

COG Staff Completes Work on Six Grants

The Council of Governments' Grants Services staff has completed work on six grants, and is conducting closeout public hearings in December and January. The six projects are as follows:

- **The Wellford Sewer Project** extended public sewer service to a low-income neighborhood that was experiencing severe sewer problems. The \$500,000 project, which served 203 persons, took place in a neighborhood immediately off of Highway 29.
- **The McKowns Mountain Water Project** brought water to a rural area of Cherokee County with contaminated wells. The project, which received \$500,000 in CDBG funds and \$100,000 in S. C. Budget and Control Board funds, served 265 persons.
- **The Pacolet Mayesville Sewer Project** extended public sewer service to the Mayesville neighborhood in Pacolet, an historically African-American neighborhood. Twenty-nine households were served by the project; all suffered from aging and malfunctioning septic tanks, which were causing raw sewage to sit in the backyards of area residents. The project received \$500,000 in grant funds.
- **The Homeland Park Water Project**, which brought water to an area of Anderson County that was experiencing severe well contamination, completed construction al-



most exactly a year after the grant was awarded to the County. The project served 121 persons, and received \$415,200 in grant funds.

- **The Chesnee Carolina Artisan Center** was also completed in about a year. This innovative economic development project received \$331,780 in CDBG funds to renovate a dilapidated storefront in Chesnee's downtown into a regional gallery for local artists. Three jobs will be created, through the gallery and the art classes that will also be held in the building. The Artisan Center is the centerpiece of Chesnee's attempt to revive its downtown. Its prime location on Highway 11 should bring much-needed tourist dollars to the area.
- **The Liberty Little Mill Village Sewer Project** has also recently completed construction. The project has come in so far under budget that the Department of Com-

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ACOG Welcomes New Long Term Care Ombudsman

Celia W. Clark recently joined the Appalachian COG staff to fill a vacant Long Term Care Ombudsman



position. Celia brings varied professional skills and personal qualities to the agency that will facilitate her duties as an Ombudsman. Through a focus on complaint investigations, advocacy, community education and awareness, training, and other activities, her job is designed to enhance the quality of life and care for residents of nursing homes, residential care, mental health, and mental retardation facilities.

She was Executive Director of the Easter Seal Society of Greenville for 13-1/2 years. For the past three years, Celia has worked for the American Red Cross, Greenville County Chapter, first as HIV/AIDS Educator, followed by Community Service Associate. As HIV/AIDS Educator, Celia was responsible for getting volunteers trained, a 30-hour course, to become HIV/AIDS instructors in the community; for getting HIV/AIDS education into the community; for being an advocate for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS; and for working with other social service agencies to

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Regionalism: Concept and Practice

Part II: Regionalism in South Carolina

During the late 1960's and early 1970's, the creation and expansion of regional councils was stimulated by the tremendous growth in federal grants-in-aid programs, and through the active promotion of regional councils by state government.

In late 1966, Governor Robert McNair was encouraged by the U. S. Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration) to form multi-county planning and development districts to deal with the federal grants and loans available to the state and local units of government. Governor McNair asked the State Development Board to explore the possible advantages of this strategy and, after examining the successful implementation of substate districts in other states, the Board concluded that there appeared to be multiple advantages for both state and local governments in creating regional councils of governments. Based on that conclusion, the Governor introduced the concept to state legislators and worked with his own staff to initiate "districts" in South Carolina.

The districts were first created by Executive Order of the Governor, and became active generally between 1967 and 1970. Delineations of district boundaries were negotiated between state and local government officials, but were largely based on the concept of ten "growth centers." The boundaries remain the same today as they were when first established. Under the Executive Order, the districts faced an ever-present threat of challenge to the legality of their existence. So, in 1971 under the leadership of Governor John West, the Legislature enacted legislation that set forth the creation, organization, duties, and purposes of councils of govern-

ments in South Carolina.

