

UPTOWN

a publication of the Municipal Association of South Carolina

BUILDING IDENTITY **THROUGH COMMUNITY EVENTS** page 40



**Welcoming the
World to Town** page 2

**Decisive Actions Makes
for Effective Leadership** page 5

**Which Positions Count as
Dual Office Holding?** page 43

Photo: Gustavo Rattia

News Briefs 3

The 2023 Board of Directors 4

Decisive Action Makes for Effective Leadership 5

2023 Annual Meeting Highlights
Civility, Legislative Successes 6

12 Graduate from MEO Institute of Government 7

Building Identity Through Community Events 40

Law Enforcement Policies:
Search Warrants 42

Which Positions Count as Dual Office Holding? 43

Inserts Included:

2023 Annual Report 8

2023 Awards Program 28

President :
Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Conway

Executive Director :
Todd Glover tglover@masc.sc

Managing Editor :
Meredith Houck mhouck@masc.sc

Editor :
Russell Cox rcox@masc.sc

Contributing Writers :
**Casey Fields, Page Ivey,
Bethany Pendley, Megan Sexton,
Eric Shytle**

Cover photo: Participants prepare to march in the Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade. Photo: Gustavo Rattia.

Welcoming the World to Town

When Alex Murdaugh murdered his wife and son, Maggie and Paul, in 2021, a lengthy period of extraordinary media interest from the local to the international level created a news story like no other. News outlets dubbed the murder trial in early 2023 the “trial of the century.”

The court case presented an unusual challenge for the City of Walterboro: it would now be the site of unprecedented news coverage, all centered around the historic Colleton County Courthouse.

“We knew that we couldn’t do anything about the reason people would be focusing on Walterboro, but we could do something about the impression we made on our visitors,” said Mayor Bill Young. “We realized that our visitors, court personnel, the media and others working the trial would carry the message as to the kind of town Walterboro is. We set about preparing for the media onslaught and controlling those things that we could control. We did our best to meet the media’s needs and accommodate everyone. We were not defensive about the trial and provided numerous interviews during its six-week duration.”

At the Municipal Association’s Annual Meeting, Walterboro City Manager Jeff Molinari presented a session on how the city handled the challenge. Many of the city’s other ongoing projects needed to continue at the same time — road and streetscaping improvements, sewer rehabilitation, and even Walterboro’s recent acceptance into the Main Street South Carolina downtown revitalization program.

And with or without an incredibly unusual event going on, the city had to maintain, as always, its services of police, fire, water, sewer, parks, municipal court, billing, permitting and business licensing, he said.

“This may be the most important aspect of managing the trial,” he said.

Molinari described the many partnerships the city used for trial

coordination: the SC Law Enforcement Division, which had a command center in a city parking lot, Colleton County, Beaufort County and their sheriffs, and the SC Attorney General’s Office, which was handling the case.

Parking was a major concern for the city, given the many media vehicles that would be present. City property became designated media lots, where the city charged a fee to provide services. Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative and Dominion Energy set up temporary installations to provide for the internet, broadcast and electrical needs of the media. Molinari described the involvement of the city’s police providing security, the water department serving the portable restroom facilities, public works providing regular trash collection, the parks department managing landscaping and Scott Grooms, who served as a tourism director at the time and used his broadcast background to coordinate effectively with the media.

“Almost every department was involved in managing the trial,” Molinari said. “Obviously, our best resource is our city employees and they went above and beyond to make sure that the trial went off without a hitch.”

The city’s coordination with food trucks to handle the crowds emerged as “one of the more controversial aspects of the city’s reaction,” he said, because local restaurants were concerned about losing business. The city pursued it for logistical reasons, given the number of people and because the judge allowed only 75 minutes for lunch for everyone.

“The food trucks did a very good business, they were open for breakfast and lunch. But what we found was that the brick-and-mortar restaurants did extremely well at night,” Molinari said.

A primary takeaway, Molinari said, “is you have to embrace the situation. Prepare, coordinate and communicate. Expect the unexpected.”

NEWS BRIEFS

This could be anything from the public works department filling puddles that formed after a heavy rain struck the downtown, or it could be a long-vacant car dealership building that Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod identified as an appearance concern before the trial. The city pursued his recommendation of filling its windows with a banner displaying Walterboro's "Front Porch of the Lowcountry" branding, which became a backdrop for some of the media coverage.

One memorable incident during the trial came when media commentators, seeing Mayor Young seated in the courtroom gallery, mistook him for legal thriller novelist John Grisham. People insisted that he must have been the writer even as Young clarified his identity.

"He had a really good sense of humor about it," Molinari said.

The city used its recently-constructed Walterboro Wildlife Center, an event space that showcases the environmental significance of the Walterboro Wildlife

Sanctuary, as a working space for reporters. Some of the events that were to take place there shifted schedules, but there was one event with no available workaround — a wedding scheduled for what became the same time as the trial.

"The bride was not thrilled," he said. "I will say the media was great, they helped us move everything out of the event space. The wedding went off without a hitch — in fact, one of the media outlets even did an interview with the bride, so that all worked out."

"This trial brought the world to Walterboro. We were on national and worldwide news several times a day," said Mayor Young. "I believe the preparations made by the city, county and court personnel working in a coordinated effort with the single-minded desire to make everyone feel welcome and comfortable — despite these tragic times — allowed us to make a positive impression on those present and on the many TV, print, podcast and internet outlets that covered the trial."

Several municipal officials recently earned their Accreditation in Business Licensing designation. These are **Paige Belton**, finance clerk, City of Abbeville; **Laura Culler**, director of finance and administration support, Town of Chapin; **Randie Evans**, business license inspector, City of Florence; **Amy Knox**, clerk trainee, City of Union; **Andrew Ridout**, business licensing administrator, City of Aiken; and **Dorota Szubert**, finance director, Town of Kiawah Island.

The SC Association of Municipal Power Systems elected its board for 2023 – 2024. The board includes President **Robert Faires**, director of utilities, City of Seneca; Vice President **Tim Baker**, utility director, City of Newberry; Members at Large **Tim Hall**, utilities director, City of Abbeville; **Wade Holmes**, electric utility director, Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities; **Joey Meadors**, director of utilities and public works, City of Clinton; **Gregg Griffin**, general manager, Bamberg Board of Public Works; and Past President **John Young**, general manager, Laurens Commission of Public Works.

Camilla Pitman, city clerk for the City of Greenville, received the 2023 International Institute of Municipal Clerks Quill Award, recognizing municipal clerks with a significant and exemplary contribution to their community, IIMC and their peers. Pitman also received the IIMC President's Award of Merit.



News outlets gather outside of the Colleton County Courthouse on the night of the trial verdict. Photo: City of Walterboro.



The 2023 – 2024 Board of Directors

A 19-member board of directors, composed of both elected and appointed officials, sets policy for the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

New officers

The officers, or members of the executive committee, are elected to one-year terms at the Association's Annual Meeting. The officers' terms will expire in July 2024.

President: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Conway

First Vice President: Mayor Greg Habib, Goose Creek

Second Vice President: Mayor Brandy Amidon, Travelers Rest

Third Vice President: Mayor Lancer Shull, Batesburg-Leesville

Immediate Past President: Mayor Rick Osbon, Aiken

Board members are elected at the Association's Annual Meeting for three-year terms. The board is composed of representatives from each area of the 10 councils of governments and four at-large seats.

Newly elected members

Mayor Kenneth Gist, Woodruff

Representing: Appalachian Council of Governments area

Term expires: July 2026

Mayor LaDonna Hall, Salley

Representing: Lower Savannah Council of Governments area

Term expires: July 2026

Mayor Stellertean Jones, Gray Court

Representing: At-large
Term expires: July 2026

Mayor Tem Miles, West Columbia

Representing: Central Midlands Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2026

Mayor Stephen Murray, Beaufort

Representing: At-large
Term expires: July 2026

Other current board members

Mayor Brenda Bethune, Myrtle Beach

Representing: Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2024

Councilmember Judy Bridge, Walterboro

Representing: Lowcountry Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2025

Mayor Jason Evans, Pageland

Representing: Pee Dee Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2025

City Administrator Desiree Fragoso, Isle of Palms

Representing: At-large
Term expires: July 2025

Councilmember Robert Garner, Union

Representing: Catawba Regional Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2024

Councilmember Jeffrey Graham, Camden

Representing: Santee Lynches Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2025

City Manager Deron McCormick, Sumter

Representing: At-large
Term expires: July 2024

Mayor Brandon Smith, Greenwood

Representing: Upper Savannah Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2024

Councilmember Guang Ming Whitley, Mount Pleasant

Representing: Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments area
Term expires: July 2025



Decisive Action Makes for Effective Leadership

*By Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, City of Conway,
President, Municipal Association of SC*

At its Annual Meeting in Greenville, I was elected president of the Municipal Association of South Carolina's board of directors. This 19-member board represents cities and towns from all over the state, sets policy for the Association, advocates for good public policy and offers education and training for municipal elected officials. I've served on the board of directors for six years and served as president of the Association of SC Mayors, an affiliate of the Municipal Association.

I wear a lot of hats in my life. I'm the mayor of the great City of Conway. I'm an attorney. I'm a wife and a proud grandmother. I've been a social worker, a councilmember and a deputy city administrator. And like all of you, I've been a problem solver, a negotiator, a compromiser, a visionary, a referee and a friend.

But really what I want you to know about me is my love of learning and my willingness to listen. I constantly learn from people around me. I listen and I learn from residents, local business owners, the incredible staff of the City of Conway, fellow councilmembers, our youth, church members, friends, and colleagues in the Municipal Association. Listening and learning have served us well in Conway, helping us achieve one success after another.

I didn't go to law school until I was 46 years old. I was afraid of all things unfamiliar, dark and alone until, at the age of 55, I completed a five-day hike in the Blue Ridge Mountains, 24 hours of which time I spent in solitude. I learned to swim when I was 60 years old, and at 65 or so, I became an ax-thrower. A few weeks ago, at age 70, I suited up to locate and disarm bombs. This is important because I'm not afraid to step out of

my comfort zone to learn more about myself and others. I'm not afraid to take a risk if it means that I can help someone or make a difference.

This past year at the Association we have expanded our civility campaign nationwide and began statewide partnerships to bring civility and respect back into our council chambers and in our hometowns. We have had great success at the State House supporting and passing legislation to ensure our elected officials have the tools necessary to govern our cities and towns and provide the best services to our residents, visitors and business owners.

I'm proud of the work we've done and the goals we've accomplished. We stepped out and we took risks. The reward is the payoff in dividends with our message of civility in city and town council chambers, and other public meeting spaces across this state and beyond!

I invite you to visit our welcoming, appealing Conway anytime. If you can, spend time in downtown Conway during the month of October, the time when we transform into the "City of Halloween, SC." You'll be certain to make Conway — minimally — an annual destination. Imagine thousands of pumpkins hanging in trees lining our beautiful downtown.

Thank you for trusting me as your president this upcoming year. I look forward to working with our mayors and councilmembers and staff members from cities across South Carolina, and Municipal Association staff, to help move our state forward. I am truly honored to have been elected by my colleagues for this position.

2023 Annual Meeting Highlights Civility, Legislative Successes



Municipal Association of SC President-elect Barbara Blain-Bellamy recognizes outgoing President Rick Osbon during the Annual Meeting.

Delegates from the state's 271 cities and towns elected Barbara Blain-Bellamy as president of the Municipal Association of SC during the 2023 Annual Meeting in Greenville.

Blain-Bellamy drew attention to the Municipal Association's ongoing civility in local government campaign, which has gained attention among municipal leagues around the nation. In South Carolina, municipal councils are using the civility pledge, and the Municipal Association has built a civility partnership the SC School Board Association.

At the same time, Blain-Bellamy said, the Municipal Association has achieved success at the State House "supporting and passing legislation to ensure our elected officials have the tools necessary to govern our cities and towns and provide the best services to our residents, visitors and business owners."

Outgoing president and Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon praised the growth of the Municipal Association's federal outreach efforts. Municipal Association representatives now regularly meet with South Carolina's Congressional delegation and host meetings with their staffs.

"This outreach has already paid dividends, from heads-up phone calls, questions, changes made to bills and relationships formed that we have never had in the history of the Association," he said.

Osbon listed some of the state-level legislative wins of the last year, including the removal of a budget proviso that would have prohibited cities and towns from regulating short-term rentals, allowing the use of state and local accommodations taxes for

workforce housing development, a ban on dangerous "squat truck" modifications, an act allowing smaller municipalities to provide a compilation of financial statements instead of cost-prohibitive audits, and an increase in penalties for fentanyl trafficking.

He cautioned that proposed bans on short-term rental regulations continue to be introduced in the General Assembly, with one such bill, H3253, remaining active for the 2024 session.

Association Executive Director Todd Glover echoed this issue, describing the push for a regulation ban as something that "may be the biggest act of preemption since I've been with the Association."

"We all know that short-term rental answers for Edisto Beach or Folly Beach or Charleston are probably not the solution for Greenwood or Simpsonville. We have to maintain the ability for all of you to make that local decision."

Glover called attention to the Association's first Small City Summit, which took place simultaneously with the first day of the Annual Meeting, addressing the needs of municipalities of fewer than 3,000 residents, a group that makes up nearly 70% of South Carolina municipalities.

He also highlighted the efforts of the Association's downtown technical assistance program, Main Street South Carolina, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, expanding its staff and launching WeShopSC, a statewide e-commerce platform for small businesses.



Inspirational speaker Chris Singleton gave the keynote address at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting’s keynote speaker, Chris Singleton, is a former professional athlete drafted by the Chicago Cubs. Following the loss of his mother in a racially motivated mass shooting in Charleston, Singleton became an inspirational speaker who has shares his message of unity and nationwide every year.

