

## SCDOT Enhancement Grants 2005: *It's Never Too Early to Start Planning*

**T**he S. C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Transportation Enhancement Grant Program does not officially begin until mid-January, but now is the time for local governments to begin thinking about the program. Commonly known as Enhancement Grants, these grants fund community improvement projects that have a relationship to transportation. Most recently, the municipalities of Central, Clemson, Honea Path, Landrum, Pickens, and Greenville County have used the grants for improvements such as streetscaping, intersection beautification, and historic preservation. For jurisdictions in rural (non-MPO) areas, the SCDOT announces the application process in January, with an application deadline in the spring. The SCDOT is currently updating the timetable for this program.

There are 12 eligible Transportation Enhancement Grant categories, which are:

1. Provisions of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. Safety and educational activities (pedestrians and bicyclists).
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
4. Scenic or historic highway program (tourist and welcome center facilities).
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
6. Historic preservation.
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities.



*The Town of Landrum has used Enhancement Grants to improve its downtown.*

8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors.
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
10. Archeological planning and research.
11. Mitigation of water pollution due to highway run-off or reduction of vehicle caused wildlife mortality while maintaining connectivity.
12. Establishment of transportation museums.

The maximum amount of funding a jurisdiction can receive is \$200,000. Grants require a 20 percent local match. The SCDOT will institute an education program to assist local jurisdictions with the necessary information to apply for the grants. At these workshops, the SCDOT will explain the Enhancement Grant application process, identify which organizations can apply for the grants, review the timeline for submittal, and answer any questions that participants may have. The Appalachian COG will host an Enhancement Grant workshop in early 2005.

Look for more updates con-

*(SCDOT Grants continued on page 4)*

## Oconee County Hires An Administrator

After an intensive six-month search, Oconee County hired Mr. Ron Rabun, a former city and county administrator with 26 years of local government experience.

Ron assumed his new position in September.



**Ron Rabun joins the County team.**

In early 2004,

Oconee County officially changed from the Council-Supervisor to the Council-Administrator form, and the county council immediately began looking for its first permanent administrator. Council contracted with the Appalachian Council of Governments to conduct the executive search. After reviewing 90 resumes, including many highly qualified applicants, conducting thorough background checks and multiple interviews, the Council chose Ron.

Ron has served in numerous city and county executive positions in Georgia, Florida, and Washington. Ron's last assignment was as City Manager of Milledgeville, Georgia. He has a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Georgia and brings a wealth of financial, planning, and management experience to Oconee County. He and his wife, Phyllis, have already purchased land and are settling in for a long stay.

## Housing Survey Identifies Central Business District as a Beacon for Upscale Multi-Family Developments

The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments has completed research and production of the *2004 Greenville County Multi-Family Housing Survey*. This unique report contains an inventory and analysis of all known conventional and “income-dependent” apartment properties with 40 or more units, and all townhouse/condominium properties with 15 or more units. The report also includes a subcategory for elderly housing. The report provides an overall analysis of occupancy rates for rental units, along with an overall summary of initial sale rates for townhouse and condominium units. Unit counts, pricing information, year of construction, amenities, and contact information are also presented for each multi-family property. Information for this publication is obtained from letters and phone calls to apartment managers, rental agencies, and developers.

Widespread construction of townhouse and condominium units continues. Since 1999, the inventory of this unit type has increased by almost 80 percent. Low mortgage interest rates and the tax benefit of home ownership have contributed significantly to this trend. Greenville’s downtown area continues to be a beacon for upscale multi-family developments. In 2004, one-third of the total new townhouse and condominium units were constructed downtown. A number of high-end developments have recently been completed in the vicinity of Greenville’s central business district, and even more projects are on the horizon. A wealth of cultural and recreational amenities such as the Peace Center for the Performing Arts and the newly reopened Reedy River Falls Historic Park, together with abundant downtown dining and entertainment options will undoubtedly encourage a continuation of this trend.

