-in-cheek” reply was, “Sucker, don’t you know the LDW is a rip-off and your auto policy gives you full coverage.” After all, read almost any article about LDW on the Internet (sadly, a few from somewhat well-respected insurance organizations), and that’s the message they send.

The trip was very long and tiring, but a lot of fun. The weather was perfect, albeit a little hot (105 degrees), and we both got back safely. My daughter can “hang with the old man,” too. She will tell you that SHE had to wait on ME as we hiked the Angels Landing Trail in Zion; that’s up for debate in my book!

We have photos of the “evidence” on the car damage, plus Leslie and me on the Angels Landing Trail. No, we didn’t go to the top, just maybe 300 feet of the way up the last half mile. Near

the top, the trail is 28 inches wide and a sheer drop of 1,200 feet to the canyon below. You don’t want to hike this section of the trail if you have a fear of heights!

I think of the LDW this way: Airfare was expensive for our trip. Add that cost, plus two nights in national park lodges, food and incidentals, and the total cost is around \$2,400 for the four-day trip for two. If I can afford to take that quick vacation, I can easily afford \$82.50 for LDW. That purchase sure made the trip a lot less stressful at the end.

Four times in eight years of “drop the keys and walk away.” I’m a believer in the LDW, are you?

Do YOU buy the LDW? Do you recommend to your customers that they buy it?



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The IMLA Report

There's Nothing Social About Government Social Media Sites

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

As social media has taken hold over people's attention, more and more governments have attempted to use those platforms to expand their outreach to the community. Candidates have effectively used Twitter, Instagram and Facebook among other popular platforms. Indeed, some attribute President Obama's savvy use of social media to account for his success in ascending to and retaining the presidency. Most of us also know that President Donald Trump became an avid Twitter user and frequently "tweets" each day about issues important to him.

Because candidates become elected leaders, elected leaders have taken their social media knowledge and sought to transfer it to their governments to enhance communications between their governmental organizations and the public. In some instances, the effort acts as constituent communication, in others as agency alerts, public service messages and sounding boards for policy development. Ordinance and regulation development that were once confined to gaining public input through public hearing or public comment options can now be the focus of a "wiki." Collaborative efforts through group sourcing may be the ultimate in direct democracy and enables communities to better tailor laws to the specific concerns of the people who will be affected.

Unfortunately, none of these advances in communication comes without peril in the public sector. With the First Amendment as both a guide and a gov-



erning doctrinal limitation, governments and government officials find that social media use comes with some baggage. The President sought to block a person from access to his Twitter feed to prevent "retweeting" as have other prominent government officials. A county official removed a post from her Facebook page that she found offensive and blocked the poster. Courts found that government officials violate the First Amendment rights of the people who they block.

Many governments have adopted social media policies to address these and other concerns. IMLA is currently developing a Model Social Media Policy that it anticipates will be unveiled for its members' use and comment at its annual Seminar in Washington, D.C. during the last weekend in March. This article includes some of the background and issues that the model policy addresses.

To lay a foundation, government cannot abridge a person's rights to free speech. Those rights come with few limitations. Intuitively, the concept of government censorship in a free society cannot be condoned. So, our courts

protect speech as a core element of democratic liberty. Part and parcel to this concept, governments cannot censor specific content, discriminate against viewpoints, prevent some from speaking or ban people from speaking effectively to confine their message. Of course, there are exceptions that easily come to mind, nevertheless when addressing speech a government must be mindful that restrictions are not favored.

Exceptions can include reasonable time, place and manner restrictions that are intended to protect community welfare not to stifle speech. A government might prohibit political rallies between midnight and dawn, limit use of the streets for rallies during the commute or "rush hour," or restrict the use of bullhorns outside hospitals or schools where the manner of the speech, not its content, could affect patients or students. Even these examples may be subject to challenge if not based on realistic and substantive concerns.

Other exceptions relate to what are identified as the forums the government has set aside for the speech. Where the government has created a non-public forum, then the public generally has no right to speak. However, if the government allows access to the non-public forum it cannot discriminate between those to whom it gives access based on their viewpoint. A public alert system warning of earthquake, tsunami or other disaster constitutes a non-public forum where the government uses the system

to issue its messages and does not allow others to comment.

In other contexts, the government may create limited public forums where it designates a topic for discussion and can limit speech that does not adhere to that topic or to other legitimate restrictions on the use of the forum. Generally, a legislative hearing on a specific ordinance or law that seeks public testimony would be considered a limited public forum as opposed to a “public comment period” held during the course of a commission or council meeting. A “public comment period” will generally be viewed as an open public forum unless the government conducting the session takes steps to limit the topics for discussion. Further complicating the foundational background, some places are what courts have designated as traditional public forums where speech cannot easily be restrained. These are usually parks, streets and sidewalks and other common areas owned and used by the public at large. However, the Supreme Court recognizes that while a sidewalk abutting a roadway constitutes a traditional public forum, an entrance sidewalk to a post office does not.

As communications technology expanded over the years, the courts have tried to analogize new communication tools to those that existed at the time the country formed. Accordingly, a government’s use of its internal mail system to communicate with employees and support a charitable giving effort could be limited based on space and by a process that allowed the government to decide for its employees the objects of its charity so long as that decision was not viewpoint based. To be candid, this area of the law forms a thicket that can be dangerous to navigate without legal counsel on the specifics involved. Accordingly, my generalities are intended not as advice but as concepts to be considered.

So, when a recently elected county commissioner created a Facebook “page” to identify her new position and use it to communicate with constituents, a pot of trouble began to brew. According to Facebook, users can create “profiles” but businesses and others intending to use Facebook for non-personal reasons must create “Pages” “to help businesses,

organizations, and brands share their stories and connect with people.” The commissioner had a personal profile and a “page” devoted to her campaign where she was listed as a politician. Whereas, on the new page she listed herself as a “government official.” She acted as administrator of the “page” but her chief of staff also had administrative access and attended to some of the business of maintaining and adding content to the “page.”

