

The 2003 Local Government Symposium — May 20 — Palmetto Expo Center

Governor Sanford has proposed legislation that will transform South Carolina's constitutionally weak Governor into a strong and effective chief executive. The Iraq War is over, but the mobilization of troops continues and so does our legal and moral responsibility to our **Guard and Reserve** employees. Like it or not, the **South Carolina Education Lottery** is making money. **Home Rule** may mean one thing to you and something completely different to some legislators in the General Assembly. We have a lot to talk about...

The Appalachian Council of Governments is pleased to announce its annual Local Government Symposium 2003 on **Tuesday, May 20, at 5:30 p.m.** 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 13 years to government leaders on topics of crucial importance to South Carolina Local Government.

The 2003 Symposium Agenda will include:

- Welcome from the ACOG Board of Directors;
- Mr. Chad Walldorf, Governor Sanford's Chief of Staff, on **Restructuring South Carolina's State Government**;
- Mr. Bill Boozer, Vice Chair of South Carolina's Committee on



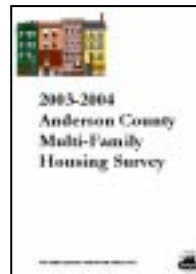
ESGR, on Employer Responsibilities to Guard and Reserve Personnel;

- Mr. Tim Madden, Vice Chair of the South Carolina Lottery, on the **Operation and Profitability of South Carolina's Education Lottery**;
- Howard Duvall, Executive Director of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, on a **Legislative Update** of current session of the South Carolina General Assembly.

Registration, including dinner, is \$20 per person. Please sign up as soon as possible by notifying your city or county clerk, *or* by mailing your name, telephone number and a check directly to the Appalachian Council of Governments, Attention: Mia Bauer, P. O. Box 6668, Greenville, S. C. 29606. Please make checks payable to the Appalachian Council of Governments (Tel: 864-242-9733).

Housing Survey Reveals Diversified Growth in Anderson County's Multi-Family Market

The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments has completed research and production of the *2003-2004 Anderson County Multi-Family Housing Survey*. This unique report contains an inventory and analysis of all known conventional and "income-dependent" apartment properties with 24 or more units, and townhouse/condominium properties with 15 or more units. The report also includes a subcategory for elderly housing. Information for this publication is obtained from letters and phone calls to apartment managers, rental agencies, and developers.



The 2003-2004 report reveals construction activity in all categories. The inventory of conventional units stands to grow by 316 units upon the completion of The Hamptons and Bran Avenue Apartments in Anderson, and Minor at Middleton Apartments in Williamston. The continued development and rehabilitation of tax credit units also appears to be a trend. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) is designed to provide a tax incentive to owners developing low-income multi-family rental housing. At the time of the survey, two tax credit properties were planned for the county, Oak Place Apartments in Anderson and Parkview Apartments in Williamston. Once completed, the income-dependent

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ACOG Begins CEDS Annual Report

On August 23, 2002, the Appalachian Council of Governments Board of Directors adopted a fully revised version of the Regional Strategic Plan for Economic Development, which serves as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), as required by the Economic Development Administration. Projects must be identified and included within the regional economic development strategy to qualify for EDA grant funding. The plan now covers the five-year span from 2002 to 2007. In each of the interim years (2003-2006), an annual report, tracking project status, economic development activities, and necessary adjustments to the plan is required to be developed and submitted for approval.

The annual report will be a short document, readily accessible to the public and decision makers in the region and will include the following information:

- Adjustments, consistent with the overall strategy of the plan, that have developed due to unforeseen opportunities or unexpected problems.
- A report on the previous year's economic development activity and any significant changes in the region's economic conditions.
- An evaluation that measures the effectiveness in meeting the goals of the strategy.
- A schedule of achievable goals for the coming year.

To produce the Progress Report, copies of each county's project and strategy sections will be distributed to county steering committee members. County steering committees are comprised of citizens, elected officials and professionals involved with economic development, including infrastructure projects and initiatives related to water, sewer and transportation. The steering committee will report on the status of projects currently included in the plan, list a schedule for projects that will likely begin within the next year, and

identify any additional, significant economic development projects that have been identified since the plan was adopted last year. Once this information is received from the steering committees and is endorsed by each county, the full annual report for the region will be developed and submitted to the Appalachian Council of Governments Board of Directors for approval on June 27, 2003.



The CEDS focuses on infrastructure and resource development projects that are necessary to support economic development. Please contact Shawn Colin with the Appalachian Council of Governments with any questions.

