

The Connector

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SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMER/FALL 2005



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Director of Engineering Special Projects Bobby Clair speaks to the crowd during the opening ceremony July 16. Clair was given a standing ovation before he spoke.

Ravenel Bridge opens

\$632 million project opens under budget, ahead of schedule, as thousands celebrate

By Bob Kudelka

The Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, the largest single transportation project in SCDOT history, was dedicated on the sunny morning of July 16, 2005, capping a memorable weeklong celebration complete with fireworks, galas and a Who's Who of Lowcountry, state and national leaders.

It was a fitting tribute for a project that finished under budget, a year ahead of schedule and met all of the lofty goals set when ground was broken four years earlier.

"The largest transportation project in the history of South Carolina got the dedication it deserved," Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry said.

Already a Lowcountry icon found on expensive artwork and jewelry to souvenir T-shirts and caps, the new \$632 million bridge linking Charleston with Mount Pleasant drew TV news crews from as far away as Sweden and China to cover the opening.

The longest cable-stay bridge in the northern hemisphere replaces the deficient John P. Grace Memorial Bridge, which opened in 1929, and the aging Silas N. Pearman Bridge with so many state-of-the-art features that it is comparable to replacing a Model A Ford with a new BMW.

The bridge has eight lanes for traffic; a 12-foot-wide lane for pedestrians and bicyclists; much greater clearance to allow large ships to pass and rock islands to prevent collisions; a cutting edge design to withstand a massive earthquake or a hurricane of the century; elevators for inspectors to ride inside its diamond towers; 12 remote-controlled cameras and two weather monitoring stations to gather information for traffic engineers to help motorists have a safe trip across; and warm, glowing lights that can be dimmed to the benefit of area sea turtles.

"This bridge is an engineering marvel," Commissioner Bob Harrell Sr., of the 1st Congressional District, said during opening ceremonies. "Beginning today, it will provide safe and efficient travel for the motoring public and for maritime navigation. It will also provide safe passage for pedestrians, bicyclists and people who just want to come and enjoy the bridge on a 24/7 basis. It is a magnificent structure."

Harrell and Commissioner John M. "Moot" Truluck, of the 6th Congressional District, presided over the dedication ceremony that included two military flyovers and special music written by Mary S. Freeman of Greenville, sister of SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry.

Speakers included Mount Pleasant Mayor Harry Hallman Jr.; Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr.; US Senator Lindsey Graham; US Senator James W. DeMint; former US Senator Ernest F. Hollings; US Congressman James E. Clyburn; US Congressman Henry E. Brown Jr.; SCDOT Commission Chairman Tee Hooper; South Carolina Speaker of the House Robert W. "Bobby" Harrell Jr.; South Carolina State Representative H.B. "Chip" Limehouse III; State Infrastructure Bank Chairman Don Leonard; SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry; FHWA Division Administrator Bob Lee; Charleston County Council Chairman Leon E. Stavrinakis; Bobby Clair, Director of Engineering, Special Projects; South Carolina Senator and President Pro Tempore Glenn F. McConnell; and former South Carolina State Senator and Congressman Arthur Ravenel Jr.

Gov. Mark Sanford, who could not attend the dedication because of a scheduling conflict, thanked Mabry and the Commission the day before, during a meeting atop the bridge.

See BRIDGE on page 11

SCDOT

Pedestrians preview project, give thumbs up

Greater than anticipated crowds attend 'public days'

By Bob Kudelka

Irv and Helen Lipsky joined thousands of others for a chance to walk on the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge on the first of two "public days" during the weekend before the dedication and official opening.

The Lipskys, New York natives, have lived in Charleston since 1948. During the past four years, the retired couple had a birds-eye view of the construction of the new bridge from their high-rise apartment next to the aquarium and overlooking the Charleston harbor.

"We watched this entire thing go up, every bit of it," said Helen, standing atop the bridge for the first time.

"We watched it go up," Irv said.

"And now we're walking on it," Helen said.

"We finally reached the stage, huh?" Irv said, glancing at the soaring, diamond-



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The public couldn't wait to get a first-hand look at the project. More than 150,000 people came to preview the new bridge during an open-house event on July 9 and 10.

See PUBLIC DAYS on page 11

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DIRECTIONS

By Elizabeth S. Mabry
Executive Director

This summer we had the opportunity to witness and celebrate a transportation project of a lifetime. The Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge in Charleston opened on a beautiful Saturday in July. This structure that connects US 17 between Charleston and Mount Pleasant is an engineering marvel, and wonderful work of architecture.

Whenever we complete a project at SCDOT, one of our goals is to leave the area better off than when we started the work. The Ravenel Bridge certainly makes traveling between these two cities safer and easier for motorists, and it also gives pedestrians and bicyclists access to this spectacular bridge.

The wider passage for ships on the Cooper River below will allow the Port of Charleston to increase its business, which means an improved economy for the entire



Elizabeth S. Mabry

state. And once the project to demolish the Grace and Pearman bridges is complete,

the neighborhoods in the Eastside of Charleston will no longer be split by the old bridges, and we will help those communities "re-knit" themselves.

So you can see how the Ravenel Bridge is more than just a bridge. It's a symbol of pride for the Lowcountry that was completed under its \$632 million budget, and a full year ahead of schedule.

For all of us at SCDOT, it's a real example of how teamwork and cooperation lead to success. The completion of the Ravenel Bridge, ahead of schedule and under budget just didn't happen by itself.

A dedicated team of people from SCDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, the State Infrastructure Bank, local governments in the Lowcountry, members of the SC delegation in Washington, the firms that made up Palmetto Bridge Constructors, and the people of the Charleston area who came to the public meetings and offered their comments, all worked together very hard, and very wisely during the past years to get this bridge built, resulting in a source of pride for all of South Carolina.

Everyone at SCDOT should be proud

of the Ravenel Bridge as a project, and as a symbol of successful cooperation and teamwork. This sense of teamwork and pride is characteristic of all of our projects, no matter how small.

Three weeks after the Ravenel Bridge was opened, another celebration was held in the city of Hanahan that didn't get much media coverage. On August 5, a new bridge opened on Murray Avenue that crosses Turkey Thicket Creek. This bridge replaced a structure built in 1952.

The community was so excited that this bridge was replaced and opened on time, residents held their own celebration. (See the story and photo on page 8.)

Three schools in Hanahan are located on Murray Avenue near the bridge, so it was important to the community that this bridge would be completed by the August 5th deadline, after only about two months to get the job done. SCDOT staff and the contractor made it happen.

Regardless of the size or cost of projects, all of our work is important to the people in those communities. The teamwork and pride that go into all of our projects is why SCDOT continues to be successful.

Notice to All SCDOT Employees Fuel Crunch Requires Your Attention

By Michael D. Covington
SCDOT Director of Administration

The rise in gasoline and diesel prices is causing two problems for SCDOT.

First, our costs are going up. This includes the direct impact on the cost of fuel for vehicles and equipment and the indirect impact on the cost of materials and supplies.

Secondly, people are buying less fuel, which causes our revenues to decline. The Motor Fuel User Fee is paid on a per gallon basis, so as consumption declines, revenue (income) also declines.

This "Double Whammy" requires immediate action by all SCDOT employees who use vehicles and equipment. We must reduce fuel consumption as much as possible. Common sense is the greatest tool you have. Here are your instructions:

- Don't make unnecessary trips. Plan your schedule efficiently. Think in terms of "routing" when going into the field.
- Make fuel efficient vehicles your first choice when reserving a car or light truck, especially for long trips. If you are traveling a long distance and you are aware that a co-worker is traveling a short distance on the same day, work amongst yourselves to make sure that the person traveling the longest distance has the most fuel-efficient vehicle.
- Carpool whenever possible. If, for example, two people are going to a meeting away from your assigned work station, arrange to meet somewhere and share the ride. This does not always mean that you have to meet at the office or the shop. It might be more cost and time efficient to meet at a remote location.
- Check the air pressure in your tires often. Low pressure will reduce fuel efficiency.
- Drive sensibly. Rapid acceleration and braking can increase fuel usage as much as 33%. Observing the speed limit saves fuel. Don't carry extra weight in the vehicle (items in the trunk, etc.). Use the cruise control whenever possible. Avoid idling for long periods.
- Consider tele-conferencing and e-mail as an alternative to meetings. Use other technology - such as digital photos

- to communicate without having to physically travel to the location.

- Try to plan meetings and travel around others' schedules. For example, if you need to come to Columbia, try to schedule your trip around a co-worker's trip to Columbia.

FUEL EFFICIENCY INFORMATION

The most fuel efficient cars in our fleet are the Dodge Stratus and Ford Taurus (both get 20 mpg City & 28 mpg Hwy)

The least fuel efficient are the Chevy Suburban (14/18), Dodge Ram Pickup (14/19) and the Chevy Tahoe (15/19)

The following chart includes estimates for the most common vehicles in our fleet:

Chevy Astro Van	15/20 mpg
Chevy S-10 Pickup	17/22 mpg
Chevy Suburban	14/18 mpg
Chevy Tahoe	15/19 mpg
Chevy C1500 Pickup	15/20 mpg
Dodge Durango	15/20 mpg
Dodge Ram 1500	14/19 mpg
Dodge Stratus	20/28 mpg
Ford E150 Econoline Van	15/20 mpg
Ford Expedition	15/20 mpg
Ford Explorer	16/21 mpg
Ford F-150	16/20 mpg
Ford Ranger Pickup	17/22 mpg
Ford Taurus	20/28 mpg
Jeep Cherokee	15/21 mpg

These are estimated mpg numbers. Individual vehicles vary. You can check other vehicles at:

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/findacar.htm>

Fleet Management is part of my responsibility as Director of Administration. If you have any suggestions for improving efficiency, please contact me directly at covingtonmd@scdot.org.

Thanks for your support during this time of high fuel prices.

Three bikes added to SCDOT fleet



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR
Brian Curran presents SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth Mabry with three bicycles during the May 19 Commission meeting. The bicycles can be used by staff.

By Pete Poore

The fleet at the SCDOT motorpool was increased by three vehicles at the May 19 Commission meeting in Columbia. Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry and members of the Commission accepted three bicycles and related safety equipment, presented by Brian Curran, owner of Outspokin', a Columbia bicycle shop.

Curran worked with the manufacturer, Trek USA/Canada, and the distributor, The Hawley Co., to make the donation possible.

Curran and his partners decided to give the bicycles to SCDOT in recognition of the efforts made by the agency to include bicycle and pedestrian facilities from a cyclist's perspective during the planning process. The bicycles became available for staff use in September. They can be checked out for use by contacting James Lee, the Parking Coordinator at Headquarters.



Tired of high gas prices? Want a better parking place? Want to get some exercise on your way to work? If you live close enough to headquarters, you can leave the car at home and pedal your way to Park Street. Headquarters recently acquired two new bike racks. One is located by the back doors, and one out front.

The Connector

Winner of awards from S.C. Division, Public Relations Society of America; Carolinas Association of Business Communicators; S.C. Press Association and AASHTO.

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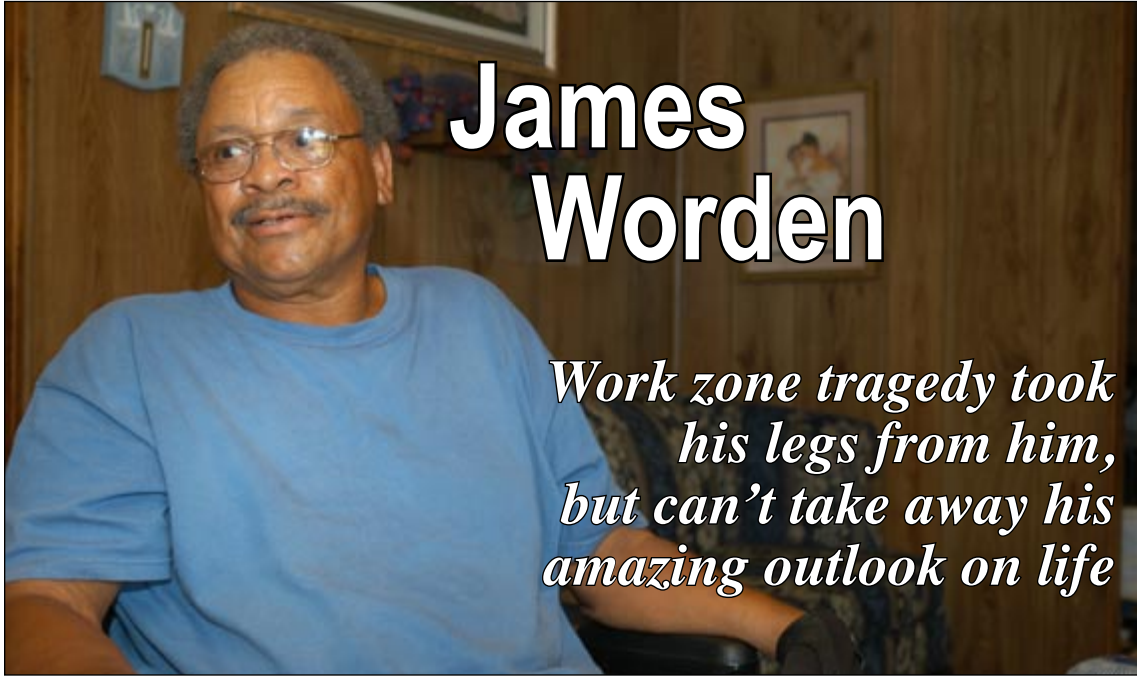
Elizabeth S. Mabry is Executive Director of the S.C. Department of Transportation.

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SCPA

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James Worden

Work zone tragedy took his legs from him, but can't take away his amazing outlook on life

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



Austin Ellenberg recreates the accident scene during a filming of Crossroads. Even when following all safety measures, maintenance workers are vulnerable working along the state's highways.

