

# COUNTY FOCUS

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SPRING 2022

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County Engineering

# SCDOT's Office of Local Government Services Is Open for Business

By Roxanne M. Ancheta, Director  
Office of Local Government Services, SCDOT

## Office Structure, Roles, and Responsibilities

**The S.C. Department of Transportation's** (SCDOT's) Office of Local Government Services was established in December 2021. Agency leadership recognized a need to consolidate various financial and administrative management activities associated with local governments under one roof; thus, the office was created.

The following offices and program areas fall under the guidance of the Office of Local Government Services:

- "C" Program
  - "C" Funds come from the state gas tax, and are provided annually to the 46 counties based on a formula: 1/3 population, 1/3 land area, and 1/3 rural road mileage. Sometimes, the General Assembly provides one-time, non-recurring "C" funds to counties.
  - "C" Funds are used for local transportation projects and improvements to state and county roads and city streets; projects must be on public property, and accessible to the public. These funds can also be used as local

match for federal grants. The vast majority of "C" Funds are spent on resurfacing secondary and local roads.

- The "C" Fund Law requires a certain percentage of "C" Funds be spent on the state highway system. In State Fiscal Year 2022, 25 percent of a county's "C" funds must be spent on state roads, while the remainder (75 percent) can be spent on locally owned transportation infrastructure.
- County Transportation Committees (CTCs) select and approve projects to be funded. Most CTCs are appointed by their county's legislative delegation; in some instances, the appointment authority has been transferred to the county.
- CTCs can choose to be self-administered, or SCDOT will administer a county's "C" program on its behalf.
- Local Public Agency (LPA) Program
  - An LPA is a county, municipality, board, commission, agency, department, or political subdivision created under the authority of the state.
  - Based on its qualifications, SCDOT may delegate a federal-aid or state-funded project or phase of a project to an adequately staffed, suitably equipped, qualified entity (LPA).
  - Examples of LPA projects include, but are not limited to, Transportation Alternative projects (i.e., sidewalks;





bike/pedestrian shared use paths), safety projects (i.e., installation of a roundabout; intersection improvement), or a state or congressional earmark.

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
  - The TAP program, previously known as “Transportation Enhancements,” is a federally funded grant reimbursement program used for community connectivity projects, including sidewalks, bikeways, multipurpose trails, greenways, and Safe Routes to Schools.
  - TAP projects focus on safely and efficiently expanding non-motorized transportation choices for communities.
  - Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, local governments, school districts, regional transportation authorities, and Councils of Government.
  - TAP grants require a 20 percent local match, and lapse three years after award.
- Contract Assurance
  - The Office of Contract Assurance provides confirmation to SC-



DOT and federal agencies that funds awarded by SCDOT are expended in accordance with applicable agreement provisions and state and federal requirements.

- Staff review consultants’ annual indirect costs rates and audits of indirect costs rates for compliance with federal cost principles. Rates are approved for use if they are found to be compliant.
- The office also completes annual reviews of Single Audit Compliance, federal cost reporting, and, as needed, procurement and indirect cost rates / allocation plans.

Office staff provide specialized financial and administrative support, assisting entities with TAP, LPA, and CTC project and program guidelines, responsibilities, and processes from inception through completion. Engineering-related items associated with these local projects and programs remain within SCDOT’s engineering divisions.

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Forthcoming TAP and LPA Program Revisions

The TAP and LPA programs are currently being reviewed and revised. Since December 2021, multiple “listening sessions” have occurred with both internal and external stakeholders, including the South Carolina Association of Counties and Municipal Association of South Carolina. Feedback is being incorporated into the program revisions, along with an emphasis on SCDOT’s Complete Streets policy and new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requirements.

The goal of the TAP and LPA revisions is to streamline both programs to make them more efficient and user friendly. Because these programs will look much different than they do today, we will have a robust educational component as part of the roll-out, so stay tuned for more information as we introduce the new and improved LPA and TAP programs.

## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Discretionary Grants

A hot topic right now is the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the substantial amount of discretionary grants available to state and local governments. The Office of Local Government Services will be responsible for identifying what grants SCDOT will seek to benefit its program, but will also coordinate with local governments on grants they are seeking

on the State Highway System.

SCDOT understands the desire of local governments to pursue federal grants, and we recognize that the current USDOT Administration is actively seeking opportunities to provide federal grant funding to our municipal and county partners outside of the normal transportation planning process. We also recognize the challenges many local governments face with regards to funding desired infrastructure improvements and enhancements within their communities.

Therefore, what should local governments be prepared to do if pursuing discretionary grants?

- Independently seek grant opportunities and prepare all grant applications in their entirety.
- Enter into grant agreements with the relevant federal funding agency.
- Manage all aspects of the project including PE, ROW, and construction.\*
- Assume all financial risk, including any overruns.
- Enter into a maintenance agreement with any improvements above SCDOT’s maintenance standard.

\*To assist local governments, SCDOT is working to establish a qualified list of on-call consultants to provide local governments assistance with project management support for awarded grants. Usage of the list is not mandatory.

Local governments submitting transportation grant applications for work on the State Highway System should provide



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a proposed high-level project scope to the Office of Local Government Services as soon as possible. Please email this information to [IIJAGrants@scdot.org](mailto:IIJAGrants@scdot.org).

The Office will provide a preliminary review of the scope and notify relevant SCDOT staff as applicable. Based upon the cursory review, the Secretary of Transportation will provide a letter to the local government's chief administrative officer regarding project impacts to the State Highway System, and its status in terms of planning stage, environmental review, and design. Please provide notice of proposed grant projects 30 days in advance of the grant application deadline in order to provide adequate time for a response.

For questions or additional information regarding the Office of Local Government Services, please contact Roxanne Ancheta, Director, Office of Local Government Services, at [AnchetaRM@scdot.org](mailto:AnchetaRM@scdot.org) or (803) 737-1232. 

# SCAC's 2022 Directory of County Officials

SCAC's *2022 Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

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

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# McCormick County Hosts Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Emergency Services Headquarters

**M**ccormick County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 28 for its new 10,000-square-foot emergency services headquarters facility in McCormick.

Located near the county's administrative building, the facility houses:

- Emergency Management Services, including an Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Fire Support Services
- E911
- Coroner's Office and Morgue

The new emergency services headquarters features four large drive-through bays for emergency vehicles, a large training room and a kitchen.



"The new facility centralizes all public safety functions, and provides ample space to train multi-discipline emergency response staffs, and to coordinate and respond to large scale events," said McCormick County Administrator Columbus Stephens. "It also features state-of-the-art video displays, conference calling, video calling, and other audio/video capabilities."

McCormick County Council Chairman Charles T. Jennings said he is very happy with the county's new EMS headquarters, because the state-of-the-art facility provides quality services all under one roof for the entire county.

"I most appreciate the fact that this new building—centrally located in the Town of McCormick—will serve our county for the next 50 to 75 years," Jennings added. "This new emergency services headquarters building reflects McCormick County Council's strong support for public



safety."

The project to construct the \$2.8 million facility began on July 24, 2020. About \$1.38 million of the facility's cost will be funded by the county's first Capital Project Sales and Use Tax, approved by voters in 2016. The remaining balance, approximately \$1.4 million, will be funded by a \$2.6 million general obligation bond for capital improvements.

Christopher Doolittle, McCormick County emergency services director, said construction of the new emergency services facility reduced the cost of constructing separate facilities for each emer-



**UPPER PHOTO**—The new McCormick County Emergency Services Headquarters. **LOWER PHOTO**—(Left to right) Henry Deason, past McCormick County Emergency Services (ES) director; Chris Doolittle, McCormick County ES director; Bernard Hamby, McCormick County council vice chairman; James Smith, chair of McCormick County SC Chamber of Commerce Board; Charles Jennings, McCormick County council chairman; Columbus Stephens, McCormick County administrator; Rep. Julia Anne Parks (District 12); Dr. Hope Rivers, Piedmont Technical College president; Charles Cook and Henry Banks, McCormick County council members; Byron Thompson, former McCormick County council member; Roy Smith, mayor of McCormick; and Jackie Brown, McCormick County council member.



gency service agency. He also said the facility has already improved collaboration between the county's E911 Department and the other emergency services departments, and that it is expected to enhance communication among all departments during natural and man-made disasters.

The completion of the new emergency services facility is a big achievement for McCormick County.

"Prior to 1993, EMS was provided by an all-volunteer group," Doolittle recalled. "When I came to work in McCormick in 1996, there were three shifts, and each shift had three paid personnel assigned. We were supported by volunteer EMTs and drivers. Between 1996 and 2002, McCormick EMS and McCormick Emergency Management were separate departments. EMS was full-time, and the emergency manager was part-time. County fire support for the fire service volunteers didn't exist.

"But in 2002," Doolittle added, "we consolidated EMS, Emergency Management and fire support into the McCormick County Emergency Services. Now, eight emergency services staff members operate the Emergency Services Headquarters 24 hours per day."

McCormick County, which encompasses 360 square miles, has a population of about 10,000. Like other rural counties in South Carolina, the county participates in and utilizes mutual aid agreements with neighboring counties when the volume of emergency calls exceeds the county's ability to respond.

"Our county's population grows to as high as about 30,000 during the summer months, and periodically increases during the hunting season as well," Doolittle explained. "Our new Emergency Services Headquarters will be one of three stations, placed throughout the county, that will be used to spread EMS resources across the county.


"This new facility will serve as Medic 1. Medic 2 is located in Modoc, and Medic 3 is located at Old School Road on Highway 81," he added. "Multiple stations allow emergency resources to be stationed across the county for better coverage, and provides faster response times."

McCormick County Council Chairman Jennings said his county kept its promise to use the Capital Project Sales and Use Tax to provide the county's new Emergency Services Headquarters.

"This is a dream come true and a testament of what a one-penny sales tax can do," he added. "And it's just one of eight projects that is set to be realized in our great county due to that tax."

"Any facility of this magnitude certainly helps improve moral and creates an attitude of inclusiveness," said Stephens (McCormick County administrator). "It also indicates that we, as elected and appointed officials, recognize the importance of providing quality services.

"This project was a real challenge for McCormick County's Capital Project Sales Tax Committee," he added. "But our county's residents understood the value of a penny, that visitors from outside our county would help pay the tax to fund the new facility, and that it was important to support the effort to pass the one-penny sales tax. They understood that we would all benefit."

Stephens credited Johnson, Laschober & Associates, P.C. Lee Dorn, architect for partnering with Contractor John W. Spratlin & Son, LLC, and successfully designing, and building the facility. 



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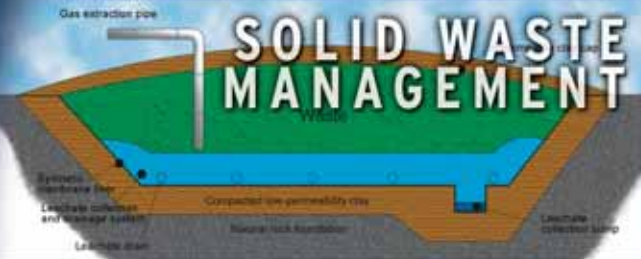
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# Staying Out of Court while Serving on a County Appeals Board

By John K. DeLoache, SCAC Senior Staff Attorney

**Every year, county councils across South Carolina** appoint hundreds of citizens to voluntarily serve on a variety of county appeals boards. These boards hear citizens' appeals from the decisions related to property tax assessments, variances from zoning requirements, and land development activities. Each plays an important role in ensuring that county ordinances or regulations are applied evenly and fairly.

The citizens appointed to serve on these boards have tremendous authority to approve or deny citizen disputes. For that reason, it is vital that board members understand the importance of uniformity and procedures when tasked with decisions involving individual citizen applicants. Two of the most important concepts for board members to understand is providing every citizen their guarantee to due process and equal protection, both of which are rights granted in the U.S. Constitution.

