

## Appalachian Development Corporation

**T**he Appalachian Development Corporation, along with Farmers National Bank of Niles, Ohio, funded the purchase of the building that Litco Manufacturing SE, LLC's is currently leasing in Wellford. This building is a 41,050-square-foot metal industrial building located in Spartanburg County at 245 Tucapau Road. The facility houses Litco's southeastern manufacturing operation and is located on a little more than seven acres.

Litco SE manufactures void filler from corrugated paper for load stabilization during transit. It offers three main types of honeycomb void filler/load stabilization dunnage:

1. Diamond-Pak bulkhead void fillers are a sandwich, corrugated product that prevents forward and backward movement of cargo. It comes in limitless sizes to meet all requirements.
2. Diamond-Corr light-weight void filler stores flat and expands to fill spaces between heavy loads. It is used in rail cars, containers, and truck shipments to prevent side-to-side load shifting.
3. Saddle-Pak void fillers are designed to fill the void left by missing pallets and are able to expand to full pallet dimensions. These help to maintain proper axle weight distribution by stabilizing the load and preventing single pallets from "creeping" to the sidewalls while in transit.



All three types are reusable and recyclable.

Litco Manufacturing SE is a two-year-old company and is part of Litco Enterprises, which was established in 1962. The company grew from a one man operation in Ohio that brokered pallets and industrial lumber. There is a Litco Manufacturing, LLC in Warren, Ohio, that manufactures products similar to those of Litco Manufacturing SE. Both of these facilities provide their products to Litco International, Inc., also headquartered in Vienna, Ohio, which serves as the national and international marketing arm of the operations.

The Litco SE operation in Wellford currently employs six people. With this acquisition, the workforce at this location will be increased by fifteen additional people over the next two years, which will bring the total number of employees to twenty-one.

*The ADC is a non-profit economic development lending corporation offering multiple financing options that can be structured to meet your needs using our "gap-financing" loans.*

## A Friend Leaves Us



**Reverend Dr. J. W. Sanders, Sr., passed away in July. He will be missed by all of his friends at ACOG.**

The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) is saddened to announce the passing of Reverend Dr. J. W. Sanders, Sr. Prior to his passing, Reverend Sanders was the longest current serving member of the ACOG board, having been appointed in 1972.

He served in numerous positions within this organization, including ACOG Board Chairman from 1996-1998, as well as service on ACOG's Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Development Corporation Board. He received many state and local awards recognizing his service to his community, the Upstate and his state. Staff will miss his sound advice, his enthusiasm and warm smile.



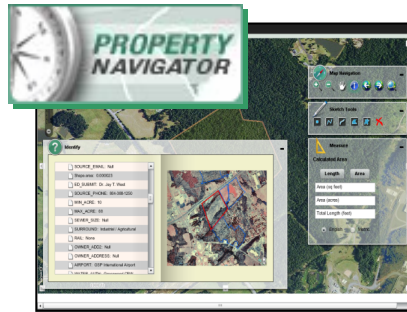
## Upstate Property Navigator Wins Two National Awards

**P**roperty Navigator, the innovative online economic development tool for the Upstate, recently won two national awards! The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) selected *Property Navigator* for a 2010 **Innovation Award**. In addition, **ESRI**, a world leader in GIS software, awarded the project a prestigious **Special Achievement in GIS (SAG)** award.

*Property Navigator* is a cutting-edge, interactive web mapping application and a dynamic regional database that provides decision support tools for economic development in Upstate South Carolina. *Property Navigator* combines satellite imagery, custom property information, local demographic data and map manipulation tools according to a visitor's unique needs. From sketching a building site to reporting the number of skilled workers within a 30-minute drive, the application helps remote site consultants understand the benefits of doing business in the 10-county SC Upstate. The web site also represents a way for local and regional agencies to deliver custom data and visualize community resources for more accurate land use analysis and planning.

*Property Navigator* was originally designed and implemented for the Upstate SC Alliance with funding from an AdvanceSC grant. ACOG staff are now integrating the state-of-the-art mapping and data technology from *Property Navigator* into new *InfoMap2* web sites available for each Upstate county to provide a broader range of web-based tools to address the need for faster access to more detailed databases and in-depth analysis.

NADO President Mike Norton comments, "For more than 20 years, NADO's Innovation Awards Program has provided regional development organizations throughout the nation a unique opportunity to showcase creative projects like the Upstate *Property Navigator*, which make it possible to ad-



vance the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions. This recognition brings to the forefront the important work of regional organizations and their critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities."

