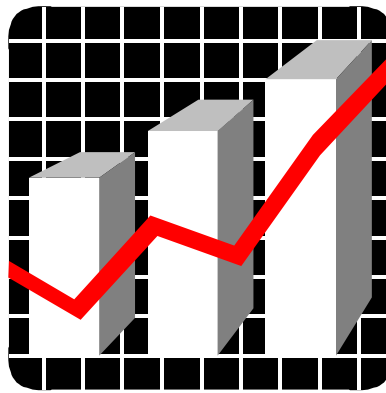


## Upstate Economy Continues Slow Recovery

**T**he *Economic Activity Report of the SC Upstate* revealed a continued mix of promise and uncertainty during the first quarter of 2003. Two major announcements in Anderson County heralded the creation of 155 jobs. Fraenkische Rohrwerke, a German plastic injection molding company, will locate in the former Tenneco facility and create 70 new jobs over a five-year period, while Ilpea Incorporated will generate 85 new jobs within its first year of operation as a supplier for Electrolux Home Products. Alcoa Home Exteriors also announced plans for the expansion of its Gaffney plant, which will result in the creation of 30 new Cherokee County jobs.

In Greenville County, Sara Lee Corporation announced an expansion that will create 95 new jobs at its Greenville bakery. Confidence in continued growth of the Greer area was evidenced by the Greenville Hospital System's announcement of plans to develop a \$100 million Greer campus. Kemet Corporation, however, announced the layoff of 280 workers from its Simpsonville and Fountain Inn plants. General Electric also announced the layoff of 46 salaried engineers due to a decreased demand for electricity-producing turbines.

Oconee County celebrated an announcement by Westminster Beacon LLC of its plans to purchase the former Beacon Blanket Manufacturing plant. This new Minnesota-based blanket manufacturing operation will bring between 65 and 100 jobs to Westminster. In an effort to address ongoing state



budget shortfalls, Clemson University announced the layoff of 200 employees that will result from the merger of departments within the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences.

After 18 months of weather-related delays, site work began on the QS/1 Data Systems Corporate Headquarters in downtown Spartanburg. Upon completion, the facility will create 50 new jobs. Another 55 jobs will move into the county as Prescolite Lighting Company relocates from California. The closure of Shipley Company, however, resulted in the loss of 51 jobs.

The Appalachian Council of Governments produces this unique report on a quarterly basis for a 10-county Upstate region. For more information, or to purchase the report, please contact the Information Services Department at 864-242-9733.



## Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Effort Initiated

**I**n accordance with FEMA's Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 legislation, each county is required to develop a local disaster mitigation plan as part of the State of South Carolina's renewed emphasis on reducing disaster losses through the implementation of hazard mitigation programs. The Appalachian Council of Governments has been enlisted by the South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division to help develop these plans for each county in the region.



The hazard mitigation plan is the foundation for developing hazard-specific mitigation measures that ensure local jurisdictions are in the best possible position to minimize damage, expedite the recovery process, and take advantage of federal assistance to individuals and/or public entities. The COG is beginning the process of working with local Emergency Preparedness Directors and other key stakeholders to assess the vulnerability of the region's residents and critical facilities to natural hazards.

*(Planning continued on page 2)*

## PCBDSN Holds Open House

The Pickens County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs (PCBDSN) celebrated the completion of their new facility with a grand opening on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. PCBDSN provides a variety of services and programs for over 500 persons with disabilities throughout Pickens County. One of the programs, known as Better Skills, provides individuals with special needs training and life experience for the development of vocational, pre-vocational, and social integration skills. The Sheltered Employment program provides employment for adults with



disabilities who have the mind set to work in a "real work environment" but are unable to do so because of their disability. The work is very similar to production work found in local industries, which makes it feel like a typical work environment. Numerous local industries provide work for the program. The clients are given a paycheck based on the number of pieces they complete. It is a wonderful program that gets the local industries involved.

PCBDSN outgrew its previous facility located in downtown Easley and started looking for funds to construct a new building in 1999. The South Carolina Board of Disabilities and Special Needs awarded PCBDSN \$900,000 to assist in constructing the \$1.8 million project. Pickens County provided in-kind services that included grading services. PCBDSN then turned to the ACOG and Pickens County for assistance in receiving and administering a \$500,000 Community Development



Block Grant (CDBG) from the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Pickens County agreed to be the applicant for the CDBG funds on behalf of PCBDSN.

