

the County Connection

Summer 2002

Judicial Center opens doors to the public

Charleston County held a grand opening celebration in August for the county's new Judicial Center, marking the return of the courts to the Four Corners of Law and the first time the courts have been together since Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

The new state-of-the-art Judicial Center is the functional core of the county's Judicial Complex that includes the Historic Courthouse, the O.T. Wallace County Office Building and the Blake Tenement Building.

Participating in opening day festivities were S.C. Supreme Court Justice Jean Toal, County Council Chairman Timothy E. Scott, Clerk of Court Julie Armstrong and Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr.

Containing more than 181,000 square feet of heated space, the building stands 84 feet tall and includes four stories plus a partial basement. In total, the building contains 14 courtrooms including eight jury courtrooms and six non-jury courtrooms for use by the Circuit Court; Clerk of Court; Family Court; Master-in-Equity; Probate Court; Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; and the Sheriff's Department.

The courtrooms include sophisticated audio-visual capabilities and are supported by judges suites, jury deliberation rooms, court holding areas and public waiting and conference areas.

A state-of-the-art security and communication system is in place



A statue of William Pitt greets visitors near the entrance of the new Judicial Center.

throughout the building. For public and staff safety and security, the building includes three separate entrances and circulation systems for the public, judges and judicial staff, and prisoners.

The Judicial Center's design incorporates both traditional and contemporary architectural detailing. The circa 1880's Victorian archways, previously located at the east and west entrances to the Historic Courthouse, were preserved and re-used as an archway to the Judicial Center Garden.

Additionally, the William Pitt statue, originally located in the intersection of Meeting and Broad streets, was relocated from the Charleston Museum to the first-floor lobby of the Judicial Center.

It took three years to complete the construction, which was managed by the county's Capital Projects Department. The building was designed by NBBJ architects and constructed by Bill Harbert Construction.

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The County Connection

*"If you have built castles in the air,
your work need not be lost;
that is where they should be.
Now put the foundations
under them."*
Henry David Thoreau

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The County Connection is published by Charleston County employees for Charleston County employees, retirees and others interested in the county. Items of interest are always welcome. They should be sent to the Public Information Office, Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building, 4045 Bridge View Drive, North Charleston, S.C. 29405. Items also may be submitted via e-mail to pmocker@charlestoncounty.org.

Child support payments now available as direct deposit

The Clerk of Court's office has made receiving child support and alimony easier. Support payments can now be deposited directly into a designated bank account in lieu of receiving a paper check that must be deposited.

Clerk of Court Julie J. Armstrong implemented the direct deposit program to create another option for support recipients to receive their payments. When a payment is made, instead of mailing a check on the next business day, the money is deposited electronically into the recipient's bank account. The delay between the time the court receives the payment and the time money can be accessed at the bank is greatly reduced.

To take advantage of this new program, recipients need to fill out a form that is available at the Family Court Office located in downtown Charleston. In addition, the form is available online at www3.charlestoncounty.org by clicking the link for Forms.

For more information, please call 958-4400.

Adoption assistance program changes for FY 2003

Employees enrolled in the State Insurance Program may participate in the State Employee Adoption Assistance Program. During the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 budget, \$700,000 was included for this program.

Eligible employees who adopted a child between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002, may apply for financial assistance relating to the adoption. Employees must participate in the Employee Insurance Program and be employed when the application is submitted and when the payment is forwarded to the provider.

Payments will be made to service providers for costs related directly to the adoption, such as:

- ♥ Medical costs of the biological mother not covered by other insurance, Medicaid or other available resources
- ♥ Medical costs of the child not otherwise covered
- ♥ Licensed adoption agency fees, legal fees and guardian ad litem fees
- ♥ Allowable travel fees associated with the adoption process

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 30, 2002, for adoptions finalized between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002.

Following the September 30 deadline, payments will be sent to providers based on itemized bills submitted with the applications, and applicants will receive confirmation of those payments.

Employees who received adoption assistance during Fiscal Year 2001-02 should not reapply. Additional payments may be made to their service providers, based on the maximum benefit to be determined for Fiscal Year 2002-2003, less the amount paid the previous fiscal year.

For more information or for an application, employees may call the Employee Insurance Program at (803) 734-1696 or toll-free at 1-888-260-9430.



Employee of the Quarter

Constructing buildings, piece by piece

Keeping track of all the necessary components of a new building's construction - from architectural elements to high tech electronics - is a task Bryan Whitley takes very seriously.

His dedication and steadfastness with recent construction projects, even in the face of changing contractor personnel, earned him the honor of Employee of the Quarter.

Whitley, the Design Manager for the Charleston County Judicial Center and the O.T. Wallace/Blake Tenement projects, is instrumental in the successful completion of these two large construction ventures.

During the course of these projects, many of the key members of the design and construction firms changed, leaving Whitley as the county's representative offering continuity to the construction.

"Bryan's unwavering focus and his depth of knowledge on these projects has been a stabilizing force during the personnel changes," said Dan Chandler, Engineer Superintendent and Whitley's immediate supervisor.

When circumstances required him to work beyond his normal job duties to manage the design efforts for these projects, Whitley proved to meet the many challenges.

"He demonstrated a wide range of knowledge and expertise above and beyond his basic architectural design skills to include audiovisual, telecommunications, electrical and fire protection," said Chandler.

Whitley's role in these projects often required him to take a very active role in many of the consultants' normal duties. He served as the principal participant in numerous coordination meetings between the architects, engineers, consultant,



Whitley's dedication served as a stabilizing force during two large construction projects.

tenants and agencies, and he was highly successful in obtaining tenant and agency approvals.

"It is difficult to quantify the monetary value of savings that Bryan has contributed," said Chandler. "This is because most of the savings from his efforts are preventive in nature."