Singleton drew a connection between his campaign of unity and the Municipal Association’s civility pledge, which reads, “I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city or town.”

In respecting others’ viewpoints, Singleton said that everyone who disagrees with someone else needs to reflect on the life experiences, or personal story, that would have led the other person to arrive at their stance.

His request to the audience, he said, is not that they change who they are in the pursuit of civility, but that they “remind people there is a story behind every single stance.”

Find presentation materials for the Annual Meeting, the Municipal Association’s 2023 Annual Report and 2023 Legislative Report online at www.masc.sc (keyword: Annual Meeting).

12 GRADUATE FROM MEO INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

The Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government graduated 12 officials during the Municipal Association’s Annual Meeting in Greenville.

The summer 2023 graduates of the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government are Councilmember Lekesha Benson, City of Seneca; Councilmember Donald Brock, Town of Blythewood; Mayor Robert Brown, Town of Hampton; Mayor Billy Chavis, Town of Holly Hill; Councilmember Betty Collins, Town of St. George; Councilmember Maxie Gainey, Town of Patrick; Councilmember Dale Glymph, City of Westminster; Councilmember Joe Hadwin, Town of Estill; Councilmember

Wayne Hancock, City of Bishopville; Councilmember Ramona Hudley, Town of Patrick; Mayor Clarence Hughes, Town of Ridgeville; and Councilmember Brian Jones, City of Wellford.

Since these graduates have completed the required 25 hours of instruction available through the Institute, they are now eligible to participate in the Advanced MEO Institute.

The next Advanced Institute sessions will take place October 11 in Columbia. Participants will be able to choose one of two courses: “Advanced Advocacy and Intergovernmental Relations” or “Advanced Municipal Economic Development.” The Advanced Continuing Education course will take place the same day.

The MEO Institute also tracks those city and town councils on which all sitting members are MEO graduates. The current MEO Honor Roll cities are Arcadia Lakes, Cheraw, Estill, Folly Beach, Hartsville, Inman, Jonesville, Moncks Corner, Newberry, Port Royal, Prosperity, Santee, Simpsonville, Surfside Beach, Walterboro, Wellford and York.

Learn more about the institute at www.masc.sc (keyword: MEO).



2023



Municipal Association
of South Carolina

Annual Report

Leadership. It's as much an art as it is a science. In today's increasingly divided America, it is sorely needed, yet in some instances, sorely lacking.

While our country is divided now, I look back to a president of the United States who navigated our country through our most divided days. Abraham Lincoln is looked upon by many as the greatest president because of what he deftly handled. Can you imagine trying to convince the governed that you had their interests at heart after defeating them militarily?

At the conclusion of Lincoln's first inaugural address he stated, "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory ... will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Last year at our 2022 Annual Meeting in Charleston, the Municipal Association launched a civility initiative to return civility to local government. I am excited to say that many other state leagues have followed suit, with Georgia in particular having more than 80 "cities of civility."

We joined into a strategic partnership with the South Carolina School Boards Association to address this issue through training, messaging and awareness. I am excited about this partnership between two levels of local government coming together to address this important issue of our time.

We cannot allow ourselves to become a nation of enemies. We know that when voices are raised, ideas are lost. We must recommit ourselves to the principles of good government; hearing and respecting all points of view.

My entire career has been in local government because it is the institution closest to the people and more adept at addressing the needs of residents. We must continue to raise up leaders in local government who have vision, humility and a respect for all who have a heart for bettering their cities and towns.

As you look at our year in review in this report, know that every call, email, meeting, program and podcast was aimed at protecting, preserving and progressing your ability to lead your communities in the manner you see fit. Home Rule is the basis for all that we do. But we have to ensure that while we govern our cities and towns, everyone feels welcomed and valued in our home.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Todd Glover".

B. Todd Glover
Municipal Association of SC
Executive Director



Take the Civility Pledge

"I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city or town."

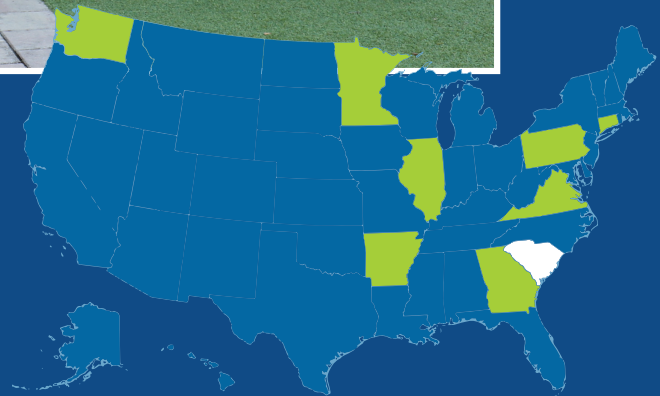
Other state municipal leagues that have publicized civility initiatives

- Arkansas Municipal League
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
- Georgia Municipal Association
- Illinois Municipal League
- League of Minnesota Cities
- Pennsylvania Municipal League
- Virginia Municipal League
- Association of Washington Cities



In 2022, the Association launched a joint civility initiative partnership with the South Carolina School Boards Association, which serves the boards of the state's 73 public school districts. The effort will encourage local elected officials, both those in municipal government and in school districts, to adopt a civility policy for their meetings and their interactions with one another.

During the announcement, Municipal Association President and Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon recalled an adage of his father – "we can disagree without being disagreeable" – as he described the importance of the effort.



Voices

South Carolina cities and towns created the Municipal Association of SC in part because officials knew collaboration would greatly amplify and strengthen their messages.

Advocacy efforts

In the past year, Municipal Association staff has furthered its outreach with South Carolina's federal delegation, and established Congressional Briefings to give city and town officials more opportunities to connect with their U.S. representatives and senators.

Even so, municipal officials always carry the most weight when they connect to lawmakers personally, and the Association helps them know what bills they should follow. Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon was one of several mayors to testify on H3253, a bill to prohibit municipalities everywhere in the state from enacting an ordinance that regulates short-term rentals, and which remains active for the 2024 session. Osbon noted that STRs are helpful in Aiken for the Masters Tournament and horse race tourism, but councilmembers often hear from residents concerned about the appropriate regulation of them.

"I don't think that a 'one-size-fits-all' is the right approach to this. I believe that at the local level, with our enforcement agencies, we're going to find the right solution," Osbon said.

Myrtle Beach Police Chief Amy Prock testified to the General Assembly on several bills concerning municipalities. She testified on "squat trucks," or vehicles raised dangerously on the front end. The Municipal Association's board of directors named a squat truck ban as one of the Association's Advocacy Initiatives, and lawmakers passed such a bill into law. Prock also made in-person pleas on a hate crimes bill, another Advocacy Initiative. Lawmakers introduced the Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act, which is still active for 2024.

"Law enforcement continues to charge based on the principal offenses committed by a violator, but this would allow additional penalties committed out of hate," Prock told the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee. "We hope these penalties would deter the crimes from being committed and provide comfort to victims and families."

Association communication improvements

The Municipal Association launched a landmark upgrade of its communications materials in February, creating a new visual brand that reflects the diversity of cities and towns across the state. The Association also launched a years-in-the-making rebuild of its website, www.masc.sc, bringing together information on the complete array of Association services after carefully studying the user experience to make the vast amount of information as easy to find as possible.

Association staff also worked to make its publications and other materials accessible and engaging for municipal officials. Of the Association's podcasts, listeners have praised the *From the Dome to Your Home* podcast for making complex legislative issues easy to understand.

Mauldin City Administrator Seth Duncan described himself as a longtime listener of *From the Dome to Your Home* podcasts and an avid reader of its publications because of the news and analysis they offered.

"The podcast, for me, is one of my favorite formats because I'm able to easily stay informed of activities at the State House, learn interesting facts about South Carolina, and gain valuable insights from elected officials across South Carolina," he said. The *From the Dome to Your Home* podcast is my go-to podcast every Saturday morning and provides me insight into how I can help support our legislative goals, build strong communities, and better serve the people of our great state."

Readers from municipalities and other groups also give positive feedback for the *Uptown* magazine's guidance on local government issues. Bill Burr, the anchor for Charleston's Fox 24 News, sought information on the rules for prayer during a public meeting, which appear in an *Uptown* article, and noted that the magazine and the team behind it are excellent.

254 General Assembly bills tracked in the Association's Legislative Tracking System.

Among other municipal topics, these bills address Association Advocacy Initiatives, including protecting local authority to regulate short-term rentals, the ban on "squat trucks," and the push to allow cities with less revenue to complete a compilation of financial statements instead of a full audit.

461,330

visitors to
www.masc.sc

1.25 million

Total
page views

744

posts on
Twitter, Facebook
and Instagram feeds

110,000+

impressions

30,580

Twitter impressions
from Advocacy
Team

10,574

hits
on the Association's
podcasts

58 episodes

covering legislative action,
award-winning municipal projects,
civility in government, risk management,
business licensing and others.

1,900+

work hours building and launching
the new Association's website
www.masc.sc

Knowledge

Education is a core tenet of the Association with multiple training opportunities available throughout many programs and services.

Education and training improvements

One highlight of the last year came as the SC Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association hosted the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Region 3 meeting in February, including clerks from across the Southeast. The Association's Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government updated the videos used in its in-person and online training sessions, and the Association restructured its sponsor memberships, making it easier for sponsors to participate and support training events, keeping meeting registration fees lower.

MCAA 101, a relatively new program of the Municipal Court Administration, continued to acquaint new clerks of court with the basics of their jobs, with program participants saying that it helps them to not feel overwhelmed. The Association's Retail Recruitment Training, also fairly new, continued to help cities and towns draw in new businesses using marketing analyses and outreach efforts. Greenwood saw great success from its participation in the program, building ongoing relationships with developers and drawing in multiple retailers as the city reaches a pivotal point in its growth and development.

"Before this program, we were sometimes the last to know when a new retail business was considering our community for their next location," said Lara Hudson, Greenwood's community development director "Now, we are the first person they contact from day one and we can assist them from the start to opening day of their business."

Main Street South Carolina milestones

The downtown development technical assistance program Main Street South Carolina is marking its 40th year with numerous achievements, including the launch of WeShopSC, a statewide e-commerce marketplace focused on small businesses.

One of the state's Main Street communities, Downtown Florence, made national headlines by becoming the second South Carolina city to ever win the prestigious Great American Main Street Award, following its dramatic turnaround of a declining business district.

Florence's Development Director Hannah Davis described the accolade as "an unbelievable honor — it's the once-in-a-lifetime achievement representing the boundless investment, hard work, tenacity, and vision from local investors and partners, small business owners and residents, government officials and leaders, and our statewide Main Street network over the last 20 years."

Main Street SC also obtained a grant from the SC State Historic Preservation Office to help provide hands-on training for several cities with design review boards: Georgetown, Greenwood, Hartsville and Laurens. In Georgetown, Main Street Director Al Joseph said that the architecture review board members knew they would become more effective for their historic district community from the training.

"Our members came away very enthusiastic and appreciative of what they learned," Joseph said.

Field Services Managers assistance

The Association's field services managers help every single city and town with the major technical challenges that local officials face, using regular visits to the municipalities, training sessions and a personal touch. In the past year, much of this has involved American Rescue Plan Act funding and business license standardization. The team helped municipalities submit ARPA reports to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and keep them up to date on available state funds, such as those through the SC Infrastructure Investment Program of the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority.

After Field Services Manager Ashley Kellahan provided training for the Folly Beach board of zoning appeals, Toni Catoe, the board's chair, described the training as applicable for their work and effective.

"I personally gained so much information that increased my confidence in chairing and participating in the meetings in the future, and I heard other board members express the same sentiment," Catoe said.

860 total attendees

at the 2022 Municipal Association Annual Meeting, as well as 633 total attendees at the 2023 Hometown Legislative Action Day

823 total participants

for all sessions of the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government, including in-person and online sessions, a 34% increase from the previous year

33 total Main Street South Carolina communities

participating at four levels, including Inman and Walterboro joining at the Aspiring level

194 municipalities

with at least one Municipal Elected Officials Institute graduate since the beginning of the MEO Institute, representing 72% of all municipalities

In 2022, Main Street SC's reinvestment statistics show:

- 469 new jobs created
 - \$179.5 million in private and public investment
 - 81 new businesses opened
 - 362 buildings rehabilitated
 - 24,906 volunteer hours
-

1,835 MEO Institute graduates Since 1986

and since 2016, there have been a total of 347 Advanced MEO Institute graduates

56 newly elected officials

have taken their first MEO Institute course in the last year

101 council training

sessions, meetings or strategic planning sessions led by the Association's field services managers for the year

27 graduates of MCAA 101

total since the course's launch

61 total participants

in the Association's Retail Recruitment Training program since 2021

4,665 total municipal contacts

made by the Association's field services managers, including 3,535 technical assistance contacts and 637 visits or networking contacts. This included 270 cities and towns out of the total 271. The most common type of technical assistance contacts included American Rescue Plan Act funds, business licensing, finance and human resources

Solutions

Cities and towns from across South Carolina face common challenges, but municipal officials can find efficient solutions by working together through the Association.

Business licensing standardization

The SC Business License Tax Standardization Act of 2020 created a great need for cities and towns to update the licensing practices that they use for this significant revenue source. Municipal Association staff worked diligently since before the law first took effect to help municipal staff with the many technical aspects of standardization, consolidating all efforts under its Local Revenue Services department and offering virtual business license training sessions every month beginning in 2022.