The new 32,000 square foot building has many amenities that PCBDSN never had in the previous building. The new facility includes a dining room, training rooms, a conference room, offices for administrative staff and a large open warehouse-like area for the production jobs. The building construction was complete in late February, and the organization moved in late March. The PCBDSN is very excited about this new facility and is looking forward to assisting even more clients in the near future.

*(Planning continued from page 1)*

Once the most vulnerable areas and facilities have been identified, the COG will work with stakeholders to develop goals and objectives to maximize the effectiveness of mitigation activities. The goals and objectives will guide development of specific mitigation strategies that target appropriate resources and prioritize actions necessary to reduce future disaster-related losses.

Information developed through this process will be the basis for each county's mitigation plan. The plan should serve as the focal point for mitigation decisions made in each county in the future. For more information, please contact Chip Bentley at the COG.

## Development Corporation News

The Appalachian Development Corporation Board approved a \$100,000 loan to Palmetto Custom Films International, Inc., in Anderson County to be used for equipment and working capital. The business is owned by Dave Wilson. Greenville First Bank will provide primary funding on the equipment. Ten new jobs will be created as a result of the project.

The Board also approved a \$100,000 loan to Earth Artist Mountain Studio-Campus, LLC of Seneca. The business is owned by Michael Lentine. The loan proceeds will be used for working capital in remodeling an old mill building into a film studio and stage. The project will create two new jobs and retain two jobs.

A \$30,000 loan to Pocker-Knocker's Reproduction Lighting and Wares on Haywood Road in Greenville has been closed and funded to provide for an expansion of inventory and working capital.

A loan of \$150,000 to Custom Forest Products, Inc., was closed and funded to allow Eric Foust to take over ownership and operate a pallet and crate manufacturing company, keeping 20 jobs in the Spartanburg area.

A loan to Pro Weave, LLC for \$150,000 was closed and funded, allowing the company to purchase additional machinery to expand manufacturing of throws and towels in Anderson County.

An SBA 504 loan to Joan Peters and Associates, Professional Association, in the amount of \$120,000 was funded in June, providing long term, fixed rate financing for the acquisition of office space on South Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville.

An SBA 504 loan to A Wing and A Prayer Enterprises was funded in the amount of \$555,000, providing long term fixed rate financing of the land, building, and equipment for a new Zaxby's on John B. White, Sr., Boulevard in Spartanburg.

## Getting a Bank Loan—Cities and Counties Are Restricted by S. C. Law

**T**he owner of a small business can walk across the street, shake hands with the local banker and sign up for a simple line of credit or a two-year business loan. Your city and county councils can't do that without running afoul of state law.

Many local elected officials (and bankers) are unaware of their legal limitations and continue to attempt to run their respective governments "like a business." Unfortunately, it's a lot more complicated than that. Local governments are bound by constitutional and statutory restrictions. Local governments are restricted as to the size of their debt, their sources for borrowing money, their sources for earning revenue, the ways they may invest public money and even how they account for and spend their funds.

Local governments are limited to the following forms of debt:

- Revenue Bonds
- General Obligation Bonds
- Bond Anticipation Notes
- Tax Anticipation Notes
- Lease Purchase Agreements

Briefly, General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) are secured by the taxing power of the local government, and the amount of debt is generally "capped" at 8% of the community's assessed tax base. Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN's) are short term loans issued in anticipation of property tax payments paid to local governments between December and March of each year. TAN's must be paid back within 90 days of the tax penalty date, usually by March 15 immediately following the loan. TAN's may not be "rolled over" and extended into the following budget year. All forms of borrowing require passage of an ordinance and some even require special public notice and a public hearing. Other loans and business lines-of-credit are unavailable to local governments.



For additional information concerning public borrowing, contact the Appalachian Council of Governments, the South Carolina Municipal Association, the S. C. Association of Counties, or a banking or legal firm that is familiar with the peculiarities of public finance in South Carolina.

