



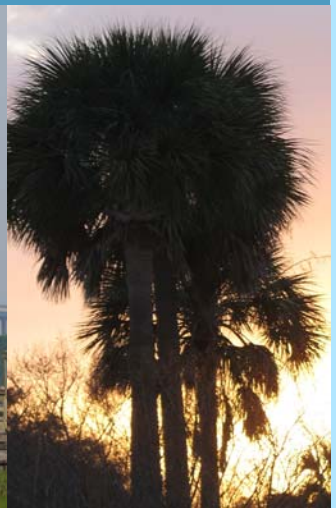
PROMOTE



PROTECT



PROVIDE



# 2014

CHARLESTON COUNTY  
ANNUAL REPORT

# Table of Contents

<b>Letter from Administrator.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Charleston County at a Glance.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Charleston County Finances.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Charleston County Council.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Elected Officials / Appointed Officials</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Elected and Appointed Official Highlights.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Providing Services of Value.....</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Promoting Economic Development .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Protecting Our Community .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Providing Transportation Solutions.....</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>Protecting Our Resources.....</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>Accreditations, Achievements and Awards</b>	<b>18-19</b>
<b>Service Centers and Social Media.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Map of Charleston County.....</b>	<b>21</b>

# Letter from the Administrator

Kurt Taylor  
County Administrator



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

Dear Charleston County Council and citizens,

The 2014 calendar year will be remembered as a year of progress. Charleston County staff and its many partners throughout the community completed some long range projects and began some new ones that will have a profound impact on the county. While the lean years following the Great Recession seem to have passed, we continue to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

## **Budget**

County Council conscientiously sought to maintain a consistent level of taxation for our residents and businesses. The County's tax millage, Local Option Sales Tax Credit and the Solid Waste User Fee for Fiscal Year 2015 remain constant.

## **Environmental Management Program**

In 2014, Charleston County completed the single-stream rollout by delivering a 95-gallon cart to all residents along current service routes. This was a very important step towards the county's 40% recycling goal to conserve natural resources and extend the life of our landfills.

## **Bees Ferry Road Widening Project**

Bees Ferry was one of the major bonded projects approved by voters during the half-cent sales tax referendum. West Ashley is one of the fastest growing areas in Charleston County and traffic will be a concern moving forward. This project was designed to address those issues by widening Bees Ferry Road from two to four lanes, providing a multi-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians, and constructing a major realignment at Savannah Highway.

## **Maintain County's Fiscal Health**

The County endeavors to maintain its strong AAA bond rating with Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The County's fund balance level, reserves (Rainy Day funds), structurally balanced budgets and five-year financial forecasts are all crucial to sustaining the County's fiscal health.

Every year, I challenge our department leaders to become accredited agencies through whichever governing body can provide the review and designation. These accreditations show our citizens that we have the best people in place working for them. The process is not easy and often can be very lengthy, yet in 2014 we added two more departments to the list.

**Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center** successfully completed all best practice standards of its Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program sponsored by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

**Fleet Operations** received the Certified Fleet Management Operation Certification from the Government Fleet Management Alliance (GFMA).

Charleston County will face many identified challenges in 2015 and beyond. We expect to begin construction of a new recycling facility this year, manage a massive library construction and renovation plan approved by voters in November 2014 and tackle a major employee benefits and compensation overhaul that's been long overdue. We look forward to the challenge as well as improving services to the citizens of Charleston County.

Sincerely,  
Kurt Taylor

# 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.

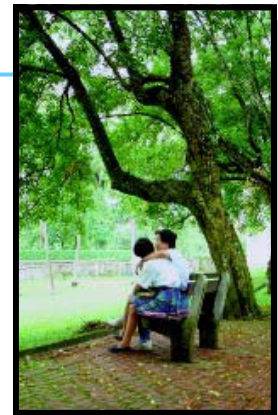


## The People

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.

