

The Connector

INSIDE

Director's Notes	2
Nat'l Heritage Corridor	3
Carolina Bays Phase II opens ..	8
Moving Up / Retirements	11
District News	16-22
Assets Management	24

VOLUME XVIV NO. I

SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WINTER 2005

Commissioners bid emotional farewell to Freeman

By Bob Kudelka

In an emotional farewell, SCDOT Commissioners gave Don H. Freeman a standing ovation and a resolution in his honor during his last appearance before them as State Highway Engineer.

Freeman, who began with SCDOT as a summer employee in 1973, rose through the ranks to become the state's top engineer in 1997.

"I'm going to miss him," said Commissioner Bobby T. Jones, 5th Congressional District, during the January meeting. "It's almost like I'm losing a son."

Commissioner John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th Congressional District, said he was always impressed that whenever someone had a question about a project, large or small, Freeman was familiar with the issue and could provide an answer.

"You have done an outstanding job," Truluck said. "You have done a yeoman's job. We do appreciate what you've done. I know you're as good as there is out there."

Freeman, 52, thanked the Commission and the "loyal and dedicated employees" of SCDOT. He joked that as eight years as State Highway Engineer, he learned it's important to have "a pretty thick skin and a sense of humor."

During his tenure, the Department has completed many significant projects such as the Conway Bypass in Horry County, the Cross Island Parkway on Hilton Head Island, the I-520 Parkway in North Augusta, the Southern Connector in Greenville, and has nearly finished new Cooper River Bridge in Charleston.

"I have had a very rewarding career at DOT," Freeman said.

Executive Director Elizabeth S.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT Commissioners, Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry and SCDOT Deputy Directors applaud State Highway Engineer Don Freeman, seated, for his years of service to SCDOT.

Mabry said Freeman was one of the first people she met at SCDOT.

"We have worked so well together for so many years," Mabry said. "It is a tremendous loss to me personally and to the DOT for Don to retire. We wish him the very best and we know that he will still always be a member of our family."

"He is the consummate professional, having the ability to work with individuals from all walks of life from politicians, government officials, employees, to the general public," the Commission's resolution noted. "His pleasant demeanor, even in difficult and challenging times, is a legacy that should be followed by all public servants."

The resolution said Freeman "champi-

Don Freeman's career at SCDOT

- 1973-74 - Summer employee - Barnwell County
- 1975-76 - Project engineer - Chester County
- 1976-83 - Resident Construction Engineer - District 4
- 1983-85 - Staff Engineer for Director of Construction - Columbia
- 1985-88 - Assistant Construction engineer - Columbia
- 1988-94 - Road Construction Engineer - Columbia
- 1994-97 - Director of Construction - Columbia
- 1997-05 - State Highway Engineer

oned and promoted improving the use of technology throughout the Department, which resulted in tremendous increase in computer use and skills in Engineering as well as the other agency divisions."

Freeman has been an active member of the American Association of State

Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), serving as a member of the Subcommittee on Construction, Transport Task Force, Chairman of the Transport Technical Review Team for Site Manager and as a member of the AASHTO Standing Committee on Highways.

See page 7 for a profile on Don Freeman



Interstate 73 summit a success

Highway officials from the two Carolinas met in Myrtle Beach Friday, Feb. 11, to discuss future interstate connections for Interstate 73 and Interstate 74.

More than 150 people attended the meeting sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and co-hosted by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina I-73 Association and the North Eastern Strategic Alliance (NESA), a regional partnership between private industry and government to promote economic development in northeastern South Carolina.

An agreement was reached in principle to jointly perform environmental studies to construct I-73 from Rockingham, NC, to Myrtle Beach, and to connect I-74 from Brunswick County, NC, into the North Myrtle Beach area.

The matter came before the SCDOT Commission at its February meeting, and the Commission approved a resolution in support of the agreement. The North Carolina Board of Transportation was expected to give formal endorsement at its March



SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, Rep. Doug Jennings, Sen. Dick Elliott and SCDOT Commissioner Bobby T. Jones read a resolution on I-73 during the Feb. 17 Commission meeting.

meeting.

At the summit meeting, a resolution was passed recommending that I-73 be constructed in the vicinity of the Route 38 corridor between Richmond County, NC, and Marlboro County, SC, and that SC Highway 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway) would be extended from SC Highway 9 to the North Carolina state line, to connect with either I-74 or a spur of I-74.

"This summit proved to be a huge success in getting the two states together,"

said South Carolina Representative Doug Jennings, Chairman of the NESA I-73 Committee. "This is an historic occasion in making I-73 a reality."

South Carolina Senator Yancey McGill, Chairman of NESA, said: "I am extremely proud of SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry and her staff for all of the work SCDOT did in preparation for this meeting. The Pee Dee region and all of South Carolina will benefit from the agreement reached here today."

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DIRECTIONS

by Elizabeth S. Mabry
Executive Director

At the end of this year, SCDOT could begin to see a steady drain of the biggest and most important asset we have. That asset is not money, not bridges, not highways, nor mass transit programs. What we will begin to lose in December of this year are talented and experienced people.

These employees were among the first to sign up for the TERI Program (Teacher & Employee Retention Incentive Program). The five-year period that the TERI program allows employees to keep working in their present positions will come to an end for 67 SCDOT employees this December. As each month passes, more SCDOT employees will begin the one-year countdown to the end of their participation in the TERI Program.

SCDOT stands to lose the experience that these employees contribute to SCDOT that ranks us as one of the most efficient and successful DOTs in the nation.

How will SCDOT deal with this loss of experienced people? The answer is that preparations have been well underway to prepare our employees to move ahead in their careers. Training is one of the "Big Rocks" in our Strategic Plan. Developing and retaining our workforce is critical to our success.

In a related story in this edition of *The Connector*, you can read the details of how the Human Resources Office is reviewing job categories, and designing the steps for advancement.

The significance of this review is that it will prepare employees in two ways. It will create a track for those seeking promotions, and it will also prepare employees who wish to advance in their current jobs. We know that some people are happy doing what they do, and may not have an inter-



Elizabeth S. Mabry

est in assuming supervisory or more supervisory responsibilities. The current job review will create training steps for these employees to progress in their present positions and earn increased compensation.