As an appeals board member, the first question that may be asked is what exactly is due process? The next question is, of course, how do you provide it in every case? The fundamental requirements of procedural due process include providing applicants adequate notice of any scheduled hearing, an opportunity to be heard in a meaningful way, and the opportunity for judicial review of any decision of the appeal board.

In many cases, state statutes or local ordinances will prescribe the method of providing the applicant notice of hearings. If not, the board's local rules should specifically provide a uniform method of notifying all parties of a planned hearing. The notice to the applicant should provide all of the relevant information they will need to prepare for their hearing. This information should include not just time date and location, but also the rules and process that the board will follow.

The burden of proving any appeal lies with the citizen applicant. Once the applicant gets before the board, it is important

that specific procedures are followed that provide the applicant with sufficient information concerning the type of evidence that can be introduced to support the basis of their appeal, and their ability to rebut evidence presented by the county. Both citizens and appeals board members should also understand that the



right to due process does not require the board to follow all of the formal rules and evidentiary procedures required of trial-type hearings before the various state and federal courts. Due process before administrative boards is flexible and calls for such procedural protections as the particular situation demands.

The final element of due process is the citizen's right of appellate review. Citizens have the right for review in the state courts of the final orders of administrative boards for errors of law. The process for appellate review is generally provided by state statute or in the local ordinance. Appellate review is initiated by the citizen by filing notice of appeal to the Administrative Law Court in the case of Boards of Tax Assessment orders, or to the circuit court in the case of Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission orders. The burden of proving any appellate review

*(Continued on next page)*



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(Continued from previous page)

lies with the citizen.

The other important constitutional protection granted to citizens is the right to equal protection. Equal protection in administrative hearings refers to two basic concepts. First, it means that the ordinance or regulation that forms the basis of a citizen's appeal is a reasonable regulation meant to achieve a legitimate government interest and is not arbitrary in its application. Local regulations and ordinances should clearly define what conditions or requirements that a citizen must follow. For example, if a county has enacted a land development ordinance, then that ordinance must provide anyone applying for a land development activity with all of the specific requirements that must be met for approval of the activity.

The second part of the equal protection doctrine is that the appeals board must treat citizens that are similarly situated to each other in the same manner, using the same criteria. For example, two separate developers seeking to develop land in the county must have their projects approved or denied based on adopted criteria if the projects are substantially the same.

Understanding and respecting the constitutional rights citizens possess is vital in establishing citizen acceptance and trust in administrative decisions. It is the responsibility of every board member to ensure that their decisions are based on specific requirements contained in the local ordinances and regulations governing activity in the county. 





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# Civic Matchmaking: Managing Boards and Commissions in the Digital Age

By Emily Bowerman, SC Women in Leadership Staff

**T**he average county in South Carolina is responsible for appointments to 18 boards and commissions. That presents an opportunity for scores of citizens to serve by sharing their expertise and experience for the betterment of their community. It also means your government has the challenge of providing publicly available information about boards and commissions, recruiting and processing applicants, and managing board memberships at a time when digitization and web accessibility are paramount. MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> is here to help you meet that challenge. MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> is an online platform for managing boards and commissions that connects citizens with service opportunities in their local governments.

How does MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> work? MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> is a digital interface that can be embedded securely into your county's website. Citizens can:

- learn more about the boards and commissions in their area,
- message the clerk with questions,
- create a profile showcasing their qualifications and interests,
- apply for positions with just a few clicks,
- and check on the status of their applications - all within the platform.

MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> streamlines administrative management of boards and commissions for you as well. Your board information can easily be uploaded to the MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> platform. From there, you're able to:

- share submitted applications with other officials and track their feedback,
- review calculations on how well an applicant matches the position they're applying for,
- update the status of an application,
- make appointments with the click of a button,
- communicate with applicants,
- generate reports and more.

Beaufort, Jasper, McCormick, and Orangeburg counties and the cities of Columbia and Spartanburg are proud to be leading the way as early adopters of MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup>, a solution developed right here in South Carolina. As a non-profit service, MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> is available for a modest annual fee of \$1,200-\$6,000 based upon your population. South Carolina Association of Counties endorses MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> and will subsidize 25 percent of your costs for the first year.

"I've been dealing with boards and commissions for 20 years. I remember when I first came on-site, [the outgoing Clerk] handed me a five inch red binder. It was bursting

at the seams with all this historical information on every board and commission that the city had ever set up. From there, of course we evolved, but we still had a long way to go. MatchBoard not only gets rid of that binder, it gets rid of the spreadsheets, the word documents, and so forth."

—City of Columbia Clerk Erika Hammond

"Beaufort County currently has 29 agencies, boards, and commissions consisting of 211 members. The clerk's office has the daunting task of keeping up with applications, appointments, reappointments, resignations, rosters, meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes while also serving the needs of the 11 member county council.

—Beaufort County Clerk to Council Sarah Brock

McCormick County Clerk to Council Crystal Barnes knows having a paper-driven application process causes delays and disorganization and the citizens in your counties suffer. You need an easier solution.

"When they turn those [paper applications] in, they may get to my desk or they may sit on someone else's desk for a period of time by accident."

—McCormick County Clerk to Council Crystal Barnes

Without an efficient way to move applications through the appointment process, positions remain vacant, quorums can't be met, and decisions are not made.

With concurrent portals for both citizens and clerks, it creates a forum where citizens and their governments can connect and both have their needs met. In addition to presenting citizens with information about serving, MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> is a "matchmaking" service calculating how qualified each applicant is for the positions they're applying for based on their resume and profile information. Those insights cut through the noise to ensure you have the information you need to appoint the best person to every position. SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow summarizes it best, "The idea of MatchBoard is to marry people with their local government entities. People want to serve and local governments want these people to serve."

People do want to serve. They just may not know how. That means our counties miss out because boards and commissions represent more than just their scopes of function. They foster growth, economic



development, and inclusivity. Effective boards and commissions create strong communities, attracting business and investment.


“... one of our biggest struggles has always been to get people involved in our community, and boards and commissions are the backbone. We need to make sure that we are reaching every corner of our community—that diversity is a big part of it. We want to make sure folks are engaged and right now we see this great opportunity because so many people in our community have reached out and said ‘how can I help?’ Well number one, apply for a board and we’re going to make it easier for them ... It’s an exciting time for us, especially South Carolina with all the growth potential ... people moving here, investments coming, and making sure we’re capturing all those folks, and having them engaged... We’re open for business. We’re open for inclusion. We’re open for ideas. We’re open for innovation.”

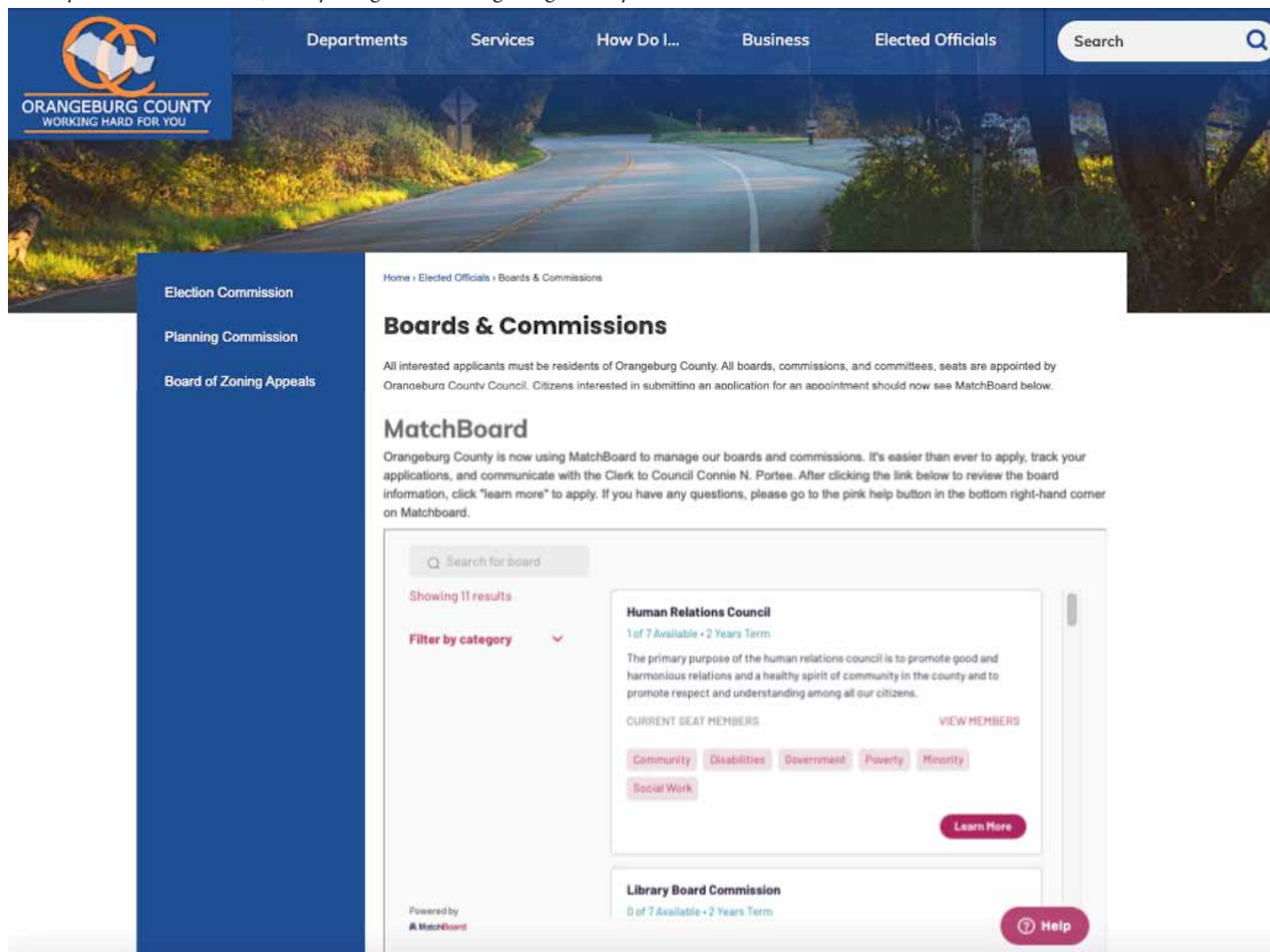
—City of Columbia Mayor Daniel Rickenmann

Furthermore, when people step up, they need to know that the appointment process is transparent and equitable. MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> demonstrates your commitment to open government. Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnny Wright, led Orangeburg County

to join MatchBoard<sup>sm</sup> because, “I think MatchBoard will be a great tool for Orangeburg when trying to recruit qualified applicants for our boards and commissions. It will let citizens know that the appointment process is impartial and not political.”

Streamlining board appointments promotes inclusivity and diversity. That’s important for Orangeburg County Clerk to Council, Connie Portee, “Citizens need to know that they have a voice. Being on boards and commissions give them [the] opportunity to express their voice.”

To learn more about how your county can embrace innovation visit [MatchBoard.tech](https://MatchBoard.tech) or contact [emily@scwomenlead.net](mailto:emily@scwomenlead.net). 





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**Step 1) Make your County 250 Committee official by passing** a resolution in support of [County Name] County 250 Committee (see sample resolution at [SouthCarolina250.com/local-county-250-committee/](https://SouthCarolina250.com/local-county-250-committee/)).

**Best Practices:**

- Decide if the county or another agency or non-profit will be "the bank" for the committee. (Please note for SC250 grants Local Governments may designate third-party recipients like non-profit organizations to receive grant money.)
- As the County 250 Committee gathers stakeholders, encourage them to be intentional about inclusion - representing all members of your community.
- Also, encourage the Committee to not just recruit local historians but people from other sectors, too (teachers, tourism/marketing gurus, artists, etc.).



