



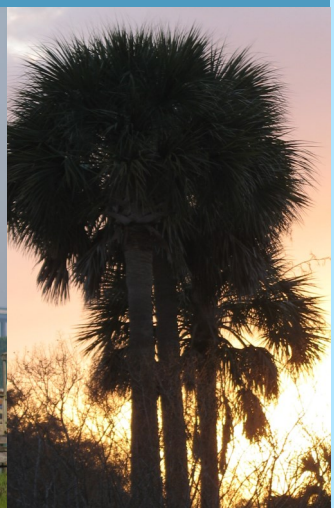
PROMOTE



PROTECT



PROVIDE



# 2015

CHARLESTON COUNTY  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# Letter from the Administrator

Keith Bustraan  
County Administrator



Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building  
4045 Bridge View Drive  
North Charleston, SC 29405-7464

Dear Charleston County Council and citizens,

We took several steps to improve our services in calendar year 2015. Charleston County staff implemented initiatives to make operations more efficient while still maintaining a strong financial footing. We faced adversity on several occasions and responded with compassion and hard work. The following are just a few of the highlights from the past year:

- Charleston County maintained its AAA bond rating with Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings.
- The International Academies of Emergency Dispatch awarded accreditation to the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center as an Emergency Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatch Center of Excellence.
- The International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME) awarded Accreditation to the Coroner's department for its efforts in providing the highest level of service to the citizens, neighbors and visitors of Charleston County.
- Fleet Management was recognized as a Certified Fleet Management Operation (CFMO) by the Government Fleet Management Alliance (GFMA).
- The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year to Charleston County for its Fiscal Year 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- Charleston County also received its 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for its Fiscal Year 2015 budget from GFOA. According to the GFOA, the award reflects the commitment of Charleston County Government and its staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

Charleston County remains on solid ground as it relates to economic development. The tourism industry attracts close to five million tourists a years, Port of Charleston cargo volume was up 15% in 2015 and Daimler Chrysler announced a \$500 million dollar investment and an additional 1,200 jobs at its North Charleston facility.

Prosperity does not come without a few challenges as we address growth in the community moving forward. Charleston County will be adding an additional 51 employees to the EMS department and 24 new positions to the Sheriff's Office. The Transportation Development staff is currently working on major infrastructure projects on Harbor View Road, Folly Road at Camp Road and Maybank Highway. County Council approved an increase in the stormwater fee to provide assistance to the areas hit the hardest during the historic October floods.

Looking ahead to 2016, we expect to make progress on a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to advance our recycling program. In addition, there will be no millage increase for our citizens in the FY 2017 budget allows for maintaining the Rainy Day fund balance levels. Finally, Charleston County Government will continue to make customer service a priority for our citizens.

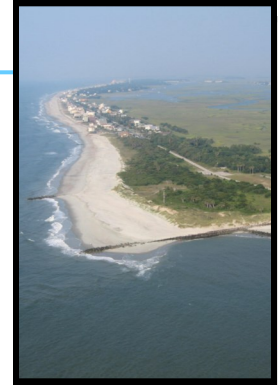
Sincerely,  
Keith Bustraan

# Charleston County at a Glance

## The Land

Charleston County is located along the southeastern coast of South Carolina. It encompasses approximately 1,358 square miles of land, marshes, rivers and wetlands with a coastline that stretches nearly 100 miles along the Atlantic Ocean.

Charleston County contains vital protected areas, including the Francis Marion National Forest, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge.



## The People

Charleston County's population has grown 1.3 percent since 2007 to a population of 350,209 based on the latest census taken in 2010, with a median age of 35.9 (most up to date information available from the federal government). The labor force consists of around 187,000 workers, with a per capita income of approximately \$40,075.

Around 88 percent of Charleston County residents have a high school degree or higher level of education, while 37.7 percent hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

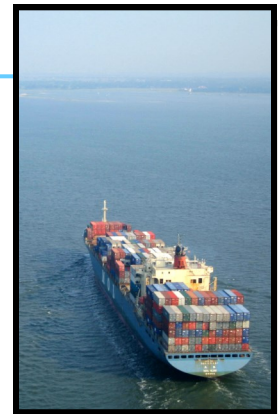


## The Industry

Charleston County has a wide range of industry including shipping, tourism and manufacturing. Total gross retail sales in the county for calendar year 2012 reached almost \$13 billion.

The top 10 major employers in the County are: the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Boeing Charleston, Joint Base Charleston, Charleston County Government, SAIC, Verizon Wireless, Kapstone Paper and Packing Corp., Cummins Turbo Technologies, Scientific Research Corporation, and BAE Systems EI&S North Charleston.

*Source: Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, Charleston Regional Development Alliance*



## The Government

Charleston County Government comprises 45 departments and offices. A full-time staff of approximately 2,500 serves the citizens of Charleston County.

Charleston County also includes the municipalities of the City of Charleston; City of Folly Beach; City of Isle of Palms; City of North Charleston; Town of Awendaw; Town of Hollywood; Town of James Island; Town of Kiawah Island; Town of Lincolnville; Town of McClellanville; Town of Meggett; Town of Mount Pleasant; Town of Rockville; Town of Seabrook Island; and Town of Sullivan's Island.