While the COG's role as regional planners and coordinators of federal/local programs diminished during the Reagan era of strategic localism, new opportunities arose, allowing for the COGs to become more strategic and entrepreneurial in taking advantage of the devolution of federal domestic programs to state and local governments. COGs in South Carolina today have more diverse work programs and mixes of federal, state, and local roles than they have ever had; placing a premium on maintaining and enhancing inter-governmental relations within their respective regions.

City of Pickens Water Rate Study

In recent years, the City of Pickens has been confronted with a number of expensive breakdowns in the municipal water system. The City has struggled with increasing repair and maintenance costs. Recent complaints of murky water, low pressure and questionable fire hydrants prompted City Council to take measures to address these and other service issues.

In an effort to calculate the util-

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Millwood and Gaillard Honored



Next month ... Regionalism in the Upstate

Jack Millwood and Bob Gaillard recently received awards from the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils for having served on the COG Board of Directors for 25 or more years. Mr. Millwood is a charter member of the Board, dating back to its creation in 1971. He also served on the S. C. Appalachian Regional Planning and Development Commission and the Appalachian Advisory Committee, which preceded the COG during the years from 1965-1970. Mr. Gaillard was appointed to the COG Board in 1973 and has 28 years of service. Our thanks and sincere appreciation to these gentlemen

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merce is allowing the extra grant funds to be used to replace water lines in the same mill village. This project provided \$500,000 in grant funds to replace aging and undersized sewer lines in a low-income mill village in Liberty. The project served 140 residents. Residents have been experiencing serious problems with both water and sewer for many years, and this project will alleviate all of the health and safety

Baby Boomers Struggling to Care for Aging Parents

Many lack information needed to help with health and financial decisions and face challenges in juggling caregiving with other responsibilities.

Many of Medicare's 35 million seniors turn to their family members for advice and help with health and financial decisions. Despite the important role they play, many adults with an aging parent lack basic information needed to advise on these matters, according to a new nationally representative survey from *Family Circle* and the Kaiser Family Foundation. The survey also finds that many adult children face stresses in their daily lives as they care for aging parents.

According to the survey, 37% are worried about juggling caregiving with other responsibilities, about one-quarter are worried about having enough time for their spouse or children. Nearly four in ten (38%) are worried about maintaining their own health. Caring for an aging parent also has an impact on the professional lives of adult children: 34% of women and 24% of men say they have missed work as a result of caring for an aging parent.

"Not every senior needs help with health and financial decisions as they age, but when they do, they often turn to their children for advice. Understanding Medicare is a new challenge for baby boomers," said Patricia Neuman, Sc.D., vice president, and director of the Medicare Policy Project of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Conducted as part of a joint project of *Family Circle* and the Kaiser Family Foundation, this survey examines the knowledge and experiences of the growing number of Americans who are helping an aging parent. The results are discussed in an article in the November 1 issue of *Family Circle*, which includes a special tear-out guide for readers on "How to Talk to Your



Parents About Health Care, Money and Other Sensitive Issues," based on information from a public education guide developed by the Foundation.

"Child-care issues were the most talked about stresses for families of the 20th century. We believe that caring for our aging parents is the new most-pressing stress of the 21st century and that's why we conducted this survey," said Susan Ungaro, editor in chief of *Family Circle*. "By identifying what worries adult children most and the health and social issues about which they are misinformed, we can help educate families on how to better deal with their elderly parents."

The survey reveals that many adults with a parent age 65 or older – especially women – are actively involved in the routine lives of their aging parents, including helping them make health and financial decisions.

- 43% of adults surveyed say that their parent would be most likely to turn to themselves, other family members or friends for health insurance information,
- One quarter say they help their parents with health insurance paperwork or bills,
- Many adult children say they have talked with their parent about key health and financial issues; nearly half have talked about finances, and more than a third have talked

about health insurance.

Knowledge about Medicare and Other Financial Issues

The survey revealed that adult children often do not have all the facts and information they need about their parents' health care and finances, or about important health care programs:

- 43% say they feel they know next to nothing or nothing at all about health insurance to help their parents,
- 45% of those who say their parent has a regular doctor do not know who that doctor or health care provider is,
- 30% of adults say they do not know where their parent keeps important papers such as their health insurance card, financial statements, or will.

