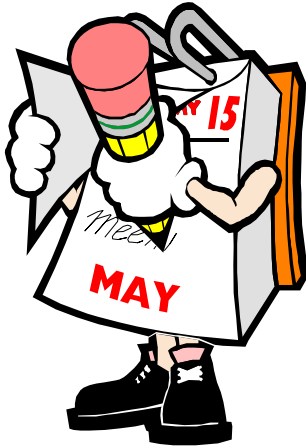


The 2001 Local Government Symposium

The Appalachian Council of Governments has scheduled its annual Local Government Symposium 2001 for Tuesday, May 15, at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Woodside Conference facility of the Palmetto Expo Center on Exposition Avenue, Greenville, South Carolina. City and County elected officials, managers, administrators, and Legislative Representatives

are invited to attend. The Symposium has been presented annually for the last 11 years to educate and enlighten government leaders on topics that are of crucial importance to South Carolina local government.



The 2001 Symposium Agenda will include:

- A presentation by Greenville City Manager Randy Oliver on his personal experiences with Consolidated City-County Government in Georgia;
- A presentation by Chris Story, Assistant County Administrator of Spartanburg County, on the Pro-



Pictured above is Howard Duvall, Executive Director of the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Also shown is Karen Floyd, Chairperson of the Spartanburg County Council. Both were speakers at the 1999

posed Local Option Sales Tax in Spartanburg County;

- A presentation by Spartanburg City Manager Roy Lane on the Problems and Opportunities with Municipal Annexation in South Carolina; and
- An update by Howard Duvall, Executive Director of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, on pending and enacted Legislation in the South Carolina General Assembly Affecting Local Governments.

The registration cost, including dinner, is \$20.00 per person. Information and registration forms are available by calling, faxing, or emailing Debra Brown at Tel. 864-241-4616, Fax: 864-242-6957, or E-Mail at brown@scacog.org

Appalachian COG Holds Multi-Modal Plan Focus Group Meetings

The Appalachian Council of Governments is partnering with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the other nine COGs to produce the Statewide Multi-Modal Transportation Plan. In an attempt to decentralize the planning process and allow for more local input, each COG is conducting focus group meetings to receive public input. Focus group participants included various transportation organizations, local planners, area chambers of commerce, bicycle and pedestrian groups, and land conservation and preservation groups.

The ACOG held six focus group meetings to solicit input, and nearly 70 participants provided input to the plan. ACOG staff presented their regional scan, which is an inventory of the transportation system assets in the Appalachian region. The participants were asked to identify regional transportation issues and needs; then to make broad recommendations to meet the transportation needs of the region. Some examples of regional transportation issues identified by the focus group participants include the need for a better source of funding for regional and business airports, better communication and planning among the various transportation providers, an increased awareness of the need and funding for better public transportation, an increased need for connecting the various modes of transportation, and better linking of cities in this region.

(Focus Group continued on page 3)

Regionalism : Concept and Practice

Part V : Success Stories in Regionalism

During the past 35 years, over \$60 million in state and federal investments have come through the COG to benefit regional or multi-county users. Some projects, like the construction of Highway 11 (the Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway) during the late 1960's and early 1970's, are still highly visible and relevant today. In fact, in 1998, the highway was designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation as a National Scenic Byway, one of the first such designations in the country. Other projects were innovative for their time, but have since fallen prey to technological progress. The Appalachian Regional Computer Commission, for example, did mainframe computer processing for local governments and educational institutions during the mid-1970's, before the growing popularity of the personal computer made such applications obsolete.

In the 1970's, the COG initiated a regional tourism program that evolved into what is now the Discover Upcountry Carolina Association (DUCA). A COG-sponsored cooperative purchasing program saved Upstate local governments hundreds of thousands of dollars on bulk purchases before they became eligible for the state purchasing program. A junk car removal project helped rid the area of unsightly abandoned vehicles and associated health risks. A regional arson prevention program brought arson investigators together for the first time to discuss strategies for reducing the incidence of arson and sharing investigative techniques.

The 1980's saw the initiation of a pilot project for Community Long Term Care; a project which was replicated on a statewide basis, and provides a valuable, ongoing service today. Two COG programs encouraged recycling efforts:

one for waste oil; another for paper, glass, metals, and other recyclable goods. An export development program facilitated training for small manufacturers who wanted to enter the global marketplace, and provided a road map and resource directory to help guide them along the way. Numerous small towns became computerized through the COG's Small Towns Automation project, and many still use the COG for technical support today. The COG's Revolving Loan Fund, started in 1989, has provided over 80 small business loans, totaling \$8 million, leveraging \$28 million in capital investment, and creating over 800 jobs.