There are provisions in the TERI program that allow employees who complete their five years to apply for their own jobs or others at SCDOT as temporary employees, but there is no guarantee that those employees will choose to seek further employment here.

For that reason and others, it only makes sense that we continue to groom and train our employees to move up, or to do their current jobs better. SCDOT is consistently ranked as being one of the best DOTs in the country, and that's because we have some of the best people in the transportation field as part of our family.

That's why it's important for us to take care of our family members by providing clear-cut steps for everyone to take, to be the best employee they can be. This strategy is a win for the employees, a win for SCDOT and a win for South Carolina.

First TERI class at SCDOT eyes retirement, options

By Pete Poore

In 1999, 67 SCDOT employees were among the first state employees to take advantage of the Teachers & Employee Retention Incentive Program, otherwise known as TERI. This first group of employees will come to the end of their eligibility in the program in December 2005.

At the end of this year, over 2,000 years of experience could walk out of SCDOT's doors. At that time, these employees could choose to retire from state government service, or they could be considered for further employment at SCDOT.

Each month the Human Resources Office will generate and monitor a new list of "TERI employees" who will be one year away from the end of their eligibility.

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry has put a high priority on preparing for the time when TERI employees begin leaving SCDOT. Her plan includes specific training programs for supervisory and management positions. This training would be a step-by-step process, which would prepare employees who wish to be considered for promotion as management vacancies occur.

This preparation for the near future is not limited to management and supervisory positions. The overall mission for this training is to have the right people in the right place at the right time, regardless of the position.

Jack Sturkie is the Payroll Manager for SCDOT. He is among the first group of TERI employees at SCDOT. Sturkie outlined the background needed by anyone who could be considered for his job when he leaves SCDOT.

"This position requires skills in Accounting,

Finance and Human Resources," said Sturkie. "A degree in Accounting or Business Management would be a positive asset, in addition to several years of experience," he added.

The SCDOT Payroll Manager said the person who replaces him will find that it's a critical job. "It's a very demanding responsibility, but it can also be rewarding, just knowing that you've helped someone in our SCDOT family," said Sturkie.

Mabry's goal is to have three or four qualified candidates from within the ranks of SCDOT, eligible to fill positions like Jack Sturkie's job when they become vacant.

To accomplish this goal, the Human Resources office, with help from Clemson University and SCDOT staff, has been building training programs that create career paths for employees who are in the Trades Specialists and Mechanic, Equipment Operators and Engineering/Geodetic Technician series.

When the evaluation of jobs in these two series is complete, nearly 70% of the job categories will have been reviewed. Other job series and career paths will be reviewed in the months ahead.

"The training that is being designed will enable employees to earn pay raises, and to give them the opportunity to be considered for promotions," said Dianne Coleman, Director of Human Resources. "The key role that career paths will play will create a fairer and equitable compensation system," she added.

During the review, some performance pay increases have been suspended, pending the design of the training programs for all employees. The training programs should be completed later this year.

SCDOT tackles winter storm



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees were out in full force during the wintry weather across the state on January 29-30.

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT forces once again rose to the challenges from adverse winter weather conditions as they assisted the public and kept roads as safe as possible during the Jan. 29-30 storm.

During the peak of the icy weather, there were more than 1,200 Maintenance employees working on each shift to keep the roads clear using 600 pieces of equipment.

They applied 6,300 tons of salt, 4,700 tons of sand and 154,000 gallons of salt brine. Once

the icy conditions subsided, many county crews moved to tree limb removal.

At Headquarters, the SCDOT Help Line Alert Team and other dedicated Help Line volunteers provided real-time road conditions and travel related information to almost 1,400 callers, in a 25-hour period.

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry thanks all employees for their efforts during the storm.

"SCDOT was ready to handle whatever kind of weather came our way," Mabry said. "Very few road and bridges were closed. Those that were closed were closed for only a few hours."

The Connector

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



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Children of employees star in workzone spots

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT and the Department of Public Safety have teamed up to create new TV advertisements urging motorists to obey speed limits in work zones.

The ads, which are scheduled to start appearing on TV in April, feature children of SCDOT employees. A Highway Patrol trooper pulls over a driver and writes a ticket, saying, "The fines are high and our policy is zero tolerance."

Terecia Wilson, SCDOT Director of Safety, said the ads build on a concept begun last year in which photos of employees' children appeared on signs in work zones across South Carolina.

In an innovative feature of the TV ads, the familiar signs seem to come to life, with the children speaking and urging motorists to slow down. Then, the trooper pulls over the speeding motorist.

"They have both an emotional appeal as well as bring an enforcement message," Wilson said.

At the January Commission meeting, the four children in the campaign, as well as their parents, and members of the Highway Patrol were recognized for their participation.

"It is a very forceful message, and I appreciate their participation," Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry said.

The children are:

- Dewandre York, 11, a 6th-grader at Furman Middle School in Sumter. She is the daughter of Tonya York of Sumter.

- Cory Frick, 12, is a 7th-grader at Chapin Middle School. His parents are Keith and Lisa Frick, of Little Mountain.

- Weston H. Sharpe, 8, is a 3rd-grader at Grace Christian School, West Columbia. His parents are Danny and Terry Sharpe, of Pelion.

- Ahura E. Webb, 13, is an 8th-grader at Summit Middle School, Columbia. His parents are Robert and Aileen Webb of Columbia.

"These kids did a super job, doing take after take until we got it just right," Wilson said.

Both Mabry and SCDPS Director James K. Schweitzer lauded the partnership between SCDOT and SCDPS in the important safety campaign.

"I see this as a great thing, when we pool our resources and make a difference" Schweitzer said.

The ads were produced as part of a 100 percent federal grant, Wilson said.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

On Jan. 17, the SCDOT Commission recognized employees' children and troopers who participated in the work zone public safety announcements. Front row, from left, Dewandre York, Cory Frick, Weston Sharpe and Ahura Webb. Back row, from left, Sgt. Gil Owens, Lt. Col. H.A. Stubblefield and Lance Corp. D'Mitry Brown.