The survey also found a lack of knowledge about Medicare, the government program that provides health insurance for people ages 65 and older and about Medicaid, which is an important source of supplemental coverage and long-term care for low-income seniors. While most correctly identified the Medicare program, few adults with a parent 65+ have basic knowledge of the benefits that are not covered by Medicare; only 38% correctly stated that Medicare does not generally pay for prescription drugs, and only a third (34%) correctly stated that Medicare does not pay for long-term care. Only 37% correctly stated that Medicaid is the program for many low-income families, regardless of age.

Providing Help and Assistance to an Aging Parent

More than half (55%) of adults with a parent 65+ say their parent has a physical or mental health problem or both, over a third say their parent is in fair or poor health, and about three-

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A Tale of 3,000 Manholes

The Mauldin Department of Public Works (DPW) has embarked on an ambitious project to locate and inventory every manhole, pipeline, screen, and pump in their sewer and wastewater system.



They are partnering with the Information Services Department at ACOG to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) database containing the coordinates of every component of their system. The “smart-map” nature of GIS

allows information such as depth, status, and flow to link directly to the mapped features.

Field crews from Mauldin DPW use state-of-the-art Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to collect the system inventory information. In addition to the ability to capture the location of manholes to within 3 feet, GPS allows the worker to record inspection results and to note the physical condition of every manhole. The information is then downloaded at ACOG, where staff converts it into a useful format, and plots the progress of the project through detailed maps of each section in the district. ACOG also provides technical coordination and guidance for the project.

The project team, headed by Mauldin GIS Analyst Tammy Wade, anticipates completing the project ahead of schedule. Since September, the GPS field crew has already collected information for almost half of the manholes, representing over 44 miles of pipelines. Each manhole and connecting pipeline is assigned a unique code to identify it

in the system. Since crews must trace every foot of pipeline, they have discovered many manholes that had not previously been logged, thus adding to the total inventory owned by Mauldin.

When all the manholes are inventoried, the GIS database will be coupled with the high quality landbase maps from the Greenville County GIS Department to create accurate and detailed maps for use by field crews and office management. The data will enable graphic display of the total system for long-range planning and comprehensive management plans.

ADC Has Small Business Administration Loan Approved

The Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) was notified on December 5, 2000, that the Small Business Administration had authorized the ADC’s application for a loan of \$411,000. The loan request was approved for Applied Technologies and Research Inc., located in Fair Play, South Carolina. The authorization was through the SBA’s 504 program that provides second tier financing up to \$1,000,000.

Applied Technologies and Research is a manufacturer of after-market automotive parts, concentrating on advanced technological products for muscle cars. The company operates in three buildings containing 27,000 square feet, located on three acres on S. C. Highway 11 in Oconee County. The company currently employs sixteen people and expects to add six additional people over the next two years. George Martin, a physicist and industrial engineer, is purchasing the com-

pany and plans to continue the emphasis on research and development that has led to the varied and successful

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address this issue. She was also responsible for an HIV/AIDS education outreach program located within Jesse Jackson Townhomes. As Community Service Associate, she was responsible for working with the “Friendly Visitor” program, blood pressure screenings, and Parenting classes. Prior to her work at the American Red Cross, Celia worked at United Ministries in the Employment Readiness program, assisting the homeless in finding and keeping jobs; and at Alton Wilkes Society as Employment Counselor, assisting federal inmates coming from institutions to a transitional home to find employment.

Celia attended Limestone College (when it was a girl’s school!), and is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. She states that she looks forward to the rewarding challenges of being an Ombudsman, and feels that once again in her career she has an opportunity to serve the community. She looks for-

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ity’s operating, maintenance and capital replacement costs, City Council asked the Council of Governments to conduct a comprehensive rate study. ACOG staff performed an analysis of the system’s total revenues and expenditures in an effort to identify the revenue received from water sales and the actual cost of producing the water. Capital replacement costs and debt were also factored to calculate the necessary rate increase to match revenues with costs and future needs. As part of the study, ACOG compared Pickens’ recommended rates with those of similarly sized municipalities in the Upstate. Additional Council work sessions will be conducted before the new rates are finally implemented.