Always keeping the county's best interest in mind, Whitley's detailed and conscientious reviews of the consultant's work resulted in identifying and correcting many deficiencies before they reached construction.

Serving as a liaison between the county and the contractors requires tenacity and constant communication between both parties. Once the main construction is complete, there is the task of matching telephones, fax machines and copiers in the building to their placement on the drawings - often, as specified by the departments.

What makes attention to all of these details worthwhile?

"Seeing it done," says Whitley. "Having the project complete is the most satisfying part of this job. When people move into their new spaces and find they are functional, then I have succeeded."

Employee Snapshot

Family

wife - Carolyn,
sons - David, 13
and Sam, 11

Pets

Border Collie,
Australian Bearded
Dragon (lizard)

Hobbies

computer games,
reading, camping

Activities

very active with the
Boy Scouts; serves on
Boy Scout and Cub
Scout committees,
as well as the
St. James Episcopal
Church liaison
to the scouts

The Fun Stuff

camping with the
Boy Scouts,
helping with shot gun
and rifle merit badges,
skiing and canoeing,
and campouts

Favorite Book

Lord of the Rings

One Day ...

would like to design
and build or renovate
his own home
and live in it

Employee Snapshot

Family

Three grown children,
One grandchild with
another on the way,
tons of pets from birds
to reptiles to
cats and dogs

Home Town

Detroit, Mich.
Lived in Redding, Pa.,
for four years and
moved to Charleston
in 1991

Hobbies

ceramics, quilt making,
painting Indian figures

Activities

Secretary of the Coastal
Carolina Herpecultural
Society and exhibits a
colorful and exotic
collection of reptiles and
amphibians. She also
volunteers with the
Sierra Club locally

Awards

March 2002: Front Line
Award by the two-state
Carolina Recycling
Association. This award
honors an individual at
the staff level who has
advanced solid waste
reduction/recycling
at work or in
the community

Educating the community brings rewards

The concept of recycling is not something new. However, the need to continue educating our community about this important process is something that Billie Ann Calvin greatly enjoys.

"It's a good feeling to know that everything is recycled properly," said Calvin, a Household Hazardous Waste Technician for Solid Waste. "I like talking to people about it."

While Calvin's efforts to educate the community played a big part in her selection as Employee of the Quarter, her dedication to the actual recycling process was a key factor, too.

Hired in 1994 as a driver in the curbside recycling collections program, Calvin was moved to the newly formed Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) division in 1998 where she worked on the front line collecting, sorting and storing the wide range of chemicals, pesticides, paints, compounds, batteries, bulbs, oil and gasoline, and unknown materials in glass bottles.

One of the innovations of the HHM program is a process for managing the huge quantities of paint. Oil-based paint is poured onto wood chips or mulch, dried, and taken to the waste-to-energy incinerator. Latex is checked for quality, then blended and sold to the public.

These processes were not developed by Calvin, but she developed the most efficient way to handle the incoming paint cans, organized her work force, instituted a sorting system that allows her to blend attractive paint colors, and set up an inventory system. She even has a catalog to show customers color swatches and quantities available, listing the date it was blended.

In addition, Calvin collects HHM at each of the Convenience Centers to consolidate at the Bee's Ferry site. As she does this, she works with the site



Educating the public about recycling brings great satisfaction for Calvin.

attendants about safe handling practices and communicating with the public.

Speaking with groups and participating in special community events is an interactive part of the job that Calvin enjoys the most.

Over the years, she has volunteered to work at many special events, including one-day collection events for household hazardous waste, Christmas Tree Recycling Days and Trim Your Waste Day in January. She has set up educational tables for the Earth Day Festival and Reuse and Recycle Fairs, and volunteers to work at the Coastal Carolina Fair each fall.

Finally, Calvin will be the on-site person handling the new electronics recycling or e-waste program, helping residents understand and participate while sorting, packaging and working with vendors to recycle the electronic waste.

"During her daily work, she performs her job duties in the highest professional manner," said William Nunnally, Solid Waste Superintendent and her immediate supervisor. "She does not have to be told how to make the household hazardous materials program a success. That is what makes her such a valuable employee to the Solid Waste Collection Division."

Supervisor of the Quarter

Dukes constructing roads for the future

Traffic slows in front of you, presenting red brake lights followed by the sight of bright orange cones, large utility trucks and workers waving flags at on-coming traffic. Road construction.

While these moments of slowed driving may cause minor inconveniences in the rush of our daily lives, there are many who hope the value of the finished road outweighs the temporary disturbance.

In particular, Engineering Inspection Supervisor Harold T. "Buck" Dukes hopes his efforts help to minimize delays and build an improved roadway.

Dukes, who is responsible for the field oversight of contractors performing road work for Charleston County and the Charleston County Transportation Committee (CCTC), earned the honor of Supervisor of the Quarter for his efforts.

Recently completing the 2001 Resurfacing Plan on behalf of the CCTC, Dukes managed a contract valued at \$4 million - but costing the county only \$3.35 million.

Dukes' attention to detail and knowledge of construction practices saved \$650,000 on last year's resurfacing plan.

"This contract has been the best resurfacing plan that the county has ever managed," said Jim Armstrong, Construction Contracts Manager.

The resurfacing plan demands that work be completed on busy streets while maintaining a safe road for the traveling public. Dukes committed himself at the start of this project to provide as little disruption as possible to the public. He succeeded, since there were no traffic complaints regarding the work.

This was true, even when it was difficult to provide schedules about when the construction would be complete. Because the placement of



Satisfaction for Dukes is derived from citizens' comments praising completed construction projects

asphalt is extremely weather sensitive, field operations could be pushed back a day or a week due to adverse weather.