She told the public that her new page was a vehicle to hear from the public and that:

I really want to hear from ANY Loudoun citizen on ANY issues, request, criticism, complement or just your thoughts. ...

One of her constituents took umbrage at the operations of the local school district and voiced concerns on the commissioner’s “page” about actions of the board and specific members of the board that the commissioner felt were potentially defamatory or at least were not comments she wanted to have associated with her “page.” She deleted the comments, deleted her own original post and blocked the constituent’s “page” from her “page.” Blocking the constituent’s page prevented the constituent from using that vehicle to communicate through the commissioner’s page but did not prevent the constituent from communicating through that page directly. Within about 12 hours, the commissioner reconsidered and removed the block of the constituent’s “page.”

The constituent sued asserting a breach of his constitutional rights and won in the lower court. On appeal to the 4th Circuit, that court affirmed. As part of its discussion of the issues on appeal the court considered whether the commissioner was acting under color of law despite setting up the page without government approval. The court concluded that under all of the facts, that she was acting under color of law and could be held liable for the violation of the constituent’s rights. Based on this result, IMLA’s policy will prohibit government employees or officials from establishing

social media sites that purport to be officially sanctioned without approval and without complying with the full terms of the model policy.

Based on the discussion of forums and their differences, the commissioner’s request to hear about “ANY” issue from “ANY” person seemed to establish an open forum and that is what the court concluded. Nevertheless, the commissioner argued that Facebook actually owned the “page” and regulated its use making it a vehicle of private communication removing it from the public forum analogue. She also argued that even if the court were to find the vehicle to be public, that it was really a vehicle for government speech which the government can control rather than public speech, which it cannot. Based on this decision and others, the IMLA policy will recommend that a government only create limited public forums or non-public forums and avoid taking any action that might establish an open forum.

The court concluded that regardless of whether the “page” constituted private property, the commissioner had sufficient control over its use to bring its use under the umbrella of the First Amendment. The court brushed aside the claim that the speech involved was government speech (which is not subject to the same First Amendment analysis) by noting that while the commissioner’s contributions to the “page” amounted to government speech, her invitation to the community to post their views on an interactive element of the “page” could not be considered government speech. The court succinctly concluded “Put simply, Randall unconstitutionally sought to “suppress” Davison’s opinion that there was corruption on the School Board.”

The nascent law that governs social media use by government officials recommends that officials approach using social media cautiously and only after consulting with counsel. Even counsel may find it difficult to understand how a court will view some aspects of government use of social media as there exists a perplexing question that was not decided but which the court discussed. Does the government violate a person’s First

(Continued on next page)



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Amendment rights by selecting a social media platform that has rules of use that if imposed by the government would violate the First Amendment? In other words, does the selection and use of such a platform violate the First Amendment? In discussing the lower court's decision not to allow the Plaintiff to file a late claim based on this question, the court theorized:

... one can conceive of a colorable legal argument that a governmental actor's decision to select a private social media website for use as a public forum—and therefore select that website's suite of rules and regulations—could violate the First Amendment, if the private website included certain types of exclusionary rules. For example, if the government chose as its electronic public forum a social media site that allowed only registered members of one political party to post and comment, there would seem to be a compelling argument that the government's selection of that social media site violated the First Amendment rights of members of other political parties, even if the partisan restriction was imposed by the private company, not the governmental body. Such a restriction would be seen to be no different than a municipality choosing to hold a town hall meeting in a venue that refused admission to individuals associated with a disfavored political party or viewpoint.

It is difficult to argue with the court's logic. A local government should review carefully how a social media platform's terms of use could ambush it by restricting speech in such a way so as to create liability. For now the road ahead has many potholes.



About IMLA

The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) provides assistance to local government attorneys whose municipalities are members and supports

local governments throughout the United States as an amicus in many cases at the U.S. Supreme Court and in the federal circuits and in state supreme courts. IMLA provides local government attorneys with a forum to seek help and to gain understanding of the law.

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

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

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

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

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

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A Roadside Guide to Charleston County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

Part 1 of 2

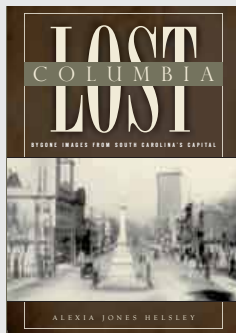
By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

So much heavy fighting occurred during the American War for Independence in the area of present day Charleston County that it will require two issues of County Focus Magazine to explain the county's role during the war. This is Part 1. Part 2 will be published in the next issue of the magazine (spring, Vol. 30, No. 1).

In many ways, the Revolution in South Carolina began in Charleston County, saw its darkest days after the fall of Charlestown, and ended in December 1782 when the British finally, reluctantly evacuated the port city.

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

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



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



1774

In July 1774, after years of conflict between the royal governor and the Commons House of Assembly, concerned South Carolinians convened a General Meeting in Charlestown. Those attending elected Christopher Gadsden, Thomas Lynch Sr., Henry Middleton, Edward Rutledge and John Rutledge as delegates to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. These men were prominent South Carolinians. Gadsden was a Charlestown merchant and a leader of the Sons of Liberty. Lynch was a wealthy rice planter and delegate to the Stamp Act Congress of 1765. Middleton was also a wealthy planter and served as the second president of the Continental Congress. Edward and John Rutledge were brothers. Edward later was the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence and John was South Carolina's able head during the dark days of the British occupation of South Carolina.

As well as electing delegates to the First Continental Congress, attendees also chose a General Committee to oversee South Carolina's interests

Charleston County



See South Carolina
 County Map,
 P. 55



during that turbulent time. Charles Pinckney, father of later governor and signer of the U.S. Constitution, headed the General Committee.

1775

In January 1775, the first session of the First Provincial Congress met in Charlestown and elected Charles Pinckney president. For the first time, backcountry residents had a major voice in South Carolina governmental affairs. Backcountry residents elected 46 representatives to this extralegal legislative body of 184 delegates.

Moving to secure the resources needed to defend South Carolina, Colonial leaders seized powder and arms from the public powder magazines on Charlestown Neck and in the State House.