The 1990's brought several regional programs focused on economic research and development. One of the most successful efforts, 1995's Appalachian Regional Development Partnership, resulted in the identification of 76 projects or issues that needed to be addressed for continued economic growth. Today, 57 of those elements are either completed or currently underway. AppNet, COG's regional telecommunications network, provided our county libraries with their first direct link to the Internet. And, finally, infoMentum, formerly the Economic Development Information System, was the COG's first truly public-private partnership. infoMentum provides regional industrial recruiters with a valuable tool for enhancing their efforts and increasing the visibility of the Upstate across the world.

While the COG was most often the administrative tool for program and project implementation, the majority of these success stories were inspired by an identification of need at the local government level. The identified needs became a blueprint for action through the combined efforts of the COG Board of Directors and the member jurisdictions. The successes came about simply through true intergovernmental cooperation.

Pat Harris Celebrates 90th Birthday

Patrick Bradley Harris, affectionately known by "Mr. Pat," celebrated his 90th birthday in Anderson recently, surrounded by family and friends, many of whom were former colleagues from his long tenure with the S.C. General Assembly.

Always ready with a joke, Mr. Pat told the large crowd that "His preacher had told him he would keep him out of Hell, and his doctor said he wouldn't let him go to Heaven yet, so he decided to stick around for his 90th birthday mostly because he had nowhere else to go."

Mr. Pat has been a member of the COG's Board of Directors since 1973, served three terms as Chairman, and was instrumental in securing funding from the General Assembly to help support the operations of South Carolina's ten regional councils.

From all of us at the Appalachian COG, Board and staff, Happy 90th Birthday, Mr. Pat.. and many, many more!

Upstate Population Exceeds 1 Million



According to figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau for Census 2000, the population of the six-county ACOG region reached 1,028,656 - a 15.4% increase from 1990. The popula-

(Population continued on page 4)

Long Term Care Options

Until recently, few alternatives to nursing homes existed for people who could no longer take care of themselves. Some people are placed in nursing homes because neither they nor their caregivers know the alternatives available to them. Now, there are a variety of living arrangements that offer different levels of care, and some of these options are preferable to nursing homes, depending on the needs of the individual. Such arrangements include: Home and community care; subsidized senior housing; assisted living facilities; board and care homes; residential care facilities; and nursing homes. This article will discuss nursing homes.

What is a nursing home? A nursing home is a residence that provides room, meals, recreational activities, help with activities of daily living, and protective supervision to residents. Usually nursing home residents have physical or mental impairments that keep them from living independently. In South Carolina, nursing homes are certified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to provide various levels of care from custodial to skilled nursing care (services that can only be administered by a trained professional).

Facts about nursing homes. On a daily average in 1997, nursing homes were caring for about one in twenty Americans over the age of 65. At that time, one-fifth of the people admitted into nursing homes stayed at least one year; one-tenth stayed three years or more.

Why location is important. Usually, it is a mistake to select a nursing home that is difficult to visit on a regular basis. Frequent visits are the best way to make sure that your relative does well in the nursing home. Visitors are important advocates for chronically ill residents. Frequent visits often make the transition to a nursing home easier for new residents and their families.

What is a survey? All nursing homes in South Carolina are certified by SCDHEC to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs. They are visited by state-trained surveyors approximately once a year. The surveyors take several days to examine the nursing home and inspect the performance of the nursing home in numerous areas, including quality of life and quality of care. The team reports its findings to the nursing home management team at the conclusion of the survey. Nursing homes with deficiencies are required to make corrections in these areas or will be subject to fines and other penalties.

If families or residents have problems in nursing homes, Long Term Care Ombudsmen are one of the best resources for help and information. Ombudsmen will investigate complaints, advocate for the resident, and mediate disputes, if needed. In addition, ombudsmen can provide general advice on what to look for when selecting a nursing home. Below are the phone numbers for the Long Term Care Ombudsman's office in the Upstate of South Carolina.

Contact the Appalachian Council of Governments' Long Term Care Ombudsman toll-free:

Anderson County	225-3268
Cherokee County	489-6960
Greenville County	242-9733
Oconee County	882-7538

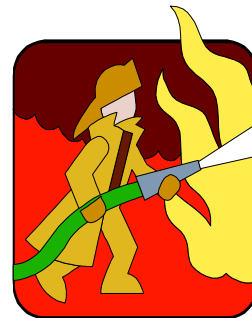
(Focus Group continued from page 1)

An additional round of meetings will occur after COG staff compile the results of the earlier meetings. After the final round of meetings, the plan will then be submitted to the ACOG Board for approval. Upon Board approval, the plan will be sent to the SCDOT. For additional information about the Multimodal Plan, or the focus group meetings

Funds for Rural Fire Departments

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is accepting applications for matching funds under the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program. The Forestry Commission expects to receive

\$ 7 0 , 0 0 0 statewide for the 50/50 matching grant program.



