

# UPTOWN

## Action needed: What new laws mean for hometowns

Along with changes to the MASC legislative team and bill tracking systems during the 2007 legislative session, there were many changes resulting from passed legislation that will warrant action from hometown leaders. The legislative session is officially over, but adopted legislation means more work for cities and towns.

### Millage Cap Bill (S367, R89)

The Legislature clarified the method for distributing from the Homestead Exemption Fund to the school districts. A negative population growth or negative CPI will be calculated as zero and not decrease the millage cap. The MASC Web site ([www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc)) has specific information on this legislation and its impact on cities and towns.

### Priority Investment Act (S266, R52)

This bill amends the 1994 Comprehensive Planning Act and requires all local governments with zoning to coordinate with nearby jurisdictions to establish priority investment areas (PIA). Local governments using PIAs would designate where they wanted to encourage and support economic development. Roads, schools, water/wastewater systems and other capital improvements in these designated areas would receive priority over projects not located in these areas.

The General Assembly passed the Priority Investment Act to give local governments more flexibility when prioritizing infrastructure funding needs to spur economic development. MASC will work with local officials to promote and carry out elements of the Priority Investment Act.

### Appointment of Reserve Officers (H3428, R70)

State law enforcement agencies now have the same flexibility as cities and towns when appointing reserve officers.

### Joint Authority Water and Sewer Systems Act (H3711, R74)

Legislators changed the Joint Municipal Water Systems Act to the Joint Authority Water and Sewer Systems Act. A joint system may enter into a contract to sell water or provide sewer service.

This bill protects cities and towns that offer water and sewer services from these federally-protected districts. Before creating a joint system, the city or town must approve it by passing a resolution.

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## Can you afford to not count even one citizen?

South Carolina municipalities lost \$2,000 for every person not counted during the 2000 Census, according to the state Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics.

"Census data drive reapportionment and redistricting decisions and directly affect the distribution of more than \$200 billion in federal funding each year," said Doug Palmer, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. On a state level, the Local Government Fund and proceeds for the Local Option Sales Tax are distributed using a formula based on the local government's population reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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## Action Needed continued from cover

### **William C. Mescher Local Housing Trust Fund Enabling Act (H3509, R36, A19)**

Local governments can create and operate a local housing trust fund or regional housing authority trust fund. Governor Sanford vetoed this bill; however legislators overrode the veto.

A strong coalition of SC mayors supported the affordable housing movement. They urged the General Assembly to pass this bill which ensures municipalities can create and operate trust funds to provide affordable housing for residents.

### **Public Official Recusal Bill (H3226, R12, A10)**

This law reverses the SC Ethics Commission opinion that would have forced many professionals to resign their positions on municipal councils as well as boards and commissions of those councils. This bill allows members of these councils and boards recusal rights currently in SC statute. Governor

Sanford vetoed this bill; however, both House and Senate voted almost unanimously to override the veto.

### **Appropriations Bill**

The state appropriations bill contains a proviso to change the Budget and Control Board Competitive Grants committee process. This proviso would require counties and municipalities to approve grant applications before they could be submitted. The local government must report annually on the expenditure of the funds.

This proviso states local governments would be the only entities that could apply – on behalf of a non-profit organization – for these state grants.

### **Statewide Smoking Ban**

Several statewide smoking ban bills were introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate but none of the bills were passed.

### **Wireless Communication (H3569, R136)**

The newly created SC Broadband Technology and Communications Study Committee will evaluate the state's broadband communications infrastructure and assess the availability of and need for broadband services in un-served and under-served areas. Wireless technology is critical to hometowns to increase the quality of life and boost economic development efforts, especially in rural areas.

Cities and towns will have a place on the study committee and a voting seat at table.

*To see a complete listing of bills, visit [www.masc.sc/legislative/bills.htm](http://www.masc.sc/legislative/bills.htm). The online bill tracking system allows members to search bills the Municipal Association staff is tracking. Members can see staff comments on bills and get daily updates on committee and floor activity. In addition, members can e-mail staff with feedback about specific bills.*

## Citizen continued from cover

Local officials will have the opportunity to make sure each of their citizens is counted during the 2010 Census. An accurate population count starts with an up-to-date and accurate address list. If a house address is listed on the Master Address File, the people residing at the address will be counted.

