

## Nearly \$1.8 Million in Grant Funds Awarded

**T**he S.C. Department of Commerce recently awarded \$1,793,764 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to benefit low- and moderate-income people in the Appalachian region. These funds are to undertake a variety of community revitalization and economic development activities.

Three of the four projects will construct water lines to serve areas affected by problems with dry or contaminated wells, many of which have resulted due to the extended drought experienced in the Upstate over the last several years.

- **Anderson County** received \$500,000 to construct 20,700 feet of 8-inch, 6-inch, and 3-inch water lines in the Starr-Iva Water District. Thirty-five homes will be connected to the system, benefiting approximately 94 low-to-moderate income people. The estimated cost of the project is \$643,200.
- **The Town of Blacksburg** was awarded \$365,764 to construct 21,050 feet of 6-inch and 3-inch water lines in the Rock Springs area. The project will connect 58 houses, benefiting 147 low-to-moderate income people. The project is estimated to cost \$651,644.
- **Cherokee County** proposes to use a grant of \$428,000 to construct 16,400 feet of new water lines in Phase 2 of the Ninety-Nine Island Road Water Project. Thirty-six homes will be connected, benefiting 86 low-income persons. The



**Grants awarded.** Town of Central Council members (left to right) Tony Craig and Gary White, Senator Larry Martin, Central Mayor Mac Martin, Steve Cobb from the S.C. Department of Commerce, and Central Administrator Phillip Mishoe.

total project is expected to cost \$535,000.

- **The Town of Central** was awarded \$500,000 to undertake Phase 2 of a project to upgrade the south plant sewer trunk line. This project will alleviate problems associated with an undersized and overflowing sewer line that is causing a safety and health issue for town residents. The total project cost is estimated to be \$780,000.

The ACOG Grant Services Department assisted with the CDBG applications and will administer these grants to ensure the funds are expended in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

For more information on these projects, or the CDBG program, contact a member of the Grants Services staff at the ACOG.

## ACOG Loses A Friend

**B o b** Gaillard, an active ACOG board member since 1973, recently passed away. He officially represented



**Bob Gaillard had served on the Appalachian Council of Governments Board since 1973.**

Oconee County, but faithfully served the citizens of the entire Upstate through his work and dedication. Mr. Gaillard was a mayor, city council member and Oconee County's economic development director from 1985-1999. He is survived by his wife and best friend, Faye, his son, John, and two granddaughters.

## Caregivers—It's That Time Again...

The summer is almost over and for many it is time to prepare for the start of another school year. The ACOG Family Caregiver Support Program is once again attempting to ease some of the pressures of grandparents and other non-traditional caregivers who care for school age children.

The cost of preparing a child to *begin* school has been estimated at \$100-

*(Caregivers continued on page 3)*

## Newest *InfoMentum* Investor Plays Key Role in Indicators Project

**T**he Metropolitan Studies Institute (MSI) at USC Upstate – ACOG’s newest investor and partner in the *InfoMentum* decision support system – is serving a vital role in the Spartanburg



**Dr. Kathleen Brady, Director, Metropolitan Studies Institute, USC Upstate.**

County Community Indicators Project, a community assessment, planning and improvement initiative.

As part of this initiative, citizens identified ten community-wide goals to benchmark Spartanburg’s progress, and

collaborate and focus resources against community needs. These goals fell into the broad categories of People, Family, Community and Place. For the past six months, the MSI has led this effort by collecting and analyzing data for each of the ten community goals.

Dr. Kathleen Brady, director of the MSI, will also develop and manage a community-focused research grant program aimed at engaging faculty in research important to the Community Indicators Project. Additionally, she will partner with various community agencies to undertake program evaluations, needs assessments, feasibility studies, and data management projects that are consistent with MSI’s mission.

*InfoMentum* will support the MSI’s research efforts, and ACOG looks forward to the partnership with this organization. For more information on the Metropolitan Studies Institute, at USC Upstate, please visit [www.uscupstate.edu/academics/metro\\_studies](http://www.uscupstate.edu/academics/metro_studies). For more information on *Info-*

*Mentum – A Decision Support System for Upstate SC*, please contact Carol Andersen at the ACOG.



## Focus on the Board



**ACOG Board Member and Vice-Chair Wallace Shaw has served with the Appalachian Council of Governments for more than seven years.**

ACOG board member and Vice-Chair Wallace Shaw has served with the Council of Governments for more than seven years. Wallace is currently on ACOG’s personnel committee and EDIS Partnership. The Anderson native and long time resident has been a member of the Belton City Council since 1988. Over the years, he has also served with a number of community organizations, including Workforce Investment, the Anderson Hospital System (AnMed), Tri-County Technical College, Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health and the Anderson-Pickens-Oconee Rehabilitation Board, to name a few. Wallace is both an Army and Air Force veteran and he worked as a personnel manager in private industry for over 27 years. He lives with Willie Shaw, his lovely wife of 59 years.