**Step 2) Apply for start up funding.** All officially recognized County 250 Committees are eligible for a non-competitive \$3000 grant meant to support initial organizational and planning expenses.

**Best Practices:**

- Learn more and apply at [SouthCarolina250.com/County250OrganizingGrants/](https://SouthCarolina250.com/County250OrganizingGrants/)
- Beyond this organizing grant, six more grant programs are coming soon and will help with everything from museum style panels to site acquisition.



**Step 3) Research your Revolutionary Era assets and plan for tourists.**

**Best Practices:**

- There will be an SC250 Grant to assist counties with this study!
- Celebrate your county's specific people, places, principles, and events.



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**History Means Business:** Ninety Six, SC (home to a little under 2000 people) saw over 95,000 visitors at the American Revolution National Park site during 2020. The Liberty Trail (SC Battleground Preservation Trust & American Battlefield Trust) will connect sites such as this one and many more.

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# The Big Red Barn Retreat Helps First Responders Facing Mental Health Challenges

By Angela McDuffie, Communications Intern  
The Big Red Barn Retreat

**O**ne of the most vital parts of our society is our **First Responders** as they serve and protect residents and citizens in our communities—but it's at no small cost. Often, first responders are working 16-hour shifts daily as well as seeing multiple emergencies per day. Many find it difficult to cope with the tremendous stress and it begins to take a toll on their mental health.

Around 30 to 40 percent of first responders suffer with mental health challenges. Depression, anxiety, irritability, alcohol and other substance addictions, and post-traumatic stress (PTSD) are all common experiences among those struggling. Now, after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, first responders are experiencing increased negative effects on their mental health and wellness.

"The dangers and uncertainty of COVID have increased PTSD," said Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott. "While others worked from the safety of their homes, our first responders were on the front line doing their jobs."

The added worry of bringing the virus home and infecting their families has only made the stress of this career even more impactful on the mental health of our first responders.

Many first responders find it difficult to acknowledge mental distress and may perceive that they will be subject to stigmatization, discrimination, or be labeled as weak for struggling. Moreover, many first responders don't feel safe opening up about their struggles for fear that they will ultimately lose their job and be unable to pro-

vide for their family. This could be, in part, why every year, we lose more first responders to suicide than in the line of duty, a statistic that is shocking.



The Big Red Barn facility in Blythewood

There is simply no greater need than to help the first responder community who put their lives on the line each day to protect us—and The Big Red Barn Retreat has a solution.

The Big Red Barn Retreat (BRBR), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2014 with a mission to provide a place of healing and hope for veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders experiencing PTS.

Nestled on 75 acres in Blythewood, the organization offers an array of non-traditional mental health and wellness programs and services such as equine-assisted therapy, restorative yoga, Tai Chi, art and music therapy, transcendental meditation training, and peer-to-peer groups. All of these programs and services are provided at no cost to participants as they begin their journey to become the best version of themselves to live the life they desire.

In 2020, the BRBR introduced a transformative, post-traumatic growth-based program—Warrior PATHH (Progressive and Alternative Training for Helping Heroes). Currently, the BRBR is one of nine sites in the country that provides the program and is the only organization to offer the program in the Carolinas. Warrior PATHH has been proven to cultivate and facilitate post-traumatic growth for our first responders and military through training aimed at transforming struggles into profound strength and lifelong growth.

Beginning with a seven-day on-site immersive training, a team of expert guides, made up of Warrior PATHH graduates, facilitates classes of seven individuals once a month. Each participant must show a deep desire to attend and also agree to engage in weekly online classes and wellness checks for 18 months following the initial training.

During the program, participants are educated on the impact of struggle on the mind, body, heart and spirit; and that they can find gain in loss and purpose in pain. They learn recognized techniques to regulate their thoughts, feelings, and actions; and are given the opportunity to make peace with their past experiences and struggles.

First responders have experienced transformative, life-changing revelations through the Warrior PATHH program. Robert Stevens, a former police officer is proof that the Warrior PATHH program really works. Struggles with PTSD and anxiety caused Stevens to lose his badge, and he described “feeling lost” until he attended Warrior PATHH in 2020.

Now, his whole life has shifted.

“What they’re doing here is amazing,” Stevens said. “It’s been a night and day difference since I’ve come here. I have not had a panic attack since I left here, so they really equip you to continue your growth

after you leave. The hardest thing for me is knowing there are officers out there, especially now, who are dealing with some really hard stuff and are in some really dark places. I don’t want any officers to be afraid to reach out and get the help they need.”

In a recent national study of Warrior PATHH graduates, first responders reported an average reduction in PTS symptoms, including symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress, of 36.5 percent. Additionally, first responders saw an 81.2 percent increase in post-traumatic growth scores, including improved relationships, a greater appreciation for life, and optimism about new possibilities.

The current Warrior PATHH schedule of 12 classes annually is not enough to meet the overwhelming need of our First Responder community in South Carolina. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the normal stressors of work and life, first responder applications have increased significantly.

“I have seen first-hand the great results this program provides. The program saves lives!” Sheriff Lott said. “One of our deputies, who has struggled with PTS for years, recently participated in the program, and it changed his life.”

The BRBR hopes to conduct annual Warrior PATHH classes with more first responders, adding a total of 12 classes per year over the next five years. However, this can only be accomplished with state, county, and municipal level support.

The program fits well within the parameters of the American Rescue Plan of 2021, supporting many areas such as exacerbated behavioral health needs. With the help of county leadership across South Carolina, Warrior PATHH has the ability to offer top quality training to help unlock the potential of each first responder and ensure they can go on to live great lives filled with passion, purpose, and service.



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# York County Embraces Parks, Greenspace, as Key to the Future

By Greg Suskin, Public Information Officer  
York County

**E**benezer Park has been a fixture on the shore of Lake Wylie for decades. Visitors will tell you they love to come here on a summer weekend to swim, picnic, fish, boat, and camp. It's tough to find an RV site all year, as reservations stay booked much of the time.

In 2021, Ebenezer Park became more than a fixture, it became a destination. York County began a \$4.6 million renovation effort in 2019, which included huge upgrades to the 26-acre park.

Here are some of the highlights:

- 10,000 square foot semicircular pier with covered shelters; including double sided swings and picnic tables
- Enlarged and dredged swimming/beach area enclosed by semi-

circular pier

- Multipurpose event building for concerts, movies in the park, and special occasion rentals
- Redesigned vehicle parking lot; as well as an angle spaced parking lot for boat, kayak, canoe, and paddleboard trailers
- Additional boat slips for loading and unloading of watercraft
- A boardwalk at the Ranger Station with park benches
- Meandering trails through the woods
- Basketball court
- Beach Volleyball
- Arbor Entrance with beach chairs



Ebenezer Park (Photo by Chris Jackson, York County Engineering)



Those upgrades have drawn plenty of attention, and the park plans to add additional staff, and host more events throughout the year. It's a great place to come and be active, or just relax by the lake, and smell the burgers and dogs cooking on a grill nearby.

Pat Morrison is superintendent at Ebenezer Park, and has overseen the dramatic changes there.

"Since the renovation, the park has experienced a higher than normal volume of visitors," Morrison said. "The demand was so high during our peak season (May-Sept.) that we had to turn many guests away due to limited parking. The attendance during those peak months was nearly double our normal volume of visitors, and was somewhat overwhelming at times for our staff and volunteers.

"For me, personally and professionally, it was the highlight of my 27 year career at Ebenezer Park," he added. "It was a joy to see the excitement and memories that so many families made in the summer of 2021."

The relaxed lakeside experience at Ebenezer Park couldn't be any more different than what you find at Field Day Park at Lake Wylie! It's focused like a laser on intense competition at every level, and it's rarely quiet.

The park offers baseball, pickleball courts, huge multi-purpose fields for soccer/football, a playground, walking track, pavilions, and a community center.

It's 32 acres of competitive team sports, raucous cheers, and bigtime tournaments.


Park Superintendent Jason Ratterree said the park's atmosphere brings people of all ages.

"One of the best things about the park is there's a little something for everyone," he added. "Whether it's youth playing on the athletic fields, or even adults playing on the athletic fields ... or using the community center for a gathering like a birthday party, or a baby shower."

Field Day Park opened on Halloween in 2020, and has quickly become home to several team leagues, and adult and youth sports programs. It's also a great place to walk your dog, or just exercise.

What's more, Field Day Park was paid for entirely by the people of the fast-growing Bethel Lake Wylie community. Voters approved a special tax district to fund the park, and today they see and enjoy the benefits of that decision.

In just a few short years, York County has jumped into the park business with both feet.

In addition to Ebenezer and Field Day, there are two other major parks now in development: Catawba Bend Preserve, our biggest park project ever (*see sidebar below*), and Allison Creek Park, which is also on beautiful Lake Wylie. The future also looks bright as master plans are being created for additional parks. 

## Catawba Bend Preserve

For more than two years we knew it as "Riverbend." In 2018, York County was able to purchase 1,900 acres of land on the Catawba River that was slated to have thousands of new homes on it. Instead, it's being transformed into a premier outdoor adventure park.

In October of 2021, Riverbend officially became Catawba Bend Preserve. All but 200 acres of the site is now protected under a conservation easement. The future park sits in a bend of the wild and scenic Catawba River, and features a variety of pine groves, grassy fields, and large ponds.

York County Council approved the Catawba Bend Preserve Masterplan, which anticipates more than \$50 million in proposed construction and improvements over a 15-year period in three phases.

The park is so large it will include areas for tent camping, RV camping, mountain biking, outdoor concerts, and environmental education. First to appear will be the entrance gate, and a paved five-mile walking trail along the Catawba River.

A park loop road will connect the many diverse activities offered, including 25 miles



Catawba Bend Preserve (Photo by Greg Suskin, York County PIO)

of interior hiking trails.

The Catawba River is the centerpiece of the park, and visitors will have access to not only spectacular scenery along the water, but launches for boats and kayaks. Down the road, Catawba Bend Preserve has plans

for a national-park-style lodge to host special events. This is a large-scale, long-term project that will unfold as we seek a mix of public, private, and grant-based funding to make it a reality.

Stay tuned!

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If you are looking for ways to build and strengthen relationships with county governments, this new program is for you. As an SCAC Corporate Partner, you will be able to maintain contact with county officials throughout the year. You will also be updated on trends in county government and legislative initiatives.

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- Four levels of partnership — \$1,500, \$3,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000
- Complimentary/discounted rates to attend (including premier exposure) three SCAC events — Mid-Year Conference in February, Annual Conference in August, and County Council Coalition Fall Meeting in October. In addition, all Partners will be recognized during all three events, whether virtual or in-person.
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- Complimentary/discounted rates to attend and exhibit at SCAC's Annual Conference available to partners only.
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To learn more about SCAC's Corporate Partner Program, please visit:

[SCCounties.org/corporate-partner-program](https://SCCounties.org/corporate-partner-program)

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## SCAC'S PURPOSE

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

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# What is the SCAC?

## Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®



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

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

## Conferences

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

- Mid-Year Conference—Held in late winter in Columbia, this conference enables all county officials to become better informed about the Association's legislative program. The Association also hosts a reception for all members of the S.C. General Assembly during this conference.
- Annual Conference—Held in August, this conference is open to all elected and appointed officials. The conference includes a business session, general session, workshops, group meetings, and exhibits of county products and services.
- Legislative Conference—Held in December, this conference allows members of the Legislative Committee to discuss and adopt a legislative program for the upcoming year. The committee is composed of each council chairman along with the Association's Board of Directors.

## Education

The Association, in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston, conducts the Institute of Government for County Officials (Level I, Level II, and Advanced levels). Clemson University's Master of Public Administration program is a sponsor of the Institute.

