

CHARLESTON COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

A CITIZENS FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020



CHARLESTON COUNTY

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CHARLESTON THE HOLY CITY

There are many rumors as to how Charleston came to be known as the Holy City. The earliest settlers came from diverse backgrounds bringing numerous Protestant denominations as well as Judaism and Roman Catholicism. Some say Charleston earned its nickname due to its tolerance for all religions and numerous historic churches.

Cover photo and photo above by: Kristen Lee

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF FINANCE

To the Citizens of Charleston County:

As management of Charleston County, South Carolina, we offer Charleston County's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This report is written to communicate to its readers an understanding of the County's financial condition in a simple, transparent manner. The information is derived from the County's CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) that was audited by Scott & Company, LLC.

We are pleased Charleston County received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Distinguished Budget Presentation award for 32 and 31 years, consecutively. Charleston County received an award for its PAFR for the first time last year. Charleston County, through hard work and financial discipline, maintains the highest (AAA) bond rating with all three financial rating agencies. This consistency in financial discipline benefits the citizens of Charleston County with lower taxes and securing better interest rates when borrowing money for capital projects and programs.

This report highlights the County's finances over the past fiscal year (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020). It shows where the money comes from for operations and where the money goes when carrying out the mission of the County. Demographic, economic, and performance information is included with the financial highlights to be helpful and informative to our citizens. In addition, this PAFR shows the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the full CAFR and other financial reports, please visit the County's website at www.charlestoncounty.org/financial-reports.php.

Sincerely,

Corine Altenhein, Chief Financial Officer

Mt. Zion AME Church is the first brick building owned by Blacks in the City of Charleston purchased in 1882. Newly elected County Councilmember Rev. Dr. Kylon Middleton is the 33rd pastor of the church and continues its the legacy of social justice and racial equality.



CHARLESTON COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Charleston County is located on 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 Coast.

Charleston County's population is currently about 411,000 and has continued to grow rapidly since 2011. Charleston County Government expanded services to keep up with the growing population. The Government is comprised of 45 departments and offices and a full-time staff of approximately 2,700 serving its citizens. Charleston County 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 Lincolnton, Town of Mt. Pleasant, Town of Seabrook Island, Town of Sullivan's Island, Town of Meggett, Town of Ravenel, Town of Rockville, Town of McClellanville, and Town of Summerville.

Charleston County has a wide range of industry including shipping, technology, tourism, aeronautics, and manufacturing.

7 million visitors annually

\$8 billion annual tourism
economic impact

47,000+ regional workforce

"#1 Small City in the U.S."

Condé Nast Traveler

"The South's Best City of 2020"

Southern Living Magazine

"Number One City in America"

Travel + Leisure

"2020's Best Cities for Jobs"

WalletHub

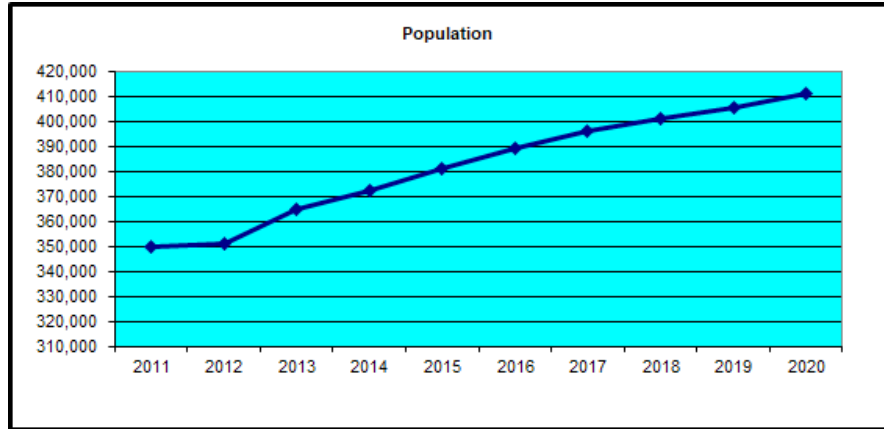


First Baptist Church in Charleston is the earliest Baptist church in the south. The church is built in a Greek style and was reconstructed after the Civil War, the cyclone in 1885, the earthquake in 1886, and Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Photo by: Catherine Brewer