By Bob Kudelka

When James Worden was struck by a vehicle while setting up a roadside mowing operation, his shocked co-workers at McCormick Maintenance did not know whether he would survive.

Worden, a 26-year SCDOT veteran, lost both legs when the vehicle pinned him against his truck. In the following days, his co-workers, including two who witnessed the horrific crash, met with a counselor to try to deal with the tragedy and were told to scale back their own tasks until they felt comfortable working on the road again.

"They were just on edge until they met with James and saw how his spirits were," said McCormick RME Tommie Parker.

As it turns out, the co-workers who visited Worden in the hospital to try to cheer him up were the ones who came away uplifted.

"I haven't talked to him once where he was down," Parker said. "James has always been the kind of person to tell you what he thinks — strong-willed. Most everyone who knows him well says it's not surprising that he fought through something like this."

Indeed, mowing foreman George Lewis said Worden amazed him at the accident scene. He never lost consciousness and remarkably gave his co-workers the thumbs up as his stretcher was carried onto the helicopter.

"From day one, he's been James. He didn't let it get him down," Lewis said. "He had God on his side."

Claude Worden, James' brother and also a member of McCormick Maintenance, said: "He doesn't feel bad or talk bad or feel sorry. You can't feel sorry for someone who doesn't feel sorry for himself."

May 6 started out like a typical day for the men and women at McCormick Maintenance.

James Worden, a machine operator and member of the chip seal crew, was asked to help out with mowing that day. He was part of a three-man crew that included Austin Ellenberg and Sammy Brewer.

The crew made its first stop of the morning along highway SC 28 to set up their mowing operations. They set up a 4-foot-wide "Mowing Ahead" sign. Worden stood at the rear of his truck and was about to unfurl a second sign.

Ellenberg was checking the oil in his tractor when he heard the sound of a vehicle approaching.

"By the time I turned around, I heard the skids and I saw James fall over," Ellenberg said. "It was like slow motion. I tried to get over there as quickly as I could."

The vehicle had pinned Worden to the rear of his truck. One of his legs severed; the other later had to be amputated.

Worden remembers Brewer cradling him at the scene, telling him, "Hold on, hold on."

South Carolina Highway Patrol said a vehicle was attempting to pass another



James Worden's brother, Claude, and his wife, Betty, help him get out of his car after visiting his doctor. James will soon be able to drive himself with special controls being installed in his personal car.



Betty and James Worden opened their home up to the Crossroads film crew. James wanted to thank all SCDOT employees for their support after the accident.

"I don't know why this happened... This happened. There's nothing you can do about it. I thank the help of the Lord, to make me not go back but to go forward."

-- James Worden



Installing a ramp is one of the renovations done to his home to make it wheelchair accessible.



James and Betty Worden

can experience.

Yet the couple instead wants to emphasize their thanks to the SCDOT family, in McCormick and across the state, who opened their hearts and gave support in the days after the crash. "I thank God for each and every one of you," Betty said.

His coworkers describe James as a hard worker, someone who says what's on his mind and who is always quick with a smile.

"He's a friend you would want to have," Lewis said. "He's well missed, especially by me. We had a good time."

Worden, 58, said he misses his coworkers at McCormick Maintenance.

"You couldn't find a better place to work," Worden said.

For now, Worden is concentrating on his rehabilitation and looks forward to getting prosthetic legs.

"I don't want a whole lot of burden on my wife," he said.

In the meantime, he's already been outside, trying to do some yard work.

"I don't have time to sit up in a corner," he said. "I'm the type of person I can't sit in the house."

There's one question he will not ask himself: "Why me?"

"I never thought about it; I just went on about my life," Worden said. "It could have been worse. I got 10 fingers, eyes, I'm talking to you — it could have been worse...Everything turned out pretty good."

vehicle but was forced back into his lane by an oncoming car, according to an article in the Augusta Chronicle. The car veered off the right side of the road into the emergency lane, where it struck Worden, pinning him to the back of his parked DOT truck, according to the report.

The driver and a passenger were not injured. The case was to be taken before the local solicitor.

Betty Worden was at her husband's bedside when he regained consciousness and the doctor told him both his legs were gone.

She remembers seeing her husband shut his eyes, shake his head slowly and grunt softly.

"That was it," she said of his reaction. "He's been in good spirits ever since."

From then on, he has not dwelled on his loss but instead focuses on recovering, she said.

"It doesn't surprise me," Betty Worden said. "That's the type of person he is."

After coming home from a doctor's appointment on a September morning, James Worden was asked how he's been able to cope with what has happened to him.

"I don't know why this happened... This happened," he said. "There's nothing you can do about it. I thank the help of the

Lord, to make me not go back but to go forward. I never did look back, I always would go on forward."

James Worden grew up in a house a few doors away from where he lives now. One of six children, he always loved the outdoors. It was his stepfather who encouraged him to join SCDOT, a job he said he has loved and would recommend today.

"I enjoyed working with the people," he said. "It's a nice job. You do your work and be done, and the day's over."

James and Betty have two children, Danielle and Victor, and three grandchildren, Ebony, Jadya and Jordan.

No one would question if the couple chose to dwell on how the tragedy has turned their lives upside down. How Betty now finds herself with a lion's share of work to keep things going at their house; how James still has difficulty maneuvering his wheelchair in some areas of the house, despite having doorways cut wider. And how James sometimes feels the "phantom" leg pain that doctors say amputees



Claude Worden, who also works for SCDOT, rushed to the accident scene to find that his brother had been seriously injured.



Mark Anthony



Sid Bacchus



Rick Callahan



Charlene Cornwell



Hamilton Duncan



Brenda Farren



Wayne Hall



Jay Hawkins



Kati Holland



Robbie Isgett



Norman Jackson



Steven Jackson



Stephanie Jackson-Amell



George Kinard



Bill Mattison



Kristen Moore



Natalie Moore



Mark Nolt



Brian Parnell



Greg Rikard



Kelly Jo Swygert



John Watson

STTAR

Class of 2006



STTAR Alumni

Members participate in litter pick up along Shop Road in Columbia

LEFT: From left, Mark Lester, Sherry Barton, Lee Foster, Susan Jones, Kelvin Washington, Charles Eleazer, Susan Johnson, Bryan Jones, Brian Keys and Clint Scoville.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL PETERSON
 ABOVE: Kelvin Washington, Clint Scoville, Bryan Jones and Brian Keys fill bags with trash.

LEFT: Kelvin Washington proves that he can work without a bow tie.

STEP-21 Alumni News

By Donna Price

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2005 STEP-21 graduating class! SAC is thrilled to have the graduates of the 2005 class join the alumni as its newest members. SAC welcomes you and looks forward to serving with you as ambassadors for SCDOT.

SAC has been busy the past few months finalizing plans for the annual meeting and selecting a signature project. **Lavern Glover**, Annual Meeting Chairperson, and her committee have done a marvelous job organizing this year's meeting on September 27th at Pine Island. This promises to be a great training experience with team building activities, election of new officers and a great time of fellowship.

SAC decided to adopt a community service oriented event as its signature project. **Brett Montgomery**, Special Projects Chairperson, and his committee are diligently preparing for the first statewide STEP-21 sponsored blood drive. Blood drives have been scheduled in every district beginning in September. Don't forget to sign up for this worthwhile project. Everyone can make a difference. One unit of blood can save three lives.

Congratulations to the following SAC members who have received promotions:

- Deborah Berry** - OSHA Officer II/District 7
- Brett Montgomery** - Assistant District Mechanical Engineer/District 4
- Robin Coleman** - Administrative Assistant/Legal/HQ
- Sherri Miller** - Assistant Railroad Projects Manager/Utilities
- Darlene Broughton** - Assistant Program Manager/Program Development East/HQ
- Shirley Jeffcoat** - Executive Assistant I/Director of Administration/Headquarters
- Kathy J. Drawdy** - OSHA Officer I/District 6
- Dwayne Scott** - IRC/District 2
- Jacqueline McLeod** - Communications Technician/Traffic Engineering/HQ

Congratulations to **Michelle Rayford**, **Kenny Skenes** and **Lavern Glover** for receiving national certification from the Community Transportation Association of America:

As the torch is passed on to the new slate of officers and committee chairpersons, all alumni are encouraged to continue to press forward and remember, "Don't stop thinking about tomorrow!"

NEWSFLASH The next edition of The Connector will contain our newly elected officers and new committee members.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

A new sign was unveiled Sept. 15 to dedicate the District 1 Office in memory of Jim Cagney. Cagney served as the District 1 Engineering Administrator before moving to the Headquarters office last year as the State Administrator of Engineering Operations. Cagney passed away Feb. 26, 2005, after a brave battle with cancer.



Cagney's wife, Cathy, two daughters, Cati and Camryn, and his parents, James and Doris, listen as Jim's friends and co-workers speak during the dedication ceremony.

Cagney remembered

District 1 Office Building named for Jim Cagney

By Bob Kudelka

Jim Cagney's life, his friendships and his impact on SCDOT were remembered during a ceremony in September to name the District 1 building in his honor.

The Commission had approved in March a resolution to name the "James B. Cagney Building" on Shop Road in Columbia. Cagney, 40, died of cancer on Feb. 26, 2005.

Commissioner John M. "Moot" Truluck, of the 6th Congressional District, presided over the ceremony, held in front of the building and attended by several Commissioners and many of Cagney's co-workers, Senior Staff and family members. Commissioners John N. Hardee and Bobby T. Jones each led the gathering in prayer.

"Today is a very special day," said District 1 DEA Thad Brunson. "Today is a celebration of Jim and his accomplishments and all that he has done for us as an agency but also what he has done for us individually and personally. The naming of this building is a small token of thanks and appreciation for all that Jim meant to us here in this agency."

Cagney joined SCDOT in 1987 after earn-

ing a degree in civil engineering from Clemson University. He rose through the ranks to become District 1 DEA in 2001 and later became State Administrator of Engineering Operations at Headquarters. He was a member of the STTAR leadership program and successfully completed the nationally recognized Certified Public Manager (CPM) program.

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry said it didn't take her long after getting to know Cagney that "his family was the most important element of his life, that was without a doubt."

"The other thing that impresses me is the love that people had for Jim," Mabry said. "He was one of the most honorable and kind people I have ever met."

As people at the ceremony found out, the District 1 building isn't the only thing named for Cagney.

Aiken County Resident Construction Engineer Jeff Terry recalled how Cagney once joked that as his career blossomed he could only hope that a certain tiny road in the "middle of nowhere" in Aiken County would one day be named after him. The road, Terry said, was "a pain for maintenance" to

deal with.

After employees found out about Cagney's illness last year, they petitioned Aiken County to have the road named after Cagney. On Feb. 15, less than two weeks before Cagney died, the Aiken County Council unanimously approved the petition and officially named the road in Cagney's honor. Signs, made in advance, were installed the morning after the council meeting, Terry said.

Terry and Aiken RME Mike Jara presented the Cagney family with the proclamation and a road sign during the ceremony.

State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman, who promoted Cagney to the District 1 office, also shared fond memories of him.

"I miss him very much, and I think about him often," Chapman said, his voice choked with emotion. "If you look around at his friends, you can

tell how much he's missed."

Chapman said he was proud that the Commission chose to honor Cagney by naming the building after him.

"I spent 15 years of my life here, this was my second home, and I couldn't be prouder that his name will be on this building," Chapman said.

Cagney's wife, Cathy, and his mother, Doris, thanked SCDOT for the honor.

"I never ever realized how many lives Jim had touched, and the great amount of love and respect that all of you had for him," Doris Cagney said. "He would be so honored by this tribute today, and I know that he is up there smiling. I thank God for the 40 years that I had with Jim, and the memories that his family shares. You, too, have memories and the knowledge that because of knowing Jim, we are all a better person."



More than 100 people attended the event including 5 of the 7 District Engineering Administrators from across the state. Above, from left, are District Engineering Administrators Stan Bland, Dennis Townsend, Dean Campbell, Thad Brunson and Cyril Busbee.

STEP-21

Class of 2006



Terri Barr



Gerald Bonnette



Jami Brown



Jeff Brown



Sheila Bryant



Johnny Clark



Kevin Coyle



Paul Driggers



Stacy Jackson



Bob Kishline



Albertha Koger



Stan Martin



Billy Nowlen



Mike Phillips



Mary Prince



Myron Singleton



Geneva Spann-Rufus



Brenda Spann-Wallace



Marie Starks



Jimmy Teeter



Gloria Thomas



Joe Turner



Lynn Weaver

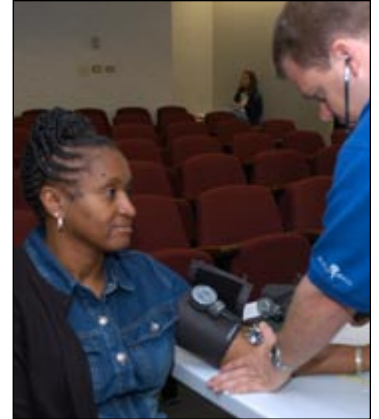


Shannon Welch



Renee Williams

Annual Health Screenings



Sandra Castor gets her blood pressure taken during the health screening.



Moncie Li gets blood taken during the health screening.



Robert Johnson gets a tetanus shot.



Darin Boland talks with one of the nurses during the screening.

AASHTO Subcommittee on Internal and External Audits meets in Charleston

Transportation auditors from across the nation met July 23-27 in Charleston. Speakers at the conference included Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters and SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry (shown at left), USDOT Inspector General Ken Mead, AASHTO President John Horsley, FHWA Financial Management Division Chief Max Inman, USDOT Assistant Secretary Phyllis F. Scheinberg and John Jeffers of the FHWA Resource Center in Atlanta. SCDOT Auditing Director Sherry Barton and the entire SCDOT Auditing staff did a great job managing the conference. At right, auditors listen to a discussion on tracking government spending to ensure public trust.



