

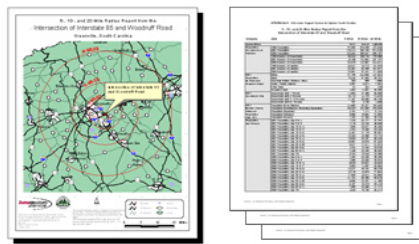
Radius and Demographic Reports Now Available with Projections for 2005 and 2010

Out of the wide array of services provided by the *InfoMentum* decision support system, two of the hottest products are the Radius Report and Demographic Report. The Information Services Department is pleased to announce that the database from which these reports are generated has recently been updated to provide data projections for 2005 and 2010, based on geography from the 2000 Census.

These reports provide a concise three-page summary of socioeconomic statistics for a user-specified area. The data categories include racial, marital and age characteristics of the population, educational attainment, labor force characteristics, income characteristics, household spending patterns, and a summation of select businesses located within the specified area.

A Radius Report differs from a Demographic Report in that the user specifies a radius area of up to 30 miles. Data for as many as three radius rings may be presented on a single report. The information presented in the summary is a compilation of data from the census block groups located within the specified radius or radii. A colorful map accompanies the report to highlight the incorporated census block groups for each radius ring. There is a great demand for these reports from professionals in real estate, marketing, and retail trade to study the characteristics of a proposed site.

Demographic Reports also provide a summary of statistics based on



census block group data. Unlike Radius Reports, however, Demographic Reports allow the user to individually select the census block groups for which data will be incorporated into the report. Instead of providing information for an area radiating from a central point, demographic reports profile areas that are delineated entirely by the user. Examples include reports for areas within a specified ZIP code, and reports for areas within a certain school district.

The ACOG *InfoMentum* team works with each client to create a customized report. Pricing depends on the number of radius rings and requests for extra map services. For more information or to place an order, please contact the Information Services staff at 864-242-9733.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1899 Clemson opened the first textile school established in a college. In 1904 its first graduating class had five students.

ACOG Provides Assistance to Anderson Area Gang Resistance Task Force

The ACOG is providing research support and technical assistance to a task force organized by Anderson County Council Member Gracie Floyd to combat gang activity in the Anderson area. Following national models, focus areas of the task force are to address gang prevention, intervention, and suppression. To address the challenge from a broad perspective, the task force includes representation from law enforcement, the solicitor's office, local governments, school districts, the



The task force understands that an effective response to gangs requires a comprehensive approach, involving the entire community.

department of juvenile justice, and the housing authority. The task force is developing strategies to more accurately monitor gang activities, understand the attraction of gangs, discourage participation, provide alternatives to gang participation, and reduce the impact of gang activities in the community.

(Assistance continued on page 3)

Military Call-Ups — A Local Government Issue

State and local government employees across South Carolina are still being called-up for active military service on a routine basis. Units and individuals are being activated and deactivated regularly to allow for rotation of troops here at home or at a number of hotspots around



U.S. Department of Defense Photo

the world. Elected officials and human resource managers need to be mindful of their responsibilities under the **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)**.

USERRA protects Reserve and National Guard troops from losing their jobs and benefits due to military service. Local governments are bound by the provisions of USERRA and officials should be familiar with its requirements.

Upstate elected officials or human resource specialists who are seeking detailed information on USERRA may find information and advice on the Internet at www.esgr.org or by calling 1-800-336-4590.

U.S. Department of Defense—Guard and Reserve Mobilization Statistics

National Guard (In Federal Status) and Reserve Mobilized as of April 12, 2006. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. Total



numbers currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization are for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve - 87,416; Navy Reserve - 5,510; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve - 7,690; Marine Corps Reserve - 6,639; and the Coast Guard Reserve - 405. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel, who have been mobilized, to 107,660.

A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are currently mobilized, can be found at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2006/d20060412ngr.pdf>.

Caregivers Must Prepare for the Possibility of Disaster

Most caregivers will find themselves facing situations for which they may be unprepared. It is the nature of the role. With the coming of hurricane season, this is in the forefront of many caregivers' minds. Preparing for the possibility of an emergency need not be one of those situations. It is possible to have some things gathered that will make emergencies of any kind less frightening and serious.