***It is our mission to promote and protect the quality of life in
Charleston County by delivering services of value to the community.***

Charleston County's Population at a Glance



411,000 Population with a Median Age of 37.2 years

35,000 Job Creation Forecast 2017-2022



\$384,000 Median Home Sales Price in 2019

\$61,028 Median Income

91.5% People with a High School Diploma



\$210 Million Residential Value of Construction Permits



42.8% People with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher 25 Years or Older

Joint Base Charleston	22,000
Medical University of South Carolina	16,000
Boeing Charleston	6,869
Charleston County School District	5,900
Roper St. Francis Healthcare	5,700
Charleston County Government	2,700
Walmart Inc.	2,300
College of Charleston	2,000
City of Charleston	1,700
Mercedes-Benz Vans LLC	1,600

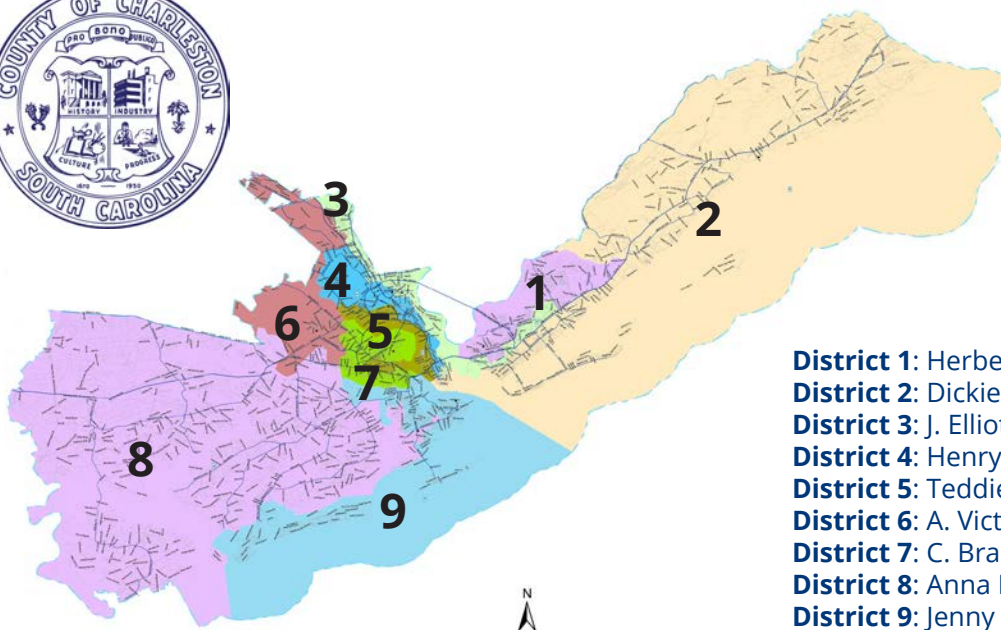
Approximate values

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

Charleston County Council serves as the legislative, policy-making body of county government through the adoption of ordinances and resolutions. Council annually approves budgets for the County's general fund, solid waste fund, and several special revenue funds. Charleston County operates under the Council-Administrator form of government. The Administrator is hired by the Council to carry out the directives and policies of Council.