A key requirement of the new state law is the Local Business License Renewal Center, which all taxing jurisdictions must offer to businesses. License payments made through the online portal have increased substantially – from \$3.5 million in 2022 to \$10.8 million in the first part of 2023 alone. While some businesses expressed skepticism over the system initially, the efforts made by Local Revenue Services staff to educate and problem-solve with business licensing officials means that many businesses have reported the process to be working well and saving them significant time.

“The Local Business License Renewal Center was a breath of fresh air in the business license renewal season,” said Alten Driggers, supervisor of the Horry County Hospitality Fee and Business License Department, as well as president of the SC Business Licensing Officials Association. “The Renewal Center offers businesses an additional payment method, and is user-friendly for businesses, counties and cities to navigate.”

Loss control efforts

The programs of the Municipal Association’s Risk Management Services – the SC Municipal Insurance Trust and SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund – have always aimed to provide the greatest insurance value possible for cities and towns in ways that meet their specific needs. Its efforts continue to focus on personal customer service and cost reductions.

For SCMIRF, RMS has focused on identifying ways for members to reduce their costs – expanding data collection and identifying claims trends to address root causes, and then working closely with city staff through ongoing meetings and training sessions that address operational areas that have increased insurance costs. They provide frequent property appraisals, including diligent fieldwork, to make certain that everything is valued accurately.

RMS helped develop and shared the model law enforcement policies that help police departments meet the minimum standards now required under Act 218, the Law Enforcement Betterment Bill. RMS training offerings have included defensive driving training, hazard recognition training, the law enforcement Response to Resistance Simulator, other use-of-force training sessions, and verbal de-escalation training, among many others.

The SCMIT and SCMIRF staff place a great focus on the personal touch they can provide to members. Mike Woodall, senior SCMIT claims adjuster, described the process by saying, “day in and day out I work with our members, injured workers and medical providers to help provide benefits to injured workers. One cannot help but smile when an injured worker tells you ‘thank you’ at the end of their case.”

15,128 courses completed through **LocalGovU**, the online training portal for the Association's Risk Management Services

\$10.8 million in business license payments processed through the Local Business License Renewal Center in the first four months of 2023, compared to \$3.5 million processed throughout all of 2022

130 SC Municipal Insurance Trust members

135 SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund members, with the City of Westminster, Pickens Regional Joint Water System and Fairfield Joint Water & Sewer System joining as the newest members

291 member visits conducted by Risk Management Services for SCMIT and SCMIRF members, addressing police and fire consultations, scheduled annual reviews and assessments

\$300,000 in Hometown Economic Development Grant funds award to 12 cities and towns. Recipients:

- Bennettsville
- Bethune
- Blacksburg
- Bowman
- Cheraw
- Conway
- Landrum
- Pendleton
- Ridgeway
- Summerton
- Tega Cay
- Ware Shoals

74 member-specific training sessions hosted by Risk Management Services Loss Control

\$20 million+ in total purchases made through the City Connect Market, a cooperative purchasing partnership between HGACBuy and the Municipal Association launched in August 2021

19,942 employees and volunteers insured through SCMIT

\$393,000 grant funds disbursed through SCMIT and SCMIRF grants, and the programs have awarded a total of more than \$4.6 million to date

\$5.7 billion in total value insured through SCMIRF

15 consecutive years of the SC Other Retirement Benefits Employer Trust receiving the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Award for Excellence for its financial report. SC ORBET is a trust that employers can join to pre-fund their future retirement benefit obligations

Internal Services

The internal services of the Association, such as technology, finance and human resources, play a critical role in providing support to the staff so that the organization can deliver valuable services to South Carolina's cities and towns and continue to seek ways to improve its efficiency.

IT system improvements

A major IT change came in the last year for the Association's phone system, which had previously been an in-office Voice over Internet Protocol system. Staff has now moved to a cloud-based Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Teams system, enabling staff to answer phone calls from wherever they are working.

For well over a decade, the Association has conducted a disaster recovery exercise of its IT systems, and for most of that time, it staged the drill at a single off-site location. In 2022, employees conducted the exercise from multiple remote locations. In 2023, IT staff have reworked IP addresses at the Association's primary offices so that the exercise will not interfere with ordinary operations.

Municipal Association helpline

For city and town officials, accessing many of the Association's resources — offerings like meetings, training programs, listserves and others — requires the ability to log in to the Association's website. For times when technical issues arise, the Association maintains a helpline at 803.933.1297, which typically receives dozens of calls a month.

"Assisting people through the online help phone line is very rewarding because you see firsthand results of helping our members," said Virginia Butler, business systems analyst. "They are always appreciative and pleased to be able to get to the member-only content right away."

Safety improvements

The Municipal Association and its affiliate associations maintain automatic external defibrillator devices, at their meetings. As part of this safety precaution, the Association maintains ongoing AED and CPR training for its employees. The Association has also tackled another key danger in public places through active shooter training for its staff, using officers from the SC Law Enforcement Division.

Directory of Services

More than 90 years ago, a small group of local elected officials realized they had to work together to meet the challenges of the changing times. With this mission in mind, they organized the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

The Municipal Association is still dedicated to the principle of its founding members: to join together to pursue initiatives cities and towns can carry out more efficiently and effectively by working together through the Association than by working individually.

A nonpartisan, nonprofit association representing all of the state's 271 incorporated cities and towns, the Municipal Association fulfills its mission through **shared voices, knowledge and solutions**.

Voices

From the very start of the Association in the early 1930s, South Carolina municipal officials understood that only by working together could they effectively communicate the needs and views of municipal government to state and federal lawmakers.

Lobbying the State Legislature and Congress

The Association advocates for changes in state law that enable local elected officials to address municipal challenges. Partnerships play an important part in the Association's advocacy efforts. The Association also monitors federal legislation through the National League of Cities and advocates on behalf of South Carolina cities and towns when federal issues affect the state. *Staff Contacts: Casey Fields, Joannie Nickel, Scott Slatton, Erica Wright*

Regional Advocacy Meetings

Each fall, the Association hosts Regional Advocacy Meetings around the state to talk about the challenges facing cities and towns and how changes to state law could help them meet those challenges. Based in part on input gathered during these conversations, the Association's legislative committee and board of directors set the Association's annual Advocacy Initiatives. *Staff Contact: Casey Fields*

Legislative Tracking and Reports

During the South Carolina legislative session, the Association actively monitors bills impacting cities and towns and updates the Association's online tracking system to reflect relevant daily bill activity. The online tracking system gives municipal leaders another tool they can use to follow subcommittee, committee and floor action.

Each Friday during the legislative session, municipal officials receive *From the Dome to Your Home*, which recaps the week's major legislative events and previews the upcoming week's activities. The report is posted on the Association's website, emailed and shared with more than 5,000 social media followers. The legislative team expands on the report with additional information through regular episodes of the *From the Dome to Your Home* podcast during the legislative session.

At the end of the legislative session, the Association produces its annual legislative report recapping work on the Advocacy Initiatives and legislative action on major bills of municipal interest.

Staff Contact: Casey Fields

Hometown Legislative Action Day

In February, Hometown Legislative Action Day draws local officials from all over the state to Columbia to get updates on current legislative issues, visit their local legislators at the State House and connect with legislators at the Association's annual legislative reception. *Staff Contacts: Ken Ivey, Scott Slatton*

Public Engagement

Legislators, business leaders, the news media and key influencers learn about successes in cities and towns through online and print resources.

Social Media Channels

The Association's Twitter (@MuniAssnSC) and Facebook (MuniAssnSC.StrongSCcities) accounts provide up-to-the-minute information on State House activity and share good news stories about cities and towns. A regular schedule of social media posts highlighting *Uptown* stories amplifies the online version of the monthly newsletter and resources on the Association's website. The Association's Instagram account (StrongSCcities) highlights the strength and services of South Carolina's 271 cities and towns. *Staff Contact: Meredith Houck*

City Connect Blog and City Quick Connect Podcast

The *City Connect* blog offers short, timely updates on a variety of issues. The blog packages information in a format that is useful not only to local officials but also to the news media, legislators and the public. The *City Quick Connect* podcast gives listeners a chance to hear the latest from Municipal Association staff and others about the issues, the legislation and the support services impacting cities and towns. *Staff Contact: Russell Cox*

Municipal Association Mobile App

The Association app provides a mobile-friendly way to interact with the Association and connect to educational and legislative resources. Through the app, users can access the municipal directory, Association staff listing and municipal job openings, or view the calendar to see sessions and speakers at upcoming events. *Staff Contact: Russell Cox*

Knowledge

The Association plays an important role in developing municipal elected officials' and employees' knowledge and skills through a wide range of training programs, publications and meetings.

Affiliate Associations

The Municipal Association supports 11 affiliate organizations by providing training and networking for a variety of local government positions with specialized training needs.

In addition to traditional face-to-face training and networking opportunities, the affiliate associations offer online communities for members to share best practices and to pose specific questions related to their local government responsibilities. *Staff Contact: Ken Ivey*

Association of South Carolina Mayors

The Association of South Carolina Mayors provides opportunities for its members to more fully engage in advocating for issues that affect cities and towns, network, take part in educational activities, and share ideas and best practices. *Staff Contact: Casey Fields*

Municipal Court Administration Association of SC

The Municipal Court Administration Association of South Carolina offers training at two workshops for court administrators, clerks of court, municipal judges and other municipal employees involved in court administration. The Supreme Court of South Carolina Commission on CLE and Specialization and the Office of Victims Services recognize these workshops for continuing education credits. Additionally, the Association offers MCAA 101, a three-part training on the basics of Court Administration. *Staff Contact: Sara Whitaker*

Municipal Technology Association of SC

The Municipal Technology Association of SC promotes municipalities' effective use of technology. MTASC exposes its members to a broad range of technology systems, platforms and solutions. The training serves IT staff and those with GIS responsibilities, in addition to employees who work in other departments but have technology-related duties. *Staff Contact: Sara Whitaker*

SC Association of Municipal Power Systems

Twenty of the municipal electric utilities are members of the SC Association of Municipal Power Systems. Originally, SCAMPS existed solely for its members to help one another during times of disaster. Although mutual aid is still the backbone of SCAMPS, the affiliate's scope also includes legislative initiatives and training. *Staff Contact: Elizabeth Copeland*

SC Association of Stormwater Managers

The SC Association of Stormwater Managers offers its members quarterly training on stormwater management policies and best practices. The SC Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors recognizes the quarterly training sessions for continuing education credits. *Staff Contact: Sara Whitaker*

SC Business Licensing Officials Association

The South Carolina Business Licensing Officials Association promotes best practices for administering and enforcing the local business license tax. Through rigorous training sessions, members learn skills and practices that make licensing in their cities and towns more efficient and business-friendly.

The professional designation programs of Accreditation in Business Licensing and Masters in Business Licensing reflects members' dedication to continuing education. *Staff Contact: Elizabeth Copeland*

SC Community Development Association

The South Carolina Community Development Association provides educational forums for its members to address economic and community development needs. Members include municipal, county, regional and state community development professionals; employees of private companies with an interest in community development; elected officials; and volunteers. *Staff Contact: Sara Whitaker*

SC Municipal Attorneys Association

The South Carolina Municipal Attorneys Association's annual meeting covers issues important to municipal attorneys, whether working as municipal staff or as a municipality's outside counsel. The Supreme Court of South Carolina Commission on CLE and Specialization approves this training session for continuing education credits. *Staff Contact: Eric Shytle*

SC Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association

The South Carolina Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association offers training programs covering the diverse responsibilities of its members. All of the training sessions qualify for a combination of continuing education credits for certified municipal clerks, certified public accountants and certified public treasurers. MFOCTA sponsors the Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute with the Municipal Association and the College of Charleston's Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities. *Staff Contact: Elizabeth Copeland*

SC Municipal Human Resources Association

The South Carolina Municipal Human Resources Association promotes sound human resources administration and encourages innovative programs. Through its training programs, MHRA provides information and the opportunity to exchange ideas among its members. The Society for Human Resources Management recognizes this training for continuing education credits. *Staff Contact: Sara Whitaker*

SC Utility Billing Association

The South Carolina Utility Billing Association provides training and networking opportunities for its members, including billing clerks, meter readers and department managers. SCUBA's meetings encompass a variety of topics focused on customer service, safety in the workplace, and new technologies to increase the efficiencies of utility billing and collections. *Staff Contact: Ken Ivey*

Training Institutes

Educational opportunities are available to municipal officials and staff through four training institutes.