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

SCAC also sponsors a number of webinars on a variety of topics for county officials and employees throughout the year at no charge to counties. Recordings of the webinars are made available in the Association's online educational library via [SCCounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars](http://SCCounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars).

## Financial Services

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

SCAC also offers the following services through affiliate organizations: GovDeals internet auction of surplus assets; and competitive purchasing discounts through Forms and Supply, Inc. and the U.S. Communities purchasing cooperative.

## Legal Assistance

SCAC provides legal assistance to county governments by rendering legal opinions, preparing *amicus curiae* briefs, drafting ordinances, and consulting with other county officials.

The Association provides support to counties involved in litigation that might affect other counties. It also sponsors the Local Government Attorneys' Institute, which provides six hours of continuing legal education for local government attorneys.

## Setoff Debt Program

South Carolina counties are able to collect delinquent emergency medical services debts, magistrate and family court fines, hospital debts, as well as other fees owed to the counties through SCAC's Setoff Debt Collection Program.

Debts are submitted through the Association to the S.C. Department of Revenue to be matched with income tax refunds. The debt is deducted from a refund and returned through SCAC to the claimant.

## Legislative Information

The S.C. General Assembly convenes each January in Columbia and adjourns *sine die* in May. One in every four bills introduced affects county governments.

SCAC monitors each bill as it is introduced and keeps its members up-to-date on all legislative activity with a weekly *Friday Report*. The Association also dispatches *Legislative Alerts* and publishes *Acts That Affect Counties* each year.

## Public Information

SCAC publishes an annual *Directory of County Officials* listing addresses and telephone numbers of county offices and their elected and appointed officials. The Association also publishes *Carolina Counties Newsletter* five times a year to keep the Association's membership informed about legislation and various county news. *County Focus Magazine* is published four times a year and features articles on county trends, innovations, and other subjects of interest to county officials—including a "County Update" section.

## Research and Technical Assistance

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

SCAC's website address is:

**SCCounties.org**

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





# SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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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&LT) was formed in 1995 due largely to the success of the Workers' Compensation Trust. SCCP&LT 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 of Trustees currently share the same membership.



## Risk Management

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

## Claims Administration

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

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



**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**Waymon Mumford**  
Florence County  
Council Member



**Joseph R. Branham**  
Chester County  
Council Vice Chairman



**Charles T. Jennings**  
McCormick County  
Council Chairman

# SCCWCT and SCCP&LT Present Awards at Membership Meeting

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

**The South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and the South Carolina Counties Property & Liability Trust** held their annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting on Jan. 26 & 27 in Myrtle Beach.

Seventy-six county officials attended the meeting, designed to promote risk management education and brief members on the Insurance Trusts. Several guest speakers addressed risk management topics. A roundtable discussion, which is held every year, was also held to discuss risk management issues.

Each year, risk management awards recognize members who have made significant achievements in their risk management and safety programs. The awards recognize county employees for their hard work and commitment to safety. The awards fall into the following

categories, which apply to activities and/or services performed during the period July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021:

## Risk Management Award Categories

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

The **Outstanding Safety Achievement Award** is given to counties or member entities that have made significant progress in a specific area of their risk management and safety program. This award is intended to recognize specific projects or achievements rather than  
*(Continued on next page)*



S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust Meeting, Jan. 26, Myrtle Beach



**Henry H. Livingston III**  
Newberry County  
Council Member



**Gary M. Mixon**  
Sumter County  
Administrator



**Debra B. Summers**  
Lexington County  
Council Member



**Cecil M. Thornton Jr.**  
Calhoun County  
Council Member



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



general overall improvement in safety and risk management.

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

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

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

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

The **SCCPLT Lag Time Awards** are given to the three members who had the lowest average claims reporting time in the PL Trust. We have summarized the risk management awards and the county contacts. Please reach out to them if you have any questions or are interested in implementing these projects in your county.

## County Officials Receive Risk Management Education and Information on SCCWCT and SCCP&LT

Seventy-six county officials received risk management education and information on Jan. 26 & 27 at the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust Meeting. Lt. Sean Fay, S.C. Law Enforcement Division Critical Infrastructure Syber Security Program, provided an overview on cyber security issues impacting county government and available training opportunities to help mitigate these exposures. Les Vandevander, Sumter County IT Director, spoke about a recent cyber-attack on Sumter County and how they were able to work with various stakeholders to mitigate the impact of the attack. A risk management roundtable discussion (shown at left) also addressed the critical impact that motor vehicle accidents are having on employee injuries and property and liability claims.



**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**—Participating in the Roundtable Discussion on day two of the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust Meeting were: (left to right) Mark McKinney, Claims Manager, SCCP&LT; Van Henson, SCAC Risk Manager; Rachael Stephenson, Claims Manager, SCCP&LT; and Lt. Sean Fay, S.C. Law Enforcement Division Critical Infrastructure Cyber Security Program.



Daniel Prentice, Chief Financial Officer, Dorchester County, discusses the details of the award-winning Dorchester County Safety Committee. Also shown with him are Audrey Holzhauser, Deputy Director of Risk Management & Safety, and Nancy Johnson, Director of Risk Management & Safety.



Lt. Sean Fay  
S.C. Critical Cybersecurity Program  
SLED



Les Vandevander  
Sumter County IT Director



## Berkeley County Sustained Excellence Award Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

When working in a mechanic shop, one of the big hazards can be hoses and cords scattered all over the floor. When servicing multiple vehicles a day and using different weights of oils, all those lines become a hassle and increase the chances for a trip and fall. Safety and Risk Management met with the Fleet Superintendent to see what options were available to remove the potential trip and fall hazards. A plan was made to move the large oil tanks outside and run all the lines overhead on reels. Moving the tanks outside gave more room for the mechanics to work and the overhead lines kept the walking and working surface free of trip and fall hazards.

Jerry Crolley, Safety Superintendent  
[Jerry.crolley@berkeleycountysc.gov](mailto:Jerry.crolley@berkeleycountysc.gov)  
Chris Gaskins, Safety Specialist  
[Chris.gaskins@berkeleycountysc.gov](mailto:Chris.gaskins@berkeleycountysc.gov)

## Colleton County Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

From 2019 to 2020 Colleton County had three backing incidents involving motor graders. Two of these incidents resulted in litigation. Analyzing the incidents, they discovered that five of the six motor graders in their fleet did not have back-up cameras. They obtained quotes from their two motor grader providers (John Deere & Volvo) for a total cost to equip all at \$25,000. Fleet worked with another vendor, and they were able to purchase complete camera systems for all five motor graders at a total cost of \$3,400. Fleet installed the systems saving on installation costs.

The cameras activate when the motor grader is started and remain active. The monitors are mounted to not obstruct the driver's vision and are large enough for the driver to see clearly. The feedback from the operators has been positive. And (knock on wood) no further incidents have happened.

George Welch, Director of Risk Management  
[Gwelch@colletoncounty.org](mailto:Gwelch@colletoncounty.org)

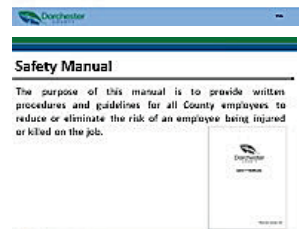


## Dorchester County Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Dorchester County Council approved the county's Safety Committee Charter. The Charter contains detailed information on their Safety Committee and Vehicle Accident Review Board (VARB). Dorchester has made its VARB program available to all members.

Nancy Johnson,  
Director Risk  
Management & Safety  
[Njohnson@dorchestercountysc.gov](mailto:Njohnson@dorchestercountysc.gov)  
Audrey Holzhausen, Deputy Dir. RM  
& Safety  
[Aholzhausen@dorchestercountysc.gov](mailto:Aholzhausen@dorchestercountysc.gov)

Safety Committee Members	
• Nancy Johnson, Director RMS	• Tim Atkinson, HR
• Jason Carruthers, Public Works	• Roger Gargnerfield, Facilities
• Austin Zuriga, Parks and Recreation	• Mario Iannicini, Administration
• Larry Harper, Water and Sewer	• Sam Richardson, Sheriff's Office
• Tammy Thompson, HR	• Carol Thompson, Neighborhood Services
• Brian Wells, EMS	



**Vehicle Accident Review Board (VARB)**  
The primary goal is to promote safe driving and to reduce the number of accidents involving the County's drivers.

- 12 members:  
4 permanent, 8 supervisory, 2 non-supervisory



## Florence County Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Florence County created a 2021 Employee Biometric Wellness Event called "Commit to Be Fit." It is designed to help improve the health and well-being of their employees. It provides employees with resources and information to start living a better life. The program includes Biometric Screening, blood draw, height, weight, and nicotine tests.



Based on the test results, employees are provided access to preventive services, counseling, and other services to help them get healthy. Employees who complete the process earn an extra day of annual leave. So far 123 employees have gone through the screening process and 92 have earned an extra day of annual leave.

Miranda Barber, Risk Manager  
[Mbarber@florenceco.org](mailto:Mbarber@florenceco.org)  
Charlene Conner, Risk Management Tech  
[Cconner@florenceco.org](mailto:Cconner@florenceco.org)



## **Georgetown County** ***Outstanding Safety Achievement Award***

Providing in-person training during the pandemic has been challenging. Not being able to meet in person has forced the county to disperse information via email. This form of communication has proven to be effective and provided a cost savings benefit to the county. Georgetown County fell victim to a cyber attack in January 2021. During the recovery process not only did the county upgrade to a more secure infrastructure, it also increased its cyber security training.

In a joint effort with the IT Department, the Risk Manager sent out several emails to county employees regarding cyber safety. Internet safety was also the topic of the monthly safety challenge where an employee was entered into a drawing to win a \$10 Walmart card after successfully completing an internet safety crossword puzzle.

One week after the cyber security emails were sent out, the county experienced another cyber breach attempt from an actor trying to infiltrate its network. The county attorney was in the process of selling a piece of property located at the county's industrial park, which required a wire transfer. The county attorney contacted the Finance Director and asked for instructions on how to wire money directly. The finance director scanned in the instructions and emailed them back to the county attorney who in turn forwarded it to the attorney handling the sale of the property. Ten minutes later, the attorney received another email that appeared to come from the finance director but the email address had the word "county" misspelled. The email stated they had made a mistake in the wire instructions and to send the wire transfer to a different bank. The attorney picked up the telephone and personally called to verify with the finance director that the county made a change and she stated "No!"

By sending out the cyber security emails to remind employees that malicious emails don't always come from strangers and can appear to be sent by co-workers was beneficial and helped remind employees to be alert. The incident above describes how one letter in an email can change so employees have to remain vigilant in checking email addresses.

Holley Causey, Risk Manager  
[Hcausey@gtcounty.org](mailto:Hcausey@gtcounty.org)

## **Greenwood County** ***Outstanding Safety Achievement Award***

Due to a high number of MVAs, the Sheriff's Office established an Annual Driver Training Course. They conducted hands-on Emer-

gency Vehicle Operation (EVO) training at the Michelin Proving Grounds in Laurens, SC.

Each deputy was required to be proficient in seven standards. Some of these standards are required by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA), but all are required by our Agency. These standards are: Threshold Braking, Precision Backing, Straight-Line Backing, Evasive Driving Techniques, Lane Changes, Serpentine, and Throttle Control. A review of departmental policy and state law as it pertains to emergency vehicle operation was completed before any training began. The EVO Course was designed to reinforce these standards, while allowing each deputy to fine tune their driving skills.