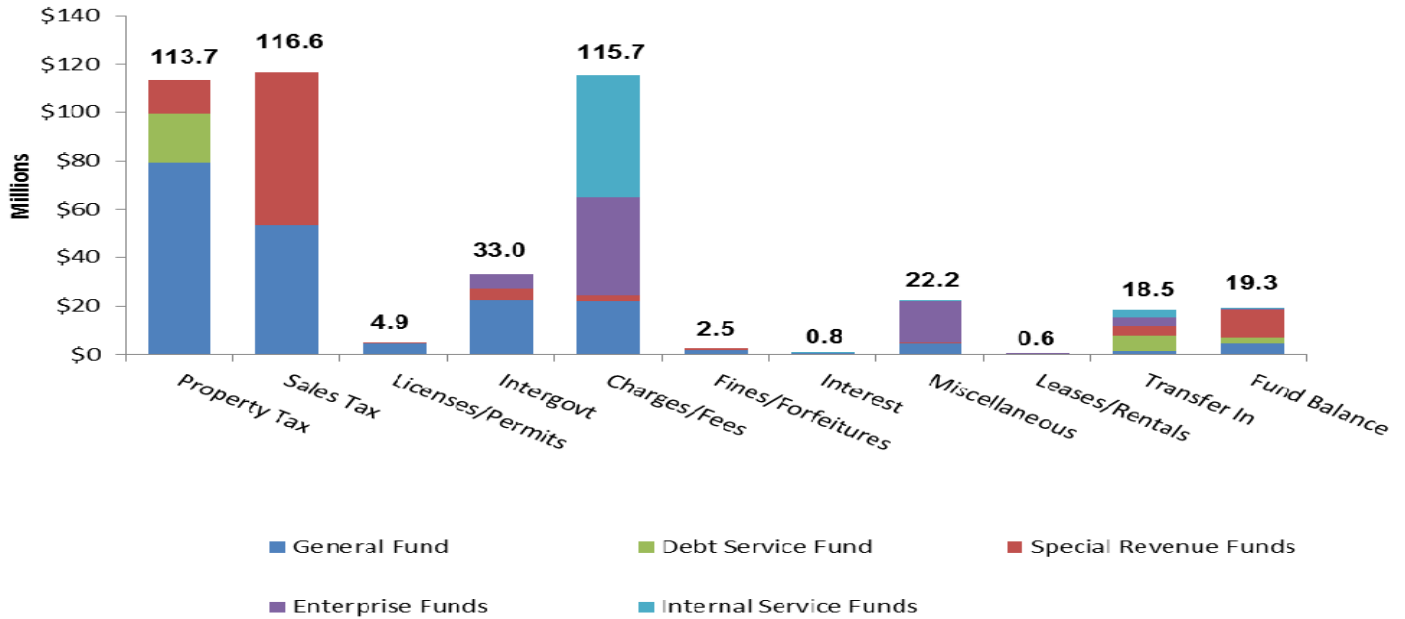


# Charleston County Finances

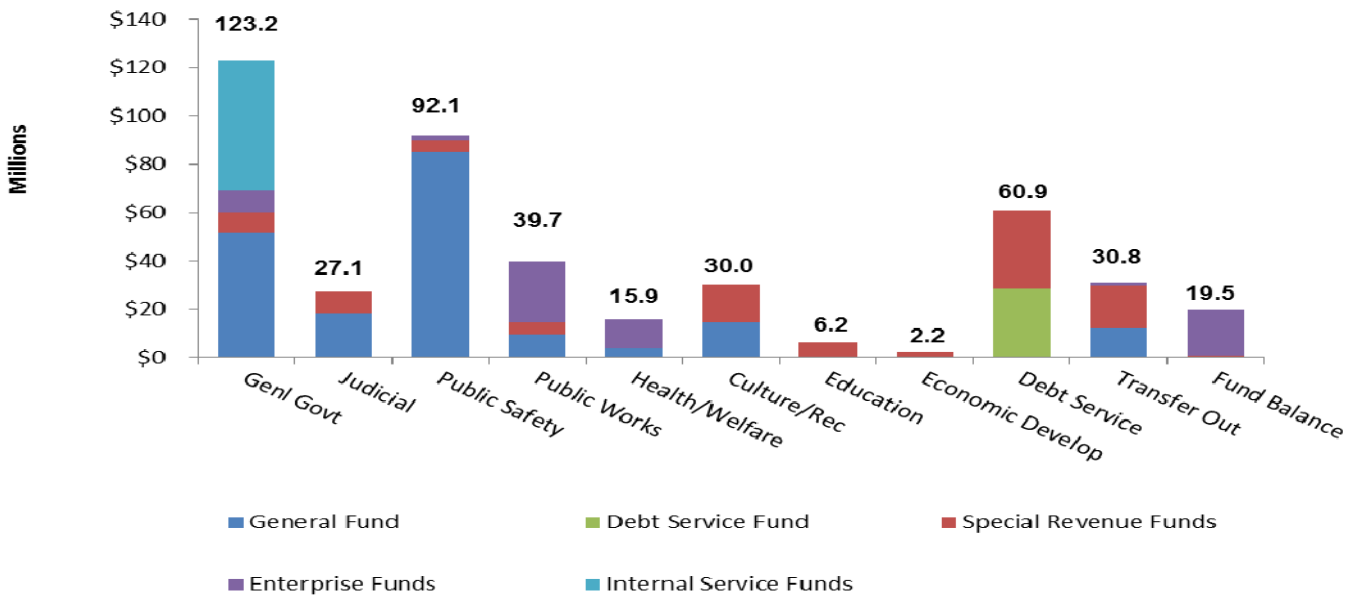
## Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

Total operating budget: \$435,296,436

### WHERE IT COMES FROM... FY 2015 All Funds



### WHERE IT GOES... FY 2015 All Funds



# Charleston County Finances

## Overview:

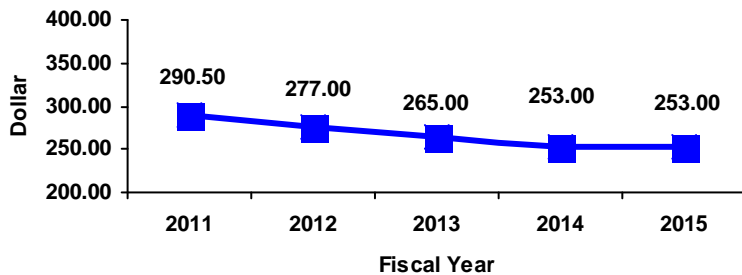
The General Fund operating budget is \$195.9 million, which is up \$1.9 million or 1.0 percent. The FY 2015 Charleston County budget is balanced. The operating millage remains the same at 40.7 mills.

Debt Service millage remains unchanged at 6.1 mills.

The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) credit remains unchanged at \$215.00 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 2011-2015**  
 (\$250,000 Owner-Occupied Home)



