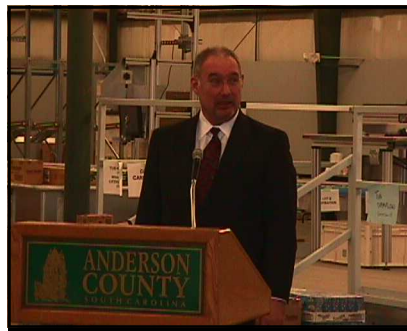


## Open House Held for Walgreens Training Facility

**O**n February 20, an open house was held at the Walgreens Training Facility, which is designed specifically to train special needs residents. Located behind the offices of the Anderson County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs (BDSN), the facility plans to start training prospective Walgreens employees this month using the same machines, equipment, and computers that will be used in Walgreens' distribution center, now under construction at the Alliance Park off of Highway 81. Walgreens has committed to hiring about 135 special needs residents to fill the 450 positions in the company's initial work force. Special needs persons are those with mental retardation, autism, or spinal cord or brain injuries.

After considering several locations for the training facility, Anderson County, in consultation with the Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT), S. C. Vocational Rehabilitation, and BDSN, determined that an existing 10,000 square foot warehouse facility owned by Anderson County and located behind the offices of BDSN would be the best alternative. Subsequently, with assistance from the ACOG Grant Services staff, Anderson County applied for and received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the S. C. Department of Commerce in the amount of \$245,008 to renovate the building. The ACOG is also administering the project for Anderson County.

This project will have a tremendous benefit to Anderson County and its special needs population, whose



Mr. Randy Lewis, VP, Logistics and Distribution Division at Walgreens, speaks at the Open House.

unemployment rate is estimated at 85 percent. Developing jobs for disabled people on this scale has not been done anywhere else in the country. The payment of competitive wages and health insurance could mean financial independence for many special needs workers. Walgreens has also challenged its 1500 vendors to institute similar hiring programs.

Speakers at the Open House included Congressman Gresham Barrett; State Representative Brian White; Dr. Ronnie Booth, President of Tri-County Technical College; and Mr. Randy Lewis, VP, Logistics and Distribution Division at Walgreens.

### ***Did You Know . . .***

The origins of the name Greenville County are uncertain, but the county was probably named for Revolutionary War general Nathanael Greene (1742-1786) or for an early resident, Isaac Green. The county seat was originally named Pleasantburg, but in 1831 the name was changed to Greenville.

## ADC Receives Wal\*Mart Civic Grant



From left: Michael Washington, Wal\*Mart; Dave Mueller, ADC/ACOG; Carol Andersen and Bob Strother, ACOG.

Wal\*Mart recently awarded a Civic Grant to the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) in the amount of \$3,000 to support economic development. Michael Washington, *People Manager* for Wal\*Mart, explained that the company uses Civic Grants to support organizations that make a direct impact in the local community. These are often non-profit organizations with a strong community outreach component. Washington chose ACOG and the ADC because of their active and measurable involvement in the region, particularly in the areas of small business development.

ADC will use the grant funds to support the current development of Plan-A-Biz, a collection of on-line mapping and demographic analysis tools to support small business development in the Upstate. ACOG Information Services and ADC are collaborating to create a web application that will serve as a tool for refining business plans and enhancing the business development process.

## Pendleton WIB Annual Youth Forum Held

The Pendleton Workforce Investment Board (WIB) District Youth Council held its second Annual Youth Forum at the Clemson Madren Center on February 13. The forum focused on issues that will help make a difference in educating, training, and the overall improvement of the region's work force. Specifically, the program addressed topics for at-risk youth, ages 14 to 21, in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. More than 15 area agencies were represented at the forum, from Adult Education to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

### WorkKeys

First, Charan Lee, the Anderson Districts 1 and 2 Adult Education Director, presented WorkKeys 101. Lee explained that WorkKeys is a standard skills assessment that helps at-risk youth and other disadvantaged people to identify the skills necessary for various jobs or careers, and then assists them in creating portable credentials.

This workforce skill testing is typically conducted to address three basic areas of need common to most South Carolina employers: applied mathematics; locating information; and reading for information. Depending on a person's test score, he or she will rank at one of three certificate levels: "Bronze," "Silver," or "Gold." Upon meeting one of these certificate levels, the person is awarded a credential by the S. C. Department of Education's Office of Adult and Community Education, and this certification can help them land a job or enhance their career opportunities.