ADC News

The Appalachian Development Corporation Board recently approved a loan of \$75,000 to Metal Quik Mart, Inc., a new franchise operation locating in Duncan, S. C. The business is owned by Richard Pratt, a former ADC borrower who repaid a loan for a MAACO franchise. Primary financing will come from Greenville First Bank. The project will create three or more jobs.

The Board also approved Monarch Cleaners for a loan of \$85,000. Monarch Cleaners, owned by Hoon Kwak, is purchasing dry cleaning
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Public Forum

Promoting Consumer Direction and Access to Home and Community Based Services for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Public forums are being held throughout the state to give individuals the opportunity to provide feedback regarding proposed policies and strategies to promote greater consumer choice, control, and access to home- and community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities. All public forums will be held from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Greenville County session will be held May 19, 2003, at the Allen Temple Community Development Center, 404 Vardry Street, Greenville (located off Augusta Street near Greenville High School).

Many programs offer services and other supports to help seniors and people with disabilities living in the community. These home- and community-based services offer a variety of choices to meet the needs of consumers. Expanding the range of service choices is one of the first steps that states take as they move to expand consumer choice. Consumer choice is provided when there is a range of service options to meet the diverse needs of consumers. The degree to which consumers have choices must go beyond the range of service choices and include opportunities for consumers to decide when and where services will be provided, and how and by whom tasks will be performed.

If you are unable to attend the public forums: You may view the proposed policies and strategies at:

Murday@sc.edu. You may mail your comments to: Dave Murday, Ph.D., Center for Health Services & Policy Research, USC School of Public Health, Carolina Plaza, Columbia, SC 29208. If you have questions and/or need special assistance at the meeting, contact: Hannah Timmons, Silver Haired Legislature, 803-782-7284;

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Lyonswood Sewer Project Groundbreaking Held

On March 26, 2003, Anderson County held a joyous celebration in the Lyonswood subdivision. It was a much-anticipated groundbreaking for a sewer project in the Lyonswood subdivision, a low-income neighbor-



hood located immediately south of the Anderson city limits. Anderson County recently received a total of \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds to extend sewer service to Lyonswood, which is suffering from severely malfunctioning septic tanks. Many public officials were on hand to congratulate the neighborhood, including Mrs. Gracie Floyd, Anderson County Council Member and an ACOG Board Member; Mr. Joey Preston, County Administrator; Mr. Michael Cunningham, Assistant Administrator; Jeff Ricketson, County Planning Director; Joe Davenport, community advocate and ACOG Board Member; and representatives of the Appalachian Council of Governments.

Mrs. Floyd spoke movingly of the neighbors' long struggle to bring sewer to their area. She praised area residents for participating in so many meetings, conducting income surveys door to door, and in general keeping everyone interested and moving forward during the long application process. Mr. Preston spoke of the hard work of so many public officials to bring this project off, including Mrs. Floyd and Anderson County staff. He also thanked the ACOG staff, who assisted

Anderson County in applying for the grant and who is administering the grant for the county.

After the speeches were over, the fun began. Everyone grabbed a golden shovel and tossed the first shovelfuls of dirt for the Lyonswood project. Construction is expected to last approximately seven months.

Nursing Home Quality Improvement Project

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which directs the Medicare program, has asked each Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) to help improve the quality of care given in nursing homes. This goal is being met in two ways: 1) Carolina Medical Review (CMR), the QIO for South Carolina, is offering FREE quality improvement help to every nursing home in South Carolina, and 2) CMR is telling seniors and their loved ones about nursing homes in their areas so that they will be able to make better healthcare and nursing home decisions.

CMS has placed a [Nursing Home Compare](#) tool on Medicare's web site, which is www.medicare.gov. Looking at this web site will give you a list of quality information to help you make decisions. The quality information you will find on the web site shows the experiences that nursing home residents have had relating to these problems:

Residents' abilities to move,
Residents' skin conditions,
Residents' mental status,
Residents' rehabilitation needs, and
Residents' daily activities.

You can use what you see on this web site as a way to talk to nursing home staff about quality healthcare. If you don't have a computer, many senior centers and libraries have computers and staff who will teach you and your loved ones to use the Internet and view

this web site. But if that's not possible, Medicare will print the information you need from the web site and mail it to you. Just call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** and tell the person who answers which nursing homes you would like to learn more about.