Although the 2010 Census is still three years away, the U.S. Census Bureau has begun mailing informational booklets to all state, local and tribal governments about a program for them to provide updated addresses for their communities - known as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. LUCA will enable the Census Bureau to take advantage of local knowledge in

developing its Master Address File. Local government officials will use their area knowledge to improve the list of addresses for housing units and group quarters, including growth from new construction or annexation.

Though participation in the LUCA program is not mandatory, municipalities should not miss the chance to increase their census-based funding and ensure fair government representation. After registering to participate in LUCA, participants will receive a packet of maps and address lists. They will have 120 days to review and update the address list and return their comments to the Census Bureau's Regional Office. The Census Bureau will use the updates to check the

addresses using GPS units and send the results back to the communities for comment or appeal.

Bobby Bowers, director for the state Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics, will discuss the 2010 Census during the "Short Takes on Timely Topics" general session during MASC Annual Meeting Saturday, July 14.

For more information on how your local government can participate in LUCA, please contact: U.S. Census Bureau, Charlotte Regional Census Center at 1.888.688.6948; Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics at 803.734.3793; or Melissa Carter, MASC's research analyst, at 803.933.1251.

# National and local performers take the stage



Stella Parton

**W**ith 28 hit singles, 19 albums, five Broadway touring musicals and starring roles in television and movies, Stella Parton has won numerous awards for her music and is known internationally as a singer, songwriter, actress and author. Parton will perform during the President's Banquet at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 14.

Talented middle school, high school and college singers, dancers, actors and musicians from Greenville form the dynamic Phillis Wheatley Repertory Theatre for Youth. This dynamic group will perform during Sunday's Spiritual Breakfast.

## Annual Meeting offers technology snapshots

**N**eed to learn how technology can help improve city hall services but don't have time to attend an all-day session? A series of 15-minute technology demonstrations at MASC's Annual Meeting will give attendees a quick look at a variety of technology solutions.

### Can You Hear Me Now?

Discover how to bridge multiple communication systems during an emergency.

### The Day After: Is Your City Ready?

Be prepared for when disaster strikes. Invest in a cost effective technology that will provide employees access to the city's computer systems within 24 hours of a disaster – even if city hall is destroyed.

### Easy-Does-It Web Updates

Learn how municipal employees can use an inexpensive tool to quickly and easily update the content of your city's Web site.

### Got Wireless?

Connect your citizens to the world with the same technology you use to connect public safety officers to city hall.

### Serving Citizens 24/7

Learn how to keep your city hall open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with online services.

### SharePoint: The Swiss Army Knife of IT

Just like the knife, SharePoint is a multiple use tool. From document imaging to improved Web services to sharing of documents ... come hear about this cutting-edge technology.

### Vision, Assessment and Planning: A Recipe for IT Success

Just like other city services, the efficient and effective use of technology requires proper planning. Come learn the process for assessing your current use of technology, defining your future use and budgeting for implementation.

### Voice Over IP – The \$ensible Phone System

Learn how to access the most versatile features of any phone system on the market today while at the same time leveraging the investment in your city's computer network.





# Things to do in ... Greenville, SC



Menage

## July 11

### Reedy River Nighttime Concert Series

[www.greatergreenville.com/visitors/rnrcs.asp](http://www.greatergreenville.com/visitors/rnrcs.asp)

Peace Center Amphitheater

7 - 9 p.m.

Performing: Menage

Luscious and original, Asheville's own 'Menage' delivers a contagious mix of soul, swing, pop, country and blues that will steal your poor heart! Sweet harmonies and distinct song writing are the backbone of this band's novel style. Menage presents an exciting and powerful live show that began in a small neighborhood pub in West Asheville, NC in 2002.

<http://www.themenage.com/>

## July 12

### Larkin's Rhythm on the River

[www.rhythmtheriver.com/catering.htm](http://www.rhythmtheriver.com/catering.htm)

Dow Amphitheater behind the Peace Center

7 p.m.

Admission: \$3

Performing: The Fantastic Shakers

### TLC Laser Eye Center Downtown Alive

[www.mainstevents.com/downtownalive.html](http://www.mainstevents.com/downtownalive.html)

Piazza Bergamo, Main Street, downtown Greenville

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Performing: The Spencer Durham Group

Take the spirit of Southern rock from the '70s, throw in some soulful blues and a little jam band influence and you have The Spencer Durham Group.