In June, the Provincial Congress unanimously adopted the Association (an effort to impact British trade by refusing to export goods to England with the exception of South Carolina rice). The Provincial Congress also ordered the printing of paper money valued at a million pounds. In addition, the Congress created a Council of Safety to

manage South Carolina's defense and named Henry Laurens president of the council.

In the midst of these actions, on June 18, Lord William Campbell, the last of South Carolina's royal governors, arrived in South Carolina. His arrival lacked the usual panoply and he ascended the steps to the Exchange Building in virtual silence. Campbell was an experienced administrator and naval officer who married Sarah Izard, a wealthy South Carolina heiress. Nevertheless, his term in office was brief and on September 1, after Charlestown leaders learned of his efforts to incite Loyalist support, possibly arm Native Americans and encourage slave insurrection, he fled Charlestown seeking refuge on a British warship, the HMS *Tamar*, in the harbor.

During the month of November, the Second Provincial Congress held its first session in Charlestown. The second congress elected William Henry Drayton president. While the congress was meeting, the conflict took a serious turn. Between November 11 and 12, the first South Carolina engagement (according to some sources) of the Revolution occurred. Two British warships, the HMS *Tamar* (with Governor Campbell on board) and HMS *Cherokee* fired on the schooner *Defence*. The *Defence* was trying to block Hog Island channel. Although there were no casualties, this engagement was only the first of many confrontations as South Carolina Patriots attempted to secure Charlestown harbor and defend the city.

1776

The Second Provincial Congress held its second session in February and March, and on February 8 Christopher Gadsden, a delegate to the Continental Congress, arrived in Charlestown with the first copies of Thomas Paine's revolutionary *Common Sense*.

In the pamphlet, Paine wrote among other provocative sentiments: "Small islands, not capable of protecting themselves, are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something absurd, in supposing

a continent to be perpetually governed by an island" and this declaration calling for independence, "The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'Tis time to Part.'"

While not espousing outright independence, on March 26, South Carolina moved to create a legal state government and adopted its first constitution, drafted by the Provincial Congress. While not the first constitution adopted by one of the former 13 colonies, South Carolina's was the first to include a detailed plan for an independent government. They then elected John Rutledge the state's first president and Henry Laurens the state's first vice-president. In April, they authorized Rutledge to design a great seal for the state. Laurens was a wealthy planter and merchant and would later serve as president of the Continental Congress.

The British response was direct. On June 1, 2,500 British troops landed on Long Island (the Isle of Palms).

The Battle of Sullivan's Island (Fort Moultrie), June 28, 1776

Fearing a British attack, Patriots in Charlestown occupied Sullivan's Island in order to control the entrance to Charlestown harbor. In January, they began construction of a fort on the island using readily available palmetto logs. Then Colonel William Moultrie supervised the construction of the fort. In addition to growing prolifically along the coast, palmettos had an added advantage. Palmetto logs were spongy, a critical advantage in the battle to come.

The first fort on Sullivan's Island was square with four corner projections. The walls were 10 feet high and 500 feet long. The outer walls were 16 feet apart with sand between them.

Nevertheless, despite their best efforts, when the British arrived, the fort had only two completed sides. The finished portion of the fort, known as Fort Sullivan, had placements for 26 cannon. When the attack came, Moultrie commanded the unfinished fort with a garrison of 400 men and 30 cannon.

The British planned an amphibious

assault. The British navy would attack by sea while General Sir Henry Clinton led a force of approximately 3,000 soldiers to attack the fort from the Isle of Palms. Clinton was born in Canada while his father was the governor of Newfoundland. Commissioned in the British army, Clinton also served in the House of Commons.

Fortunately for the Patriots and unfortunately for Clinton, the inlet was too deep to ford. On the morning of June 28, four British warships—*Solebay*, *Experiment*, *Bristol* and *Active*—began firing on the palmetto fort. The initial bombardment did little damage. The cannon balls landed in the soft sand or were embedded in the palmetto logs. Patriot artillery successfully returned fire damaging the wooden British ships. Three other British ships, the *Sphinx*, *Actaeon* and *Syren*, attempted to sail westward of the fort in order to attack the still incomplete part of the fortification. Such an attack could have changed the outcome of the battle. But that British effort also came to naught as the three ships ran aground.

At the end of the day, the British fleet withdrew. Patriot cannon successfully hit the *Bristol*, the British flagship 70 times, damaged the ship's mast and rigging, killed 40 and wounded 71 sailors.

The 1776 Battle of Sullivan's Island was a Patriot victory. Moultrie became a national hero. Despite the contributions of other Patriot forces to the victory, Moultrie and the palmetto log fort, according to historian Roy Talbert, Jr. were "forever associated with the victory." The Continental Congress thanked him and the fort officially became Fort Moultrie. The original fort did not fare well in the post-Revolutionary years. A hurricane damaged the second Fort Moultrie and the third and last Fort Moultrie stood by 1809.



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The Palmetto Directory

*Businesses selling products and services
to South Carolina's counties*

Also see advertising index, page 55



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County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,

Page 55

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

Bamberg County

● The Board of Directors of the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) announced on Oct. 30 that the City of Bamberg, partnering with Bamberg County, was awarded a \$25,000 Hometown Economic Development Grant. Funds will be used to transport an historic caboose from Ehrhardt and re-position it adjacent to the historic Hamburg Railroad Line in downtown Bamberg. The caboose will be refurbished and eventually become a railroad museum. The City of Bamberg owns the property where the caboose will be located. Bamberg County will direct the refurbishment of the caboose. The proposed railroad museum will honor the importance of railroads to the

history of Bamberg County, in particular the Hamburg Railroad that ran from Augusta, Ga. to Charleston.

● S.C. National Guard Second Lieutenants **Micah Weaver** and **Tre Bowman** in October presented Certificates of Appreciation to **Brittany Barnwell**, Director; **Tiffany Kemmerlin**, Administrative Assistant; and **Taurean Washington**, Addressing Technician, for their work during Hurricane Florence. Weaver and Bowman spent several days assisting Bamberg County during Hurricane Florence, often staffing the Emergency Operations Center overnight. They also coordinated efforts between Bamberg County and the S.C. National Guard.