## ACOG Welcomes New Loan Officer



**New Development Corporation loan officer, Candi Claxton. Welcome to the team!**

The Appalachian Development Corporation is pleased to introduce our newest employee, Candi Michelle Claxton. Candi will serve as loan administration officer, working initially with the ADC Loan Program loans. She comes to us from Wells Fargo Financial, where she worked in administration as a loan document specialist. Her background has been in the home mortgage industry, having served as a senior loan specialist, mortgage loan processor, and mortgage loan underwriter. Candi has over 11 years experience in the financial arena and brings proven management skills to this new position.

She is originally from the Anderson area and is married to Jimmy Claxton. They have a daughter, McKenna, age two. Candi and her family reside in Greer.

She has already proven to be a valuable addition to our staff, and we are excited to have her here. Please join us in welcoming Candi!

### *Did you know?*

*Campbell’s Covered Bridge, one of South Carolina’s historic sites of interest, was built in 1909. This landmark was restored in 1964 and was actually relocated to its present home.*

## 2008 Planning Training Deadline



**BY LAW, planning officials and staff must complete orientation training and continuing education. It's not optional.**

In 2006 the South Carolina General Assembly mandated technical training for all city and county officials who are involved in the planning and zoning process. Each member of a local government planning commission, board of zoning appeals, or architectural review board, as well as staff who directly or indirectly work with planning officials, must attend a minimum of six hours of orientation training. Those who have completed the orientation training must annually attend three more hours of approved continuing education.

The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) helped several Upstate communities meet this requirement during the first eight months of 2008. Many officials, however, have still not completed training, and time is running out to "stay legal."

The ACOG will have several training sessions throughout the remainder of the year to ensure that local government commission members and staffs will have ample opportunities to meet the requirements. Both orientation and continuing education training sessions will be provided. Classes will be taught at ACOG offices and elsewhere in the region.

The scheduled training sessions are posted on the ACOG website (at <http://www.scacog.org/>), along with registration instructions. Several different continuing training topics are offered, so that officials may choose training that best fits their needs. There

is a \$25 fee per person, up to a maximum of \$450 for each local government. **For more information, please contact Jennifer Vissage at (864) 242-9733.**



*(Caregivers continued from page 1)*

\$200 for minimal supplies, fees, doctor's visits and clothing. These costs are particularly onerous for older caregivers on fixed incomes, who struggle to provide for themselves.

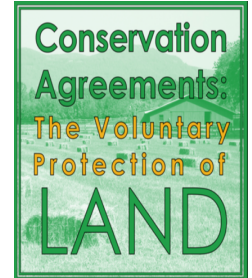


The Family Caregiver Support Program has provided small amounts of monetary support to over fifty grandparents in the six-county area. The program has assisted more than 100 children in their preparations for school. This small investment has provided tangible help for affected children and has relieved at least one source of pressure for their selfless care providers.

If you are a grandparent providing a home for a grand relative under the age of 18, contact ACOG to find out what we can do to assist you. The back-to-school program is just one of the ways we, as Family Caregiver Advocates, may be able to make your life just a little less stressful. Call (800) 925-4077 or (864) 242-9733 and ask for Debra Brown or Sam Wiley.

## Seminar on Land Conservation

A **conservation agreement**, also known as a conservation easement, is a highly effective and increasingly popular tool for protecting important lands and natural resources in South Carolina. It is a *voluntary contract* between the landowner and a qualified



land trust organization that essentially determines the future use of a property. The agreement typically prohibits industrial uses, residential subdivisions, large parking lots, billboards, and mining. But uses and activities that do not impair the conservation values of the property are allowed, such as timber management, farming, maintaining existing residences, fishing and hunting.

A conservation agreement has no effect on the title to property. The land can be put on the market and sold, or it can be given to the owner's heirs. However, an agreement is recorded at the courthouse and thus applies to all future owners of the property. Signing an agreement also does not mean that the public has access to the property unless the agreement explicitly allows it – most do not. Basically, the conservation agreement ensures that the property stays the way it is when signed.

For more information on this important land conservation tool, attend *Conservation Agreements: The Voluntary Protection of Land* on September 30, 2008, at the Carolina First Center in Greenville. AICP certified planners are eligible to receive 7.00 CM credits for attendance. If you cannot make it in September, the seminar will be offered again on February 12, 2009. To register please visit [www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org) to download a form, or email [land-trust@upstateforever.org](mailto:land-trust@upstateforever.org). (This article was written by Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever.)