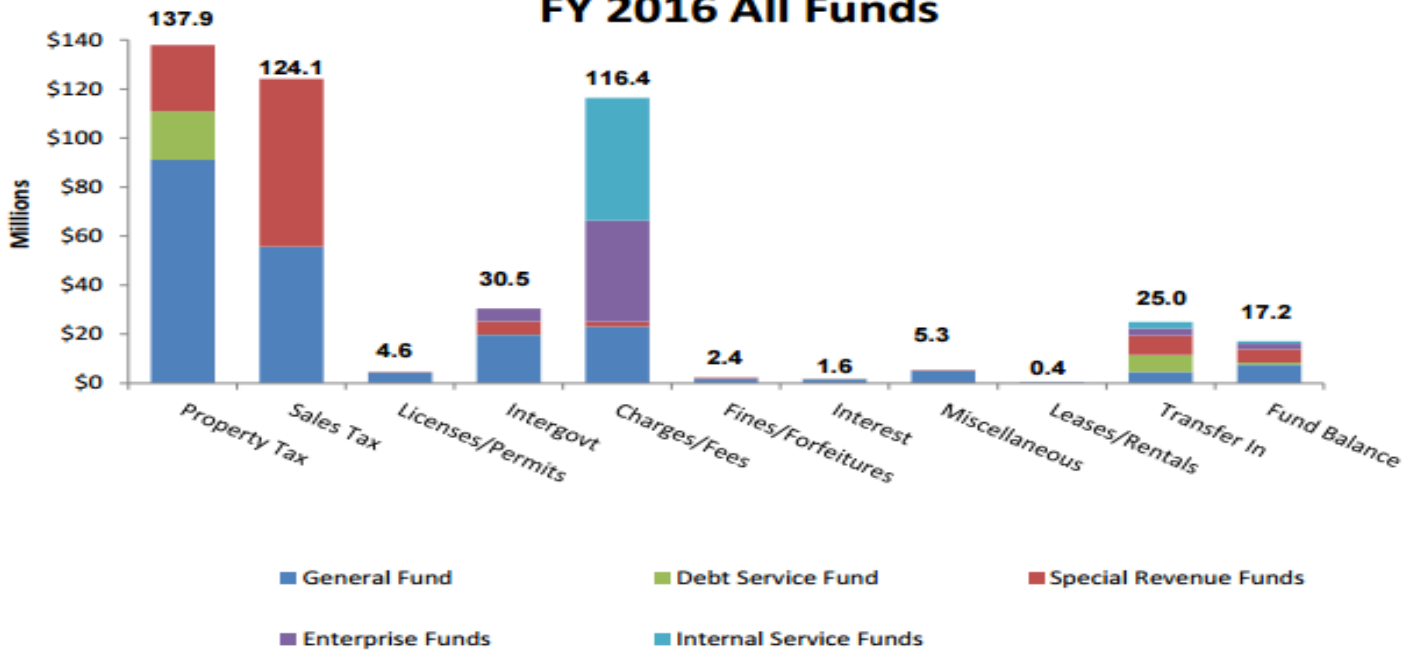


# Charleston County Finances

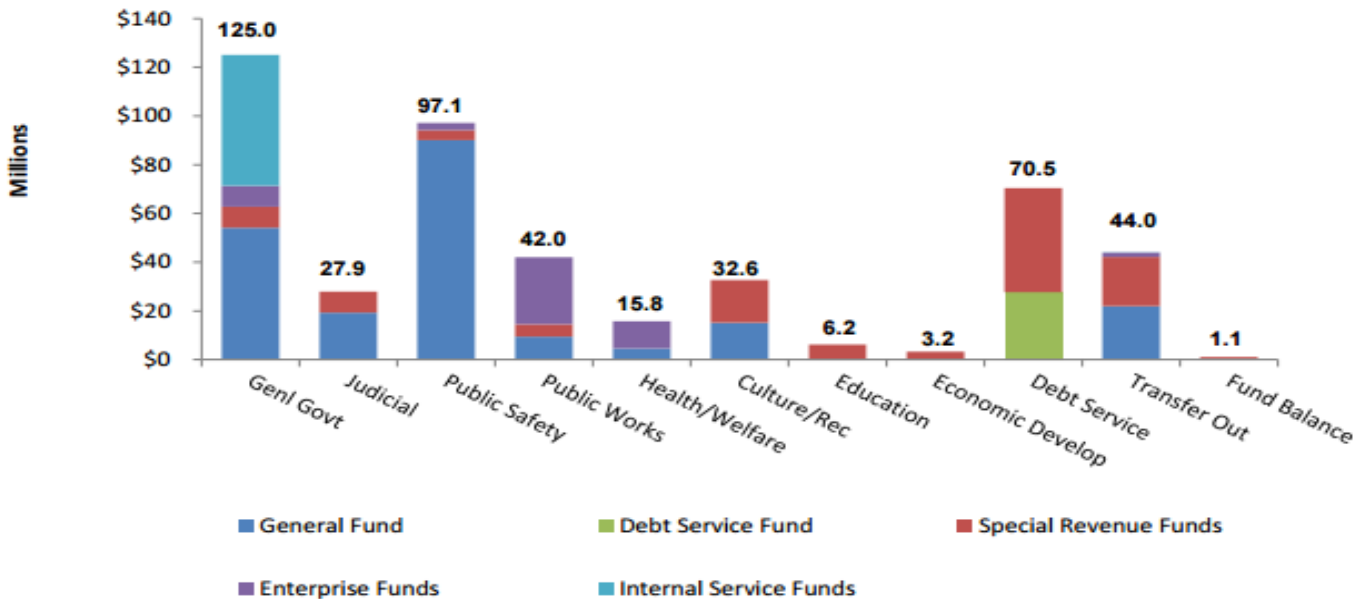
## Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

Total operating budget: \$465,327,631

### WHERE IT COMES FROM... FY 2016 All Funds



### WHERE IT GOES... FY 2016 All Funds





# Charleston County Finances

## Overview:

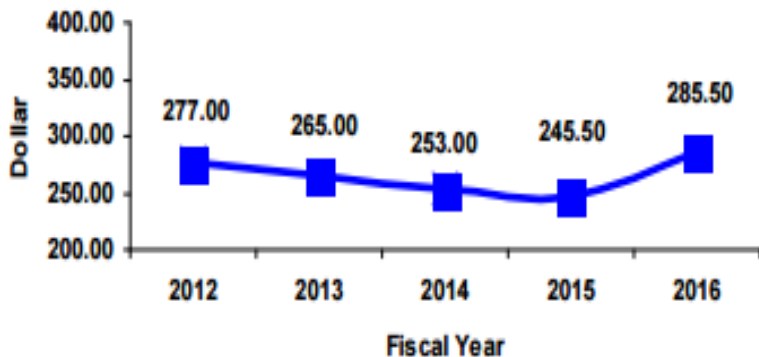
The General Fund operating budget is \$214.7 million, which is up \$18.8 million or 9.6 percent. The FY 2016 Charleston County budget is balanced. The operating millage increased from 40.7 to 44.7 mills.

Debt Service millage remains unchanged at 6.1 mills.

The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) credit remains unchanged at \$222.50 (before adjustments for re-assessment) for the homeowner whose property is appraised at \$250,000. The LOST credit reduces the amount of taxes owed by a homeowner.

The Solid Waste, Recycling & Disposal Fee remains unchanged at \$99 per residential property.

**County Taxes (Includes LOST Credit) FY 2012-2016  
(\$250,000 Owner-Occupied Home)**



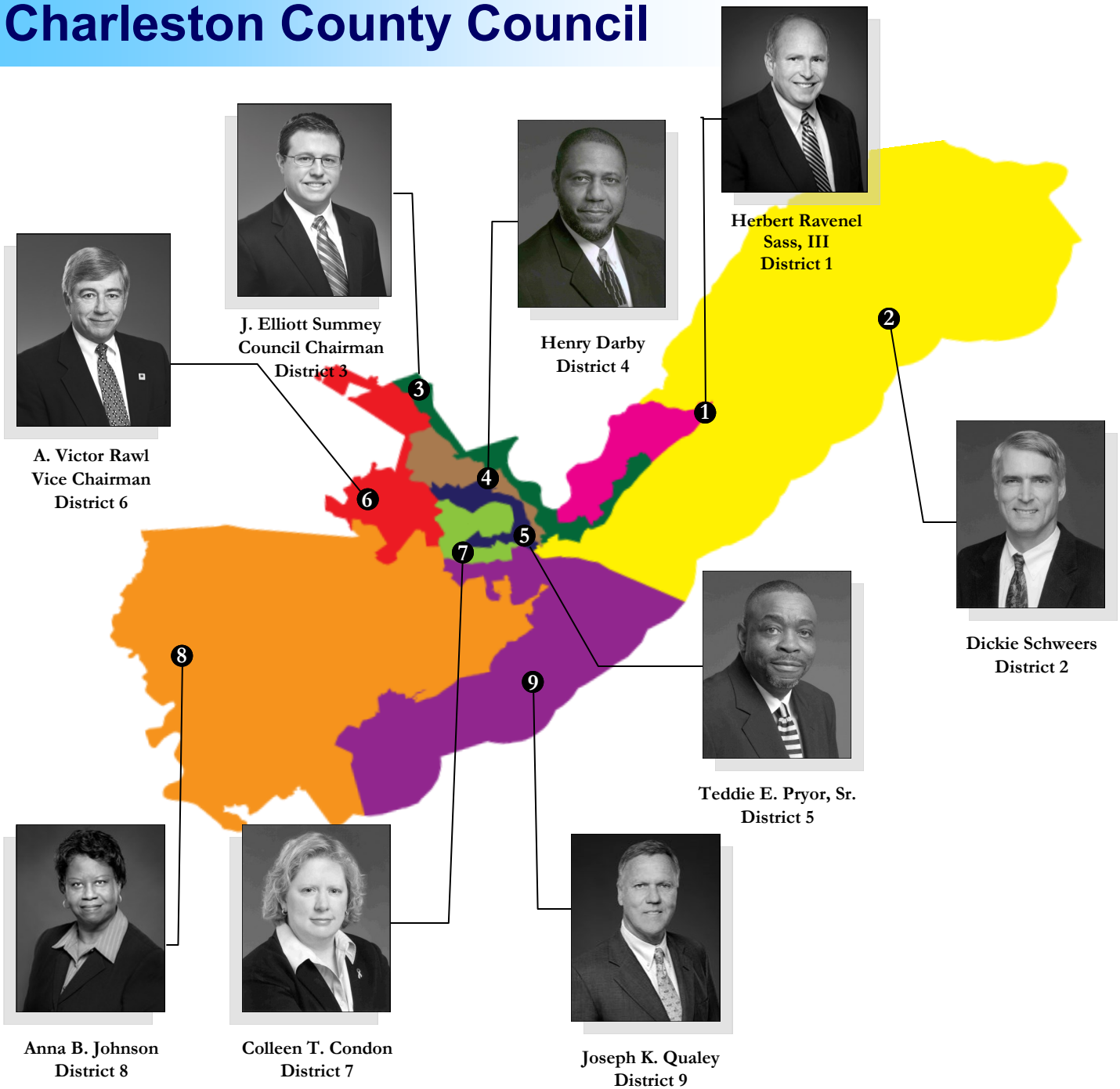
The graph reflects the tax due on a \$250,000 Owner-Occupied home after the Sales Tax credit for FY 2012 through FY 2016.

