

Upstate to Benefit from \$1.2 Million Aging and Disabilities Grant

The Appalachian Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) will be receiving \$1.2 million in grant funds designed to help seniors and disabled persons return home and stay home after periods of hospitalization. The AAAA, in partnership with the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, was approved for one of six national grants to help develop a system that will provide caregivers and patients with resources and support upon *leaving* the hospital.

The first component of the AAAA program is designated as the **Connections to Community Living Program**. Its goal is to maximize opportunities for people to live in the community after hospitalization by developing and executing a "model" discharge planning process. Elements of the South Carolina model build on previously successful programs and systems within the state's healthcare, and aging and disability services networks known as "Person-Centered Planning."

As a second component of the new grant, AAAA's **Appalachian Aging and Disability Resource Center** will also be expanded. The person-centered hospital discharge planning model will be enhanced by promoting access to vital information resources and streamlining the process of engaging home- and community-based services.

Key partners in the new AAAA project include the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Senior Centers of Spartanburg, Community Long Term Care, the Aging and Disability Re-



State and local officials have been working hard to implement the *Connections to Community Living* grant to assist seniors and disabled persons.

source Center, U.S.C. Office for the Study of Aging, and the S. C. Spinal Cord Injury Association.

The AAAA is looking forward to working with its partners to make significant and lasting changes to support individuals with a disability or illness. The agency hopes to increase the opportunities for these persons to better cope with their conditions, while continuing to live in their own homes and communities.

Upstate Leaders Get Reality Check

Imagine the power of over 400 bright minds in the same room, talking about the future of the Upstate! Leaders from the 10-county Upstate community did just that when they met on April 8, 2009, to participate in **Upstate Reality Check**. During the regional planning exercise, they began building

(Reality Check continued on page 5)

Development Corporation News



ADC Loan Servicing Officer, Ron Smith

The Appalachian Development Corporation is pleased to announce the addition of G. Ron Smith to the organization. He will serve as Loan Servicing Officer, providing management assistance in various aspects of the ADC's loan portfolio. He has a wide range of experience in banking, investments, financial consulting, and business management.

Ron has served as Vice-President/Financial Consultant with Merrill Lynch, Financial Consultant with American Express, Executive Vice-President/Chief Operating Officer with Commerce Union Bank of Chattanooga, TN, Senior Vice-President of the Commercial Bank Group for First National Bank of Mobile, AL, and Vice-President/Area Executive Officer for Security Bank and Trust of Charlotte, NC. Because of his experience in these positions, Ron brings valuable knowledge to the ADC, with his background

(ADC continued on page 2)

Caregivers and Legal Matters

Many of us are practiced and life-long procrastinators. When faced with pressing legal and financial complexities, our first reaction is to deal with them “tomorrow.” Unfortunately, if you are a family caregiver, particularly for an older adult, you may not have the luxury of another tomorrow.

Amid the myriad of emotions – love, anger, frustration, guilt – associated with being the primary caregiver for an aged parent or relative, caregivers must also deal with the immediate responsibilities of providing daily health care, living arrangements, financial needs and emergencies. For caregivers, planning can’t wait and can’t be put off.

Health and finances are two areas that may require the legal authority to make decisions on behalf of another person. The issue may be as simple as signing a check for a loved one or as complex as deciding if he or she would want a feeding tube after becoming bedridden and non-responsive. If a caregiver has not been designated in advance as a **legal authority** to act on an individual’s behalf, the caregiver will not have rights as a decision maker, no matter what their relationship to the individual may be.

It is important for caregivers to know the state of their family members’ legal affairs. As the adult child of aging, but competent parents, it is a good idea to initiate some discussion about what legal arrangements may or may not already be in place. Such topics for discussion might be **wills, durable powers of attorney, asset disbursement or living wills**. Are **general and medical powers of attorney** in place? Are there any **trusts**? Do they have an **attorney**?