SC Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government

The SC Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government trains elected officials to increase their understanding of local government operations. Elected officials take seven required courses to complete the institute. The required courses consist of two day-long sessions held each February in Columbia the day after Hometown Legislative Action Day and five additional classes, held yearly at designated councils of governments' locations or online through an on-demand format found on the Association's website. *Staff Contact: Urica Floyd*

SC Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government

Offered exclusively for graduates of the MEO Institute, the Advanced Institute gives elected officials the opportunity to continue their education. To complete the Advanced Institute, participants must take four of the six offered courses that explore in greater depth topics included in the MEO Institute and other topics critical for effective municipal operations. Advanced Institute graduates also have the opportunity to participate in the Advanced Continuing Education program. *Staff Contact: Urica Floyd*

Business Licensing Training Institute

The Business Licensing Training Institute educates municipal and county officials on the basics of administering a business licensing program. To complete the institute, officials must complete three day-long training classes, which are offered across three years. Once they complete the training classes, officials may take an exam to earn the Accreditation in Business Licensing credential. The SC Business Licensing Officials Association sponsors the institute. *Staff Contact: Elizabeth Copeland*

Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute

The Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute offers instruction in several areas, including forms of government, financial management, the role of the municipal clerk and business licensing. The Association sponsors MCTI in partnership with the SC Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association and the College of Charleston's Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities. *Staff Contact: Elizabeth Copeland*

Annual Meeting

Each summer, the Annual Meeting brings municipal officials together for training, networking and discussion of issues of common interest. Officials hear from state and nationally known speakers, participate in sessions, and learn about new technology and developments in local government. *Staff Contact: Ken Ivey*

Technical Assistance

Field Services

The Association's three field services managers travel the state to offer hands-on technical assistance, training and consultation to help municipalities address challenges. *Staff Contacts: Charlie Barrineau, Ashley Kellahan and Naomi Reed*

Main Street South Carolina

Main Street SC helps its members revitalize their downtowns into vibrant centers of commerce and community by using the National Main Street Center's Main Street Approach,TM which focuses on historic preservation and placemaking. Main Street SC provides member programs of varying levels of preparedness and resources with knowledge and tools to develop community-driven and comprehensive revitalization strategies. It provides on-site consultation and technical assistance to local programs that meet specific requirements. Quarterly workshops, networking sessions and on demand trainings also assist local Main Street programs in their efforts. At the startup level, members build capacity for downtown revitalization. At the Aspiring Main Street level, participants receive three years of technical assistance and then transition into a Classic Main Street program. Members at the highest level meet national accreditation standards. Each year, Main Street SC honors exceptional member accomplishments through its Inspiration Awards. *Staff Contact: Jenny Boulware*

Information Resources

The Association's print and online resources address hundreds of topics related to municipal government.

Publications

- *Annexation Handbook*
- *Comprehensive Planning Guide for Local Governments*
- *Election Handbook*
- *Forms and Powers of Municipal Government*
- *Handbook for Municipal Officials in South Carolina*
- *The Municipal Association of South Carolina 1930 – 2015: A History of Shared Voices, Shared Knowledge, Shared Solutions*
- *How to Conduct Effective Meeting*

- *Incorporation Handbook*
- *Model Employee Handbook for SC Municipalities*
- *Municipal Officials and Legislative Directory*
- *Public Official's Guide to Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act* (published by the SC Press Association)
- *Raising Hometown Voices to a New Level of Influence*, an advocacy guide
- *South Carolina Business Licensing Handbook*
- *Tips for Hometown Media Success*

Staff Contact: Eric Budds

Website

The Municipal Association's website, www.masc.sc, offers more than 2,000 pages and 2,000 documents, presentations and links to external resources. With a responsive design to fit the needs and formats of mobile and desktop devices, the site includes a powerful search engine and information center to help users navigate to specific resources of interest. *Staff Contact: Meredith Houck*

Uptown

The monthly newsletter in print and electronic formats features articles on a variety of topics important to municipal officials. Each issue's special section looks in depth at a topic central to local government.

A weekly e-newsletter, *Uptown Update*, informs municipal officials about a variety of timely opportunities, including meeting registrations, training events and grants. A regular feature, "In Case You Missed It," gives *Uptown Update* readers a second look at past articles and posts from the Association's publications. *Staff Contact: Russell Cox*

Daily News

Daily News provides links to news stories about the state's smallest rural towns to its largest cities. The articles highlight how local governments deliver services. *Staff Contact: Russell Cox*

The Uplift

The Uplift delivers a collection of news links every Wednesday showcasing South Carolina cities and towns at their best. *Staff Contact: Russell Cox*

Achievement Awards

The Achievement Awards recognize successful and innovative projects that improve the quality of life for residents and add value to communities. The program also encourages municipal officials to share ideas. *Staff Contact: Meredith Houck*

Solutions

Cities and towns face many of the same challenges and can find solutions by pooling resources and ideas through the Association.

Local Revenue Services

The Municipal Association works with cities and towns to improve efficiencies by offering centralized local revenue services for certain business license taxes and delinquent debts. The Association provides an online portal to participating cities in the insurance, brokers and telecommunications tax programs as well as the Setoff Debt Program, that allows them to securely access current and past program documents.

Brokers Tax Program

Insurance companies not licensed to directly sell policies in the state can provide coverage through South Carolina licensed brokers. Businesses pay the municipal brokers premium tax to the SC Department of Insurance., which then remits funds to the Association to distribute to cities and towns.

Staff Contacts: Caitlin Cothran, Kaylee Summerton

Insurance Tax Program

The Association receives municipal business license tax payments from insurance companies and distributes the taxes owed to municipalities. The Insurance Tax Program consolidates the licensing procedures for insurance companies, saving time and money for municipalities and companies alike. Participating municipalities adopt a standard ordinance for these taxes.

The Association notifies all insurance companies of the payment process, uses industry data to confirm all companies paid according to municipal ordinances, and provides a portal for the reporting and payment of the tax. *Staff Contacts: Fran Adcock, Caitlin Cothran, Anita Lancaster, Kaylee Summerton*

Local Business License Renewal Center

The Association developed a statewide online portal for business license renewals. The online portal is for renewals only. New business licenses will still be issued by the city or town. State law requires this system to be hosted by the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. To use this free software, municipalities must adopt the standard business license practices.

Staff Contacts: Fran Adcock, Caitlin Cothran

Setoff Debt Program

The SC Department of Revenue receives payments for delinquent debts, such as utility bills, taxes and court fines, by reducing state income tax refunds by the amount of the debt. The department forwards the debt payments it receives to the Association, which in turn forwards the amounts to the reporting municipality or claimant agency. The Association provides software to all participating entities to streamline their program administration and ensure compliance with state regulations. *Staff Contacts: Caitlin Cothran, Anita Lancaster*

Telecommunications Tax Program

The Association centralizes the business license tax due to municipalities from telecommunication companies. Each December, the Association sends a notice to all telecommunications companies for the municipalities participating in the program. By law, municipalities can assess this tax only on the voice portion of a phone bill. The system streamlines the payment process for telecommunications companies. It also saves cities and towns time and money by eliminating the need for each to perform the same processes. *Staff Contacts: Caitlin Cothran, Kaylee Summerton*

Risk Management Services

The two self-funded insurance programs administered by the Association's Risk Management Services staff are prime examples of strength and efficiency through the combined efforts of member cities. Each program operates under the direction of a board of trustees composed of representatives from its membership.

The SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund provides all lines of property and casualty coverage, including general liability, law enforcement liability, public officials' liability, cyber liability and property and automobile coverage.

The SC Municipal Insurance Trust, provides workers' compensation coverage for municipal employees.

RMS provides grants, attorney hotlines, employee training and loss control services to members. These services help members improve risk management efforts, prevent claims and reduce the cost of insurance. *Staff Contact: Heather Ricard*

Training

RMS members have access to online and in-person training at no charge.

- Customized, on-site training: RMS provides training for members in their hometowns, allowing city employees to attend sessions together.
- Online training: The online training opportunities include a variety of risk management, human resources, safety and law enforcement topics, including use of force and pursuit driving.
- Statewide and regional training: RMS offers members regional training sessions on topics such as law enforcement liability, OSHA training, risk management 101 and defensive driving.

- Risk Management Institute: RMI offers participants from SCMIT- and SCMIRF-member organizations specialized training in the role of risk manager and safety coordinator.
- *RiskLetter*: The quarterly e-newsletter provides information on a wide range of risk management topics.
- Law enforcement simulator: RMS offers members access to a law enforcement training simulator that allows officers to practice their decision-making skills and responses to resistance.

Loss Control/Technical Assistance

RMS helps its members build effective safety and loss control programs.

- Model policies and procedures manuals for law enforcement and fire services: SCMIT and SCMIRF members receive updated fire and law enforcement policies.
- One-on-one technical assistance visits: The loss control staff meet with member organizations to evaluate their safety and loss control programs.
- Legal hotlines: SCMIRF members can access up to 10 hours of free legal advice on each legal hotline for labor and liability issues.
- Education tools: SCMIRF members have access to cybersecurity services through the online tool, eRisk Hub, in addition to specialized toolkits, such as parks and recreation liability, public officials’ liability, sewer backups, special events liability and workers’ compensation.

Grants

The RMS grant program helps RMS members purchase products or equipment to reduce the frequency and severity of claims.

- SCMIRF awards the Law Enforcement Liability Reduction Grant Program grants to member law enforcement agencies to purchase stun guns or Tasers, Taser cameras, body cameras and other equipment.
- SCMIRF awards the Public Works Property and Liability Reduction Grant Program grants to member public works and utilities departments to purchase items to address the frequency and severity of claims, including back-up cameras, collision avoidance systems, concrete scarifiers, sewer cameras, meter locks and other equipment.
- SCMIT awards grants to member law enforcement, fire and public works departments to purchase work-zone safety equipment, soft body armor and other protective gear.

South Carolina Other Retirement Benefits Employer Trust

The South Carolina Other Retirement Benefits Employer Trust allows cities to set aside funds for nonpension benefits, such as retiree healthcare, as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Each member shares in the trust’s administrative- and investment- related expenses, lowering the overall cost of compliance for each local government. *Staff Contact: Heather Ricard*

Hometown Economic Development Grants

The Municipal Association’s Hometown Economic Development Grants provide cities and towns with funds to implement economic development projects that will have a positive effect on the quality of life in their communities. The Hometown Economic Development Grants are awarded annually. *Staff Contact: Scott Slatton*

Technology Services

The Association, in partnership with VC3, provides discounted technology services to cities and towns. VC3, an information technology company headquartered in Columbia, designs and hosts municipal websites; designs and implements computer networks; and provides security, disaster recovery, strategic technology planning and voice communication services. *Staff Contact: Jake Broom*

City Connect Market

City Connect Market, a cooperative purchasing partnership between the Municipal Association of SC and HGACBuy, allows South Carolina’s cities and towns to take advantage of volume discounts when purchasing everything from fire trucks to roll carts to professional services. The partnership improves pricing and can help eliminate the need for each municipality to handle all details of each competitive bid process. *Staff Contact: Jake Broom*

Staff

Executive

Todd Glover
Executive Director
Eric Budds
Deputy Executive Director
Jake Broom
Chief Operating Officer

Advocacy and Communications

Scott Slatton
Director of Advocacy and Communications
Joanna Ayers
Administrative Assistant
Russell Cox
Uptown Editor and Digital Production Manager
Casey Fields
Manager for Municipal Advocacy
Meredith Houck
Communications Manager
Joannie Nickel
Legislative and Public Policy Advocate
Erica Wright
Legislative and Public Policy Advocate

Education and Training

Kailin Bethel
Administrative Assistant
Jenny Boulware
Main Street SC Manager
Elizabeth Copeland
Staff Associate for Affiliate Services
Urica Floyd
Staff Associate for Training and Learning Solutions
Jonathan Irick
Staff Associate for Main Street SC
Ken Ivey
Manager of Member Services
Lea Ann Mitchell
Administrative Assistant
Christine Sumter
Administrative Assistant
Sara Whitaker
Staff Associate for Affiliate Services

Field Services

Charlie Barrineau
Field Services Manager
Ashley Kellahan
Field Services Manager
Naomi Reed
Field Services Manager

Finance

Stephanie O'Cain
Chief Financial Officer
Fay Barlow
Accounts Receivable Coordinator
Elizabeth Floyd
Financial Manager
Lynn Miller
Accounts Payable Coordinator
Jodi Pendris
Financial and Technology Specialist

Information Technology

Virginia Butler
Business Systems Analyst
Krystal Dailey
Information Technology Manager
Devon Davis
Information Technology Support Specialist

Legal

Eric Shytle
General Counsel

Local Revenue Services

Caitlin Cothran
Manager for Local Revenue Services
Fran Adcock
Revenue Analyst
Anita Lancaster
Revenue Analyst
Kaylee Summerton
Revenue Analyst

Operations

Summer Randall
Operations Manager
Vernessa Pendergrass
Receptionist

Risk Management Services

Heather Ricard
Director of Risk Management Services
Krystal Bailey
Senior SCMIRF Claims Adjuster
Danielle Baker
Accountant for Risk Management Services
John Ciesielski
Loss Control Consultant
Robert Collins
Underwriting Manager
Tchnavia Davis
SCMIRF Claims Adjuster
Tony DesChamps
SCMIT Claims Manager
Amy Gillian
Administrative Assistant
Joy Gloster
Data and Training Analyst
Jennifer Gray
Financial Manager for RMS
Mike Hainley
Senior SCMIT Claims Adjuster
Sharon Henry
Senior SCMIT Claims Adjuster
Brenda Kegler
SCMIT Associate Claims Adjuster
Stacy Lee
Senior SCMIRF Claims Adjuster
Amy Lindler
Technology Operations Manager
Bethany Pendley
Loss Control Manager
Kayde Niemira
Loss Control Coordinator
Judy Phillips
Senior Claims Adjuster
Christopher Radcliff
Public Safety Loss Control Consultant
Harriett Robinson
Senior SCMIT Claims Adjuster
Chassidy Sistrunk
Senior Underwriter
Johnna Smith
Senior SCMIRF Claims Adjuster
Sharon Turner
Underwriter
Mike Waslewski
SCMIRF Claims Manager
Rem Williams
Senior SCMIRF Claims Adjuster
Mike Woodall
Senior SCMIT Claims Adjuster

Pillars of Civility

Concentrate on what you have in common, not what separates you.

Be as eager to listen as to speak.

Your time is valuable. So is everyone else's. Respect it.

Act as you would expect someone to act in your home.

Concentrate on facts, not theories.

Ask questions to learn. Answer questions with respect.

Make your point about the issue, not the person.

Make your case on merits, not on what people want to hear.

Ask "what will persuade people in this room?" not "what will make a great tweet?"