The chart illustrates the overall tax and fee bill for a \$250,000 home (four percent assessed property) for FY 2015 and FY 2016.

**County Tax and Fee Bill  
(\$250,000 Owner-Occupied Home)**

	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
Taxes with Lost Credit	\$245.50	\$285.50
Recycling/Disposal Fee	<u>\$99.00</u>	<u>\$99.00</u>
<b>Total Tax Bill</b>	<b><u>\$344.50</u></b>	<b><u>\$384.50</u></b>

# Charleston County Council



Charleston County Council serves as the legislative, policy-making body of county government through the adoption of ordinances and resolutions. Council members represent nine single-member districts, and each January, the members elect a chairman and vice chairman to represent Council for that calendar year.

Council annually approves budgets for the County's general fund, solid waste fund and several special revenue funds. Council also has budgetary oversight of several special purpose districts that provide services within Charleston County.

Charleston County operates under the Council-Administrator form of government. The Administrator is hired by the Council to serve as the County's chief administrative officer. In addition to carrying out the directives and policies of Council, the Administrator oversees the day-to-day operations of county government.

# Elected Officials



## **Treasurer - Andy Smith**

The Treasurer collects real property, personal property, motor vehicle and other taxes and oversees their disbursement to county government, municipalities, schools and special taxing districts in Charleston County.



## **Clerk of Court - Julie Armstrong**

The Clerk of Court provides administrative support for civil, criminal and family court. Her office also maintains court dockets and records and receives and disburses child support fees, fines and costs.



## **Probate Court Judge - Irv Condon**

The Probate Court probates estates; handles involuntary commitments for alcohol and drug abuse and/or mental illness; issues marriage licenses; appoints legal guardians; and approves minor and wrongful death settlements.



## **Solicitor - Scarlett Wilson**

The Solicitor serves the 9th Circuit Court in Charleston and Berkeley Counties by providing prosecution services to the Court of General Sessions and Family Court.



## **Auditor - Peter J. Tecklenberg**

The Auditor sets millage rates to satisfy annual budget requirements for Charleston County, including 33 municipalities and other taxing authorities. Her office also calculates and mails tax bills for all real and personal property.



## **Coroner - Rae Wooten**

The Coroner conducts independent investigations of deaths in Charleston County. An investigation's purpose is to determine the cause of death and the circumstances surrounding it.



## **Register of Mesne Conveyance - Charlie Lybrand**

The Register of Mesne Conveyance Office records deeds, mortgages, liens and other documents related to property transactions in Charleston County.



## **Sheriff - Al Cannon**

The Sheriff's Office provides public safety to the entire county through community programs, court security, law enforcement and detention.

# Appointed Officials



## **Board of Elections & Voter Registration- Executive Director Joseph Debney**

The Board of Elections & Voter Registration conducts elections for all elected positions representing Charleston County residents. The Executive Director is appointed by the Board.



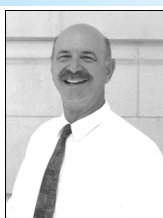
## **Magistrate Courts - Chief Judge David W. Coker**

Magistrate Courts make traffic and criminal case rulings; issue restraining orders and arrest and search warrants; and handle landlord-tenant disputes. The Chief Magistrate is



## **Veterans Affairs - Director Donald Morillo**

The Veterans Affairs (VA) Office assists veterans and their dependents with filing eligibility applications for benefit entitlements from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Director is appointed by the Charleston County Legislative Delegation.



## **Executive Director Charleston County Public Library, Douglas Henderson**

The Charleston County Library System maintains 16 branches throughout Charleston County to service over 300,000 library card-holders. The Director is appointed by the Library Board of Trustees.



## **Master-In-Equity - Mikell Scarborough**

The Master-in-Equity facilitates litigation resolution for foreclosure cases and a substantial number of civil, non-jury cases that are assigned by the S.C. Circuit Court. The Master-In-Equity is appointed by the governor.



# County Department Highlights

## Clerk of Courts Office

In 2015, the Clerk of Court's office continued to improve the access to the court and its records. With the use of technology, the court can now accommodate another 150 individuals who wish to view court proceedings by sending the feed to another location inside the courthouse. Also, through additional enhancements to the Clerk's nationally recognized CourtPlus application, access to court documents are more accessible than ever without compromising security.

Aside for improving the access to court records through technology, the Clerk of Court's office again saw an increase in the amount of child support collected and previously unpaid criminal fines. Child support collections increased \$500,000

## Greenbelt

- Awarded \$300,000 to the City of North Charleston to purchase 4.5 acres for future municipal parks.
- The Greenbelt Advisory Board approved a PR Plan to educate the public on the accomplishments of the Greenbelt Program and on the Greenbelt lands that are currently open for public use. As part of the Greenbelt PR Plan, a hashtag (#ccgreenbelt) was established for the program and the Greenbelt website has been updated and given a new address (charlestoncountygreenbelt.org).
- The Greenbelt Staff monitored 85 properties purchased with Greenbelt funds to ensure the deed restrictions were being adhered to. These properties total 4,150 acres.
- The Greenbelt Director accompanied the land trusts in conducting the annual monitoring of conservation easements purchased with Greenbelt funds. Greenbelt lands currently under conservation easement total 13,000 acres.

## Economic Development

### **Company Announcements:**

#### **Sea Pac, LLC (10/11/15)**

Sea Pac, LLC will establish a Charleston county facility, investing \$32 million and creating 50 new jobs initially; more than 200 in the next five years. The company specializes in trans-loading, warehousing, packaging, and logistics of plastic resins. **Learn more.**

#### **Daimler Vans Manufacturing (3/6/15)**

Current Palmetto Commerce Parkway resident Daimler will invest \$500 million to establish a new, full van manufacturing plant in Charleston County. The new production plant in North Charleston, S.C. will supply the North American market with the next-generation Sprinter, creating 1,300 new jobs. **Learn more.**

#### **Money Penny (2/24/15)**

Money Penny, a telephone answering service firm, is opening a new office Charleston County. The \$760,000 investment is expected to result in approximately 40 new jobs in North Charleston, SC by the end of 2016, with long-term plans to employ approximately 400 workers at the facility within the next five years. **Learn more.**

### **Jobs and Capital Investment**

In 2014, Charleston County celebrated the creation of 823 jobs and over \$193 million in capital investment. The official 2015 numbers will be released by the SC Department of Commerce in March 2016 (approximate). Eighteen times in the past 20 years, Charleston County has ranked in the Top Ten among our State's 46 counties.