Despite this challenge, Dukes met with various municipal officials and citizen groups to notify as many people as possible prior to the start of any work.

"Dukes is an outstanding employee and a valued asset to the Roads Management Division of the Public Works Department," said Armstrong. "He has an outstanding commitment to the taxpayers of Charleston County."

The daily oversight of this contract required that Dukes expend a great deal of his time towards this project, including some outside the normal work day.

And, even though Dukes' staff has remained short-handed throughout this entire contract, he worked on holidays so that his staff could spend time with their families on their scheduled days off.

All of the extra time and effort is worth it to him, though.

"I like to see a well-built job," said Dukes. "When it's done and we have a good product, and the citizens say the inconveniences were worth it - it's very satisfying."

Supervisor Snapshot

Family

wife - Diane
two teenage sons:
Taylor and Bailey

Activities

Past President of
St. Paul's Country Day
School Booster Club,
St. Paul's Country Day
School Board Member,
Former Town of Ravenel
Councilmember,
Deacon at Sauldam
Baptist Church

Sports

participates with his sons
who are very active in
sports - has coached
Little League, basketball
and football for
several years

About Life ...

Family time is very
important. I try to spend
as much time as possible
with my two sons and
their friends.

Greatest Advice

If we've made a mistake,
let's learn from it
and move on.
Let's not dwell on it.
Everyone makes mistakes -
we can't be afraid
of them.
Learn from them.



LaRouche: a Woman of Distinction

Law Enforcement Victim Advocate Easter LaRouche recently received one of three Girl Scouts of Carolina Low Country 2002 Women of Distinction awards.

Coordinator of the Sheriff's Office Victim Service Program, she spearheaded an effort to secure a grant to establish a support group for the family members of homicide victims in the tri-county area, in addition to donating many hours to these families.

Appointed to the Advisory Council for the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, LaRouche makes recommendations for better service to crime victims in the state. She also works closely with People Against Rape, My Sister's House and a large number of other committees and organizations. She dedicates her time to ensure that victims of crime do not become re-victimized by the system.

Disabilities Board honored

The Disabilities Board of Charleston County received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award Honorable Mention for its ongoing, multi-agency efforts to assist area residents with disabilities.

The program, which includes a volunteer board of private citizens, has created a mutual support system to improve the quality of care for residents with mental retardation, autism, head injuries, spinal cord injuries and related disabilities. The inter-agency coordination and cooperation includes state medical, human services, judicial, health and vocational training organizations in addition to efforts from Charleston County.

Stewart receives certification, elected president

Robert Stewart, Internal Auditor, successfully completed the Certified Government Auditing Professional (CGAP) examination. The exam is a specialty exam designed specifically for and by audit practitioners in various levels of government.

In addition, Stewart was elected president of the Coastal Carolina chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) for 2002-2003.

The CGAP exam explores comprehension of government auditing practice, methodologies and environment. Related standards, including IIA standards and government auditing standards, are tested along with control/risk models.

The CGAP designation is awarded to individuals who have met the requirements of the program, including the challenging examination, high standards of character and proof of education and government auditing experience.

IIA is an international professional association with more than 76,000 members represented in more than 100 countries. The Coastal Carolina chapter includes 84 members.

County coroners achieve advance certifications

Deputy Coroner Judy Koelpin and Coroner's Assistant Dottie Lindsay were designated as Registered Diplomats with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation (AMBDI). In addition, Deputy Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal was designated as Board Certified by AMBDI.

Less than 600 investigators in the country are listed as Registered Diplomats and less than 50 are Board Certified. Currently all five members of the Charleston County Coroner's Office are Registered Diplomats and the remaining four members are scheduled to complete the board certification exam later this year.

To become a Registered Diplomat, individuals must complete a four-hour national exam about medicolegal death investigations based on standards from the National Institutes of Justice National Guidelines for Death Investigation. Applicants must meet specified criteria before they can take the national exam.

To become Board Certified, individuals must be Registered Medicolegal Death Investigators with a minimum of 4,000 hours of experience in death investigation. The examination process includes a blind peer review of their death investigation reports, a five-hour examination and participation in continuing education programs.

AMBDI is a national, nonprofit, independent, professional certification board established to promote the highest standards of practice for medicolegal death investigators.

General Services honors employees

by TC Hardwick, General Services

General Services recognized David "Butch" Kaelin, Assistant Building Maintenance Supervisor, as the department's Supervisor of the Quarter. Eddie Banks, Trades Technician II, was recognized as the department's Employee of the Quarter.

Kaelin saved the county \$375,000 and countless man-hours in completing high priority construction/renovation projects in-house, such as the James Island Library, the West Ashley Library, the Cooper River Library and the new offices at the Cumberland Street Parking Garage.

Banks successfully helped make the Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building fully operational by utilizing his multiple trade talents. During the move into the PSB, several facility problems surfaced and Banks was key in resolving these challenges.

Magistrate Harper wins election

Charleston County Magistrate Jeannette M. Harper was elected president of the National Judges Association (NJA) for 2002-2003. Before becoming a magistrate, Harper taught senior English at Wando High School for 20 years. She also served as the Governor's liaison to the S.C. Board of Education during Governor Edwards' administration. Harper also serves as a municipal judge for Isle of Palms.

NJA was founded in 1979 to promote the interests of non-lawyer judges, including teachers, barbers, ranchers, merchants and Ph.D. mathematicians. The citizen or lay judge has a long history of service in United States and other courts throughout the world. At a recent conference, NJA voted to allow attorney judges to join as full voting members. Now all judges of limited jurisdiction may join and support the goals of the organization.

Records Center receives award of excellence

by Julie Norris, General Services

The Records Center received the S.C. Department of Archives and History 2002 Award of Excellence for the diligence and hard work that has gone into the development of Charleston County's records management program.