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. Award winners were showcased during NADO's 2010 Annual Training Conference, held August 28-31 in San Diego, California.

This honor is the fourth NADO Innovation Award earned by ACOG's Information Services Department. Past winning projects include the *InfoMentum* economic development decision support system (2004), *InfoMap*, the web-based mapping application (2005), and Plan-A-Biz.org (2008).

ACOG received a **Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award** in July at the 30th Annual **Esri International User Conference** in San Diego, California. This award recognizes vision, leadership, hard work, and innovative use of Esri's geographic information system (GIS) technology. ACOG was one of only 150 selected from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide. Accepting the award was ACOG GIS

Programmer/Analyst Amy Wright Webber and Jeremy Owens from GST Consulting, who partnered with ACOG to develop Upstate Property Navigator.

"We created the Special Achievement in GIS Award to recognize our users' extraordinary contributions to global society," says Esri president Jack Dangermond. "Each year, I look forward to being part of this ceremony; it's a tradition that has gained great meaning and importance for professionals in the GIS industry."

Organizations being honored at the Esri conference, the world's largest GIS event, span countries and industries including agriculture, cartography, climate change, defense and intelligence, economic development, education, government, health and human services, telecommunications, and utilities.

For more information, contact Carol Andersen, ACOG Information Services Director, at 864-242-9733. Find out more about NADO at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org). Learn more about the ESRI Special Achievement in GIS Awards, at [www.esri.com/sag](http://www.esri.com/sag).

## Summer Youth Employment Works for Students

The Summer Youth Employment Program, administered by Work-Link Workforce Investment Board, offers work-readiness/soft skills classes and work experience for in-school and out-of-school youth in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. In Anderson School District 4, 41 students participated in the 2010 program, and 17 employers signed on as work sites. Several companies hired participants after the summer program ended on July 1. Hamilton Career Center in Oconee County offered an in-school youth program to 26 students through the end of July with farm sites for the

*(Youth continued on page 3)*

## S.C. Department of Commerce Awards Grants

**T**he S.C. Department of Commerce recently awarded \$1,706,000 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 \$278,600 for the Norman Boulevard Water Project, which is designed to bring relief to a community that has been suffering from failing and unsafe wells. The project entails construction of 6,500 feet of 6-inch water lines with 35 service connections and 4 fire hydrants. The project will serve 100 people, with 89 being low-income persons. The total project is expected to cost \$336,250.



**Typical Street in the Watkins Street/Head Street area in the Town of Central**

The Town of Blacksburg was awarded \$427,420 to undertake the Oak Grove Water Project. This project will construct 7,000 feet of 8-inch and 5,700 feet of 6-inch water lines to connect the residents to public water, alleviating problems associated with failing and unsafe wells. The project will provide service connections for 24 homes occupied by low-to-moderate income residents. The total project cost is estimated to be \$475,762.

The Town of Central was awarded \$500,000 to upgrade 6,025 feet



**Jaynes Street in the Chicopee Mill Village, City of Walhalla**

of 8-inch gravity sewer in the Watkins Street/Head Street area of town to alleviate problems associated with seriously deteriorated sewer and inadequate slope that does not meet DHEC standards. The project will benefit 159 persons living in the area, 88 percent of whom are low-to-moderate income. The project is estimated to cost \$652,472.

The City of Walhalla will receive \$500,000 to construct 3,636 feet of 8-inch gravity sewer line and 3,117 feet of 6-inch water line in the Chicopee Mill Village to alleviate health and safety issues associated with the deteriorated condition of the existing infrastructure. The project will reconnect 24 homes, benefiting 69 people.

The ACOG Grant Services Department assisted with the CDBG applications and will administer these grants to assure 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.



*(Youth continued from page 2)*

work experience component of the program. Palmetto Youth Connections manages the out-of-school youth program for up to 75 youth ages 17-24 through September 2010.

## Joe Newton Retires



**Joe Newton is retiring after 26 years at ACOG. He plans to go back to school.**

After almost 26 years with the Appalachian Council of Governments, senior staffer Joe Newton will be retiring, at least for a while. Joe currently serves as ACOG's Deputy Director and as Director of the agency's Governmental Services Department. He is planning to go back to school in January to work on a doctorate and eventually plans to teach.

Joe started with ACOG in December 1984 after graduating with a Master's degree from Clemson's City and Regional Planning program. Prior to that time, Joe worked as a town administrator, a town planner and an army officer. He also has a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from North Georgia College. Quipped Joe, "When I first started at ACOG, we had our vehicles repaired by a blacksmith."