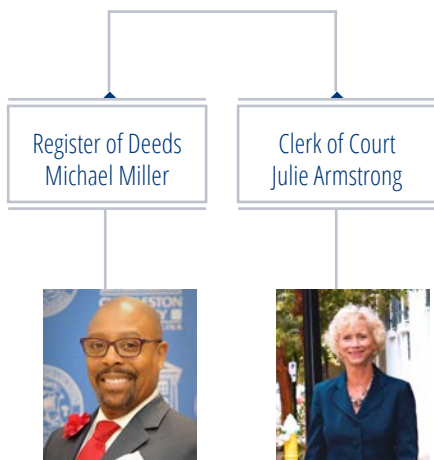
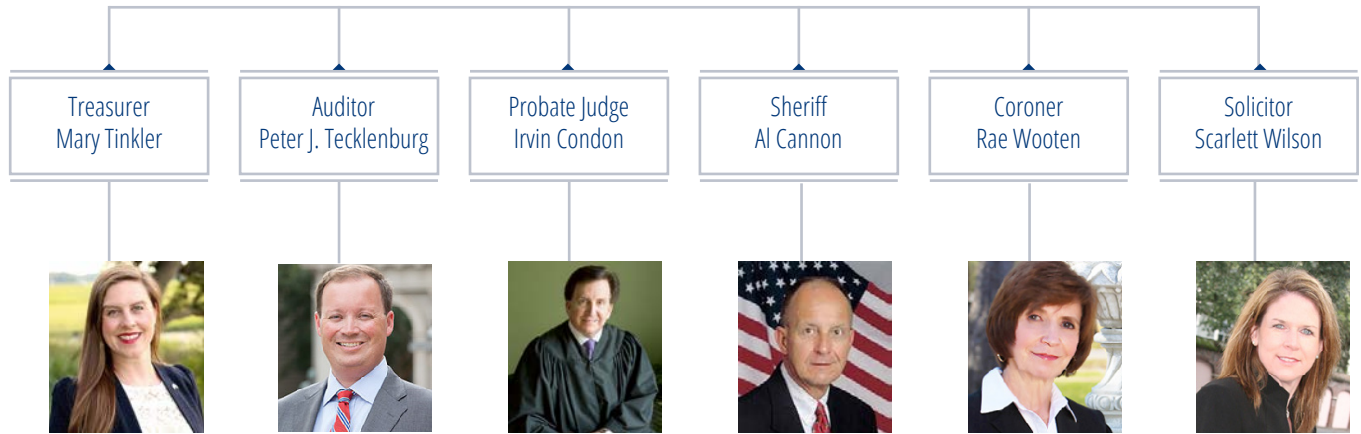


Back left: Jenny Costa Honeycutt, C. Brantley Moody - Vice Chairman, Teddie E. Pryor, Sr, Dickie Schweers, Herbert Sass III, Anna B. Johnson, A. Victor Rawl
Front Left: Joe Dawson - County Attorney, Kristen Salisbury - Clerk of Council, J. Elliott Summey - Chairman, William Tuten - Administrator
Not pictured: Henry E. Darby



- District 1:** Herbert Sass III
- District 2:** Dickie Schweers
- District 3:** J. Elliott Summey, Chairman
- District 4:** Henry E. Darby
- District 5:** Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.
- District 6:** A. Victor Rawl
- District 7:** C. Brantley Moody, Vice Chairman
- District 8:** Anna B. Johnson
- District 9:** Jenny Costa Honeycutt

ELECTED OFFICIALS



APPOINTED OFFICIALS



BUDGET

Highlights:

- Total operating budget: **\$267** million
- Increase to County's total net position: **\$61,280**
- Combined fund balance increase of **\$143,152**
- The millage rate remained **44.7** with no increase from FY 2019



Charleston County has maintained the highest financial rating a government can achieve from the financial rating agencies for the last ten years.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

