

## Planning Education Opportunities Available

**T**he South Carolina Land Use Dispute Resolution Act, signed into law in June 2003, establishes educational requirements for members of local planning commissions, boards of zoning appeals, and boards of architectural review, as well as for local planning professionals and zoning administrators. Exemptions are provided for people who have AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) certification or who have a graduate degree in planning, law, or a related field. The law established a three-year time frame for local officials to meet the educational requirements, with compliance deadlines based on the population of a jurisdiction. Originally, local governments with a population exceeding 70,000 faced a January 1, 2005, deadline. Communities with a population between 35,000 and 70,000 had a January 1, 2006, deadline, and smaller jurisdictions were required to come into compliance by January 1, 2007. Subsequent legislation, adopted in June 2004 pushed the deadlines back by one year for each population category.

The Appalachian Council of Governments is working with other COGs around the state, the Municipal Association, the County Association, the S.C. Chapter of the American Planning Association, and Clemson University to develop a program that will meet state requirements. The COG program will initiate in September and will be presented in three evening sessions of 2.5 hours each. We anticipate offering it in a few locations throughout the region in order to increase accessibility.



Registration costs will be nominal. We are currently finalizing program details and will distribute class schedules and meeting locations in the near future. For people attending the COG program, our agency will provide certificates of course completion, distribute records to local clerks, and maintain documentation of attendance at our office.

An additional opportunity to receive the state required education is provided by the South Carolina Association of Counties. That organization is offering its program in two 3.5-hour sessions, with the first held on Thursday, April 12nd (9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.). The second session will run on August 23rd (also from 9:00 to 12:30). A participant must attend both sessions to complete training requirements. ACOG will be a host site for this training. There is no registration fee for this program; however, participants must pre-register.

For additional information on either educational program, or to register for the County Association program, please contact Steve Pelissier at ACOG.

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## Pickens County Receives Grants

**P**ickens County recently received two grants to help a Pickens County industry relocate and expand in the Pickens County Commerce Park. St. Jude Medical, currently located in several buildings in Pickens and Liberty, plans to consolidate operations in a new facility in the county-owned-and-operated commerce park. St. Jude is the fourth industry to locate in the park and has chosen to locate in the Phase II, or undeveloped, portion. Pickens County has received a \$330,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant and a \$300,000 Coordinating Council Grant from the S. C. Department of Commerce to extend public sewer service to the new facility. The county will also extend water to the facility and pay for engineering costs for the infrastructure improvements.

St. Jude Medical makes a variety of medical devices, but the Pickens County facilities manufacture electrolytic capacitors for implantable defibrillators. The company plans to expand once they are in their new facility, creating 30 jobs in the next two years beyond the almost 200 people it is already employing in the area.

St. Jude will build a 100,000-square-foot facility, with plans to double or even triple the space in the future as the need arises. The company has purchased 35 acres of land in the Commerce Park and plans to spend a total of \$9 million, including equipment, at the new building. The facility will house research and development, administra-

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## Online Mapping Makes Land Information Accessible to Everyone

One important task of city and county governments is to maintain information about land ownership, property values, taxes, and infrastructure. Until recently, the mandate to make this information publicly available often posed a challenge for both the citizen and the local government. If a citizen needed to know something about a specific parcel of land, they had to travel to the county or city offices and request the information from a busy employee.

Many Upstate counties are now using powerful web-based mapping tools to give citizens easy access to land records from any computer connected to the Internet. The following free resources offer convenience and an astonishing range of data and services to users:

### ANDERSON COUNTY ACPASS <http://acpass.andersoncountysc.org>

With ACPASS you can look up parcel information, property tax information, vehicle tax information, building permit information, and view online dockets for the Anderson County Clerk of Court's Office, all without a trip to the courthouse. All search results and forms contain links to interactive maps.

### GREENVILLE COUNTY GIS <http://www.gcgis.org/maps.asp>

- *Real Property/Zoning Information* displays real estate parcel boundaries and zoning, descriptive information about real estate parcel ownership, deed and plat references, and assessed values; also includes associated geographic information (streets, lakes, rivers, topographic contours).
- *Traffic Count Information* includes collection locations and associated descriptive data.
- *Political District Information* includes County Council, House, and

Senate Districts.

### PICKENS COUNTY ON-LINE TAXES

[www.co.pickens.sc.us/onlinetaxes](http://www.co.pickens.sc.us/onlinetaxes)

Look up your tax records – both property and vehicle – using a simple form. You can even pay your tax bill online using your credit card. All search results and forms contain links to interactive maps.

### PICKENS COUNTY ASSESSOR MAPS

<http://67.32.48.35/assessor/mapping.asp>

Maps created for the purpose of assisting the Assessor in appraising and assessing property for property tax purposes. The interactive maps are linked to property search result.

### CITY OF GREENVILLE DATA [www.greatergreenville.com/development/geo\\_data.asp](http://www.greatergreenville.com/development/geo_data.asp)

Provides links and access to Greenville City and County map data; lists prices, format, and other mapping products.

### UPSTATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (INFOMAP):

[www.infomumentum.org/whatis.htm](http://www.infomumentum.org/whatis.htm)

InfoMap is an interactive mapping application that provides decision support tools for economic development. The site provides tools for detailed searches of industrial properties, custom demographic reports, and customized maps of the region.

As South Carolina works toward a statewide database of mapping information, the method of data distribution will closely follow the model set by the highly successful North Carolina One Map Project ([www.nconemap.com](http://www.nconemap.com)) and ultimately link to the USGS National Map (<http://nationalmap.gov>).



## Development Corporation News

The Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) Board of Directors approved a loan of \$100,000 to Compass Homes, Inc., a startup construction company specializing in custom homes. The ADC funds will be used to help this Greenville County business fund the purchase of equipment and to provide some working capital. This project will allow for the creation of at least eleven new jobs within the next two years.

The ADC Board approved a loan for Live Well Chiropractic, P.A., in the amount of \$150,000. This Mauldin business is purchasing its own building, and the ADC and South Carolina Bank and Trust are providing permanent financing. The business currently employs four people and, with the additional space, expects to expand that number by four more people in the next two years.

The ADC Board approved a loan to Solutience, Inc., in the amount of \$100,000. This service company, located in Greenville, provides programming installation, maintenance, and servicing in SAP software to companies such as BMW and its suppliers. Carolina First Bank is providing primary financing. ADC funds will provide working capital. The company currently employs eight people and expects to add four additional people within two years.

The ADC Board approved a loan to Cremation Society of South Carolina in the amount of \$50,000 to purchase the assets of a body transport company. This company, a current ADC borrower, has six employees and will increase by two over the next twenty-four months.

The ADC Board approved a loan to Mike's Mobile Marina in the amount of \$68,000. The project involves the purchase of a permanent location for this business that formerly

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# Celebrate Long-Term Living!



## May is Older Americans Month

Americans are living longer and staying healthier than ever before. Older Americans now have more choices than the long-term institutional care that once was the primary option for our senior citizens. More and more older adults are remaining in their own homes and communities well into their later years. Keeping older adults healthy, independent, and engaged benefits all generations.

We are entering a new era in this country and in our community. Next year, the 78 million baby boomers will begin turning 60. This May, as we celebrate Older Americans Month, consider this momentous demographic change in the aging of our population. The theme "Celebrate Long-Term Living" was selected to honor older Americans as a natural treasure, and to highlight the need for mid-life and older persons to be prepared to live longer than previous generations. Older adults and baby boomers need to make thoughtful choices now so they will be more likely to remain healthy, productive, and financially secure in their later lives.

The U. S. Administration on Aging wants all Americans to know that better planning, better community-based long-term care options and more consumer friendly systems, are allowing more older Americans to remain vibrant

and independent. As Americans, we value choice. Studies have shown that, given the choice, older adults will remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible. The Appalachian AAA (Area Agency on Aging) is proud to offer services that help them do just that – programs that help older persons to eat better and keep active, that highlight the positive benefits of civic engagement, and that redefine aging in our society.

It's never too early to begin exploring the options available to you or to a loved one. We urge you to begin planning now for your later years. Contact the Appalachian AAA at (864) 242-9733 for information on services and resources for older adults and caregivers in your community.

## Legal Matters



Many of us take for granted that we will be able to take care of our personal and financial affairs "tomorrow." However, if you are a family caregiver, particularly for an older adult, you know that you cannot always count on tomorrow. There are the daily matters of providing appropriate health care, living arrangements and financial decisions. There are emotional issues of love, anger, frustration and guilt.

Health and finances are two areas that may require you to have the input and 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 you have not been designated as a **legal authority** to act on an individual's behalf in advance, you will not have rights as a decision maker no matter what your 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. Therefore, you may want to suggest they speak with a neutral third party such as an attorney, a qualified financial advisor, a social worker, or perhaps a good friend to address these issues *before* a crisis occurs.

Information gathered from the "Since You Care" guide, 2003.

From your Local Ombudsman: Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Sandy Dunagan, Celia Clark and Rhonda Monroe; phone: 864-242-9733.

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operated strictly on a mobile basis. The business provides service to boats on local lakes. Primary financing is being provided by Community First Bank. The business employs two people and will add two more people over the next two years.

A loan to Clemson Engineering Hydraulics, LLC, in the amount of \$170,000, located in Anderson County, has been closed and funded.

The McCarter Mechanical, Inc., and McCarter Properties, LLC, project in Spartanburg County, in the amount of \$138,000, has been closed and funded.

The Small Business Administration 504 loan for J-Bone Restaurant has been approved by the SBA in the amount of \$475,000 for this new facility on Reidville Road in Spartanburg.

## Caregiver's Bill of Rights

**A**s caregivers it becomes easy to put one's own needs aside to ensure that their loved ones are receiving the very best care. This may mean that caregivers find themselves in unfamiliar situations as the care giving goes on. Some may find themselves neglecting their own health. Others may notice that their own family, or even their job, may be placed on the "back burner" while the care receiver is consuming all of the caregiver's time and energy. Caregivers may experience emotional strains and may even find themselves feeling angry towards the person that they are providing care. It is very easy to get "caught up" in the caregiving role and completely forget about one's self.