The records center is the largest local records facility in the state. Since its inception in 1995, Charleston County has received this award each year.

Procurement department receives recognitions

The Procurement Department received the Carolinas Association of Governmental Purchasing Sustained Professional Purchasing Award for excellence in purchasing standards and the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing's (NIGP) Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement Award.

The NIGP accreditation formally recognizes excellence in public procurement by establishing a body of standards that should be in place for a solid purchasing operation. The organization's membership represents 2,100 governmental agencies throughout the United States and Canada. Only 40 governments have attained this accreditation.

Employee honors

Veterans Affairs Director **Donald O. Morillo Sr.** was appointed to the First Congressional District Advisory Council on Military and Veterans Affairs by Congressman Henry Brown. Morillo, a Vietnam veteran, is one of 12 residents appointed to this council which includes veterans, retirees, reservists and active duty military members who give recommendations regarding the needs of veterans and active duty personnel.

Amy E. Lombardi was named Telecommunicator of the Year during the annual S.C. Associated Public-Safety Communications Officials conference held in Spartanburg. Lombardi serves as an Assistant Shift Supervisor in the Sheriff's Office Telecommunications Division.

Tyrone Wallace, a School of the Arts student intern at the James Island Magistrates Court, was invited to sing for President Bush during his visit to the upstate earlier this year. Wallace was attending the S.C. Governor's School for Arts and Humanities at the time.

Holocaust collection unveiled; improvements made at libraries

Learn more about the Shoah

Since Steven Spielberg established Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in 1994, the Foundation has videotaped the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses in 57 countries in 32 languages.

Today, the Shoah Foundation endeavors to overcome prejudice, intolerance and bigotry - and the suffering they cause - through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies.

To this end, the Foundation preserves and provides access to the archive; builds and supports educational programs; and develops educational products based on the testimonies.

Eight documentary films have been produced; three in English, including the 1998 Academy Award-winning *The Last Days*, and five foreign-language television documentaries collectively known as *Broken Silence*.

To learn more, visit the foundation's web site at www.vhf.org.

Holocaust collection unveiled

The Charleston County Public Library is hosting the first regional collection of Shoah Foundation testimonies available for viewing at a public library in the United States.

The Foundation's archive of more than 50,000 eyewitness testimonies is the largest collection of videotaped Holocaust testimonies in the world.

Twenty-eight Holocaust survivors and witnesses gave testimony in South Carolina between 1994 and 1998. Their interviews comprise the Shoah Visual History Foundation's collection at the library.

The exhibition of the collection marks a milestone in the effort to bring Holocaust education to the region.

Starting in 1994, a survivor-led group of citizens spearheaded a community-wide effort leading to the establishment of the Holocaust Memorial Committee and the subsequent construction of a Holocaust memorial in Marion Square, in downtown Charleston.

In 1996, the committee forged an educational link between the memorial and the Charleston County Public Library with the establishment of the Jerry and Anita Zucker Holocaust Memorial Collection, named to honor the Zucker family's contribution to the memorial at the Main Library. This special collection holds reference and lending materials that serve as a resource for teachers, students and the public.

To further the educational mandate and to bring the faces and voices of the survivors to the community, a partnership between the Foundation and the Library was established to bring a regional collection of Holocaust eyewitness testimonies here for public viewing.

The Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection at the library will form the basis for community-wide educational support for Holocaust studies within the public school and library systems.

Improvements at branch libraries

by Walter Smalls, General Services

In 1999, County Council directed General Services to renovate nine of the 15 regional and branch libraries. Work on these projects has been ongoing and will be completed in the coming months.

The initial maintenance/renovations started with the four regional libraries. General Services replaced and relocated a portion of the HVAC system, added awnings, power washed the exterior, painted various areas and replaced the flat portion of the roofing system for each of these libraries.

The branch libraries - James Island, West Ashley, Cooper River and Dart Hall - received extensive interior renovations. The renovations included new HVAC systems, new suspended ceilings and lights, staff workroom renovations, new circulation desks, an upgrade of the electrical services, new windows, interior painting, complete restroom upgrades, roof repairs, etc.

The Dart Hall Library re-opened in July at the completion of renovations. The McClellanville Branch is the last of the nine libraries to be renovated. The renovations to this library will be completed in about 90 days.

The work completed by General Services makes a tremendous difference in both the interior and exterior of these facilities.

Graduating class celebrates new opportunities

In June, 26 students graduated from a new healthcare program developed by the Trident One-Stop Career Center (TOSCC) and Trident Technical College.

Responding to the need for health care professionals in the Trident region, the two organizations teamed with local health care providers to develop a program to recruit, test and train local residents for employment opportunities in the health care industry.

Health care is a growing in-demand occupation that offers rewarding employment and career advancement opportunities for health care practitioners. Because of this, two programs to train eligible customers for work in the field were designed.

The Certified Nurse's Aide and Patient Care Technician programs provide intense training in the nursing and patient care fields. Upon completion of the training, graduates are interviewed by local employers for jobs in the health care industry. The nursing program is a four-week program while the patient care program requires eight weeks of classroom study.

For more information about these programs, call the TOSCC at 574-1800.

Russian director visits Career Center

The Trident One-Stop Career Center (TOSCC) honored a special request by welcoming Alexander Ivanov, Director of the Town of Miass, Russia, Employment Center. Ivanov was one of 10 Russian officials taking part in the Community Connections program in conjunction with the S.C. World Trade Center.

"Ivanov was anxious to learn all about our operation, especially the way we have incorporated so many services under one roof," says Paul L. Connerty, TOSCC Director. "He really liked the idea that someone could come here and take care of everything from research, testing and resume writing to interviewing and training."