First Inflation Station dedicated at I-26 Welcome Center

By Bob Kudelka

In an innovative effort to improve highway safety, the SCDOT and its partners dedicated the state's first "Inflation Station" during a news conference June 29 at the I-26 Landrum Welcome Center.

Additional Inflation Stations will be installed across South Carolina.

SCDOT would like to thank its partners in this initiative: the SC Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration; Michelin North America, the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; and the EDMAC Compressor Company.

The tire inflation station features a heavy-duty air compressor for supplying free air to passenger car and light truck tires, as well as instructional materials clearly marked in both English and Spanish that demonstrate the correct way to fill tires. SCDOT has designated a secure area for the tire inflation station, sectioned off with concrete dividers within the parking area of the welcome center for proper car positioning.

Additional Inflation Station locations will be installed over the next two years at: I-77 Welcome Center at Rock Hill SC/York County; I-85 Welcome Center at Fair Play SC/Georgia border/Oconee County; I-95 Welcome Center on the Georgia/Jasper County border; and the I-95 Welcome Center on the North Carolina/Dillon County border.

"We are placing an emphasis on tire safety because of the number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities experienced as a result of improper maintenance, tire blow-outs and other circumstances," said SCDOT Director of Safety Terecia Wilson. "Many of these incidents

could be avoided if motorists would check their tire pressure. We are also very pleased that Michelin was willing to partner with SCDOT on this initiative. In a time of limited state funding, Michelin's purchase and donation of the inflation stations made this project possible. They are an outstanding corporate citizen."

Michelin North America proposed a cooperative agreement to promote tire safety and create awareness of the roles tires play in the driving experience. Michelin will donate the compressors and the SCDOT will own and maintain them.

"This is a unique program we are beginning in South Carolina to increase awareness and help improve tire safety for travelers," said Kathy Lyles, worldwide director of tire testing for Michelin. "Tires are one of the most important parts of a vehicle and often the most overlooked. It takes just a few minutes to check your tires, and doing so can save lives. It can also save you hours or even days on the road and improve gas mileage for your car."

These stations support SCDOT's overall goal of improving safety by providing the traveling public with a safe location to check their tire pressure and add air to their tires (free of charge) as needed.

"This project represents an innovative public private sector partnership that will certainly help to improve

safety," said David Morris, Safety Engineer at FHWA. "The partnership is the first of its kind in the nation and FHWA welcomes similar corporate partnerships to focus on other safety issues."

During the past five years in South Carolina, there have been 3,712 crashes, 1,824 injuries, and 71 fatalities resulting from improper maintenance, tire blow-outs and other circumstances. Richland County is the leading county for tire related crashes with 279 total, 11 fatalities and 148 persons injured. Charleston County is second in tire related crashes with a total of 274 crashes, 5 fatalities, and 106 injured. Spartanburg County is third in tire related crashes with a total of 240 crashes, 4 fatalities and 90 injured.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

ABOVE: The "Inflation Station" at the Landrum Welcome Center provides free air to the public as part of SCDOT's commitment to highway safety.

LEFT: Dennon Lowe of Langley, SC, inflates his tires at the new "Inflation Station" at the Landrum Welcome Center June 29.

Construction Career Days

Upstate students try their hand at construction work



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Jim Burnette of Spartanburg Maintenance looks on as Broome High School student Jacob Chapman tries his hand at digging with a backhoe.

By Bob Kudelka

Approximately 415 high school students had the opportunity to learn about careers in the construction industry during the "2005 Construction Career Days" event in Spartanburg on Aug. 30-Sept. 1.

The first-time event was sponsored by SCDOT; the Federal Highway Administration; the National Association of Women in Construction; the Upstate Work Investment Board; and Carolinas AGC. It was held at the Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds in Spartanburg.

"I'm very excited about the participation and working with the partners," said Dr. Arlene Prince, Deputy Director for DBE

and Special Programs. "With us having excellent weather, everything turned out real well."

The event drew juniors and seniors from schools in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties in South Carolina and Polk and Rutherford counties in North Carolina.

With a shortage of skilled workers, it's important to expose students early to possible career paths in construction, said Program Coordinator Barbara Beagles. One out of every 10 workers in the United States directly or indirectly makes his or her living in the construction industry.

"It's going very well," Beagles said. "The reaction from the kids has been tremendous, as well as from the school officials."

The fairgrounds included more than a dozen pieces of heavy equipment, from backhoes to Bobcats.

Tyrone Jones Jr., of Spartanburg Maintenance, helped demonstrate a large machine called a Vac-All, which sucks water out of drainage pipes and ditches.

"A lot of people see it on the road, on the job site, just passing by," Jones said. "If you want to know how to operate it, you've really got to get up close to it and see it."

The students, Jones said, "asked a lot of questions, like where we take it and what it does."

One hundred of the students attending came from Daniel Morgan Technology Center in Spartanburg. The school teaches crafts such as drafting, carpentry, electrical work and machine tool skills.

David Hoppes, a welding instructor at Daniel Morgan, said he was pleased at the interest shown by his students at the event.

"This is closer to the real world," Hoppes said, as his students took turns maneuvering a backhoe. "We talk a lot about these things they're seeing and touching. A lot of times it's rare that we actually get to go on a field trip and do it. It's gives them a little more hands on,



Spartanburg RME Fred Fleming had a crew of employees on hand to demonstrate equipment.

Kevin Coyle, left, and Billy Brown of Spartanburg Maintenance teach students how to move mulch with Bobcats.

real world experience."

Damon Goins, a junior at Daniel Morgan, enjoyed his first

it would be pretty fun, but I didn't have any earthly idea I'd be driving one," Goins said. "I'm pretty excited. It's not complicated, but it's pretty hard the first time you do it. Once you get the hang of it, it's pretty easy."

Prince said the pilot project turned out so well that it may be expanded, as there is interest in holding future career days events in other areas of the state.

"We may move to some of the larger areas such as Columbia or Charleston," she said.



Todd Stegall, Dr. Arlene Prince, Sandra Arrington, Donna Price, Pam Foster and Barbara Beagles were just a few of the SCDOT and FHWA employees that spoke to students about transportation career opportunities.

New Turkey Creek Bridge opens to delight of public

By Bob Kudelka

A bridge replacement in Berkeley County wasn't quite on the same scale as the new Cooper River Bridge, but its completion in August still got an



A tuxedo jacket and shorts? While the 90-foot bridge wasn't on the grade scale of some other recent projects, the community had a light-hearted celebration to show their project was just as important to them.

enthusiastic reception from the public.

The replacement of the bridge on S-88 (Murray Avenue) over Turkey Creek in the Town of Hanahan had its share of challenges even though the bridge was only 90 feet long.

With an average daily traffic at approximately 10,000 vehicles per day, engineers made a tough decision to close the roadway and detour traffic during construction.

"This essentially split the town of Hanahan in two halves," said Terry Koon, Assistant Bridge Design Engineer.

But Koon said site conditions made it difficult to maintain traffic on-site during construction. The Department was concerned about environmental impacts to a tidal marsh and stream along the bridge embankments. Also, there were many utilities near the bridge that would require extensive relocation if moved off the existing alignment. On top of that, several homes on both sides of the bridge would have been impacted if the existing alignment was moved.

After SCDOT met with town officials, the decision was made to close the bridge and detour traffic during construction. With three schools on Murray Avenue, the plan was to begin when school was out and finish before classes began. The contractor only had from May 31 to Aug. 5.

"This was an extremely tight construction schedule for the contractor to meet," Koon said.

The existing bridge was constructed in 1952. SCDOT replaced the deficient 70 foot long, 25.5 foot wide pre-



JEFF RAJABI/DISTRICT 6

It's not everyday that a giant turkey parades down S-88. But the Town of Hanahan had reason to celebrate when a bridge over Turkey Creek was replaced. The project was completed in two months over the summer to avoid disrupting school bus routes.

cast concrete panel bridge with a 90 foot long, 49 foot wide reinforced concrete flat slab bridge. The new bridge has two 5.5 foot wide sidewalks, and the travel lanes were constructed wide enough to provide for bicycle traffic.

The bridge opened on time, to the delight of area residents. A tongue-in-cheek dedication ceremony included a man dressed in a turkey suit and public officials wearing tuxedo jackets and shorts.

"Jim Posey did an excellent job coordinating the development of the project and coordinating with the town," Koon said. "Everyone in Preconstruction and the Environmental Office that were involved in the project did an excellent job of keeping the schedule. The people of District 6 were proactive before the project was let in resolving potential problems before we got to construction. Additionally, the contractor, the Industrial Company (TIC), did a great job meeting the schedule."

SCDOT Community Bridge Office makes donation to Project Cool Breeze

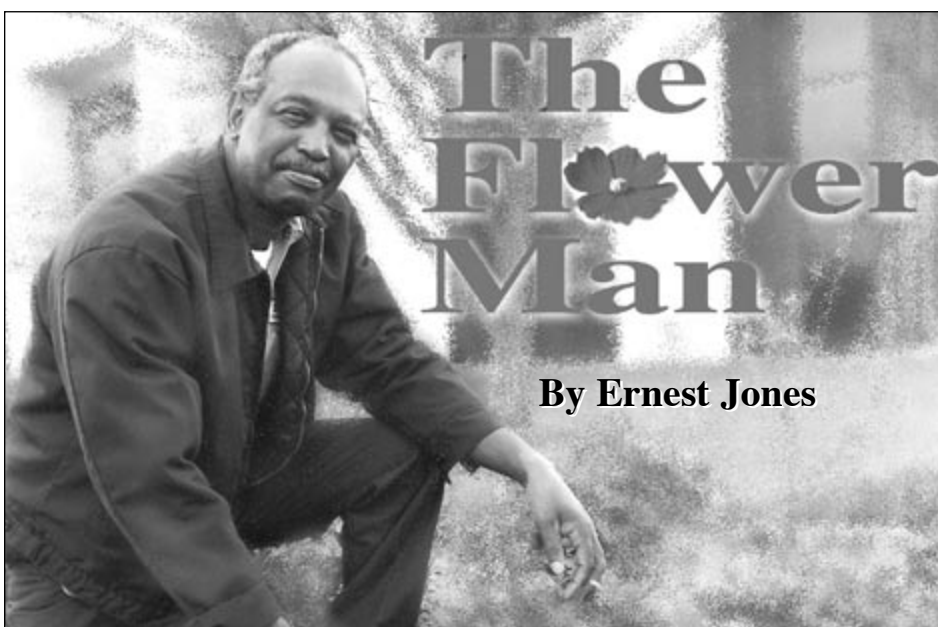
As the temperature rises, the heat becomes unbearable and the number of heat related deaths grow like the temperature. In response to this problem, City of Charleston Councilman, Wendell Gilliard created Project Cool Breeze, providing the elderly in the tri-county area with new fans and air conditioning. Sixty years and older, mainly those in low fixed incomes are the focus of this project.

The SCDOT Community Bridge Office received information about this project and was more than happy to

help the elderly beat the heat, especially those in the neighborhoods impacted by the new Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge. The Community Bridge Office started a fundraiser for Project Cool Breeze. As part of the fundraising efforts, the Community Bridge Office held a BBQ lunch and sold raffle tickets for numerous prizes. On August 12, 2005, the SCDOT Community Bridge Office presented Councilman Gilliard with a check for \$500 for Project Cool Breeze collected through their fundraising efforts.



The SCDOT Community Bridge Office staff donated \$500 to Project Cool Breeze. Pictured from left, Kenny Pietz with the HDR/TYLIN Joint Venture, James Law with SCDOT Media Relations for District 5 & 6, City of Charleston Councilman Wendell Gilliard, Community Relations specialist for the SCDOT Community Bridge Office Leon Alsoton, and the project manager for the HDR/TYLIN Joint Venture Gene Balter.



By Ernest Jones

Autumn's the time to sow your seeds

By Ernest Jones

That chill in the air can mean only one thing -- fall will soon be here. (Autumn began Sept. 21).

As part of their natural growth cycle,

plants sow their seeds in autumn to produce new plants next spring. When you do your planting in the fall, you're in perfect tune with nature.

There are several good reasons why fall is an ideal time for planting. Some

have to do with the well-being of plants themselves, and some have to do with the comfort of the gardener.

By taking advantage of autumn's ideal growing conditions, you'll help your plants get off to a faster start that guarantees more, bigger and earlier blooms next spring.

There are several ways to start new plants besides growing them from seeds. These techniques are collectively known as vegetative propagation.

In vegetative propagation, a part of a mature plant is made to form roots and shoots and grow into a new plant that is an exact genetic duplicate of the parent plant.

Some methods of vegetative propagation that are relatively easy for home gardeners to use are division, cuttings, and layering.

DIVISION: Many perennials and bulbs spread by means of underground rhizomes and offsets. When the clump of plants or bulbs becomes too crowded, growth is less vigorous and fewer, smaller flowers are produced.

Periodic division keeps these perennials and bulbs vigorous and free-flowering.

Perennials are divided when they are not in bloom. Summer and fall bloomers are usually divided in the spring. Spring-flowering perennials are divided in the fall.

Do fall division four to six weeks before the first hard frost is likely, so the new plant can send roots out into the soil before they enter winter dormancy.

CUTTINGS: Softwood cuttings can be taken from the stems, leaves, and roots of many perennials, annuals, shrubs, and trees. Softwood cuttings are usually taken from greenhouse and bedding plants and summer and fall blooming perennials in spring, and from spring blooming perennials, shrubs and trees from June to August.

You can take cuttings in early fall from summer annuals and grow the plants indoors for the winter flowers.

HARDWOOD CUTTINGS: These are taken in fall when the current season's growth has matured and the plant has drooped its leaves and begun its winter dormancy. October and November are generally the best months for taking hardwood cuttings.

LAYERING: Layering allows you to root branches of woody plants while they are still attached to the parent plant. Use healthy one-year-old shoots for layering.