**County of Charleston
South Carolina**

For its Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2019

Christopher P. Morill

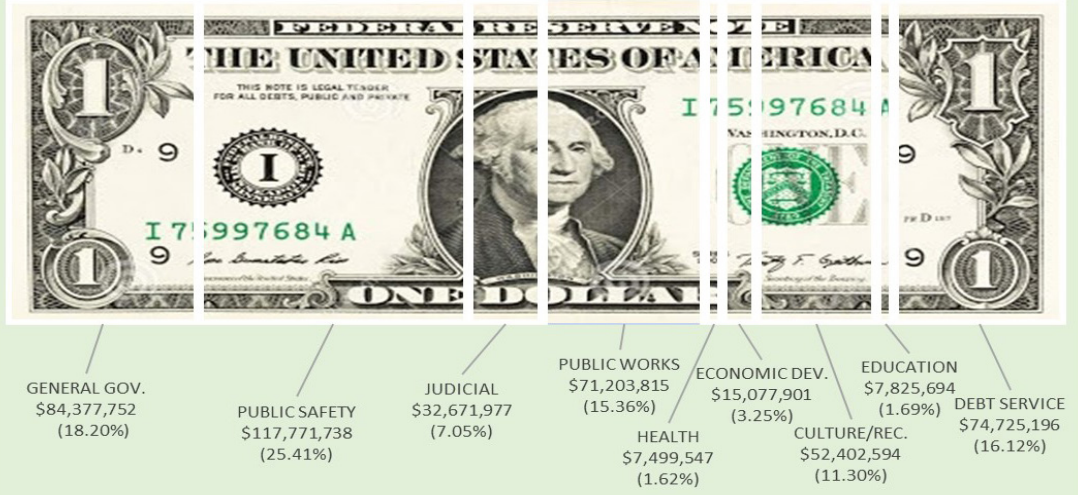
Executive Director/CEO

Constructed in 1830, this Classic Greek Revivalist Sanctuary of Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island has survived the Civil War and several hurricanes. Adhering to the Scots-Irish tradition, members sit at long wooden tables for the Lord's Supper which has been administered in this manner since this congregation's founding in 1685.

Photo by: Susan Roberts

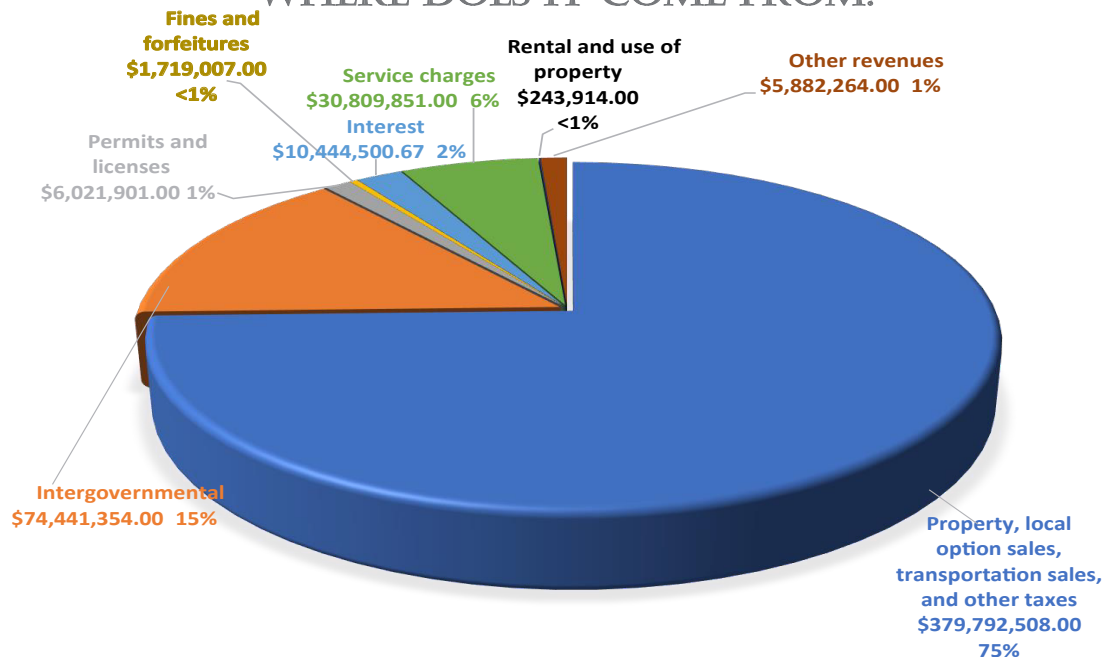


WHERE DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?



Expenditures	2018	2019	2020
General Gov't	\$76,452,987	\$84,904,532	\$84,377,752
Public Safety	\$104,176,006	\$109,835,878	\$117,771,738
Judicial	\$30,657,091	\$31,809,574	\$32,671,977
Public Works	\$104,852,425	\$51,713,932	\$71,203,815
Health & Welfare	\$6,316,139	\$5,697,777	\$7,499,547
Economic Dev.	\$16,867,813	\$6,197,411	\$15,077,901
Culture/Recreation	\$33,473,893	\$35,686,624	\$52,402,594
Education	\$7,139,713	\$7,451,651	\$7,825,694
Debt Servs.	\$66,627,047	\$75,347,457	\$74,725,196

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?



NAVIGATING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MOBILE COVID-19 TESTING AND VIRTUAL SERVICES



Mobile COVID-19 testing site



SC National Guard cleaning the Public Services Building as part of a training exercise



Charleston County Facilities building testing booths.