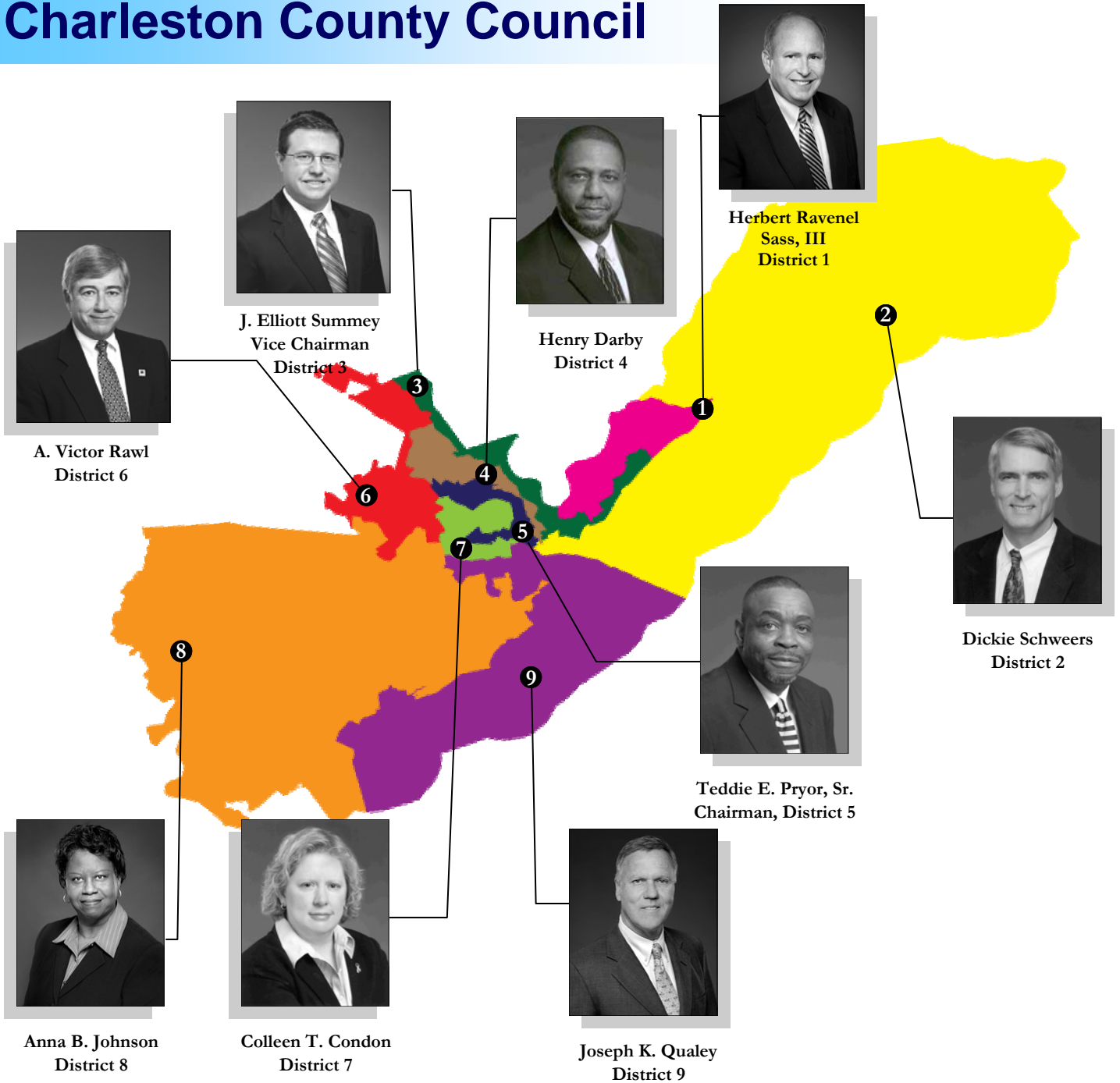
The graph reflects the tax due on a \$250,000 Owner-Occupied home after the Sales Tax credit for FY 2011 through FY 2015.

The chart illustrates the overall tax and fee bill for a \$250,000 home (four percent assessed property) for FY 2014 and FY 2015.

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

	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
Taxes with Lost Credit	\$253	\$253
Recycling/Disposal Fee	99	99
<b>Total Tax Bill</b>	<b><u>\$352</u></b>	<b><u>\$352</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.



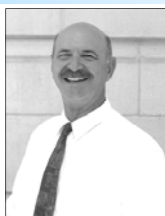
## **Magistrate Courts - Chief Judge David W. Coker**

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.



# Elected and Appointed Official Highlights

## Charleston County Clerk of Court



In 2014, the Clerk of Court's office continued enhancing its nationally recognized CourtPlus application by featuring court rosters and dockets as well as a new account wizard. The new account wizard simplifies the account setup process, which allows the user to easily take advantage of the application's unique features. Further enhancements are in development and will be released throughout the new year.



While access to court records continues to be enhanced through CourtPlus, the clerk's office also experienced increases in the amount of support and previously unpaid general session fines. In 2014, collected child and spousal support increased to \$32 million dollars with over 16,000 active cases. During the same time period, collection of previously unpaid criminal fines increased to \$201,000.

## Charleston County Public Defender's Office

The Ninth Circuit Public Defender Offices in Charleston and Berkeley were awarded a grant in 2014 from the Center for Holistic Defense. This is a technical assistance grant funded by the Department of Justice and the Bronx Defender's Office in New York. It is designed to assist public defender offices in the U.S. to become more effective and client-centered.



This goal is achieved when lawyers and staff assist their clients and the courts to find resources to help the client stay out of the criminal justice system. We will get better at finding community partners who will connect clients to employment, counseling and to keep their families intact and productive.

A team of lawyers visited the Bronx Defender Office in October. The Office is beginning to develop new ways for the Berkeley and Charleston PD offices to be more client-friendly and will have trainings for lawyers and staff on client needs. The Office will tie in new community partners like SC Legal Services, which handle civil matters like housing and advocacy for students to stay in school.

## Charleston County Assessor's Office Conducts Legal Residence Exemption Audit

[Charleston County Government](#) and the [Charleston County Assessor's Office](#) conducted a comprehensive check to ensure only those eligible are receiving the Legal Residence Exemption. Property owners receiving the exemption are taxed on their homes at a 4% assessment rate and it only applies if the person's Charleston County home is their primary residence. Property owners not eligible for the Legal Residence Exemption are taxed at a 6% rate.