SC's National Heritage Corridor offers route to discovery

By Bob Kudelka

Interstates do a great job of getting people where they want to go, but it is also interesting to see what these super highways bypass.

The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor extends 240 miles across South Carolina from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. The idea behind the corridor is to expose people to the many historic, cultural and natural destinations along less traveled routes.

SCDOT is a partner of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, which is being developed by private citizens, government agencies, conservation groups, businesses and communities to promote economic development in rural areas of South Carolina through heritage tourism.

"We live in a beautiful state, rich in history and natural resources," Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry said. "SCDOT wants to encourage motorists to exit the freeways, travel the byways, and enjoy the many wonderful areas along the Heritage Corridor."

SCDOT has installed more than 800 signs along the Heritage Corridor's two routes, the Discovery Route and the Nature Route. This past summer, Assistant Traffic Design Engineer Brent Dillon and intern Mark Desouza traveled

along the routes and inspected each sign.

"We're a partner in it because we want people to travel safely and we want to make sure when they get off the interstate and visit these sites they can do it safely and on good roads," Dillon said. "It's a great program."

The signs play an important role because the routes are off the beaten path and take motorists to places they may overlook.

"There are some really great parts in Edgefield and McCormick counties that I would have never gone to other than driving the routes for this program," Dillon said.

Edgefield is a good place to stop because it's home to the Heritage Corridor Region 2 Discovery Center visitors' center, which provides information on the many interesting places to stop. The center, a restored farmhouse from the 1840s, also includes exhibits on SC historical sites and has a gift shop with many items made in the state.

Edgefield's Town Square includes monuments to the late US Senator Strom Thurmond and a dedication to Edgefield's 10 governors. Thurmond is one of four former SC governors buried in nearby Willowbrook Cemetery. On Potter's Alley, you'll find Edgefield's famous master potter, Stephen Ferrell, and a mile away is the head-

quarters for the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Michelle McCollum, Executive Director of the corridor program, said there are "125 Discovery sites" along the two routes that stretch across 14 counties. Sites include the Revolutionary War battlefield in Ninety-Six, the Russell Dam Overlook, the Golden Creek Mill in Easley and the Pickens County Museum.

"I think the great thing about the Heritage Corridor is that it entices people to discover some of the hidden history of the rural communities, and it also encourages communities to seek out some of their histories and promote it to visitors and residents as well," McCollum said.

McCollum said she is glad SCDOT is a partner in the program.

"SCDOT has been extremely helpful and assisted us with coming up with a directional signage plan," McCollum said. "It's critical for people to get from the main roads to the rural attractions. We want the signage to correlate with our web sites and any collateral brochures we put out."

McCollum said the mission of the Heritage Corridor complements SCDOT's Rural Transportation Enhancement Program.

In July, the SCDOT Commission awarded \$2.8 million to 20 projects within the 14

counties of the Heritage Corridor.

"The Transportation Enhancement Program facilitates the establishment of partnerships between the SCDOT and local governments aimed at improving our state through such non-traditional transportation projects as landscaping and scenic programs, streetscaping and historic preservation," Mabry said.

"By working together, we maximize the benefits of these enhancement projects, which contribute to the state's tourism industry and economic development."

For more information on the Heritage Corridor, SCDOT has information on its web site under "Communi-



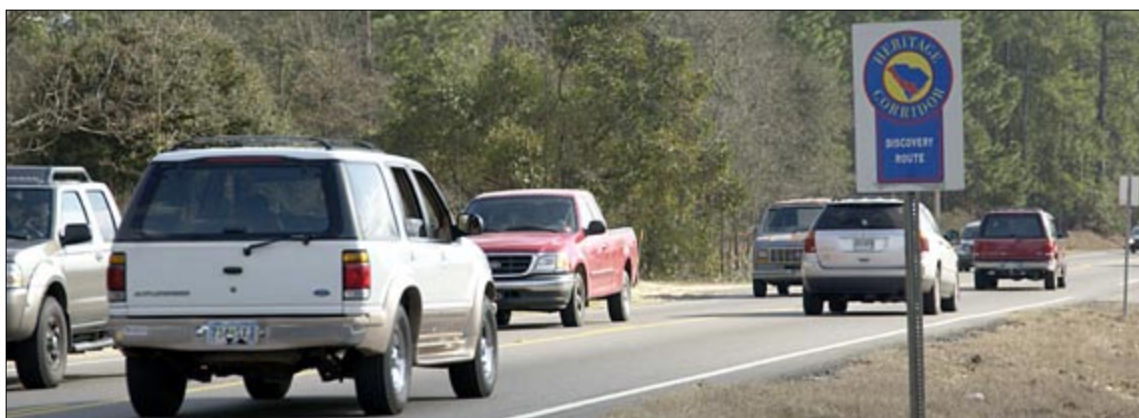
Signs mark the route designated as the Heritage Corridor.

ty Service" and a link to the program's home page, www.sc-heritagecorridor.org.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Whitney Ellis is a staff member at the Heritage Corridor Region 2 Discovery Visitor's Center in Edgefield. The center doubles as a museum for Edgefield.



The 240-mile rural route through the western part of South Carolina is a scenic alternative to Interstate travel.

United We Ride partnership for elderly, handicapped

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT brought together leaders of several state agencies in an effort to improve transportation services for the elderly, handicapped and disadvantaged.

The United We Ride partnership meeting of Feb. 8 was the first step in creating a Transportation Coordination Council and Committee to meet the goal of establishing a statewide coordinated transportation system by January 2009.

"I think it's great that you all are here," Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry told the group. There were representatives of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the Department of Mental Health, the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, the SC Employment Security Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Coordinating services from the many state agencies that offer transportation would result in a more efficient use of funds, Mabry said.

"There are a lot of opportunities for coordination," she said. "We can make our resources go farther...so you can get more for your money and we can get more from our DOT funds."

Mabry said it is important to build on successful programs. "We're hopeful we can start today and get the ball rolling," she said.