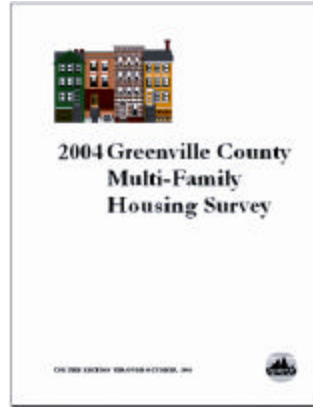
Greenville County is by far the

region’s dominant conventional apartment market. The

2004 conventional unit inventory exceeds 20,000 units. Since 2000, however, the ongoing growth of the condominium and townhouse market has resulted in a steady decrease in the overall occupancy rate of rental units. The 2003 conventional occupancy rate of 90.8 percent was the lowest in 12 years, and 2004 saw the rate increase only slightly to 91.4 percent. Northwest Greenville County reported the highest percentage of vacant units, with an occupancy rate of only 89.0 percent.

Although funding for public and subsidized housing continues to be limited, the tax advantage offered to individuals, partnerships, corporations, for-profit and nonprofit organizations for the construction and rehab of low-income tax credit units will undoubtedly encourage the growth of the “income-dependent” unit inventory. This ongoing attention to Low Income Tax Credit units offers another housing option for low-income tenants. Since 1988, Greenville County has seen over 1,500 multi-family units awarded Low Income Tax Credits.

The Appalachian Council of Governments produces this one-of-a-kind survey annually for Greenville County and biennially for Anderson and Spartanburg Counties. For more information, or to purchase a copy of this publication, please contact the Information Services Department at 242-9733. This report is also available for online purchase at [www.scacog.org](http://www.scacog.org) by clicking on the “Publications” link.



## Ombudsman Corner

### The Right to Information

Besides giving residents a copy of their rights on admission to the nursing home, the facility must provide other kinds of information, including material that explains:

- \* services available in the facility;
- \* state laws regarding living wills, durable powers of attorney for healthcare and other forms of advanced directives, along with the facility’s policy on carrying out these directives;
- \* all matters related to financial charges, including a list specifically indicating what items are covered by Medicaid or by the daily private-pay rate;
- \* Medicaid application process (if applicable);
- \* the amount of money a Medicaid resident has in his/her personal needs account (residents should regularly receive statements with this information);
- \* how to review the most recent survey of the facility by the licensure or certification agency; and
- \* how to examine a resident’s medical records (a resident may transfer this authority to another person either through consent or through legal authority).

In addition, the facility also should provide information, including addresses and telephone numbers, on how to reach:

- \* the state licensure and certification agency; and
- \* the local and state long-term care ombudsman.

During admission residents and their families typically receive an enormous amount of new information. You will want to be able to easily find the information, if needed. It is a good idea to set up a filing system to keep track of these important papers and

*(Ombudsman continued on page 3)*

## Family Caregiver Events

In the last two months, two major events have taken place in South Carolina that enhance the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP). The first event was the South Carolina Conference on Aging, where many of the state's care supporters and care providers met to talk about how to improve our service to our aging population. The second, Celebration of Caring, was a smaller, but very important affair; an opportunity to inform and honor a few of the many caregivers we serve across the state.

This year's Conference on Aging was geared to Caregiving in a Changing World. Sound familiar? It is the aim of the FCSP to do just that as we strive to provide support to those individuals on the front lines of caregiving. We were honored to have Lieutenant Governor André Bauer speak with us on his plans and commitment to advancing the quality of care for the senior population in this state in the coming years. Topics such as recognizing adult addiction, Alzheimer's disease, excessive stress, learning to communicate, and many others were reviewed in detail. It was a very productive and intense two days of training for all concerned.

Celebration of Caring, held on November 9, 2004, in Columbia, provided a chance for the Lieutenant Governor to meet some of the special people we advocates work for. Caregivers were treated to lunch and a host of informative speakers, including Lieutenant Governor Bauer who wowed the group with his enthusiasm for improving communication with our legislative groups. He spoke from experience of the best ways to approach legislators in order to let them hear from us on critical issues. Knowing that we all can make a difference was the message of the day. As caregiver advocates, we see the caregivers making a difference daily, and this chance to honor their endeavors was a privilege for all.