For any questions concerning water or sewer utility rate studies, contact

Workshops Scheduled on FY 2001 Transportation Enhancement Grants

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has announced the ninth year of the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP). This program, a part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), has been very beneficial to the communities in our region, most recently assisting the communities of Gaffney, Chesnee, and Pacolet with street, sidewalk, and pedestrian path improvements.

A new education program has been

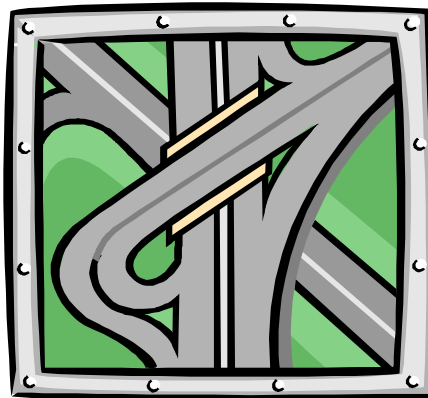


The City of Chesnee is currently using a Transportation Enhancement Grant to improve their downtown area with underground utilities, sidewalks, crosswalks, and landscaped islands at intersections.

established by SCDOT to provide communities with the necessary information to apply for up to \$200,000 toward certain eligible transportation activities. A series of seven (7) workshops in which representatives from SCDOT distribute brochures and answer questions regarding the grant program have been setup for a second year in a row. In our region, there are two locations where potential applicants are encouraged to

attend:
 January 29th 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 – Greenwood DOT District Office

February 2nd 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.- S. C. Appalachian COG



Building

The agenda will include:

- ⇒ Welcome/Introductions/Purpose
- ⇒ Transportation Enhancement Program Video
- ⇒ Transportation Enhancement Program Eligible Activities
- ⇒ Who Can Apply?
- ⇒ A Review of the Application Form
- ⇒ Time Lines
- ⇒ Questions and Answers

For more information regarding the Transportation Enhancement Program, contact Shawn Colin or Dan Wagner at the Appalachian Council of Governments at (864) 242-9733, or Vivian Patterson at (803) 737-1953, or

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fourths say their parent takes prescription drugs regularly. About one in five (21%) is concerned that their parent is not getting the medical care they need, or that their parent is not taking their medications as prescribed (17%).

Half of those surveyed check in on their parents with regular phone calls or visits (55% of women and 44% of men). Of the adults surveyed, 42% visit or see their parents at least once a week and more than one-quarter of those surveyed help their parent with medical and financial decisions.

Thoughts on Growing Older and Planning for Their Own Future

The majority of middle aged and young adults also have concerns about their ability to care for themselves without being a burden on their families (73%), and their ability to pay for their own medical and other basic living expenses (72%) as they age.

The survey also shows that adult children believe Medicare is important to their own future: 89% say it is important that, when they retire, Medicare will still be providing health coverage for seniors.

A summary report on the findings (publication #1603), and topline data (#1604), are available at www.kff.org or by calling the Foundation's publication request line at 1-800-656-4533, or contacting the COG's Area Agency on Aging. Free copies of the Foundation's consumer education guide: *Talking with Your Parents About Medicare and Other Health Issues* are available by calling 1-877-43HEALTH or on the web at www.kff.org/docs/parents.

(Note: Excerpts of this article are



Calendar of Events

- January 5-6 SE4A Board Meeting, Wyndham Resort, Myrtle Beach.
- January 9 S. C. Conference on Aging Planning Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Columbia.
- January 11 SCACAD “Welcome Back” Breakfast with the Legislature, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Town House Hotel, Columbia.
- January 11-12 Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board, Strategic Planning Retreat, Hickory Knob State Park.
- January 15-17 S. C. Aging Network Leadership Institute Training Conference, Hilton Resort, Hilton Head.
- January 19 SC4A Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Caring Connections, Columbia.
- January 23 Focal Point Costing Training, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Site to be Announced, Columbia.
- January 24 Aging Advisory Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Council Board Room.
- January 26 COG Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Council Board Room.

VIEWPOINT

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