

Charleston County News Release

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New Business and Career Center Offices Serve St. Paul's Parish and Sea Islands

Ravenel Service Center provides rural citizens a nearby location for Charleston Area USC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and SC Works Trident satellite office

<u>Charleston County Government</u> reminds citizens in St. Paul's Parish and the Sea Islands about new services available at the George W. Tumbleston, Jr. Ravenel Service Center. The center opened its doors on Friday, Jan. 20, as the new satellite office for the Charleston Area <u>USC Small Business Development Center (SBDC)</u> and <u>SC Works Trident</u>. Residents and business owners joined Charleston County Government during an open house drop-in to celebrate the occasion back in January.

County officials would like to see residents from the area take advantage of these new services.

"Anyone who is a job seeker, employer or thinking about starting a new business or growing their present business should take advantage of these services being provided so close to home," said Anna B. Johnson, Charleston County Councilmember. "The benefits of these partnerships are great for citizens in St. Paul's Parish the Sea Islands."

Located at <u>5962 Highway 165 in Ravenel</u>, the George W. Tumbleston, Jr. Ravenel Service Center's vacant space was chosen to be utilized by the two agencies as a pilot program for one year.

<u>Charleston County's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program</u> staff also works out of the SBDC office space. This allows existing business owners can explore the possibility of becoming certified by the County as an SBE. The County's program has been working with the SBDC since <u>Council implemented its SBE Program</u> four years ago.

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