Beaufort County

● Beaufort County recently received approval for reclassification from the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which amends the county's flood insurance rating. The rates in this new classification zone can result in lower costs for flood insurance for residents living in the county's unincorporated areas. To earn this reclassification, FEMA reviewed a five-year cycle of flood plain management activities implemented by the Beaufort County Building Codes Department. FEMA estimates the new classification will save Beaufort County taxpayers more than \$1 million.

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.

Berkeley County

● **James H. "Jim" Rozier Jr.**, 77, died on February 6. He began his political career by winning the Berkeley County supervisor race as a Republican in 1990. Rozier was re-elected three times, serving as the county's top executive and county council chairman for 16 years. He also served as SCAC President from 2000 to 2001. After his retirement, Rozier was appointed to the S.C. Department of Transportation Commission, representing the 1st Congressional District in 2012. He chaired the commission in 2015. He also served as president and founder of Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust in 2014. In addition to serving in public office, Rozier managed several small businesses. He was awarded the small businessman of the year award for Whispering Pines Memorial Gardens in 1988 by the Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce. Rozier is survived by his wife, Kathy Best, and three children.

Calhoun County

● **F. Lee Prickett Jr.**, Calhoun County's longtime county administrator and county attorney, retired on Dec. 31. Prickett served as county attorney for 33 years and as county administrator for 16 years. **Rep. Russell L. Ott** (District 93) presented Prickett a resolution honoring his many years of service at a dinner held in Prickett's honor on Jan. 18. Prickett and his wife, Sally, have four children and nine grandchildren.

Charleston County

● Charleston County Emergency Management became the first county in South Carolina on Nov. 15 to earn accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). The county was recognized for complying with standards certified by the American National Institute and EMAP's mission to build safer communities through credible standards of excellence. The county's Emergency Management was also honored for enhancing preparedness efforts for any natural disaster that may affect the community.

● Charleston County Economic Development won a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for its Business Concierge Program. The program was recognized in the category of Business Retention and Expansion Program of Three Years or more of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The Economic Development team received the honor at an awards ceremony on Oct. 2 during the IEDC

★ *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

Annual Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Chester County

● Carolina Poly, Inc., a venture of Poly-America, is expanding its Chester County operations. The company's \$25 million capital investment is projected to create 75 new jobs.

Dorchester County

● Dorchester County announced in October that the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs had awarded the Dorchester County Sheriff Office (DCSO) \$17,198.51 from its 2018 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. The award pays 50 percent of the cost of new or replacement body armor. Combined with the matching funds from DCSO, the funds will ensure that all DCSO Deputies are fully protected with custom-fitted body armor protection.

● On Sept. 6, Dorchester County Public Information Officer **Tiffany Norton** presented training on crisis communication for government communicators at the City County Communicators Marketing Association National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisc.

● On Oct. 31, **Wendy Lee**, Deputy Director of EMS, was elected President of the Dorchester County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

● Dorchester County Fire Rescue was recently awarded two FEMA grants—an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$325,918, and a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant in the amount of \$500,886.

● On Nov. 15, **Gov. Henry McMaster** signed an executive order appointing **Hariet Holman** of Reevesville to Dorchester County Council. Holman was elected to serve the residents of District 1 beginning in January. The appointment allowed Holman to serve the remainder of Councilman Willie Davis' unexpired term. Davis held the seat from 1991 until his passing on July 26. Holman was sworn in on Nov. 19.

● Dorchester County EMS held its 7th annual Santa in an Ambulance event on Dec. 1. The program gives the county's unsung heroes, who work in Emergency Services, the opportunity to visit their sweetest patients while providing holiday cheer.

● **Gov. Henry McMaster** signed an executive order on Jan. 1 appointing **Eddie Crosby** of Summerville to the Dorchester County Council District 5 seat. Crosby was sworn-in on January 4.

● On Jan. 7, **Nancy Johnson** joined the

Dorchester County team as the Director of Risk Management and Safety. **Cynthia Busby** joined the Dorchester County team as the Director of Veterans Affairs. **Joy Tyson** joined the Dorchester County Economic Development team as the Marketing & Investor Relations Manager

● Dorchester County was recently awarded a \$21,000 grant from Palmetto Pride to fund a countywide litter cleanup crew. The grant provides funds for a minimum of 1,000-man hours dedicated to litter removal.

● On Jan. 12, Dorchester County Paramedics **Mandy Reeves** and **Justin Wolfe** com-

peted against numerous teams from across the Lowcountry in the Regional Paramedic Competition. After competing in real-life medical emergency scenarios, judged on the strict national practice standards for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the duo once again received top honors and were named Regional Paramedic Champions for the third consecutive year.

● The Independent accounting firm, Greene Finney, LLP issued Dorchester County an unmodified opinion after auditing the County's FY 2018 financial statements.

(Continued on next page)



Webinars for 2019

March 25

SCAC Awards Program: What Sets Winners Apart
10 to 11:30 a.m.

May 14

Planning and Zoning Continuing Education Webcast
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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 2018-19 Conference Calendar

Aug. 3 - 4
Aug. 4 - 7

Institute of Government
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

Aug. (Dates TBD)

SetOff Debt/GEAR
TBD

Oct. 23
Oct. 24

Institute of Government
County Council Coalition
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Nov. 22

Local Government Attorneys' Institute
DoubleTree by Hilton in Columbia

Dec. 5 - 7

Legislative Conference
Renaissance, Charleston

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



July 11 - 15

Annual Conference
Las Vegas, Nev.

NACo's 2019 Conference Calendar

An unmodified opinion indicates the county's financial statements are in accordance with all applicable framework of a government organization.

● On Feb. 2, Dorchester Paws, in partnership with Dorchester County, announced plans to construct a new animal shelter to combat the county's pet overpopulation. The announcement came after county council approved a \$1 million capital contribution to Dorchester Paws to help fund the new facility's construction.