## July 13

### Countybank Main Street Jazz

[www.mainstevents.com/main-streetjazz.html](http://www.mainstevents.com/main-streetjazz.html)

Hyatt Plaza

5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Performing: Cabo Verde

([www.caboverde.com](http://www.caboverde.com))

"Flamenco Fusion" group from Asheville, NC, brings a unique blend of flamenco compositions with Peruvian and Afro-Cuban rhythms.

### The People

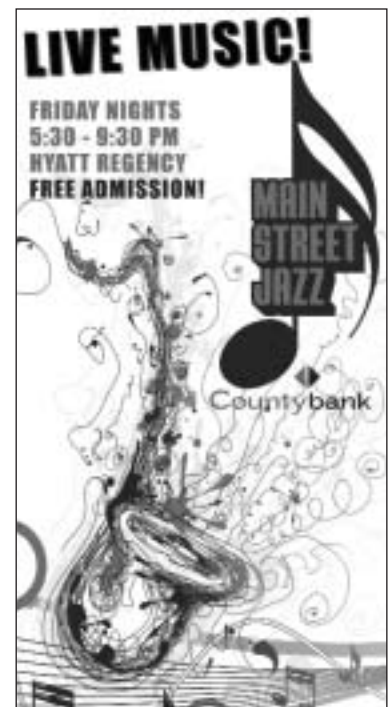
[www.ropermountain.org/](http://www.ropermountain.org/)

Roper Mountain

Science Center

7:30 and 8:45 p.m.

These stories, older than anyone knows, were handed down through the generations by the first Americans, the Native peoples of this land. These timeless legends are engaging for the entire family. How did Grandmother Spider's web get its shape, and why does a coyote howl at the stars? Come and see "The People" to find out.





## July 14

### Carolina First Saturday Market

[www.saturdaymarketlive.com](http://www.saturdaymarketlive.com)

S. Main St. between McBee St. and Court St.

8 a.m. - noon

Fresh produce and flowers locally grown and delivered to the market each week. While shopping, grab a bite to eat from the food vendors and learn new cooking and gardening tips presented by area experts.

## July 11-14

### Greenville County Museum of Art

[www.greenvillemuseum.org](http://www.greenvillemuseum.org)

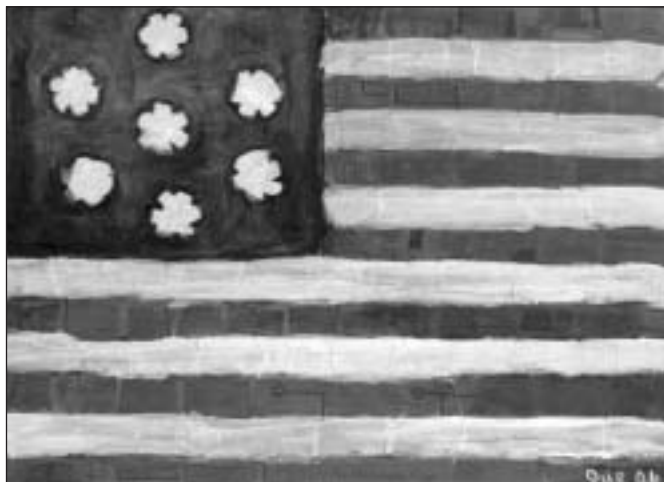
420 College Street

864.271.7570

Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission is Free

Experience the groundbreaking exhibition Jasper Johns: Look Homeward and much more.



By QueSean

Flag

1954

By Jasper Johns

### Bob Jones University Museum & Gallery

[www.bjulg.org](http://www.bjulg.org)

1700 Wade Hampton Blvd.

864.770.1331

Tuesday - Sunday, 2 - 5 p.m.

Adults \$5, Students \$3, Children 6-12 Free

Immerse yourself in the relaxing, thought-provoking atmosphere of the Museum and Gallery at Bob Jones University and experience a treasure many have called "Greenville's best-kept secret!"