If you want to layer an old, neglected plant, prune it to encourage new growth, and wait until next year to layer it. Do the layering procedure in spring, as soon as the soil can be worked while the plant is still dormant.

Equipment Operators' Rodeo

Pregnancy doesn't stop Dee Michaelsen from competing

By Bob Kudelka

Dee Michaelsen was not alone when she took her seat in the tandem axle dump truck and competed in this year's Equipment Operators' Rodeo State Finals.

Michaelsen was nine months pregnant at the time of the state finals. Actually, she was overdue, at nine months and one day.

"Last year, I didn't go very far, but this year, I think she's taken me a long way," Michaelsen said of her soon to be newborn, Hailey. "She's been like a good luck charm."

Her maternal condition did not stop her from competing in the state finals June 13 in Columbia, just as it had not kept her away from her job at Kershaw Maintenance.

"My doctor said since I kept working and didn't ask for any special treatment, that's what has helped me all along," Michaelsen said. "She's been a good baby."

While some women are in a justified miserable condition toward the final days of pregnancy, Michaelsen enjoyed the day's events.

"I think it's fun," she said, "and it's a great story to tell in the future."

(A day after the competition, Hailey Elizabeth Michaelsen, weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, was born at Kershaw County Medical Center in Camden. She is the daughter of Allan and Dee Michaelsen).

Michaelsen was one of 33 employees competing in the state finals, held at the Supply and Equipment facility on Shop Road. Each employee was already a winner, having succeeded in county and District competitions.

During the state finals, competitors maneuvered their heavy equipment through a series of courses as judges and some family members looked on.

Charlie Brown, of Chester Maintenance in District 4, said he was not nervous until after he finished his turn and became a spectator.

"I'm nervous now, waiting and waiting and waiting, seeing what everybody else is doing," Brown said.

Sam Riddle, event committee chairman, said there was a lot at stake in the second annual competition. The top two winners would join the top two winners of the backhoe competition to compete in the Regional

Equipment Operators' Rodeo competition on Oct. 26-27.

"The main purpose of the Rodeo is to promote skill advancements and increase safety awareness levels of employees working with heavy equipment," Riddle said. "The event also strengthens team spirit and teamwork."

Riddle said that the District team, which accumulates the highest overall score throughout the competition, is recognized in addition to individual winners.

After the event, an awards ceremony was held at The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium. Special Assistant Ron Joye addressed the crowd on behalf of Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry.

"The expertise you show every day on your job just astounds me," Joye said.

Director of Maintenance Jim Feda also thanked participants.

Riddle would like to thank the following people for their assistance in making the event a success:

Committee Members:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Bryan Jones | Steve Coleman |
| Kelley Donkle | Jason Allison |
| Todd Cook | Philip Brooks |
| Michael Black | Efrem Dantzler |
| Treasure Scarborough | |

Judges:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Jim Brooks | Donnie Cason |
| Michael Covington | Becky Creighton |
| Kenneth Feaster | Alex Goodwin |
| Ron Hutson | Mike McCaslin |
| Bruce Payne | Terry Rawls |
| Tami Reed | Annette Rish |
| Danny Shealy | Lynn Shealy |
| Huley Shumpert | Roy Tolson |
| Don Turner | John White |

In addition, there were many volunteers from each District, Headquarters, and the Supply and Equipment Division who helped to make this year's Rodeo a success. Thanks!

Team winners included District 3 (First Place), District 5 (Second Place) and District 6 (Third Place).

Individual winners are shown at right.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

After you see the skills of the SCDOT equipment operators . . .



. . . you won't complain about how hard it is to cut your grass . . .



. . . or how hard it is to parallel park ever again!



Dee Michaelsen competed even though she was overdue in her pregnancy.



Judge Huley Shumpert keeps his eyes focused on hit cones during an event.

WINNERS

Tandem Axle



1st
Robert Perkins
Marlboro



2nd
Allen Moore
Oconee



3rd
Dee Michaelsen
Kershaw

Single Axle



1st
Allen Moore
Oconee



2nd
Kenneth Eaddy
Florence



3rd
John Shuler
Dorchester

Tractor Lowboy



1st
Richard Stroble
Charleston



2nd
Jeffrey Marshall
Chesterfield



3rd
Buddy Patton
Laurens

Motor Grader



1st
Charles Reynolds
Spartanburg

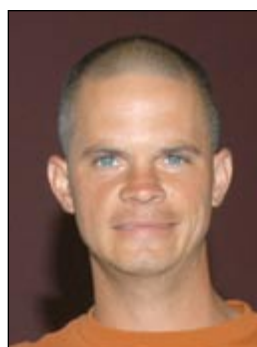


2nd
James Catoe
Kershaw



3rd
Jamie Williams
Orangeburg

Tractor Mower



1st
Chad Robertson
Saluda



2nd
Charlie Whiten
Oconee



3rd
James Wilkes Jr.
Fairfield

Moving Up

HEADQUARTERS

Cathy P. Rice, of Columbia, from program coordinator I to program coordinator II, Beautification Programs.

Barbara A. Sharpe, of North, from accountant/fiscal analyst I to accountant/fiscal analyst II, Accounting.

William J. DeVall, of Irmo, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design.

DISTRICT 1

Kenneth L. Harris, of Aiken, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Aiken Maintenance.

Shay L. Johnson, of Columbia, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Richland Maintenance.

Edward Spann Jr., of Pinewood, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Sumter Maintenance.

Robert R. Holland, of Columbia, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Richland Maintenance.

Christopher L. Lybarker, of Pelion, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I.

DISTRICT 2

Hugh W. Pitts Sr., of Prosperity, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Newberry Maintenance.

Walter L. Johnson, of Johnston, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Edgefield Maintenance.

DISTRICT 3

Howard H. Harden, of Pickens, from mechanic III to trades specialist V, Greenville Maintenance.

DISTRICT 5

Austin M. Enzor, of Loris, from

engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Horry Construction.

DISTRICT 6

Harry Bowser, of Charleston, from trades specialist III to engineering/geodetic technician III, Charleston Maintenance.

James R. Hamilton, of Ladson, from trades specialist III to engineering/geodetic technician III, Charleston Maintenance.

Robert E. Perry III, of Charleston, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, District 6 Bridge Construction.

Richard S. Crook, of St. George, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Dorchester Maintenance.

DISTRICT 7

Eric Bannister, of Summerton, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Clarendon Maintenance.

Sherri Wahdan named RCE for Lexington Construction B

Sherri J. Wahdan, of Gaston, has been promoted to Resident Construction Engineer in Lexington Construction "B", succeeding Patrick Stinson.

Formerly Assistant Resident Construction Engineer in Lexington Construction "A," Wahdan will supervise road and bridge construction projects in Lexington County and in other District 1 counties when necessary. She joined SCDOT as a summer employee in 1995, and was hired as Engineer I in Lexington Maintenance in 1998.

A native of Kingstree, she is a graduate of Williamsburg Academy, and is a 1997 graduate of the University of South



Sherri Wahdan

Carolina. She is married to Eddie Wahdan, and they have two sons, Caleb, 4, and Ethan, 3 months old.

Retirements

Rufus M. Nesbitt, of Early Branch, trades specialist II at Jasper Maintenance, retired July 1, after 21 years of service.

Willie R. Sanders, of Laurens, trades specialist II at Laurens Maintenance, retired July 1, after 18 years of service.

Susan J. Lehnhoff, of Winnsboro, applications analyst II in Information Technology Services, retired July 3, after 21 years of state service.

John O. Ryan Jr., of Ridgeland,

supply specialist III at Jasper Maintenance, retired July 4, after 17 years of service.

Gary Simpson, of Sharon, trades specialist III at York Maintenance, retired July 15, after eight years of service.

Norman W. Monts, of Chapin, engineering/geodetic technician III in Lexington Surveys, retired July 28, after 24 years of service.

Ervin L. Wesley, of Columbia, cartographer II in Road Data Services, retired July 29, after 27 years

of service.

Judy B. Hammond, of Columbia, engineering/geodetic technician III in Road Data Services, retired July 29, after 18 years of state service.

Charles Floyd, of Rembert, trades specialist II in Kershaw Maintenance, retired Aug. 1, after 32 years of service.

Thomas Hunter, of Columbia, mechanic III at the Equipment Service Depot, retired Aug. 1, after 27 years of service.

Deaths



Bob McLellan

Robert Neil McLellan, 81, of Seneca, former Director of SCDOT, a trustee of the University of South Carolina a former chairman of the State House Ways and Means Committee, died Sept. 1.

William E. "Bill" Knotts Jr., 82, of Williston, former 7-term mayor of Williston who served as State Senator from District 8 and as a member of the South Carolina Highway Commission, died August 19.

Pinkney Eli Barnette Sr., 65, of Fountain Inn, retired location engineer surveyor for SCDOT, died June 17.



Becky Dickson

Betty Jo "Becky" Nash Dickson, 60, of Chapin, retired SCDOT regional manager of Right of Way, died Sept. 13.

James Stanley "Cotton" Parks, 53, of West Columbia, retired SCDOT postal services employee, died Sept. 9.

Ruby Cooper Braziel, 86, of Columbia, SCDOT retiree, died Aug. 23.

Albert Gene Williams, of Florence, retired SCDOT resident construction engineer, died Aug. 9.

Mary Herbert Dreher, 82, of Cayce, SCDOT retiree, died June 20.



Vic Evans

Victor Shaw Evans, of Columbia, retired chief legal council of SCDOT, died Sept. 13.

Willie James "Preach" Sims Sr., 72, of Newberry, retired SCDOT employee, died Sept. 2.

Joseph Cross, 65, of Marion, retired SCDOT employee, died May 3.

Mary Jane Hanna Moore, 80, of Columbia, secretary to various chief highway commissioners until her retirement in 1984, died July 31.

Cleo Bessinger Owens, of Florence, Ky., formerly of Johns Island, a retired SCDOT bridge attendant, died April 30.

Million Dollar Man



The City of Loris called SCDOT Commissioner John N. Hardee the 'Million Dollar Man' for his help in acquiring funding for five local transportation enhancement projects. Hardee, along with his wife, Sheila, and son, Johnny, pose with a sign for the new John N. Hardee highway, a portion of US 701 in Loris, named in his honor.

Letters We Liked

To: SCDOT Incident Response Program

I had a tire blowout on I-85 south today and was very impressed with the help given me by Rodney Wilson of your organization. I had pulled off the side of the shoulder, gotten out of my pickup truck, and was lowering my spare tire when Rodney arrived. He did in about five minutes what I know would have taken me an hour. I can't say enough about the very professional and courteous way in which Rodney conducted himself. This is a wonderful service to provide.

Give Rodney a very large pay raise!

**Steve Thomas
Easley, SC**

To: SCDOT

During the course of my life, I have traveled more than a million miles on a motorcycle, car, motor home, and 18-wheeler.

I crossed over maybe every bridge built in the USA. Recently, I had the opportunity to cross over the new bridge in Charleston on a motorcycle. As I arrived there, a spooky feeling came over me. It was awesome! I have never seen such a wonderful engineering feat or had the feeling it gave me, especially on a bike with no roof as cars have. That bridge is such a wonder to cross. All involved building that masterpiece should be very proud indeed.

Barry Carr

To: SCDOT Incident Response Program

I was assisted by Ray White in August who changed a flat for me on my way to Myrtle Beach. He could not have been of greater assistance as he performed with great speed and good humor.

Thank you to Ray,

Rick Clement

Thanks!

Thanks to all members of the SCDOT family that have so generously donated toiletries and other items to help those devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Starting Sept. 26, we will be shifting our focus to non-perishable food items for Harvest Hope Food Bank. Their supply has been greatly diminished in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Some examples of needed items include: laundry items, canned goods, peanut butter, rice, dried beans, instant food and paper products.

We recently learned that one of our

own employees recently suffered a total loss of their home and all contents due to fire. Please know that we will be providing some of your donations to meet the immediate needs of the family of Andy Rowe from Richland Maintenance.

If you wish to provide anything specifically for this family, their sizes are: Men's 2XL shirts; Men's 38 waist and 34

length pants; Women's size XL and Girl's size 6 or 7.

On behalf of the Rowes and the many Katrina survivors seeking shelter in the Palmetto State, we thank you for your overwhelming response.

If you have any questions, you may contact Kristen Moore at 737-0480.

Commission meets atop Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge day before opening

By Bob Kudelka

For its July meeting, the SCDOT Commission gathered nearly 200 feet above the Cooper River on the deck of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge.

The meeting was held the morning after a massive fireworks display and the day before the dedication ceremony and opening. The deck was clean and a threat of rain held off as storm clouds in downtown Charleston seemed to disappear just as they approached the bridge.

"I don't think we could ask for a more beautiful day for a meeting on the bridge," Chairman Tee Hooper said.

Hooper was joined by Bob Harrell Sr., 1st Congressional District; John N. Hardee, 2nd Congressional District; Marion P. Carnell, 3rd Congressional District; William C. "Bud" Turner, 4th Congressional District; Bobby T. Jones, 5th Congressional District; John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th Congressional District and Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry. Also in attendance were former Commissioner B. Bayles Mack and SC State Senator Hugh Leatherman.

The meeting was more than just ceremonial as the Commission tackled some serious issues, including steps toward improving safety on a stretch of US 17 in Beaufort County. The new bridge project took center stage as Gov. Mark Sanford stopped by for brief remarks.

"To you, Betty, and to each one of you as board members, I would like congratulate you and compliment you on a job incredibly well done, on behalf of

every taxpayer in South Carolina and every resident of Charleston and Mount Pleasant and the towns ultimately connected by this bridge," Sanford said. "I just really admire the way you all did this job - efficiently, effectively, under budget...all the things that you dream of in this type of project."

Sanford, who could not attend the dedication ceremony because of a scheduling conflict, thanked Mabry and the Commission for their roles in bringing together a great partnership to build the bridge.