● Sixteen of Dorchester County Government's rising leaders began a leadership development journey on Aug. 27 as members of the county's first Public Leadership Apprenticeship Program. The program is being offered through a partnership with Dorchester County Government, Apprenticeship Carolina and Trident Technical College. The four-year program is a combination of classroom, online and on the job training. All in-person classes will be held at the Quick-Job Training Center in St. George, making this the first-time associate level classes are offered in upper Dorchester County.

Edgefield County

● Edgefield County EMS announced in October that it had received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

● Edgefield County is implementing a

one-of-a-kind branding package for the county that will readily identify the county and promote its family-friendly lifestyle. The county contracted with the S.C. National Heritage Corridor team in February for the development of this brand. The branding project included an online survey of 130 participants and 152 key stakeholders who were invited to participate in group sessions. The new county logo is designed in natural tones that lends itself to the natural resources of Edgefield County. Peaches, pottery, architecture, pine forests, turkeys and magnolias—identified as being representative of Edgefield County's history, recreation and lifestyle—are incorporated within the design.

Georgetown County

● **Annie Stewart**, who has volunteered for Georgetown County Fire/EMS since 2015, was named Volunteer of the Year for 2018 by the county and recognized by county council when it met on Jan. 22. Stewart worked full-time for the county's Fire/EMS for nearly 20 years. After retiring, she volunteered to serve as a liaison at the department's Station 14 by helping the fire marshal with training and meetings. She also corresponds with volunteers at Stations 8 and 14 on updating file information, courses offered, participating in upcoming events, budgets, criteria for maintaining active status as a volunteer firefighter and much more.

● **Ealy Walker**, an equipment operator and crew chief of the county's Public Works

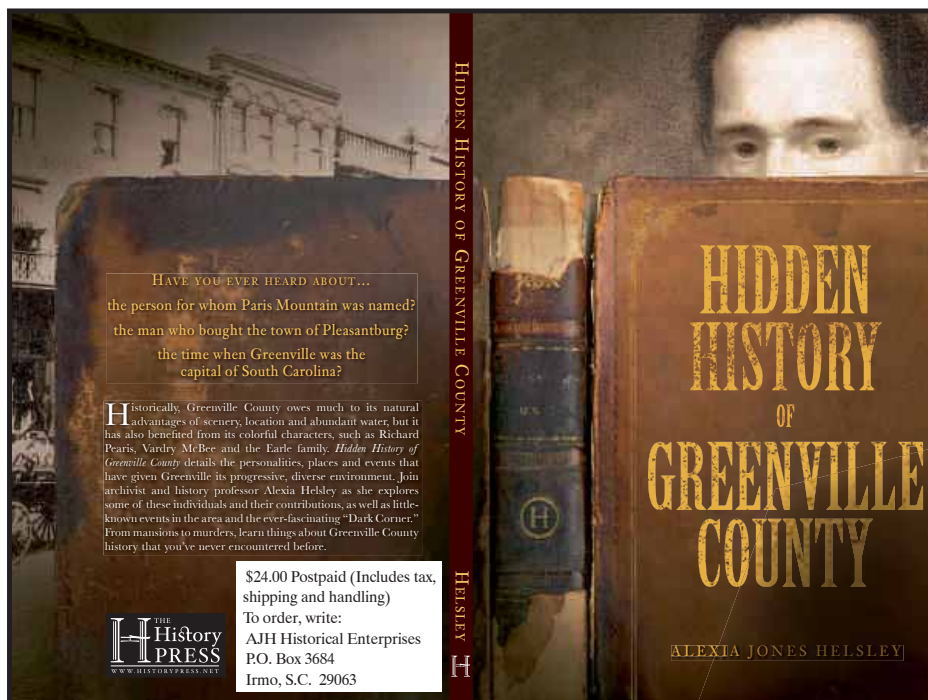
Division, was recognized on Jan. 22 as the county's Employee of the Quarter (Oct. – Dec. 2018). Walker has been employed by the county for 14 years. He ensures that grading and maintenance of his assigned area happens efficiently and effectively. He also supervises the activities of a work crew, receives and handles resident complaints, investigates matters of concern and performs a variety of duties involved in the maintenance and operation of equipment used for construction and road maintenance. Currently, Walker monitors and motivates the crew as well as ensures that road projects are completed professionally.

● **Florida Jackson Yeldell** was inducted into the Georgetown County Women's Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame's annual luncheon, held on March 14 at Kimble's Restaurant at Wachesaw Plantation. Yeldell attended boarding school at Morris College where she earned a degree in English in 1936. She received two masters degrees in the late 1970s from California State at Chico and pursued her Ph.D. at New York University for two years before accepting a position as Dean of Women and Social Sciences instructor at Butler college in Tyler, Tx. Two years later, she returned to Georgetown where she taught English for a year at Howard High School. She and her son, Robert, returned to Texas the following year where she spent the next 25 years as an educator. For her life's work, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Coastal Carolina University in 2004.

● **Johnny Morant**, first elected to Georgetown County Council in 1993, retired late last year in his sixth term as council member (District 7) after serving 25 years. He served the last 10 years as council chairman. On Dec. 30, the county hosted a retirement party for Morant at the Choeppe Recreation Center. A plaque, honoring Morant, was unveiled at the ceremony. A resolution from the state legislature honoring Morant was also read.

● **Louis Morant**, Johnny Morant's younger brother, was sworn-in on January 8 at council's first meeting of 2019 after he was elected last year to fill the council seat vacated by his older brother.

● **Amanda "Mandy" Glover**, a Georgetown County Sheriff's Deputy and School Resource Officer at Rosemary Middle School in Andrews, was selected in December as the county's 2018 Employee Volunteer of the Year. She was officially recognized as such when Georgetown County Council met on Jan. 22. Glover has served in the Sheriff's Department for 23 years.



