

Belton Completes Comprehensive Plan Update

On May 4, 2004, the City Council of Belton is scheduled to adopt the updated *City of Belton Comprehensive Plan* at second reading. The adoption of this Plan is a culmination of several months' effort by the City Planning Commission and City Council. The Appalachian Council of Governments assisted the City of Belton with the development of the plan.

Belton's current Plan, adopted in 1999, was in need of review. The South Carolina Code of Laws requires that planning commissions re-evaluate the Comprehensive Plan elements at least once every five years, and all elements must be updated at least every ten years.

A series of public meetings with the Belton Planning Commission was held to solicit information from the citizens of Belton. Information obtained from these meetings, as well as current Census data, was used to identify the existing conditions of the City. The Planning Commission worked to identify strengths and weaknesses of the city, as well as opportunities and threats to the community. Identified strengths and opportunities were used as building blocks to develop updated strategies based on positive conditions within the city, while opportunities and threats were used to develop mediation-based strategies aimed at eliminating or reducing negative conditions within the city.

The Comprehensive Plan addresses seven elements as required by South Carolina law, including: *population, economy, natural resources, cultural resources, community facilities,*



The City of Belton's downtown corridor, identified as a strength of the city, was used to develop implementation strategies building on the positive conditions of downtown.

housing, and land use. The Planning Commission performed a thorough examination of each element of the current plan and recommended revisions to the Plan in areas that had changed over the past five years.

Older Americans Month Theme—May 2004: “Aging Well, Living Well”

The theme for Older Americans Month 2004, “Aging Well, Living Well,” has been selected to celebrate and recognize older Americans who are living longer, healthier, and more productive lives. Older persons are not only adding years to their lives, they are also improving the quality of their lives.

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New COG Officers Assume Duties



Eddie Wynn, Marion Lyles, and Philip Cheney assumed their new duties as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, at the April 23rd meeting of the Appalachian Council of Governments' Board of Directors. Pictured, left to right, are Cheney, Wynn, and Lyles.

Grant Opportunity—S. C. State Historical Records Advisory Board Regrant Project, 2004-2006

On May 18, 10:30-12:30 p.m., the Appalachian Council of Governments



will be hosting a **local government grant workshop conducted by the S.C. Department of Archives and History.** The National Historical Publications and Records Commission

([NHPRC](http://www.nhprc.gov)) awarded to the State His-

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WorkCore Project Benefits Area Employers and Workers

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board, in partnership with Adult Education in Anderson County and the World Class Training Center at Tri-County Technical College, is pleased to offer "WorkCore." WorkCore is a program designed to help adults build the basic skills needed in today's job market.

WorkCore is a 45-hour program offering training in the following areas:

- **Workplace Values.** How to be a savvy employee in today's job market.
- **Communication in the Workplace.** How to make yourself heard.
- **Team Building.** Nobody can do it alone! Understand how effective teams work.
- **Workplace Safety.** How to be safe and promote safety on the job.
- **Workplace Diversity.** An important 21st century consideration.
- **Computers in the Workplace.** Learn computer basics and produce your own resume.
- **Workplace Math.** Master basic mathematics computations.
- **Reading on the Job.** Reading is power. Gain the power.
- **Writing in the Workplace.** Learn to write memos and workplace notes.
- **Job Search Skills.** How to get the job that you want.

At the end of the program, a Job Fair will be held so that graduates can network with area employers. Employers participating in the effort include: Timken US Corporation, Rockwell Automation Belton Plant, AFCO, Santens of America, Electrolux, PCA, and others.

Mike Butler, HR Manager with Rockwell Automation Belton Plant, shared these positive comments: "During a WorkCore-sponsored job fair we had the opportunity to meet individuals who had successfully completed a six-week job training program. One



Pictured is Norman Smith at Rockwell Automation Belton Plant.

of the people we met was Norman Smith; and when we had a manufacturing position open up we offered him the job. Without the WorkCore program, Norman may have not had the skills needed to work for our facility; and without the job fair, we may have not had the opportunity to meet Norman. Not only were we able to hire a person with an excellent work history, but we have an employee better prepared to succeed in our industry.