## Economic Development

**Business Retention & Expansion Program** Attended 13 conferences and trade shows, utilizing a marketing booth designed entirely in-house. Conferences and trade shows attended of note:

- North Carolina Aerospace Supplier and Advanced Manufacturing Summit
- South Carolina Aerospace Industry Day Conference & Expo
- South Carolina Automotive Summit
- DIG South Interactive Festival and Tech Trade Show
- Charleston Defense Contractor's Association: C5ISR Government & Industry Supplier Summit
- North Charleston Business Expo

CCED launched an Industrial Workshop Forum initiative with the SC Technical College System to brief companies on the myriad of workforce training opportunities available to them in one session. The event was held on September 1<sup>st</sup> and featured Trident Technical College, TTC Continuing Education and Economic Development, readySC and Apprenticeship Carolina. Representatives from 23 companies were in attendance.

Topics covered ranged from workforce training and continuing education course info to employee retention, Youth Apprenticeship, adult apprenticeships, grants and EZA job credits.

Established the Tri-County Aerospace Group (TAG)

Formed collectively by Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley County Economic Development departments to better meet the needs of existing and new aerospace supplier companies in the Tri-County region. The Tri-County Aerospace Group (TAG) has two main purposes:

- To promote the growth of the Tri-County Aerospace Industry by helping its members take advantage of education initiatives, connect key relationships, and provide access to various business opportunities.
- To facilitate member companies working together as a network, to offer broader capabilities than as individuals. The goal is to create a globally competitive market by providing all customers with superior service, quality, and on-time delivery.
- Current membership consists of 20 aerospace suppliers in the Tri-County region meeting bi-monthly to discuss initiatives, company updates, and relative topics to the industry and workforce.
- Planning and execution of TAG meetings and events are done exclusively by CCED staff.
- The corresponding website maintains an aerospace supplier company directory of services and capabilities.
- Foster networking regionally, state-wide, and nationally.
- TAG participates annually in the 'South Carolina Aerospace Industry Day'.

TAG companies from Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties exhibited at a pavilion dedicated specifically to the Tri-county Aerospace Group. The 800 sq.ft. pavilion area featured TAG company representatives, marketing collateral, and an area to meet with prospective customers, network, and make B2B connections.

### **Facebook**

The departmental Facebook page continues to increase our department's presence to the local community, existing industry, site selectors and industry all over the world. Our #1 goal for the site is to strengthen our relationship with Charleston County industry.

### **Roll-Out of the 'Business Concierge' Campaign**

The business retention and expansion (BRE) program is now marketed as the 'Business Concierge' program. The objective of the BRE program remains: extensive business visitation, company expansion support, workforce solutions, sector building, advice on financing, special events and general problem solving by making key connections for existing industry in Charleston County.

The BRE program was featured by the Charleston Regional Development Journal, in the 2015 edition of 'Community Profiles'. The article included comments from Deputy Director, Merle Johnson and Existing Industry Specialist, Jennifer Brown.

## **Economic Development**

### **Grants Management**

#### *State*

CCED manages grants awarded from the SC Department of Commerce's Coordinating Council. These grants help off-set costs to a company expanding in or coming to Charleston County.

- Grant funds awarded - \$14.75M
- Total awarded since 1995 - over \$59M

#### **Utility Tax Credit**

CCED also manages grants awarded by public utilities in SC., like SCANA (SCE&G) and Santee Cooper.

### **Support of the Technology Sector: The Harbor Entrepreneur Center**

CCED sponsored The Harbor Entrepreneur Center (HEC) at the \$45K level in 2015. The HEC is home of The Harbor Accelerator, a 14-week business accelerator program that provides each start up with the needed mentors, resources and support to grow, test the market quickly, and become viable quickly.

The [Harbor Entrepreneur Center](#) had an active year in 2015:

- 16 start up companies graduated from The Harbor Accelerator Program
- Nearly \$2,000,000 in seed funding invested in Accelerator companies
- Over 1000 hours of entrepreneur mentoring occurred during The Harbor Accelerator Program
- Over 400 attendees at Steve Case Entrepreneur Studio and Pitch Event held on the USS Yorktown
- 10 companies with revenue between \$100k and \$2M participating in the 1st Harbor Propel Program
- 24 entrepreneurs who've built companies with more than 3 employees participating in Harbor Forum Groups
- 3 Entrepreneur Studio Events held with average attendance over 240
- 2nd annual Founders Ball Event in May drew over 220 attendees
- Received 2nd round of \$250,000 from SC Dept of Commerce Innovation Challenge Grant

Partnered with Kauffman Foundation to launch [1MillionCups initiative](#) where 34 startups presented

### **Industry Appreciation Luncheon 2015**

On October 7th, the Economic Development Department (CCED), on behalf of Charleston County Council, held the 11th annual Industry Appreciation Event. The theme of the event was "Charleston Industry: Building on a Legacy". Industry executives, elected officials and economic development allies gathered to honor the industries that drive our county's economic engine. Attendance hit a record high of over 250 people and over 40 companies represented. The poignant keynote was delivered by Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, currently serving his last year as Mayor. The Economic Development Department staff, utilizing the in-house talents of Charleston County PIO Shawn Smetana, shot and edited a tribute film to Mayor Joe Riley on 40 years of leadership.

### **Support of the 'Buy Local' Initiative: LowCountry Local First**

CCED Supported [Lowcountry Local First](#) (LCF) at the \$20K level in 2015.

LCF's 'Buy Local' initiative is a sustainable entrepreneurship and business development initiative designed to foster and catalyze local, independent retailers, manufacturers and professional services providers. They do this through a variety of education, outreach and co-working programs to support the diverse local business community, increasing reinvestment into local schools and infrastructure and creating stable, well-paying local jobs.

## Human Resources

### AWARDS EARNED:

Charleston County Wellness Program receives Gold Award for the 2015 Charleston Healthy Business Challenge.

In January of 2015 Mayor Riley asked businesses and organizations throughout the Charleston area to participate in the inaugural Healthy Business Challenge, a collaborative program developed by the City of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina with support from presenting sponsors Arthur J. Gallagher & Company and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. The goal is to encourage and assist businesses and organizations in establishing work environments that promote a culture of wellness.

The Charleston Healthy Business Challenge is designed to help businesses and organizations improve the overall health and well-being of their employees with the goal of reducing the growing cost of preventable illness and disease and create a culture of wellness in the workplace.

Quarterly seminars focused on each of the four pillars of worksite wellness (healthy eating, active living, tobacco-free worksites and stress management).

Along the way participants in The Healthy Business Challenge were asked to work on their “scorecard” which contained 46 questions targeting best practices for a healthier workplace environment. Once registered, participating organizations had access and were able to update their scorecards, with the goal of increasing their scores throughout the challenge year. Scores were reviewed periodically, and participants received recognition as they reach higher levels. The points are tiered with the goal of scoring at least 71 points at the minimum upward to the max of 100 points to earn the Gold Award.

Point Tiers:

Bronze = 15-40 points (10 Companies)

61 Companies finished the Challenge

Silver = 41-70 points (9 Companies)

31 did not earn awards

Gold = 71+ points (11 Companies)

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> Charleston County was the 2<sup>nd</sup> team to earn the Gold Award with 87 points. Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch scored 70 points earning the Silver Award.

### PROMOTING ACHIEVEMENT:

There is no true accreditation in Human Resources. That said, 10 out of 16 (**63%**) staff members received a number of professional certifications within the past two years demonstrating commitment to lifelong learning:

- **Six** staff members received IPMA-CP certifications (International Public Management Association – Certified Professionals in Human Resources), the public sector equivalent to certification from the Society for Human Resources Managers (SHRM).
- **Two** staff members received their SPHR/PHR certifications through HRCI.
- **Seven** staff members received SHRM-SCP certifications through SHRM.
- **One** staff member received certification as a facilitator in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), a behavioral assessment tool, and is facilitating a course for the departments Professional Development Program.
- **One** staff member received certification through IAAP.
- **One** staff member became certified as a Federal EEO Investigator, learning the knowledge and skills to investigate complaints of harassment and/or discrimination.