### Gateway to College

Juanita Colman, the local Gateway to College Director, and Steph Goodenow, the local program's Lead Resource Specialist, outlined the Gateway grant that will enable at-risk students (up to age 20) who have dropped out of high school to earn a high school diploma while also earning college

credits. Through the Bill Gates Foundation, this program will be implemented at Tri-County Tech, which is one of the first four replication sites in the nation.



According to Colman, the rigorous program will be selective with regard to admittance. Fifty students will be accepted into Tri-County's inaugural program beginning in May. A total of 17 sites will have this program in place nationally by fall 2007.

### Walgreens Project

Larry Kraemer, representing Human Resources for Walgreens distribution center in Anderson, gave an overview of the company's plans for hiring disabled employees. Kraemer is working with Rick Poole, of Vocational Rehabilitation Anderson, and Anderson County to profile, hire, train and transport the employees to its facility, which is scheduled to open in several months. The company's training center will open in February to help train the disabled employees who meet the criteria.

This innovative program is indicative of Walgreens' lauded company policies and its success. It is ranked as the 38th largest company in the nation and expects to open 7000 Walgreens stores by 2010.

### Collaboration

Kristi King-Brock, Director of Anderson Interfaith Ministries (A.I.M.), and members of the WIB and Youth Council, spoke on Collaboration among community agencies. She shared with

the group successful examples of ways A.I.M. worked with other community organizations to maximize resources. These examples provided evidence on how maximizing resources means more needs can be met in the community.

After the presentations, attendees divided into three county groups—Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens. Each group was asked to develop an action plan for their county. Each group established an agenda, location and time for the next meeting. The Youth Council of the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board will continue to host a yearly meeting to assemble the three counties together, allowing them to give a report of each group's yearly progress.

## Where to Go for More Help with the Medicare Prescription Drug Program

- \* Medicare has a website ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)) and a toll-free telephone number (1-800-633-4227 or TTY 1-877-486-2048).
- \* Social Security has a website ([www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)) and a toll-free number (1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778) for questions about extra help for people with limited incomes.
- \* Statewide the Insurance Counseling Assistance and Referrals for Elders (I-CARE) toll-free telephone number is (1-800-868-9095).
- \* For the Appalachian region, the local I-CARE telephone number is (864-242-9733), and the toll-free number is (1-800-434-4036).
- \* AARP has a website ([www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)) and a toll-free telephone number (1-888-687-2277) that can provide additional information.

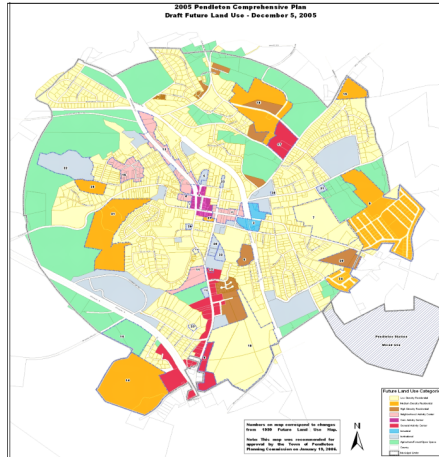
## Land Use Element of Pendleton Comprehensive Plan Submitted to Council

**F**ollowing more than a year's worth of work, the Pendleton Planning Commission recently submitted the Land Use Element of the Town's updated Comprehensive Plan to Town Council for review and adoption. Back in September 2004, the Pendleton Planning Commission initiated work on what it believed would be a relatively simple five-year review of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. It quickly became apparent, however, that the task would be more daunting than it initially appeared. After experiencing relatively little change for many years, since the Town's last Comprehensive Plan Update was completed in 1999, Pendleton has seen dramatic growth pressure and economic challenges. As a function of this growth and resulting changes to the physical environment and character of the community, the public had become especially interested in the Plan update as well.

To help the Planning Commission grapple with issues, the Town enlisted assistance from the Council of Governments in April 2005. Through an extensive process of reviewing the character of the community, analyzing development potential, examining impacts of various options, and considering a tremendous amount of public input, the Planning Commission and ACOG staff produced several iterations of draft future land use maps that were ultimately refined into the recommendation that was submitted to Council in January.