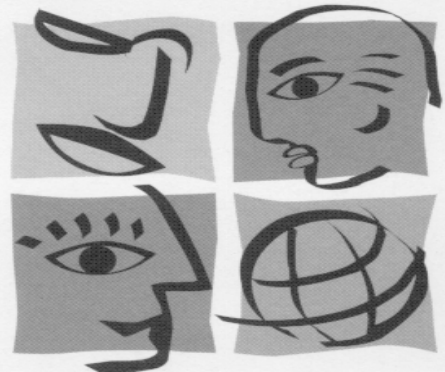
Fire departments serving a rural area, or a rural com-

munity with a population of 10,000 or less, are eligible to apply. Fire departments serving a population greater than 10,000 may qualify as long as the service area includes a rural area, or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used only for the benefit of the rural community. The intent of the program is to help the most needy fire departments based on criteria like ISO rating, budget, and budget source.

Equipment and supplies that may be purchased under the program include, but are not limited to, radios, nozzles, hoses, self-contained breathing apparatus, hand tools, personal protective clothing, portable pumps and generators, Class A foam delivery equipment and foam concentrate. Items purchased with VFA funding will have an acquisition cost of less than \$5,000. Items purchased and records of purchase are subject to review by federal and state authorities.

The deadline for receiving applications is May 31, 2001. For an application packet, please contact Dirk Reis at the Council of Governments, or one of the County Fire Rangers in each county. The application forms are also available on the Forestry Commission's web site

The MANY FACES OF AGING



Since 1963, the month of May is annually proclaimed by the President of the United States as "Older Americans Month." It is a specific time set aside to acknowledge and honor the nation's older citizens and re-examine the issues that affect them most.

Focusing the nation's attention on its older citizens has never been more appropriate, given that the average American is living longer than ever before. This fact, coupled with the changing face of the nation's health care delivery system, means more Americans of all ages are dealing with the issue of how to care for an older family member or friend who needs ongoing assistance on a daily basis. Caregivers play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for older individuals. Can you believe that, each day in our county, over 5 million older individuals require assistance from family, friends, neighbors and agencies that allows them to live in their own homes. We are honored to be able to be a part of this support system.

In recognition of the diversity of our nation and its older citizens, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has chosen the theme "The Many Faces of Aging" for this year's

"Older Americans Month." All across the Upstate we are blessed with older individuals who represent this theme and who have great talents and a wealth of knowledge to share. They are our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, our volunteers, and our parents.

To all our older individuals, we say you are our heritage. We honor you for all you have contributed to make our world a better place than you found it through hard work, dedication, and love



(Population continued from page 2)
tion of the Upstate has almost doubled since 1950.

Although the cities of Anderson, Greenville, and Spartanburg lost a combined 9.2% of their population since 1990, the same counties combined grew by over 12.4%. Only 28% of the Upstate's population resided in incorporated municipalities in 2000.

Another important result of Census 2000 was the rising Hispanic population count. Greenville County led the state with 14,283 Hispanic residents. The Hispanic population of the entire Upstate was 27,729.

The figures for Census 2000 are derived from a count taken April 1, 2000. For more Census 2000 information, visit the web site: www.census.gov, or contact an Economic Information Analyst with the ACOG's Information Services Department.



DID YOU KNOW ...

The Stumphouse Tunnel, located in Oconee County, was the result of an attempt to connect Charleston with the Midwest! Before the 1860's, the Blue Ridge Railroad started the tunnel as a rail link; however, work came to a halt when the contractor went bankrupt!

Senior Medicare Fraud Program to Be Implemented

The Area Agency on Aging will begin a new initiative in Medicare fraud. The program will be administered in conjunction with the Insurance Counseling Assistance and Referrals for Elders (I-CARE) program. The purpose of the program is to train professionals and volunteers to conduct Medicare fraud education and counseling. The objectives of the



Senior Medicare Fraud project are to: promote public awareness of fraud through educational initiatives/presentations and teach beneficiaries how to monitor Medicare bills paid on their behalf and what to do about identified discrepancies. The program is intended to reduce the incidence of fraud and abuse. The Senior Medicare Fraud initiative is a three-year project.

Although the project remains in the planning stage at the state level, training for the project should be underway summer 2001. Once trained, volunteers and staff will assist in a variety of community settings to provide fraud education and outreach to older persons and their families. Special emphasis will be placed on reaching vulnerable isolated and non-English speaking persons. No fees will be charged for the services provided under this grant.



Calendar of Events

- May 4 Summer School of Gerontology Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Winthrop University, Rock Hill.
- May 10 Aging Component Directors Meeting, 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Council of Governments.
- May 18 S.C. Association of Area Agencies on Aging Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Caring Connection, Columbia.
- May 23 Regional Aging Advisory Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Council Board Room.
- May 25 COG Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Council Board Room.
- May 30 Family Caregiver Program Steering Committee, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Columbia.

VIEW POINT

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Greenville, South Carolina 29606

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