● **Loren Wallace**, a Georgetown County employee for just one year, was recently selected as Georgetown County's Manager of the Year for 2018. He was officially recognized as such when county council met on January 22. As Recreation Manager, Wallace assists the department's director. He handles all day-to-day programs of the Recreation Department program and facility issues, and supervises 10 full-time and more than 20 seasonal part-time employees. He coordinates all risk management and vehicle-related responsibilities for recreation, park maintenance and aging services, and is responsible for monitoring costs and budgets for various recreation programs.

● Georgetown County, its Parks and Recreation Department, Winyah Rivers Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and Open Space Institute gathered on Dec. 1 to officially re-open the new kayak launch at Rocky Point Community Forest for public use. The kayak launch includes a new boat ramp. In the future, more recreational amenities are planned for the site—including camping and walking, biking and equine trails.

● Georgetown County Sheriff **Lane Cribb** honored seven employees and two retiring supporters of law enforcement at the department's annual awards presentation program Jan. 15. The following three were named Employees of the Year: Sgt. **Deasia Linen**, Correctional Officer of the Year; **Heather Lippert**, Telecommunicator of the Year; and **Robert Tucker**, Deputy of the Year. They were presented the Sheriff's Office 3D Badge-Hat plaques and the Sheriff's Office challenge coins for their accomplishments.

Cribb also honored two supporters of law enforcement who retired: The Rev. **Charles Williams**, chaplain at the Georgetown County Detention Center for 21 years, for providing balance and hope to employees and inmates alike at the detention center during his tenure as chaplain; and **Johnny Morant**, Georgetown County Council Chairman, for supporting law enforcement as both a Georgetown County Council member and as chairman.

The following four were named Employees of the Quarter: Cpl. **Keona Brunson**, Correctional Officer of the Quarter; **Shawn Robinette**, Telecommunicator of the Quarter; and Deputies **Patrick Holt** and **Joseph Harris**, Deputies of the Quarter. They received plaques and challenge coins.

● Last year, Georgetown County's Finance staff received the International Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United

States and Canada. It is the highest form of recognition available in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

● **Yvonne Jordan**, senior accounting clerk in the Treasurer's Office and employed by the county for five years, was named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter. As a senior accounting clerk, Jordan's duties include handling accounts for monies collected from taxpayers for real and personal property taxes. She also reconciles bank accounts monthly and the office general ledger daily, prepares weekly and monthly financial reports to submit to the state Treasurer, and works closely with taxpayers and the staff in the Auditor's Office. Jordan also serves on the county's Morale Committee, and has been the Treasurer's Office's volunteer representative for the countywide United Way campaign.

Horry County

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has recognized the following as "Caught Green Handed" recipients: Socastee area resident **Jim Mansfield** for January, Duford area resident **Bobby Strickland** for December, Aynor resident **Fred Allen** as for November, Conway area resident **Briggs Gasque** for October and Conway area resident **Wendell Nobles** for September. Each month, the SWA presents the Caught Green Handed award to recognize an Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling.

● On Feb. 4, R.J. Corman Railroad Company and Horry County Government broke ground for the \$17.5 million TIGER Grant Project, Moving the Carolinas Forward: A Rural Freight Rail Project.

● Horry County Fire Rescue held smoke alarm blitzes on Dec. 15 and Jan. 26. Firefighters went door-to-door, installing smoke detectors in four locations around Horry County. Message boards were posted in the communities earlier to let local residents know about event. Each of Horry County's four battalions worked at one of the following four different locations: Battalion 1—Woodridge Mobile Home Park off Mineola Avenue in Little River; Battalion 2—Backwoods Mobile Home Park off Peachtree Rd. in Socastee; Battalion 3—Saddlebrook Mobile Home Park off Long Avenue Extension; and Battalion 4—Chase Street off Hwy 917. Residents were allowed to request a smoke detector by completing a form online.

● Black Water Middle School Student **Anna Baker** won the grand prize in Horry County Waste Authority's (SWA's) 14th Annual Protect Our Planet (POP) Art Recycling Contest. She and her friends, **Desitnee Floyd** and **Chris Robbins**, created a Plastic Bag Cloud titled, "Tears from Our Mother Earth," which won this year's top award. The Authority held its 14th Protect Our Planet Art Recycling Contest.

● Horry County hosted a road intersection dedication ceremony in memory of Chief **James Ronald Hucks** on Nov. 20 at the Horry County Fire Rescue Volunteer Station 16—Cates Bay, 6711 Cates Bay Road, in Conway.

● Horry County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 9 for the new Horry County Veterans Affairs Office at 1949 Industrial Park Road in October. Previously located at 2830 Oak Street in Conway, the new offices are now located in the same office park as the Horry County Offices for DHEC, Clemson Extension and the Army





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Corps or Engineers.

● On Oct. 12, Horry County Government announced the launch of HConnect, a mobile app designed to empower the community with information that matters to them. The app's features include: M311, which allows users to directly submit service requests for road and drainage, mosquitoes, police, litter and beach wheelchair requests; personalized feeds, which show users what permit applications, rezoning requests and reported crimes have recently take place in their neighborhoods; and Explore Horry, which provides information on amenities at all county parks and beach accesses with driving directions. Since the launching of HConnect on Oct. 12, the county's IT/GIS team has had added new features to the county's mobile app.

● Horry County announced in October that it had hired **Mikayla Moskov** as the Public Information Officer for the Horry County Police Department. Moskov, who joined the county in September, graduated from Texas A&M University and received her Master of Science in Liberal Studies with specializations in Criminal Justice and Communications. Moskov's responsibilities include releasing community safety information and educating others about HCPD initiatives.

Lancaster County

● Lancaster County recently hired **Katherine Hayes** as Public Relations Coordinator for the county's Human Resource Department. Hayes, who replaces **Jessica Kennington**, started on Feb. 4. She is updating the county's website, working on community and employee programs, events and more.

● Sgt. **Michael Hinson** of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office was selected as Employee of the Quarter (Oct. – Dec.). Hinson was selected for his exceptional work ethic and public service during the hazardous weather from Hurricane Florence.