"It's just a remarkable testament to vision when you look at a structure as grand as this one and ...to think about the amount of hard work that went in by engineers and construction folks and all the folks that bring about a project of this size," Sanford said. "It's a wonderful thing not just for the Lowcountry but for all of South Carolina...Thank you for a job incredibly well done."

At the close of the meeting, the Commission listened to special music written and performed by Mary S. Freeman of Greenville, Mabry's sister. Freeman, who sang at the bridge groundbreaking, was unable to attend the opening so she had it recorded on a CD for the event.

"I wanted to give my sister and everyone at SCDOT a unique song, so I wrote 'Over the Water' and performed it a cappella at the ceremony," Freeman said. "I grew up in Kingstree, SC, love beach music, shag dancing and gospel rhythms of the low country. I remember as a child driving to the coast, the flying feeling we got going over the Cooper River



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR
Governor Mark Sanford, right, joined the SCDOT Commission and Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry for the historic Commission meeting over the Cooper River.

bridges, looking out over the sparkling water...I wanted this song to capture that exhilaration; just looking at this bridge is exciting."

The Commission also attended the unveiling of a plaque mounted on one of the bridge's towers in honor of those who built the bridge.

Mabry said it is important to list names of some of the people responsible for building the bridge so future generations will remember them.

"Today, we have a common knowledge of who built this bridge, but 50, 75 years from now people will want to know and we will have a plaque that

will describe that," Mabry said. "These names stand for 5,300 men and women at SCDOT, 22 men and women at FHWA, the contractor's staff and people."

The plaque reads, "This magnificent structure was made possible by the dedicated and conscientious leadership of the following: The South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission: Robert W. "Bob" Harrell Sr., 1st Congressional District; John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th Congressional District; Tecumseh "Tee" Hooper Jr., Chairman; L. Morgan Martin, Chairman; Commissioners F. Hugh Atkins, Marion P. Carnell,

Howell Clyburn Jr., John N. Hardee, Bobby T. Jones, B. Bayles Mack, Eugene C. Stoddard and William C. "Bud" Turner.

"South Carolina Department of Transportation - Elizabeth S. Mabry, Executive Director; Don H. Freeman, State Highway Engineer; Tony L. Chapman, Acting State Highway Engineer; Robert F. Clair Jr., Director of Engineering; Robert F. Lee, FHWA Division Administrator.

"Built by Palmetto Bridge Constructors, a joint venture of Tidewater Construction, Skanska Inc. and Flatiron Constructors Inc., Wade Watson, project manager. Completed in 2005."

BRIDGE from page 1

"I just really admire the way you all did this job - efficiently, effectively, under budget...all the things that you dream of in this type of project," Sanford said.

Mabry called the project "a model for community involvement." She said the diamond-shaped towers were chosen by the people who live and work in the area. The bike and pedestrian lane is part of the East Coast Greenway, which runs from Maine to Florida.

The new bridge is a great example of the Department's 27 in 7 program. Using a design-build process in which construction

began even as the design was still a work in progress, saving time and money. A traditional approach could have cost millions more and an additional two years for completion.

Mabry said the inclusion of the bike and pedestrian lane was a catalyst for a renewed focus on bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in South Carolina.

"Our Commission has pledged that every project will have accommodations for pedestrians and for bicyclists in our state," Mabry said to applause from the crowd.

Mabry praised the job by Clair, the Charleston native who postponed retirement to take on the job of a lifetime and

supervise the project. In the final week of the project, newspapers were calling Clair a rock star, and he was in high demand for snapshots on the bridge and media interviews.

"Bobby Clair has been fantastic leader," Mabry said. "He has exceeded everybody's expectations - except mine."

Mabry said that 76 years ago, a carpenter named William Yancey Morris helped make forms for the concrete columns to support a new bridge over the Cooper River.

"Bobby Clair, I am certain that your grandfather, William Yancey Morris, would be proud of you today just as I am and all these people are," Mabry said.

"Thank you for a job well done."

Clair, who received a standing ovation, credited the people he worked for, his staff for their long hours and the contractor, Palmetto Bridge Constructors. The 37-year SCDOT veteran quoted President John F. Kennedy, who said, "Once you say you're going to settle for second, that's what happens."

"Nobody here settled for second," Clair said.

Clair also paid tribute to the people who had to be relocated from their homes and businesses to make way for the path of the new bridge.

"People made great sacrifices...we'll never forget you and what you did for all of us," Clair said.

PUBLIC DAYS from page 1

towers above him. "It's fabulous. The design is beautiful; it's very wide, with eight lanes and walking and bicycling, which you couldn't do on the old bridges, so it's quite an improvement."

"We have our children here from Atlanta," Helen said, "They're walking on it, too."

What about seeing the old bridges, especially the Grace Memorial, torn down?

"Way back, when we first came here, there were many people who would stop at the entrance (of the Grace) and take a ride from the police because they were afraid to drive it," Irv said and laughed. "We're glad to see it go. It had its turn and it's ready to go down."

The public days took on the atmosphere of a festival. Families and couples walked together. Caravans of grownups pushed strollers. Cameras and video

cameras were everywhere. Drinking water was offered for free.

SCDOT expected the public days to be popular, but officials were surprised at the turnout.

"The public days were awesome," said Bobby Clair, who oversaw the bridge project for SCDOT and chaired a committee that planned the weeklong celebration. "It was so much more than we anticipated."

Organizers expected 15,000 to 20,000 people would walk the bridge during the two public days. Instead, the weekend drew more than 150,000, he said.

"Many of the people who came out on Saturday enjoyed it so much they came back on Sunday," Clair said. "We ran 48 buses to get people up to the bridges. We had handicapped access. We had over 800 wheelchair bound people up on the bridge - that was one of the best things of the whole public days."

The bridge opening planning committee included Commission-

ers Bob Harrell Sr., 1st District, and John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th District; Mount Pleasant Mayor Harry M. Hallman Jr.; Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr.; a citizen appointee from each community; and a senior staffer appointed by each of the mayors.

The celebration continued Monday night with a sold out black tie gala atop the bridge with music by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Clair called it "the party of the century for South Carolina," and proceeds from the event helped pay for the opening celebration.

For many, the excitement swelled for the fireworks show on Thursday night. People watched it from thousands of boats in the harbor, rooftops, balconies, parking garages - anywhere with a view.

The fireworks show as a boon to area hotels and businesses during what is traditionally the off-season for tourism.

At Charleston's Waterfront

Park, Mike and Norene Squint, of South Bend, Ind., got a coveted spot to watch the fireworks from a table and chairs on the pier - but it wasn't easy. The couple staked out the spot at 2:30 p.m. - seven hours before the fireworks were to begin.

Mike Squint brought along his dulcimer, an instrument he began playing 30 years ago, to help pass the time, and Norene brought a book to read.

"When you sit here for seven hours, you've got to do something," Mike Squint said.

As the time grew closer, hundreds of people crowded onto the pier, bringing chairs and blankets to sit on. By 9 p.m., 30 minutes before the show, it was difficult to walk anywhere on the pier because of the massive crowd.

When the show began, the crowd was not disappointed. Applause and cheers rang out as fireworks shot off from barges on both sides of the harbor, from a mile-long section of the deck

and from atop the 570-foot-high towers.

After the last fireworks, the bridge's aesthetic lighting was officially turned on for the first time - and the cables warmed to a white glow for an elegant image.

"It was well worth the wait, I can tell you that," Mike Squint said afterward. "It was quite impressive."

The couple, in town for a convention, originally planned to leave that morning but postponed their trip a day so they could see the fireworks and the bridge lighting.

"Everybody said you must stay and see the fireworks because it's going to be fabulous, and it truly was," Norene Squint said. "It was amazing."

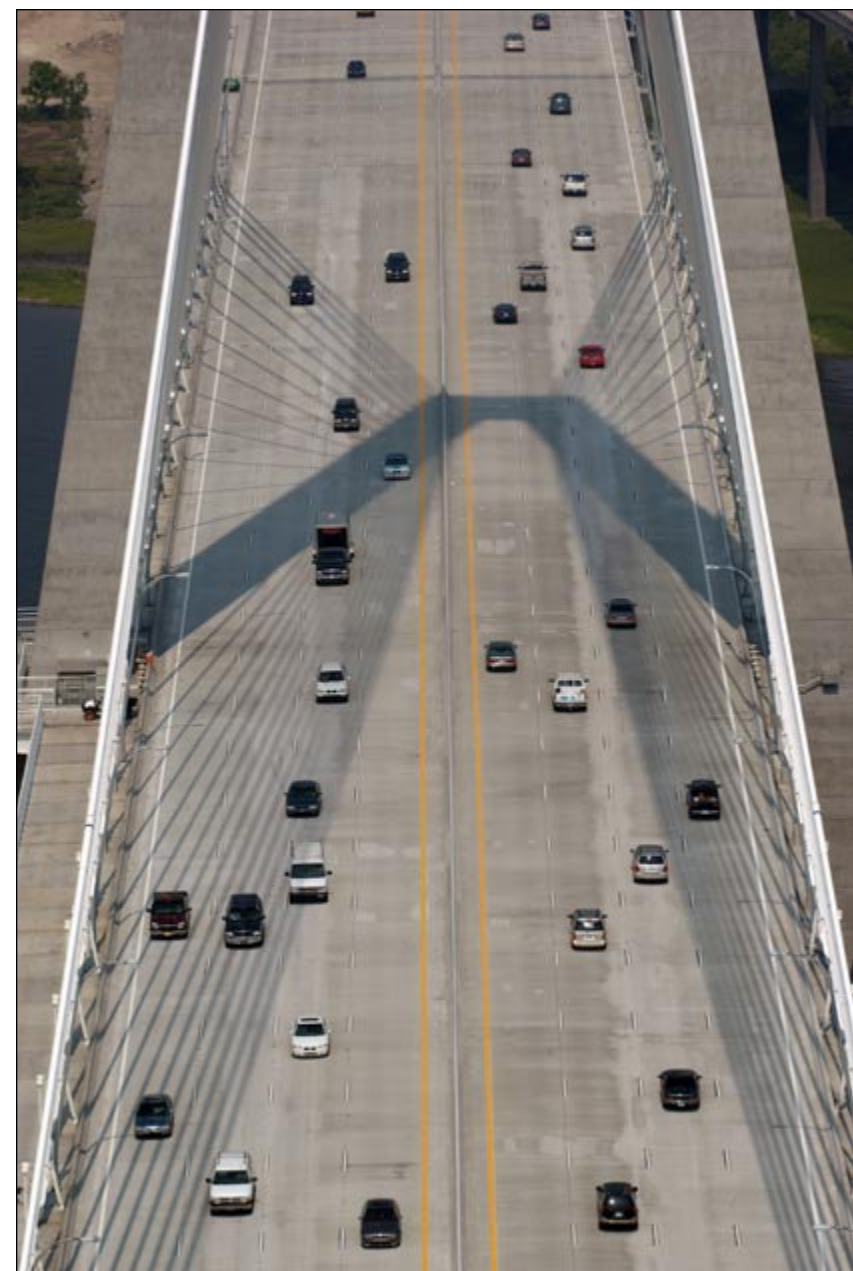
The next day, the bridge deck was the site of an early morning Commission meeting. The following day, July 16, the bridge was dedicated and opened to traffic.

"It's been a great week," Clair said.



It's open!

Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge over the Cooper River



The new span is the largest cable-stayed bridge in North America. It has four lanes of traffic in each direction and a 12-foot pedestrian and bike lane.

Celebrations welcome the new Ravenel bridge, final events say goodbye to the Grace and Pearman

Fireworks light up the night sky July 14 during a 30-minute show that could be seen for miles. Radio and television stations had live coverage with a simulcast broadcast of music that accompanied the show. Thousands viewed the spectacular display from vantage points in Charleston and Mt. Pleasant.



U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham and SCDOT Commissioner Bob Harrell were among the opening ceremony speakers July 16.



A C-17 cargo plane does a fly over during the ceremony. F-16s also flew over as part of the ceremony.



Arthur Ravenel Jr. speaks during the opening ceremony. The bridge was named in his honor.



Charles Dwyer was among the runners in the "Burn the Bridge" run on July 30.



Photographs by Rob Thompson



FHWA Division Administrator Bob Lee, his wife, Gloria, and daughter, Joey, get in their car to drive over the bridge after the opening ceremony.



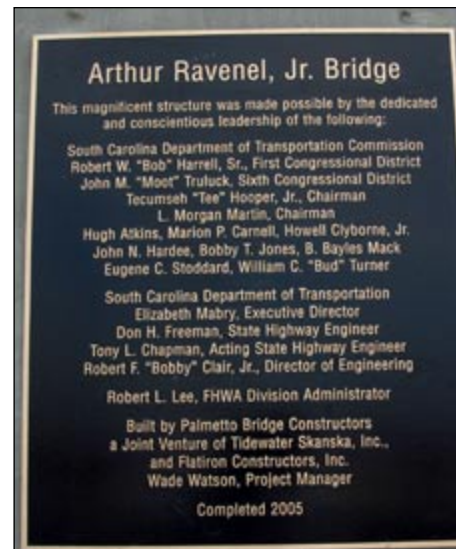
The new bridge towers over the old Grace and Pearman bridges. The old bridges are currently being dismantled.



ABOVE: A military band provided patriotic music during the opening ceremony.



RIGHT: Dignitaries cut the ribbon to officially open the \$632 million bridge.



Two plaques on the bridge towers list people and agencies involved in the construction.



Antique cars participate in a last drive over the old bridges on July 30, recreating the first parade over the Grace bridge in 1929.

Speaking of the new Cooper River Bridge . . .

Nineteen of South Carolina's leaders spoke at the July 16, 2005, dedication ceremony atop the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge. Here's a sampling of what they said:

"This bridge is an engineering marvel."