The EVO Course began with Threshold Braking, which tests the deputy's skills with stopping the vehicle when the anti-lock braking system (ABS) fails. This was followed by Precision Backing, which tests the deputy's skills with backing their vehicle into a precise location. This led to lane changes and Evasive Driving Techniques, which tests the deputy's skills with changing lanes and evading objects and other vehicles in the roadway. A six cone serpentine and straight-line backing course followed the evasive driving techniques. This tests the deputy's ability to drive through a serpentine and straight-line back their vehicle, which is at a higher rate of speed than precision backing. While driving the course, each deputy must use proper throttle control. This ensures that the vehicle maintains speed, without losing traction, or crossing lanes of travel.

County Council also approved a countywide Vehicle Accident Review Board (VARB) with sanctions. Anita Baylor, Risk Manager, has made the VARB policies available to all members.

Anita Baylor, Risk Manager  
[Abaylor@greenwoodsc.gov](mailto:Abaylor@greenwoodsc.gov)

## **Horry County** ***Sustained Excellence Award*** ***Outstanding Safety Achievement Award***

Following a serious injury several years ago, Horry County Fire & Rescue (HCFR) continues to seek safety improvements to help protect their first responders while working traffic incidents. Recognizing that roadway drivers are frequently distracted and often feel blinded or confused by emergency vehicle lighting, HCFR purchased pi-lit Smart Sequential



Road Flares and added them to all their front-line vehicles. These flare lighting systems are placed on the roadway surface to direct drivers on a safe path of travel. Drivers who feel blinded or confused by flashing vehicle lights can simply follow the sequential lighting of the road flares to navigate safely around emergency vehicles.

Throughout FY21, Horry





County first responders have had a number of close calls while working at traffic incidents. Unfortunately, one was fatally struck while in the roadway. It is of utmost importance that Horry County employees operate with vigilance in our roadways, but unfortunately, not all roadway users operate with that same level of awareness. HCFR researched



and chose this lighting system for its many benefits. First, it provides drivers with a runway-like approach light that can be

seen further in advance and is distinguishable from emergency vehicle lighting. Its Rapid Deployment System automatically turns on the flares when they are removed from the case. This is extremely helpful since first responders wear protective gloves. They are powered by lithium-ion batteries that have more than 20 hours of runtime. When necessary, flares are charged all at once in their dual-purpose carrying/charging case. The flares are water, dust, and crush resistant up to 50,000 pounds. Not only do the flares reduce the chances of secondary collisions, but they also do not create the added hazards that traditional flame flare sticks do. Because they are LED road flares, there is no fire danger, no toxic or harmful fumes, and they can be used at chemical spill incidents.

Debra Mumford, Risk Manager

[Mumfordd@horrycounty.org](mailto:Mumfordd@horrycounty.org)

Shelly Moore, Assistant Risk Manager

[MooreS@horrycounty.org](mailto:MooreS@horrycounty.org)

## **Kershaw County Outstanding Safety Achievement Award**

To help educate county employees and mitigate cyber security breaches, Kershaw County conducted training and implemented several cyber security initiatives. These included:

### **Insurance Purchase**

Administration and county council stepped up and provided the funds to purchase an additional \$3 million in coverage for the second year in a row.

### **On Going**

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)  
Segregation of end-of-life software from the network  
Backup separate from network or encrypted  
Tested backup restoration  
Designated CISO  
Process for software update or patches  
Incident response plan for network intrusions and/or virus incidents

## **Employee Training**

**Security Awareness Training, Internet Security for Employees** is an hour-long class taught by information security expert Roy Davis. It is part of our EnhanceU training program and was one of the first chosen for all departments. We reviewed several such classes before deciding on this one. Training, IT and risk management were involved. It covers password practices, Ransomware, mobile device usage and why securing your computer is important among other things. It is both practical and insightful.

### **Phishing testing**

We have a contract with Knowbe4. They randomly attempt phishing our employees on eight different levels. Even our IT department is in the dark as to when and how it will happen. Employees who “fail” are immediately assigned an online class. Information is shared with IT and department heads.

### **Nessus Security Solutions vulnerability scanner**

This purchased program allows the IT department to “attack” our system. This can be done as if someone was inside our system or as a predator trying to get inside our firewall. The program collects data, annualizes vulnerabilities, and suggest resolutions. This is done several times a year, at random and unannounced.

### **A Different Nessus Program**

This program is different from the one above in that it is specifically designed to test our Family Court records. This is identified as a “hot spot” because of the personal information stored there. The government sets standards for protection and this program makes sure we meet them.

### **Information Exchange with other counties**

We have joined the National Association of Counties Tech Exchange, both the free and the paid version. There is a constant exchange of ideas and information. Beside myself, the IT Director and the IT Department head are looped in. Mostly it is just constantly posting on my email, but from time to time I will see something or the IT guys will and share it. A few times we have forwarded information to Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Templar and they have engaged in the discussion.

### **Professional Development Academy Pandemic Cybersecurity Tabletop events**

The IT Director and I attended this zoom class two hours a day for five days with homework due every day. The scenario was that an offshore facility was compromised at the same time an employee had their laptop hacked through poor password management, all during a pandemic. All attendees had to contribute as each step was taken.

(Continued on next page)

## General Response Information

We have a “cheat sheet” that is stored as a paper copy because, if we need it, we may not have computer access. It is a work in progress.

The contact information for our response team:

1. The administrator and assistant administrator
2. The IT director and department heads
3. The risk manager
4. The county attorney
5. The Sheriff’s Office employee who will notify law enforcement if appropriate
6. The Public Information Officer

The Risk Manager contacts:

1. Insurance Company Representative
2. S.C. Association of Counties—John Henderson

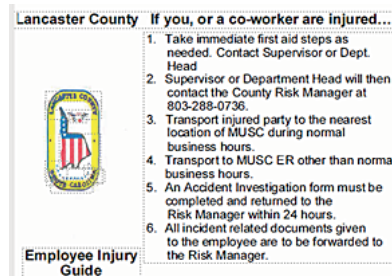
Any announcements are coordinated with the Association, Insurance carrier, and our attorney.

Barry Catoe, Risk Manager

[Barry.catoe@kershaw.sc.gov](mailto:Barry.catoe@kershaw.sc.gov)

## Lancaster County Sustained Excellence Award Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Lancaster County created an Employee Injury Guide card. The card is given out to each employee as they attend and complete new hire orientation. The copies they get are laminated and we offer multiple copies for each employee.



This has cut down on the number of care visits without authorization. It details for each employee the types of providers we have available for care. It specifically lets them know to contact their supervisor to report the accident or injury. It also lets them know care must be authorized and approved. It gives them the direct phone contact to the county risk manager if they have questions.

Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager

[Rwhitaker@lancastercountysc.net](mailto:Rwhitaker@lancastercountysc.net)

## Richland County Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

As Richland County Risk Management continues to grow, a conscience effort has been made to bring safety and claims into a more accessible platform for all members of the team. Previously, all safety audits were conducted using spreadsheet reports that often-made tracking of corrections tedious and time consuming. In 2019, the department moved to our Safety Inspection Management System (SIMS) developed in collaboration with our IT department that won an achievement award through SCAC. This gave our department the ability to real time track corrective actions and better protect our employees from injury.

Using this as catalyst, we once again teamed up with county IT to redevelop our injury and illness software to better serve our department. Combining safety and claims needs into one functional system and moving away from most spreadsheets. The system was updated with a new trending report that allows safety to track the different causes of injuries that occur by department or by the county as a whole. Previously, safety was required to manually check each entered case and tally the results by hand. In addition to the report, we also added a diary/activity section that allows users to input case activity performed on the file and time stamp for tracking purposes. A diary system was also added that allows users to schedule out future activity on the file. This function allows any authorized user to note files as



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they are being touched in real time. Implementation is designed to help reduce our days away and job-restricted days by actively working files in a timely fashion and stopping cases from slipping through the cracks.

Overall, the software is assisting with better tracking and trending methods for our injury reporting, as well as insuring that our employees are getting the best treatment available in a timely fashion so that we can reduce time away from the job.

Brittney Hoyle Terry, ESQ., Director Office of Risk Management  
[Hoyle.brittney@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:Hoyle.brittney@richlandcountysc.gov)

### **Spartanburg County Sustained Excellence Award Service Award**

Terry Booker, Risk Manager  
[Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org](mailto:Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org)  
**S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust Lag Time Awards**

Lancaster County Average Lag Time 1.17 Days  
Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager  
[Rwhitaker@lancastercountysc.net](mailto:Rwhitaker@lancastercountysc.net)

Saluda County Average Lag Time 1.29 Days  
Hardee Horne, Risk Manager  
[H.horne@saludacounty.sc.gov](mailto:H.horne@saludacounty.sc.gov)

McCormick County Average Lag Time 2.3 Days  
Crystal Barnes, Clerk to Council  
[Cbarnes@mccormickcountysc.org](mailto:Cbarnes@mccormickcountysc.org)

### **S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust Lag Time Awards**

Saluda County Average Lag Time 0 Days  
Hardee Horne, Risk Manager  
[H.horne@saludacounty.sc.gov](mailto:H.horne@saludacounty.sc.gov)

Lancaster County Average Lag Time .05 Days  
Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager  
[Rwhitaker@lancastercountysc.net](mailto:Rwhitaker@lancastercountysc.net)

Spartanburg County Average Lag Time .12 Days  
Terry Booker, Risk Manager  
[Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org](mailto:Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org)

*(Continued on next page)*

## ***Award Presentations ...***



**FLORENCE COUNTY RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**—Van Henson (left), SCAC risk manager, and Robert Benfield (right), SCAC director of risk management services, present an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award to Florence County. Accepting the award are: (center, left to right) Florence County Council Member Waymon Mumford, Risk Management Tech Charleen Conner, and Risk Manager Miranda Barber.



**S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust Experience Modifier Awards**

Spartanburg County Experience Modifier .54  
Terry Booker, Risk Manager  
[Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org](mailto:Tbooker@spartanburgcounty.org)

Calhoun County Experience Modifier .58  
Brandy Roberson, HR Director / Risk Manager  
[Broberson@calhouncounty.sc.gov](mailto:Broberson@calhouncounty.sc.gov)

Abbeville County Experience Modifier .59  
Barry Devore, Finance Director  
[Bdevore@abbevillecountysc.com](mailto:Bdevore@abbevillecountysc.com)



Accepting the 2nd Runner-Up Best Experience Modifier Award for Abbeville County are Abbeville County Director David Garner, and Finance Director Barry Devore.



Jerry Crolley, Berkeley County safety superintendent, and Christopher Gaskins, safety specialist, accept the Outstanding Safety Achievement Award, and Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award for Berkeley County.



Brandy Roberson, Calhoun County human resources director/risk manager, accepts the 1st Runner-Up Award for Best Experience Modifier.



George Welch, Colleton County risk manager, accepts an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Colleton County.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Florence County are Charlene Conner, Florence County risk management tech, and Miranda Barber, risk manager.



**Holley Causey, Georgetown County risk manager, accepts an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Georgetown County.**



**Anita Baylor, Greenwood County risk manager, accepts an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Greenwood County.**



**Barry Catoe, Kershaw County risk manager, accepts an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Kershaw County.**



**Mathew Drawdy, Richland County safety manager, accepts an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Richland County.**



**Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Horry County are: (left to right) Allison Mackey, Workers' Compensation claims manager; Shelley Moore, assistant risk manager; Doug Kline, assistant chief; Debra Mumford, risk manager; Angela Howell, safety manager; and Dal Wright, safety coordinator.**





Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Dorchester County are: (left to right) Daniel Prentice, chief financial officer; Nancy Johnson, director of risk management and safety; and Audrey Holzhauser, deputy director of risk management.

Accepting Lancaster County's 1st Place Lag Time Award for property and liability claims are: (left to right) Dennis Marstall, administrator; and Ryan Whitaker, risk manager.



