

ACOG Begins 208 Water Quality Plan Update

Beginning this fall, and for the next 18 months, the Appalachian Council of Governments will be working to update the 208 Regional Water Quality Plan. ACOG, as designated by the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control, is the 208 Planning Agency for the Appalachian region. ACOG is charged with a variety of tasks, including preparing and maintaining the Regional Water Quality Management Plan (RWQMP); conducting conformance reviews for all wastewater projects; and maintaining a tracking system for project conformance reviews. In addition, ACOG works with service providers to resolve the increasing conflicts associated with wasteload allocations, and to assist with service provider coordination and provide technical assistance. The 208 Plan serves to guide the development of wastewater treatment services throughout the six-county Appalachian region.

The current 208 Plan has served the region well since it was adopted in 1998, but is now in need of an update to address newly emerging issues and to ensure continued quality decision-making. The update will focus on two main components. The first component consists of goals and policies that establish a regional water quality framework for addressing emerging issues. This component will concentrate on the regional water quality framework, including an introduction to 208 planning, a general description of the region, institutional designations and responsibilities, administrative procedures, and regional policies. The second component



A good regional water quality plan can help ensure that our drinking water is protected.

will focus on individual basin management plans that will provide more specific guidance for decision-making in those areas. Those plans will examine growth projections, water quality issues, management and policy issues, and recommendations for implementation to provide more specific guidance for the development of regional wastewater treatment systems within each of the region's watersheds.

ACOG is committed to providing quality leadership in the Regional Water Quality Management Program. ACOG will strive to aid in the development of a plan that continues to promote effective wastewater solutions in a rapidly growing region while protecting the region's water resources. For more information on the 208 Update Process, please contact Chip Bentley or Aliza Tourkow at the ACOG offices at 864-242-9733.



Appalachian COG Loses a Friend



**James D. Batchler
1924 - 2009**

Cherokee County Councilmember James Batchler passed away on August 27. He was a good friend and a faithful public servant. James served on the ACOG board for 20 years, and we shall all miss him.

WorkLink Makes a Five-Year Plan

In June WorkLink (Anderson-Oconee-Pickens) adopted a five-year strategic plan that develops goals, objectives, and actions epitomizing the theme of "understanding the workforce system." Through a strategic planning process led by Ricki Kozumplik of AHA Consulting, the Workforce Investment Board identified current challenges and opportunities and outlined

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Infrastructure Improvement Grants Award

The S. C. Department of Commerce recently awarded \$1,000,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to benefit low- and moderate-income people in the Appalachian region. These funds are allocated to South Carolina through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to undertake a variety of community revitalization and economic development activities.

Cherokee County was awarded \$500,000 for the Bear Creek Road Water Project, which is designed to bring relief to a community that has been suf-



This house on Bear Creek Road in Cherokee County will soon have access to safe, public drinking water.

fering from failing and contaminated wells. Located in the eastern portion of Cherokee County, the project entails construction of 12,000 feet of 6-inch water lines with 39 service connections (35 for low-income residents) and 12 fire hydrants. The project will serve 105 people, with 94 being low-income persons. The total project is expected to cost \$583,250.

The City of Seneca and Oconee County were awarded \$500,000 to undertake Phase III of a project to upgrade the sewer system in the Utica Mill Village. Because the neighborhood is outside of the City, but has public sewer provided by the City, a joint application was submitted. The project entails the construction of 4,148 feet of 8-inch sewer lines and 67 total service connections (39 for low-income residents) on three streets. The project is



A home like this one in the Utica Mill Village will be part of the third phase of sewer improvements slated for this neighborhood.

designed to alleviate problems associated with an undersized and overflowing sewer line presently causing a safety and health issue for residents. The total project cost is estimated to be \$617,355. CDBG funds have been used previously to make improvements in the community, upgrading over 8,000 feet of sewer lines on five streets in Utica.

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.

Grant Writing Workshop

The Greenville Chamber Foundation, in conjunction with Grant Writing USA, will conduct a two-day grant writing workshop on September 29-30. The session will be held in the Boardroom of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day, with lunch on your own from 12:00 noon – 1:20 p.m. Tui-

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ACOG Welcomes A New Staff Member



Kim Bridges, new Aging Services Ombudsman. Kim will serve as the Intake Coordinator.

The ACOG would like to welcome the newest member of the Aging Department, Kim Bridges. Kim is assigned to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program as the new Intake Coordinator.

Kim previously worked at Goodwill Industries for six years as an intake specialist and most recently at S.C. Legal Services for the past nine years as an intake paralegal. She is already proving herself to be a great asset to our program.