Commissioner Bob Harrell Sr., 1st Congressional District



"The people of the world will look upon this monument and conclude that the people of South Carolina, Charleston and Mount Pleasant are a proud people whose humanity and ingenuity are reflected in this magnificent structure."

US Congressman James E. Clyburn



"If it were not for (Mabry's) leadership we would have ended up going the traditional letting method. Had we done that, we would just be starting the construction of this bridge."

FHWA Division Administrator Bob Lee



"This new bridge will truly grace Charleston's skyline."

Commissioner John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th Congressional District

"What a special day for all of us. This has been a very special week for all of us in the Lowcountry."

US Congressman Henry E. Brown Jr.



"This week and this bridge have united this community like I've not seen since the terrible days after Hurricane Hugo. This bridge and this week have symbolized to all of us what we can do when we work together."

Charleston County Council Chairman Leon Stavrinas



"What a wonderful day it is! It's not only a good day for Mount Pleasant, Charleston and the Lowcountry, it's a great day for the State of South Carolina as this is a statewide project."

Mt. Pleasant Mayor Harry M. Hallman Jr.



"To you the taxpayers, the citizens, you own the bridge. Help us take care of it."

Commission Chairman Tee Hooper



"President John Kennedy said, 'Once you say you're going to settle for second, that's what happens.' Nobody here settled for second."

Bobby Clair, Director of Engineering, Special Projects



"Bridge builders unite people and ideas... We are all now bridge builders, because this is your bridge. You made it possible."

Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr.

"This is an example of Republicans, Democrats, black and white, all coming together, absolutely focused to make something happen."

South Carolina Speaker of the House Robert W. "Bobby" Harrell Jr.



"We would not be sitting on this bridge today if it was not for the abilities, the leadership and vision of Arthur Ravenel... What Arthur Ravenel did was titanic in the political process."

South Carolina Senator and President Pro Tempore Glenn F. McConnell



"On behalf of all the taxpayers, thank you very much to those who built and designed and constructed this bridge. You did one heck of a job."

US Senator Lindsey Graham



"In an unstable world, our great bridge stands as a shining beacon to all, that South Carolina is a place of hope, opportunity and freedom."

South Carolina State Representative H.B. "Chip" Limehouse III



"This is significant: We've done this without any raise at all in fees or taxes."
Former South Carolina State Senator and Congressman Arthur Ravenel Jr.

Compiled by Bob Kudelka



"For me, this bridge does represent the best of South Carolina... It's representative of our hard work and our ability to cooperate."

US Senator Jim DeMint

"Let's also celebrate the connections that were made, the relationship bridges that were built, to lay the financial foundation so we could build this bridge."

State Infrastructure Bank Chairman Don Leonard



"I just want to salute one fella - that's Arthur Ravenel."

Former US Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings



"This project is a model for community involvement."

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry

On the lighter side . . .

"I pledge to Arthur Ravenel that we will not cut the grass on 30 feet of either side of this bridge, forever."

-- Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry

"Welcome to the finest pork I've ever seen."

-- US Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings

"My goal is to dedicate the bridge before we need a new one."

-- US Senator Lindsey Graham

"Ahead of schedule and under budget, I'm not familiar with as a United States Senator."

-- US Senator Lindsey Graham

"They say Charleston always gets everything we want. Well, shouldn't we?"

-- Former South Carolina State Senator and Congressman Arthur Ravenel Jr.



Fall's here and it's time to try some new stuff. Raid the pantry, try your hand at these suggestions and surprise your family with some new favorites!

CATFISH STEW

- 5 pounds catfish, dressed
- ½ pound bacon, diced
- 3 pounds red potatoes, diced
- 2 pounds white onions, diced
- 5 cups water
- corn meal
- 6 eggs, hard boiled, diced
- 1 4-ounce can pimento, drained and diced
- 1 6-ounce can evaporated milk
- salt and pepper to taste

Fry fish using corn meal, milk and seasonings until flesh flakes when poked with a fork. Fry bacon until crisp; remove from skillet and set aside. Fry potatoes and onion in bacon drippings until tender. Place fish in 4 cups water in cast iron dutch oven. Add bacon, potatoes, onions, eggs, and pimento. Simmer for 1 to 1 ½ hours, adding water if needed. Add milk, stirring constantly, while seasoning with salt and pepper.



Randy Lomax
Traffic Engineering

LEMON POUND CAKE

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 cups sugar
- 5 eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract

Glaze Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

Beat butter in a large bowl at medium speed with an electric mixer; gradually add oil, beating until well blended. Gradually add sugar, beating well. Add eggs, one at a time. Add flour to creamed mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour. Mix just until blended after each addition. Stir in lemon extract. Pour batter into a greased and floured 10 inch tube pan. Bake at 300 for 1 1/2 hours. Cool in pan on a wire rack for 15 minutes.

Combine glaze ingredients, stirring until sugar dissolves. Brush lemon glaze on side of cake and spoon glaze over top, a little at a time. Let cake cool completely.

Teresa Mozingo
Traffic Engineering

COCONUT CHEESECAKE SQUARES WITH CARAMEL

TOPPING:

- 30 LORNA DOONE Shortbread Cookies, finely crushed (about 2 cups crumbs)
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 3 pkg. (8 oz. each) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 1-1/2 cups BAKER'S ANGEL FLAKE Coconut, toasted
- 3/4 cup KRAFT Caramel Topping

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Mix cookie crumbs, butter and 1/4 cup of the sugar. Press firmly onto bottom of 13x9-inch baking pan.

BEAT remaining 3/4 cup sugar, cream cheese

and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add eggs; mix just until blended. Stir in 1 cup of the coconut. Pour over crust; sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup coconut.

BAKE 30 min. or until center is almost set. Cool. Refrigerate several hours or overnight. Cut into 24 squares just before serving. Spoon topping into small heavy-duty resealable plastic bag. Microwave on HIGH 40 sec. to 1 min. or until slightly softened. Cut 1/8-inch tip from corner of bag; squeeze over cheesecake squares. Store leftover cheesecake squares in the refrigerator.



Sallie Koon
Traffic Engineering

CARAMEL POPCORN

- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups brown sugar
- ½ cup corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 5 quarts popped popcorn

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Place popcorn in a very large bowl.

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar, corn syrup and salt. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil without stirring for 4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in soda and vanilla. Pour in a thin stream over popcorn, stirring to coat.

Place in two large shallow baking dishes and bake in preheated oven, stirring every 15 minutes, for 1 hour. Remove from oven and let cool completely before breaking into pieces.

Prep Time: 30 minutes.

Cook Time: approximately 1 hour. Ready in 1 hour 30 minutes. Makes 5 quarts (20 servings.) Great caramel popcorn for any holiday or occasion. If you like chewy popcorn, bake less.



Eddie Steck
Traffic Engineering

FROGMORE STEW

- 6 quarts of water
- ¾ cup Old Bay Seasoning
- 2 pounds new red potatoes
- 2 pounds hot smoked sausage links, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 12 ears corn – husked, cleaned and quartered
- 4 pounds large fresh shrimp, unpeeled.

Bring water and Old Bay Seasoning to boil in a large stockpot.

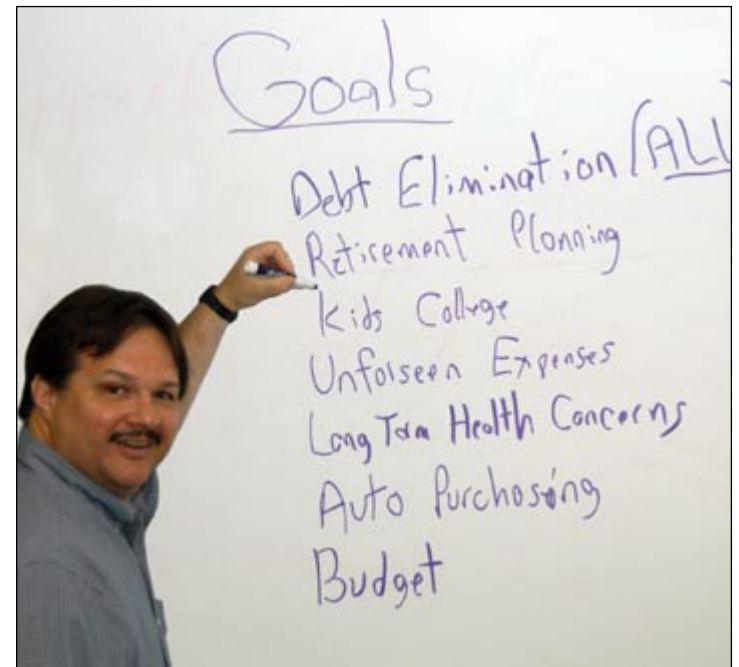
Add potatoes and cook for 15 minutes. Add sausage and cook for 5 minutes more. Add corn and cook for another 5 minutes. Stir in the shrimp and cook until shrimp are pink, about 5 minutes. Drain immediately and serve.

It can be adjusted to serve any number. Allow 2 tablespoons of seasoning per quart of water. If you cannot find hot smoked sausage, use another smoked sausage such as kielbasa and add crushed hot red pepper to the pot.



Darrell Munn
Traffic Engineering

Butter Bean Solution to Financial Freedom
Employees rave about financial training class



Fellow employee Tommy Scott teaches a class on the financial lessons he has learned and used to become debt free. Above, Scott writes down a list of goals from employees in one of his classes.

Back in the Winter 2005 issue of THE CONNECTOR, we let you know about a book that Tommy Scott of Bridge Design wrote on financial management.

Since then, Scott has volunteered to share his knowledge through one-day training classes scheduled through SCDOT's Employee Development Office.

A few points you should know about this class:

- The class is FREE for SCDOT employees.

- Scott is sharing his money management skills with fellow employees for free. It is a personal ministry for him. He feels so strongly about the subject because being debt free has changed his life.

- Scott does not require you to buy his book to attend the class. In fact, he tells you that everything in the book is discussed in his class.

There has been overwhelming interest in his class and the feedback from attendees has been positive.

Here are a few comments from employees:

“This class was absolutely wonderful. We should all be thankful that Mrs. Mabry would allow the employees to attend a class for financial freedom.

I went to the class on July 19, 2005, and boy was I given such good advice from Tommy Scott. He is a true God send.

When I left there, I really thought the Lord had led me to be in this class.

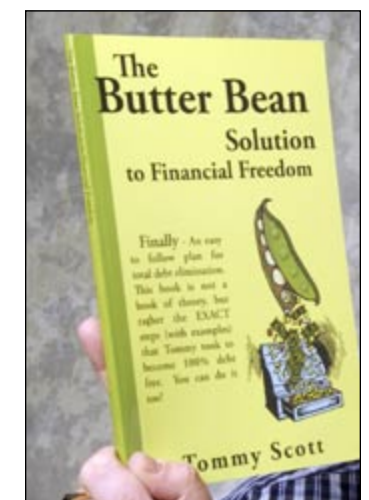
On the way going to Columbia, I was like ‘Why am I going to this. There is not a solution for financial freedom.’ I figured this would be a far fetched scheme. Boy, was I wrong.

Tommy really breaks it down to where you can understand and know exactly what has to be done to get out of debt.

And just by following his very simple steps, your goals can be achieved.

I highly recommend his book, because although I went through the class, I have on numerous times since then used the book as a reference to get right back on track.”

Michelle Benton
District 6



“I have purchased three copies from Tommy and they are great little books. I bought one for myself and then bought two more for gifts. Every young person would benefit from reading it.”

Macie M. Gresham
Right of Way

“Most people think that only those who work outside of state government can truly be debt free and have extras in life. Tommy Scott, a fellow SCDOT employee, proved this to be a myth.

The Butter Bean Solution class created and taught by Mr. Scott shows simple techniques that every employee can use, regardless of their walk in life. It is not about how much money you earn ... it is about setting a goal and accomplishing it.”

Susan Johnson
Governmental Affairs

“The Butter Bean Solution to Financial Freedom” classes through 2005 are full. A 2006 schedule will be coming out soon. When it does, contact the Employee Development Office to register.

DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Aiken, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

District Engineer: **Thad Brunson** (803) 737-6660
FAX (803) 737-6401



Teresa Harley

Got news?

District 1 has a new Connector Coordinator. Teresa Harley is interested in your story ideas.

Contact her at:
803-737-6650 or email
her at HarleyTL@scdot.org

See ya later, alligator!

Sumter Maintenance crew catch temporary mascot

The SCDOT Sumter Maintenance Office has its very own mascot thanks to the efforts and wrestling techniques exhibited by foremen Charles Wells and Eddie Isaac and their "gator" crew members Johnny Johnson, Leroy McLeod and George Damon.

While clearing a ditch near the Sumter Maintenance Facility, the "Gator Crew" exhibited determination and a lack of fear by taming a gator. The gator was approximately four feet long and quickly became known as the SCDOT Sumter Maintenance Mascot. Naming the gator and cherishing the lasting pride of having its own mascot lasted approximately 4 hours, at which time South Carolina Department of Natural Resources retrieved the reptile and returned it to a safer remote location elsewhere in South Carolina.

Beware all other units, your mascot may be nearer than you think.

From left, Leroy McLeod, George Damon, Supervisor Charles Wells and Johnnie Johnson show off the gator they caught while clearing a ditch in Sumter.



ALLEN GRIFFIN/SUMTER MAINTENANCE



Mamma Mia!

Kershaw employee competes one day, has a child the next day

Dee Michaelsen has been employed with SCDOT since May 9, 1989, and is presently a Trades Specialist III at Kershaw County Maintenance. She is a lead person in the Ditching Crew.

Michaelsen recently volunteered to participate in the "2005 Equipment Rodeo" and won the County and District 1 Tandem Axle Dump Truck Competition. What made her participation so interesting was the fact that she was 9.033 months pregnant for the State Competition on June 13. Her doctor cleared her to continue working until Mother Nature said it was time to go. She was so determined to participate in the Rodeo that she was hoping the baby would wait until after the competition. SHE GOT HER WISH! The day after the competition, on June 14 at 6 p.m., she gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Hailey Elizabeth Michaelsen, weighing in at 8 lbs. 10ozs. Mother and daughter are doing just fine. Dee and her husband Allan are the proud parents of four children, Hailey Elizabeth, Kimberly Hayes, John McKay and Tristan McCreadie.