Terry Booker, Spartanburg County risk manager, accepts two awards for Spartanburg County—Sustained Excellence in Risk Management, and Service Award. Booker also accepted a third award for the county, a 3rd Place Lag Time Award for workers' compensation claims reporting.



Accepting McCormick County's 3rd Place Lag Time Award for property and liability claims reporting are: (left to right) McCormick County Administrator Columbus Stephens, Assistant to the Administrator/Clerk to Council Crystal Barnes, and Council Chairman Charles Jennings.



Hardee Horne, Saluda County risk manager, accepts an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Saluda County. He also accepted a second award for the county, the 1st Place Lag Time Award for workers' compensation claims reporting.





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# Bamberg County Airport Dedicates Tobul Field in Memory of Longtime Local Businessman Joseph “Joe” Tobul

**Bamberg County Airport** hosted a dedication ceremony on March 22 to officially name the airport’s airfield (runway and maintenance area) Tobul Field in memory of longtime Bamberg County businessman Joseph “Joe” Tobul, and to honor the Tobul family. The airport opened in October of 1982.

Joe Tobul, CEO of Tobul Accumulators, selected the City of Bamberg to locate his plant in 1987 and later constructed a hangar at the airport. Flying a vintage F4U-Corsair called *Korean War Hero*, Tobul died when his aircraft crashed at an airshow on Nov. 10, 2002.

“Ultimately, it was his leadership and his influence through the many years in maintaining airport facilities that contributed to the airport’s success,” said Joey R. Preston, Bamberg County Administrator, who officiated the ceremony. “Joe Tobul and especially his son, Jim, also played a significant role in restoring and preserving several World War II aircraft.”

Several hundred people, including state and local dignitaries,

attended the ceremony.\*

Dr. Prince Brown, chairman of Bamberg County County Council, welcomed everyone.



A monument to Tobul Field, honoring Joseph “Joe” Tobul, was unveiled.

The Tobul family received a signed copy of the resolution dedicating the airfield in honor of the Tobul family, and framed copies of the original construction of the airport and the facility’s current master plan.

Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, Adjutant General, S.C. Military Department, presented Jim Tobul a flight jacket and a Bamberg County Airport challenge coin.

## Bamberg County Airport

Bamberg County Airport, which occupies 94-acres, has 3,603-foot-long, 60-foot-wide asphalt paved runway.



For the dedication ceremony, guests were seated inside a hangar. Dignitaries, including Bamberg County Council, sat on a stage facing the audience inside.



The airport's development has helped the county economic efforts. In fact, use of the airport has increased dramatically in recent years.

Forty aircraft arrived and departed the airport during 2015. Seven hundred aircraft arrived and departed the airport over a 12 month period ending on July 29, 2022.

Since Bamberg County Airport opened 40 years ago:

- Hangars and FBO buildings have been renovated, and new signage has been added.
- A modern lounge for pilots has been added to the airport terminal that features shower facilities, refreshments, a conference room capable of seating 20, video conferencing capabilities, and internet access.
- Thirty-five acres of trees have been removed, and property has been repurposed and leased to ensure agricultural control for the airport's operation.
- A new security monitoring system has been installed, and a new Foreign Object Debris/Runway Safety program has been established.

- A 24-hour Avgas self-service fueling system, has been added that provides the region's least-expensive fuel (guaranteed through AirNav).



**Jim Tobul, son of the late Joe Tobul, speaks after he and his mother, Nancy, unveil the monument dedicated to the late Joe Tobul.**

- Fixed Base Operator with the airport to offer charter services.
- Recently, Bamberg County has reduced the property tax on aircraft from 10.5 percent to 4 percent to help the airport grow, the lowest tax rate for aircraft within 50 miles.

"It's exciting to see all the improvements and the growing interest in our county airport," said Spencer Donaldson, chairman of the Bamberg County Council. "Of course, all of this would not be possible without the many decades of investment the Tobul family made in our airport and in our community, providing great employment opportunities for residents at Tobul Accumulators. It's only fitting that we dedicate our airfield in their honor."



*\*Among the dignitaries participating in the dedication ceremony were:*

*Dr. Willie Todd, President, Denmark Technical College; James Stephens, executive director, S.C. Aeronautics Commission; Terry Connorton, President, S.C. Aviation Association; Chuck Bundy, manager, Key Accounts & Special Projects, S.C. Department of Commerce; John Gibson, managing member, The Vireo Group; and Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, Adjutant General, S.C. Military Department; Rep. Justin Bamberg, House District 90; and Dr. James Clark, president, S.C. State University.*

*The following Bamberg County council members also participated: Council Chairman Spencer Donaldson; Council Vice Chairman, Dr. Jonathan Goodman II; and Council Members Phil Myers Jr., Sharon Hamond, Larry Haynes, Evert Comer Jr.; and Clint Carter.*



**Standing in front of Jim Tobul's vintage F4U-Corsair are: (left to right) Rob and Elaine Walter; Penelope Stillinger; Sean Tobul; Joanna Register; Jimmy Tobul; Shelley and husband, Jim Tobul; Nancy Tobul, wife of the late Joe Tobul; Julie Quillen and Christina Stillinger.**



# SCAC's *2022 Directory of County Officials*

SCAC's *2022 Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

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

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

- To order your copy of the *2022 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



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# A Roadside Guide to Florence County

## *The County's Role in the American War for Independence*

By Alexia Jones Helsley  
[www.historyismybag.com](http://www.historyismybag.com)

**F**lorence County lies between the Great Pee Dee and Lynches Rivers. European settlers began moving into the area in the 1730s. The early residents harvested trees for timber, raised cattle and cultivated indigo. In 1888, the S.C. General Assembly created Florence County from Clarendon, Darlington, Marion, and Williamsburg counties.

During the Revolutionary War, Snow's Island at the junction of the Great Pee Dee and Lynches River was one of the hidden sanctuaries of General Francis Marion, the famous "Swamp Fox." Today, many explore these waterways through the South Carolina Revolutionary Rivers paddling trail.

Snow's Island is a significant location for understanding the Revolution in South Carolina and especially the key role of Marion and other partisans in pushing the British from the state. Marion used Snow's Island, located in southeastern Florence County, as his headquarters and a supply depot during the winter of 1780-81. Archaeologist Stephen Smith suggests that Marion may have used the site as early as August 1780 when Marion assumed command of the Williamsburg Patriot militia at Witherspoon's Ferry. Although the exact location of Marion's camp or camps is not known, Smith identified the plantation of William Goddard as a possible site.

Snow's Island sits among the marshes of the Pee Dee and Lynches Rivers. The terrain was ideal for Marion's highly successful raiding tactics. The area was also an excellent launching pad for attacks on supply trains and in 1781 for a coordinated attack by Marion and Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee on British-held Georgetown. Major Revolutionary engagements within the bounds of modern Florence County occurred after the American surrender of Charlestown in May 1780 and include the Lynches Creek Massacre of December 1780, the attack on Marion's base camp on Snow's Island in March 1781, and the subsequent conflict at Witherspoon's Ferry in April 1781.

### **Lynches Creek "Massacre" (December 1780)**

In December 1780 (date unknown), Lt. Roger Gordon led a scouting foray for General Marion along the Lynches River. Gordon and his small party stopped at a house or inn for rest and refreshment. While there, a group of Loyalists commanded by a Captain Butler surprised the Patriots. In the ensuing conflict, the Loyalists set



the building on fire and offered Gordon "quarter" if he surrendered. Gordon and his men accepted the offer, exited the burning building and surrendered their weapons. At which point, in an egregious flouting of the rules of war, the Loyalists killed Butler and his scouts.

This incident earned Butler a reputation for cruelty and solidified Patriot/Loyalist enmity and intensified civil conflict in the Pee Dee region. Later, after the Battle of Bowling Green/Burch's Mill in

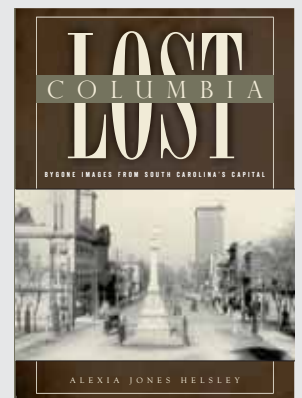
June 1782, Marion resisted calls to retaliate and instead offered the captured Loyalists clemency and the opportunity to fight for American independence.

*(Continued on next page)*

### ***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.



## Battle of Snow's Island (March 23/26, 1781)

In March 1781, the British, weary of Marion's success, launched a major offensive to locate and destroy Marion's camp/supply depot on Snow's Island. As a result, Colonel Francis, Lord Rawdon, dispatched Lt. Colonel Wellbore Ellis Doyle, and the New York Volunteers to march from Camden, locate and destroy Marion's base.

At the time of Doyle's march, Marion and a large Patriot force were occupied elsewhere. In mid-March, Marion and most of his troops engaged a British force under the command of Lt. Col. John Watson Tadwell-Watson at Blakely's Plantation in modern Williamsburg County. The two commanders exchanged often heated correspondence about the British failure to respect Marion's flag and Watson's request for a safe-conduct pass to enable wounded British troops to travel to Charlestown. Marion, despite provocation, did the honorable thing and granted safe conduct.

Ironically, while Marion was so engaged, despite his efforts to protect the Snow's Island location, Doyle and his force successfully navigated the swamps and located Marion's base camp. On March 23/26, the provincial troops attacked the few defenders under the command of Colonel Hugh Ervin. Marion's men were greatly outnumbered and according to some reports, many of them ill. Doyle's men killed seven and captured 15. The rest fled into the swamp. Doyle destroyed the camp and all of Marion's carefully hoarded supplies. As a result of the Doyle attack, Marion never rebuilt the camp nor used Snow's Island again.

Doyle, fearing Marion's return, hastily led his vulnerable troops in retreat. They retraced their steps, burned the Goddard Plantation

House, and camped at Witherspoon's Ferry.

## Witherspoon's Ferry (March 27/April 3, 1781)

While encamped on the north side of Lynches Creek on Witherspoon's Plantation, Doyle sent out foraging parties to locate needed supplies.

On April 3, Marion with about 70 men was camped at Indian-town. Learning of the destruction of the Snow's Island camp, an angry Marion dispatched Lt. Colonel Hugh Horry with a mounted force to pursue Doyle. Horry's men attacked and routed Doyle's foragers and pursued Doyle's men with heavy fire back to the ferry.

With reinforcements, Marion joined the pursuit. Unfortunately, Doyle abandoned or destroyed his baggage and successfully retreated to Camden.

## Aftermath

This was a low point for Marion and his troops. After months of hard fighting, the loss of the Snow's Island base seemed to many a "last straw." Marion, however, never lost sight of his goal and rallied his men to continue the fight.

At this junction, good news arrived—Lt. Colonel Henry Lee arrived with his command and much needed supplies. Major General Nathanael Greene had dispatched Lee and his Legion to coordinate with Marion and launch a major initiative to retake British held outposts.

This collaboration of Marion and Lee was a turning point in South Carolina's efforts to reclaim the state from British control. 



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

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

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

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

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

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



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*General Colin Powell*

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

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

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

*Clay Killian  
Aiken County (SC) Administrator*



## Counties Reporting in this Issue of County Update:

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

## Bamberg County

● PalmettoPride and the S.C. Litter Control Association have awarded Bamberg County a \$12,645 Keep S.C. Beautiful annual support grant. The grant, to be administered through Keep Bamberg County Beautiful and Bamberg County Code Enforcement offices, will fund litter prevention, enforcement, and education efforts through the county.

● Bamberg County's annual audit report (June 30, 2021 financial statement) recently earned an unmodified (clean) opinion from an independent auditing firm, the highest level opinion a municipality or county can receive.

