

## 2002 Local Government Symposium “Property Taxes: Can’t Live With Them; Can’t Live Without Them”

**M**ark your Calendars. The Appalachian Council of Governments will be sponsoring the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Symposium for City and County Council Members on **Thursday, May 2, 2002**. The event will be held at the Woodside Conference Center at the Palmetto Expo Hall in Greenville from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served.

This year’s topic will address South Carolina’s local property tax. Speakers will be discussing pending property tax



**legislation, county-wide reassessment, the impact of business incentives, and school taxes.** During the course of the evening, council members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters, as well as to hear from neighboring local governments.

The purpose of the Symposium is to provide an educational forum for elected policymakers from across the Upstate. City and county administrators and managers are also welcome to attend. Previous topics have included video poker, sexually oriented businesses, alternative revenue sources, and a number of other political, financial and administrative issues.

Registration forms are currently being mailed to city clerk-treasurers and county clerks to council. Registration fees of \$20 per person will include dinner. For registration questions,



please contact Mia Bauer at 864-242-9733, or e-mail her at

## Grants Available for Dementia Day Programs

The Brookdale Foundation Group has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the startup of social model group respite programs for people with Alzheimer’s disease and their family caregivers. In November 2002, the Foundation will be awarding up to 15 seed grants of \$7,500 for new, dementia-specific group respite programs. Any 501(c)(3), or equivalent not-for-profit health or social service agency, wishing to develop a social model day program for Alzheimer’s families is invited to apply. Applications should be based on *How to Start and Manage a Group*

*(Grants continued on page 4)*

## Grants Services Hires Project Manager



The Grants Services Division of the COG has hired a new Project Manager to administer Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and other grant-funded projects. Jennifer Vissage joined the staff on March 1, filling the position left vacant when Dianna Gracely resigned to become the City Administrator in Landrum.

Jennifer received a B.S. degree in Community and Rural Development and a Master’s degree in City and Regional Planning from Clemson University. Prior to joining the COG staff, she worked as a planner for the Spartanburg County Community and Economic Development Department. During the 2000-2001 school year, Jennifer was an intern in the ACOG’s Planning Services Department. Her internships have included a Planning Intern for the Greenwood County/City Planning Department, Student Intern with the Anderson and Spartanburg District Offices of USDA – Rural

*(Vissage continued on page 2)*

## WHS Wins ARC Entrepreneurship Education Award

Walhalla High School (WHS) was one of six award winners from the 13-state Appalachian region to receive recognition for an innovative entrepreneurship education program. The award was presented by the Washington, D. C. based Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

In the program, students prepare business ideas that are submitted to an "EntreBoard" made up of community-based business leaders. Based on their review, the EntreBoard decides whether to provide resources to back the proposed venture. If approved, the class researches all aspects of owning and operating a business, dividing responsibilities among themselves. Once research is complete, the class opens the business venture and continues monitoring progress, addressing problems, and making changes where necessary. According to Harriet Templin, Entrepreneurship Director for Walhalla High School, the program promotes higher order thinking, and students are encouraged to "think outside the box."

The award was presented March 18th at the annual conference of the Development District Association of Appalachia in Washington, D. C. Receiving the award for Walhalla High School were Entrepreneurship Director Harriet Templin and students Michael Waller and Kevin Robinson.

Also attending the conference from South Carolina were Dozier Brooks, Chairman of the S. C. Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG); his wife, Judy Brooks; Eddie Wynn, Vice Chairman of ACOG; his wife, Mabel Wynn; Dr. Bob Nash, Past Chairman of ACOG; Bob Strother, ACOG Executive Director; Steve Pelissier, ACOG



Planning Director; Dirk Reis, ACOG Grants Director; and Amy Prosser,



## Small Business Opportunities in Anderson County



Anderson County officials recognize the importance of small businesses and have initiated steps to assist the development and expansion of small businesses in the county. Representatives from several agencies, including the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, Clemson University, the Anderson County Economic Development Division, the Anderson