## Job Creator Awards

Lt. Governor Andre Bauer distributed awards to 48 South Carolina companies at the annual 2003 Employer Workshops and Job Creator



Pictured is Claude Leitzsey, Board member, presenting the 2003 Job Creator Award to Dee Petty of Liberty Denim.

Award Presentation held April 2, 2003, in Columbia. The annual ceremony honors employers who have contributed to the state's economy during the previous year.

In 2002, there was a total of 1,808,500 jobs in South Carolina. This was 15,000 jobs below the 2001 total of 1,823,500. Manufacturing bore the

brunt of the decline by dropping 22,000 jobs over the year. The total capital investment in South Carolina in new and expanded companies in 2002 was \$4.4 billion. There were 1,417 companies announcing investments and 20,945 new jobs created.

The annual Job Creator awards are based on contributions to the state's economy during the previous year. Recipients may be nominated by the six sponsoring agencies and the twelve local Workforce Investment Boards for employing large numbers of people with the state's Employment Service and the local One-Stop Career Centers,



Pictured is Claude Leitzsey, Board member, presenting the 2003 Job Creator Award to Deborah Desiletes of Home Depot.

capital investment in industry or tourism, supporting the state's public and technical college system, or community improvement.

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board, serving Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties and the local S. C. Employment Security Commission offices, nominated 2 of the 45 recipients. The Pendleton District area recipients were Liberty Denim, LLC of Liberty and Home Depot of Seneca.

## Notice of Community Meetings

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will be holding 10 community meetings across the state during the month of July. The purpose of these meetings is to receive

*(Meetings continued on page 4)*

# VIEWPOINT

Appalachian Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 6668  
Greenville, South Carolina 29606

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## Long Term Care

### You Can Advocate for Better Care

Having someone you love move into a nursing home can be a devastating experience. Tens of thousands of families and friends struggle every year through the decision to turn to a nursing home for care. It's difficult to accept that a relative can no longer take care of themselves, and that you can no longer care for them. It is hard to see someone you love leave their home and lose their independence. Becoming a protector to your parent, sibling or friend is unsettling, and especially so if the person is one who has cared for you in earlier years; it's not easy to see the roles reversed. Your experience and fears are normal and appropriate. Don't be afraid to seek advice and support as you go through this stressful time.

### Working with the Staff

Consumers expect more from nursing homes these days, and families are working cooperatively with staff to insure more personalized care. The few weeks after admission are CRUCIAL. It is when you can help the staff learn how to make a new

resident, your relative, feel at home. Giving the staff a view of your relative as the valued person they are helps them see beyond the "patient" to the individual that they are. Let the facility know what your loved one's nickname is, let them know their sleep patterns and daily routines, and most of all let them KNOW who your loved one was before coming into the nursing home. When nursing homes are driven by tasks, rules and institutional regimens, the needs of the individual can be left behind. But it does not have to be that way. Thanks to stronger laws, effective advocacy, and increasing professionalism in health care delivery, the *home* in nursing home is becoming a reality in many places. When homes revolve around residents, they operate more efficiently and cost-effectively. Individualized care is good for residents and their families, for staff, and for the nursing home. Instead of your fears about the need for nursing home care, you can feel the relief of knowing that kind, caring, skilled professionals have provided the support and security your relative needs at this difficult time in their lives. YOU can help make it happen.

*(Meetings continued from page 3)*

public comment on a proposed plan to implement the competitive procurement of services funded under the Older Americans Act by the state's Area Agencies on Aging. Implementation of a competitive process is required by the federal Administration on Aging.

The draft plan will be posted on the DHHS web site ([www.dhhs.state.sc.us](http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us)) on July 1, 2003. You may submit comments electronically.

If you choose to make comments at the public meeting, please provide a written copy at the time of sign in. A comment form will be provided at the meeting for those who do not wish to speak but do wish to have their comments considered.

The Appalachian region meeting will be held July 21, 2003, in the Greenville County Council Chambers, 301 University Ridge, Greenville, South Carolina. The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m.

For directions contact Michael Stogner at the ACOG office; for other information, contact Frank Adams, Public Information Director, DHHS, 803-898-2500.