Charleston County held an extensive search of public information to help identify specific cases where a subject may be in violation. In those cases, a questionnaire was mailed to the owner to be completed and returned in 15 days. The questionnaire is designed to determine if an owner and property still qualify for the exemption. Many taxpayers who receive a questionnaire will be able to resolve discrepancies and show that they do qualify by providing the information required and returning the questionnaire. Where it appears the owner does not qualify, the Charleston County Assessor's Office will make the final decision, notify taxpayers in writing and taxpayers will have the right to an appeal.

# Providing Services of Value

## Charleston County Steps up to Help Disabled Veterans Return to the Workforce

*County's Veterans Affairs Office offering Non-Paid Work Experience Program*

At last count there were three million veterans in the U.S. with a service-related disability, according to a 2012 study by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Statistics. That same study revealed 6.5% of those same veterans were unemployed. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hopes to change that through its new Non-Paid Work Experience Program (NPWE) and Charleston County is helping.

Charleston County's Veterans Affairs Office and Human Resources Department have worked with the national organization to set up a local NPWE.

## County Launches Website Redesign, Promotes Ease of Navigation

*Topic-driven site aims to help public easily find services they need online*

Residents now have an easier way to find specific information or services they need from Charleston County Government, on topics such as road projects, taxes, property, court records, elected officials' business, etc. The website's name, [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org), remained the same but the look has been completely redesigned and is topic-driven rather than department driven.

The Charleston County Government website redesign includes:

- Overall rebuild of the website to make it more user-friendly.
- Topic driven navigation to simplify navigation.
- RMC website data searches will now work with all Apple devices
- Mobile-friendly so that the website can be accessed from smart phones and tablets.
- Less cluttered content to make information easier to read.
- Reduced amount of pages through the elimination of many redundant copies of content throughout the site.
- Better usage of banner space to reduce clutter and better highlight important information.



## Preparing for your Future with the Charleston County Summer Youth Program

Charleston County Government offered the Summer Youth Employment Program. The program provides teenagers and young adults who reside in Charleston County an opportunity to develop workplace readiness skills, provide exposure to a professional environment and gain experience in the operations of county government.

The program ran from June 13 to July 25, for a total of six weeks, and students worked 20 hours a week. The County funded more than 100 positions for students who wanted to get work experience this summer. The goal was for students to obtain summer employment and explore the various career opportunities that exist within County departments, while gaining critical workforce skills.

# Providing Services of Value

## Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) Opens Safe Harbor Family Care Center

DAODAS launched a new program called Safe Harbor Family Care Center in 2014. The program, which can last up to six months, is meant to provide mothers suffering from substance use disorders and their children the opportunity to reside in a nurturing environment that will provide structured learning and healing opportunities. Safe Harbor Family Care Center incorporates extensive support and guidance through the collaboration of community and partnerships to ensure a positive outcome for all the participants. The program is housed at the Daniel L. Jenkins Institute for Children and is in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) and the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.



The program services include treatment and intensive child development, recovery building and family strengthening, skill building and community integration, family independence and transition, staff on site 24 hours a day, staff available to assist with transportation, family calls, case management and transitional needs, opportunity for parenting women to remain with their children while making progress in their recovery efforts, a variety of therapeutic, education and support groups available on campus and developmental childcare at the Charleston Center for children newborn through five years of age.

## Charleston County Leaders Open New North Area 3 Magistrate Court

In August, Charleston County's Magistrates/Summary Courts held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the North Area 3 Magistrate Court at 6185 Rivers Avenue, Suite E, in North Charleston.



"We are grateful and are looking forward to moving into the new Rivers Avenue location," said Judge JoAnna Summey-Fuller. "This site is more convenient to the public due to the availability of the CARTA bus route. Being able to serve the residents of Charleston County has always been a top priority."

During the last calendar year, the North Area 3 Magistrate Court processed more than 12,000 cases and collected \$673,639 worth of fines and fees. The new location on Rivers Avenue is more than 5,400 square-feet in size.

## Charleston County Launches New Emergency Notification Program for Citizens

The Charleston County Emergency Management Department and Consolidated 9-1-1 Dispatch Center launched a new Citizen Alert Notification System in December. Charleston County can send information about emergency situations to its citizens through a multitude of platforms.

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for our Emergency Alert Program. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

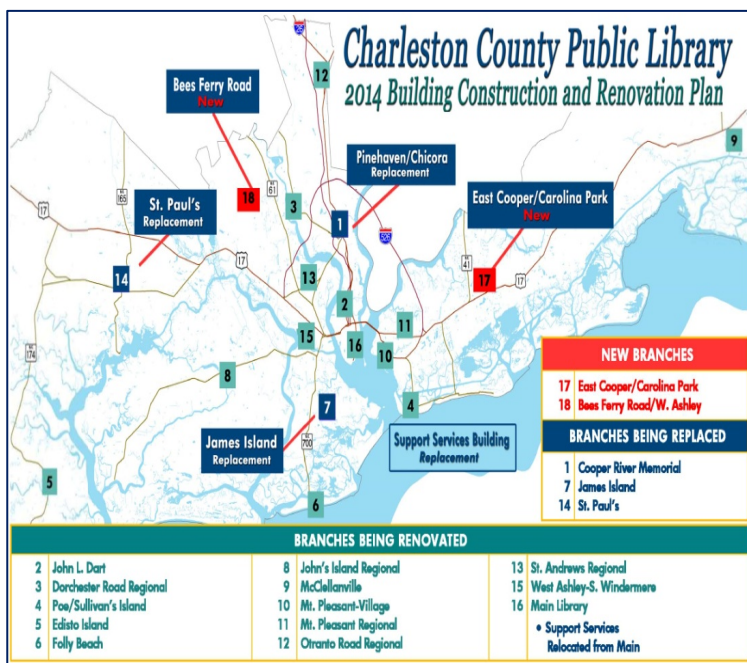
Those who sign up will receive time-sensitive messages wherever they specify, such as their home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more.