County Development Partnership and the Appalachian Council of Governments were assembled to assist Anderson County formulate these strategies. The Appalachian Council of Governments compiled information from each agency to generate a list of activities that may be used to assist small business development in Anderson County. The activities include:

- Developing a list of contacts for the various programs available to small business interests,
- Making information more readily accessible to small business interests,
- Including small business resource information on the Anderson County web site,
- Making small business resource information available at the Anderson County Administration Building and the Anderson Area Chamber office,
- Pooling employees of small businesses to allow for more manageable health care opportunities for small businesses,
- Sponsoring information and training sessions for small business interests,
- Sponsoring a small business incubator program, and Sponsoring a seminar targeted at small business during Industry Appreciation Week.

These strategies will be presented to Anderson County Council for their review and consideration. Please contact Shawn Colin at the Appalachian Council of Governments for additional

*(Vissage continued from page 1)*

Development, and an Economic Development Intern for the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of both the National American Planning Association and the South Carolina American Planning

## GIS Used to Determine Boundary Dispute

Local governments in the Upstate are accustomed to the use of geographic information systems (GIS) in managing property information, planning for roads and utilities, and assisting with E-911 routing. GIS can also serve as an innovative tool to settle land management disputes.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology recently played a vital role in settling a boundary dispute between New York and New Jersey before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1834 a compact was signed between the two states that fixed the state boundary line for Ellis Island at the middle of the Hudson River and New York Bay. The compact gave New York full rights to the land above water while the submerged land was given to New Jersey. At the time, the island measured only 2.74 acres in size. Over time, however, massive filling of submerged land resulted in the expansion of Ellis Island to its current size of 27.5 acres.

When the State of New Jersey petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993 to settle the dispute, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) used GIS technology to assist the Attorney General in preparing the case. To determine the claimed boundary line, the NJDEP used GIS technology to transfer information from historic maps showing the "pre-filling" mean waterline to the NJDEP geographic information system.

Utilizing this GIS data, New Jersey argued that New York's sovereign authority of the island was limited to the 2.74 natural island. The High Court decided that the low-level waterline, instead of the mean waterline would be used to delineate jurisdiction. GIS was consequently used to prepare a

revised boundary map giving New York jurisdiction over 4.68 landlocked acres of the island, and sovereign authority over the remaining 22.80 acres of the island to New Jersey.

Although the Upstate region has not witnessed the use of GIS in such a high profile context, the region does benefit significantly from this technology. The Information Services Department offers a wide range of services using the powerful tools of Geographic Information Systems. We have developed a comprehensive database of digital map layers ranging in scale from city parcels to state boundaries. Through the use of GIS, we can create thematic maps that turn dry tables into color pictures. Radius and demographic reports use GIS technology to generate a comprehensive statistical summary of a client-specified area. For more information on GIS services available through the COG, contact the Information Services Department at 242-9733.

Excerpts taken from [ArcUser](#), October-December, 1999, "Where is

## Prime of Life Festival 2002

Today's senior adults are aging more gracefully than ever before. They are enjoying healthier, more active lifestyles filled with travel, fitness, educational endeavors, the pursuit of new hobbies, and more. As a result, many companies and organizations are developing new marketing strategies to effectively reach the 50+ market. For this reason, the "Prime of Life Festival" provides an excellent opportunity for companies to reach this important demographic.

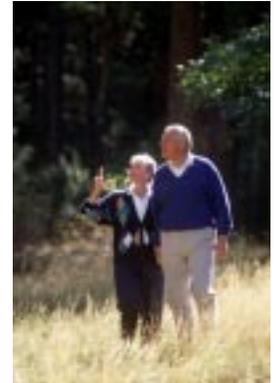
The "Prime of Life Festival" targets the 50+ market of Upstate South Carolina, Western North Carolina, and Georgia. As the only senior business expo of this caliber in the area, the event provides an opportunity for senior adults to receive valuable information (about health-related issues, financial planning, insurance options, leisure activities, and more) and receive health screenings all in one convenient location. Because of this, the Festival offers a chance for businesses to showcase their products and services to the 50+ segment of the population.