Civility. Respect. Solutions.



Municipal Association
of South Carolina

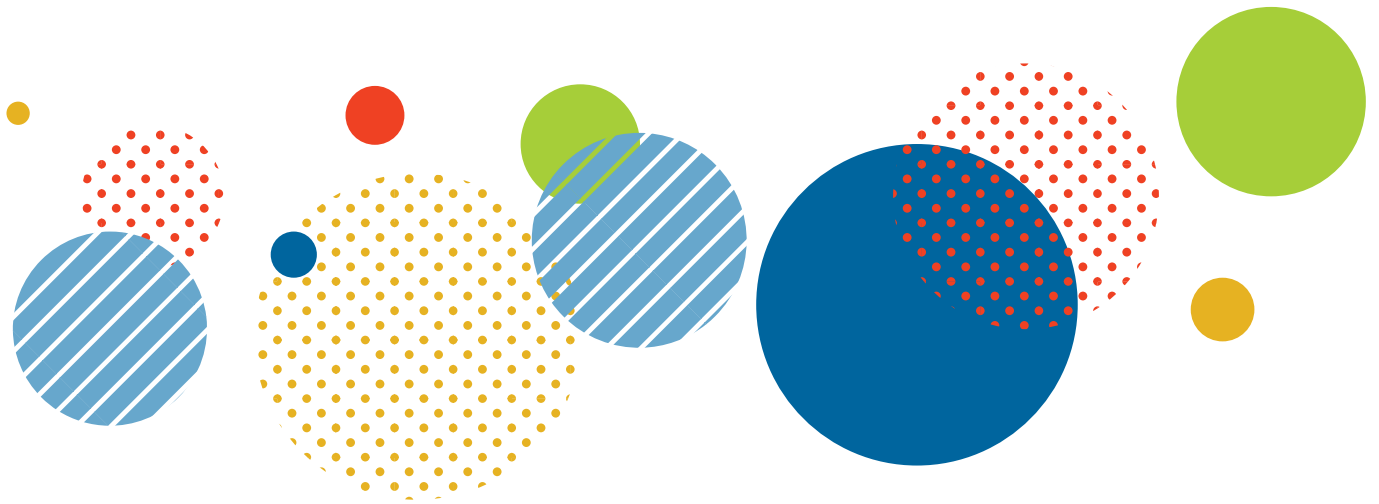
www.masc.sc



Municipal Association
of South Carolina™

2023

Achievement Awards
Main Street Inspiration Awards



2023 Achievement Awards

Started in 1986, the Achievement Awards program gives cities and towns deserved recognition for superior and innovative efforts in local government. The program also provides a forum for sharing the best public service ideas in South Carolina.

This year, 26 municipalities entered the Achievement Awards program. Videos highlighting this year's winners are available on the Association's website at www.masc.sc (keyword: achievement).

Population 1 – 1,000: Town of West Pelzer

Rural Renewal – Our Town, Our Vision, Our Future

The Town of West Pelzer aimed to reverse the decline of its downtown Frankville Business District and transform it into a vibrant commercial space that could serve its growing population. Through an intensive research and development process, it created a new Rural Renewal Master Plan that seeks to reinvigorate commerce, reinvent existing spaces and encourage intentional growth.

Using consultants, the town embarked on a wide-ranging, inclusive project to draft the plan. More than 30% of the town's residents gave their input, explaining their desire to embrace the rural character of their community and its history while still created vibrant places for people to gather and do business, and to promote safety, walkability and connectivity. The town conducted virtual steering committee meetings and workshops to allow the widest possible participation among residents and business owners.

Staff from the town and collaborating staff from Anderson County collectively spent 250 hours developing the plan. West Pelzer funded the project by using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

As the town implements the plan's recommendations, it has obtained more than \$75,000 in grant funds for action items like the expansion of Chapman Park and the creation of a free coworking space for residence. The plan will guide the town's use of its allocated American Rescue Plan funds, including such projects as passive parks, new downtown public spaces, landscaping and on-street parking. Already, a downtown that was once completely empty of active businesses has achieved a 95% business occupancy rate.

Contact Mayor Blake Sanders at bsanders@westpelzer.com or 864.617.0347.

Population 1,001 – 5,000: Town of Chapin

Chapin Art Trail

The Town of Chapin is growing, buoyed by its small-town character and access to Lake Murray. Because of its relatively recent development, however, the town has struggled to establish an identity as a destination with its own recreation, dining and shopping opportunities. The town therefore partnered with the Crooked Creek Art League, a nonprofit group with more than 100 artists, to establish “The Arts Sail Into Chapin,” a trail of installations highlighting the area’s arts scene and its lakefront communities.

The effort kicked off at the 2019 Chapin Labor Day Festival with 13 aluminum sailboat displays, creatively painted and embellished by local artists. The project also features the Town of Chapin Nature Park, developed by the South Carolina Wildlife Foundation. This 17-acre park and designated wildlife sanctuary surrounds Chapin Town Hall and includes a pollinator garden and a walking trail with artistic trail markers.

Funding support for the projects came from the Greater Chapin Community Foundation, event sponsorships and private donations, along with grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the South Carolina Arts Commission, Dominion Energy and the SC Wildlife Association. Many of the same partners have come together to commission a community mural to highlight Chapin’s history and landmarks. The current and future efforts of the project are creating a stronger sense of place, community and purpose in Chapin.

Contact Nicholle Burroughs at nburroughs@chapin-sc.com or 803.575.8039.

Population 5,001 – 10,000: Town of Cheraw

Cameras on Patrol

Seeking to address cases of property theft while maximizing limited police officer staffing, the Town of Cheraw installed a network of cameras capable of reading license plate numbers automatically. This cost-effective solution uses strategically placed cameras that operate continuously. The system is also connected to the National Crime Information Center, alerting the department when it detects wanted vehicles. The system allows police to review vehicles traveling around the time of a reported crime, potentially narrowing the list of suspects.

The initial 24 cameras received funding from the town’s general fund, with each camera leased for \$2,000 annually, adding up to less than the cost of one additional patrol officer. Police first tested them in an area that receives support from a Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Program, where an initially high property crime rate soon dropped by 60%. In two years of operation, the program has helped find three missing individuals, recover 34 stolen vehicles, notify nearby agencies of another 33 stolen vehicles, and recover 27 stolen license plates. The town also used an information campaign to explain the cameras’ purpose to residents and warn potential criminals about them.


The town plans to expand the system to 48 cameras, allowing for coverage of not only the major entry points to the town but also the gateways to individual neighborhoods.

Contact Rob Wolfe at rwolfe@cheraw.com or 843.537.7283.

Population 10,001 – 20,000: City of Cayce

Cayce River Arts District Development

For years, Cayce pushed to find a way to build revitalization energy in its original central business district, a place of derelict and underutilized buildings suffering from crime and depressed property values. The city achieved redevelopment traction using “previtalization,” a concept introduced to the



city by the Mayors' Institute of City Design, to highlight the district's potential. The installation of a downtown trailhead for the city's Riverwalk helped as well.

The redevelopment effort included strategic public art installations, with the city helping to initiate the Cayce Arts Guild. Projects included murals, sculptures, a city-owned Art Lot with a stage, and window wraps to help people see what the district could become with new activity. The city also updated zoning, and in 2017 it created the "Soiree on State" street party, which asked property owners to clean out their buildings so they could host artists. The success of the first Soiree led to the first of new businesses opening in spaces that had stood vacant.

Grants obtained by the city helped with many aspects of the redevelopment, providing for the development of the Art Lot, a district brand identity created by a local business owner, the costs of some of the art installations, as well as decorative storm drains, artistic benches and bike racks. The city partnered with its neighbor, West Columbia, to create wayfinding signage for the area's attractions, including the River Arts District.

After its first seven years, the ongoing project has led to increased commercial activity, property values and safety.

Contact Tracy Hegler at thehglr@caycesc.gov or 803.550.9522.

Communications: City of Goose Creek

Central Creek Park

Now one of the largest municipalities in the state, Goose Creek wanted to establish an all-abilities playground for its growing population. The city built Central Creek in partnership with sponsoring businesses, but it still needed to spread the word about the new amenity. It launched a wide-ranging communication campaign, collaborating with local news media and utilizing social media to build hype about the park.

Communication-focused staff, including a newly hired digital marketing specialist, told the park's story effectively. The push began well before the park's opening, with photos and social-media-friendly video snippets illustrating the construction process, both from the ground and from the air using drones, catching attention by playing into resident's curiosity about something new and different in their community. The city also modified its existing "Goose Creek Rising" communication campaign into a "We All Rise" campaign, emphasizing the inclusive nature of the park. After a heavily attended opening ceremony, the city continued to use marketing tactics like humorous internet memes, onsite video interviews and even engaging with social media influencers for outreach.

The marketing efforts ultimately reached hundreds of thousands of people across the Lowcountry. With in-house marketing meaning that much of the cost was folding into existing staffing, the marketing push also paid off through strong donor support for the park. Private donations exceeded \$1.3 million, including leadership gifts, naming opportunities and other campaigns.

Contact Frank Johnson at fjohnson@cityofgoosecreek.com or 843.797.6220.

Economic Development: City of Simpsonville

Joseph P. Riley Jr. Award

Simpsonville Arts Center

Simpsonville Elementary School, built in 1939, stood empty in Simpsonville's downtown for nearly two decades after its closure in 2002. After the city bought it and spent years assembling funding, the building emerged as the Simpsonville Arts Center, where valuable facilities and strong arts programming have bolstered the community's growing economy and cultural scene substantially.

Renovations included an upgraded auditorium with new plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems, as well as lighting and sound systems. A \$500,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission jumpstarted the project, which also received funding from hospitality

and accommodations taxes, fundraisers and even a \$75,000 contribution from a donor who bought a winning lottery ticket in Simpsonville.

The center opened in 2022 and now has a full-time manager overseeing the space, which rents five studio spaces to artists and offers such programming as art classes and exhibitions. The city partners with local theater companies to offer performing arts opportunities to the community. Guest performances have included the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and the Cornerstone Ballet.

The crowds of downtown visitors made possible through the center are bringing new commercial activity to Simpsonville, with a calculated annual economic impact of \$991,305. The Arts Center has become an important early step in ongoing downtown revitalization drive, where the city is building a new municipal complex and pursuing streetscaping, traffic improvements, trail extensions and beautification projects.

Contact Dianna Gracely at dianna@simpsonville.com or 864.967.5404.

Public Service: Town of Bluffton

Bluffton's Neighborhood Assistance Program: Keeping Blufftonians in their homes, halting the housing crisis – one repair at a time

Bluffton wanted to promote housing affordability in the face of strong population growth and development while also halting the deterioration of older neighborhoods, especially those outside of its planned-unit developments. It also wanted to retain residents whose families have lived in the area for generations — including its Gullah descendants — who have all contributed to the town's character. Finally, the town aimed to reduce the pollution coming from a lack of planned infrastructure, such as from septic tanks.

To achieve these goals, the town established the Neighborhood Assistance Program in 2016, which helps with repairs, hazard cleanup, private road repair, tree removals and septic cleanout. The program also helps establish residential street addresses to guide emergency services and provides heirs' property title assistance.

The program is available to residents based on income requirements and requires no funding from the residents to participate. It seeks out applications from residents through simple word of mouth as well as service programs, churches, schools and police to identify residents in need. When planning projects, the town's community development coordinator and a building code inspector evaluate how to help. There is a \$20,000 limit of town funds for each project, which can be supplemented by nonprofit groups.

Since 2016, the number of residents helped has grown substantially. In the 2022 fiscal year, the program served 54 residents using a budget of \$222,862. As the program grows and costs increase, the program anticipates a \$290,000 budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

Contact Debbie Szpanka at dszpanka@townofbluffton.com or 843.540.2274.

Other Entries

City of Aiken Aiken Business Coalition Entrepreneurship Program

After the City of Aiken named supporting local entrepreneurs as a goal in its 2021 Strategic Economic Development Action Plan, city officials along with area partners created the Aiken Business Coalition Entrepreneurship Program. Offering business training and as well as access to funding for those who complete the program, the initiative ensures diversity with an emphasis on participation of minority and women-owned businesses.

The city's partners for the program include the Aiken Business Coalition, Aiken County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Augusta Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Aiken County Branch of the NAACP. During the planning process, these collaborating groups hosted meetings with community members and stakeholders to develop training sessions.

The program has now trained 75 local business owners and entrepreneurs, with businesses reporting new equipment purchased, strengthened marketing and updated websites. Primary funding for the program came from a \$400,000 American Rescue Plan Act allocation and in-kind contributions by local businesses and professionals.

Contact Stuart Bedenbaugh at sbedenbaugh@cityofaikensc.gov or 803.642.6754.

City of Barnwell Fuller Park Improvement Project

Like many rural communities, Barnwell lacked amenities for residents and visitors until city council decided to enhance one of its largest green-spaces, Fuller Park. On the city's list of 1-cent sales tax projects, the Fuller Park Improvement Project added a new splash pad, playground, public restrooms, and more parking to encour-

age park usage. Barnwell County First Steps and the Barnwell County Library collaborated to install a permanent "story walk" around the park's walking track to encourage reading.

Planning began in 2015 with a capital project sales tax referendum and the council's commitment to upgrade its offerings to children, the residential community and visitors. Staff held meetings with community stakeholders. Multiple community groups came together to realize the project, including Barnwell County, Dominion Energy and others.

Funding came through the capital project sales tax, the state Park and Recreation Development Fund, local hospitality taxes and American Rescue Plan Act funds. The improved park has increased its usage, attracting young families and visitors to the region. Recent additions include free Wi-Fi and security cameras.