With the help of a Russian interpreter, Ivanov also praised the Clothes Closet concept, which allows eligible people to have access to professional attire for job interviews and new careers. He enjoyed learning about the GED program, as well as seeing the emphasis that is put on helping disabled citizens become gainfully employed.

"When touring our facility, as well as our partner Goodwill, he was fascinated by how active South Carolina is in employing those with disabilities. This is yet another concept that he would like to incorporate in his country," said Connerty.

The goal of the State Department's Community Connections program is to help Russians successfully transition to and maintain a private market-based economy. Every few months a group of 10 officials visit the Lowcountry for several weeks to learn more about American business practices.

"People have opened their homes and welcomed our visitors with great enthusiasm," says Mark Condon, Director of the S.C. World Trade Center. "Our guests were able to see first-hand many aspects of our employment services, educational programs, entrepreneurship and even had time for a little fun during their stay."

Condon and Connerty are both hoping this program continues to enjoy its current success.

"This program is a great way to help our Russian friends," concludes Condon. "We hope that many more international visitors will come to South Carolina, not only to learn about American business, but that they will also visit the career center to learn more about this successful one-stop concept."

TOSCC awarded

The Trident One-Stop Career Center received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award. The award honored the One-Stop's joint project with Nucor Steel and Trident Technical College.

The winning project, "Making of a Steel Maker," demonstrates how public, private and government entities fulfill workforce needs through unique and successful partnerships.

The program aimed to attract new employees for Nucor Steel, develop a listing of entry level skill requirements, provide the necessary training and allow for subsequent hiring of eligible job candidates.

The success of the program was measured by the achievement of 100 percent of Nucor Steel's training/hiring goals while employing 154 job seekers through the One-Stop Center.

The NACo achievement award program is designed to honor local county governments for innovative problem solving and to serve as a reference for other governments interested in developing similar programs.

PIO efforts net national awards

The Public Information Office won three Awards of Excellence from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) and a Silver Circle Award from the City-County Communication and Marketing Association (3CMA).

Three awards centered around the grand re-opening ceremony for the Historic Courthouse in 2001. The event, which marked the culmination of more than 10 years of work dedicated to restoring the building to its 1792 era, was attended by more than 750 people and received local, state and national media attention.

Both NACIO and 3CMA recognized the excellence of the overall special event, which included people in 1790s period costume, and NACIO also gave the county an award for excellent speech writing for remarks delivered by the council chairman.

The county also was recognized by NACIO for its in-house employee newsletter, *The County Connection*, which has a circulation of nearly 3,000.

Adult Drug Court honors new graduates

Twenty participants graduated from the Charleston County Adult Drug Court in the spring and summer of 2002. The Adult Drug Court affords those who face legal consequences resulting from their use of drugs, or involvement in drug-related crimes, the opportunity to change their problem behaviors and become productive members of society.

An intensive 12-month program of comprehensive drug treatment and supervision, the program requires participants to accept full accountability for their actions through counseling, frequent and random drug testing, regular appearances before the judge and close monitoring for compliance with the program. Graduated sanctions, including jail time, are imposed for noncompliance.

The Charleston County Adult Drug Court program held its first session in July 1999 when Probate Judge Irv Condon developed and implemented the program based on the court established in Dade County, Fla. Dade County opened the first drug court in the United States in 1989.

Events recognize emergency medical personnel

Charleston County Emergency Services (EMS) employees were honored during the annual week-long celebration of National EMS Week. In addition to recognizing its personnel, EMS honored area second graders for their artwork submitted during this year's coloring contest.

During a lively press conference that included the new Star of Life mascot, presentations were made by local officials and accolades were given in celebration and to recognize the many employees and volunteers who provide emergency medical services to the citizens of Charleston County 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Other activities during the week included an automobile crash demonstration at St. Paul's Country Day School, a Technical Team demonstration that included rope repelling along the side of the Carolina Ice Palace, a statewide press conference in Columbia and an ice skating party at the Carolina Ice Palace to recognize all 63 second-grade winners from 21 schools participating in this year's countywide Coloring Contest.

Charleston hosts conference on disasters

More than 200 emergency management officials and disaster mitigation specialists visited Charleston in June to learn how better to prepare for, prevent and respond to natural and man-made disasters, including acts of terrorism.

Workshops for the 2002 Southeastern Disaster Resistant Communities Summit were held at the College of Charleston Lightsey Conference Center. Participants came from as far west as New Mexico and as far north as Pennsylvania.

The workshop included comments from FEMA Region IV Regional Director Kenneth Burris Jr. and Charleston County Council Chairman Timothy E. Scott. Workshop topics included response to the New York City World Trade Center attacks and recent flooding in Chicago.

Topics discussed included Bioterrorism and Foreign Animal Disease; GIS In the World Trade Center Attack - A Test By Fire; Historic Building Renovations; and Terrorism Preparedness Initiatives at the Federal Level.

Another key issue at the Summit revolved around studies on technology and how it helps responders during disasters.

The Summit concluded with the presentation of 16 awards to businesses, organizations and individuals for their work in safeguarding communities by making them more resistant to natural disasters.

Earth Day Festival held at Hampton Park

This year's Earth Day Festivities held at Hampton Park proved to serve as a celebration of the different ways we can make a difference in preserving and protecting our environment locally, while joining half a billion other people around the world in celebration of Earth Day.

Local Earth Day Festival activities included more than 60 educational exhibits, half a dozen food vendors and a variety of entertainment, including music and a skydiving demonstration from the Green Beret Sport Parachute Team.

Free activities for kids included a recycled puppet show, a jump castle, a giant slide, the bungee sports challenge, face painting, arts and crafts, and a host of reptiles, turtles and other marine organisms provided by Tiedemann Park Nature Center and a variety of other organizations.