Joe and his wife, Suzanne, have three grown children and plan to continue to live in the Greenville area. When asked for a comment, he replied "I am very fortunate to work with and around so many dedicated elected officials and professional employees who truly care for the people they serve. It has been a real pleasure."





## Celebration of Residents' Rights



Residents' Rights Week will be celebrated October 3-9 in honor of residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub acute units, assisted living, board and care, and retirement communities. This week was created by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care, an organization that advocates for public policies that support quality care and life in long-term care facilities. They also educate consumers, families, and direct-care workers and provide support to others who advocate on the behalf of residents.

Residents' Rights Week is a time for celebration and recognition, offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident.

This year's theme, "Defining Dining...It's About Me," concentrates on improving the dining experience for each resident by listening to their concerns and their ideas on what the ideal dining experience would be for them. Residents were asked to answer a few questions on how to improve the dining services in their facility and submitted their answers in many forms, such as poems, stories and even video.

To capture all of these different submissions, the National Consumer Voice has developed the 2010 Residents' Rights Week Cookbook. These professionally printed cookbooks feature recipes from residents, their families, ombudsmen, staff and other citizen advocates. Cookbooks sell for \$15, with proceeds to advance advocacy for residents.

The Appalachian Council of Governments Long Term Care Ombudsman Program also has a part to play in Residents' Rights Week. As Ombudsmen, they travel throughout the

region promoting the Bill of Rights to facilities and residents. The goal of the staff is to provide in-services and other fun activities such as the popular Residents' Rights Bingo and Jeopardy games to facilities across the region.

To obtain a brochure on the Residents' Bill of Rights, or information on how to purchase a Residents' Rights Week Cookbook, please contact your local Ombudsman, Nancy Hawkins, Rhonda Monroe, Jessica Winters, Jamie Guay, Sandy Dunagan, or Kim Bridges at 864- 242-9733.

## Pre-Employment Training Fair Showcases Manufacturing Careers

WorkLink offered a pre-employment training fair for advanced manufacturing

careers in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce and Tri-County Technical College. Participating employers included Clarion Technologies, Human Technologies (HTI), Kroger Anderson Bakery and U.S. Engine Valve.

*(Training Fair continued on page 5)*



## Doug Burns to Fill ACOG Deputy Director Slot



**Doug Burns, former Colleton County Administrator, was recently selected to replace Joe Newton as ACOG's Deputy Director.**

ACOG Executive Director Steve Pelissier announced in August that former county administrator Doug Burns is to fill the dual position of Deputy Director/Director of Governmental Services. That job is being vacated at the end of September as Joe Newton retires. Doug will start his work at ACOG in mid-September.

Doug's career has impacted several South Carolina counties and includes many years as a county planner, zoning administrator, director of code enforcement, director of economic development and planning director. Later in his career, he served as county administrator in McCormick, Abbeville and Colleton Counties. Doug obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Charleston and his Master's of Public Administration from the College of Charleston-University of South Carolina Joint Program.

Doug brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to ACOG. Throughout the course of his career, he has developed expertise in planning, finance and budget preparation, personnel administration, economic development, and grant writing. His duties will include work with ACOG's governmental, planning and information services. Welcome aboard Doug!



## Incorporating Smart Growth Principles Into Local Codes and Ordinances

The Planning Services Department is partnering with Joshua Martin, program director of land use and communities with the Coastal Conservation League, to provide a forum on



incorporating smart growth principles into local codes and ordinances. Mr. Martin will use examples from local comprehensive plans to show how strategies in the plans can be translated into zoning and development code language. The overview will also provide additional examples of ways in which smart growth principles can be implemented by communities through incorporation into local ordinances and codes.

Mr. Martin has a wide range of experience in local planning and development. As the Town of Bluffton's community development director and town manager, he initiated development of the Old Town master planning effort that led to the adoption of a form-based code for the Town. As director of planning, preservation, and economic innovation with the City of Charleston, Mr. Martin served as project manager for a myriad of planning efforts that implemented smart code concepts in different parts of the community. His current position involves the advocacy and education of smart growth principles and policy at the local, regional, state, and federal levels.