With her heart for helping people, Kim is a great fit with our staff. When asked why she wanted to work here, she remarked that her goal in life is to “always be doing something that helps make someone else’s life better.”

Kim grew up in Greenville and now makes her home in Easley. She is married to David Bridges and has two children, Sarah who is sixteen and Matt who is thirteen. She is active in her church’s children’s ministry and in the choir.

Kim, welcome to the Appalachian COG team!

DID YOU KNOW?

Greenville native and Furman graduate, Dr. Charles Townes, received the Nobel Prize for the development of the laser beam.

Upstate Demographics: A Return to City Living?

According to 2008 population estimates released in July by the U.S. Census Bureau, most Upstate cities have experienced some degree of growth since 2000. Of the 42 municipalities in the ACOG region, approximately one-third (31%) experienced population growth between 0.5 and 5 percent, while another third (33%) saw their populations increase by between 5 and 10 percent. Eleven municipalities – Travelers Rest, Inman, Easley, Starr, Central, Simpsonville, Wellford, Fountain Inn, Campobello, Mauldin and Greer – experienced increases of 10 percent or more during the past eight-year period. Only four cities – Walhalla, Woodruff, Westminster and Spartanburg – saw a decline in population.

These figures stand in sharp contrast to municipality population changes between 1990 and 2000. Across this 10-year span, more than half (52%) of ACOG's municipalities experienced a decrease in population.

A number of factors contribute to changes in population. Probably the most common factors are natural increase (births minus deaths) and migration (movement of residents into and out of an area). Of course, expansion of municipal boundaries through annexation is also a factor.

The boom in construction of suburban neighborhoods between 1990 and 2000 could be one factor in the negative growth experienced during this time period. In the past several years, however, many cities have launched downtown revitalization efforts, including the development of new residential structures and the conversion of vacant historic structures to condominiums. The increased availability of desirable housing within city limits, along with the development of passive recreation areas and a greater offering of dining and entertainment opportunities, have undoubtedly caused many longtime



Downtown revitalization projects, such as Greenville's River Place, have increased the availability of desirable in-city housing.

suburbanites to take a second look at city living. In addition, increasing fuel prices and the desire to reduce commuting time, have probably also played a role in encouraging Upstate residents to make their homes among their workplaces.



(Workshop continued from page 2)



tion is \$425 per person. All city, county, and state agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, are welcome to attend. For more information, or to register, visit the website at <http://grantwritingusa.com/events/write/grsc0909.html>.

New Staff for WorkLink Programs

WorkLink's Board of Directors has announced the addition of new staff to help fulfill the organization's mission to connect companies and employees in Anderson, Oconee



Amy Jessee has been named as WorkLink's Outreach and Grant Writing Coordinator.

and Pickens Counties. Amy Jessee has been named to the newly created position of outreach and grant writing coordinator. Terry Giffin has been hired as the office manager for the Workforce Investment Board.

Jessee has worked as a freelance writer and web content provider at Clemson University, where she also taught English as a graduate teacher of record. She earned her master's degree in professional communication from Clemson University, after graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in English and business administration from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., where she subsequently served as assistant director of news and public information.

As outreach and grant writing coordinator, she will implement a strategic outreach plan for the WorkLink Workforce Investment Area, promote the WorkLink and OneStop brands in the community and manage workforce development grants.

Giffin has more than 10 years of experience, most recently as an ad-

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Small Business Loans

The **Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC)** is a certified development corporation with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) allowing for participation in the **SBA's 504 loan program**. The 504 loan program has, in a relatively short period of time, become the ADC's primary loan program in loan volume and growth.



The SBA 504 Program is designed to provide "gap financing" providing for up to 40 percent of a project's cost.

The SBA 504 loan program reported a record low 20-year fixed interest rate option for July 2009. The July rate fell to 5.24%, the lowest since the program's inception more than 20 years ago. This record low interest rate for 504 loans, combined with the fee reductions included in the Stimulus Bill, makes the 504 Program an even stronger consideration for expansion projects than it was previously.

SBA 504 loans allow owners of small and mid-sized businesses to purchase, construct, or renovate commercial property with as little as 10 percent down, long terms (up to 20 years) and fixed interest rates. Equipment and other fixed assets can also be included in these loans, to the benefit of the borrower. The SBA also announced in June that it would ease the restrictions on using 504 loan funds for the purposes of refinancing, as long as it pertains to business expansion.

The 504 Program is designed to provide "gap financing," which

means the program cannot serve as a sole source of financing on a project. It is restricted to financing no more than 40 percent of a project cost, with the remaining funding sources being borrower equity of at least 10 percent and a commercial bank loan of 50 percent. The key "first step" in obtaining 504 funding is having a commercial bank willing to participate. For further details, contact the staff of the Appalachian Development Corporation.