In addition, an award was presented to the winner of the Earth Day T-Shirt Art Contest, the City of Charleston recognized those who participated in this year's Clean City Sweep, and the cities of Charleston and North Charleston presented the results from this year's Great American Cleanup.

The Earth Day Festival is hosted and sponsored by Charleston County Solid Waste with the support of the following cosponsors: SCANA Corporation, Piggly Wiggly Carolina Co., Nucor Steel, Commissioners of Public Works and Charleston Clean City Commission.

e-Waste day targets electronic wastes

The Solid Waste Department hosted a Household e-Waste Day in early August, encouraging residents to recycle electronic and household hazardous materials.

e-Waste items that can be recycled include old computer monitors, TVs, radios, cell phones, pagers and home office equipment, all of which contain high levels of mercury and other heavy metals. In addition, household hazardous materials such as paint, cleaners, fertilizers, pesticides, pool chemicals, etc., were accepted during this event.

e-Waste is actually one of the fastest growing waste streams in the United States. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 1.5 million computers enter the waste stream every year, and by 2004, an estimated 315 million computers will be obsolete. Studies have shown that the average product lifespan for desktop computers is four to six years, computer peripherals is three to five years and television sets is five to seven years, and as technology advances, these time frames shorten.

Computer monitors or cathode ray tubes in televisions and computers contain more than two pounds of lead, while electronic equipment contains cadmium, chromium, mercury, brominated flame retardants and PVC plastics.

If you missed e-Waste Day, the following items were accepted. You will be able to recycle these products at a future e-Waste Day:

- ◆ **Computers** – CPUs, monitors, laptops, hard drives, keyboards, mice, cables and other hardware.
- ◆ **Audio Visual Equipment** - TVs, VCRs, stereos, radios, camcorders, CD, DVD and cassette players.
- ◆ **Office Equipment** - printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, calculators, telephones, cell and cordless phones, PDAs, pagers and digital watches

In addition, Household Hazardous Materials can be recycled daily at the Bees Ferry Landfill. These items must be carefully separated in original or clearly marked containers.

For more information on e-Waste or other recyclables, call the Charleston County Recycling Center at 720-7111.

Drill targets terrorism

Charleston County emergency workers combined efforts in June for a multi-jurisdictional drill designed to test the county's ability to respond to the detonation of a bomb involving mass casualties and injuries.

The drill required a response to a bomb explosion at the food court of the North Charleston Coliseum during a sold-out circus performance resulting in both injuries and deaths; a twin explosive device; and a secondary device in the parking lot that led the Sheriff's Office SWAT team members to investigate the source of the bombs.

More than 100 volunteer patients participated, in addition to these agencies: Charleston County, North Charleston Coliseum, cities of Charleston and North Charleston, Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Emergency Management Division, S.C. Dept. of Public Safety, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, Americorp, American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and area hospitals.

Dental Plus: How this new plan works for you

Inquiries to Human Resources have indicated confusion around some aspects of the new Dental Plus program. Below are some points of clarification that may be helpful.

Dental Plus is an additional dental program that provides a higher level of coverage for dental services covered under the State Dental Plan. Dental Plus is not an “offset” program that pays what the State Dental Plan does not. Instead, it covers the same procedures and services (except Dental Plus does not cover orthodontia) at the same percentage rate of coverage as the State Dental Plan, but at a higher “allowance” or dollar amount for the charges.

Under Dental Plus, allowances for the various dental services and procedures were set at the rates that 90 percent of the dentists in South Carolina charge. If a dentist charges more for covered services than what Dental Plus allows, the subscriber is responsible for paying the difference.

The Employee Insurance Program (EIP) offered agreements to all South Carolina dentists to accept the lesser of their usual charges or the Dental Plus maximum allowances. Dentists who have accepted the agreement are included on the EIP website at www.eip.state.sc.us. Regardless of whether a dentist chooses to accept this agreement, Dental Plus will still pay benefits.

There are no additional deductibles or coinsurance under Dental Plus. However, there is a deductible under the State Dental Plan. That amount is \$25 per covered person annually for dental services under Class II and Class III. The maximum deductible for family coverage is for three persons, or \$75.

The combined annual maximum benefit for both the State Dental Plan and Dental Plus is \$1,500 per covered person (compared to \$1,000 with the State Dental Plan alone). However, since Dental Plus pays more than the State Dental Plan alone, covered dental benefits for an individual may reach the combined \$1,500 maximum before reaching the State Dental Plan’s \$1,000 maximum.

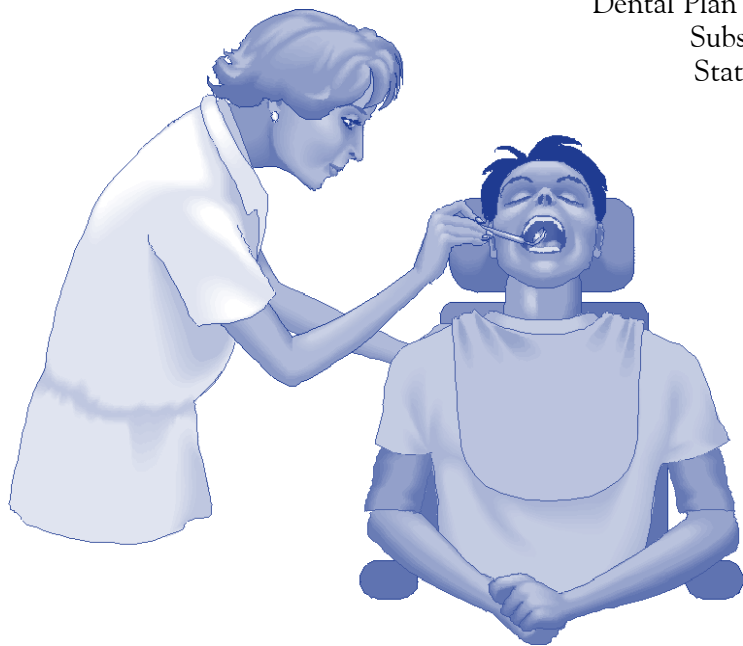
Although the combined maximum may be reached (and no more benefits would be paid under the Dental Plus program for the calendar year), the State Dental Plan would continue to pay benefits until its \$1,000 maximum is reached.