Ballot drop box



Virtual community meeting



COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Charleston County offices closed to the public in March.
- The majority of services moved online, by phone or email.
- Drop boxes were provided for real estate transactions, legal services, and for mail-in absentee ballots during the June 2020 primary election.
- Staff created the Live Online Virtual E-Application (LOVE) to process thousands of marriage licenses electronically.
- Economic Development distributed 50,000 face masks and 505 no-contact thermometers to local businesses.
- Received more than a million dollars in CARES Act funding distributed to local community groups.
- 527 VPN accounts, 68 Webex accounts, and 93 loaner computers were issued to employees.

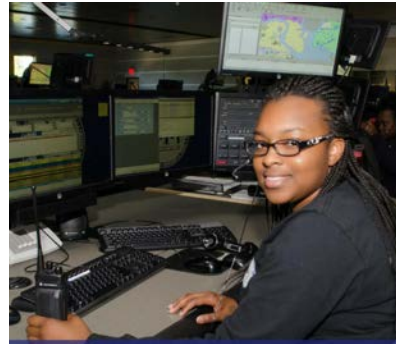


Charleston County Tests Thousands of Citizens

- Partnered with federally recognized non-profit Fetter Healthcare.
- Worked with faith-based community to bring testing to rural and under-served areas.
- More than 6,100 tests administered at 21 different sites. Charleston County Facilities Department built booths to save money and keep citizens and workers safe.
- Outreach done in Spanish and English through social media, churches, and traditional media outlets.
- 60,000 PPE distributed to local public safety and private health care.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Charleston County Government formed the Public Safety directorate consisting of four existing departments, Emergency Medical Services, Consolidated Dispatch, Emergency Management and the Awendaw Fire Department to enhance the safety of our citizens. They respond to emergencies and identify new trends and changing conditions to prepare for emerging threats, both manmade and natural.



Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch received **894,609** calls for service.

Charleston County Emergency Medical Services responded to **58,730** calls with a **9:14** average response time.



Charleston County Emergency Management activated the Emergency Operations Center in response to Hurricane Dorian. There were daily briefings and news conferences to keep the public aware of potential impacts from the storm.



Pictured above: U.S. Senator Tim Scott joined local leaders for a Tricounty press conference regarding Hurricane Dorian



Pictured left: Emergency Management Director Jason Patno participating in a Skype with CNN. This was one of several national and local media interviews



COMMUNITY SERVICES



Charleston County's Greenbelt Program

awarded **\$6.2 million** and protected **677** acres of land. Two featured projects included protecting Boone Hall Plantation (pictured above) and adding 55 acres to the Town of Meggett's Roxbury Park (pictured right).



The Charleston Center for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Strategic Opioid Response

The Center distributed:

- 3,000 packs of drug disposal bags
- 5,000 DisposeRx packets
- 1,600 timer and safe-lock medicine bottles
- 590 lock boxes for safe medicine storage

Charleston County Community Development received federal Housing and Urban Development Funding, helping more than 1,000 citizens with shelter, emergency repairs, legal assistance, medical services, education programs, and other assistance.



New house for ownership by Palmetto Community Action Partnership



PUBLIC SERVICES



Public Works: Transportation

- Treated **61 miles** of pavement.
- Over **1 million** feet of stormwater pipe added to the County asset management system to begin field verification.
- The State Infrastructure Bank awarded **\$4,785,500** for the Main Road Segment C Project, A project to improve mobility and pedestrian safety along one of the fastest growing corridors.



Refurbished 1977 MD 500 helicopter used for Surveillance and Larvicide operations at Charleston County Mosquito Control.

