

ARC Staff Conducts Validation Visits in Region

Each year, in compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act, staff from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) conduct “validation visits” to selected projects. The purpose of these visits is to ascertain if the grantee experienced any problems implementing the project or complying with the requirements of the grant, whether the project was completed on time and within budget, and whether the goals of the project were met. It also provides an opportunity for grantees to provide any feedback to ARC staff that could be useful to others in implementing future ARC projects.

On June 12 and 13, Trey Coleman, a regional planner with ARC in Washington, D. C., conducted validation visits to six projects funded in FY 2000. He was accompanied on his visits by Amy Prosser, the State ARC Program Manager, and Dirk Reis, the COG’s Grant Services Director. The following projects were reviewed:

- Anderson 1 & 2 Career and Technology Center - Computerized Video Production Technology Program;
- School District of Oconee County/Hamilton Career Center – Automated Manufacturing Program;
- Spartanburg Technical College – Surgical Technology Program;
- Spartanburg Technical College – Machine Tool Technology Program;
- Gaffney Board of Public Works – Clary Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project;



Students in the Machine Tool Technology Program at Spartanburg Technical College.

- Appalachian Development Corporation – Revolving Loan Fund Program.

Mr. Coleman was very pleased with the findings of his visit. All of the projects have been successfully implemented and the goals of the projects were met. Mr. Coleman was very appreciative of the hospitality shown to him by the grantees and the COG staff. The COG staff would also like to extend our appreciation to the grantees for undertaking these projects in a manner that reflects well upon the S. C. Appalachian Region.

Did You Know?

The Appalachian Council of Governments was the first regional council formed in South Carolina. In 1965 it was known as the Appalachian Advisory Commission, which was created to advise the Governor on the use of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds.

Terrorism Awareness Training for First Responders



The Appalachian Council of Governments will soon be offering Terrorism Awareness training for first responders in the Upstate. The training will be given to law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel as part of a pilot program in cooperation with the **Greenville County COBRA** emergency response team.

The awareness-level course will be based upon a U. S. Department of Justice lesson plan and will serve to familiarize

first responders with nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and emergency response measures. The course is a prerequisite for advanced training at

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Liberty Adopts Land Development Regulations

On May 13, 2002, the City of Liberty adopted a Land Development Regulations Ordinance at a second reading by the City Council. The adoption of this ordinance is a culmination of over a year's effort by the Planning Commission, staff and City Council of Liberty. The Appalachian Council of Govern-



The Land Development Regulations Ordinance will guide large-scale developments, like this project located on S.C. Highway 93 in Liberty.

ments assisted the city with the formulation of the Land Development Regulations Ordinance. The new ordinance was developed in response to changing conditions within the city and to address concerns voiced by citizens over the past few years. The Planning Commission and City Council have done well in addressing these issues and have adopted an ordinance that is sensitive to the needs of the City of Liberty.

The purpose of the Land Development Regulations Ordinance is to establish standards, procedures, and minimum requirements, in accordance with the comprehensive plan, to regulate and control the location, design, subdivision, and assemblage of land and buildings; the procedures for administration of subdivision review; and the general development of real estate in the city. Unlike a land use plan, the land development ordinance is a regulatory document addressing regulations, administrative mechanisms, code com-

pliance, street and sidewalk layout and composition, as well as other items, including the location of infrastructure and parking requirements. Subdivision plans are reviewed by the Planning Commission and administered by city staff.

COG Welcomes Ann Ratliffe to Staff



The Information Services Department is pleased to welcome Ann Ratliffe as our new GIS Specialist. She replaces Tom Savage on the Information Services (IS) team. As a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist, Ann will be involved in all aspects of the Information Services work program. She will be responsible for application development and technical support for *InfoMentum*, an economic development decision support system for the Upstate. This task includes further developing the capability to provide interactive maps on the web. She will also assist the region's *InfoMentum* users with GIS database development and mapping projects.

Ann was recently certified as an ESRI Authorized Trainer, which will enable the ACOG to offer classes for "Introduction to ArcGIS I" and

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COG Welcomes New Ombudsman



Rhonda Monroe has recently joined the Appalachian Council of Governments as a new member of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. As an advocate for residents in nursing homes, residential/assisted living facilities, mental health facilities, and mental retardation facilities, she will be working to enhance the quality of life and care provided. Her job responsibilities include complaint investigations, advocacy, in-service training of facility staff, and community education.

Rhonda brings varied professional skills and personal qualities that will facilitate her duties as an Ombudsman. She has served in Long Term Care for over 18 years in various capacities including Social Services Director, Admissions Coordinator and Activities Director. She has worked as a facilitator for various support groups involving residents, facility staff, and family members. She has also been a peer review consultant with Health Management Resources. She has served as a youth counselor for the Anderson Youth Association as well.