President Bush issued an Executive Order on February 24, 2004, to enhance access to transportation to improve "mobility, employment opportunities and access to community services for persons who are transportation-disad-



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Several state agencies meet with SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry and Director of Mass Transit Glennith Johnson to discuss a statewide coordinated transportation system for the elderly, handicapped and disadvantaged.

vantaged." "A strong America," the President wrote, "depends on citizens who are productive and who actively participate in the life of their communities."

According to the President, public transportation resources "are often difficult for citizens to understand and access, and are more costly than necessary due to inconsistent and unnecessary Federal and State program rules and restrictions."

The United We Ride program that followed the President's order is a national commitment to reduce duplication, eliminate barriers and enhance cost effectiveness in coordinating human service transportation.

"This is an important initiative for the South Carolina Department of Transportation," said Glennith Johnson, Deputy Director of Mass Transit.

Johnson said more than 10 percent of households in South Carolina are

without a vehicle; the population of older adults will double by 2030; one in five adults over 65 do not drive.

Initial action items for the group included drafting a memorandum of understanding as a foundation. Each agency will appoint a committee member to begin the legwork, Johnson said.

"You have our commitment to work through it as best we can," said Robert M. Kerr, Director of Health and Human Services.

Transportation Enhancement Grants



Ridgeway



Clarendon County



Greeleyville



Williston



Loris



St. George



Timmonsville



Lake City



Walterboro

DEATHS

William E. McAbee, of Spartanburg, trades specialist IV at Spartanburg Maintenance, died Jan. 13.

Alan S. Snider, of Ellore, trades specialist II at Calhoun maintenance, died Jan. 30.

Robert Kenneth Broadwater, 57, of Cayce, who retired on Dec 29 as an Associate Engineer I in District 1 with 35 years of service, died Feb. 5.

James Brian Cagney, 40, of Lexington, who was SCDOT's State Administrator of Engineering Operations, died March 1.

Anna Bair Vogt Russell, of Santee, former illustrator in public relations at SCDOT, died Dec. 31.

Bernice Berry "Bunny" Sayers, 87, of Columbia, SCDOT retiree, died Feb. 19.



Robert Broadwater



Jim Cagney



William E. McAbee

'Education will be the key,' job shadowers told

By Bob Kudelka

The lights in the fifth-floor auditorium at Headquarters went out in the middle of a speech by Rev. Anthony McCallum to 45 students gathered to start the Groundhog Job Shadowing Day.

The darkened room wasn't the result of a power failure. McCallum, making a point about their future, urged them to stay away from the negative influences such as watching too much TV or peers who criticize good studying habits.

"Education is going to be your key to unlock the door to what you want to be," he said and then held a lighter above him. "As soon as you learn to apply yourself, the light will come on...whenever the light comes on, darkness flees."

The importance of career planning at a young age was echoed by Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, Pam Foster of FHWA, and Dr. Arlene Prince as they spoke during the kick-off program.

Many of the children were from Heyward Middle School. They were joined by children who have relatives at SCDOT and FHWA, attending schools such as Rice Creek Elementary School, Southeast Middle School, Lake Murray Elementary School, Eau Claire High School, Hopkins Middle School, Summit Parkway Middle School, and St. Andrews Middle School.

The job shadow program is designed to expose students to some of the many careers available in the transportation field.

"Be very conscious of what you want to do in the future," Mabry said. "If you don't have a plan, a map, you're just going to wander. Think about what you enjoy in life and what you

could do the rest of your life. There are a lot of rewarding jobs in transportation."

After the kick-off program in the auditorium, the students broke into three groups and attended sessions on computer animation, traffic management and bridge construction.

"I thought the program was excellent this year," said Program Coordinator Barbara Beagles. "SCDOT and FHWA teamed up once again to provide the students with an informative program to showcase transportation careers."

Beagles said the many employees who served as chaperones, group leaders and presenters helped to make job shadowing day a success.

Chaperones included James Cassidy, Carmen Wright, Kelvin Washington, Clint Scoville, Chris Zeigler, Catherine Blackwell, Mark Kwayisi, and Gwen Goodwin. Presenters were Mike Koon and Rick Earhart (Bolting for Bridges); Kenny Larimore (Traffic Management Center) and Stephen Meetze and Eric Stuckey (3D Animation and Interactive Media).

Students appreciated their time with SCDOT and FHWA.

"It was very interesting and an educating experience," said Hakeem Hicks, a 6th grader at Heyward Middle School.

He said he especially enjoyed the 3-D animation and the Traffic Management Center.

"I want to be an engineer - I'm excellent at math," Hakeem said.

Raven Burgess, 6th grader at Heyward Middle, also said she enjoyed the program and the insights into transportation.

"I want to be a doctor, and if that doesn't work out I want to be a lawyer," she said.

Sarah Jacobs, a 7th grader at Heyward Middle, said, "I liked

the computer animation the best - how they model streets and add people and cars."

At 12 years old, Sarah is considering several careers.

"I want to be a singer, an actress, a cosmetologist or a lawyer," she said.

Barbara Beagles kicks off the opening session in the Headquarters auditorium.



Dr. Arlene Prince introduces the guest speaker.



Kenny Larimore shows the students the Traffic Management Center.



Mike Koon does a presentation on testing the strength of bolts used to build bridges.



Stephen Meetze explains the techniques he uses in making 3D animations and interactive media for highway projects.



Guest Speaker Rev. Anthony A. McCallum of Bethlehem Baptist Church encourages the young people to make the right decisions.



The majority of the students participating in the program were from Heyward Middle School.



Groundhog Job Shadowing volunteers included, from left, Kelvin Washington, Barbara Beagles, Kenny Larimore and Sid Bacchus.



Pam Foster, representing the Federal Highway Administration, asks the young students to promise to drive responsibly and wear seat belts.



Tina Hembree of Community Relations brought her two nieces, Anna and Emily Darnell, to learn about careers in transportation.

The job shadow program is designed to expose students to some of the many careers available in the transportation field.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

2004 Road Design Plans Contest



First Place - Group 2

From left, Enoch Boozer, Tim Sharpe, Donald Siau, Jason Riley and Moncie Li.