## Human Resources cont.



### Performance-Based Pay Implementation and Performance Management

In October 2014, the new Performance-Based Pay program was implemented with updates to the County's longevity program. The next phase of implementation was effective July 1, 2015 with a new merit system to coincide with annual performance appraisals. As part of this implementation, Performance Management Training was provided to all County supervisors.

### Workforce Planning and Development

Recognizing a large number of department directors and managers' eligibility to retire within the next five years, a Workforce Planning and Development plan is being developed. Much more than a succession plan, the program will consider emerging trends in all types of positions within the County, develop knowledge transfer initiatives and build an emerging leader program.

## Community Development

- Clean Water

40 households were provided access to clean water or sanitary waste water systems

- At-Risk Youth

Treatment and counseling was provided to 219 neglected and/or abused children

- Education and Training

Classes provided by 11 agencies assisted 1,830 people

- Affordable Housing Construction

The Town of Hollywood, in partnership with the County, created four affordable housing units

- Home Rehabilitation

Community partners repaired and rehabilitated 24 substandard homes

- Rapid Re-housing and Shelter Services

Funding provided to two agencies who were able to assist 611 people with either shelter placement or rapid re-housing

## Fleet Operations

The 5 most important accomplishments that Fleet accomplished in 2015:

- Fleet became a Certified Fleet Management Operation receiving certification from the Government Fleet Management Alliance (GFMA) in January 2015. Charleston County Fleet Operations Department is the first government fleet in South Carolina and one of only 22 agencies in the U.S. that have earned the Certified Fleet Management Operation (GFMO) certification from the Government Fleet Management Alliance (GFMA). The GFMO process involves the fleet manager along with the entire staff in measuring and working to improve the operation's effectiveness, competitiveness and efficiency using a detailed certification self-audit that is based on industry best practices. There are over 120 specific certification criteria addressing 20 critical areas of fleet management. There are also 15 very specific performance standards that were measured and certified as meeting or exceeding industry standard criteria for successful fleet management .
- Fleet Operations achieved recertification for the ASE Blue Seal Program Certification for third year in a row. The National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) initially certified Charleston County Fleet Operations as an ASE Blue Seal of Excellence Certified Shop in 2013. Requirements for ASE certification mandates that a repair facility have at least 75% of their technicians ASE certified, and among that group, have someone certified in every area of service the facility offers. Charleston County Fleet Operations is the only government fleet in South Carolina to concurrently achieve both Government Fleet Management Alliance (GFMA) and ASE accreditations.
- For the first time, ambulance purchases are now being made from an ISO 9000 Certified Manufacturer. ISO 9000 is an international quality management standard created to make the attainment of quality, consistent products easier, more efficient while achieving and customer satisfaction. This quality management system will assist the County in monitoring the manufacturing progress of our new ambulances as they go through each stage of production, assembly testing and customer satisfaction feedback.
- Implementation of Integrity test lane and Preventive Maintenance Safety inspection program. Charleston County's Fleet Operations is the first government entity in the state of South Carolina to install the Snap-on Squarerigger Opti-Tread Tire Diagnostic and Vehicle Safety System in combination with the Integrity Test Lane system. This automated system significantly improved our preventive maintenance (PM) scheduling performance from 74% to 95% since the implementation in early 2015. Additionally it provides a labor cost saving computerized vehicle diagnostic scheduling system. Our PM compliance improved significantly to 95%, and has been maintained at this level for the last nine months. This system is a Modular Vehicle Safety Lane that performs a vehicle safety inspection in minutes and quickly conducts multiple system audits:
  - Alignment Audit System checks for out-of-specification alignment angles and worn suspension parts
  - Dynamic Brake Audit checks brake efficiency, brake clamping force and pad thickness, brake drag and variation
  - OBD II (emission) Vehicle system health checks for diagnostic trouble codes and emissions related problems
  - Battery/Charging system Audit checks battery and charging system health
- GovDeals on-line resale of obsolete County assets surpassed \$7 million in sales in September 2015. Fleet Operations was the inaugural user and driving force in adopting this on-line public auction service in March 2005. We have now reached \$7 million in sales resulting from 1,835 equipment items through the GovDeals website. This is an average of \$55,555 per month, (\$666,666 per year) since we have been using GovDeals. The disposal of Fleet equipment items represents approximately 92% of the total proceeds that go to the Equipment Replacement Funds which provides for out-of-cycle recapitalization of critical emergency response vehicles and construction equipment items.

## Zoning and Planning Department

On October 16, Zoning and Planning Director Dan Pennick retired after 17 years of service to the citizens of Charleston County. Joel Evans, PLA, AICP was promoted to Director of the Zoning and Planning Department and Andrea Pietras, AICP was promoted to Deputy Director. Both individuals have outstanding credentials, leadership, and supervisory qualities that make them the right choices. Joel has over 25 years of experience in the planning field and has been with the County for 16 years. Andrea has over 15 years of zoning and planning experience and has been with the County for 12 years.

The Zoning & Planning Department staff is highly qualified and includes eight Professional Planners, two Professional Landscape Architects, and one Professional Engineer. One of the two Professional Landscape Architects passed the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Examination in 2015 and is a Certified Arborist. In addition, Planning staff participates on statewide boards including the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) Executive Committee. Andrea Pietras has served on this committee since 2010 and was elected President-Elect in October 2014. Andrea Harris-Long began serving as the Communications Officer in February 2014.

### **Major Projects**

Spring Grove Development: On November 19, 2015, Charleston County Council gave final approval to the MWV-East Edisto Spring Grove, LLC request to develop ten parcels of land located in western Charleston County totaling 14,508 acres (8,849 acres highland; 5,659 acres freshwater wetlands) as part of the Spring Grove Development Agreement with Charleston County Government. This is the largest project of its type in the County and possibly the state. This project began in 2007 with the ten year update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. Over the past eight years, Planning staff has coordinated with staff members of other departments and consultants to draft the enabling legislation required for this project to be considered, and then subsequently to process the four different applications submitted by the property owner. County Council, Planning Commission staff also worked with community residents to gather input on the proposed development, hosting several community meetings in the area adjacent to the project.



- Community Planning Projects:** In 2015, the Zoning and Planning Department worked with several different communities to customize zoning and land development regulations to help shape the growth and development of neighborhoods into the future. With each of the planning projects, public meetings were held to gather input on what types of development citizens would like to see. Based on these meetings, planners drafted amendments to the *Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations* (ZLDR) to help these communities embrace their vision. Some of these projects are ongoing and will culminate in 2016. The following communities were included in planning projects:

  - St. Andrews Boulevard/Highway 61 corridor in the St. Andrews area;
  - Parkers Ferry community in Western Charleston County; and
  - Sol Legare community on James Island.
- Regional Planning Efforts:** Coordination with adjacent jurisdictions and entities is critical to successful planning in Charleston County. Three large planning efforts took place in 2015:

  - Dupont | Wappoo Neighborhood Study;
  - ReThink Folly Road | A Complete Streets Study; and
  - Riverland Drive Corridor Management Plan.
- The **Dupont | Wappoo Neighborhood Study** is a collaborative project between the City of Charleston and Charleston County to address land use, transportation and drainage issues in this area of West Ashley. A series of charrettes were held during the summer of 2015 to identify the issues and opportunities citizens see in the area and how they would like to see future development occur. Based on the input gathered, planners have been drafting amendments to both zoning ordinances to address land use issues and working with the public works departments of both the City and County to identify drainage solutions. Community meetings will be held in early 2016 to gather feedback on the draft overlay zoning district and implementation strategies for land use, zoning, design and development standards, walkability, transportation, and drainage issues. Following that, the overlay zoning district will be taken to the Planning Commission and Council for adoption and the City and County will continue to coordinate regarding transportation, drainage, walkability, and other issues identified by the community.
- ReThink Folly Road | A Complete Streets Study** is a comprehensive look at transportation, drainage, pedestrian and bike accessibility, land use, and design and development issues and opportunities in the Folly Road corridor on James Island. The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) partnered with the City of Charleston, Town of James Island, City of Folly Beach, and Charleston County to engage a planning consultant to assist with the project and hold public workshops to learn more about the corridor including how it is used today and the vision that residents have for it in the future. The planning team gathered data and public comments to develop a future vision for the corridor that focuses on making the corridor a “complete street” destination that encourages not only car travel, but also more walking and biking. The team drafted a plan that summarizes public input and data gathered through the process and culminates with an implementation matrix of strategies to accomplish the ideas put forth by the residents. The plan and a memorandum of understanding to work together to implement the strategies are currently being considered for adoption by all jurisdictions and agencies involved in the process, including Charleston County.
- Charleston County was also involved in creating the **Riverland Drive Corridor Management Plan**. This plan, created through a partnership with the BCDCOG, City of Charleston, Town of James Island, Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, and Historic Charleston Foundation, focused on Riverland Drive on James Island and resulted in a final report, based on several public meetings with citizens and stakeholders and extensive research into the existing and future conditions of the corridor. All jurisdictions and agencies involved in the project, including Charleston County, signed a memorandum of understanding regarding pursuing the goals of the plan. The report, and the subsequent committee that resulted, focuses on making the scenic corridor a safer, more pleasant thoroughfare that respects the many natural and cultural resources present in the area.



- Historic Preservation Grant Project: Charleston County Government was awarded a 2015 Federal Historic Preservation Grant to conduct an update to the 1989 and 1992 Charleston County Historical and Architectural Surveys. This project began with the solicitation and hiring of a cultural resources consultant in Fall 2015. Over the course of the project, public meetings will be held to gather information on local historical and cultural resources and a web page will be developed to allow residents to send such information to staff and the consultant. Field work will also be conducted to survey and inventory existing resources. The project will culminate in September 2016 with a final report, which will contain recommendations for enhancing historic preservation efforts in Charleston County.
- Amendments to the Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR): Planning Staff constantly monitors the regulations contained in the ZLDR to keep up with current planning and zoning trends and make it more user friendly and identifies, drafts, and processes amendments when necessary. In 2015, twelve ZLDR amendments were processed and approved by County Council. These amendments included, but were not limited to, clarifying special events requirements, adding flexibility for setback and special exception requirements as well as for Light Emitting Diode (LED) billboards, and expanding the Conservation Subdivision provisions to the Agricultural Preservation (AG-8) Zoning District.
- Municipal Planning Assistance: Planning staff continues to provide planning and zoning assistance to other jurisdictions including the Towns of Kiawah Island, James Island, Meggett, Hollywood, Ravenel and Rockville. Services provided include, but are not limited to, issuing zoning permits, conducting inspections, providing code enforcement, processing applications (subdivisions, variances, special exceptions, rezonings, planned developments), updating and amending zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans, issuing addresses, and providing coordination with the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center. Two major planning efforts that occurred in 2015 were the Town of Kiawah Island Comprehensive Plan Update and the Town of Hollywood Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Code Enforcement: The code enforcement division investigated nearly 500 zoning and environmental management complaints in 2015. Code enforcement officers attended 15 community outreach meetings over the course of the year to educate citizens on County codes and regulations. One code enforcement officer was appointed to serve on the Community Pride of Charleston County, Inc. Board of Directors.
- Planning staff partnered with the College of Charleston, City of Charleston, City of North Charleston and Town of Mount Pleasant to plan the Winter/Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 Conferences for the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA). County planners facilitated and lead several of the conference sessions.

### **Department Statistics**

- Total number of zoning map amendment requests heard by Planning Commission in 2015: 11 cases, including 4 Planned Development cases
- Total number of variance and special exception requests heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals in 2015: 47 cases
- Total number of commercial zoning and building permits issued (Jan-Nov): 592 permits
- Total number of residential zoning and building permits issued (Jan-Nov): 8,148 permits
- Total number of subdivision plats processed: 295 plats
- Total number of pre-application meetings held (Jan-Nov): 306 meetings
- Over 200 total hours of training completed by planning staff (as of December 1, 2015)

## **Building Services**

The Department ensures compliance with the International Building codes issuing approximately, 9,000 building permits, performing over 21,000 inspections and renewing over 2300 contractor's licenses annually. Total actual revenue collected in Calendar 2015 was \$1,365,000.

- Community Rating System (CRS)

The County was recertified to extend the savings to unincorporated areas and retain the Class 4 rating for an additional year saving citizens a 30% discount on their annual premiums.

- Building Codes Effectiveness Grading System (BCEGS)

Maintained our current rating that provides discounts to private insurance.

- Hazard Mitigation Plan

31 entities consisting of the Hazard Plan Planning Committee approved the changes to the plan and are working with FEMA and the State of SC to streamline the plan for the next year and implemented a Program for Public Information (PPI).

- International Accreditation Services (IAS) a division of International Codes Council (ICC) The department has been recertified by IAS.

## **Charleston Center**

Friends of the Charleston Center fundraising- \$22,945.59

As a part of fundraising efforts on behalf of the Friends of the Charleston Center giving campaign for Charleston Center client needs we received grants from Medical Society of South Carolina Roper St. Francis Physicians Endowment Award -\$5,000; Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation \$10,000 and another \$2,500 and \$7,945.59 through donations and other fund raising efforts. The funds went toward various items to support client needs.

PDA Grant- \$20,000

This award was used to provide healthier outcomes for mothers and newborns participating in our treatment programs. This grant was successful and showed an identified need of funding for opioid maintenance medication statewide for pregnant women with an opioid use disorder.

Workforce Development RPTIF \$100,000

The Workforce Development grant we received allows us to offer training in evidenced based models and classes/ supervision for advanced licensure.

Project STAR wrapped up this year; Military Grant-\$313,234

We concluded the 3 year Project Star grant which was a prevention grant that targeted reducing alcohol and other drug use among underage military personnel and creating a culture that promoted alcohol free pro-social activities, and making positive choices. As a result of this three year grant that was funded at the Federal level by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Joint Base Charleston saw a 43% reduction in underage DUIs during the project period, zero underage alcohol-related car crashes in years 2014 and 2015, and a 45% reduction in DUIs in general on the bases from baseline period through the three year grant period.

## Transportation Development

The Transportation Development Department has actively worked on 111 projects this year, with expenditures totaling \$44.5 million. Of those 111 projects, 32 were completed this year. Pavement preservation and rehabilitation activities were performed on 190 roads totaling 76 miles as part of the department's pavement management program.

- 1) Responding to Main Road flooding by developing and executing immediate solutions, including:
  - Coordination of cleaning around CSX pipes
  - Installation of an additional cross line pipe under Main Road
  - Widening of the road for emergency evacuations
  - Raising of Main Road by approximately 6" in the flood prone section to minimize flooding via existing resurfacing contract
  - Turn lane installation to improve intersection with Old Charleston Hwy
- 2) Completion of the West Ashley Traffic Circle project.
- 3) The Southeast Pavement Preservation Partnership (SEPPP) Board of Directors chose to hold the 2015 annual meeting and conference in Charleston because of SEPPP representative Richard Turner's work in pavement preservation. At the meeting, Charleston County received the 2014 Jim Sorenson Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation.
- 4) Completed the Future Drive Loop and Northside Drive Extension project
- 5) Completed Phase 1 of the Maybank Highway Project: Resurfacing and widening to accommodate dedicated bicycle lanes.

### MAIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



Before



After

## Transportation Sales Tax (TST) Projects

Transportation Development worked on 77 TST allocations projects in 2015, with a total expensed value of \$6.6 million. The following is a list of completed TST projects:

- Arman Road\*
- Ben Sawyer at Rifle Range Sidewalk and Pedestrian Signal Improvements
- Fort Johnson Sidewalk Ph. 3 and 4
- Hwy 171 Sidewalk Phase 2 Park West Blvd Sidewalk – US 17 to Roundabout
- Anna Knapp Sidewalk (Frontage Road to Lake Hunter Cir)
- Deleston Road Outfall Improvements
- Blue House Road
- Ben Road \*
- I-26 Eastbound at Ashley Phosphate
- Ladson Road at Palmetto Commerce Parkway
- Main Road Widening from Brownswood Road to Maybank Highway
- Brownswood Road to Murraywood Road Intersection\*
- River Road at Plowground Road Intersection

\* pictured projects

### WEST ASHLEY TRAFFIC CIRCLE



Before



After

### BROWNSWOOD ROAD AT MURRAYWOOD ROAD INTERSECTION



Before



After

### ARMAN ROAD



Before



After

### BEN ROAD



Before



After



## **County Transportation Committee**

This department worked on 24 CTC projects this year, with a total expensed value of \$4.5 million. The following is a list of completed CTC projects:

- New Road Improvements US 17 to Old Jacksonboro Road
- Lemontree and Jeffrey Road Paving
- Jerdone Street Sidewalk
- Station 22 1/2 to Station 23 Sidewalk

### **NEW ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**



### **JERDONE STREET SIDEWALK**



### **LEMONTREE AND JEFFERY ROAD**



### **STATION 22 1/2 TO 23 SIDEWALK**



## Pavement Management

The Pavement Management Program completed 10 resurfacing and preservation projects in 2015. A total of 190 roads and 76.4 miles were either resurfaced or received a preservation treatment. Additionally, staff made presentations about the success of the pavement management program at the Southeastern Pavement Preservation Partnership (SEPPP) meeting held here in Charleston, at the South Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association (SCAPA) winter conference in Columbia and other local civic organization meetings. The following is a list of completed pavement management projects:

- CTC 2013 Resurfacing Plan - 1 road & 1.1 miles
- CTC 2014 Resurfacing Plan – 65 roads & 15.9 miles
- TST 2014 Resurfacing Plan – 31 roads & 16.72 miles
- TOMP 2015 Resurfacing Plan – 9 roads & 3 miles
- TST 2014 Microsurfacing Plan – 6 roads & 13.58 miles
- TST 2015 Asphalt Rejuvenation Plan – 63 roads & 17.2 miles
- TOMP 2016 Asphalt Rejuvenation Plan – 11 roads & 4.9 miles
- Maybank Hwy Resurfacing – 1 road & 3 miles
- Main Road Resurfacing – 1 road & 1 mile
- GSB 88 Fog Seal Pilot Project – 2 roads treated with GSB88 Fog Seal

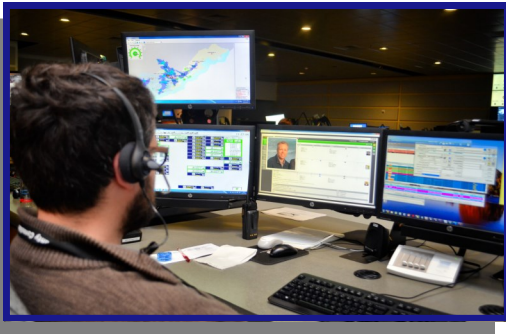


Richard Turner receiving the 2014 Jim Sorenson Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation on behalf of Charleston County

# County Accomplishments and Awards

**E**mergency Management and the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center launched a new Citizen Alert Notification System. Charleston County can send information about emergency situations to its citizens through a multitude of platforms that include home phone, mobile phone, text message, email, and fax.

**T**he Consolidated 9-1-1 Center announced the use of Smart911, a national service that provides 9-1-1 dispatchers with a private online profile of the individual or household calling with an emergency. The program allows citizens to create a free Safety Profile for their household, such as the names and photos of family members, health conditions, medications, pets in the home, vehicle details and emergency contacts. Smart911 is private and secure and is only made available to 9-1-1 when an emergency call is made.



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“...the public can now provide us with vital information they want us to know to better help them during times of great distress, when communicating simple details can be difficult.”

**Jason Patno**  
Charleston County Emergency Management Director

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**T**he Procurement Department facilitated the following free workshops for small business owners:

- *Federal Contracting Programs* that afford opportunities to increase competitiveness in a complex market.
- *Legal and Accounting Tools* that expand upon business legal structures and asset protection.
- *Management Software Tools* that can be tailored to the business organization's specific operations.
- *Bonding Workshop* that includes the basics of bonding, requirements to become bonded, and methods to maintain and increase bonding capacity.
- *Becoming a General Contractor* that outlines the various types of general contracting classification and the techniques to prepare for the state General Contractor's exam.
- *Business Law for Small Business Owners.*
- *Your Business and Social Media.*
- *Contact to Contracts: A Networking Event.*





**The Human Resources Department** lead the Committee for Auditing Performance and Evaluation Standards (CAPES) with the goal of improving how our employees are recognized, rewarded and paid. The revised pay structure and staging for the Merit Program were both successfully administered. Over 400 supervisors were trained on performance management and provided with tools and resources to support the enhanced employee evaluation system.

**The Human Resources Department** developed and implemented a Professional Development Program open to all employees interested in improving their professional effectiveness. Participants completed approximately 30 hours of instruction and had the opportunity to expand their network and participate in highly interactive discussions and learning exercises. Additional events included on-site *Financial Wellness, Health, Nutrition, and Stress Reduction* Lunch and Learns.

**With the efforts of the Economic Development Department,** Mercedes-Benz Vans, a division of Daimler, announced plans to invest \$500 million to establish a new, full van manufacturing plant in Charleston County. The new production plant will supply the North American market with the next-generation Sprinter, creating 1,300 new jobs over the next several years. The new Sprinter plant is considered strategically essential for Mercedes-Benz Vans as the large van segment is expected to grow rapidly in North America over the next few years. The Mercedes-Benz Sprinter is the world's leading large van and more than 2.8 million Sprinters have been delivered to customers in 130 countries worldwide.



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“Charleston is an excellent location for our new plant. The region has very highly-skilled workers, a dense network of reliable suppliers, and an outstanding logistics infrastructure that includes good transport connections to the nearby harbor.”

**Volker Mornhinweg**  
**Head of Mercedes-Benz Vans**

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The **Awendaw McClellanville Consolidated Fire Protection District** received an enhanced insurance rating of Class 4 resulting in a 5 to 10 percent insurance premium discount to residents living within five “road” miles of a fire station. Fire department leaders credit the rating Improvement to the addition of personnel, more capable fire apparatus and fire hydrants, as well as improved personnel training. Ten percent of the overall score in the determination of the rating was also based on how well the 911 center receives and dispatches fire alarms. The county was evaluated in three categories: Emergency Reporting, Telecommunicators, and Dispatch Circuits.



The International Academies of Emergency Dispatch awarded accreditation to the **Consolidated 9-1-1 Center** as an Emergency Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatch Center of Excellence. The Consolidated 9-1-1 Center is only the 24th Emergency Fire Dispatch Center and the 171<sup>st</sup> Emergency Medical Dispatch Center in the world to be awarded the highest distinction for their comprehensive implementation and compliance with the Fire and Medical Priority Dispatch System and associated 20 Points of Excellence.