She is a member of the National Association of Certified Activity Professionals and has worked as a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Asso-

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Appalachian Development Corporation Approves New Loans

At the May Board Meeting of the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) a loan was approved to Prime Products Inc., in the amount of \$100,000. The loan will assist in funding the purchase of new C&C machines to be used in the production of automotive parts. Prime is a plastics injection molding company and a metal machining shop located in Boiling Springs in Spartanburg County. The funding is part of nearly \$3 million that will be used to purchase the additional equipment and to restructure current debt. The lead financial institution is Comerica, and the former owner is also providing a portion of the funding. Prime Products currently employs 23 people and expects to hire an additional 10 employees within two years.

A loan for \$80,000 was approved to Palmetto Graphics of Greenville. Palmetto Graphics is owned and operated by Jackie Neal and Linda Neal, with the assistance of some of their children. Palmetto Graphics is undertaking some major changes by purchasing a building and a five-color press. The ADC has been approved through the Small Business Administration to fund the building purchase in the amount of \$455,000. This ADC revolving loan fund loan of \$80,000 will be used for working capital and incidental equipment. The equipment is being financed through Heller Financial, while New Commerce Bank is assisting in funding the building acquisition. Palmetto Graphics currently employs eleven people and expects to hire up to eight additional employees within two years.

The Board also approved a loan of \$100,000 for Victory Lane Ideas. Victory Lane is the manufacturer and patent holder of an automotive amusement game. The company is producing units from leased space in Greer, and needs additional funds for equipment and inventory. The company's

prototype unit is located in Gattitown in Greenville. The primary lender for the project will be either BB&T or Business Development Corporation. The company employs nine people and plans to hire four additional employees within two years.

The ADC also closed the previously approved loan to Innovative Container Services of Greenville in the amount of \$100,000. Carolina First provided the majority of the funding.

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"Migrating from ArcView 3.x to ArcView 8". This is a new feature that the IS Department is delighted to include in its suite of services to the region.

Ann grew up in Columbia, S. C., and received a BA in Geography from Appalachian State University in Boone, N. C. Before joining the ACOG, Ann was employed by several private consulting firms as a GIS Analyst. She specialized in utility applications and environmental mapping, and managed ESRI business partner and reseller relationships.

When she is not in the office, Ann prefers the outdoors - hiking, skiing, and riding her horse, Monte.

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the Department of Justice Center for Domestic Preparedness at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. Graduates of the ACOG/COBRA awareness training will be awarded Department of Justice training certificates.

The half-day training sessions will commence in July 2002, and will be coordinated through the respective county emergency preparedness directors. Initially, only a limited number of summer sessions will be offered. Additional classes are being planned for the fall and winter. Contact Joe Newton at ACOG for further information.

I-CARE Training Update

An I-CARE (Insurance Counseling, Assistance and Referral for Elders) training update was provided to volunteers serving the Appalachian region. At least nine of the current volunteers have been providing Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare supplement and other health insurance counseling since the program began in 1993.

Training included updates on Medicare Part A and Part B and the changes in the TRICARE for Life insurance program for uniformed services beneficiaries. Volunteers received additional information about the Medicare Fraud program that was introduced in 2001 and BE SMART, consumer awareness workshops that will be offered in the region beginning in August.

The workshop also included an opportunity to thank the volunteers who provided 1,276 contact hours during the period March 2001 to March 2002. Jesse Spears, Administration on Aging Medicare Fraud Regional Liaison, presented volunteers' awards. Volunteers recognized were: Cherokee County - Cy Kammerlen, Don Grozinger, and B.J. Williams; Spartanburg County - Pat Young and Yvonne Anderson; Greenville County - Lorna Aiken, Minnie Burchfield, Ruth Gunter, Grace Beck, Tennie and Jud Terrell; Pickens County - Barbara Jardno; Oconee County - Dee Smith; and Anderson County - Renee Kimbrell.

For additional information about the I-CARE program and volunteer opportunities, contact Beverly Allen at the ACOG office.

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ciation.

Rhonda considers her role as the residents' advocate a passionate one. She states that she looks forward to a continuation of this passion as she works with the staff at the COG on behalf of facility residents.

Conner Wins One-Stop Award



The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board and the One-Stop Management Team named Nancy Conner as the recipient of the Pendleton District One-Stop Award. This award is presented annually to a group or individual in recognition of outstanding

work, performance, or customer service. Ms. Conner was given a plaque and a check for \$100.00 from the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board.

Ms. Conner is the Resource Center Coordinator for the Pendleton District One-Stop Center located in the S. C. Employment Security Commission's Liberty Office. She was nominated based on her attitude, personality, knowledge, and performance. She continually strives to develop herself both personally and professionally. She completed an elementary Spanish course because she felt it would help her to better serve the diversified groups of customers coming into the One-Stop Center, and she often performs tasks that are beyond her scope of duties.

Her outstanding service provided to those visiting the Center was echoed in a letter from a One-Stop customer, "I'm not sure if you remember me or not. But you made a huge impact

on my life." Ms. Conner is truly an asset to the Pendleton District One-Stop System. Congratulations to Ms. Nancy Conner!

VIEWPOINT

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