Sometimes parents or elders are reluctant to speak with their children or caregivers about these topics. It may be necessary for a neutral third party such as an attorney, a qualified financial advisor, a social worker or perhaps a good friend to get involved. These issues must be resolved **before** a crisis oc-



Seniors and caregivers have very special needs and obligations.

curs. When loved ones are involved, “tomorrow” is often too late.

A more detailed explanation of this subject and good practical advice can be found in “Since You Care,” a publication available from ACOG. Contact ACOG Ombudsman staff, advocates for vulnerable adults living in long term care facilities: Nancy Hawkins, Sandy Dunagan, Jamie Guay, Greg Taylor and Jessica Winters; telephone: 864-242-9733.



(ADC continued from page 1)

in commercial loans, multi-branch bank management, and wealth management. His efforts in the serving arena will aid the ADC in being more effective and efficient in its economic development efforts in the region.

Ron is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and currently resides in Greer. He has a BS degree in Business Administration from Sacred Heart College in Belmont, NC. He is also is a graduate of the University of North Carolina (UNC) Graduate School of Banking and the UNC Executive Program. Please join us in welcoming him to the staff of the Appalachian Development Corporation.

FY2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants



\$510 million in grant funds are available to fire departments and emergency medical service organizations for training, equipment and programs.

On April 15, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it began accepting applications for FY2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG).

AFG awards, which will be distributed in phases, will provide approximately \$510 million to fire departments and emergency medical service organizations. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

In addition, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (also know as Stimulus funding) provided \$210 million in funding to DHS to construct new fire stations or modify exist-

ing stations. That funding opportunity will be announced in the near future, and eligible applicants will be instructed

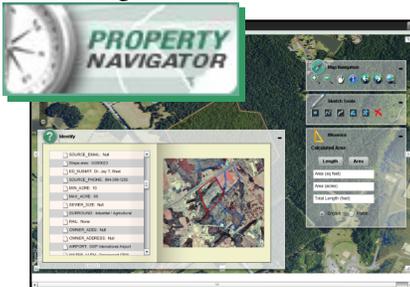
on the application requirements at that time. However, station construction will NOT be an eligible grant activity under the regular order fiscal 2009 grant cycle. Interested parties should monitor www.recovery.gov for updated information.

Applications are due Wednesday, May 20. For more information and application instructions, go to www.firegrantsupport.com/afg/.



Upstate Alliance and ACOG Launch Property Navigator

The Upstate SC Alliance, in partnership with ACOG, recently launched a cutting-edge web mapping tool to powerfully market the Upstate to site consultants and businesses considering locations in the area.



The *Property Navigator* has a variety of innovative features, combining satellite imagery, available property information, local demographic data and a unique ability to manipulate maps according to a visitor's particular site needs. From sketching out a building site to learning the number of college-educated workers within 30 minutes of a site, the Property Navigator equips site consultants to understand the benefits of doing business in Upstate South Carolina without ever setting foot in the region.

"Our updated GIS property navigation tool is designed with ease of use in mind. It requires fewer clicks to get information, retains more search values for extensive research and will allow visitors access to a depth of information that most online navigational tools have never provided," said Upstate SC Alliance Research Manager Jennifer Miller. "In our intensely web-focused industry, not having the right tools available online can make the difference between consideration and elimination."

From start to finish, the online mapping tool cost more than \$290,000. Two-thirds of the funding coming from a grant from Duke Energy's AdvanceSC program. The remainder of the development funding was obtained

through the ACOG and the Upstate SC Alliance.

ACOG played a central part in project design, technical development, website and data hosting, and will provide ongoing support through database maintenance and tool innovations.

Visit the Upstate SC Alliance website at www.upstatealliance.com and then click the 'Property Navigator' tab.

Project Development Training



Mark Your Calendars:

WHEN: June 8-9, 2009

WHERE: Station Square Sheraton Hotel - Pittsburgh, PA

WHAT: Project Development Workshop

The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) will be conducting a workshop to provide participants with training geared toward learning more about what is involved in making an infrastructure project "happen." It will include discussion and training on such things as planning, working with engineers, regulatory approval, and financing.