Public Works: Mosquito Control

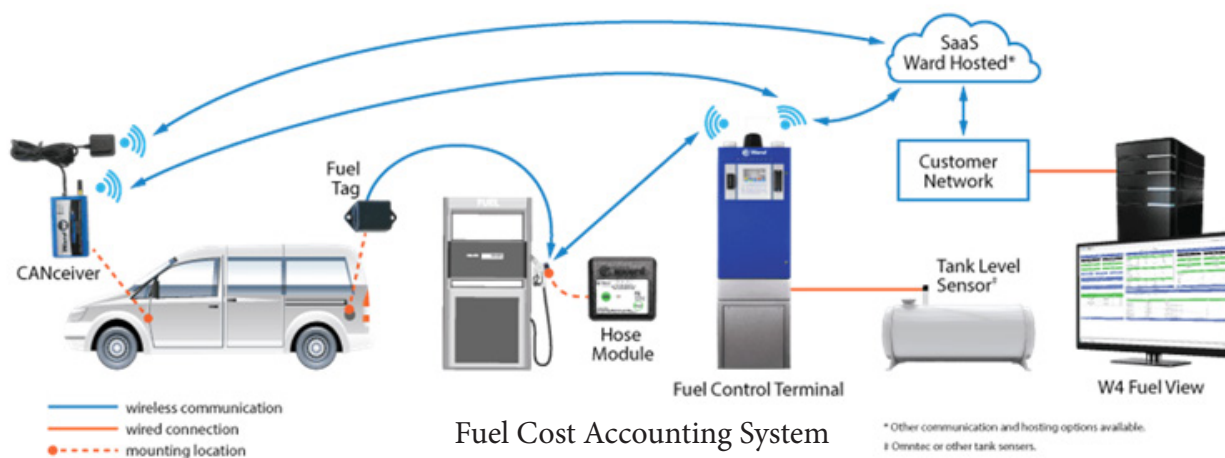
- Spray trucks completed **337** missions covering **952,362** acres.
- About **24,000** acres sprayed by plane for adulticide and larvicide.
- About **9,600** acres sprayed by helicopter for larvicide.
- Responded to **2,274** requests for service.





Fleet Services

- Maintains **994** County vehicles.
- Completed **8,706** work orders, repairs and preventative maintenance.
- Outfitted a new mobile library.
- Built a new fueling site at the Materials Recovery Center.
- Selected as one of the Top 50 Fleets in America.
- Only South Carolina Government fleet "Triple Certified."



Fuel Cost Accounting System

Environmental Management

- Processed **39,507** tons of recycled material.
- Managed the Bees Ferry Landfill and eight staffed convenience center drop-off locations.
- Extensive public education and outreach focused on the importance of "Recycling Right" and avoiding contamination.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

ST. PAUL'S HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY



Features:

- Google Chromebooks
- Public computers and WiFi
- Reading nooks for kids
- Computer training area
- Meeting spaces

Features:

- Reading garden
- Public WiFi and computers
- Color copiers and printing
- Google Chromebooks
- Community classes
- Makerspace and creation studio
- Meeting spaces
- Evergreen Cemetery history project
- Computer training center
- Dedicated teen area

BAXTER PATRICK JAMES ISLAND LIBRARY



Community engagement is one of the Charleston County Library's core principles. The library relied on feedback from the public and staff to help shape each of the new libraries. Before the design process began, the library held community meetings and conducted online surveys for the public to share ideas for how the spaces would be used and for innovations they wanted to incorporate into the new libraries. Their input helped design the spaces and programs so they catered to the interests of the patrons in that particular area.

AWARDS AND INITIATIVES

Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey raises new Charleston County flag. Employees submitted designs and a ceremony was held to showcase the winner and in memory of recently lost employees.



Charleston County Economic Development wins top honors for video "Charleston Tech: Our Time is Now."



Charleston County Council hired its first ombudsman, Carter McMillan, who represents the interests of the public by investigating and addressing citizens' complaints and issues.



Mt. Pleasant's Christ Church Anglican has been a place of worship for more than 300 years. In 1708, a small wooden building was built on this site but was destroyed in a fire in 1725. It was rebuilt and burned down again towards the end of the Civil War. It was restored in 1939 and again after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, and again in 2014. Photo by Katy Hunter



CONNECT WITH CHARLESTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT



charlestoncounty.org



13,874 followers
Follow us at Charleston County Government



28,000 followers
Follow us @ChasCountyGov



1,975 followers
Follow us at Chascountygov



Text 843-800-4121 to report issues such as recycling, potholes, mosquito control, and roads.

This brochure is intended to provide a brief summary of Charleston County Government operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. A copy of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available at <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/financial-reports.php>. This report is a summary and certain financial statements, including all GAAP required disclosures are omitted.

*Founded in 1749, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE) is one of the oldest Jewish congregations in America and is known as the birthplace of American Reform Judaism. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1980, KKBE's sanctuary is the oldest in continuous use for Jewish worship in America, and received a full renovation in 2019.
Photo by: Steven Hyatt*