Second Place - Group 6

From left, Jason Stillwell, Richard Hood, Brian Hare, Charles Gresham, Hunter Denny, Todd Oswald and Chris Jordan.



Third Place - Group 5

From left, J.P. Miller, Beth Andrews, Michael Cassidy, Henry Wicker and William C. Fanning.

Red Dress Campaign



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Employees at SCDOT Headquarters wore red on Feb. 4 as part of the 'Red Dress' campaign that brings awareness to heart disease among women.

STEP-21 Alumni Chapter supports the community

by Sherri Miller

One of the primary goals of the Step-21 Alumni Chapter (SAC) is to seek out projects to support our communities and SCDOT family. During the 2004 Holiday Season we accomplished this in two ways.

First, volunteers participated in the annual Salvation Army's "Red Kettle Ring the Bell Campaign". The traditional red kettle fundraiser provides food, clothing and toys for families in need. A hearty thanks to SAC members Brett Montgomery, Sherri Miller, Karen Scott, Holly Comalander, Mike Gilchrist, and Robin Coleman. They answered the call and supported the campaign by ringing bells in front of the Wal-Mart on Highway 1 in West Columbia. Secondly, SAC helped make the holiday season a little more joyous for one of our own by adopting a SCDOT family.

SAC participated, in conjunction with Providence

Hospital, in the "National Red Dress Day" on February 4, 2005. The purpose of this campaign is to promote healthier communities by heightening awareness that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in America. Many SAC members wore red dresses, blouses, shirts, and ties. We extend a heartfelt thanks to all the men and women who participated in this program.

To further promote awareness of heart disease, SAC's Special Projects Committee, chaired by Brett Montgomery, is coordinating SCDOT's support for the American Heart Association's "Midlands Heart Walk."

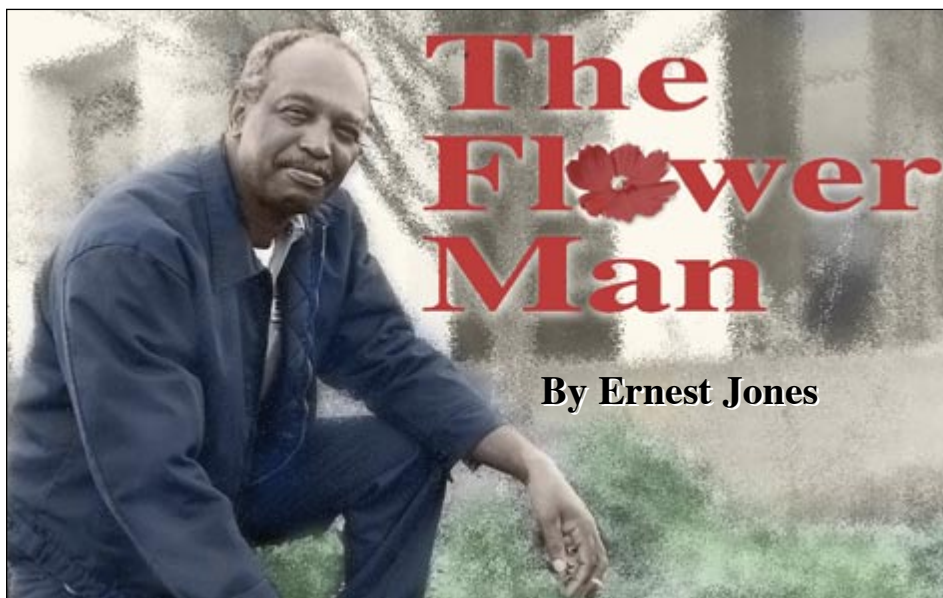
The Midlands Heart Walk is an annual event to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Money raised for this event helps fund lifesaving research and programs to help people live longer, healthier lives. The walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 at 9:00 AM. We will begin the walk at the

Colonial Center, 801 Lincoln Street, in Columbia. Please generously support this endeavor by donating and walking with your fellow SCDOT family members in support of this worthy cause.

Congratulations to the STEP-21 class of 2005. SAC encourages this class to embrace this great opportunity and make the most of your training. We look forward to you taking your place with other STEP-21 Alumni in SAC. All SCDOT employees are encouraged to apply for one of the Department's Leadership Development Programs. All of the programs are designed to equip SCDOT employees with the knowledge and tools to be successful in their careers.

Kudos! To Marti Thompson on her recent trip to Honduras to work with a children's ministry in that country. This is another example of SAC members "Sharing And Caring."

Don't stop thinking about tomorrow!



Topdressing Your Lawn

By Ernest Jones

Spreading organic material on your lawn improves the soil for attractive, vigorous grass. Healthy soil provides a good basis for lush, vigorous lawns.

WHAT IS TOPDRESSING?

Topdressing is a method for improving the soil of existing lawns without disturbing the grass. It involves spread-

ing a thin layer of an organic material over your turf. The material is incorporated gradually into the soil below grass blades by soil micro-organisms and worms.

Topdressing adds lower levels of nutrients than fertilizing, but it restores humus, which helps soils use fertilizer more efficiently. Top dressing with compost adds nutrients that promote growth, but are not found in most lawn fertilizers.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Topdressing improves your lawn by enriching the soil it grows in, reducing thatch buildup. The humus adds nutrients to the soil, improves its water-holding ability, and provides nourishment for worms and beneficial microbes, such as bacteria and fungi. Their activity, in turn, converts soil nutrients to a form that the grass roots can absorb. Over time, humus levels in soil are depleted, so it is important to replace humus periodically by topdressing.

WHEN TO TOPDRESS?

The best time to topdress your lawn is before the first frost of fall. The second best time is immediately after the first spring mowing. In both seasons, be sure to mow your lawn to a height of just one inch before applying and spreading your topdressing.

If your lawn has not been topdressed in several years, it is a good idea to do it for two to three years in a row. After that, you can alter the schedule to just every three to four years. In warmer regions, where soil humus tends to be depleted very quickly, it is advisable to topdress your lawn annually.