For more information, check the ARC website at www.arc.gov, or call Dirk Reis at the ACOG office.

WORKLINK Means Jobs



WorkLink sponsored a job fair in April at the Anderson Fusion Warehouse.

In late January, the WorkLink Board and staff began the **Strategic Planning process** with Ricki Kozumplik of AHA Consulting. This involved an intensive two-day training and overview period focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and how funding streams can best be utilized to meet the training and educational needs of the region. In February AHA Consulting conducted focus groups with representatives from across Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties in the areas of businesses, economic development, education, service providers, and youth. Surveys were also utilized to get feedback on services and programs currently offered, as well as to solicit recommendations for new services. Useful feedback was received from all participants. The final leg of the Strategic Planning effort was completed in early April. A final plan is expected to be in place by the end of May 2009.

The inaugural **Workforce Development Alliance Symposium** was held on April 16 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Anderson. This recently formed alliance's vision is to achieve economic growth through workforce development and meet workforce needs by collaborating through shared resources in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. Elisabeth Kovacs with the S.C.

(WorkLink continued on page 5)

Telecommunications Study Nearing Completion



Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties have all but completed a comprehensive broadband telecommunications study.

The Tri-County (Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens) Telecommunications Committee announced that a months-long broadband study is nearing completion. With help from the Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG), the committee selected Design Nine, a broadband planning firm to conduct the study. The company provided a broadband needs analysis, future bandwidth needs assessment, last mile technology review, and a set of recommendations at the town, county, and regional levels.

George McDaniel, who has managed the project for ACOG, said, "This study will provide the region with a roadmap and a set of next steps to help the area remain competitive in the global economy. Today, most businesses that are considering moving to a new area rank the availability and affordability of business class broadband very highly in decision making."

Design Nine conducted an extensive series of meetings, interviews, and public sessions to collect information from public and private companies and institutions regarding current and future broadband needs. The firm's president, Dr. Andrew Cohill, said, "The Tri-County area has a unique set of assets that include a skilled workforce, affordable housing, great recreational opportunities, and a great quality of life in the many towns in the region."

Design Nine's recommendations include getting more fiber into the business parks in the region, teleconduits and fiber in downtowns, especially where Main Street revitalization projects are planned, and using high performance wireless broadband to help get expanded and improved broadband service options to more rural parts of the three counties. Copies of the study will be made available in mid-May.

United Way Neighborhoods

In January, the ACOG played a role in helping the United Way of Greenville County in their mission of improving the lives of Greenville County and building a vital, caring community. One of the first steps in accomplishing this ongoing goal is to identify the characteristics and needs of those persons they endeavor to help. To that end, the Information Services Department prepared detailed socio-economic reports for 21 areas designated as "Special Emphasis Neighborhoods." The information compiled for each of these neighborhoods included current and projected population figures, broken down by a number of characteristics such as race, age and educational attainment. The reports also provided statistics related to household income, housing units, teen pregnancies and unemployment. This project is just one example of the many services offered by the ACOG to help make the Upstate an even better place in which to live.

For more information or to place a similar order, please contact the Information Services staff at 864-242-9733.



Municipalities Review and Update Comprehensive Plans



Comprehensive plans are reviewed every five years and completely updated at least every ten years.

During the late 1990's the Appalachian Council of Governments Planning staff assisted several municipalities in developing comprehensive plans to meet new state regulatory requirements. These plans have served as guides for making public policy decisions on land use decisions, as well as infrastructure, economic, and community development projects. However, no plan can be effective unless the goals and strategies set forth are examined regularly to assess their effectiveness. With this in mind, the *legislation included a requirement that comprehensive plans be reviewed every five years and completely updated at least every ten years.*

With current economic uncertainties, aging infrastructure and exploding regional growth, *now* is the right time to evaluate and accommodate the direction and needs of the community. Almost as important, State Planning Enabling Legislation carries clauses stating that, without an update, *land use regulations such as zoning, subdivision regulations, and design guidelines are at risk of being invalidated.*

Plan updates are important. The Appalachian Council of Governments staff can provide project management and/or technical assistance. For more information, please contact Chip Bentley at 864-242-9733.