### Go Wild! at the Greenville Zoo

[www.greenvillezoo.com/menu.htm](http://www.greenvillezoo.com/menu.htm)

150 Cleveland Park Drive

864.467.4300

Daily, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Adults \$5, Children 3 - 15 \$2.50, Under age 3 free



### Shopping/Dining

[www.greenvillecvb.com/dining.asp](http://www.greenvillecvb.com/dining.asp)

Downtown Greenville has a wide range of shopping and dining options. You will find specialty stores, boutiques and everyone's favorite store from a bygone era – Mast General Store – a destination in itself with everything from toys and candy to camping gear and rocking chairs.

# Barnet honored with Drummond Award

In May, Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnet received the fifth annual Drummond Award for Statesmanship during an awards banquet in Columbia. Three of the five past Drummond Award recipients have been South Carolina mayors.

The award, named for state Senator John Drummond (D-Ninety Six), is presented by the Drummond Center at Erskine College. It honors individuals who demonstrate leadership and good character in the realm of public service.

"Bill Barnet has distinguished himself as a businessman, political leader and public servant," said Drummond Center Executive Director Dr. Jay West. "Though the selection process for the Drummond Award is arduous, Bill Barnet rose to the top quickly as this year's nominee."

In accepting the award, Barnet emphasized why the honor was particularly special to him – because it connected him with state Sen. John Drummond, for whom the center was named to promote the ideal of perpetuating statesmanship in South Carolina.

During his remarks, Barnet said Robert Frost was his favorite poet when he was young. Frost coined the phrase, "building soil" and Barnet used that phrase in describing Drummond's contributions to South Carolina.

"Senator Drummond built soil and did so by featuring civility — the capaci-

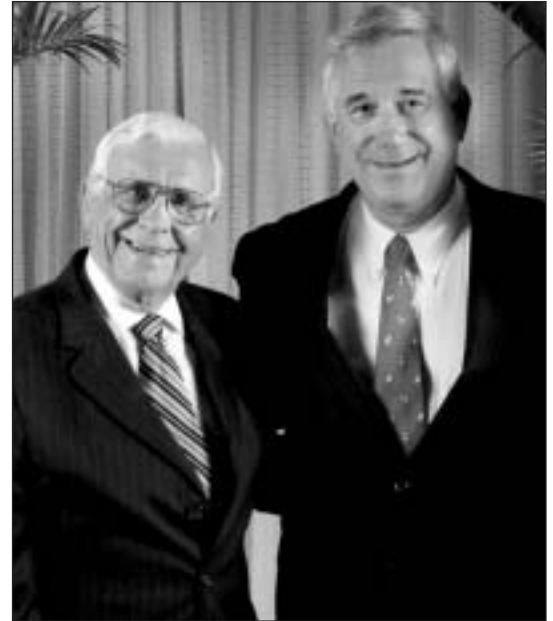
ty for, and the commitment to, the consideration of other people and ideas," Barnet said. "As he does, I believe in this state, and I believe in its future."

"To realize that future we must, with his [Drummond's] notion of civility, be less about dogma and more about being open to good and creative ideas, be less about finding fault and more about encouragement and risk taking, less about exclusion and more about being understanding of the true range of forms, colors, and traditions with which our common God has created and peopled his earth," he said.

In her introduction of Barnet, Drummond Center Board Chair Paula Harper Bethea, who presided over the evening's events, called Barnet "a gentleman, a gentle man and a gentle giant."

"Bill's influence is seen all over our state," she said. "Bill Barnet always does what is right. Few private citizens have championed the cause of education as he has."

In his mayoral inauguration speech, Barnet said his goal was to make Spartanburg an "admired community" by improving educational opportunities through excellent schools, increasing per capita income, and beautifying the area with trees, green space, fountains,



Senator John Drummond and Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnet

and art. "I seek a community of encouragement," he said, "wherein, by your and my actions and words, we challenge each other to believe we can dream greater dreams."

Barnet joins Mayor Joe Riley of Charleston and former Mayor Max Heller of Greenville as a Drummond Award recipient. Other previous recipients are South Carolina textile giant Roger Milliken, U.S. District Court Judge Matthew J. Perry Jr. and U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham.



## Classifieds

■ The City of Easley is accepting resumes for a stormwater manager. Send resume, cover letter, references and salary history to the City of Easley, attn: Stormwater Manager Search, PO Box 466, Easley, SC 29641 or e-mail [fsimons@easley-sc.org](mailto:fsimons@easley-sc.org). Deadline: July 31.