# Providing Services of Value

## County residents support library expansion by 3-to-1 vote

It's been nearly 30 years since the last major library building expansion, but in November 2014 voters overwhelmingly supported Charleston County Public Library's \$108.5 million plan to build five new libraries, renovate 13 others and complete major technology and building upgrades throughout all library facilities.



"This truly is the beginning of a new era in Charleston County," said Library Board Chairman Janet Segal. "We worked hand-in-hand with residents to make sure the plan reflected their needs. In meetings, and even in independent surveys, residents told us they love their libraries, and said they want more and better library services. They showed that love in the voting booth."

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 (the East Cooper/Carolina Park and West Ashley/Bees Ferry Road areas) and three to replace outdated facilities that aren't able to meet customer needs (the Cooper River Memorial Branch in North Charleston plus the James Island and St. Paul's/Hollywood branches). 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 in that building for the public plus the library's technology will be upgraded to include self-checkout kiosks, more public computers and the latest equipment in meeting rooms.

"This will mean better library services for all county residents, from infants to retirees. It's an exciting time," said Executive Director Doug Henderson, adding that this project will affect county residents for generations to come.

The Building and Renovation Plan was developed after years of study, starting with the 2011 Strategic Plan that specifically identified the need to build new libraries and renovate existing buildings. The recommendation came after nearly a year of study that included the library's internal workings, community needs, population growth, changes in library services and technology, future service trends and an independent survey of county residents. The survey found that 75 percent of county residents had visited a library in the previous six months and the vast majority wanted more and better library services – and were willing to pay for it.

With the Strategic Plan as a guide, library and county staff worked with engineers to complete a detailed analysis of CCPL's 16 branches and develop the first draft of a Building and Renovation Proposal. During 2014, hundreds of residents attended community meetings to look at the proposal and provide input, which was used to tweak the plan before County Council approved putting it on the November ballot.

"Libraries are community hubs with free meeting rooms, public computer access plus programs and classes for all ages," Henderson said. "Technology has changed how people use libraries and what they need from libraries, but the demand for service remains strong." Last year, 3.3 million items were checked out and nearly 210,000 people attended 6,000 free programs and classes at a library branch.

It was 1986 when voters last considered a library building referendum. That proposal, approved by nearly the same vote margin, called for building four Regional Libraries and a new Main Library. Since then, the county's population has increased by 80,000 people, and it is expected to grow by an additional 60,000 by 2020 – the year county officials expect the new construction and renovation will be completed from the 2014 referendum.

# Promoting Economic Development

## 2014 Charleston County Industry Appreciation Luncheon “From Adversity to Prosperity”



### RECENT RELOCATIONS & EXPANSIONS

#### **Hubner Manufacturing Corporation (12/11/14)**

Hubner supplies products to the bus, rail and air transportation industries. They announced they would be expanding operations at their Mount Pleasant facility, located in Charleston County. They will invest \$8.6 million and create 50 new jobs. [Learn more.](#)

#### **APAC Customer Services, Inc. (10/23/14)**

APAC Customer Services, Inc., a call center outsourcing company, announced the addition of 200 local jobs to its existing North Charleston, S.C. facility. APAC operates its North Charleston facility along with EGS subsidiary NCO Financial Systems, Inc. [Learn more.](#)

#### **New Orleans Cold Storage & Warehouse Company (NOCS) (10/7/14)**

New Orleans Cold Storage & Warehouse Company announced it was expanding in Charleston County, adding additional refrigerated cold storage space (for a total of 151,700 sq. ft.) and additional blast freeze capacity and truck platforms. This expansion will result in a capital investment of \$15.6 million and create 27 new jobs.

#### **TorqTek Design and Manufacturing (9/9/14)**

TorqTek, an automotive supplier, has announced it would be expanding their Charleston County facility, investing \$12 million and creating 50 new jobs. [Learn more.](#)

#### **Senior Aerospace AMT (7/10/14)**

Senior Aerospace AMT, a manufacturer of structural parts for leading original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the large commercial jet market, announced the opening of satellite operations in Charleston County, creating 60 new skilled jobs. [Learn more.](#)

#### **New World Pharmaceuticals LLC and New World Consumer Products (7/17/14)**

New World Pharmaceuticals LLC and New World Consumer Products LLC said they expect to invest more than \$21 million and create more than 38 jobs over the next five years. [Learn more.](#)

#### **Pacific Rim Aerospace (5/28/14)**

Pacific Rim Aerospace (PacRim) a provider of solutions for aerospace engineering applications, has established an office in Charleston County, allowing for more direct support of its customers in the growing aerospace sector of the Southeast region. PacRim expects to create at least 100 jobs in the area in the coming years. [Learn more.](#)

#### **Aeterna Zentaris Inc. (5/5/14)**

Aeterna Zentaris, a specialty biopharmaceutical company developing novel treatments in oncology and endocrinology, selected Charleston County for the company's newest North American business and global commercial operations. The \$1 million investment is expected to create 60 new jobs. [Learn more.](#)

# Protecting Our Community

## Consolidated 9-1-1 Center Speeds Up Dispatch Time with Station Alerting

New methods have moved the County to 100% compliance with national standards for medical calls, and fire related calls are anticipated to see same results.

The Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center implemented its first phase of station alerting on the morning of April 9, 2014. This first of three phases uses the Purvis automated voice over radio to dispatch calls for fire and EMS (medical calls).

Basically, with station alerting, fire and medical calls will be dispatched quicker using this automated method because of the reduced amount of steps needed to manually dispatch a call. The station alerting system automatically chooses the correct radio channels and, using an automated voice, dispatches the call over the radio channels using information already in the 9-1-1 computer system.



## Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center Joins Missing Kids Readiness Project



Consolidated 9-1-1 Center is one of a growing list of 9-1-1 centers in the country that has completed the required steps in the Missing Kids Readiness Project. As such, they are now recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for meeting essential training and policy elements demonstrating their preparedness for responding to a missing child incident and showcasing their dedication to protecting children.

## Officials Celebrate Completion of the New Charleston County Law Enforcement Center

In November, officials from multiple jurisdictions in Charleston County gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the Charleston County Law Enforcement Center. The 110,000 square-foot structure will consolidate a number of public safety services in a centralized location.

### FACTS ABOUT THE NEW CENTER:

- Construction started in May 2013 and finished in November 2014.
- Location: 3691 Leeds Avenue North Charleston, SC
- Size: approximately 110,000 square feet.
- Facility: two functions including Sheriff's Office Headquarters in the newly constructed area and field operations in the renovated portion of the building.
- Cost: \$9,281,000 (including construction and building purchase).
- Accomplished project scope of housing main administrative operations and 16 field units



# Providing Transportation Solutions

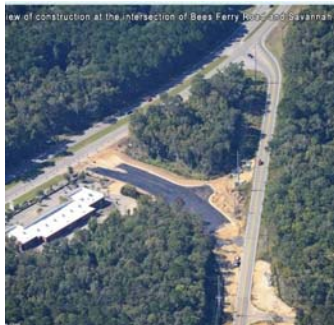
The Transportation Development Department actively worked on 93 projects in 2014 with expenditures totaling \$44.7 million. Of the 93 active projects, 28 projects were completed that year. Pavement preservation and rehabilitation activities were performed on 194 roads totaling 93 miles as part of the department's pavement management program.

## Completion of Bees Ferry Road Widening Project:

The goal of the Bees Ferry Road Widening Project was to improve traffic flow and safety, while remaining sensitive to the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and other roadway users. The \$49.5 million project was requested by the City of Charleston and funded by the Transportation Sales Tax Program. Charleston County's Transportation Development staff managed the project in close coordination with the City of Charleston and the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Improvements included:

- The widening of Bees Ferry Road from two lanes to four lanes for the majority of the project with left and right turn lanes where needed. The widening includes six lanes between Grand Oaks Boulevard and the intersection of the West Ashley Traffic Circle
- A 10-foot wide multi-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians on the west side of Bees Ferry Road that ties into the multi-use path along Ashley River Road
- A five-foot wide sidewalk along the east side of Bees Ferry Road
- An approximate 1,500-foot wide realignment of the intersection of Bees Ferry Road and Savannah Highway near Main Road
- Replacement of the existing bridge over the Church Creek Canal with a new, longer and wider bridge.
- Stoplight upgrades at the intersection of Bees Ferry Road, Ashley River Road, Glenn McConnell Parkway and the West Ashley Traffic Circle. The upgraded stoplights consist of decorative mast arms and include pedestrian signals for crosswalks
- Two left-turn lanes at the intersection of Bees Ferry Road and Ashley River Road for vehicles turning north onto Ashley River Road toward Summerville
- A free flow right turn lane at the intersection of Bees Ferry Road and Savannah Highway for vehicles turning south onto Savannah Highway
- Landscaped medians from Savannah Highway to Glenn McConnell Parkway and from Shadow Moss Parkway to Dove Haven Court



# Providing Transportation Solutions

## Construction Complete on Isle of Palms Connector Widening & Intersection Improvement Project

The Transportation Sales Tax funded project includes bike/multi-use paths/sidewalks and attention to oak trees.

On May 21, Charleston County Government, the Town of Mount Pleasant and the City of Isle of Palms held a ceremony to celebrate the early completion of the Isle of Palms Connector Widening & Intersection Improvement Project. Originally scheduled for completion in May, the project finished ahead of schedule in time for the 2014 tourist season.

The project was funded by the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax and managed by Charleston County Government, in close coordination with the Town of Mount Pleasant and the City of Isle of Palms.



### Details of the project:

- The work included 1.3 miles of improvements including the widening of the Isle of Palms Connector in Mount Pleasant.
- Two through lanes were constructed in each direction from U.S. Highway 17 to just east of Riviera Drive.
- Left and right turn lanes were installed at each of the four intersections along the length of the project.
- The existing multi-use paths and sidewalks were maintained and the road widening included 4-foot paved shoulders for cyclists who prefer riding on the street.
- To maintain the existing avenue of live oak trees, 37 trees remained in place, 16 trees were relocated on site and 82 trees were planted.

## That's a wrap! Ben Sawyer Causeway Multi-use Path Improvement Project is Complete



The Ben Sawyer Causeway Multi-use Path Improvement widened the existing path to eight feet to accommodate more bicycle and pedestrian users. The new path begins at Simmons Pointe Road in Mount Pleasant and ends at the existing concrete sidewalk on Sullivan's Island. The project added approximately a mile and a half of wider pathway for bicyclist and walkers.

Up to 80% of project expenditures will be reimbursed by Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) Federal Enhancement Grant funds. The Enhancement Grant funds were accumulated over multiple years by the Town of Mt. Pleasant, Town of Sullivan's Island, and Charleston County Government. The 20% local match came from the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax.

## Arman Road Paving Project

*Project paves dirt road on Wadmalaw Island to improve citizen's quality of life*

The Arman Road project improved a 1,700-foot earth road to a two lane asphalt paved surface. Environmentally friendly drainage areas were installed along the road side to capture stormwater runoff and improve water quality. The project is located off of Boy Scout Road on Wadmalaw Island.

Project funding came from the Annual Allocation portion of the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax. The project is managed by Charleston County Government, in close coordination with the citizens of the community.