● Fire Marshal **Russell Rogers** of the Lancaster County Fire Service was recently recognized for creating a public program to install more than 435 smoke alarms in Lancaster County. Rogers created a team, comprised of employees from both Lancaster County & City Fire Departments and a community service group called Promise Neighborhood to Lancaster County achieve its goal of no fire related fatalities.

● During Hurricane Florence, a Lancaster County National Guard unit was deployed to help evacuate a prison in South Carolina. At the request of 911 employee **Carla Knight**, employees from many different Lancaster County Departments donated snacks and easy-open canned food for the soldiers to eat during their deployment.

● **Stuart Barfield** was awarded a Thumbs Up Recognition award on Nov. 12 by Lancaster County Council for his excellent work during Hurricane Florence. Barfield performed his duties as the Emergency Management Chief of Operations, Planning and Implementation with abilities far beyond his years.

● Lancaster County hosted its first ever free recycle event on Nov. 17, serving 30 citizens who brought paper to be shredded and recycled. The event was organized by the Lancaster County Public Works Division and **Sonny Conner** of Public Works.

● Lancaster County Sheriff **Barry S. Faile** was recently recognized as S.C. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office is incorporating emerging technology.

Major crimes in the county decreased 30 percent between 2012 and 2016. Violent crimes dropped another 6.4 percent, and property crimes fell another 5.8 percent by the end of 2017. Drug arrests increased 12 percent in 2017 over the previous year. The Sheriff's Office, which participates in programs sponsored by the Lancaster County Coalition for Healthy Youth and Promise Neighborhood, has raised more than \$20,000 for the Special Olympics during the past two years.

Richland County

● Richland County Court-Appointed Special Advocates Project Manager **Sharon Walker** will serve on the national association's Legal and Advocacy Committee. The committee's purpose is to provide guidance and support to National CASA on legal and public policy issues on a local, state and federal level. It also gives members the chance to share their expertise, seek advice from their peers and help craft national policies for the organization.

● A Richland County Utilities employee has received statewide recognition for her work in the field of water analysis. In January, **Kelly Price** was presented the Laboratory Analyst of the Year Award by the Capital District of the Water Environment Association of South Carolina.

● **Miwon Specialty Chemical Co. USA**, a subsidiary of **Miwon Specialty Chemical Co. Ltd.**, announced plans on Jan. 18 to locate its new production operations in Richland County. The company's \$19.5 million investment is projected to create 25 new jobs.

● **Mohammed H. Al-Tofan**, a Pre-Construction Engineering Manager for the Richland County's Transportation Department, has co-authored a scientific paper on detecting blockages in utility pipelines. The paper, "Use of Lower Harmonics of Pressure Oscillations in Liquid Pipelines," will be published March 2019 in the ASCE's *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. The paper is Al-Tofan's first professional peer-reviewed journal article.

● **Owens Corning** has acquired a manufacturing facility in Blythewood. The company's \$13.6 million capital investment is projected to bring 16 new jobs.

● **JTEKT North America** is investing in its Koyo brand bearing manufacturing facility in Richland County. The company expects to invest \$50 million in the facility over a five-year period. The Richland facility opened in 1994 and manufactures high-quality hub units for automotive customers.

● **McEntire Produce**, which has operated

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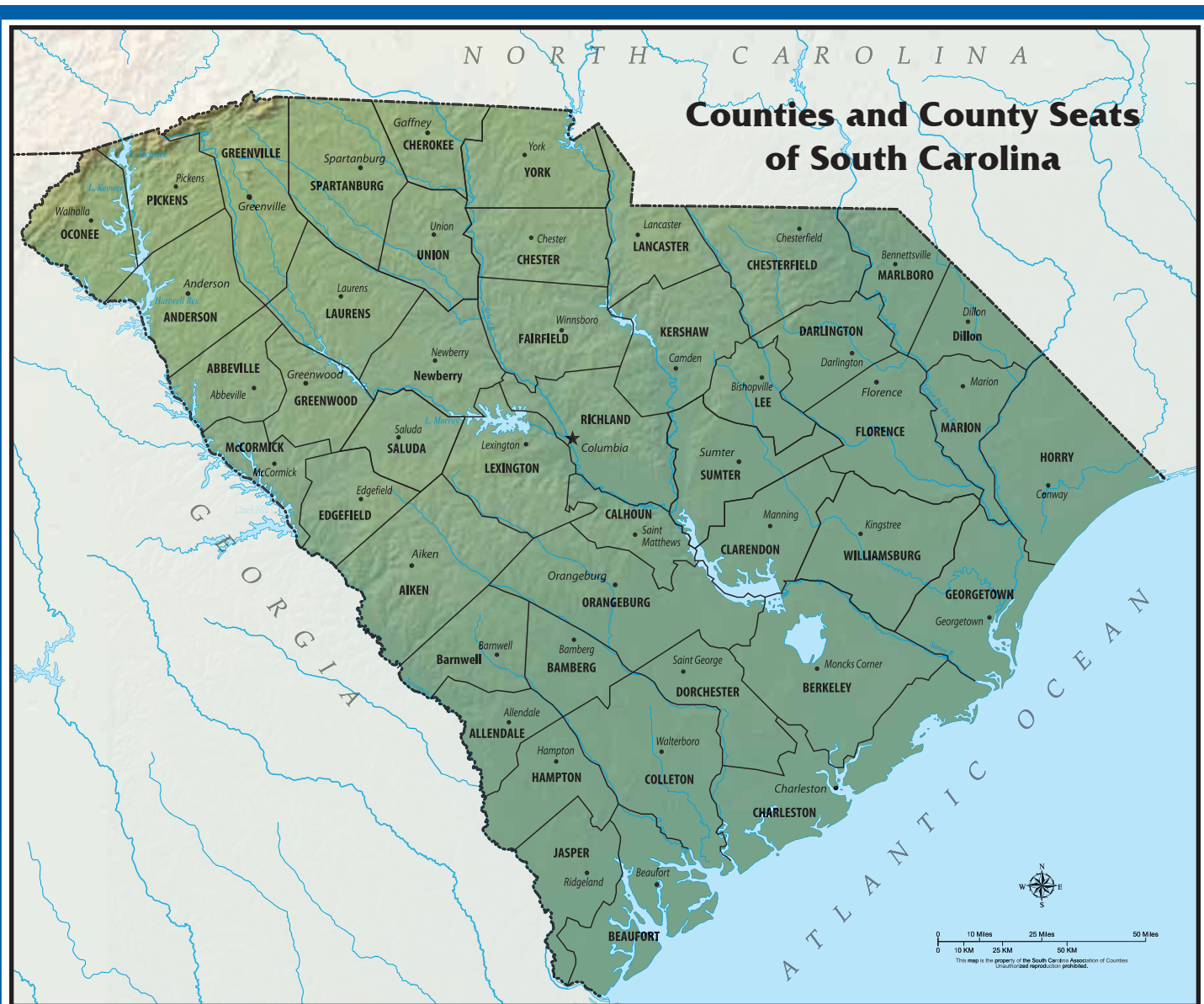
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in Richland County since 1938, will expand its current operations in Richland County. The \$8 million investment is expected to generate 21 new jobs.