Robert Broadwater honored for his 35 years of service

Robert Broadwater began his career on April 21, 1969, in the Construction division in District 1, where he worked for 18 years. In 1987, he transferred to the District Office for District One where he was employed until his retirement.

He was an Engineer I. Broadwater was an extremely loyal employee who loved his job. Some of his duties included doing traffic counts, preparing correspondence, and keeping up with the District Office traffic files. He was even known to come in on Saturday so that he could have a let-

ter ready to be signed on Monday morning. Broadwater thrived on being busy at work and would welcome the opportunity to be in the far reaches of the District very early in the morning for a traffic count. It was not abnormal for co-workers to come in early to work and find that Broadwater had arrived a couple of hours earlier.

Unfortunately, Broadwater passed away in February 2005. In addition to his commitment to professionalism, Broadwater cared about the people around him. He left some very large shoes to fill and will be greatly missed.



District 1 Traffic Engineer Mark Nolt presents Marie Broadwater with a 35-year service award for her late husband, Robert Broadwater.



CONGRATULATIONS SUMTER MAINTENANCE
Employees at Sumter Maintenance received the Blue Granite award from Senator Phil Leventis for their work at saving money for taxpayers.



Senator Phil Leventis joined Sumter Maintenance employees in their monthly litter pick up.

Meet Ashleigh Sandel

Name: Ashleigh Sandel
Title: Engineer / Associate Engineer I
Unit: Lexington Construction "A" Office

Ashleigh Sandel has been employed with SCDOT for 1-1/2 years as an Engineer / Associate Engineer I with Lexington Construction "A" office. She and her husband, Philip, have been married for a year and have a two-year-old black lab named Briggs. Ashleigh grew up in Columbia and graduated from USC in 2003. She is a lifetime Gamecock football fan. Ashleigh enjoys cooking, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.



Ashleigh Sandel and her dog, Briggs.

DISTRICT 2 NEWS

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties

District Engineer: Phillip M. Brooks (864) 227-6971
FAX (864) 227-6567

Got news?

Contact Dwayne Scott at 864-227-6222 or email him at ScottDE@scdot.org.



Dwayne Scott

Behind the scenes



PHOTOS BY DUANE SCOTT/DISTRICT 2
RIGHT: Claude Worden, left, helps his brother James Worden out of his car after returning home from a doctor's checkup. ABOVE: James Worden uses a new ramp to enter his home.

Crossroads recently did a shoot on James Worden in McCormick County. Worden lost both his legs in a Work Zone accident. James left all of us in awe. The spirit that

this man possesses is nothing short of amazing. He is truly a remarkable man. Please continue to pray for Worden and his family



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Betty and James Worden are filmed for Crossroads by Peter Tarpley and Scott Davis. In the background are McCormick RME Tommie Parker and Assistant Director of Communications Bob Kudelka.



Gift of love

District 2 Human Resource Manager Wanda Day, recently gave her husband Andre' a wonderful gift of love. She donated one of her kidneys to Andre' on August 9th. He had been receiving kidney dialysis 3 times a week for the past 8 months. Both have made full recoveries and we're glad to have Wanda Day back at work. She said it was a long and tough screening process and she's glad that she did it.

Congratulations

Backhoe Rodeo winners from District 2:

Abbeville	Ronnie Washington
Edgefield	David Snodgrass
Greenwood	Leigh Redden
Laurens	Donnie Holtzclaw
McCormick	Clifton White
Newberry	Allen Shealy
Saluda	Frank Lorick

Military News

PFC2 Timothy James Thew is stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, with the 10th Mountain Division. His unit is on Green Alert awaiting orders for New Orleans, Iraq, or Afghanistan. He is the son of Patti Thew, from Abbeville Construction.

Christopher W. Burnett, son of Donald Burnett at SCDOT Newberry Maintenance, left for Fort Louis in Washington State for six months training to be sent to Iraq.

HM3 Kayla Long, Navy/Marine, is the daughter of Kay S Smith and George Ricky Smith at SCDOT Newberry Maintenance. Departed Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville North Carolina August 31 for Iraq. She will be with the Surgery/Shock Trauma Platoon in Iraq for six months. Long returned from Kuwait in March 2005.



District Two Employees wished Betty Ann Derrick well with her retirement from SCDOT. Derrick, her family, and employees attended a drop-in held in her honor at the Greenwood Assembly Room on June 30, 2005. Derrick was employed with SCDOT for 14 years where she served as the District 2 Information Resource Coordinator. She has been enjoying traveling throughout the United States with her husband, Larry. Derrick is shown above with her son, Matt.

Meet Terry Bullard

Name: Terry Bullard
Job Title: Mechanic III
Start Date with SCDOT: June 1990
Unit: Greenwood Construction

Terry Bullard has been with SCDOT for 15 years. He races Super Late Models on Dirt Track race tracks. He lives in Saluda with his wife Bebe and daughters Ashley and Kayla.

Terry Bullard



Bullard poses by his car. Bullard is a mechanic and races in his spare time.

DISTRICT 3 NEWS

Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

District Engineer: Cyril B. Busbee Jr. (864) 241-1010
FAX (864) 241-1115

Spartanburg employees gather at old facility one last time



In June, Spartanburg County employees gathered to enjoy one final Fish Fry in the old Maintenance Shop. Within a few days, the building was torn down. The new shop was built beside this one.

Got news?

Please contact Joyce Gardner at 864-241-1010 or by emailing her at GardnerJR@scdot.org



Joyce Gardner



I-385 entrance to Greenville widened, landscaped

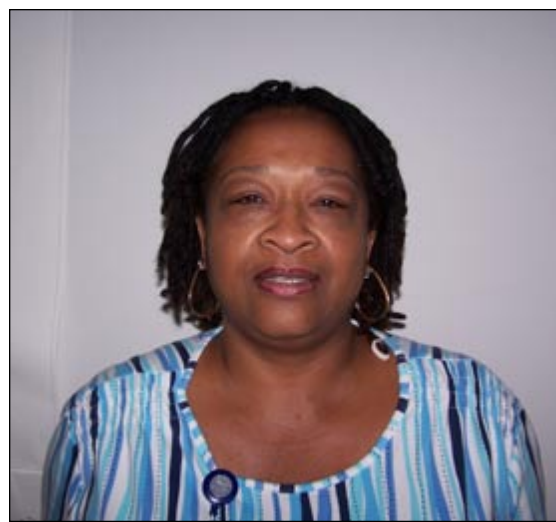


The Upstate welcomes a new entrance to downtown Greenville. A six-mile stretch of I-385 is near the fall completion date. This section of I-385 has been widened from four to six lanes. In some areas, it has been widened to eight lanes. The first double barrier wall along an interstate in this area holds crepe myrtles, live oaks and velkova.



FRED FLEMING/SPARTANBURG MAINTENANCE
Employees are now working in the new Spartanburg Maintenance Shop.

Meet Marian Kelley



Name: Marian Kelley
Assigned to: District 3 Office
Position: Dispatcher for ITS
Length of service at SCDOT: 3 years, has been with the state for 18 years.
Hobbies: She is the proud mother of one son and a beautiful granddaughter named Morgan. She loves to read and recently started learning to play the piano. Marion is very close with her sisters and brothers and enjoys spending her spare time with her family.

Marian Kelley

CONGRATULATIONS to the new parents!
 Congratulations go out to Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Chasteen on the birth of their first child. Miss Ella Kate was born on July 18, 2005 in Greenville, SC. Jonathan works for Greenville Construction Office C.

DISTRICT 4 NEWS

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

*District Engineer: Stan Bland
(803) 377-4155
FAX (803) 581-2088*

Got news?

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



Edward Moore

District 4 Equipment Rodeo Winners



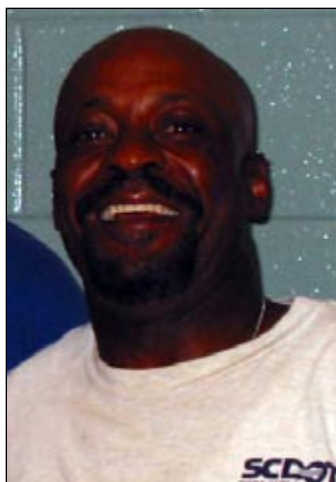
District 4 Engineering Administrator Stan Bland congratulates all the winners of the Equipment Rodeo. Above, Jeffrey Marshall of Chesterfield Maintenance won the Lowboy and Motorgrader competition.



James Wilkes of Fairfield Maintenance won the Tractor/Mower competition.



Karen Rowe of Fairfield Maintenance won the Single Axle Truck competition.



Charlie Ray Brown of Chester Maintenance won the Tandem Axle Truck competition.

District Engineering Administrator Stan Bland presented awards to equipment winners during the District 4 Equipment Rodeo Completion held at the Union Maintenance facility.

Jeffrey Marshall went on to place second in the state lowboy competition and advanced to the region competition. James Wilkes placed third in the state tractor/mower event.

Employee's hobby is 'Burr-ning' up the track



Sonny Burr Trades Specialist IV at Chesterfield Maintenance purchased his 1964 Chevy II in 2001. Since then Sonny and his son, Matt, have raced at numerous tracks all across North and South Carolina.

Sonny and Matt have won their share of race rounds and prize money. Both race in the IHRA Top Eliminator series. Sonny has traveled for the past three years with the drag racing team from the Jefferson/Pageland to the Series bracket finals.

District 4 Backhoe Rodeo Winners



Nathan Pierce
Cherokee Maintenance



Bryan Baker
Lancaster Maintenance



Ricky Evans
Chester Maintenance



Samuel Crosby
Union Maintenance



Stewart Gibson
Chesterfield Maintenance



Lewis Brazell
York Maintenance



Tommy Sawyer
Fairfield Maintenance

35 Years of Dedicated Service

Lancaster RME Johnny McKay presents James Powers Trades Specialist IV with a letter of appreciation from SCDOT Commission Chairman Tee Hooper congratulating him upon reaching 35 years of service with the South Carolina Department of Transportation. James came to work with the Department on August 24, 1970 and is currently a foreman in Lancaster County in charge of the work request crew.

Lancaster RME Johnny McKay, left, presents James Powers, right, with a letter from the SCDOT Commission thanking him for his 35 years of service.



DISTRICT 5 NEWS

Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties

*District Engineer: Dennis Townsend (843) 661-4710
FAX (843) 661-4704*



A couple of real swingers

Renovations keep Horry County bridges swinging

Horry County swing bridges have endured numerous changes within the area around them over the past 67 years.

The major change is the increase in the volume of traffic both on the waterway and roadway. This says a lot about the growth of the area because the main portion of the roadway traffic is local citizens going about their daily activities.

Waterway traffic averages about 25 boats per day. When the bridges were erected in 1938, the view from the windows of the bridge houses were quite different. For miles all around there were trees and things of nature. Now, you can only see a few trees that are right along the water's edge.

In the spring of 2003, renovations started on the bridges under the direction of Georgetown Resident Construction Engineer S. B. Forbes.

The major renovations included the placement of a new control house, and the construction of a new utility building to include facilities. All electrical and mechanical systems were replaced, and a new wedge drive was put in place. These renovations were done at both the Little River and Socastee swing bridges at a cost of approximately \$8.2 million.

Work will be completed on both swing bridges by late October of this year.



Photos by Arnold Houston/Assistant Horry RME

Got news?

Contact Kay Williams at 843-661-4710 or by emailing her at WilliamsKH@scdot.org



Kay Williams

Meet Eddie Hughes

Name: Eddie Dean Hughes
Title: Equipment Operator II
Unit: Horry Maintenance
Started with SCDOT: May 1981



Eddie has been an operator of the Little River Swing Bridge for the past 24 years. He is responsible for the scheduling of time off for all of the operators and in the preparation of time reports for the operators. Eddie makes sure hours worked and openings of the bridge are reported to the maintenance office on a daily basis for entering information into HMMS.

Eddie and his wife of 22 years live in the Longs area of Horry County. They have a daughter, Hope, who attends Coastal Carolina University. Eddie enjoys riding his motorcycle and fishing, and he runs a small engine repair business from his home.



DISTRICT 6 NEWS

Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Jasper counties

District Engineer: **Robert Clark** (843) 740-1665
 FAX (843) 740-1663

Got news?

Contact Janet Hendrix at:
 843-740-1667 ext. 128 or
 by emailing her at
 HendrixJL@scdot.org



Janet Hendrix

A Letter We Liked

Dear Robert Clark:

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I would like to thank the South Carolina Department of Transportation for installing the new "Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge" highway signs along Highway 17 and the secondary roads leading to the refuge.

I have already received several comments from the public about the new signs and how much easier it is to find the refuge than before. Your agency went above and beyond what we initially requested, and I wanted you to know how much we appreciated all of SCDOT's efforts. Thank you for working with us on this request. Hopefully, we will not have to have new signs installed anytime soon. Thank you again for the signs!

Sincerely,

Jane Griess
 Refuge Manager

Crossroads, Mabry visit Berkeley Maintenance



Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry visited Berkeley Maintenance on July 26, 2005, to tape the August edition of Crossroads. It was interesting to be a part of this taping. After the taping, Ms. Mabry shared the Department's vision of Career Paths and how each and every employee will have opportunities for advancement. She then answered questions from Berkeley's workforce. Lunch provided more time for one-on-one sharing. The tasty Beaufort Stew was prepared by Larry Jones. Hats off to the chef!