Contact Lynn McEwen at ismcewen@cityofbarnwell.com or 803.259.3266.

City of Charleston BRIDGE Academy

With the hiring of a process improvement director in 2006, the City of Charleston aimed to address the lack of data analytics, support employee development and encourage a culture that embraced change. It launched the BRIDGE Academy, or Building Resilient Innovative Data-driven Government Employees Academy, in 2021.

Inspired by a similar program in Denver, Colorado, city officials worked with consultants to develop a curriculum, making use of an existing professional services contract. While consultants provided the training initially, the program's success with its first three sets of graduates led the city to transition BRIDGE Academy to an employee-led model.

The program has helped employees find ways to improve city operations and work across departments. One of

its first participants found a process improvement to save about 40 work hours per week and \$60,000 in costs each year.

So far, 93% of the city's departments have been represented in the program cohorts. The program's future goals include expanding it to other departments and municipalities for paid participation in order to be financially self-supported.

Contact Tracy McKee at mckee@charleston-sc.gov or 843.834.4658.

City of Conway City of Halloween

Aiming to expand upon and improve its schedule of events, the City of Conway noted that many of its fall events were similar to those found in other communities. City Administrator Adam Emrick invited relevant departments to develop exciting ways to incorporate a Halloween holiday theme into seasonal celebrations while standing out from other cities and towns.

In September 2022, the mayor of Conway announced that it would change its name to Halloween, South Carolina for the month of October. Coupled with a lively events calendar, the name change added to Conway's reputation of extensively decorating for the holiday. The project aimed to increase spending in the downtown area as well as the city's social media and online visibility. Schools, churches, the Chamber of Commerce, Conway Downtown Alive, and other organizations came together to realize the project. Funding for events and decor came from hospitality taxes.

The name change caught media attention from statewide and national outlets. It led to increased downtown foot traffic and greater restaurant revenue, and the city now plans to make the name change a regular feature each fall.

Contact John Rogers at jrogers@cityofconway.com or 843.248.1760.

Town of Edisto Beach

Wastewater Treatment Plant Pump Station B and Pump Station A Construction and Repair

Edisto Beach undertook a multi-phase project to repair its sewer system, including its wastewater treatment plant, and increase efficiency. In need of updating, the system's six-inch force main was insufficient for the high volumes of water flow it was receiving, which posed sanitation and environmental problems.

Town officials, staff and professionals devised a plan to address the problem, resulting in council approving a temporary moratorium on new connections to the system to grant it time for study and evaluation, and to facilitate repairs. The project used funds from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority and a local match by the Town of Edisto Beach, which allowed for the project's first phase — new construction and repair at Lift Station B.

Once both pump stations have been upgraded, the town will lift the connection moratorium. System upgrades will make sure the town is operating a safe and efficient system that is compliant with all standards and codes.

Contact Mark Aakhus at maakhus@townofedistobeach.com or 843.869.2505.

City of Greenwood

Retail Recruitment and Retention Program

Seeking to understand its business environment and attract new retailers, the City of Greenwood established a Retail Recruitment and Retention Program to identify, record, and market available commercial properties to potential tenants. The program used consultants to handle property inventory, assessment and marketing strategy, and the city also took advantage of the Municipal Association of SC's Retail Recruitment and Training Program, which allowed staffers to further their knowledge of the retail recruitment process.

The city established the program through the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, and has since built it into Greenwood's Economic Development general budget. City officials attended the International Council of Shopping Centers trade show and made valuable connections to retailers, developers and other professionals.

In its analysis, the city discovered that there were actually not as many available development properties as originally thought, with many already in some stage of development. The effort has therefore evolved into establishing priority development zones with development incentives, such as the corridor between Uptown Greenwood and Lander University.

Contact Lara Hudson at lara.hudson@gwdcity.com or 864.942.8448.

Town of Hilton Head Island

Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade

Looking for creative ways to incorporate the Town of Hilton Head Island's values of protecting its environment, respecting its cultural heritage and supporting its family-friendly atmosphere, city officials created the Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade. An annual, free community-engagement event, the parade brings together demographically diverse community members to celebrate the island, its people and its ecology through special-made lanterns.

The town's Office of Cultural Affairs enlisted the local Arts Council to garner participation from diverse community organizations as its partners to help in the planning, marketing, and operating of the event. The parade has become a popular tradition, and the 2022 event saw participation from 1,000 community members marching past 4,000 spectators.

The parade is supported by town funds, grants, corporate sponsorships, in-kind donations and nonprofit partnerships. To help participants with costs, the town donates lantern-making supplies to schools and

organizations. The Breeze, the local transit provider, donates trolley shuttles to bring participants from the town-owned parking lots, and town's operating fund supports the fees of professional artists for the larger lanterns.

Contact Natalie Harvey at natalieh@hiltonheadislandsc.gov or 843.341.4703.

Town of Hollywood

Serenity Park Safety Improvements

The Town of Hollywood needed to repave and repair Trexler Avenue, its primary access road. In doing so, it also took the opportunity to improve the park and memorial gardens located on the street, now named "Serenity Park" in honor of the nine victims of the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church shooting.

The mayor and the town council worked together on a plan to pave the roadway. The SC Department of Transportation provided the necessary roadway engineering and analysis of the plans to expand the new road to SC Highway 162, while the Charleston County Public Works provided construction oversight and helped with preventing the unnecessary loss of trees in the project area.

Funding for the project was achieved through state road tax funds, county road tax funds, and the Town of Hollywood. Future plans for the area include roadside landscaping and accessible restrooms for the park.

Contact Roy DeHaven at planner@townofhollywood.org or 843.834.5924.

Town of James Island

Pet Waste Station Program

Aimed at preventing the disposal of pet waste in unapproved receptacles, on the ground or in draining ditches where contamination can filter into area water systems, the Town of James Island Pet Waste Station Program provides pet waste stations that are cleaned and supplied by the James Island Public Service District on their regular weekly collection route. Local volunteers from area high schools

and the Boy Scouts help to install and manage the stations.

Before the program began in 2019, James Island Creek was designated as a impaired water body impaired by the total maximum daily load of pollutants entering it under the U.S. Clean Water Act. Now it shows very little to no canine fecal bacteria. As of 2022, a record of 12.5 tons of pet waste was removed from the environment, four times the tonnage removed in the program's first year.

Funding for the original eight-station pilot program cost \$4,832. After the success of the pilot program, town council approved funding additional stations at \$604 per station for setup and implementation. James Island currently enjoys 14 pet waste stations.

Contact Mark Johnson at mjohnson@jamesislandsc.us or 843.795.4141.

Town of Lexington Community Engagement Project

Realizing that it needed to rethink how it engaged with its residents, Lexington Town Council took on an initiative to grow its social media presence, especially on Facebook. Through interactive social media content, the town aimed to connect with the community using content that was less formal and more social than conventional governmental communication, allowing for greater interactions with its constituents. The town also worked to organically grow its social audience through constant monitoring and responding to comments, messages, and other forms of engagement.

Since initiating this strategy in 2019, the Town of Lexington's Facebook audience has grown to 25,868 users — a 267% increase, and a total number of followers greater than the town's entire population.

The project is fully funded through the town's budget for staffing and operations, with 50% coming from the general fund and 50% coming from the enterprise fund. The town's communications manager and marketing assistant spearhead this initiative.

Contact Laurin Barnes at lbarnes@lexsc.com or 803.600.2533.

City of Manning An "IT" Renaissance in Downtown Manning

The City of Manning partnered with the IT outsourcing company Provalus as well as Clarendon County and the state of South Carolina to renovate a historic storefront building into a space that Provalus could use and serve as an anchor for revitalizing the downtown. Built in 1919, this two-story, 30,000-square-foot facility locally known as the "Old Belk Building" served as the first department store in Manning and housed the first elevator in the area.

In 2015, the city purchased the building for \$350,000. This correlated with the city's emphasis on marketing other community assets to retailers and developers, which eventually led Provalus to reach out to the City of Manning for a partnership.

Funding for the \$1.5 million project was through Clarendon County Business Development Corporation, Clarendon County, the State of South Carolina, and the City of Manning. Provalus has estimated that it will expand its workforce to approximately 300 over the next two years, and the city plans to continue an aggressive approach to economic and downtown development.

Contact Scott Tanner at stanner@cityofmanning.org or 803.825.9008.

Town of Mount Pleasant The Mount Pleasant Youth Council

The concept of a Mount Pleasant Youth Council stemmed from the town's Recreation Department, which wanted to engage teens not involved in athletics or other programs. Implemented in 202, the Youth Council allows students to participate in various leadership and civic roles, and is available to current high school students, including homeschooled students.

Successful applicants serve a one-year term of monthly meetings and quarterly service projects. Youth Council members attend at least one town council meeting, and act as

liaisons between their schools and the Youth Council. The program participates in communitywide events and projects, including partnering with local and national nonprofit organizations for awareness campaigns on issues like substance abuse, sexual abuse and human trafficking.

The Youth Council receives \$1,000 in annual funding from the town's general fund public relations line item. Print and marketing items make up less than half of the budget, and students have initiated their own fundraising campaigns as well. The town hopes to grow the program with new projects annually and to continue to foster engagement with its youth.

Contact Martine Miller at mwolfe@tompsc.com or 843.270.0457.

City of Myrtle Beach Arts & Innovation District – 9th Avenue City Block Rehabilitation

With older buildings, unoccupied storefronts, and rent increases, Myrtle Beach's historic downtown needed restoration. As part of the city's 2019 Downtown Master Plan, the city established the area as the Arts & Innovation Zoning District, seeking to create a pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use cultural area in the downtown. The Ninth Avenue block at the heart of this district received a wide-ranging redevelopment as an early step in this plan, aimed at supporting entrepreneurship.

Public meetings taking place over several years allowed for residents and businesses to show their support for the project. The city installed underground infrastructure, reinvigorated a public plaza and improved parking. Private investment followed, including the HTC Aspire Hub coworking space, and now a performing arts center and new library are planned.

The project was funded primarily through bonds, but the city also collaborated with developers to capitalize on the Historic and Abandoned Building tax credits, amounting to \$715,561. Additional bonds were generated from tax increment finance

revenue, parking fees, the general fund and Santee Cooper franchise fees. More than \$80 million in funds have been spent or are allocated to block improvements.

Contact Devin Parks at dparks@cityofmyrtlebeach.com or 843.918.1055.

City of North Augusta Public Power Hour

In June 2021, North Augusta's Mayor Briton Williams and city council created the Public Power Hour, is a monthly event. An opportunity for residents to engage with city leaders without the pressures of an official meeting, Public Power Hours precede council meetings and allow residents and business owners to address the mayor and council about their concerns in a less formal way. No city staff members are in attendance, which can facilitate more direct dialogue between participants and elected officials.

The city's original community member attendance goals for these sessions have been exceeded, with 28 speakers in 2022. Councilmembers and city staff now regularly encourage residents to attend the sessions to discuss issues. Many topics discussed like pedestrian safety and even the city's tow truck ordinance, have received attention and action from council.

No additional funding is required for the meetings, as the city uses its existing staff to notify the public of the events, document the session and manage video livestreaming. The Public Power Hours will continue to be free, monthly events.

Contact Rachelle Moody at rmoody@northaugustasc.gov or 803.441.4202.

Town of Patrick Town of Patrick Litter Crew

In Patrick, U.S. Highway 1 and SC Highway 102 were suffering from a growing litter problem — visible to all travelers and highlighted in the local media. To address the problem, the

Town of Patrick launched its Litter Removal Crew in 2022, a program coordinated by Mayor Rosa Lee Millsaps Privette.

The litter crew provides weekly litter removal services along these trafficked routes. In eight months, the team picked up trash for five hours each Saturday, with each crew member paid \$14 per hour. Mayor Privette provided all coordination efforts, documentation, and monthly recording as an in-kind donation. The efforts resulted in the collection of 510 bags of litter adding up 10,200 pounds and removed from 85 miles of highway.

The litter crew was entirely funded through a \$12,000 grant from South Carolina Palmetto Pride, and so the town has applied for another round of funding for its 2023 efforts.

Contact Rosa Lee Millsaps Privette at mayor.privette@townofpatrick.com or 843.680.0480.

Town of Six Mile Bryson Children's Nature Walk

In 2003, Six Mile resident Conrad Ardell Bryson bequeathed more than 63 acres to the town for the benefit of economically challenged children. This land features scenic greenspace, a pond and a wetlands area, and so the gift could fit into the town's goal, stated in the comprehensive plan, of protecting greenspace.

To establish a children's nature walk on the property, town officials worked closely with Bryson's estate representatives as well as the local land trust Upstate Forever. The efforts protect the land in perpetuity through a Conservation Easement, which would not only maintain the land's pristine features but also fulfill the terms of the will.

The project received \$8,000 in closing costs from the Upstate Land Conservation Fund, as well as Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. The town continues to work with Bryson's estate and accepts private donations from residents and businesses to maintain the facility. The property will also feature an outdoor learning area

and garden for students of Six Mile Elementary School.

Contact James Atkinson at jatkinsonfs@hotmail.com or 864.207.8854.

