

# District 5 News

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

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## D5 participates in Spring Spruce Up



Louis Grooms worked with the rest of Darlington Maintenance to keep the roadside clean during the spring litter pickup.



Latoya Robinson, right, and Sylvester Redden from Florence Maintenance fill up two more bags of litter.



Damon Hanna and Devell Eaddy of Florence Maintenance team up to pick up trash.



Georgetown Maintenance Foreman Mark Duncan checks on his crew as they clear the roadside of debris and litter.

### Got news?

Contact Michael Miller at 843-661-4710 or by emailing him at MillerMW@scdot.org



Michael Miller

## SCDOT employee rescues collision victim in pond

**O**n Oct. 11, 2020, Darlington Maintenance employee **Louis Grooms Jr.** was driving in Florence County after work and came up on a vehicle collision.

A passenger car had run off the road and ended up in a deep pond. The driver had managed to get on the roof of the vehicle, but the passenger was still in the water and could not swim. Other witnesses to the collision had formed a human chain to reach the person in the water but she was too far out and the water was too deep. Grooms said "I didn't really think, I just jumped in and went to help her."

When he got to her, the panicked woman nearly drowned both of them, but he managed to backstroke toward the other rescuers. The end person on the chain of people finally managed to grab Grooms and pull both of them to shallow water. Grooms made it out of the water.

The fire department arrived and both passengers in the waterlogged car were being treated. Grooms saw that they were safe, and left for home. It was only a few days later that anyone even knew what he had done! In recognition for his actions the Florence County Council awarded him a plaque on Nov. 19 for his heroic efforts to rescue a fellow citizen.

Well done and thank you for being an example of all selfless SCDOT employees!



Louis Grooms receives a plaque from the Florence County Council for his heroic efforts to rescue a motorist who crashed into a pond.