● Bamberg County Airport hosted a ceremony on March 22 to officially name the airfield Tobul Field in memory of longtime Bamberg County businessman and aviation enthusiast, the late **Joseph "Joe" O. Tobul**, CEO of Tobul Accumulators in Bamberg, and to honor the Tobul family.

● Bamberg County has received a \$1.5 million grant from the S.C. Department of Commerce to support the construction of the Ed Darnell Law Enforcement Center. The facility is named in honor of former Bamberg County Sheriff **Ed Darnell**, the longest serving sheriff in South Carolina and third-longest serving sheriff in the nation,

before his retirement in 2021.

● Bamberg County recognized local pharmacist **Donna G. Avant**, R.Ph., and Ehrhardt Pharmacy as official ambassadors of the county on January 28.

Ehrhardt Pharmacy has provided health-care education and medication management free of charge to customers and surrounding communities for many years.

In 2020, Avant launched a telehealth program so customers could connect virtually to their health care providers from the pharmacy. Because of her innovative leadership in rural healthcare, she was named the 2021 Pharmacist of the Year by the S.C. Pharmacy Association.

● **Dr. Jonathan Goodman**, Bamberg County Council vice chair, honored Bamberg's state champion baseball team in January. He sponsored a resolution, approved by the Bamberg County Council, to honor Bamberg's state champion baseball team, which defeated St. George at the state tournament in Orangeburg in July. The team then traveled to Laurel, Miss., to compete in the Dixie Youth Division 2 Baseball World Series and won third place.

## Charleston County

● Daye North America, a subsidiary of Ningbo Daye Garden Machinery Company, announced plans in March to expand operations in Charleston County. The company,

founded in 2017, is located in North Charleston. The \$3.5 million investment is expected to create 131 new jobs.

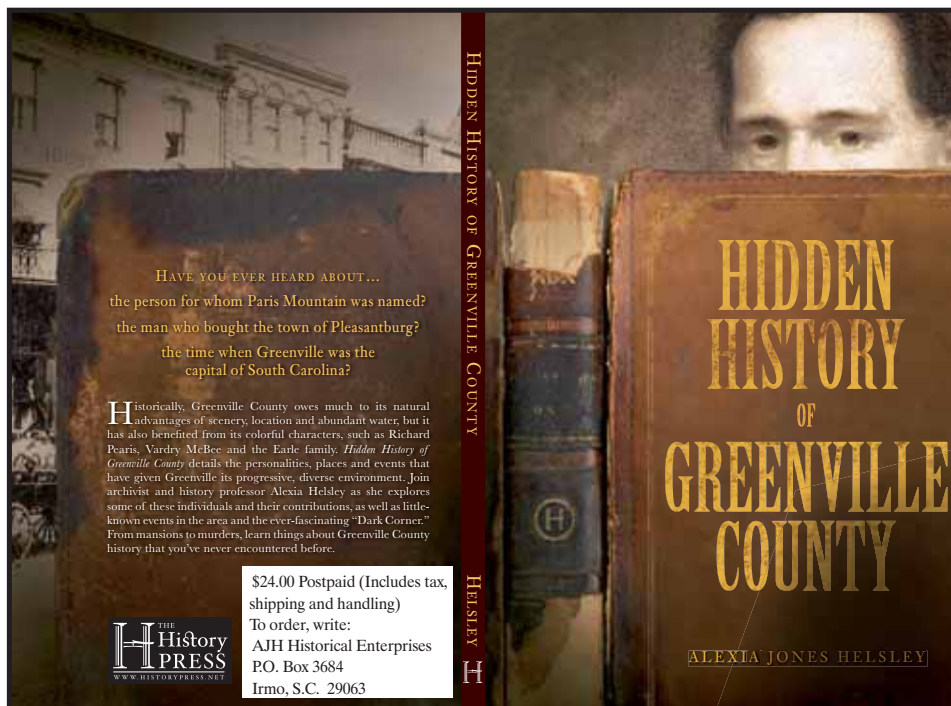
● Bintelli LLC, a manufacturer and distributor of mopeds, scooters and electric vehicles, announced plans in March to expand operations in Charleston County. The company, headquartered in Charleston, is expected to invest \$455,000 and create 72 new jobs.

● MSC USA, the U.S. cargo shipping arm of MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company, a global leader in transportation and logistics, announced plans in February to expand its Charleston County operations. The company, located in Mount Pleasant, is expected to invest more than \$13.7 million and create 135 new jobs.

● Charleston County's Counter Threat Project Coordinator, **Lauren Knapp**, was the keynote speaker at an international conference about hate crimes, held virtually Feb. 9. Numerous speakers from hate crime units across Canada, as well as top hate crime investigators from internal police agencies, focused on several key issues involving hate crime policing. Knapp was hired as the counter threat project coordinator for Charleston County Department of Public Safety in June 2020.

● Allegiance Flag Supply, a producer of high-quality American flags, announced plans in January to expand operations in Charleston County. The company is expected

*(Continued on next page)*





to invest \$1.2 million and create 25 new jobs.

- Charleston County Council honored Consolidated 911 Center staff on January 18 for receiving national reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in the communications program. The award, presented in November, comes after a multi-year self-assessment phase and a meticulous site-based assessment of community engagement, policy, procedures, equipment, and facilities by CALEA assessors. This is the center's third national accreditation award.

- Charleston County announced in January that it had hired **Joe Coates** to serve as director of the Emergency Management Department. Coates began working with the county in 2008, and has served as interim director for Emergency Management since July 2021. He received his bachelor's degree in Emergency and Disaster Management from American Military University.

- Ability Tri-Modal announced in December that it was expanding operations in Charleston County, and planning to invest more than \$24 million and create 27 new jobs. The company, located in North Charleston, provides warehousing and distribution services to con-

sumers for bi-coastal service. The company also specializes in trans-loading, consolidation and de-consolidation, retail delivery and a variety of other value-added services.

- Belimed Life Science, Inc., a leading supplier of steam sterilizers and parts washers, announced plans in December to establish operations in Charleston County. The company, located in North Charleston, is expected to invest more than \$750,000 and create 22 new jobs.

- Beyond Distilling Company, a craft spirit and distilling company, announced plans in December to establish operations in Charleston County. The company, located in North Charleston, produces world-class spirits emphasizing both local and exotically sourced ingredients of the highest quality, reimagining classic recipes with a unique twist. The company is expected to invest more than \$767,000 investment and create 63 new jobs.

- Charleston County recognized the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program during National Community Development Week, held April 11-15, 2022. The week-long celebration brought together citizens, program staff,

partnering organizations, and beneficiaries through events that recognize and showcase the local programs supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The county highlighted both programs during National Community Development Week at several locations across the county.

## Chesterfield County

- Chesterfield County recently hired Libby Lear as Chesterfield County Economic Development Director. Lear, a Chesterfield County native, has worked in the private sector for more than 30 years, and held a variety of positions in industry in the Upstate. She is a graduate of Furman University and Chesterfield High School.

## Dorchester County

- Dorchester County recently announced a public-private partnership with Home Telecom and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative (PRTC) that will expand high-speed internet access to the western part of the county over the next three years. The

*(Continued on next page)*



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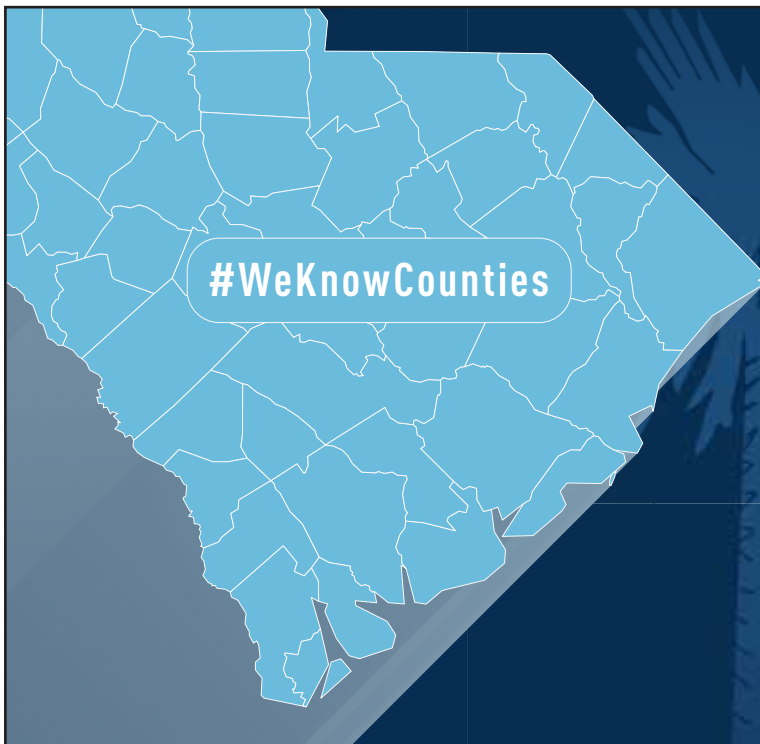
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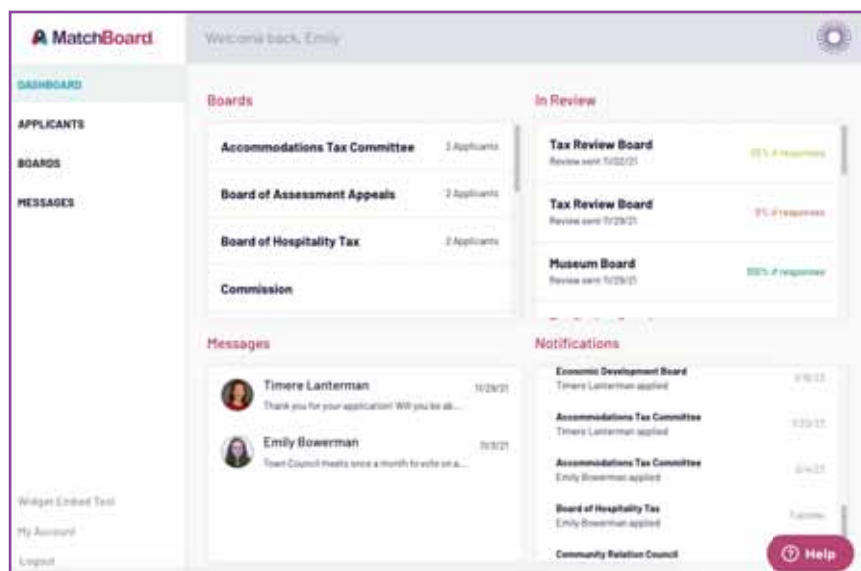
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goal is to help close the technology gap for many of the county's rural residents who have historically had extremely limited options for accessing the internet.

The \$17.1 million investment is subsidized through matching funds provided by Home Telecom and PRTC along with a maximum grant of \$8.5 Million from the American Rescue Plan Act. This partnership will result in 325 miles of buried fiber to more than 4,100 homes that currently do not have access to adequate high-speed internet service. Both vendors will be able to offer a high-quality fiber network that provides extremely fast download and upload speeds of up to one Gbps (1024 Mbps). The project will be implemented in five phases over the next three years.

● Dorchester County's new Ashley River Park officially opened on March 19. The 83-acre park, located along the Ashley River off Bacon's Bridge Road, features playgrounds, two picnic shelters, a splash pad, fishing pond, riverside walking trail, kayak launch, two dog parks, and an event pavilion. Designed with community input, the park was created to be a dynamic and engaging space where family and friends can gather, celebrate, connect, and enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

Ashley River Park, located at 200 Renken Road in Summerville, is a product of the 2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which defined the role of Dorchester County Parks with a goal of creating a first-class parks system. In 2010, voters approved a bond referendum for parks and conservation which later allowed the county to purchase the 306 acres in the Pine Trace community as well as foreclosed property along the Ashley River.