D6 Equipment Rodeo



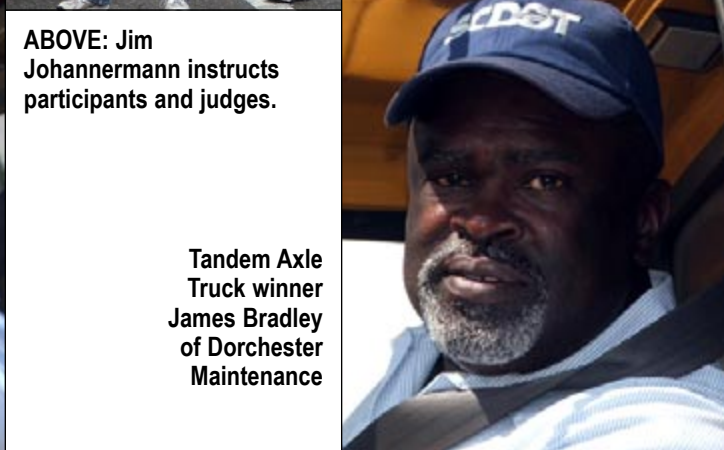
Tractor Mower winner R. L. Grant of Dorchester Maintenance



ABOVE: Jim Johannermann instructs participants and judges.



Single Axle Truck winner John Shuler of Dorchester Maintenance



Tandem Axle Truck winner James Bradley of Dorchester Maintenance

Tractor Truck with Lowboy winner Ricky Stroble of Charleston Maintenance. Stroble won the event in District 6 and also the State Competition for two years in a row.



Motorgrader winner Keith Frazier of Beaufort Maintenance



Meet Harvey Swinton Sr.

Harvey Swinton, Sr. came to work for the Highway Department (SCDOT) in 1951 at a time when all the work was performed by hand using picks, shovels, bush axes, oxen and 2" wheel dumper. He was 16 years old, and he made 60¢ an hour.

Personal protective equipment wasn't even heard of at that time. Workers were transported to the job site in the back of dump beds, and some of the employees

didn't even have shoes. Swinton has shared stories of how they would load a 2.5-ton truck with shovels and plow dirt roads with a truck pulling a plow and two people to keep the blade in place.

The first motorized equipment he can remember the department getting was a tractor with a front-end bucket in the 60's. Any woodcutting operations were done with a cross saw until they received their first power saw. That first power saw took

two people to operate; one held the motor and the other operated the blade.

Swinton and his wife, Aremethia, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Together they have seven children, 25 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Swinton has always been very active in his church and he is also a Mason.

It appears that if Swinton makes a commitment he sticks with it, whether at the job or at home. Keep it up, Harvey! We need more role models like you!



Harvey Swinton

HUMAN RESOURCES

Mammography Initiative helps statewide



Nurse Dale Thomas

By Nurse Dale Thomas, RN, BSN

The SCDOT Statewide Mammography Initiative has been under way for a year. Total participation since September 2004 is 133 SCDOT females and 2 DMV females. Districts 1, 3 and 4 recently combined having 22 participants. District 5 had 15 participants plus 2 joined from DMV.

The Mammography Van visited District 7 on August 24 with 18 employees participating. The van visited Headquarters September 19-22. Watch for the posting of other dates in your area.



Alice Boozer, right, of Payroll consults with Kathy Ayen of Palmetto Richland Health before her annual mammography on Sept. 19.



ABOVE: District 5 had 15 employees participate in this year's mammogram screening.

LEFT: District 7 had 18 employees participate.

Open enrollment for your 2006 benefits is coming soon

At SCDOT, we realize you make benefit choices based on what's important to you and the needs of your changing lifestyle.

As you know, this is our Open Enrollment, which means that you will have an opportunity to address changes for almost all of your state benefits.

You will have the opportunity to make the following changes:

Health Insurance:

- Enroll yourself and any eligible dependents without providing medical evidence of good health.
- Cancel your health coverage or drop dependents.

Dental / Dental Plus:

- Enroll, cancel, or add / drop dependents from the State Dental or Dental Plus plans.

Optional Life

- Employees who are enrolled in Optional Life can increase your Optional Life Insurance by \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000 without providing evidence of insurability.
- Employees who are NOT enrolled in Optional Life can increase your Optional Life Insurance by \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000 without providing evidence of insurability.

Spouses:

- Employees who are covering their spouse under Dependent Life can increase their spouse's coverage by \$10,000 or \$20,000 without providing evidence of insurability. Coverage for a spouse cannot exceed 50% of the employee's coverage, or \$100,000, whichever is less.
- Employees who are NOT covering their spouse under Dependent Life can enroll a spouse for \$10,000 or \$20,000 of coverage without providing evidence

of insurability, whether or not the employee themselves are enrolled in Optional Life.

Supplemental Long Term Disability

- Enroll or make changes to your Supplemental Long Term Disability Insurance.

Universal Life

- Apply for Universal Life Insurance from Colonial Supplemental Insurance.

Open enrollment will be held October 1 – 31, 2005

During this time, a benefits consultant will be on site to help explain your options in greater detail, and enroll you in any desired plans. Look for an announcement on meeting times and the location. Don't miss this opportunity to make the most of your benefits package!

Employee satisfaction

By Dianne Coleman, Interim Director of Human Resources

For those of you who have been on board a while with SCDOT, you will remember that an "Employee Satisfaction Survey" was distributed to employees in August 2003.

The purpose of the survey was to provide management with data to better understand employee concerns, and to pinpoint areas of excellence and areas for improvement. The survey response rate was approximately 90%, which was an excellent representation of the employee population.

The results of the last Employee Satisfaction Survey were used as a basis for discussion at the SCDOT Strategic Planning Retreat in February 2004. The input received from the Employee Satisfaction Survey, along with feedback from the strategic planning sessions, served as an integral component in the development of SCDOT's Strategic Plan.

We are planning to conduct another Employee Satisfaction Survey Spring 2006. Once again, we will be utilizing a structured approach for administering the survey, and it is anticipated that the same group of survey coordinators will visit the counties, districts, and headquarters as before. SCDOT management truly cares about employees' thoughts and concerns, and strongly encourages your participation in the upcoming survey. Additional information will be forthcoming.



Dianne Coleman

Supervisory Courses

The Human Resources Development (HRD) office has revamped two supervisory courses. HRD instructors will teach these courses. To register for these and other courses, check with your District office or the internal SCDOT University Website or call the HRD office at 803-737-1344.

Title: Paving the Way for Foremen

(This course replaces Essentials of Human Resource Management I)

Description: This is a one-day course developed to enhance interpersonal skills for the SCDOT Foremen. Course content includes such things as communication and conflict resolution, effective delegation, and the basics of the SCDOT Disciplinary Policy, Equal Employment Opportunity, Sexual Harassment Policy and Civil Rights laws that impact the DOT work crews.

Title: Fundamentals of Human Resource Management

(This course replaces Essentials of Human Resource Management II)

Description: This two-day course is designed to help the new supervisor understand the processes for selecting, interviewing, hiring, evaluating and disciplining employees. Incorporated into the course material are the legalities involved with employment. Utilizing materials they actually encounter on the job, learners leave the course with information tangible and relevant to their daily activities.



Linda Snead



Chris Zeigler

If you would like to know more about training courses available to employees, please contact Linda Snead or Chris Zeigler at 803-737-1344.

Assets Management

By Carl Chase Jr., Assets Manager

PROJECT UPDATES

YORK COUNTY: Site preparation for the new York County Maintenance Facility is underway. Grading has been completed and the foundation is being laid for the Engineering and Truck Shed Building. The expected completion date of this complex is July 29, 2006.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY: The Spartanburg Engineering Complex is in its final phase. The new office was completed in 2003, the new Salt Shed was utilized in 2004, the Maintenance Shop and a part of the new Truck Shed were occupied this summer, and the remainder of the Truck Shed and fuel facility is currently under construction. This project replaces a complex that was built approximately 45 years ago. The expected project completion date is Dec. 5, 2005.

KERSHAW COUNTY REST AREAS: Work is underway on the I-20 Kershaw County Rest Areas. The existing facility is being demolished. New restrooms, vending buildings and picnic shelters are being constructed. There will be increased parking for trucks.

SALT SHED WAREHOUSE: A 10,000-ton warehouse is under construction in Columbia. This warehouse will serve as a statewide storage facility for winter replenishment to counties statewide.

CALHOUN MAINTENANCE COMPLEX: A new modular restroom facility will be installed at the Calhoun Maintenance Complex. The foundation and utility connections have been completed and the facility will be delivered in early September.

HEADQUARTERS BUILDING: The Procurement Office has moved to the first floor of the Headquarters Building and Capital Improvements has moved to Room 121. Planning is underway to make preparation for the Traffic Management Center. Some of the IT Services functions



Carl Chase

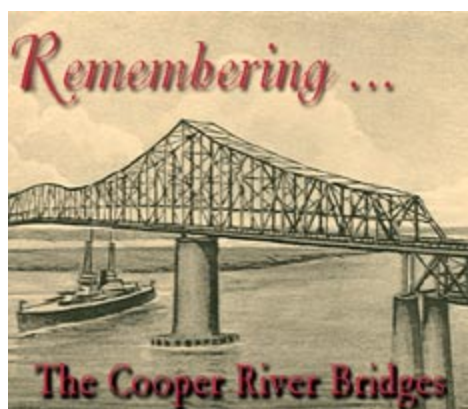
will be relocated to Rooms G-12 through G-18. Work is expected to begin in early October.

COLLEGE STREET PARKING LOT: The University of South Carolina will begin construction of a seven story parking facility on the site now occupied by SCDOT. Employees who normally park in this lot will have parking in a nearby lot. The construction of the parking garage will take approximately a year. Upon completion SCDOT will have the use of 350 parking spaces.

DEMOLITION OF THE CAROLINA PLAZA: As part of the University of South Carolina Research Center, the Carolina Plaza will be demolished. Demolition is expected to be under way in December.

JASPER WELCOME CENTER: Restrooms have been renovated at the Jasper Welcome Center located on I-95.

CHEROKEE MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING OFFICE: The exterior of the Cherokee Maintenance Office is having a "face lift" to improve the appearance of this 37 year old office building.



Remembering the Cooper River Bridges

By Carl Chase Jr.

As a part of celebrating and remembering the Cooper River Bridges, the Friends of the Charleston

County Public Library are offering the public the opportunity to own rare images of the 1928-1929 Grace Memorial Bridge. These selected images, from the Library's special collection, depict the amazing story of this Lowcountry symbol. Prints (8" x 10") are \$15 each, and postcards (5.5" x 8.5") are \$2 each. The images and information on how to obtain these images are on the Library's web site at www.ccpl.org.

Additionally, the Charleston County Public Library is obtaining the wind tunnel model of the Arthur Ravenel Bridge used by the contractor as part of the permanent display at the library's main facility at 68 Calhoun Street in Charleston.

For additional information pertaining to this venture by the Charleston County Public Library you can contact Ms. Jamie Thomas, Public Relations Manager at 843-805-6819 or by e-mail thomasj@ccpl.org.



New and Improved Idea Express

By Terri W. Barr

To survive in an environment of scarce resources the ideas of 5000 plus employees must be leveraged. Who knows the best way to perform a task? It's the person who does it everyday. An opportunity exists to air these ideas – Idea Express.

All ideas begin with the employee and those ideas may be shared Department-wide by submitting the Idea Express form available on Form Flow. People without a personal computer should ask their office administrative specialist to print a copy for them.

All Idea Express submissions are forwarded to Terri W. Barr in the Assets Management Office at headquarters.

All ideas will be evaluated by an impartial committee and forwarded to the leadership team. The leadership team will make the decision on whether to adopt or deny the submission.



Terri Barr

STEP-21 sets goal for statewide blood drive

The STEP-21 Alumni Chapter (SAC) is planning a statewide fundraising activity, but the group is not asking for money. What the members of the SAC are asking SCDOT employees to do is roll up their sleeves and donate blood.

The kickoff for the blood drive was held at Headquarters on September 23. Blood drives will continue around the Districts into the month of November. Locations for donation sites will be determined by a survey the SAC members are conducting to gauge the interest of SCDOT employees.

The SAC Coordinators for this project stress that giving blood is an opportunity to give life. The Red Cross has determined that one unit of blood can save up to three lives. SAC Coordinators have set a goal of

500 employees donating blood. That figure represents ten percent of SCDOT's 5000 employees. If the ten percent goal is met, up to 1500 lives across the state can be saved.

SAC Blood Drive Coordinators can be contacted for more information:

- Statewide – Brett Montgomery
- District 1- Mike Gilchrist
- District 2- Jackie Dorn
- District 3- Marti Thompson
- District 4 – Juanita Abercrombie
- District 5 – Phyllis Wilson
- District 6 – Michelle Benton
- District 7 – Bobby Crider
- Headquarters – Donna Price



Transit Program Manager Carolyn "Dee Dee" Burton, center, discusses mass transit advantages with SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality Chief Myra C. Reece, left, and SC Energy Office Director John F. Clark, right, after a June 23 news conference announcing free rides on SmartRide buses on Ozone Action days.

The SmartRide commuter service was free to the public beginning June 6 through July 1 as a promotional effort to increase ridership.

SmartRide is the result of a partnership of SCDOT, Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority and Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority.

SmartRide began in the Midlands on June 7, 2004, from the City of Newberry with stops in Little Mountain and Chapin then on to Columbia with additional service from Camden with a stop outside of Lugoff on to Columbia. Many commuters from these communities currently enjoy this reliable and convenient service.

This free promotional was planned only for the month of June.

Santee Wateree RTA offers commuter service originating from Camden with a stop in Lugoff to the Columbia metro area. Central Midlands RTA offers commuter service from Newberry with stops in Little Mountain and Chapin and then on to Columbia. Specific times and locations are available at www.scdot.org.

For more information on the service, the public may call:

- Newberry Route: Central Midlands RTA – (803) 255-7133;
- Camden Route: Santee Wateree RTA – (803) 934-0396;
- SCDOT – (803) 737-0831