I would highly recommend WorkCore to any employer. For a minor investment of my time, I had the opportunity to meet prospective job candidates who are prepared for our work environment. It's inspiring to meet potential employees who have dedicated time and effort to complete the WorkCore curriculum. The bottom line is that WorkCore and their job fair provide an excellent recruiting resource."

Norman Smith, a graduate of the WorkCore training and new Rockwell Automation Belton Plant employee, shared his thoughts regarding his experience. "Successfully completing six weeks of WorkCore training has been a rewarding experience. I believe the math and communications skills I learned were the keys to getting hired, and I feel prepared to efficiently perform my duties. I'm looking forward to becoming a valuable asset to my new company."

The WorkCore Project is an asset to the community!

Development Corporation News

A \$200,000 loan was approved for Dependable Drum Company, Inc., for working capital for this growing business located on Warehouse Road in Greenville. The company cleans and recycles 55-gallon drums and other shipping containers. The funding will assist in adding eight to ten additional employees to go with the forty-three currently working.

The ADC Board approved a \$100,000 loan to Keel Properties in Travelers Rest to purchase a three-unit office building. One unit will house an Allstate Insurance office owned by Paula Keel, with the other two units leased to a physician and a physical therapist. Between the three businesses, over twelve people are employed at the site.

A loan in the amount of \$465,000 to Zaxby's in Spartanburg was funded through the ADC's SBA 504 program. The site will provide employment for up to 20 employees.

An SBA 504 loan in the amount of \$190,000 was funded for the Marcus D. Brown Funeral Home in Anderson. The loan proceeds were part of the long term financing arranged for a new funeral home building on Main Street. The new business will employ up to six people.

Another SBA 504 loan in the amount of \$439,000 was funded to Booker Building Corporation/Golden Corner Family Practice. The money is part of the permanent financing for a new medical facility in West Union, Oconee County, housing the Booker medical practice.

The Board also approved using the ADC as a conduit to allow participation in the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority Housing Trust Fund Program to provide emergency grant funds for the repair of substandard housing stock in the Council of Governments area. For information on this program, contact Jennifer Vissage at 864-242-9733.

Family Caregiver Support Program— Do You Remember . . . ?

With the aging of our entire population comes the proliferation of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Even if you're not an expert in the medical field, most people have experienced the uneasy situation where some senior may ask the same questions time and again. They may seem put off or angered when told they should know that fact or answer. They feel the urgent need to have you understand the particular situation or event they are attempting to discuss. Why is that?

Dementia and Alzheimer's have the most demeaning effect on seniors who suffer from them. Imagine their fear and confusion when they seem unfamiliar with their surrounding and no one seems to remember the things they are inquiring about. In order to find comfort they attempt to relate to familiar events in their past. How can we help those who suffer from a disease that literally is destroying parts of the brain and their memories along with it?

Encouraging someone with this type of disease is a very effective technique in comforting them and making them feel at ease. It can boost their confidence and brighten their mood. It is an almost foolproof way of putting them at ease, just by listening to them ramble on and remembering some key facts the next time the story begins. It is much like that blanket so many children get attached to when they are young. These stories become the dearest "possessions" of people suffering with memory loss.

One method of creating a tool anyone can use to provide this sense of security for the sufferer is to get as many of the stories down in writing before he or she loses many of the details that make them so special. Record notes about your grandfather's or grandmother's most prized events. Parties, favorite foods, scents, music, special interests are all fair game for evoking memories dear to the people affected by

these diseases. Capture these memories now, before it is too late. Be willing to take time to share them later when they will be an heirloom as well as a comfort.