The International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME) awarded Accreditation to the **Coroner's** department for its efforts in providing the highest level of service to the citizens, neighbors and visitors of Charleston County. The review covered 288 standards including the review of its administrative, forensic, investigative procedures and a site visit by the IAC&ME. The accreditation allows coroner and medical examiner offices to ensure they are conducting business practices and procedures in compliance with international standards. The Coroner's department is one of only 23 accredited departments in the United States.



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“I believe that the deceased and those left behind deserve to be treated with the utmost compassion and professionalism.”

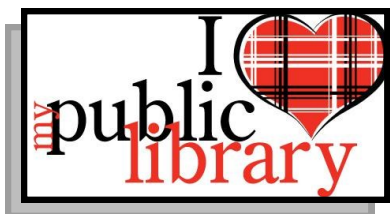
**Rae Wooten**  
Charleston County Coroner

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**Fleet Management** was recognized as a Certified Fleet Management Operation (CFMO) by the Government Fleet Management Alliance (GFMA). The accreditation covered 120 specific criteria points and included 15 performance standards. The principle role of Fleet Management is to provide, repair, and maintain vehicles and equipment for county departments. In addition, the department provides research, development, and assistance to agencies with specifications for vehicles and heavy equipment purchases.



The **Charleston County Library** renovation plan was developed after a detailed assessment of existing facilities, a review of population growth, changing technology, along with focus groups and interviews to determine community needs. Local citizens showed their support by overwhelmingly approving a major referendum. The \$108.5 million plan includes construction or renovation of 19 buildings throughout the county. Five new libraries will be constructed—two in areas of rapid growth and three to replace outdated facilities that are not able to meet customer needs. A total of 13 existing libraries will be renovated, the library’s support staff will be relocated from the Main Library to free up space for public use, and the library’s technology would be upgraded to include self-checkout kiosks, more public computers and the latest equipment in meeting rooms.



The **Zoning and Planning Department** hosted five public workshops in five different areas of the County to gather input for the five-year review of the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan. The main objectives of the five-year review are to:

- Review and revise the location of the Urban Growth Boundary for consistency with Geographic features, property boundaries, and the Urban Growth Boundaries adopted by the City of Charleston and Town of Mount Pleasant.
- Review and revise the future land use designations to reflect current demographic trends and community needs and desires.
- Review and revise the goals, needs, and strategies of all Plan elements.
- Update the implementation work plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is an expression of the County’s intent for where and how future growth and development should occur. The Plan also identifies parts of the County that may or may not be appropriate for certain types of growth. The public input, along with the proposed amendments, will be presented to the Charleston County Planning Commission.

# Service Centers and Social Media

## **Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building**

4045 Bridge View Drive  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 958-4000

## **St. Paul's Service Center**

5962 Highway 165, Ste. 300  
Ravenel, SC 29470  
(843) 889-8351 (Auditor)  
(843) 889-3025 (Treasurer)  
(843) 889-8077 (Fax)

## **Emergency Management Department**

8500 Palmetto Commerce Parkway  
North Charleston, SC 29456  
(843) 746-3800  
(843) 746-3810 (Fax)

## **Charleston County Library Main Branch**

68 Calhoun Street  
Charleston, SC 29401  
(843) 805-6930  
(843) 727-3741 (Fax)

## **East Cooper Service Center**

1189 Iron Bridge Road,  
Room 400  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
(843) 856-1201

## **Charleston Co. Sheriff's Office**

3691 Leeds Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 202-1700

## **Social Media**

**@ChasCountyGov**

**twitter**

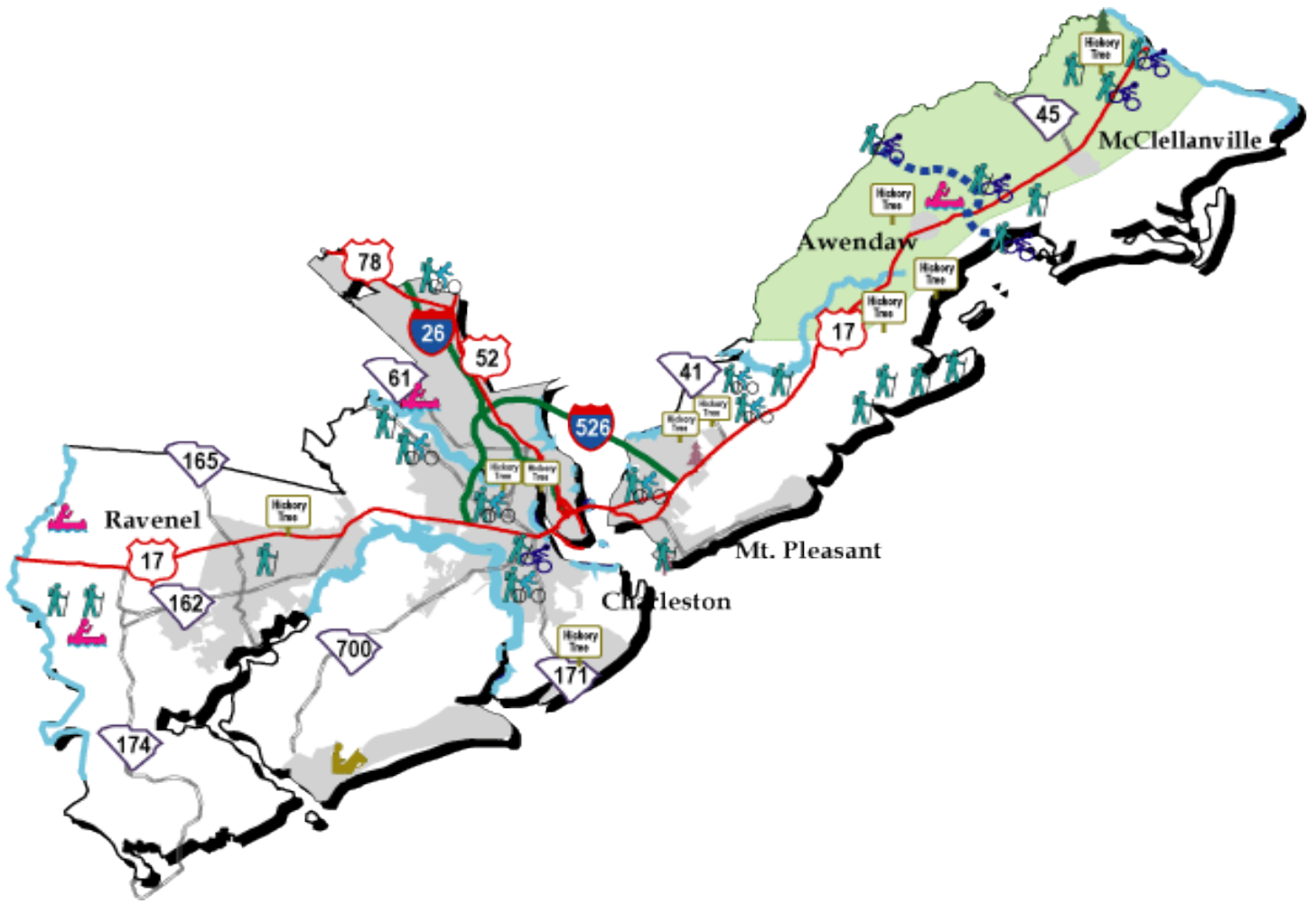
## **Charleston County Government**



**@ChasCountyGov**



*Instagram*



**Map of Charleston County, South Carolina**



CHARLESTON  
■ COUNTY ■  
SOUTH CAROLINA

2014

Charleston County Public Information Office