# Protecting Our Resources

## Charleston County and City of IOP started the Beach Recycling Pilot Program

Charleston County's Environmental Management Department partnered with the City of Isle of Palms to expand recycling service to include the beach. The County provided 94 blue recycling barrels that the Isle of Palms Sanitation Department placed directly on the beach. The City's contractor serviced the beachside recycling barrels and haul the recyclables to a main collection point on the island where County Environmental Management pick up the material.



## County Completes Residential Single Stream Recycling Program

Charleston County's Environmental Management Department will be completing the All-In-One residential single stream recycling program, which has been incrementally expanding across the County in an effort to make recycling more convenient for residents. Two expansion phases remain: Phase VII & Phase VIII.

In 2014, 9,500 homes located in James Island and North Charleston selected for Phase VII will receive the All-In-One 95-gallon roll carts. Residents can now place all paper products (including cardboard) and all other recyclable containers (plastics #1-7, glass, aluminum and steel) into the new, large cart.



## County's Food Waste Composting Program Now at 30 Schools

*196 tons have been collected from participating schools*

Charleston County's Environmental Management Department (CCEM) continues to grow its food waste composting program through its partnership with Charleston County School District (CCSD). The Greening Schools Program has expanded to include food waste recycling at 27 elementary schools and three middle schools across the county.

## Charleston County Greenbelt program highlights

The program was awarded \$6.5 million to protect a total of 451 acres:

- \$6 million was awarded to purchase 250 acres that will be open for public use. The uses include rural agricultural lands in the McClellanville area; and rural and urban parks on Edisto and James Islands, in the Hollywood/Meggett area and in the city of North Charleston.
- \$360,000 was awarded to preserve 200 rural acres in McClellanville and on Edisto Island through the purchase of conservation easements.
- The Rural Greenbelt Program was closed and the funding of \$63.5 million was exhausted.
- As of December 2014, the Urban Greenbelt Program had approximately \$2 million remaining. These funds are allocated to the City of North Charleston; and the towns of Seabrook and Lincolnville.
- The Greenbelt Program Director and Program Specialist completed the Clemson Extension's Certified Master Naturalist program.

# Protecting Our Resources

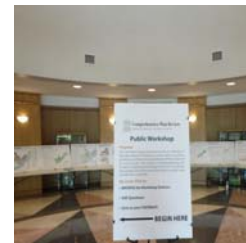
County Council Agricultural Issues Advisory Committee: In 2014, the Committee coordinated with the SC Department of Agriculture and the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism to understand the implementation of the new state-wide **Tourist-Oriented Directional Signage (TODS) Program**. The advisory committee advocated for this program to promote the agriculture and agri-tourism industries in the State of South Carolina and specifically in Charleston County.

Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Review: as part of the **Public Input Gathering Campaign** for the Five-Year Review, the Planning Department utilized social media, and specifically Facebook, to keep the public informed of upcoming public meetings and workshops (pictured below) and public comment opportunities. The Department also created an online form to provide an additional avenue for citizens to give feedback on the Plan.

Historic Preservation Committee of Planning Commission: the Planning Commission created a **special committee to focus on historic preservation** planning efforts and to apply for a federal historic preservation grant application in 2015 to update the County's Historical and Architectural Survey (last conducted in 1992). The Committee, comprised of four Planning Commission members, planning staff, and interested citizens, is committed to finding new, innovative ways to promote historic preservation in the unincorporated parts of Charleston County.

## Zoning and Planning Department Statistics

- Total number of zoning map amendment requests heard by Planning Commission in 2014: 10 cases
- Total number of variance and special exception requests heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals in 2014: 39 cases
- Total number of commercial zoning and building permits issued (Jan-Nov): 543 permits
- Total number of residential zoning and building permits issued (Jan-Nov): 6,849 permits
- Total number of pre-application meetings held (Jan-Nov): 283 meetings
- Total number of new lots surveyed, approved, and recorded in unincorporated Charleston County (Jan-Nov): 178 new lots
- Total number of existing lots surveyed, approved, and recorded in unincorporated Charleston County (Jan-Nov): 432 lots
- Total hours of training completed by planning staff (as of December 1, 2014): 241 hours



# National Accreditations

## Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) has formally awarded accreditation to the Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center for successfully meeting all best practice standards of its Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program.

The Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center is only the 39th stand-alone 9-1-1 Center to be awarded the accreditation (this does not include communications centers governed by Law enforcement or other public safety agencies). The CALEA Assessors expressed that they were highly impressed with the Center's operations, training, Peer Support Team, Morale Team and public education, and the accreditation was unanimously approved.

The International Academies of Emergency Dispatch has formally awarded Accreditation to the Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center as an Emergency Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatch Center of Excellence. The Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center is only the 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Fleet Operations

Fleet Operations received the coveted Certified Fleet Management Operation Certification from the Government Fleet Management Alliance (GFMA) in December, 2014. This two-year comprehensive process involved a detailed certification self-audit, process evaluation, customer feedback measurement and a best-practice analysis of industry standards on 120 specific industry certification criteria addressing 20 critical areas of Fleet Management. This certification establishes that Charleston County Fleet Operations achieved the highest industry standards in government

# Ratings

## Charleston County Government maintained its AAA bond rating with:

- Standard & Poor's Ratings Service
- Moody's Investors Service
- Fitch Rating

# Awards / Achievements

## Building Services

### 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 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

30 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 implement a Program for Public Information (PPI).