In this situation, it is possible to receive benefits from both the State Dental Plan and Dental Plus totaling more than \$1,500 in a year.

Subscribers pay Dental Plus premiums in addition to any State Dental Plan premiums, and they must carry the same level of coverage that they carry under the State Dental Plan. The type of coverage and premiums for the two plans are listed in the boxes on the next page.

Harrington Benefit Services is the claims administrator for both the State Dental Plan and Dental Plus, so no additional claim forms need to be completed. Harrington processes claims under the State Dental Plan first, then under Dental Plus for those who are enrolled under that program.

Subscribers will receive two Explanations of Benefits (EOBs) that appear similar. EIP is working currently with Harrington to make minor changes to the Dental Plus EOB so that it is more distinguishable from the EOB for the State Dental Plan.



Dental Plus: Examples of the costs and coverages

Dental Plus works in conjunction with the State Dental Plan. You must participate in the state's plan to be a member of Dental Plus. Listed in the tables below is information to help you learn more about how this program may or may not help your individual situation. The information is provided as examples and is not meant to reflect exact figures used by your dentist.

Insurance Premium Costs Per Pay Period



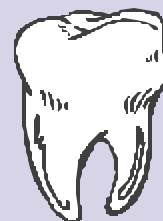
	State Dental Plan	Dental Plus	Total
Employee	\$ 0.00	\$7.75	\$7.75
Employee + Spouse	\$ 3.82	\$14.67	\$18.49
Employee + Child(ren)	\$ 6.86	\$16.01	\$22.87
Full Family	\$10.67	\$22.93	\$33.60

Under the State Dental Plan and Dental Plus, Class III dental benefits are paid at 50 percent of the allowance. Examples of how the two plans operate together, based on a crown (resin with predominant base metal), are illustrated below.

Examples - using Class III procedure claims

When dentist's charge does not exceed Dental Plus allowance:

Dentist's charge for Class III procedure	\$680.00
State Dental Plan (SDP) benefit	\$174.50 (50% of \$349 ¹)
Dental Plus (DP) benefit	\$343.00 (50% of \$686 ²)
Maximum reimbursable amount	\$340.00 (50% of dentist's charge or DP allowance, whichever is less)
Maximum reimbursable amount	\$340.00
SDP benefit	- \$174.50
Remaining reimbursable amount	\$165.50
Dental Plus benefit	- \$165.50
Dentist's charge	\$680.00
Total benefits paid	- \$340.00
Patient owes	\$340.00 ³



Notes about examples ...

1 - \$349 is the allowance for this procedure under the State Dental Plan.

2 - \$686 is the allowance for this procedure under Dental Plus.

3 - Without Dental Plus, the patient would owe \$505.50 in this example.

4 - Without Dental Plus, the patient would owe \$625.50 in this example.

When dentist's charge exceeds Dental Plus allowance:

Dentist's charge for Class III procedure	\$800.00
State Dental Plan (SDP) benefit	\$174.50 (50% of \$349 ¹)
Dental Plus (DP) benefit	\$343.00 (50% of \$686 ²)
Maximum reimbursable amount	\$343.00 (50% of dentist's charge or DP allowance, whichever is less)
Maximum reimbursable amount	\$343.00
SDP benefit	- \$174.50
Remaining reimbursable amount	\$168.50
Dental Plus benefit	- \$168.50
Dentist's charge	\$800.00
Total benefits paid	- \$343.00
Patient owes	\$457.00 ⁴

MoneyPlu\$:

Understanding your Explanation of Benefits and recent merger



MoneyPlu\$ Merger

Hunt, DuPree, Rhine & Associates, Inc., administrator for the MoneyPlu\$ flexible benefits program, announced a merger with W.E. Stanley & Co. to become Stanley, Hunt, DuPree & Rhine, Inc. (SHDR), operating as a BB&T company. The new organization will continue to administer the MoneyPlu\$ program from Greenville.

Understanding your Explanation of Benefits

There are two parts to the MoneyPlu\$ check payment stub. The actual check is the first part. The bottom portion is the Explanation of Benefits or EOB.

The MoneyPlu\$ EOB is divided into three parts. The first part shows the check number, amount of the check, participant's name, date and social security number.

The second part shows the type of account (Medical or Dependent Care), the annual election, year-to-date claims submitted, year-to-date claims denied, year-to-date eligible, remaining election, year-to-date deposits, year-to-date paid and year-to-date pending. All amounts are cumulative and pending amounts will be paid as deposits are posted to the account from your biweekly paycheck.

The last part shows an itemization of all claims submitted. The information on the MoneyPlu\$ EOB includes the date range, requested amount, pended amount, total paid and description of expense.

Call MoneyPlu\$, toll-free, at 1-800-768-4372 for additional information or if you have any questions regarding the program.

Deferred Compensation Update

Listed below are recent annual returns for the S.C. Deferred Compensation program. The average annual returns for the mutual funds reflect actual total returns for each fund. For more information, including charges and expenses, you may obtain required documents from the benefits office in Human Resources. To look up daily fund values, check the stock section in your newspaper under the Mutual Fund listings, call Key Talk at 1-800-701-8255 or visit www.sc.hrbenefits.com. For personalized assistance, contact Stanley Robinson at 1-800-922-1380 during business hours.