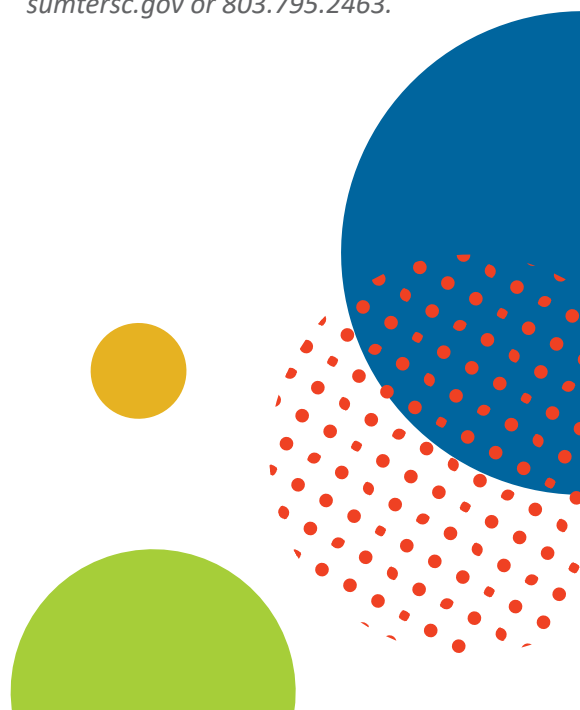
City of Sumter Emerging Leaders

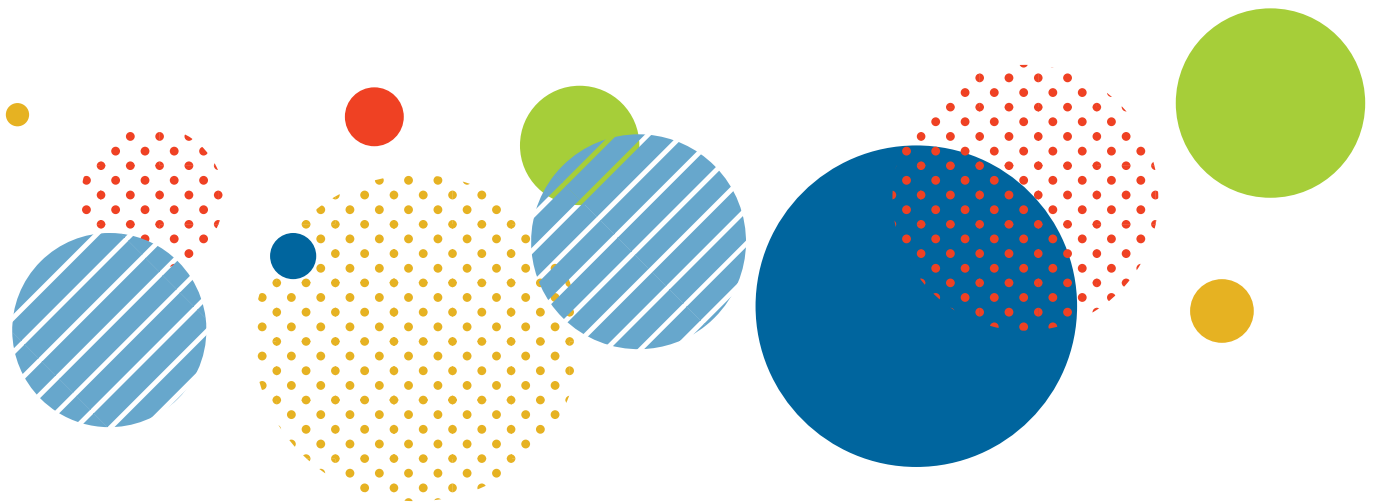
To grow its future workforce and prepare local youth for real-world experiences, the City of Sumter created the Ross McKenzie Emerging Leaders Program for high school juniors. The initiative emerged from a community education summit in 2016 aimed at tapping into different cross-sections of the community on ways to further improve the Sumter community.

Using the expertise of several community partners and the Sumter School District, the program offers monthly interactive modules designed to develop students' leadership skills through critical thinking, team building and creative problem solving. All students who successfully complete the program receive three credit hours through the University of South Carolina Sumter. The first four years of the program produced 89 graduates, who often sit on various local boards and committees.

Funding for the project came from The LINK Economic Development Alliance, City of Sumter, Sumter County and the Sumter Economic Development Growth Engine, and the SC Department of Commerce.

Contact Shelley Kile at skile@sumtersc.gov or 803.795.2463.





Main Street South Carolina Inspiration Awards

Main Street South Carolina empowers residents, business owners and local officials with the knowledge, skills, tools and organizational structure necessary to revitalize downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts into vibrant centers of commerce and community.

Main Street South Carolina is a service of the Municipal Association of SC and is accredited by the National Main Street Center. The program follows National Main Street's Four Point Approach — economic vitality, design, promotion and organization. Each year, Main Street South Carolina recognizes members' achievements and successes in downtown revitalization.

Excellence on Main Street Award **Gaines Jontz Rehabilitation Award** **Main Street Laurens – Bailey Building, Gary and Apryl Bailey**

The historic courthouse square in Laurens — the site of concerted revitalization efforts by the City of Laurens and Main Street Laurens — is home to the Bailey Building, a prominent structure dating to 1907 and once known as the Palmetto Bank Building. Its upper floors became vacant in the 1970s, and had grown dilapidated.

In 2020, Gary and Apryl Bailey bought the building to provide a new home for their expanding accounting firm, ultimately renovating it through a \$2.5 million investment, made possible thanks to historic tax credits, a designation under the tax-freezing Bailey Bill — named for an unrelated lawmaker — and abandoned buildings credits. Between rising construction costs and a wider project scope, renovation costs far exceeded the Baileys' original \$500,000 renovation budget, and so they pursued additional loans to make the project work.

The Baileys underwent two years of meticulous work in partnership with the city, Main Street Laurens, the SC State Historic Preservation Office, Greenway Construction and In-Site Designs. The building now has two street-level storefronts, and Love Bailey CPAs on the second floor. Its top floor, once a Masonic hall, now houses the Palmetto Room, an event space overlooking the courthouse. The building now has historically appropriate fixtures, a display of hand-lettered office doors from its past and a mural celebrating its former role as a bank.

The Bailey Building now stands as a testament to the power of public-private partnerships in preserving iconic community structures.

Contact mainstreetlaurens@gmail.com or 864.984.2119.

Inspiration Awards

Outstanding Partnership Downtown Florence – Francis Marion University Kelley Center for Economic Development

The Florence Downtown Development Corporation's North Dargan Innovation Center, a startup incubator space, struggled to gain traction with entrepreneurs. Aiming to make it more sustainable and effective, the Downtown Florence Main Street program partnered with Francis Marion University to advance the center's mission.

FDDC provided a physical space, a renovated downtown storefront, while the university provided personnel including an executive director, grant-funded training programs, on-site mentorship with professionals and other support services. With its new support, the center grew into the multi-campus Kelley Center for Economic Development. The Main Street program subsidizes rent for Kelley Center graduates for up to two years for businesses in the program area.

In its new form, the Kelley Center has helped bring about several new small businesses in downtown Florence, ranging from a dance studio to food service businesses and a marketing agency. It played an instrumental role in supporting Florence's downtown grocery store, which has eliminated a food desert.

Contact Hannah Davis at hdavis@cityofflorence.com or 843.678.5912.

Outstanding Promotion Downtown Florence – Downtown Florence Restaurant Week 2022

Seeking to establish itself as a dining and entertainment destination, Downtown Florence established its Restaurant Week in 2018. After a two-year break as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it returned in 2022 and was timed to coincide with another successful event: Tap into Downtown, a retail-focused brew crawl.

The event brought together 11 of the district's 14 restaurants and enjoyed promotional and coordination support from Downtown Florence's advisory board as well as the SC Restaurant and Lodging Association. A \$10,000 budget for the event came from the revenue of other events as well as the district's hospitality tax allocation. Promotions shifted from Florence's typical focus on the Myrtle Beach region to the Columbia designated market area because of its greater focus on independent restaurants.

Thanks to improved data collection, Downtown Florence tracked 20% higher foot traffic in the district compared to 2021 as well as increased restaurant sales during an ordinarily slow in mid-September.

Contact Hannah Davis at hdavis@cityofflorence.com or 843.678.5912.

Master Merchant Downtown Sumter – Jay Davis

The owner of Coldwell Banker Commercial Cornerstone Realty, Jay Davis has been recruiting businesses to downtown Sumter and renovating storefronts since 2008.

He has helped bring in businesses to several properties he owns throughout the downtown, including a fine men's clothing store, brought in from Charleston, as well as a high-end women's clothing boutique, and interior design firm and a fitness center. He has used his real estate expertise to help draw in businesses to locations beyond his properties as well, including a gift shop, an architectural and engineering firm, a barber shop, another real estate agency and a brewery.

Davis also participates in Downtown Sumter promotions, like the Sip and Stroll event which benefits Sumter Senior Services. He has made himself a major player in the revitalization of a downtown district that is increasingly stocked with small businesses.

Contact Leigh Newman at lnewman@sumtersc.gov or 803.436.2635.

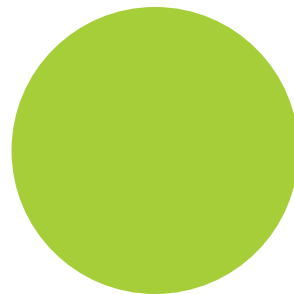
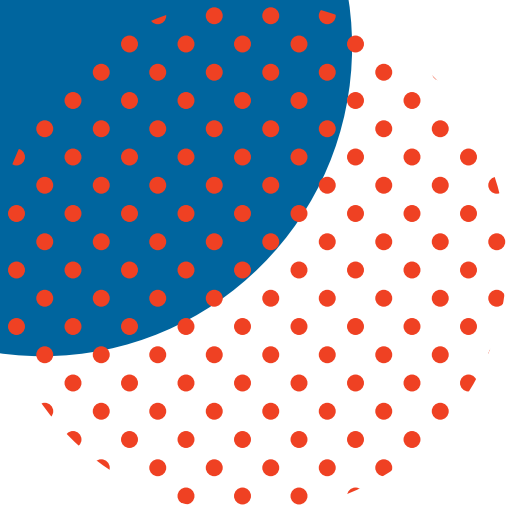
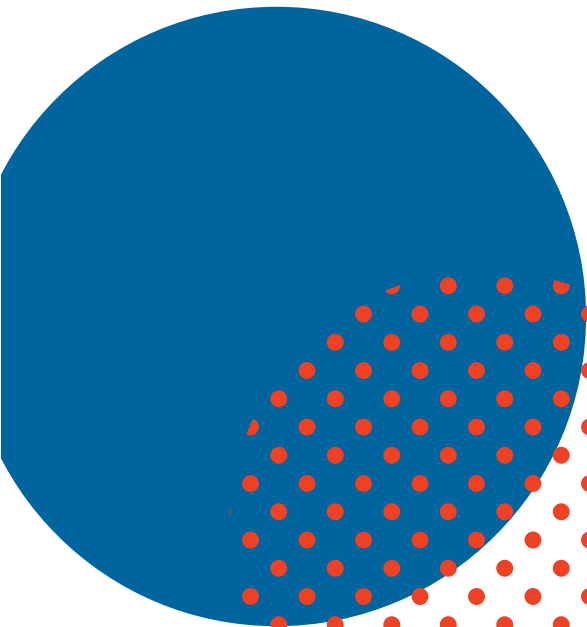
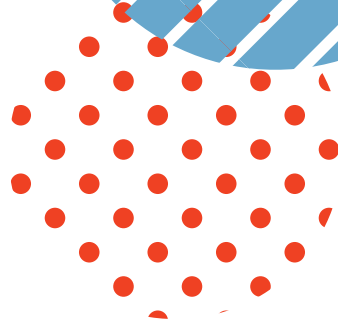
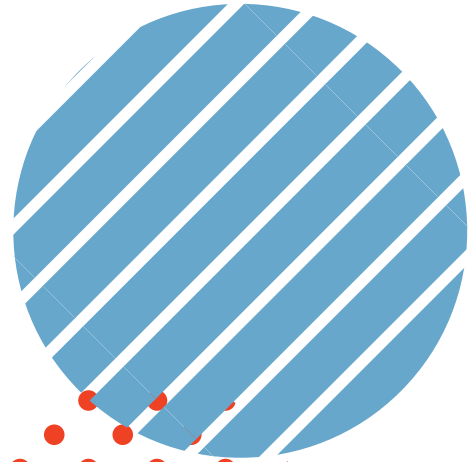
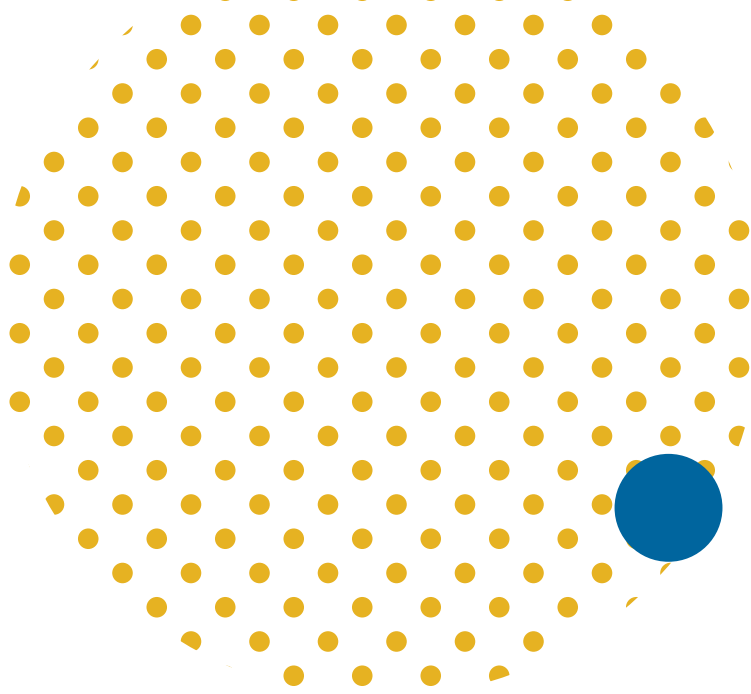
Outstanding Business Development Program Uptown Greenwood – Uptown Greenwood ARPA Grant Program

Aiming to encourage exterior improvements of commercial properties and improve the overall vibrancy of the community's business districts, the City of Greenwood partnered with Uptown Greenwood to provide both façade grants and digital marketing grants, all using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The program offered 10 competitive façade grants of \$5,000 each, evaluated according to the potential for increasing property values, the potential for finding new uses for vacant buildings; reducing blight; the track record of businesses; the impact on the neighborhood; a signed lease from a viable tenant; and economic development potential, such as job creation. The 10 digital marketing grants of \$2,500 helped businesses seeking to improve their digital presentation, as pandemic disruptions revealed digital presence shortcomings in business websites, online advertising and social media.