For more information on handling Alzheimer's and dementia, please contact the Family Caregiver Support Program at 800-925-4077. The advocates would be happy to provide you with additional coping techniques when dealing with these very difficult diseases in a friend or a loved one.

ACOG Publications Available for Purchase On-Line

The Appalachian Council of Governments proudly announces the addition of on-line publications to the wide range of resources available at www.scacog.org. Our unique County Profiles and Multi-Family Housing Surveys, along with various maps of interest, will soon be available for purchase and instant download via the Internet. While pre-printed reports may still be purchased from the ACOG by phone, mail, or walk-in, the ability to purchase digital publications will enable citizens to use the information immediately, without waiting for delivery of a traditional, bound document.

The following products will be available for on-line purchase:

- County Profiles for each of the six ACOG counties
- Multi-Family Housing Surveys for Anderson and Greenville Counties (Spartanburg County available soon)
- Regional Map Packet containing Census Tracts, Roads, and Zip Code maps for each ACOG county, plus an Upstate Regional Transportation map (Set contains 19, 8 1/2 x 11 maps)
- Census Tract, County Highways, and Zip Code maps available in "C" (17" x 22") and "E" (34" x 44") sizes

In order to provide quick and easy downloads, the publications are compressed using DjVu® Technology. Similar to Adobe PDF®, DjVu® offers highly compressed, high quality files suitable for Web delivery. DjVu technology was designed for large graphics such as maps, and is known to produce a superior quality with a much smaller compression than PDFs. In order to read the file, the user must download a free DjVu® viewing application from www.lizardtech.com

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This theme gives us the opportunity to highlight issues that directly relate to aging well and living well. An older person's health status most often determines his or her ability to live a productive later life. Studies reveal that staying physically active, eating right, and getting regular health screenings can help prevent or delay many diseases and disease-related disabilities.

In addition to achieving a healthier lifestyle, older persons must also take steps to prepare for later life. These steps include understanding housing and long-term care options; gaining financial literacy and knowledge of retirement pension and benefits; and seeking opportunities for community participation and social engagement, including access to employment, volunteer, educational, and leisure activities.

For information about the local activities planned to celebrate Older Americans Month, contact the Council on Aging in your county.

S. C. Department of Commerce Finalizes CDBG Program Description

The S. C. Department of Commerce, after a public comment period which ended February 12 (see February *Viewpoint*), has finalized the 2004 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Description. The 2004 CDBG Program runs from April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005. The 2004 Plan offers grants through several program categories – Community Development Programs, Small Business Solutions Programs, and the Business Development Assistance Program.

Under the **Community Development Program**, units of local government can apply for up to \$500,000 for the following activities:

- **Community Infrastructure** – \$8.19 million is available to assist in alleviating documented threats to the public health or welfare of the community and addressing critical public facilities needs including water, sewer, and drainage.
- **Neighborhood Revitalization** – \$3.5 million is available to support development of safe, decent, and affordable housing by preserving existing housing stock or promoting affordable rental or homeownership opportunities.
- **Commercial Revitalization** – \$2 million is available to increase economic competitiveness and stimulate private investment by conserving or revitalizing commercial and downtown areas. Communities must have a revitalization plan or be participating in one of the programs offered by the S. C. Downtown Development Association. Projects may include public facilities such as underground utilities, street, sidewalk, or parking improvements, as well as building or facade renovations.
- **Workforce, Education, and Technology** – \$2 million is available through this pilot program that must result in provision of in-

creased access to coordinated workforce education and technology training or resources. Projects may include buildings, computer equipment, or training materials necessary to access basic skills, literacy, life skills, career counseling, dropout prevention, entrepreneurial training, and youth leadership programs. Projects should establish links with business, education, and the community.

Each category has a local match requirement of 10 percent except for the Neighborhood Revitalization program, which requires a 5 percent match. Applications are due at the Department of Commerce on July 23.

If you have a project that you feel may fit into one of these categories, please contact a member of the Grants Services staff at the ACOG.