■ The City of Columbia is accepting applications for an assistant city attorney. Must be licensed to practice in South Carolina and eligible for admission to the U.S. District Court and U.S. Court of Appeals with five or more years of experience. Submit a City of Columbia Employment Application along with a writing sample to the City of Columbia Employment Office, PO Box 147, Columbia, SC 29217. A detailed job description and applications are available at [www.columbisc.net](http://www.columbisc.net).

■ The Town of Blythewood is accepting applications for a town administrator. Submit cover letter and resume by July 15, 2007, to Mayor M.B. Pete Amoth, Town of Blythewood, PO Box 1004, Blythewood, SC 29016.

A complete listing of local government job openings is located at [www.masc.sc/misc/jobs.htm](http://www.masc.sc/misc/jobs.htm).

# Harleyville mayor, City of Union honored with SCCDA awards

The South Carolina Community Development Association honored Harleyville Mayor Charles Ackerman for his outstanding commitment and dedication to his town.

Ackerman received the Hettie Rickett Leadership Award, which is given annually to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of community development by showing vision, building partnerships and achieving results that make a difference in the community.

Ackerman has served as mayor for 11 years. During his tenure, he has worked to improve Harleyville by applying for and receiving more than \$2 million in Community Development Block Grants. The Community Development Block Grant projects have improved the town's wastewater treatment plant and public water system and rehabilitated housing for low-to middle-income citizens.

When one of the grants required a door-to-door survey, Ackerman knocked on neighbors' doors and collected information needed to apply for the funds. When another grant was denied, Ackerman requested a special visit from Department of Commerce officials to petition for the funds.

Ackerman goes above and beyond the duties of some other leaders, said Vanessa Sullivan, who nominated him

for the award. When the mayor is not at town hall, he might be found at the sewer plant, repairing leaks in the water lines or mowing the lawn of a resident. He also delivers meals to the elderly through the Meals on Wheels program, said Sullivan, a technical assistance specialist with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments.

The mayor also has played a role in establishing the town's annual See Saw Daze Festival. He encouraged local businesses to donate money, time and goods for the festival. Under his guidance, the town created a park that has become central for the festival and other community events.

Sullivan said she is pleased Ackerman was recognized. "We have so many unsung heroes," she said. "It's time one of them be recognized for their effort."

The SCCDA also honored the City of Union with its Award of Excellence. This award honors a project that significantly improves the community and has the potential to serve as a catalyst for further improvements to the quality of life.

Due to the retreat of the textile industry, Union has suffered in recent years from high unemployment rates and a declining downtown. Nearly two dozen Main Street storefronts were vacant; the former site of the Union Mill had become an eyesore scattered with debris. The city took steps to revitalize its downtown by



renovating more than 70 building facades, clearing its former brownfields site and making streetscape improvements.

Renovations included new window glass, awnings, painting, signage and lighting. Officials removed debris, planted grass and made drainage improvements to the former mill site. The city also planted trees, repaired sidewalks and repainted crosswalks downtown. More than \$4 million in state and local funds have been invested in the renovations, which officials hope will mark a new chapter in Union's history.

Both awards were given during the annual SCCDA meeting held May 20-22 in Myrtle Beach. The SCCDA provides a forum for learning about the community development process through workshops and seminars. Its members include municipal, county, regional and state community development professionals; employees of private companies with an interest in community development; elected officials and volunteers.

For more information about the SCCDA, visit [www.masc.sc/affiliates/sccda/description.htm](http://www.masc.sc/affiliates/sccda/description.htm) or contact Beppie LeGrand, MASC's Main Street SC manager, at [blegrand@masc.sc](mailto:blegrand@masc.sc) or 803.933.1231.



# Getting A's in P.R.:

## Essential steps to getting coverage for your organization

**Ability** to recognize a good story. Look for local angles to a national story/program. Think about connecting your story to a national observance i.e. National Safety Month. MASC's *Hometown Happenings* can help. What's a new and interesting angle to your story? Consider what kind of "third party endorsement" you can get from someone who isn't a city official.