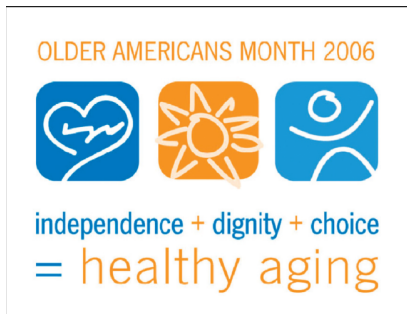
The kit can be as simple as a large rubber tub with a lid or a large trash can. Whatever you use, be sure that it will fit into your car should you need to pack and go unexpectedly. There are many things that would be excellent to have in this container:

- * Canned or non-perishable foods (foods should be changed out every six months when not used). Foods

such as boxed juices, milk, peanut butter and more can be of great help when no heating facility is available. Be sure to pack disposable utensils, paper towels and cleaning supplies.

- * A minimum of one gallon of water per person, per day should be stored. Be sure to sanitize the containers before using them for storage by rinsing with one part bleach to ten parts water. Commercially provided water may be used as is, other water should be treated by using instructions from your local public health service. Replace every six months.
- * First aid supplies should include a first aid manual, scissors, sterile bandages, gauze pads, cotton balls, safety pins, and latex-free gloves. Also helpful would be aspirin, Tylenol, anti-diarrhea, ipecac and meds taken daily by anyone who could be compromised by the emergency. Needles, tweezers, scissors and a thermometer would be advisable.
- * Clothing adequate for the season should be included, enough for at least three days. If seniors or children are included, be prepared with briefs or diapers as needs. Blankets and bedding should also be considered.
- * Essential tools would include a battery powered radio or television, and extra batteries to power them sufficiently. Flashlights, cell phones and other equipment for communication are also helpful. A small folding shovel or spade, a screw driver, and other essential tools, plus enough plastic sheeting for a shelter are recommended. Duct tape is always a good idea, as are waterproof matches and sterno fuel for cooking.
- * Other considerations might include essential equipment such as an oxygen machine or generator, jumper cables, road flairs, ice melt and the like. If the emergency can be anticipated, filling your gas tank in advance is also helpful.
- * Don't forget your pets. Be certain to have a plan in mind should they have to be left behind, or if they can travel with you – be prepared with food, meds, leashes, kennels and the like.

Older Americans Month



“Independence + Dignity + Choice = Healthy Aging” is the 2006 theme for Older Americans Month, which occurs in May.

Older Americans Month is celebrated to 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. When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing, however. In April 1963, President John F. Kennedy’s meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens served as a prelude to designating May as “Senior Citizens Month.” Thanks to President Jimmy Carter’s 1980 designation, what was once called Senior Citizens Month, is now called “Older Americans Month,” and has become a tradition.

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.

In celebration of Older Americans, many of the local aging providers

have special activities planned. Some events planned in the Appalachian region include:

- * Spartanburg - May activity will be the opening of the "Senior Life and Wellness Club" at Archibald Rutledge, 764 North Church Street, on May 19 at 10:00, with a reception.
- * Greenville – May 19th picnic at Mt. Pleasant Community Center.
- * Anderson & Oconee – May 25 event to include picnic with bingo, games, and dancing.
- * Cherokee – Events include health fairs, breakfast event on May 26 and participating in the state “You Can” walk.

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

(Assistance continued from page 1)

Specific strategies identified by the task force include a community relations campaign, a youth advisory board, both in-school and out-of-school education programs, the development of alternative activities for youth that foster a positive attitude, and the development of systems to more adequately address young people who are involved in criminal activities. Staff from the Appalachian Council of Governments is supporting the task force by providing research on successful programs in other communities, as well as by identifying potential sources of funding for initiatives.

While the task force’s work is still in its early stages, progress is already being seen in many areas, including the scheduling of an initial retreat for the youth advisory board, the development of the “Fusion Warehouse,” which will provide positive activities for youth, and progress with community relations efforts. The communication that has been fostered by the task force in and of itself has served a valuable purpose

ADC News

Two manufacturing businesses have new owners through the assistance of the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC).

In Spartanburg County, near Campobello, Green River Cabins has purchased the assets of a company that builds modular log cabins. These units are sold to individuals and state parks as temporary lodging in rustic areas. Dean Garriston, the purchaser, plans to expand the company by producing more units and more varied styles. All employees of the former company were hired by the new owner and additional employment is anticipated as the company grows. The ADC provided \$200,000 in funding, secondary to the National Bank of South Carolina’s primary loan of \$468,000.

In Greenville, the Appalachian Development Corporation participated in the purchase of the assets of the upholstered furniture division of Park Place Corporation. Vernon and Stephanie Bigsby established Perfection Furniture Company to enable the continuation of furniture manufacturing in Greenville. Over 30 employees will continue making hand-tied sofas, chairs, and other pieces at the same West Greenville location. The furniture can be custom designed and manufactured for consumers or commercial entities. ADC provided \$100,000 in funding, with Community Reinvestment Funds providing another \$350,000. Mr. Bigsby is a veteran of the furniture business and plans to expand production and employees in the future.