Many grant recipients who came to question whether their business should continue during the pandemic expressed appreciation for the support from the city and a newfound passion for their enterprises.

Contact Lara Hudson at lara.hudson@gwdcity.com or 864.942.8448.



Building Identity Through Community Events

Hometown festivals and Main Street parades are a tradition in many cities and towns, but some take those ideas a step further to create events that reflect a community — and help build its identity.

A community parade at dusk

On Hilton Head Island, the town was looking to showcase its most obvious attraction — the beach — while creating an event highlighting the town's respect for its natural resources and its family-friendly feel.

The Hilton Head Lantern Parade fits the bill.

On a Saturday evening each November, a parade of glowing lanterns lights up the beach at sunset. About 1,200 to 1,500 people march in a parade, carrying everything from large, colorful bird lanterns to umbrellas decorated to look like glowing jellyfish. The parade celebrates not only the island's wildlife but also its people. Lanterns have, for example, highlighted Mitchellville, a historic Gullah community. A few bands — imagine loose, New Orleans brass bands — march, while another 3,000 to 5,000 spectators line the sandy route.

Natalie Harvey, the Town of Hilton Head Island's director of cultural affairs, said the parade started in 2019 and quickly became a hit.

“Nothing like that was done in our immediate area or in South Carolina. And nothing on the beach, which is a beautiful backdrop,” Harvey said.

The parade is open to everyone from Scout groups to nonprofits. The town's Office of Cultural Affairs has workshops for schools to get younger audiences involved.

“We have professional artists in the

parade, but it doesn't require professional artists. It really is 'Come out and enjoy being part of it.' You can be in the parade or you can sit on the beach and watch everybody go by. It's really magical,” she said.

This year's parade, scheduled for November 18, will march a 0.3-mile stretch of the beach and end at Lowcountry Celebration Park, allowing people who are unable to walk on the beach to set up chairs and see the parade.

“It's turned into one of the most favorite pastimes for islanders. We have so many tourists that come to Hilton Head, and we love them. We have so many wonderful things here because of tourists. We have wonderful restaurants and parks and infrastructure,” Harvey said. “But this has been something the local community has as its own and a tradition to look forward to.”

Mayor Alan Perry attended the parade for the first time last year, and he admitted to being surprised by the spectacle.

“I was absolutely amazed and astonished by the number of people that were there and how beautiful it was,” Perry said. “But the parade also takes into account what's important to us. Sea turtles, estuaries, birds, wildlife. It's all represented by different folks out there, their creations. It ties in very well with what our community is about. The arts are a big part of Hilton Head.”



The Town of Hilton Head Island began hosting the Lantern Parade in 2019. Photo: Gustavo Rattia.



Conway's transformation into the City of Halloween has involved huge amounts of pumpkins. Photos: City of Conway.

The City of Halloween

The City of Conway set a goal a few years back to make a top-10 list of cities to visit at Christmas, but leaders soon learned that even if a city looks like a holiday movie set, there are a thousand other cities vying for the same attention. “So, we pivoted,” said Adm Emrick, Conway’s city administrator. “We didn’t turn our backs on Christmas, but we decided to focus our efforts on something that became a game changer for us.”

It began in 2020, when the city bought about 500 plastic pumpkins and hung them from the majestic live oak trees that line Main Street.

“We bought every pumpkin at every Walmart in our county, all of the neighboring counties and several states away. If any city employee was traveling, they had to stop at a Walmart and clean them out of pumpkins,” he said. “It was an immediate hit.”

By 2021, more pumpkins and decorations were added. The city started to become a place where people would visit at Halloween. In January 2022, Emrick pitched an idea that would put Conway on the Halloween map – and generate much buzz and social media attention.

“What if we change the name of the city to ‘Halloween?’ Just for the month of

October and clearly, we don’t do it in any legal name-change sort of way,” Emrick suggested.

Conway got busy, dropping its traditional fall festival, and partnering with churches, organizations and businesses that already were doing Halloween events. City employees jumped aboard, suggesting decorating themes and new events.

In September 2022, Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy announced that the city would ceremonially change its name to Halloween, South Carolina for the month of October.

The celebration made sense financially, increasing downtown foot traffic and filling restaurants. Conway saw an 18% increase in hospitality fee collections for the month, year over year. That was without its top earner, Chick-Fil-A, because the Conway location was closed that month for renovations.

Emrick said the best measure of success were the comments on social media, with residents and visitors gushing about Conway’s October fun. The event was so successful, Halloween, South Carolina will become an annual event.

A Christmas parade with a rural touch

Many small towns and cities host a Christmas parade each year, with floats

and bands and politicians. The Town of Lowrys — population 184 — hosts one, too, but it sets itself apart from other holiday parades.

The Lowrys parade was started about 30 years ago by a saddle club, when a group of horse riders were looking for a parade opportunity where the planners didn’t worry about horse manure.

“They said, ‘We’re going to start a parade but ours will be different. We’re not going to have cars or trucks. There will be no marching bands, no golf carts, no ATVs. We’ll have farm equipment, livestock, horses and donkeys,’” said Lowrys Mayor Joey Wilson.

The small parade was immediately popular with residents of the farming community. It grew as more people became interested in restoring antique tractors, and the number of tractors in the parade jumped from 25 to more than 200. Also, when the parade started, the founders wanted families to enjoy themselves and not have to spend any money. There are no vendors at the parade, no food to buy, no drinks to purchase. That decision caused tailgating along the parade route to take off.

“The parade starts at 1 p.m. If you don’t have a parking place by 11 o’clock you’re out of luck,” Wilson said. “You need to bring food, or make a friend. But it’s definitely a place for tailgating.”



The Lowrys Christmas parade began decades ago to provide parade opportunities for horses. Photos: Kent Vines Photography.

On the third Saturday of December, between 10,000 and 15,000 people show up to watch hundreds of horses and a couple hundred tractors parade through town. About 5,000 free half-pints of milk are handed out.

“It’s not particularly professional. There are 40 to 50 homemade floats, and you can tell they’re homemade,” he said. “It’s not for everybody. Someone told me

it’s an incredibly boring parade. But old guys like to see old tractors and kids like horses.”

The mayor said the town doesn’t run the parade — “we host the parade” — adding that not many areas could pull off an event like this on a shoestring budget. He said the town spends less than \$5,000 on the parade, using some accommodations tax money from Chester County.

“If this was in Charlotte, it’d cost half a million dollars. If you tried to have that parade in Atlanta, it would take 5,000 policemen. We do it with eight,” he said.

The mayor said the parade’s popularity stems from its timing so close to Christmas, coupled with its rural, home-grown feel.

LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

SEARCH WARRANTS

Act 218 took effect in 2023, requiring all law enforcement agencies to adopt and implement a set of minimum standards. The law allows departments to establish additional standards that are more restrictive.

The Municipal Association’s Risk Management Services drafted model policies for each of the standards, available for use by all cities and towns at www.masc.sc (keyword: law enforcement model policies). Departments that are not SC Municipal Insurance Trust or SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund members should reach out to the SC Criminal Justice Academy for policy questions.

The seventh set of model policies address search warrants, including “no-knock” warrants, as well as the steps that officers must use to obtain warrants.

No-Knock Warrants

The policies note that when executing a warrant on a home through forced entry, there are a few cases where officers are allowed to forgo knocking before entering. These include cases where the officer’s purpose is already known to the occupant, when safety would be jeopardized by announcing, when the delay of knocking may enable the suspect to escape, or cause evidence to be destroyed, or when prisoners have escaped and retreated into their home.

When officers pursue no-knock warrants, the policies require them to explain the need for it in the application and affidavit for the warrant. In cases where the officers intend to execute the warrant at night, they must give justification for this. Also, the policies require the chief of police to review and approve any no-knock warrant that officers execute.



Find more information about all law enforcement policies at www.masc.sc (keyword: Act 218).

Which Positions Count as Dual Office Holding?

If a city council appoints someone to serve on a planning commission, can the same person win an election and serve the school board at the same time? Can someone who works as the clerk of court for a municipal court also take a job as a part-time codes enforcement officer in another jurisdiction?

These questions involve dual office holding, which South Carolina law prohibits. The South Carolina Constitution contains two separate provisions — Article VI, Section 3, and Article XVII, Section 1A — that use identical language: “No person may hold two offices of honor or profit at the same time.”

State law specifically prohibits municipal dual office holding. SC Code Section 5-7-180 provides that “no mayor or councilman shall hold any other municipal office or municipal employment while serving the term for which he was elected.”

It is unlawful to hold two offices at the same time, but the hard task — constantly revisited in attorney general opinions — is to define an “office of honor or profit.”

Not every appointed or senior governmental position is an office. In the 2013 case *Alexander v. Houston*, the South Carolina Supreme Court explained that “for purposes of the dual office holding provision, it must be demonstrated that the power of appointment comes from the state, the authority is derived

from the law, and the duties are exercised for the benefit of the public [and are] defined, directly or impliedly, by the legislature or through legislative authority.”

Covered offices

- Elected offices are straightforward — any position that is publicly elected is an office of honor or profit.
- Appointed seats on boards or commissions created by state law are usually considered offices of honor or profit. For example, appointed positions on planning commissions, boards of zoning appeals, and housing authorities are offices of honor or profit.
- Specific employment positions created by state law, such as municipal clerks, managers and clerks of court are considered to count among these offices.
- Positions that involve significant governmental power under state law — in particular law enforcement powers, such as police officers, sheriffs or deputy sheriffs — are generally considered to be offices of honor or profit.

Exceptions

There are exceptions to the dual office holding rule. The most important is the ex-officio exception, which allows service in a second office that exists “by virtue or

because of” service in the first office, as affirmed in the 2013 SC Supreme Court case *SC Public Interest Foundation v. SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank*. For example, South Carolina law provides that the governor serves on many boards and commissions by virtue of election to the office of governor. Service as a board member on a Council of Governments is also exempted from being an office under state law.

Enforcement

The courts enforce the dual office rule by holding that a person who accepts a second office automatically vacates the prior office. For example, if a person is appointed to a planning commission and is later elected to the school board, the person will be deemed to have resigned from the planning commission.

The Municipal Association has often considered questions of dual office holding and developed useful guidance on many specific positions, including in the *Handbook for Municipal Officials in South Carolina*, found at www.masc.sc (keyword: municipal officials handbook). When in doubt, officials can ask their Municipal Association field services manager. Find contact information on the Association’s website (keyword: field services).



Municipal Association of South Carolina

1411 Gervais Street | PO Box 12109
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
803.799.9574
www.masc.sc

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbia, S.C.
PERMIT NO. 31

Calendar

For a complete listing of the Association's training opportunities, visit www.masc.sc to view the calendar.

SEPTEMBER

6 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Lowcountry.

Lowcountry Council of Governments, Yemassee.

7 SC Association of Stormwater Managers Third Quarter Meeting and Exhibitor Showcase.

Cooperative Conference Center, Columbia. Topics include community engagement and a field personnel panel.

12 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Conway. 5th and Main Building, Conway.

13 – 15 Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute, Year 2, Session A. Hilton Columbia Center. Topics include human resource management, technology in the workplace, election administration, basic accounting, and written communication.

19 Business Licensing Essentials – Peddlers and Special Events, Farmers Markets. Virtual.

20 – 22 Municipal Technology Association of SC Annual Meeting. Hilton Myrtle Beach. Topics include artificial intelligence, managing small staff and budgets, contracts, cybersecurity and GIS.

21 Risk Management Services Fire Training. Cooperative Conference Center, Columbia. Topics include procurement, firefighter leadership and firefighter physical training.

21 Main Street South Carolina Third Quarter Training. The Depot, Kingstree. Topics include Google training, the economic impact of remote workers, and data collection and management.

26 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Goose Creek. Goose Creek Fire Department.

27 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Lexington. Lexington Municipal Conference Center.

28 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Hartsville. The Edition at the Hartsville Museum.

OCTOBER

4 SC Utility Billing Association Customer Service Training and Networking Luncheon. Cooperative Conference Center, Columbia.

5 SC Community Development Association Fall Meeting. Cooperative Conference Center, Columbia.

10 – 11 Municipal Court Administration Association 101 Session B. Municipal Association of SC, Columbia.

12 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Rock Hill. Manchester Meadows Park, Rock Hill.

17 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Greenville. Unity Park Prisma Health Welcome Center, Greenville.

18 Municipal Association Regional Advocacy Meeting – Virtual.

19 Bringing Civility to Verbal Conflict Training - Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

24 – 25 SC Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association and SC Business Licensing Officials Association Joint Academy. Marina Inn at Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach.

NOVEMBER

2 SC Association of Stormwater Managers Fourth Quarter Meeting. Cooperative Conference Center, Columbia.