## Document Shredding and Fraud Prevention



**Barbra Jardno of ACOG's Area Agency on Aging holds shredded documents that might otherwise have been used to scam Upstate seniors.**

The Appalachian Council of Governments and *Home Instead*, a national home health and companionship program for the elderly, recently partnered with three senior citizen facilities in the Upstate to provide free shredding and fraud prevention education. ACOG began outreach efforts by visiting Rolling Green Village in Greenville, Park Place Assisted Living in Spartanburg and The Legacy in Anderson.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center's (ADRC) mobile unit has disseminated information on various scams targeting the elderly. Brochures, DVDs, resource manuals and individual pamphlets are being provided to the public. Scam education topics include identity theft, magazine subscriptions, phone carrier charges, international lotteries, sweepstakes, home repair, telemarketing, health insurance, cemetery plots and unsolicited items sent and billed.

Statistics noted in Lt. André Bauer's "Closing the S.C. Borders to Senior Fraud" reported that over 6,000 complaints have been made to the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs within the past year, *with the vast majority of the complaints affecting seniors*. The ADRC program promotes face-to-face discussions with seniors to help them avoid becoming victims and encouraging them to report attempts to authorities.

Persons wanting more information on preventing scams or fraud may go to the Lt. Governor's website [www.aging.sc.gov/scams](http://www.aging.sc.gov/scams) (1-800-868-9050) or the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs website [www.sconsumer.gov](http://www.sconsumer.gov) (1-800-922-1504).

## WorkLink's New Youth Services Coordinator



**Sharon Greene-Crite joins the Work-Link team. Welcome aboard Sharon!**

WorkLink is pleased to welcome Sharon E. Greene-Crite as the youth services coordinator. Most recently, Sharon was the supervisor of the Therapeutic Behavioral Services Program at Starr Elementary School in Anderson County School District Three. She previously served 13 years in various capacities with the Anderson County Department of Social Services. Sharon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in behavioral science from Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. She will now coordinate various youth programs as part of WorkLink's overall mission to connect companies and employees in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties.

## New to Medicare?



**A recent ACOG Medicare class. Most of us are counting on Medicare to cover our health expenses in retirement... but most of us don't know how it works.**

The Insurance Counseling and Referral for Elders (I-CARE) program of the Appalachian Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Social Security Administration will be offering quarterly information sessions for individuals approaching Medicare age. The sessions will include information about signing up for Medicare, an overview of Medicare, the Medicare Prescription Drug Program and supplemental insurance to Medicare. Services that can be accessed through the Social Security and Medicare websites will also be featured.

The next scheduled sessions are:

**Oct 15 — 9:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**Duke World of Energy, junction of S.C. 130 & 183**

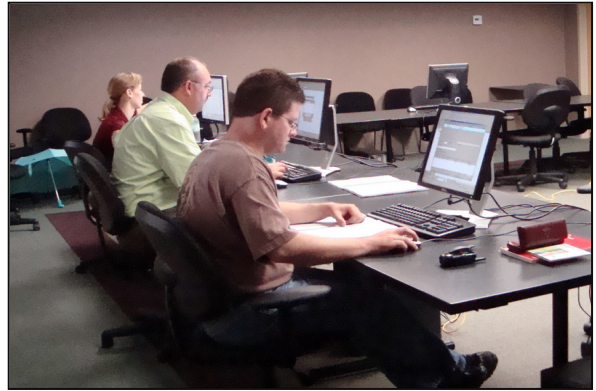
**Oct 21 — 9:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**ACOG Office, 30 Century Circle, Greenville**

Additional sessions will be offered in 2009. Also, information sessions on the **Medicare Prescription Drug Program** will be offered in November. For additional information on either program, contact the Appalachian Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging at (864) 242-9733.





ACOG recently assisted in the conduct of a staffing study for the Cherokee County Jail.



ACOG regularly conducts training in the use of GIS (computer mapping) software for local government operations.

## ACOG in Pictures



In August ACOG Board member Ed Elliott presented several boxes of blankets destined for Cherokee County's Peachtree Centre senior citizen's facility.



ACOG board members finishing up from the August board meeting.

# VIEWPOINT

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## Medical Insurance Options for Medicaid Recipients

**T**he New **SC Healthy Connections Choices Initiative** is now underway. The Appalachian Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has been asked by the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) to assist with outreach and enrollment efforts for a new program affecting more than 50,000 persons in the Upstate who are currently on Medicaid. Through this new program, Medicaid members in South Carolina can now get their health services from a *health insurance plan*. Members can choose the plan that has the best doctors and services to fit their individual needs.

There are a variety of plans for members to choose from; however, not every county has the same plans, nor do all of the various medical providers accept all of the plans.

The Appalachian AAA will begin holding at least three outreach/enrollment events locally in each county, every month. Schedules will be announced at a later date. The AAA will do its best to answer questions, inform and educate members about the plans and will also provide enrollment assistance.

For further information on Healthy Connections, call SCDHHS toll free at 1-877-552-4642. For ACOG outreach schedules, contact Vickie Williams at ACOG at 864-242-9733.