**Acquaintance** with area media. Be familiar with the local editors, reporters, feature writers, producers and news directors, and what they produce. Tailor your material to meet their needs. Because reporters' beats change constantly, keep a file of who is currently

covering what at what paper. Also, find out how they like to receive material – e-mailed directly to their desk, faxed or mailed (some still prefer releases this way, believe it or not!). Stay in touch even when you don't need something.

**Anticipate** their needs. Be familiar with deadlines, know what kind of visual material they can use; work with photographers and camera crews to give them good material to shoot; facilitate the media's work in any way possible. Suggest photo opportunities or artwork, and make your events visually appealing.

**Attention** to detail when preparing material. Keep your style simple; put the facts up front; follow AP Style rules.

Make your work as easy to edit as possible; it will increase your chances of your release running the way you wrote it. Bullets are always a good way to keep things simple.

**Accuracy** counts. Double check spelling, especially the spelling of names. Double check dates, and make sure that the day and date coincide. Before you send off your release, call phone numbers and key in Web addresses and e-mail addresses as they are written in the release to make sure you don't have numbers or letters transposed. Get a second pair of eyes to proof your work.

**GETTING A'S continued on page 9**



### Hometown Happenings

#### August 2007 Hometown Happenings

Each month, municipal officials have the opportunity to download materials that will help them share the value of cities and towns with the community and more specifically their key influencers. Through each suggested activity and corresponding materials, municipal leadership will form partnerships with the local business community, the media, local non-profit organizations and policy makers.

August *Hometown Happenings* information as noted below will be posted to the MASC Web site in early July. Let MASC know if you participate in a *Hometown Happening*. Call Casey Fields at 803.933.1256.

- **Back to School** – August means the end of summer for young people and back to the hustle and bustle of school, homework and extracurricular activities. Use this exciting time of the year for families in your community by visiting schools in your city or town on the first day back, sponsor a school supply drive, host a breakfast for parents on the first day of school, declare your city or town ready for the first day of school, thank local teachers and administrators, spotlight different schools in your newsletter, and show your hometown residents that educating your region's young children is a top priority for city leaders.
- **Black Business Month** – Spotlight African-American-owned businesses and stress the importance of diversity in business ownership. Hometowns drive the economic engine of the state, and these large and small businesses are the backbone of local commerce and tourism. Select a local African-American-owned business to showcase to residents, sponsor a reception for African-American business owners and proclaim August as Black Business Month in your city or town.
- **Municipal Association of South Carolina Annual Meeting Wrap Up** — Share what you learned from the Annual Meeting with colleagues and residents of your community by hosting informational meetings on hot topics for municipalities such as annexation and spending caps. Explain to municipal staff and residents the importance of attending the meeting and break down the costs of hotel and participating in activities. Use what you learned from the Annual Meeting to improve your hometown and the services it provides.

Visit the MASC Web site to download *Hometown Happenings* materials in early July.



## More than 20 business-licensing officials complete training

**T**wenty-one people have graduated from the SC Business Licensing Officials Association (BLOA) Training Program. The three-year program is designed to improve the professional and administrative skills of participating licensing officials through a series of edu-

cational sessions. Completion of the program is a prerequisite for attaining the Accredited in Business Licensing (ABL) designation.

BLOA, an affiliate of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, helps members remedy the problems associat-

ed with administering and enforcing the local business and professional license tax. BLOA addresses these issues through its training sessions, online links and newsletter.



2007 BLOA graduates (listed in alphabetical order): William Browning of Spartanburg, Sharon Felder of Sumter, Janice Hughes of Horry County, Gregory Krabbe of Seneca, Sharon Leahy of Surfside Beach, Angelia Locke of Greenville, Robert McDonald of Columbia, Tina Plymel of Summerville, Yvette Ramey of Anderson, Angie Ramsey of Walterboro, David Seifert of Greer, Stacy Shealy of Columbia, Siahee Shipman of Columbia, Cynthia Smalls of Port Royal, Hugh Smith of Easley, April Smith of Jonesville, Paul Smith of Spartanburg, Louis Streater of Lancaster, Adrienne Thompson of Chapin, Robert Urness of Greer and Thomas Vandell of Charleston County. (Note: Not all graduates listed appear in photo.)