Goals of the draft Land Use Element are to protect and promote the Town Square, protect residential neighborhoods, establish areas for quality infill development, and create small scale neighborhood commercial nodes.

Town Council will consider the Planning Commission recommendation in work sessions and will likely tweak the map before considering it for final adoption. At the same time, the Planning Commission will continue



The Comprehensive Plan emphasizes areas with development or re-development potential, such as the Beaumont Mills neighborhood to the north of downtown.

work on other elements of the Comprehensive Plan over the next several months.



## The Ombudsman Corner

### **‘Eviction Threatened For Being ‘Difficult’**

What you will hear: “You must leave the nursing home because you are a difficult resident.”

The Facts: “Eviction is allowed for only six limited reasons.”

Under the Nursing Home Reform Law, there are only six legitimate reasons for eviction:

1. The resident has failed to pay.
2. The resident no longer needs nursing home care.
3. The resident's needs cannot be met in a nursing home.
4. The resident's presence in the nursing home endangers others' safety.

5. The resident's presence in the nursing home endangers others' health.
6. The nursing home is going out of business.

(See Section 483-12(a) of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.)

Thus, being “difficult” is not a justification for eviction. The important thing to remember is that nursing homes exist in order to care for people with physical and mental problems. Most nursing home residents are “difficult” in one way or another.

Some nursing homes attempt to evict a resident because, for example, the resident tends to wander aimlessly, or has severe dementia and is making howling noises during the night. These evictions almost always are improper, because such residents belong in a nursing home. The fact that they are arguably “difficult” does not mean that they should be evicted. In most cases, it is pointless to evict a resident from one nursing home to another.

A nursing home may cite reason #3, arguing that it cannot meet the needs of the supposedly “difficult” resident. This argument is wrong, because reason #3 only applies if the resident's needs cannot be met in a nursing home generally – for example, if the resident needs placement in a subacute unit or a locked psychiatric ward. The federal government has stated that a nursing home cannot use its own inadequate care as a justification for eviction under #3. [See Federal Register, vol. 56, page 48, 839 (Sept. 26, 1991).]

### **What To Do To Challenge Eviction for Being ‘Difficult’**

To evict a resident, a nursing home must give a written notice that lists the reason for the eviction, along with the facts that allegedly support the eviction. The notice must list the telephone numbers and addresses for the state agency that inspects and licenses nursing homes, the State LTC Ombudsman, the Division of Hearings and Appeals and, if applicable, Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. Generally, the notice must be given

*(LTC continued on page 5)*

## What Caregivers Need from Professionals

**P**rofessionals who work in the human service field require a lot of patience in working with people from all walks of life. This can range from caseworkers, doctors, nurses, and case managers, all the way to I&R specialists, caregiver advocates, and home health agencies, just to name a few. The amount of hours that are usually devoted to working with individuals in need go far and beyond what can be calculated in a day. People who go into some type of professional human service field usually do so because of their genuine desire to help people. As more and more families are caring for a loved one in the home, professionals have found themselves working closely with caregivers. As professionals continue to do their jobs case after case, they may sometimes lose track of the bigger picture. Sometimes professionals may find themselves becoming more desensitized to the individual's needs, and it may appear at times that the person we are working with is just another number. Here is a list that we, as professionals, must try to remember when working with caregivers who are providing informal care to their loved ones:

Remember to pay *attention*. The care receiver may be your fifteenth case of the day, but to the caregiver your fifteenth case is a mom, dad, spouse, or maybe a brother or sister.

Show *compassion*. Let the caregiver know that you are conscious of his/her distress or concern.

Take the *time*. Find at least a couple of minutes to sit down with the caregiver to listen to what they have to say. Keep in mind that they know the care receiver better than you do.

Be *respectful*. The person who is getting up all hours of the night for their loved one or who's pushing that wheelchair is also a lawyer, school teacher, police officer, and accountant.

Be *honest*. Regardless of whether you have good news or bad

news to share, always be honest. Caregivers deserve the truth, no matter what the outcome.

We must keep in mind that caregivers are special people who have no concern for the time or the cost. We, as professionals, need to realize and remember that in the caregiver world, there is no such thing as a five-day workweek. We must not forget that we must often take a step back and look at the bigger picture.