These events were just two of



the activities connected with the Family Caregiver's Support Program. The program served over 576 individual caregivers throughout the six-county Upstate region last year, and we anticipate topping that figure this year. For help with information, service coordination, counseling, respite, and supplemental issues – please feel free to contact us. Call (864) 242-9733 or (800) 925-4077 for more information regarding services. Debra Brown, Sam Wiley, or Jean Stegall will be happy to speak with you.

*(Ombudsman continued from page 2)*

bills. The facility's social worker, business manager, and/or administrator should be able to answer questions for the resident and family members throughout the stay at the facility. If you feel that any of the resident's rights have been violated or taken advantage of, please contact your local ombudsman.

*Your Local Ombudsmen are Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Celia Clark, Rhonda Monroe, and Sandy Dunagan. We serve the six counties in the Upstate; phone: 864-242-9733*

Information gathered from: *"Nursing Homes: getting good care there."* Second Edition; Burger, Sarah Greene, et al. 2002.



## ARC Adopts New Strategic Plan



The Appalachian Regional Commission recently adopted a new Strategic Plan to guide the work of the ARC over the next five years. The plan, entitled *Moving Appalachia Forward*, is the culmination of a strategic planning process that began in late 2003.

The process involved conducting a comprehensive review of socioeconomic changes in the 13-state region, researching key issues, and consulting with ARC state partners and advisory councils. ARC also held field forums across the region to gather input from representatives of private, public, and non-profit organizations and from the local development districts/councils of governments. Approximately 1,000 people participated in the field forums.

The Strategic Plan defines ARC's vision and mission and outlines four general goals:

ARC's *Vision for Appalachia* – Appalachia will achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.

ARC's *Mission* – ARC's mission is to be a strategic partner and advocate for sustainable community and economic development in Appalachia.

*General Goals:*

1. Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation.
2. Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy.
3. Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the region economically competitive.
4. Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

For more information on the process and to review or download the ARC Strategic Plan, visit the ARC website at [www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov).

# VIEWPOINT

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## Youth Services Fair

**T**he Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Youth Council held a **Youth Services Fair** for Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties on November 17, 2004. It was held at the **Madren Conference Center at Clemson University**. The purpose of the Youth Services Fair was to increase awareness of the resources available to youth in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. There were 100 individuals in attendance. Those in attendance were Youth Service Providers, School Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, and others who work with youth ages 14 to 21.

The Fair began with a welcome from Youth Council Vice-Chair, Kristi King of Anderson Interfaith Ministries and opening remarks by Dr. Sam Drew of the National Dropout Prevention Center. He spoke on the importance of collaboration in helping each youth. He stated, "A fair is a celebration and today we cele-

brate the coming together of many agencies to learn more about each other.

This is the first step in forming partnerships that benefit all."

Following the opening remarks, the attendees visited booths set up by area youth services providers. There were 21 organizations from the Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens county region that displayed information about their organizations' missions and services. The comments received from those in attendance were very positive. Attendees overwhelmingly acknowledged the benefits of networking and the importance of resource information availability. The Fair closed with door prizes donated by Pendleton District WIB members representing Milliken, Michelin, and Clemson University.



Based on the evaluations completed by those in attendance, the Fair was a great success, and the information was very useful. The response to the possibility of having additional networking meetings was a definite "yes." The Youth Council will discuss the possibility of hosting future meetings of the Pendleton District Youth Service Providers and making the Youth Services Fair an annual event.

If you are interested in being a part of this networking group, please contact Teri Gilstrap at (864) 646-1828 or email [youthservicesfair@pendletondistrictwib.com](mailto:youthservicesfair@pendletondistrictwib.com)

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*(SCDOT Grants continued from page 1)*  
cerning Enhancement Grants in upcoming *Viewpoint* publications and SCDOT mailings. For more information concerning the Transportation Enhancement Program, contact Shawn Colin or Dan Wagner at the COG, or visit the SCDOT web site at <http://www.scdot.org/community/teoutside.html>