### Getting A's continued from page 8

**Appearance** counts. If you're still preparing hard copies of releases, make sure they're single spaced, attractive and eye-catching. Have a consistent style (typeface, letterhead) so that your release is immediately recognizable.

**Availability.** Be available if the reporter or editor needs to call you to check details in your release. If you send a release and immediately leave town, be sure there's a contact name on the release other than yourself who will be around to take a call. Have instructions on your voice mail as to how to get in touch with you after office hours, in the event of an emergency.

**Attribution Source.** Establish ahead of time (like now) who the spokesperson or people should be at your municipality. It's not a bad idea to have this in writing. Decide who takes calls from the press.

**Assume Nothing.** Anything you or anyone else says to the press, regardless of whether you specify that it is "off the record," has the potential of being used. Be sure others are aware of this whenever they talk to a reporter. Don't assume a story will run just because a reporter has told you it will. There is always late-breaking news. Editorial space is not for sale.

Remember you're competing with hundreds of other news stories every day.

**Appreciate** the media's efforts on your behalf. A sincere thank you note is one way to do this, though not all reporters appreciate that. Some may feel they don't need to be thanked for doing their job, and a note may imply they did you a special favor instead of impartially covering the news. Of course, if they did do you a favor by covering something that might otherwise have been passed over, a line of thanks is in order. And a note that calls attention to a job well done is probably going to be welcome.

## Business license revocation: Last resort for nuisance businesses

**D**uring a period of two years, police were called to the Travel Inn hotel on Wade Hampton Boulevard in Greenville more than 900 times. Of those calls, police wrote nearly 200 incident reports for illegal activities related to drugs, trespassing, assaults and stolen vehicles.

The City of Greenville told the hotel's owners they needed to clean up their act. City Council gave the business time to make improvements to security, and the city manager put the business on a year's probation. But the same incidents were reported, and the calls to police continued, said Greenville Business License Supervisor Jodie Dudash.

City officials gave the business a 30-day notice they would shut it down in April, Dudash said. The hotel's attorney tried to get an injunction, but a judge denied it. The hotel closed its doors May 15. The city still faces a lawsuit, making

this a lengthy and expensive process, Dudash said.

"We don't use business license revocation unless life and safety issues are involved," she said.

The process usually is conducted in conjunction with police, she added. "We jump through a lot of hoops to make sure it's well-founded."

A municipality's ordinance should clearly spell out the grounds for business license denial, suspension and revocation, according to Danny Crowe, an attorney with Turner Padgett Graham & Laney law firm and former general counsel for the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

A city can deny a license when the activity for which it is sought is unlawful or constitutes a public nuisance, Crowe said. Other grounds for denial include an incomplete application or one that contains misrepresentation, false or misleading statements, evasion or suppression of a material fact.

While there are no grounds for the public to demand a business license be revoked, citizens often play a role. That was the case in the City of Cayce, where many residents complained about problems at a hotel and a local bar.

Police were called to the Regency Inn in Cayce numerous times over several years to deal with vagrants, vandalism, drug sales, public disturbances and customers skipping out on bills. In 2004, the police chief asked the council to take action. When the hotel's owners attempted to renew their business license for 2004, they received a notice that the City would deny their business license renewal, said City Manager John Sharpe.

Cayce also took action against the Boulevard Café, a bar that had a history of problems with noise violations, drug sales and public intoxication. The city began the revocation process for the bar in 2006. That case currently is being appealed. The Regency Inn hotel is closed, and the case has finally been settled, Sharpe said.

Business license revocation, Dudash said, is a costly, time-consuming process that should be used only as a last resort for the most serious offenses. "It is a hammer, but one that we use lightly," she said. "We don't want to revoke a business license because it affects a business owner's livelihood."

### Municipal family mourns Charleston tragedy

**T**he thoughts and prayers of the municipal family in South Carolina are with the City of Charleston as we all mourn the death of nine brave firefighters killed while protecting their hometown. A fund has been established in Charleston for the families of the firefighters. Checks for donations should be made payable to the "City of Charleston Firemen's Fund" and sent to PO Box 304, Charleston, SC 29402 or made at any Bank of America location.



# Municipal linemen stress safety

One hundred twenty nine municipal linemen representing 11 electric cities attended the annual SC Association of Municipal Power System's safety training sessions in May. Twenty linemen participated in the lineman competition.