- The National Court Appointed Special Advocates has awarded a \$35,000 Program Expansion Grant to Richland County CASA (RCCASA) to recruit, screen and train more local volunteers to serve children who experience abuse or neglect.

- **Benjamin Mack**, the first president of the S.C. Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and an unsung leader of the Civil Rights movement, was recognized on Oct. 7 when an historical marker was unveiled at his former home in Ridgewood. Mack, who worked closely with the Rev. **Martin Luther King Jr.**, helped organize the 1963 march on Washington, D.C., and the 1968 Poor People's Campaign. He

was an educator, Ridgewood Baptist deacon and a precinct committee man. The marker was funded by the Richland County Conservation Commission as part of its effort to promote and protect Richland County's historical legacy.

- On Feb. 26, Richland County employees **Ashley Powell** and **Dr. John Thompson** were appointed to fill vacant assistant county administrator positions. Both appointments became effective on Feb. 25.

Powell, who joined Richland County in 2014, most recently served as the Interim Director of the Divisions of Planning, Zoning and Conservation. She received her B.A. in Architecture from Clemson University and master's degree in Urban Design from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. Thompson joined the county

in 2018 to head the Transportation Department. Including **Dr. Sandra Yudice**, Richland County's other assistant county administrator, Richland County now has three county administrators. Dr. Thompson, a Certified Public Manager, received his B.S. in Biology with a minor in Psychology from the University of South Carolina. He also received an MBA, and an MA in Health Services Management from Webster University in Columbia. He received his Ph.D. in Health Services from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minn.

- Richland County Council announced on Feb. 25 that it had voted unanimously to proceed with a scaled-down version of the Richland Renaissance project, setting its focus on three priority areas: a facilities plan for government operations, an effort

(Continued on next page)

to enhance services in Southeast Richland and a countywide revitalization and blight remediation strategy. Council's new direction for Richland Renaissance calls for giving residents a more collective voice in offering perspective as the project takes shape. Creating a resident-based committee adds a new layer of public engagement to measures previously implemented to obtain public input on the project.

● **Ashley D. Bell**, Region 4 Administrator



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for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), visited Richland County on Feb. 26 to sign strategic alliances with three entities that assist small businesses—Richland County's Office of Small Business Opportunity (OSBO), Columbia College Women's Business Center and Benedict College. The purpose of the strategic alliance is to develop a formal relationship with organizations to strengthen and expand business development locally. This will include the sharing of resources, training, co-collaboration of events and assistance in bringing the tools each organization has to small businesses. The SBA serves as resource and voice for small businesses.

York County

● York County hosted a grand opening for the county's new Public Works Complex on Jan. 12. The \$22.2 million Public Works Complex project included the following new buildings and renovations: New additions and renovations to the Public Works Administration Building; New Road Maintenance Facility; New Equipment Maintenance Facility; New Large Vehicle Wash Facility; and New Materials Recovery Facility (Recycle Center).

● Quality Electronic Manufacturing Services, Inc., announced on Nov. 28 that it has located new operations in York County.

The company's \$7.6 million investment is projected to create 110 new jobs.

● On Jan. 18, Moody's Investors Service announced that it had assigned a Aaa rating—the agency's highest rating—to York County, South Carolina's \$10 million General Obligation Bonds (Lake Wylie Parks and Recreation District), Series 2019A and \$20 million General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019B. Moody's cited "the rapid growth and diversification of the county's sizeable tax base, healthy resident income levels, extremely robust reserve and liquidity position and a manageable debt burden" as part of the basis for the upgrade.

York County intends to use proceeds from the sale of the bonds to finance the referendum approved Lake Wylie Park Project and the purchase of approximately 1,900 acres of land that will be used as a nature preserve with trails and boat access to the Catawba River.

Concurrently, Moody's also reported that it had upgraded to Aaa from Aa1 the rating on the county's rated outstanding parity GO debt. The upgrade to Aaa reflects the rapid growth and diversification of the county's sizeable tax base, which benefits from its proximity to Charlotte, N.C. (Aaa stable), healthy resident income levels, extremely robust reserve and liquidity position, and a manageable debt burden. The county's stable rating outlook also reflects the likelihood that county's liquidity and fund balance reserves will remain strong and that the tax base and local economy will continue to exhibit steady growth.



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Bobbitt Design Build	3
Dominion Energy	18
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina	Inside-Front Cover
Enterprise Fleet Management	41
Fleettalk by Rock Communications	47
<i>Hidden History of Greenville County</i>	52
<i>Lost Columbia</i>	44
McMillan Pazdan Smith	Inside-Back Cover
National Association of Counties	53
PalmettoPride	42
Ponce D. Moody	36
PrintSouth Printing, Inc.	17 & 54
Professional Printers	40 & 56
PROVAL Property Valuation and Analytics	17
PUBLIQ Software	27
Santee Cooper	48
Stevens & Wilkinson	26
Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects	46
SCCWCT and SCCP<	37
Synovus	43

The Palmetto Directory Index

(See page 49)

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