Conquering Alzheimer's Disease in South Carolina

On June 3, 2008, the Purple Ribbon Task Force was created by resolution S. 1333 adopted by the General Assembly. It requested the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to convene this body to study the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease in South Carolina and to assess the resources for and the needs of persons with Alzheimer's and related disorders (ARD) in order to develop a strategy to address the issues. The following excerpt is a very brief section of their findings, as presented by Interim Director Tony Kester of the Office on Aging.

In the state of South Carolina alone, there were an estimated 67,000 individuals with Alzheimer's or related dementia in the year 2000. It is expected the number of people impacted will grow 19 percent by the year 2010, at which point an estimated 80,000 will be living with the disease.

The South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Registry, which records diagnosed cases of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, acknowledges the difficulty of definitively knowing the number of South Carolinians affected. In its 2007 Annual Report, the Registry shows that 56,754 South Carolinians were living with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or related dementia; the report, however, cites a study suggesting that the total number of individuals who actually suffer from dementia may be nearly 50 percent greater than the number that have been diagnosed.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that the direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias to Medicare, Medicaid and businesses amount to more than \$148 billion annually. By 2030, when the baby boom generation is over age 65, the number of Americans with Alzheimer's will soar to levels that may exceed our ability to absorb the added cost and bankrupt our health care system.

The Upstate region, which includes Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville,



Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties, is home to approximately 26 percent of the over age 60 population. The impact of this disease on our region will be tremendous. The **Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP)** is partnering with caregivers to alleviate some of the pressures associated with this disease and their care recipients. By means of information, support, respite and supplemental services to those providing care to this population, they will have the tools they need to make it through the dementia "tidal wave" that approaches our state. To contact ACOG's FCSP, please call 1-800-925-4077, or locally 1-864-242-9733.

View the complete report at www.aging.sc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/C99B197B-FB

(WorkLink continued from page 3)

Department of Commerce was the guest speaker and addressed issues related to maximizing employer resources.

A **Job Fair** was held on April 28 at the Fusion Warehouse in Anderson. An estimated 2,000-3,000 job seekers were expected to attend this event, which was targeted to both adults and youth. WorkLink collaborated with the school districts in the region to maximize youth participation. Service providers for WorkLink, as well as those throughout the region, participated in the event, as did more than 40 companies.

The **ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)** has the staff working hard to pull

together programs for Youth and Adults/Dislocated Workers, with a focus on "green" jobs, construction, and transportation. A total of \$4,135,524, covering February 17, 2009 through June 30, 2011 will be received to assist with this workforce development stimulus package. Congress is placing strong emphasis on spending these funds quickly and wisely, with a focus on accountability and transparency for every dollar spent. Innovation, not "business as usual," is the order of the day, and we are to place emphasis on training for participants.

(Reality Check continued from page 1)

consensus about how we want the region to look in 2030 and how we can work together to manage the opportunities and challenges of growth.



Upstate Reality Check is a collaborative regional visioning process, developed and supported by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and sponsored in the Upstate by Upstate Together and ULI South Carolina. The event capped nearly a year of planning and collaboration. ACOG staff were extensively involved in research, planning, and design of the table-sized "gameboard" maps.

Although participants used simple tools (legos & yarn) to plan where growth, jobs, and transportation should occur in the future, the discussions about the issues were rich and complex. The group identified regional collaboration as the top priority for overcoming barriers to future region prosperity. Most participants agreed that the best outcome was the opportunity for folks from all across the region to share concerns and realize that their ideas and plans can best be accomplished together.

VIEWPOINT

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GREENVILLE, SC
PERMIT NO. 1604

Address Service Requested



Working together for Fountain Inn. The Fountain Inn City Council recently conducted its first strategic planning retreat in recent memory. Council members have set their sights high and have planned good things for their City.