

District 4 News

*Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster,
Union and York counties*

District Engineer: John McCarter (803) 377-4155
FAX (803) 581-2088

Chester employee helps officers get bulletproof vests

Following the gang-related shooting death of a Chester City Councilman in November, Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood pled with Chester County Council for more funding to combat the gang problem in Chester County. The County Council stated that funds were not available at this time to help with the problem. During the exchange, residents learned that the Sheriff's deputies were wearing bullet-proof vests that had exceeded their life expectancy.

SCDOT District Four OSHA Officer **Kim Desrosiers**, after watching the news clips from the council meeting, put her thoughts on Facebook that morning before going to work. She stated that the officers needed to feel safe to be able to protect the citizens. Kim suggested that if each person in Chester County, which is roughly 33,000 residents, would donate just \$1, the citizens could help the deputies.

By the time she arrived home, her post had been shared many times and the responses poured in that many were willing to donate. After talking it over with her husband, she once again posted on Facebook that what had just been thoughts would now be a reality and that she was going to contact the Sheriff's office about starting the fundraiser. She also stated that she and her husband Bob would purchase the 1st vest, soon her friend Susan Thomas stated that she and her husband, Scott, would also purchase a vest. Susan began contacting dozens of people who pledged support. Media outlets from the Rock Hill and the Charlotte area picked up the story and the campaign for a vest drive was underway. Working with the



PHOTO BY SUSAN THOMAS

Kim Desrosiers, left, poses with Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood with a new vest for officers.

Sheriff's Foundation of Chester County, donations and pledges poured in, and in less than a week enough money was raised to provide 18 new vests to the Sheriff's Office. The vests are custom fit for more protection from high powered weapons and the costs is approximately \$800 per vest. Once ordered and custom made, a press conference was held to present the vests to the Sheriff and his Deputies. Sheriff Underwood was overwhelmed with the community's support of his officers; fighting back tears he thanked all the citizens who helped to protect those who protect them.

Got news?

Contact Edward Moore with your ideas at 803-377-4155 or by emailing him at MooreEO@scdot.org



Edward Moore

Hooked on fun

District 4 employees enjoy annual fishing tournament

Employees from Chester and York Maintenance came together on May 11 to participate in the annual District 4 fishing tournament.

The tournament was held at the Chester State Park with prizes awarded in bass and bream categories.



CHAMPS!

D4 Signal Tech Colby Hall, left, and his fishing partner show off the winning catch of bass.

Meet Leonard Scott

Name: Leonard Scott
Age: 29
Title: D4 Information Resource Coordinator

Started at SCDOT: July 2014

Leonard Scott grew up in the Columbia area and graduated from Lower Richland High School.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Limestone College in Gaffney. He is married and has 3 sons and 1 daughter. He served 3 years in the US Air Force.



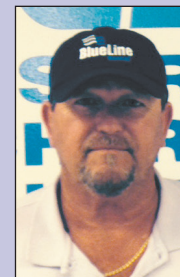
SERVICE AWARD

DEA **John McCarter** presents Administrative Coordinator **Juanita Abercrombie** with her certificate for 20 years of service.



Juanita Abercrombie

RETIREES



Ricky D Horne
Cherokee Maintenance
33 years of service.



Julian C. Harrison
Cherokee Maintenance
37 years of service.