Information on the Small Business Solutions Programs and the Business Development Assistance Program will be provided in an upcoming *Viewpoint* issue.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is designed to improve the quality of care and service to residents (vulnerable adults over age 18) residing in long term care facilities. It was started in 1972 through initiatives of the Nixon Administration as a result of a public outcry against conditions in nursing homes in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Jurisdiction of the program currently extends to nursing homes, residential care homes (retirement centers, assisted living facilities, etc.), psychiatric hospitals, community training homes for the men-



tally retarded, and other facilities operated by or licensed for operation by the Departments of Mental Health and Disabilities and Special Needs. The enabling legislation for the Program includes the Older Americans Act, State Ombudsman's Act, and The Omnibus Adult Protection Act. Facilities are required to provide full access, including records, to the Ombudsman Program as needed to carry out its duties. The Ombudsman wears **two hats** – complaint investigator and advocate.

AS COMPLAINT INVESTIGATOR, the Ombudsman receives and investigates any complaints filed by or on behalf of a resident. The complaint can include anything that adversely affects the quality of care and life, i.e., quality of food, untimely service, staff unresponsiveness, transfer/discharges, staffing, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

First and foremost, the resident controls the complaint process. He or she determines the extent to which we become involved in solving their problem. When a resident cannot speak on his/her behalf, the Ombudsman may assist the legal representative, family member, or sponsor on behalf of the resident. The Ombudsman works with the resident to identify the problem or to break a big problem down into smaller, more manageable pieces. The Ombudsman also tries to determine whether or not this is a problem throughout the facility.

The Ombudsman first investi-

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VIEWPOINT

Appalachian Council of Governments
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torical Records Advisory Board (SC SHRAB) a \$100,000 grant to conduct a regrant project for South Carolina's local governments, historical records repositories (e.g., historical societies, colleges and universities, museums, public libraries, and churches), and professional organizations. The SC SHRAB will make grants to institutions and organizations on a competitive basis.

The following are the regrant project funding priorities addressing key areas of the Board's [state plan](#):

- Preservation of and access to historically significant records;
- Archival education and training for records custodians; and
- Archives program development and enhancement.

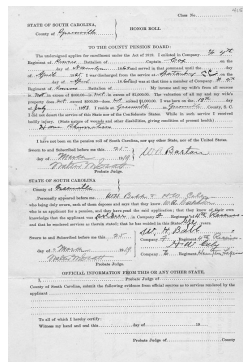
There are two funding cycles, with the following application deadlines:

- September 17, 2004 (for projects

beginning after January 1, 2005); **Letter of Intent due June 30, 2004**
• June 18, 2005 (for projects beginning after October 1, 2005)

Regrant

Project information can be found on the [Archive website](#) at www.state.sc.us/scdah **Contact John D. Mackintosh at (803) 896-6122, jdmackin@scdah.state.sc.us** to sign up for the workshop.



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gates the complaint to determine whether it is valid. If valid, the Ombudsman works with the complainant to resolve the complaint. If not valid, the Ombudsman will explain his/her findings. The Ombudsman will then follow up to ensure that any agreement reached to solve

the problem is actually carried out.

In all cases, complaints are handled confidentially. The Ombudsman does not disclose your identity without your permission, unless ordered to do so by a court of law. Even if the Ombudsman cannot resolve your complaint without revealing your identity, you make the choice as to whether he/she proceeds.

AS ADVOCATE, the Ombudsman protects Residents' Rights and works to ensure the highest quality of care for vulnerable adults who most often feel powerless and are too ill and/or too frail to stand up for their own rights. The Ombudsman identifies and seeks to remedy gaps in facility, government or community services; advocates for improvements in state and federal laws and regulations to improve quality of care; educates residents, family, and staff about residents' rights and provides technical assistance in establishing Resident and Family Councils; and provides information and referral regarding long-term care programs and services to any interested party.