Now entering its sixth year, the Prime of Life Festival (previously called the Prime of Life Expo) is an annual event that has attracted an average of 3,500 attendees each year. The 2002 Festival, however, will feature an extended focus on 40- to 50-year-olds (many of whom make decisions for or serve as caregivers for their senior family members) in order to attract more individuals (and more exhibitors) to the event.

The Prime of Life Festival will be held Thursday, May 9, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at McAlister Square, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, S. C. Admission to the Festival is free and open to the public. For additional information, please contact Carla Davidson, Marketing Director for Senior Action, at (864)

### FACT

Spartanburg County contains 13 of the region's 43 municipalities; its neighbor, Cherokee County, contains only 2 incorporated municipalities.



## Help the Long Term Care Ombudsman Stop Elder Abuse!!



### WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and the disabled continue to increase. Family violence and institutional violence is a tragedy you can help prevent. Indicators of abuse include:

### PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury
- Passive, withdrawn, and emotionless behavior
- Injuries that appear after the person has not been seen for several days
- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns

### NEGLECT

- Obvious malnutrition
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Obvious fatigue and listlessness
- Begs for food
- In need of mental, medical, or dental care

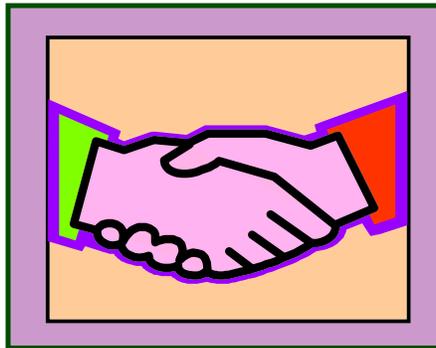
### FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Sudden inability to pay bills, buy food or personal care items
- Repossession of personal belongings, such as a TV, furniture, etc.\*

**IF YOU NOTICE THESE SYMPTOMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN TOLL FREE:**

Anderson County	225-3268
Cherokee County	489-6960
Greenville County	242-9733
Oconee County	882-7538
Pickens County	855-0163
Spartanburg County	582-1403

## Appalachian Development Corporation Loans



The loans approved at the January Board meeting to Kilgore Holdings, LLC, and Friendly's Scrubmobiles, Inc., have both been funded. Kilgore Holdings is purchasing a building to be used for artists' studios in the Brandon Mills area. Friendly's Scrubmobiles is in Inman, South Carolina, and is acquiring additional inventory to expand.

The ADC has had an SBA 504 loan approved by the Small Business Administration to provide permanent funding for two new Long John Silver Seafood Restaurants, to be located in Gaffney and Greer. The funding of \$285,200 through the ADC will complement First South Bank's primary funding of this \$713,000 project. The principal, Michael Kern, owns other Long John Silver locations

in the Upstate and in North Carolina. The project should be complete and ready for funding by the third quarter of 2002.

In Greenville, the ADC has had an SBA 504 loan approved by the Small Business Administration to provide permanent funding for a new Bruster's Ice Cream building to be located in the Berea area on White Horse Road. The ADC funding of \$248,000 will complement BankAmerica's primary funding of this \$620,000 project. The principal, Tim Brady, owns a Bruster's location in Easley that the ADC helped fund. This location's success has led to seeking the additional site. The project should be complete and ready for funding by the third quarter of 2002.



*(Grants continued from page 1)*

*Activities and Respite Program for People with Alzheimer's and Their Families*, a manual for community-based organizations available free of charge from The Brookdale Foundation.

Proposals are due at The Brookdale Foundation offices in New York by Thursday, July 11, 2002. Award announcements will be made in September.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the RFP for the 2002 Brookdale National Group Respite Program grant initiative or would like a free copy of *How to Start and Manage a Group Activities and Respite Program for People with Alzheimer's and Their Families*, please contact Evelyn Yuen, TA Resources Manager, Brookdale National Group Respite Program, 2320 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704, phone (510) 540-6734, fax (510) 540-



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**VIEWPOINT**

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