CMS and CMR know that choosing a nursing home is a big step, so they urge you to get information from sources like Medicare's Nursing Home Compare, visits to nursing homes, talks and visits with other nursing home residents and their families, and people in the community. While the Nursing Home Compare is a good tool, it should not be used as your only source of nursing home information.

Visit www.medicare.gov and click on the Nursing Home Compare today.

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inventory of units will increase by 120. Also under construction was The Legacy of Anderson, which will add 102 housing units for the elderly.

Changes in occupancy rates from the previous survey varied, depending upon the unit type. The 2003 occupancy rate for conventional units was 91 percent, reflecting only a slight increase from the previous survey, whereas the rate for income-dependent units was 94 percent, reflecting a 1.8 percent decrease from the previous survey. The survey showed no unsold townhouse or condominium units, although it should be noted that only the initial sale of this unit type is tracked by this report.

The *Housing Survey* also contains unit counts and rental rates, classified by bedroom composition, for each multi-family property. Year of construction, amenities, and contact information are also included.

The Appalachian Council of Governments produces this one-of-a-kind survey biennially for Anderson and Spartanburg Counties, and annually for Greenville County. For more information, or to purchase a copy of this publication, please contact the Information Services Department at 242-9733.

Chesnee Welcomes VSP Club Senior Center

The newest face on the Chesnee landscape belongs to the VSP Club Senior Center located at 302 Manning Street. The long awaited \$1.2 million facility was constructed with funds provided through private donations and federal grants, including CDBG and Senior Center PIP funds through the S. C. Appalachian Council of Governments totaling over \$700,000.

The center (12,000 sq. ft. of new construction) opened for business in early February 2003. It is attractive both inside and out. The furniture and fixtures were carefully chosen with an eye for design. The space, constructed with high ceilings, is well lighted and comfortable. The center has the overall appearance of a country club, and the members and guests are treated with the utmost respect and dignity. Thanks to cost sharing of membership dues, no one is turned away.

The community has embraced the center through contributions for office furniture, decorations, a computer lab and a fitness room. More than 15 highly skilled community volunteers instruct classes in aerobics, fitness, creative writing, ecumenical Bible study, after-school tutoring, computer, basket weaving, line dance and square dance. Two volunteers act as social coordinators and arrange evening and weekend recreational activities. The center is open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. four days a week, and 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the 5th day. From the site, Chesnee Community Congregational Nurse Program, a partnership agreement, provides healing help to members of eight interfaith congregations. The Chesnee Youth Recreation Unit, another partner, provides recreation to an additional 200 families with children. In the first two months, 160 senior citizens from the Northeast area have joined the center and are involved in daily activities. The Northeast Area Council (chamber of commerce), Ministers Association, VSP Foundation, Merchants Association, Congregational Nurse Association and



VSP Club Senior Center is located at 302 Manning Street in Chesnee.

the Youth Recreation Center hold their monthly board meetings at the center. A local support group of the Alzheimer's Association is also using the center, as is the AARP Tax Preparation group. All of this has happened within the center's first two months of operation.

ACOG Records Management Class



On **May 14, 10:30 - 12:30 p.m.**, the Appalachian Council of Governments will be hosting a records management workshop conducted by the S. C. Department of Archives and History. Attendees will be briefed on records retention schedules and a number of other useful file and document issues including:

- Introduction to the Public Records Act.

- Records Management: Its Principles and Practices
- Using the County General Schedules in Your Office
- An Introductory Overview of Micrographics
- Records Storage Standards: How Best to Protect What You Have

The workshop will introduce attendees to the Public Records Act, familiarize them with retention schedules, and instruct them on how to legally report the disposition of their outdated records. The class will cover some basics of micrographics and storage regulations. Students will also be briefed on the recognition and preservation of historical records. There is **no charge** for attending the workshop. **Upstate cities and counties may sign up for the class by contacting ACOG at 864-242-9733.**



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The forum is being sponsored by the S. C. Silver Haired Legislature. For additional information about the local forum, contact Beverly Allen at the Appalachian Council of Governments (864-242-9733).



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establishments on Wade Hampton Boulevard and Stallings Road. Mr. Kwak will retain six current employees and add at least one more as a result of the project. BB&T will provide primary funding in the amount of \$140,000.

A Small Business Administration "504" loan was approved for Donnie Alverson in the amount of \$269,000 to provide permanent funding for a new Bruster's Ice Cream shop on North Avenue in Greenville. BB&T is providing the construction loan and permanent financing. The business will employ ten or more people when operational.

VIEWPOINT

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