In the pole-climbing portion of the competition, linemen climbed a utility pole with an egg in a small bucket then descended the pole with the egg in their mouths. Points were deducted for cracking the egg.

The hurtman rescue contest used a "hurtman dummy" to simulate a

wounded lineman unable to lower himself from the top of a utility pole. The rescuers climbed quickly to the top, secured the hurtman dummy and lowered it to the ground before descending. The participants were judged on the speed at which they were able to perform the task using proper procedures.

The crossarm changeout event involved three linemen working together to disassemble a 'damaged' crossarm then reassemble a new one. The linemen were judged on speed, teamwork, accuracy and proper procedure.



## Hurtman Rescue and Pole Climb Events Winners

(scores and times combined)

**May 1:** James Crum (Greer Commission of Public Works)

**May 2:** Bobby Goodwin (Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities)

## Crossarm Changeout Event Winners

**May 1:** Greer Commission of Public Works

Matt Williams, Jeremy Gossett and James Crum

**May 2:** City of Rock Hill

Jimmy Sellers, Ron Passmore and David Hope

## News Briefs



Phil Cromer, risk and safety services manager for the Municipal Association of SC, received the Distinguished Service and Safety Award from the South Carolina Occupational Safety Council. Cromer was recognized for his more than 20 years in the workplace safety field. He is credited with a number of innovative service ideas, including the Risk Management Services report cards, minimum guidelines for municipal members, training initiatives and the municipal risk management manual.

Greenville had one of the nation's lowest costs of living, while Spartanburg had one of the sharpest increases in average salary, according to Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine. Spartanburg had the sixth highest average salary increase from 2000 to 2005 for what the magazine calls the "creative class" which includes scientists, engineers, architects, educators, writers, artists and entertainers.

The Town of Batesburg-Leesville won the 2007 Environmental Protection and Water Quality Award presented by the Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District. The town's wastewater treatment facility won for outstanding service preserving water resources in Lexington County.

Members of the SC Community Development Association elected its 2007-08 board members during its annual meeting in May. President: Howard Garland of Darlington; Vice-President: Valeria Jackson of Columbia; Secretary: Robin Cooley of the Central Midlands Council of Governments; Members-At-Large: Dale Culbreth of the SC Department of Commerce, Joy Locke of Main Street Beaufort, USA, Barbara Mickens of Fairfield County, Nora Sanders of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Pam Davenport of the Upper Savannah Council of Governments and Erica Craft of Anderson.



## Educational Opportunities

### MASC

■ **July 12-15**, will hold its Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville.

### MASC

■ **July 20**, will administer the Accreditation in Business Licensing test sponsored by the Business Licensing Officials Association at 10 a.m. at Greenville City Hall, 1st floor Conference Center, 206 S Main Street, Greenville. Deadline to apply is July 13.

### Setoff Debt Collection Program

■ **July 31**, will hold a mandatory New Participants Training Session from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at MASC's office at 1411 Gervais Street in Columbia.

### Main Street South Carolina

■ **August 1-3**, will hold its Annual Retreat and conduct a training session "Business Recruitment" at the Palm Key Nature Get-Away Retreat in Knowles Island, SC.

### Setoff Debt Collection Program

■ **August 2**, will hold a mandatory Current Participants Training Session for new employees of current participants in the program from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at MASC's office at 1411 Gervais Street in Columbia.

### Setoff Debt Collection Program

■ **August 3**, will hold a mandatory Programmers Training Session for any programmer representing new participants to program from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at MASC's office at 1411 Gervais Street in Columbia.

### Municipal Technology Association of SC

■ **August 17**, will hold a meeting at the SC Hospital Association in Columbia. Topics include "Preparing an IT Strategic Planning Document" and "What IT Means to Your City."

### SC Municipal Court Administration Association

■ **August 21-24**, will hold its Annual Meeting at the Sheraton in Myrtle Beach.

### Main Street South Carolina

■ **September 4**, will conduct a training session "Chains on Main" at MASC's office at 1411 Gervais Street in Columbia from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute

■ **September 12-14**, will hold its fall training session at the Clarion Townhouse Hotel in Columbia.

For more information about these meetings or other MASC meetings not listed, please call 803.799.9574, or visit our Web site at [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc).



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