INVESTMENT OPTIONS	YTD 3/31/02	3 Yrs. 3/31/02	5 Yrs 3/31/02	Cal Yr 2001	Cal Yr 2000	Cal Yr 1999
American Century Ultra Investors	-1.05%	-4.61%	10.17%	-14.61%	-19.91%	41.46%
American Funds EuroPacific Growth	1.56%	2.65%	7.20%	-12.17%	-17.84%	56.97%
Brazos MicroCap Growth Fund	-4.54%	27.04%	N/A	4.70%	18.09%	80.84%
Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	-2.76%	10.50%	11.84%	-20.53%	-9.80%	97.08%
Fidelity Diversified International Fund	2.46%	5.99%	9.18%	-12.99%	-8.96%	50.65%
JP Morgan Growth & Income A	2.98%	-1.08%	7.14%	-13.48%	0.48%	8.09%
Oppenheimer Capital Income A Fund	0.07%	3.33%	8.99%	-0.19%	16.82%	-6.25%
PIMCO Total Return Institutional Fund	0.66%	7.34%	8.43%	9.49%	12.11%	-0.28%
Strong Opportunity Investment Fund	0.94%	10.53%	15.13%	-4.80%	8.57%	33.39%
Vanguard Institutional Index Inst Plus	0.27%	-2.43%	N/A	-11.90%	-8.92%	21.22%
Second Quarter 2002:		Guaranteed Fund -84 month		5.84%		
		Stable Value Fund		4.94%		

Benefit Briefs

Merck-Medco becomes Medco Health

Merck-Medco, the company that manages the prescription drug benefit on behalf of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, is changing its name to Medco Health Solutions, Inc.

The prescription benefits coverage will not change as a result of the name change, and employees do not have to do anything differently to obtain their prescriptions. In fact, you may continue to use your current member ID card at retail pharmacies to fill prescriptions.

If you use the Medco Health Home Delivery Pharmacy Service to fill prescriptions, you may continue to use the same order forms and envelopes as in the past. Employees also may continue to order prescriptions and get important health and prescription benefit information online at the new Web site: www.medcohealth.com.

In the coming months, you may continue to see both the old name, Merck-Medco, and the new name, Medco Health, until this transition has been completed.

New prescription coverages: contraceptives

The State Health Plan has decided the prescription contraceptive coverage that became effective in January includes IUDs (intrauterine devices) and diaphragms, and the coverage is retroactive.

Routine contraceptive prescriptions, including birth control pills and injectables (Depo-provera and Lunelle) for employees and covered spouses that are filled at a participating pharmacy, are covered under the Prescription Drug Program.

Birth control implants, injectables and prescription devices (such as IUDs and diaphragms) that are given in a doctor's office will be paid as medical claims.

Spermicidal products that are sold over the counter are not covered, with or without a prescription.

Insurance web site listing for your reference

Many of your insurance questions can be answered by visiting the web sites listed below. Save these addresses for future reference.

Insurance resources:

Aetna U.S. Healthcare - www.aetnaushc.com/custom/group/southcarolina
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina - www.southcarolinablues.com
 BC/BS Medi-Call (pre-certification) - www.southcarolinablues.com
 Companion Healthcare - www.companionhealthcare.com
 MUSC Options - www.companionhealthcare.com
 Medco Health Solutions, Inc. - www.medcohealth.com
 The Hartford Insurance Company - www.thehartford.com
 Standard Insurance - www.standard.com
 Hunt, DuPree, Rhine & Associates (PIN required) - www.online-enrollment.com/hdr
 APS Healthcare - www.apshealthcare.com

Government contacts

S.C. Office of Insurance Services:
www.ois.state.sc.us
 S.C. Deferred Compensation:
www.sc.hrbenefits.com
 S.C. Retirement Systems:
www.scrs.state.sc.us



Get active!

Regular physical activity, fitness and exercise are crucial to the health and well-being of people of all ages. Everyone can benefit from regular physical activity, whether it's vigorous exercise or some type of moderate health-enhancing physical activity. Even among frail and very old adults, mobility and functioning can be improved through physical activity.

Millions of Americans suffer from chronic illnesses that can be prevented or improved through regular physical activity. Recent studies found that 14 percent of all deaths in the United States were attributed to activity patterns and diet, and 23 percent of deaths from major chronic diseases were linked to sedentary lifestyles.

Participation in regular physical activity, at least 30 minutes of moderate activity five days per week or 20 minutes of vigorous activity three times per week, is critical to sustaining good health.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services at www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/20020620.html

Summertime food safety:

Are you taking precautions during the hot weather?

If you are planning to fire up the charcoals or put gas in the grill, it is important to be aware of some food safety tips during the warm weather.

The incidence of food-borne illness is most prevalent from May to September. Often illness can occur with symptoms like headaches, muscle aches, exhaustion, diarrhea, dizziness or vomiting. It is often misdiagnosed as the flu.

Food Safety Tips:

Wash hands often

Wash hands in warm, soapy water before preparing foods and after handling raw meats, including poultry and seafood.

While preparing foods, whether it is raw or cooked meat, be careful of cross contamination.



Keep raw meats and ready-to-eat foods separate

Cross contamination occurs when the germs from juices of raw meats accidentally touch cooked or ready-to-eat foods. Make sure to use two separate cutting boards: one for raw meats, the other for ready-to-eat foods like breads and vegetables.

Cook to proper temperature

Use a meat thermometer to help ensure the meat is cooked thoroughly. Now it's time to relax after you cookout, right? Not so fast. Make sure all of the uneaten foods are refrigerated within the hour after your meal.

Refrigerate promptly, below 40 degrees Fahrenheit

This will help to reduce the growth of bacteria in the food.

the County
Connection

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