There will be two presentations on September 23rd – one at

12:30 p.m. and one at 5:30 p.m. – at the ACOG office. A meal will be provided prior to each presentation, and there is a \$25 fee to attend. The presentation will count toward required continuing education credits for planning officials. If you have any questions, or if you or someone in your organization would like to attend, please contact Jennifer Vissage at 864-241-4627 or [vis-sage@scacog.org](mailto:vis-sage@scacog.org).



*(Training Fair continued from page 4)*

Attendees at the morning event on June 17 had the opportunity to participate in a screening interview with potential employers. If the applicant meets industry requirements, the industry representative will recommend the individual for training. If the candidates meet entry criteria, they may enter one of the QuickJobs training programs, including the certified production technician, mechatronics (electronics and mechanical competencies) and CNC operator, at no charge. Upon completion of the training, company personnel will be given the opportunity to interview these candidates for employment in advanced manufacturing facilities in the three-county area.

WorkLink also partnered with Tri-County Technical College, local economic development offices, the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership and Expense Reduction Analysts to offer a workshop entitled New Methods for Expense Reduction on Tuesday, July 27.



## WorkLink Hires Financial Management Specialist



WorkLink Workforce Investment Board has named Brandi Runion to the position of financial management specialist. Runion will oversee the finances of the organization, whose mission is to connect companies to employees in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties.

Runion joins WorkLink with extensive experience in the workforce investment field. As a senior accountant at Green, Finney, and Horton LLP in Mauldin, she audited local school districts, governmental agencies, nonprofits and large businesses. She has experience with single audits, bookkeeping and payroll, and has worked as a business, nonprofit, and individual tax preparer. Runion is knowledgeable of specialized accounting software, including QuickBooks, Creative Solutions software and CSI accounting software. Her prior positions include staff accountant and intern at Greene and Company, LLP in Anderson, and graduate assistant at Clemson University.

With a master's degree in human resource development and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Clemson University, Runion is uniquely qualified to oversee the finances of the local workforce investment board. In her new role, she will monitor and report on financial activities, process invoices, maintain accountability for all programs and equipment, and ensure compliance with the Workforce Investment Act and other special grants.

## Resources Are Our Business

**T**he Family Caregiver Support program provides excellent support opportunities for caregivers of seniors, disabled relatives, and grand relatives. This unique population needs the support of our community in any manner possible. As we learn of the resources in our region, we find ways to share with the community at large.

Listed below are only a few of the many resources available from within our community. If you are caring for a senior over the age of 60, grand relatives, someone with early onset Alzheimer's disease, or if you have questions regarding the needs of anyone in your care, please contact Debra Brown or Sam Wiley with the Family Caregiver Support Program at 864-242-9733 (in Greenville) or 800-925-4077 (toll free), or visit our web site at [www.scupstateadrc.org](http://www.scupstateadrc.org)

### Interim Health Care and Senior Action

Caregiver Support Group  
Third Wednesday of every month  
2:00 p.m. at Senior Action  
50 Directors Drive  
Contact Devon at 864-335-5013  
or [devon.anker@senioraction.org](mailto:devon.anker@senioraction.org)

### Caregiver Support Group

Park Place Assisted Living & P.A.C.E.  
Thursday, September 9, 2010  
10:00 a.m.  
2720 Country Club Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
Contact Trez Clarke at 864-583-5802  
Marianna Del Toro at 864-596-1116

### Second Time Around: Support Group for Grandparents

Spartanburg County Public Library and P.A.C.E.  
Hoechst-Celanese Room  
Second Monday of each month  
10:00 a.m.  
Contact Trez Clarke 854-583-5802



### TRG Grandparents Support Group

Shaver Recreation Center  
698 W. 4th Street  
Seneca, SC  
Tuesday, August 31, 2010  
6:30 p.m.  
Contact Debra Brown at 800-925-4077 ,  
8 6 4 - 2 4 2 - 9 7 3 3 o r e - m a i l  
[brown@scacog.org](mailto:brown@scacog.org)



**Reverend Dr. J.W. Sanders, Sr.,  
with Judge Jack Allison**

### A FRIEND TO ALL

Dr. J.W. Sanders was a friend to all,  
To that we readily attest.  
In everything that he took a part,  
He always gave his best.  
He has gone on to Heaven now,  
To enjoy a much-deserved rest,  
To fill the vacuum that he has left,  
We will each have to give our best.  
His family and his friends will miss him  
most,  
But we will all meet again someday,  
In that land where all is joy and peace,  
Where together through the ages we'll  
stay.  
It will only be a little while,  
Until we will hear Jesus say,  
Welcome to Heaven friends of Dr. J. W.  
I am glad he led you this way.