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steps to take toward fulfilling its mission of connecting companies and employees.

Goals were developed through the combined use of multiple assessment tools, including focus group feedback and survey results; WorkLink self-evaluation information; consideration of recent and potential changes within the community and the workforce development industry; and identification of successful workforce systems. Specifically, these goals direct WorkLink to gain a better understanding of the workforce's present skill level; to involve area business in its activities; and to integrate and create a common theme for the workforce development system.

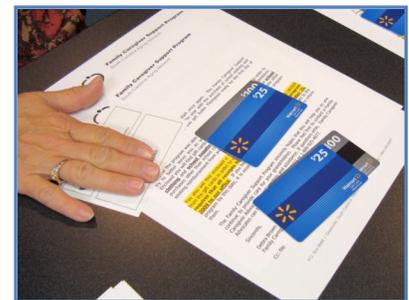
Helping Those Who Help Others



ACOG Caregiver support staff members Debra Brown and Sam Wiley prepare Wal-Mart gift cards for eligible caregivers of school age children.

ACOG's family caregiver support program involves more - *a lot more* - than providing support for seniors who care for their spouses. Many people are surprised to learn that the program also benefits children.

In the U.S., more than six million children - approximately 1 in 12 - are living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. In many of these homes, grandparents (approximately 2.4 million) and other relatives are taking on primary responsibility for the children's needs. Often they assume this responsibility without either of the child's parents present in the home.



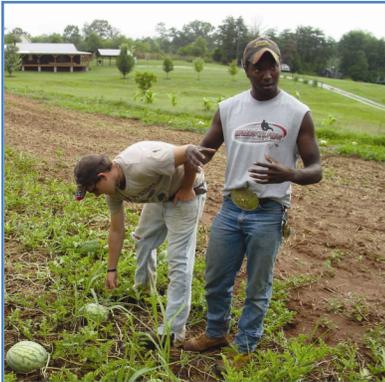
Debit gift cards of \$125 can make a significant dent in school supply expenses.

In South Carolina, there are more than 90,000 children living in grandparent-headed households (9.0 percent of all children in the state).

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WorkLink Summer Youth Employment Program

The Summer Youth Employment Program, sponsored by WorkLink, transformed school this summer by coupling work-readiness classes with work experience and op-



Hamilton Career Center students Brandon McCullough and Justin Nathan test the ripeness of watermelons.

portunities for credit recovery. Several participants worked in the school systems, performing clerical or custodial duties that readied the school for the up-



Palmetto Youth Connections participant Uzi Quinones distributes school supplies at the United Way.

coming year, while others ventured out to a greenhouse and local farms.

The four- to six-week program was funded through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act and grants from the South Carolina Department of Education. The 514 participants were

paid a small stipend for time in the classroom and work experience.

The in-school program, managed by the seven school districts in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties, targeted youth ages 14-18. Palmetto Youth Connections (PYC) managed the out-of-school youth program, which served ages 17-24.

(WorkLink staff continued from page 3)



Terry Giffin has been hired as the Office Manager for the Workforce Investment Board.

ministrative assistant in the president's office of Tri-County Technical College. Before relocating to South Carolina, she worked as an executive secretary for the associate vice-president of university relations at Virginia Tech.

As office manager, Giffin will assist the WorkLink staff and Board with clerical, administrative and support services.



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There are another 21,000 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.1 percent of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in South Carolina, more than 49,000 are living there without either parent present.

Contact ACOG's Debra Brown or Sam Wiley to learn more about the help that is available for those who help others.

H1N1 Swine Flu and You



The following is a very brief excerpt from a website of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). A wealth of factual information can be found on the Internet at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm Get the facts.

What is novel H1N1 (swine flu)? Novel H1N1 (referred to as "swine flu" early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. On June 11, 2009, the [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int) (WHO) signaled that a pandemic of novel H1N1 flu was underway.

What are the signs and symptoms of this virus in people? The symptoms of novel H1N1 flu virus in people include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

The CDC website has additional specific flu information on the following topics:

- [H1N1 Flu & You](#)
- [What To Do if You Get Flu-Like Symptoms](#)
- [Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home](#)
- [Novel H1N1 Vaccine: Q & A](#)
- [Facemask & Respirator Use](#)
- [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) of Medical Products and Devices](#)
- [Audio & Video Resources](#)
- [Social Media](#)
- [Flyers & Other Print Materials](#)

VIEWPOINT

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Table Rock, Pickens County, SC. Citizens of the Upstate are blessed in many ways.

Photo by ACOG's Valerie L. "Cricket" Jenkins