TIP

Peat moss and other topdressing materials are sold at nurseries and garden centers by the cubic foot, making

it easy to calculate how much material you need to topdress your entire lawn area. Keep in mind that 20 cubic feet of topdressing is enough to cover an area of about 1,000 square feet with the recommended half inch layer.

TOPDRESSING WITH FINE-TEXTURED ORGANICS

1. Mow your lawn to a one inch height to allow the topdressing material to settle between the grass blades and be absorbed easily.

2. Acquire a sufficient amount of material for a half inch layer over your entire lawn. For each 1,000 square feet you will need about 3/4 cubic yard.

3. Using a garden fork and a cart, deposit the organic material into many small piles around the entire area of your lawn.

4. Use a leaf rake to distribute the material evenly in a half inch layer over the grass, and encourage it to fall among the grass blades.

TIP: To get more even distribution of lumpy organic material, such as home-made compost, run over topdressed area with lawn mower. It will break up the biggest chunks and chop oversized pieces of leaves into finer material.

SEASONAL TIP: Spring is a good time for topdressing your lawn. Mow the grass a bit shorter than normal early. Spread organic material over it immediately mowing for quick effect.

A portrait of State Highway Engineer Don Freeman

By Bob Kudelka

For Don H. Freeman, leadership roles started early in life.

At Blackville High School in Barnwell County, he was captain of his football team and student body president, as well as Valedictorian.

His career with SCDOT started in 1973 when he took a summer job with a construction unit. He joined the Department fulltime in 1975 after graduating from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He received a Master of Engineering degree in 1981.

Freeman began as project engineer in Chester County and rose through the ranks, holding positions including Resident Construction Engineer for District 4; Staff Engineer for the Director of Construction in Columbia; Assistant Construction Engineer; Road Construction Engineer; Director of Construction. He became State Highway Engineer in 1997.

As State Highway Engineer, Freeman supervised all engineering divisions including Planning and Design, Construction, Maintenance, and Traffic Engineering, as well as the seven Engineering Districts.

Freeman, 52, lives in Northeast Columbia and has a daughter, Christina, a junior at Clemson University. His parents are Ernest and Frankie (Grubbs) Freeman.

During his final week at SCDOT, Freeman spoke with The Connector about his career and his plans for the future.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THE CONNECTOR: How did you get interested in engineering?

FREEMAN: (Laughs) "I took one of those tests that told me I should be an engineer. I always enjoyed math and science, and so when I took that vocational-type test, the results showed I should go into an engineering area. I had no idea about different types of engineering, so I chose mechanical engineering by default."

THE CONNECTOR: How did you first start out at what was then called the Highway Department?

FREEMAN: "I went to work one summer with the construction unit in Barnwell County, and I enjoyed it. I was in mechanical engineering at USC at the time. That fall, I changed my major to civil engineering and worked with them again the next summer. When I graduated, they told me they could give me a permanent job in District 7 where nothing was going on or if wanted to learn something, they could send me to District 4, where I-77 was being constructed. I chose to go to District 4 and worked on I-77 from 1975 up until 1981

on sections from York County to Richland County. I enjoyed construction work because you could look back at the end of the day and see that something's been accomplished."

THE CONNECTOR: Early



Portraits of Don Freeman:
a High School Senior in 1970 . . .

in your career, did you have a mentor or someone who you learned a lot from?

FREEMAN: "I was very fortunate that Bobby Thompson, the Resident Engineer in Chester at that time, took me under his wing and was very patient with me. Within about three weeks after I went to work, he gave me a project in Richland-Fairfield county. It was kind of sink or swim from that time forward, but we would meet on Friday afternoons and talk about what went on that week. He would share his experience with me and offer advice."

My first career aspirations at DOT were to be a Resident Construction Engineer. I became a Resident Construction Engineer in 1976 and I had to decide whether to stay an RCE. Mr. Oren Fletcher, Director of Construction came to Fairfield County to talk to me about coming to Columbia to revise the standard specifications, the old yellow book, and I came to Columbia in 1983 as a staff engineer in the Construction office and revised the standard specifications, the red book, which came out in 1986.

THE CONNECTOR: How has highway and bridge construction changed over the years?

FREEMAN: "Concrete, asphalt and guardrail is still concrete, asphalt and guardrail, but the technology you use to lay out bridges and roads, and

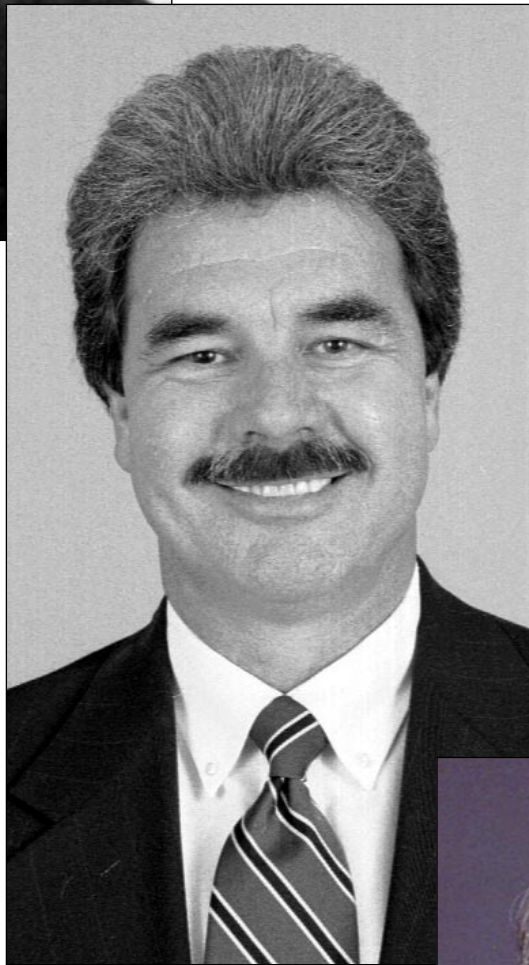
the record-keeping process, have changed tremendously. When I first went to work, I would go in on Saturdays to do my weekly reports with the old manual typewriters and whiteout. If you made a mistake on a letter, a lot of times you would have to start over. The technology with computers and surveying equipment has made a big difference. The pace of things has changed dramatically."