If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about the Family Caregiver Support Program, or would like information on caregiving, please contact Sam Wiley or Debra Brown at (864) 242-9733. You may also send an e-mail to either [brown@scacog.org](mailto:brown@scacog.org) or [swiley@scacog.org](mailto:swiley@scacog.org)

## City of Easley – ACOG Facilitates Annual Planning Retreat



The 2006 Belton City Council and ACOG's Joe Newton pictured here upon the successful conclusion of a strategic planning session at ACOG.

The City of Easley conducted its fifth annual planning retreat at the Council of Governments' offices in February. City Council members spent an entire day reviewing programs and establishing and prioritizing goals and objectives for the municipality. By

utilizing ACOG's staff and facilities for its planning retreats, the Easley City Council has saved a considerable amount of taxpayer dollars over the years.

## Development Corporation News

Residents of Cherokee County have a new recreational venue in the county, financed through the Appalachian Development Corporation and Carolina First Bank. Rockin MC Arena and Stables opened February 9th with the Southern Rodeo Association 2005 finals. This new facility, located on the Boiling Springs Highway, was constructed to host rodeo and rodeo events, but can be rented for other events such as church revivals, weddings, or concerts. The building seats 3,000, has a VIP Lounge, 30 permanent boarding stalls, and 150 open air stalls. Parking capacity is 800 vehicles. From now until the finals at the end of the year, there will be a rodeo event of some sort almost every weekend. If not a full rodeo, it might be bull riding, barrel racing, team roping, or other rodeo events. Rockin MC Arena has a website that can be accessed at <http://www.rockinmcarena.com/>. This site provides a list of upcoming events, directions and other helpful information concerning the facility.

In Spartanburg County, just outside the city limits on Reidville Road, the Appalachian Development Corporation and Arthur State Bank have provided funding for a new barbecue restaurant called J-Bones. Owners Joe and Rita Nix opened the new business on February 7th. The restaurant specializes in barbecue pork, chicken, and beef but also has items such as seafood and steaks. Particularly interesting are the fried green tomatoes and the fried dill pickle spears. In addition to the restaurant, the site is also home to the Chocolate Bunny Bake Shop, which sells cookies, cakes, pies, and ice cream made on site. At lunch the

(ADC continued on page 5)

# VIEWPOINT

Appalachian Council of Governments  
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## *Address Service Requested*

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*(LTC continued from page 3)*

at least 30 days prior to the date of proposed eviction.

Upon receiving the notice, the resident's representative should request an appeal. In response, the state will schedule an appeal hearing. The hearing generally will be held at the nursing home by a state hearing officer. It is preferable, but not essential, that the resident be represented by a lawyer, ombudsman program representative, or other advocate. The hearings tend to be relatively informal. In most cases, it can be shown that the nursing home did not do adequate care planning and instead tried to evict the resident when a difficult situation presented itself.

Oftentimes the nursing home proposes to transfer the resident to another nursing home. This is good evidence that the resident is appropriate for nursing home care. After all, if the second nursing home can provide adequate and appropriate care, there probably is no reason why a similar level could not be provided by the current nursing home.

The resident should resist the inclination to give up. Sometimes a resident will think, "if the nursing home doesn't want me, then I'm better off going elsewhere." The reality is, however, that the second nursing home may be no better—or may be worse—than the first one. A resident who fights eviction, wins and stays may find himself receiving more respect and better care from the nursing home.

Information obtained from: "20 Common Nursing Home Problems—and How to Resolve Them." National Senior Citizens Law Center, Eric M. Carlson, Esq. December 2005.

From Your Local Ombudsmen:  
Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Rhonda Monroe, Celia Clark, Sandy Dunagan and Jessica Arnone; phone 864-242-9733.



*(ADC continued from page 4)*

Chocolate Bunny also sells the sandwich part of the J-Bones menu. The restaurant opens daily at 11:00 a.m.

In other Development Corporation news, the Board recently approved loans to Blanck Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Headcoach, LLC, in the amount of \$60,000, to Perfection Furniture in the amount of \$100,000, and to Green River Cabins, Inc., in the amount of \$200,000.

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## ***HISTORIC FACT***

One of the key battles of the American Revolution was fought in Spartanburg County. The National Park Service protects and preserves the COWPENS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, located north of downtown, off Interstate 85. The battlefield commemorates a major American victory in January 1781, which helped turn the tide of the war in the Southern Campaign of the revolution.