### Georgetown County

● **Joey Manigault**, who has served as a community specialist in the county's Parks and Recreation Department since 1989, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of S.C. Basketball Association at a ceremony on May 7 in Columbia.

● The Georgetown County Airport and its Fixed Base Operator (FBO) were recently recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration for efforts to increase safety. The FAA presented certificates in January to Airport Manager **Jim Taylor** and **Barry Brock** of the FBO, Seven Rivers Aviation, in honor of the achievement.



● Georgetown County Sheriff **Carter Weaver** recognized the sheriff's office's employees of the Year on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day:

Deputy of the Year—**Lt. Matthew Grayson** for 39 years of stellar service. Grayson, who currently serves as a lieutenant in the Civil Process Division, previously served in other positions, including as patrol deputy and sergeant.

Detention Center Employee of the Year—Sgt. **Brittany Byers**, credited for her motivation to make the detention center run more efficiently and effectively. She was also recognized as one of the best trained and intuitive sergeants at the detention center, and lauded for her willingness to learn, eagerness for growth, her can-do attitude and calm demeanor.

Telecommunicator of the Year—**Susie Tuck**, who was recognized for her highly caring and productive 33 years service. She has served in numerous positions, including as dispatcher, lead dispatcher, and Operations Supervisor.

● **Judy Blankenship**, Georgetown County Planning Department's senior planner, was recently named the county's Employee of the Quarter for the second time. Blankenship is one of only two employees ever to receive the highly competitive honor twice. She joined the Planning Department in 2008 and has made herself invaluable to the department, earning a promotion to senior planner last year. Blankenship is known for her well-established relationships with surveyors and engineers across the county, and shows tremendous patience in dealing with customers of all types, from residents to developers and attorneys.


● Battalion Chief **Jeff Pifer** of Midway Fire Rescue was recognized in January as Georgetown County's Manager of the Year for 2021. He has been with Midway since 1997, and currently serves in the department's Operations Division. Pifer is a tenured and respected member of the Department, who has demonstrated his dedication to Midway and the community in numerous ways through the years.

● Georgetown County recognized two outstanding individuals for volunteer services in January: **Allen Welch**, a volunteer with Midway Fire-Rescue for the last six years, was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for 2021; and **Harold West**, an employee of

Georgetown County's Public Works Department, who is also a longtime volunteer with Georgetown County Fire-EMS, who was recognized at Employee Volunteer of the Year

for 2021.


● Sheriff **Carter Weaver**, on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, introduced  
(Continued on next page)



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

## Conference Calendar

<b>Aug. 1 &amp; 2</b> .....	<b>Institute of Government</b>
<b>Aug. 3 &amp; 4</b> .....	<b>Annual Conference</b> Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms
<b>Aug. 17</b> .....	<b>Setoff Debt/GEAR</b> DoubleTree, Columbia
<b>Oct. 5</b> .....	<b>Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers</b> Embassy Suites, Columbia
<b>Oct. 19</b> .....	<b>Institute of Government</b>
<b>Oct. 20</b> .....	<b>County Council Coalition</b> Embassy Suites, Columbia
<b>Nov. 18</b> .....	<b>S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute</b> Virtual
<b>Dec. 1 &amp; 2</b> .....	<b>Legislative Conference</b> AC Hotel, Greenville
<b>Dec. 8</b> .....	<b>Newly Elected County Officials</b> DoubleTree, Columbia



**NACo's 2022  
Conference Calendar**

**Annual Conference**  
**Adams County, Colorado**  
**July 21 - 24**

a new Sheriff's Chaplain Program. The program's four chaplains are: the Rev. **Kenny Johnson** of Ringel Heights Baptist Church, Bishop **John Smith Jr.** of Greater Bible Way Church, Pastor **Greg Van Dyke** of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, and Pastor **Josue Sierra** of First Assembly of God Emmanuel. The Rev. Johnson was a longtime coroner for Georgetown County, before his retirement a year ago.

- The oldest flying club in the nation, the S.C. Breakfast Club, met at the Georgetown County Airport on Feb. 20. Approximately 100 people attended the event, including pilots who flew their own aircraft. Club members travel to a different airport in the state for breakfast every Sunday, but did not meet at the airport last year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

### Horry County

- Horry County staff presented on February 28 the popular Annual Financial Report, a condensed version of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report that is designed to convey important information about the

County's finances in a manner that is easily accessible and readily understandable. This is the first year the county has created this accompanying report, and it was produced based on the guidelines provided by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

### Lancaster County

- The S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association (SCLEOA) named Lt. **Christine "Christy" M. Rogers** of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office the SCLEOA Officer of the Year for 2021 at a ceremony, held on November 19 in Myrtle Beach. The award recognizes accomplishments of the recipient that improve the quality of life of the citizens of the community that she serves and acts of heroism in the line of duty. Lt. Rogers has been employed by the sheriff's office for more than 24 years and has worked her way through the ranks from patrol deputy to investigator and now supervises the Crime Scene and Evidence Unit. She is a graduate of the National Forensic Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee.

- The SCLEOA awarded Lancaster County Sheriff **Barry S. Faile** the association's 2021 Jackie Swindler Award for Ethics and Excellence in Law Enforcement. Sheriff Faile has spent his entire 32-year law enforcement career with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. He began as a patrol deputy and progressed through the ranks of criminal investigator, narcotics investigator, multi-jurisdictional drug task force commander, patrol captain, chief deputy, and now sheriff for the last 13 years.

### Laurens County

- Lt. Governor **Pamela Evette** kicked off the Grab A Bag SC spring campaign at a litter pickup event in Laurens County on March 30. Grab A Bag SC encourages citizens to get out into their communities and pick up litter from March 30 through April 2. PalmettoPride is coordinating the statewide campaign on behalf of the Lt. Governor's Office. The kickoff on March 30, 2022, was a media event and a cleanup. PalmettoPride and special event co-hosts Laurens County Chamber and Keep Laurens County Beautiful.

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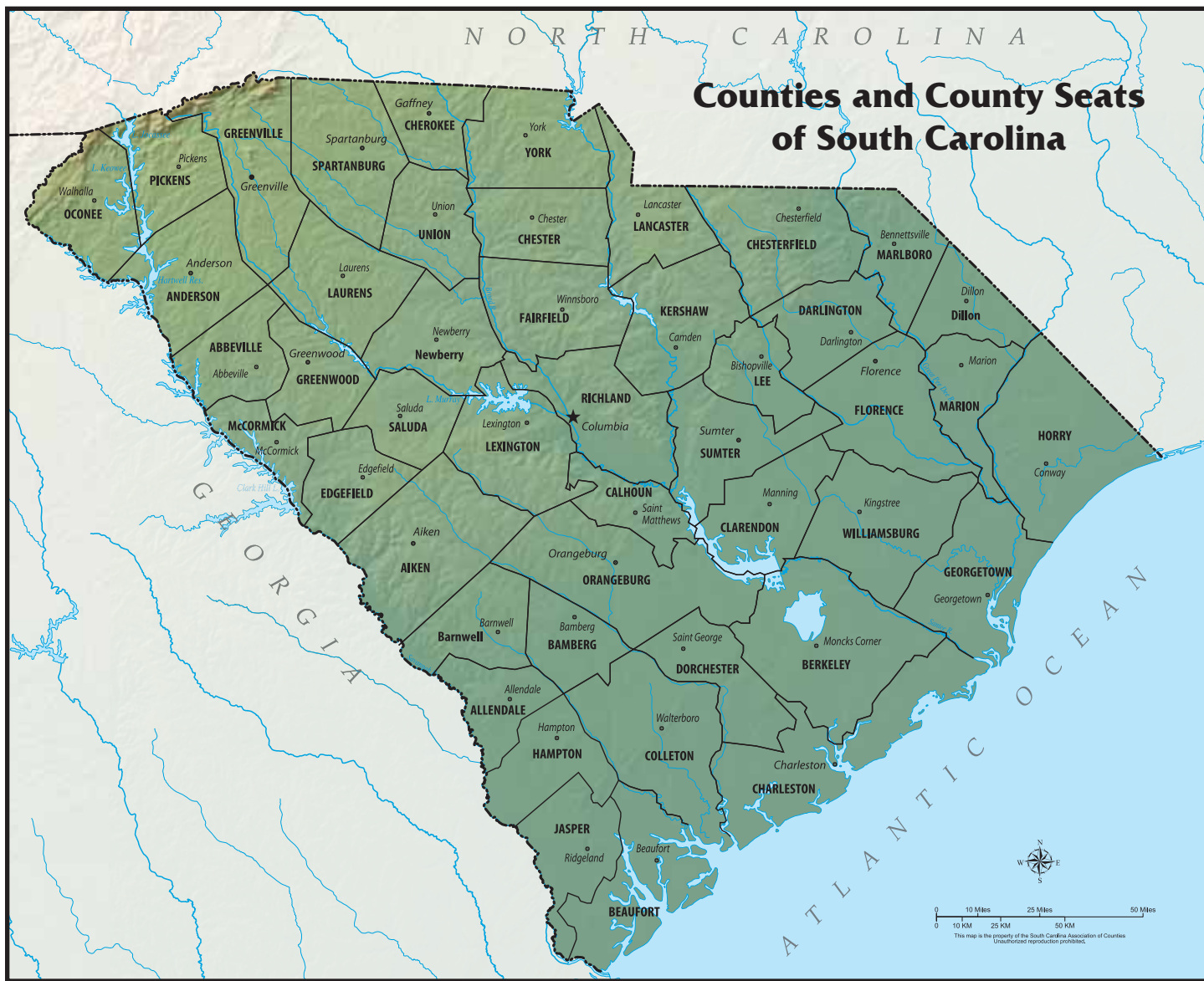
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The Lt. Governor is challenging elected officials to “grab a bag” and coordinate efforts in their districts. The S.C. Department of

Transportation will host their annual spring cleanup to coincide with Grab A Bag. Joining Lt. Governor and PalmettoPride were Secretary of Transportation **Christy Hall**, Laurens

County Chamber of Commerce President **Amanda Munyan**, and Keep Laurens County Beautiful coordinator, **Courtney Stonell**.

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Pickens County

- Pickens County celebrated the grand opening of the Grant Meadow Overlook on

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March 18. Located at 4750 SC-11, Pickens, the park provides a safe environment to stop, rest on a park bench, and appreciate the iconic view of the most photographed natural feature in our state: Table Rock Mountain. In addition, the 26th South Carolina Historical Marker was unveiled to tell the story of this historic site.

- Pickens County Collaboration Manager **Jessica Varney** was named a Hometown Hero by Shaw Air Force Base for service to the community as Team Lead for the SAMHSA-funded Crisis Intercept Mapping (CIM) for Suicide Prevention initiative focused on Service Members, Veterans, and the Families (SMVF), in collaboration with the SC Governor's Challenge for Suicide Prevention

team and the SC Department of Veterans Affairs. Varney was also selected by the U.S. States Air Force Thunderbirds for a Hometown Hero flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon. The Pickens County SMVF CIM work is ongoing as the team of local, regional, and statewide stakeholders continues to meet monthly to share resources and continue progress on the identified action items. Pickens County recently launched their Gun Lock Pilot Program to distribute these protective tools and safety plans to prevent suicides.

- The Pickens County Airport Playground officially opened on April 12 in conjunction with a local business on the site, The Scoop Ice Cream Parlor. The new handicap accessible playground includes the county's first Brava Universal Swing. The swing is designed for those with disabilities, allowing them to use whatever part of their body they are most comfortable using to create a swinging movement. It is also designed to mimic stimming behaviors so children on the autism spectrum can participate in an activity that is comfortable and calming for them. The playground features airplane-themed playground equipment and a beautiful view to watch as planes take off and land.

## York County

- **Rick Jantzen** recently retired as York County tax assessor. 

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