THE CONNECTOR: As State Highway Engineer, how many hours a week do you work?

FREEMAN: "I've always worked long hours. I average from 16 to 20 hours a day, very seldom less than 14. On an average, it's from 75 to 90 hours a week."

THE CONNECTOR: What drives you?

FREEMAN: "I guess you're driven by ambition, to a point. I think



as Director of Construction in 1994 . . .

what makes me want to do things is the self-satisfaction that I get out of it. The self-satisfaction I get out of seeing a cow pasture or forest end up as an interstate. It's a certain satisfaction of knowing that you played a small role in that. The challenge of finding new ways to do things, innovative ways from a financing standpoint, the CRM program, participating and hoping you contributed to the point that you had a small part in the success of it provides a certain amount of self-satisfaction. I probably put more pressure on myself than other people put on me, the desire from within to do a good job. I've always been more critical of myself than other people have been of me. My drive comes from within."

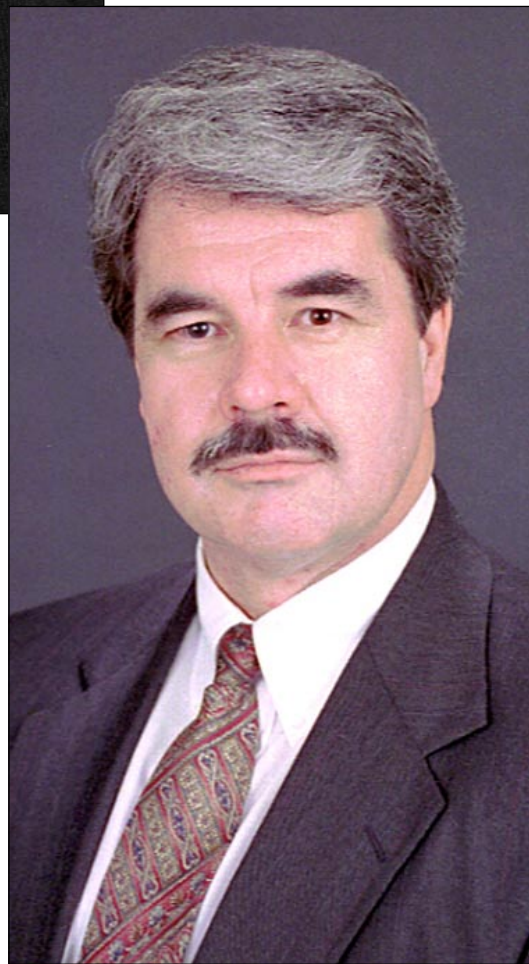
THE CONNECTOR: Looking back on your career at SCDOT, what do you think were your biggest accomplishments?

FREEMAN: "In my early career, the fact that I-77 was the last of the interstates, it was really kind of an end of the interstate era. But I-77 was really just getting started. To have been able to have worked on as many sections as I did and see that completed was significant for me. In later years, the bonding programs and the projects made possible by the State Infrastructure Bank, such as the Conway Bypass, stand out in my mind. The Conway Bypass was the first major design-build project we did. We were able to do it in a three-year period, on time and on budget. Of course, the Cooper River Bridge is a world-class bridge. I feel very fortunate to have been involved in that project, which will be completed very soon."

THE CONNECTOR: What will you miss the most about SCDOT?

FREEMAN: "I'll miss the people and the relationships I developed over the years. The Department of Transportation has a large number of hard-working, dedicated, loyal employees, and that, in my opinion, is what makes the Department of Transportation a successful agency - the people who work for it. No matter how good a person is in a leadership role, the people who actually get the work done, in the final analysis, in my opinion, determine whether you're successful or not."

THE CONNECTOR: What qualities have resulted in the strong loyalty of employees under your direction?



and State Highway Engineer in 1997.

FREEMAN: "I've always tried to treat people as human beings and treat people the way

that I would want to be treated. Any time I have ever gone to any person and explained how critical it was, they always have done everything they possibly could to meet my request. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their support. Without that support, I could not have been successful."

THE CONNECTOR: What went into the decision to retire?

FREEMAN: "It was a difficult decision because I do love the work. I've thoroughly enjoyed my career at DOT. The Department of Transportation has been good to me; it's given me a lot and I feel like I've given a lot in return. It's been a very challenging, but rewarding career. I've reached a point in my life where I want to enjoy some of the things that I've not been able to enjoy because I've never taken the time to do it."

THE CONNECTOR: What are your plans for retirement?

FREEMAN: "I really don't have any plans at this point in time, except to rest and adjust to not having to be five different places at one time. After five or six months, I'll look at what options are available out there for me."

THE CONNECTOR: When you're not working, what do you like to do?

FREEMAN: "My main hobby is hunting, wing shooting. I enjoy hunting quail, pheasant, ducks, geese, sharp tail grouse, Hungarian partridge and perdiz (an Argentine bird). I've hunted in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Canada and South America. Argentina would have to be my favorite spot."

THE CONNECTOR: What advice do you have for those interested in following your career path at SCDOT?

FREEMAN: "Be patient, first of all. Work hard. Be a dedicated and loyal employee to the Department of Transportation. If you're persistent and determined, you will be successful. You will be noticed and given opportunities to better yourself and your career with the Department. As for becoming State Highway Engineer, I think a lot has to do with luck or fate, whichever way you want to look at it. Being in the right place at the right time or the wrong place at the wrong time, depending upon your perspective. I feel very lucky to have been fortunate enough to be in a position at times when opportunities were there. I owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Bobby Thompson for having faith in me as rookie, Mr. Oren Fletcher for giving me the opportunity to come to Columbia and to Ms. Mabry for having the confidence in me to allow me the opportunity to serve as State Highway Engineer."

Carolina Bays Parkway Phase II ribbon cut



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Transportation officials and local dignitaries cut the ribbon on Phase II of the Carolina Bays Parkway.