# Awards / Achievements

## Facilities

- Judicial Complex/Parking Garage grounds improvements were completed. They included landscaping and irrigation improvements and new LED flag pole lights.
- Security upgrades that included additional and upgraded cameras and DVRs to enhance the security at the PSB and Perimeter Center were completed.
- Project support work continued for the installation of modular units at three convenience centers for Environmental Management
- Completion of the Sheriff's Substation #4 Roof Replacement
- Completion of the James Island Magistrate's Court Roof Replacement
- Renovation of vacant space and relocation of the Department of Veteran's affairs within the Public Services Building
- Completion of the County's new Law Enforcement Center for the Charleston County Sheriff's office.
- Completion of the North Area 3 Magistrate's Court Project
- Completion of design and bidding and began construction of the County's new Law Enforcement Center
- Completed 6,844 work orders, 4,517 PM's, and 22 improvement projects so far in 2014

## Public Works

Charleston County Public Works Operator Matthew Bishop earned the title of 2014 South Carolina American Public Works Association (APWA) Backhoe Rodeo champion. Bishop won the title at the annual APWA South Carolina Chapter event held in Greenville, SC. This was the first ever win for Charleston County in the state competition.

Competitors must first win local and regional events to move onto the finals at the state level. The state backhoe rodeo is made up of three timed events that require both accuracy and speed. Bishop finished with a 44 second advantage over second place.

Matthew Bishop has been with Charleston County for five years and is one of 45 equipment operators on staff with Public Works. Bishop finished third in the state backhoe rodeo last year.



Public Works also accomplished the following:

- Converted over 40 Community Roads into the County's Non-Standard Road Maintenance Program
- Completed a County-wide earth road assessment

## Transportation Development

- The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented Charleston County Transportation Development with a 2014 Achievement Award for its program titled: Charleston County Inland Rice Fields Traveling Trunk Program.
- They also received a 2014 American Public Works Association South Carolina Chapter, In Outstanding Achievements in Transportation, Project of the Year Award, Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Improvements, Charleston, South Carolina.
- Charleston County's Pavement Management Program was awarded the James B. Sorenson Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation within the Pavement Preservation Journal, Winter 2014. The award is scheduled to be presented in March of 2015 at the annual SEPPP meeting in Charleston.

## 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**

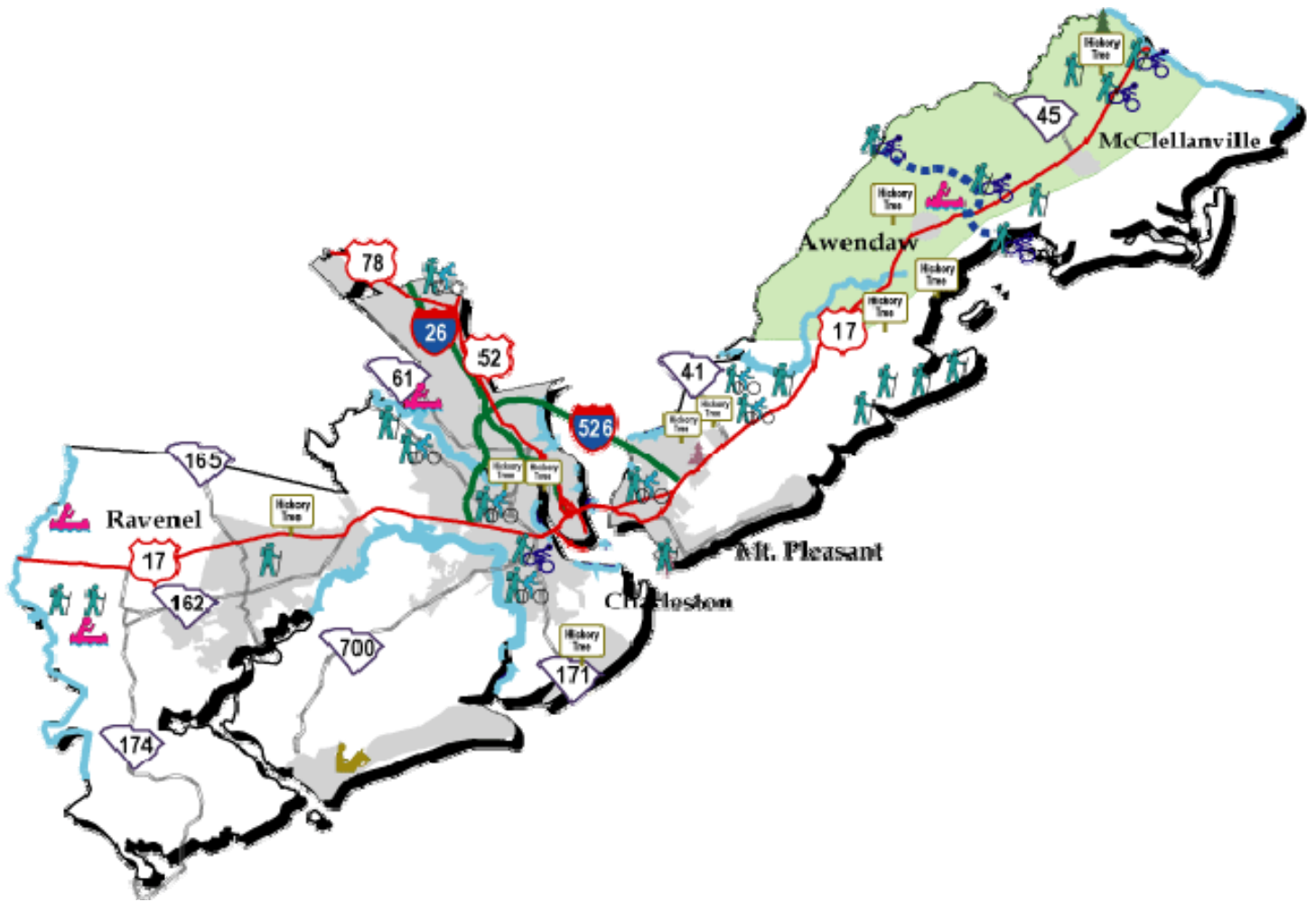
**@ChasCountyGov**



### **Charleston County Government**



**@ChasCountyGov on**



**Map of Charleston County, South Carolina**



2014

Charleston County Public Information Office