The Family Caregiver Support Program understands the daily physical and emotional strains caregivers are facing. It is important for caregivers to remember that they have a right to take care of themselves, also. With that in mind, the Family Caregiver Support Program would like to share the *Caregiver's Bill of Rights* with caregivers to help them understand that what they are experiencing is normal.

I have the right:

- \* To take care of myself.
- \* To seek help from others even though my loved one may object.
- \* To maintain facets of my own life that do not include the person I care for, just as I would if he or she were healthy.
- \* To get angry, be depressed and express other difficult feelings occasionally.
- \* To reject any attempts by my loved one (conscious or unconscious) to manipulate me through guilt, and/or depression.
- \* To receive consideration, affection, forgiveness, and acceptance for what I do, from my loved one, for as long as I offer these qualities in return.
- \* To take pride in what I am accom-



plishing and to applaud the courage it has sometimes taken to meet the needs of my loved one.

- \* To protect my individuality and my right to make a life for myself that will sustain me in the time when my loved one may no longer need my full-time help.
- \* To expect and demand that, as new strides are made in finding resources to aid physically and mentally impaired persons in our country, similar strides will be made towards aiding and supporting caregivers.

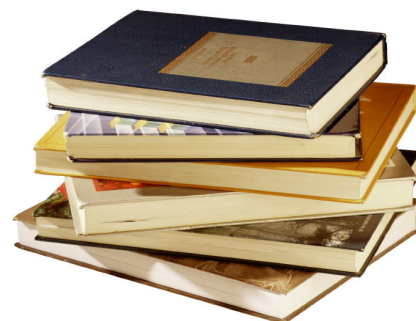
Please feel free to contact the Family Caregiver Support Program at (800) 925-4077 if you would like more information on caregiving tips, or to learn more about the Family Caregiver Support Program.

## Cherokee County Library — Planning and Education Retreat

The Cherokee County Public Library recently received help from the Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) in conducting a planning and education retreat for the Board of Directors. ACOG's Donna Kazia facilitated the meeting, including topics of Freedom of Information, Responsibilities of Board Members, Rules of Proce-

dures, Keeping Minutes, and the adoption and use of Policy and Procedures Manuals.

This was the first local retreat attended by the Library Board and the first time extensive discussions were conducted on these topics. The Board had attended training sessions offered by the S.C. State Library, but never had the opportunity to discuss in-depth these particular administrative and legal issues. As a result of the retreat, the Li-



brary Board has asked ACOG to review and revise their internal bylaws and employee policy manual.

ACOG has worked with a number of Upstate libraries in facilitating retreats and conducting management studies. Public library managers seeking low cost, professional assistance should contact Donna at ACOG, 864-242-9733.



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tion, and manufacturing.

St. Jude is a very important employer in Pickens County. It represents the future of the county and its efforts to move away from low-paying manufacturing jobs such as textiles and toward high-paying, advanced manufacturing plants. By consolidating its operations in one building at the Pickens County Commerce Park, St. Jude hopes to make its operation more efficient and more cost effective. A new facility with state of the art equipment and building will also enhance the profitability of the company, and the space the company will gain in the new building will enable them to expand to meet market demands.



# VIEWPOINT

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

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## Pendleton District WIB Sponsors Job Fair for WestPoint Stevens Employees

**T**he Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board (WIB) sponsored a Job Fair for the WestPoint Stevens employees affected by the closures and layoffs. The Job Fair was held on Thursday, March 24, 2005, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The Madren Conference Center and Inn on the Campus of Clemson University.

The purpose of the fair was to provide opportunities for the affected employees of WestPoint Stevens to meet area employers with job openings. Priority was given to employers with immediate job openings or openings occurring within three months. Many workers completed applications and were interviewed on-site during the fair. Workshops were provided on subjects such as Coping with Job Loss, Job Seeking Skills, Job Interviewing Techniques, and Financial Planning.

There were 23 employers that participated in the fair. The response from employers was very posi-



tive. They were pleased with the prospects they met during the fair.

Several agencies assisted in the planning of this Job Fair: Tri-County Technical College, S. C. Employment Security Commission, and Oconee County Economic Development Commission. The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board represents the workforce development activities in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. The Board works with employers, job seekers, training providers, government agencies, educational institutions, and civic groups

to enhance the quality of employment for all involved.

Additional opportunities are available for employers who are interested in the affected WestPoint Stevens workers. Employers may list jobs openings and conduct on-site interviews at the Transition One-Stop Workforce Center. The WPS Transition Center is still available for workers already laid-off and workers that are still facing lay-off. Interested employers should contact Teri Gilstrap with the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board at [tgilstrap@pendletondistrictwib.com](mailto:tgilstrap@pendletondistrictwib.com) or 864-646-1828.

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Information on the County Association program, including the location of other host sites around the region, is also available through its website ([www.sccounties.org](http://www.sccounties.org)). Registration material for the COG program will be distributed in the near future.