In other Appalachian Development Corporation actions, the SBA and Community Reinvestment Fund have agreed to provide \$1,710,000 in funding to allow Westside Eye Center to purchase the property it has been leasing on the west side of Spartanburg. The funding from Community Reinvestment Fund will utilize New Market Tax Credits, which will allow the borrower to realize a below-market interest rate.

(ADC continued on page 5)

Volunteer Ombudsman Program

On Tuesday, April 18th, South Carolina's first class of volunteer ombudsmen was recognized at the State House in Columbia. The recognition began with a welcome by Dale Watson, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and Cheryl Stone, the State Volunteer Ombudsman Program Manager.

The volunteers were then escorted to Lt. Governor André Bauer's office. There they received certificates recognizing the completion of their training and were photographed with the Lt. Governor as he thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the new program.

Following presentation of the certificates, the volunteers were recognized by the House and Senate during their sessions. The day ended with an Office on Aging-sponsored luncheon at the AARP office.

There are 9,000 volunteers across the nation serving as volunteer ombudsmen. South Carolina is the most recent participant in the program and enters as the 46th state to execute it.

The Appalachian Council of Governments' Volunteer Ombudsman Program currently has 13 volunteers from across the Upstate: two from Cherokee County, two from Spartanburg County, one from Oconee County, one from Pickens County, three from Anderson County, and four from Greenville County. Six are new to the program and are currently in training: Nancy Eaker from Spartanburg County; Celia Glenn, Allison Roberts-Miller, Lucille Stevens, and Emma Thompson from Greenville County; and Wallace Therien from Pickens County.

Five of the newly certified volunteers are beginning their friendly visits. The first participating facilities include Mountainview in Spartanburg County, Peachtree Centre in Cherokee County, and the Country Heritage and Richard M. Campbell Veterans Home, located in Anderson County.

Twenty-three facilities in five



Volunteers pictured from the Appalachian region are Lamar Bailes (back row, second from the right), Don Groezinger (back row, far right), Janette Gianopoulos (second row, second from left), Carol Groezinger (second row, far right), and Celia Glenn (front row on the right).

area counties have agreed to participate in the program. As the recruiting for volunteers continues, the goal is to place at least one volunteer in each of these facilities as soon as they are trained and ready.

The Appalachian Ombudsman Program would like to thank all the volunteers and volunteer facilities for their participation. If you have comments, questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact us!

For your local ombudsmen, Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Jessica Arnone, Celia Clark, Sandy Dunagan, and Rhonda Monroe, phone (864) 242-9733.

Spartanburg Tech Awarded \$1.75 Million for Cherokee County Campus

Spartanburg Technical College has been awarded \$1,750,000 to construct a classroom building at their new 43-acre Cherokee County campus, located along the I-85 frontage road

near the Peachoid. The funds, which include \$1,250,000 from the U. S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA) and \$500,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), will be matched by funds from the college, the state and local sources to better serve the residents and industries in Cherokee County.

The 21,200-square-foot building will house general classrooms and labs, as well as multi-purpose conference/seminar rooms, a library, and administrative offices. The building is estimated to cost approximately \$3.4 million.

The ACOG staff assisted Spartanburg Tech in preparing the ARC and EDA applications.

YouthBuild Upstate

Dr. Dennis Bausman, Director of YouthBuild Upstate, gave an informational presentation on this new program during the April 10, 2006, Pendleton District WIB Youth Council meeting. YouthBuild Upstate is funded by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is part of a national network of over 200 programs across the country where YouthBuild students are changing their communities and their lives.

The purpose of the YouthBuild program is to assist disadvantaged young adults in completing their high school education and to provide construction skills training – leading to economic self sufficiency. The program is housed at the Youth Learning Institute, 698 Concord Church Road, Pickens, SC 29671.

Applicants for the program must meet the following criteria:

- Age 17 to 24 years old
- Available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Interested in learning construction
- 75% must be high school dropouts

(YouthBuild continued on page 5)

VIEWPOINT

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

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(ADC continued from page 3)

ADC is able to determine a project's eligibility for New Market Tax Credit funding throughout South Carolina and invites inquiries on specific sites.

(YouthBuild continued from page 4)

- "Low" or "very low" income
- A U. S. citizen and Upstate resident
- Serious and committed
- Drug free (tested prior to acceptance)

Applicants will be required to attend a two-week unpaid orientation at the Clemson University Youth Learning Institute starting May 8th as part of the selection process. For more information, contact Dennis C. Bausman at dennisb@clemson.edu.