Jack Allison  
July 26, 2010

## Government Services Sessions

**G**overnmental Services recently facilitated meetings for Travelers Rest and Cowpens. Staff is available for meetings such as council retreats, strategic planning and training



sessions. We will work closely with the staff of a town, city or county to tailor a session to fit your specific needs.

The primary focus of the Travelers Rest Council retreat was downtown economic development. The city has focused considerable efforts on revitalizing their downtown. The Conceptual Master Plan, which includes an infill and redevelopment element, was adopted by council in November 2006. During the course of the retreat, council recognized the need to fill vacant buildings with new and interesting busi-

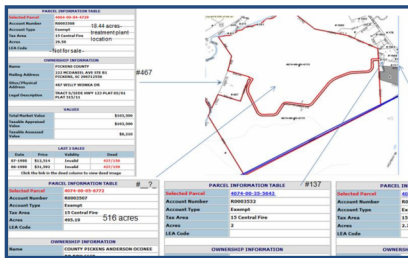


nesses. Potential ideas included creating a grant program to renovate store fronts and the implementation of a business ambassadors' breakfast. The breakfast would provide an outlet for existing business owners to network and invite complimentary businesses to downtown Travelers Rest.

*(Sessions continued on page 7)*

## Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties Sell Property

**A**COG recently conducted a bidding process for the sale of land owned jointly by Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. The land was originally purchased in the mid-1990s for a landfill project that never came to fruition. ACOG coordinated the advertising, the bid process and some of the discussions between the counties to assist in the sale and helped to conclude a 17-year-old project.



**In June approximately 520 acres of land jointly owned by Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties were put up for sale.**

Pickens County placed the winning bid and purchased the property for approximately \$2.84 million. The sale closing was scheduled to take place on August 31.

*(Sessions continued from page 6)*

Cowpens welcomed two new council members, Jarred Spencer and Brenda Adair on July 1. As a result, the council asked ACOG staff to provide a training session. This session gave a broad overview of municipal government, and among the topics were home rule, the Freedom of Information Act and annexation. Council plans to hold additional training sessions to study various topics in greater depth.

## Oconee County Awarded Nearly \$10 Million Grant to Provide Broadband Access

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act appropriated \$7.2 billion for the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) to expand broadband access and adoption in communities across the U.S., which will increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits. On August 18th, Oconee County was awarded nearly \$10 million from the NTIA Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program to install a fiber optic communications network.

In 2008 Oconee County participated in a telecommunications planning grant administered by ACOG. The grant funded a study to assess the broadband needs of the Anderson, Oconee and Pickens area. The study, formally completed in May 2009, provided strategies and recommendations for improving access to broadband infrastructure and services. The study also outlined ways to fund the improvements and potential opportunities for collaboration within the region from both public and private entities.

Oconee FOCUS (Fiber Optics Creating Unified Solutions), is a public-private partnership with plans to build a fiber-optic middle-mile network to service the rural parts of the county and connect with high-speed networks across the state.

The construction of a 245-mile fiber network, providing broadband speeds of 10 Mbps and 10 Gbps, will improve Oconee County's attractiveness to new and existing employers. This upgrade in technology will allow for more efficient and effective business practices. Distance learning, video conferencing, and remote research will also enhance educational opportunities for students of all ages. By subscribing to a local Internet service provider, approximately 27,800 households and 2,400 businesses could have access to the net-

work. This project will also enable middle-mile connectivity to as many as 150 anchor institutions, including up to 26 public safety entities, 24 K-12 schools, Tri-County Technical College, Oconee Medical Center, and four libraries. Access to the "middle mile" lowers the cost of Internet access, making it more affordable to citizens and private industry.

The grant requires a match of approximately \$4.7 million. The initial investment of \$1 million will come from Oconee County's fund balance. Future funds will be provided by investing partners.



**Cherokee County receives a grant for the Norman Boulevard water project in the Grassy Pond community.**

*Did you know?*

*The Town of Blacksburg, located in Cherokee County, was the first municipality in the state to have electric street lights.*





# VIEWPOINT

Appalachian Council of Governments  
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ESRI president Jack Dangermond delivers the plenary speech at the International ESRI User Conference in July 2010. ACOG is listed behind him (top, center) as a recipient of an ESRI [Special Achievement in GIS Award](#), recognizing Upstate Property Navigator - Online Mapping for Regional Economic Development. This project was developed in partnership with the Upstate Alliance, with programming assistance from GST Consulting.