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT leaders got a warm reception when they traveled to the Grand Strand to cut the ribbon on Carolina Bays Parkway Phase II in December, despite a chilly morning with temperatures in the 30s.

Fifth District Commissioner Bobby T. Jones presided, on behalf of SCDOT Commissioner Bob Harrell of the 1st Congressional District, during a ceremony that featured Commission Chairman Tee Hooper, Commissioners John N. Hardee, 2nd Congressional District; and John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th Congressional District; Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry; Chairperson Liz Gilland of the Horry County Council; Congressman Henry Brown representing South Carolina's 1st Congressional District in the US House of Representatives; SC State Senator Luke Rankin; SC State Representative Thad Viers; Don Leonard, Chairman of the SC State Infrastructure Bank Board; SC State Senator Dick Elliott; and Robert D. Edwards, of APAC-Carolina.

Among those in attendance were FHWA South Carolina Administrator Bob Lee, former highway commissioner Gary Loftus, SC Representatives Alan Clemmons and W.D. "Billy" Witherspoon, and former Representatives Tom Keegan and Mark Kelley.

"It's a great day, and I'm proud to be a part of this ceremony," Jones said. "I thank Commissioner Harrell for asking

me to preside over this meeting."

To applause from the crowd, Mabry said the project was "20 years ahead of when it normally would be built." The Carolina Bays Parkway is a six-lane, controlled access facility with a divided median and wide shoulders. The new phase is 4.5 miles long and links US 501 with SC 544.

The two completed sections of the Carolina Bays Parkway are approximately 25 miles long. This means that motorists will be able to travel from SC 544 near Socastee to SC 9 in Little River, "without seeing a stoplight," Mabry said.

Mabry thanked several people for their contributions and hard work, including the SCDOT Commission; the citizens of Horry County; the Carolina Bays Parkway Task Force; Federal Highway Administration; the Horry County Legislative Delegation; US Congressman Henry Brown; the South Carolina State Infrastructure Bank; Horry County Council; the RIDE Committee; Dennis Townsend, Kyle Berry, Berry Still and Rob Hamzy, all of SCDOT; Steve Gosnell of Horry County government; the design team, Wilbur Smith and LPA; contractor APAC and subcontractors R.E. Goodson Construction Company and United Contractors.

Mabry said the highway was built "with safety in mind." Median cable barriers have been installed to help reduce crossover collisions. Open-graded friction course type pavement was used to reduce hydroplaning and enhance safety.



U.S. Congressman Henry Brown makes a point during the opening ceremony.

Many speakers alluded to the cold weather during the ceremony, which was held under a tent where hot chocolate and coffee were served.

"Every now and then, we can put up with the cold if it means dedicating a road like this," Gilland said. "It's a warm day in our hearts anytime we can open a new road in Horry County."

Brown said, "It takes a lot of effort to make things happen, and I'm real pleased to be part of the Horry County team."

Rankin noted the efforts of the former SCDOT Chairman L. Morgan Martin in the early phases of the project.

Leonard said the project is the result

of a model partnership between SCDOT and Horry County Council.

"It has served as a model for the rest of the state and the rest of the nation," Leonard said.

The Carolina Bays Parkway Phase II was part of \$1.1 billion dollars in new and improved highways in recent years along the Grand Strand.

"By working together, we can do remarkable things," Truluck said. "What has happened in the last 11 or 12 years in Horry County is a good example."

After the remarks, the ribbon was cut and those in attendance rode in a motorcade along the new stretch of highway.



U.S. Congressman Henry Brown and SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry listen to ceremony remarks.



Motorists enjoy their first drive on the new section of the Carolina Bays Parkway.



Representative Thad Viers, left, speaks with District 5 Engineering Administrator Dennis Townsend.

STTAR class offers 2005 Collegiate Essay Scholarship

By Brian Taylor

This year's STTAR Class will continue the tradition of previous classes by providing scholarships for children of SCDOT employees through the 2005 Collegiate Essay Scholarship competition. This competition will be open to all children of SCDOT employees who are currently

seeking an undergraduate degree, associates degree, or specialized vocational certification.

The competition will be divided into two divisions. The first division will be open to rising college freshmen and sophomores, while the second division will be for rising college juniors and seniors.

A minimum of two \$1,000

scholarships will be awarded per division. If fund-raising activities surpass the goal, either the dollar value of the scholarships will be increased, or more scholarships will be made available.

The STTAR Class is teaming up with Human-I-Tees to begin a fundraiser on Monday April 4. Human-I-Tees is an organization committed to

preserving the rainforest. The organization has a catalogue of items ranging from clothing to candles and plants, as well as other items.

All profits earned by SCDOT will go to the STTAR Scholarship fund. Human-I-Tees uses its profits to preserve the rainforest.

The sale of one item can preserve approximately 10 square

feet of rainforest. This fundraiser will conclude on Friday April 25.

The STTAR Class will send out more information on the scholarship competition to the Districts and county offices in the coming weeks.

This information will include the application process, essay guidelines & topics and deadlines.

Financial management guru Tommy Scott shares his proven methods of money management into successful book

In 1981, mortgage interest rates were 15% and higher. That was the year Tommy Scott of Bridge Design turned 21 and purchased 5 acres of land. He found owner financing at 10% for 7 years.

Using the techniques described in his book, he paid off the land in less than half the allotted time. At age 24, he built a home on his land. His first mortgage payment was due in October 1984, and he began an aggressive goal to payoff the home before age 30. He paid off the home in January 1990, three months before turning age 30 in April.

Using his methods, he helped several friends by showing them how to make money work for them more than for the lender. Two friends wrote testimonials that he uses on the back cover of his book. Both of them followed his advice and are debt-free today -- including their homes.

As the years went by, his friends knew of others in financial trouble, and they kept giving them his number.

After helping several people develop a budget that both incurs no debt, plus eliminates debt, he was encouraged to open a service to reach more people.

Thus, Home Budget Consultants was born. The goal was to provide one-on-one counseling, but within one year, two realizations occurred:

1) The need was too great for just one person. In other words, he didn't

have enough time to devote an hour or two to one person when 50 more needed help and wanted to see him. He wanted some time for his family!

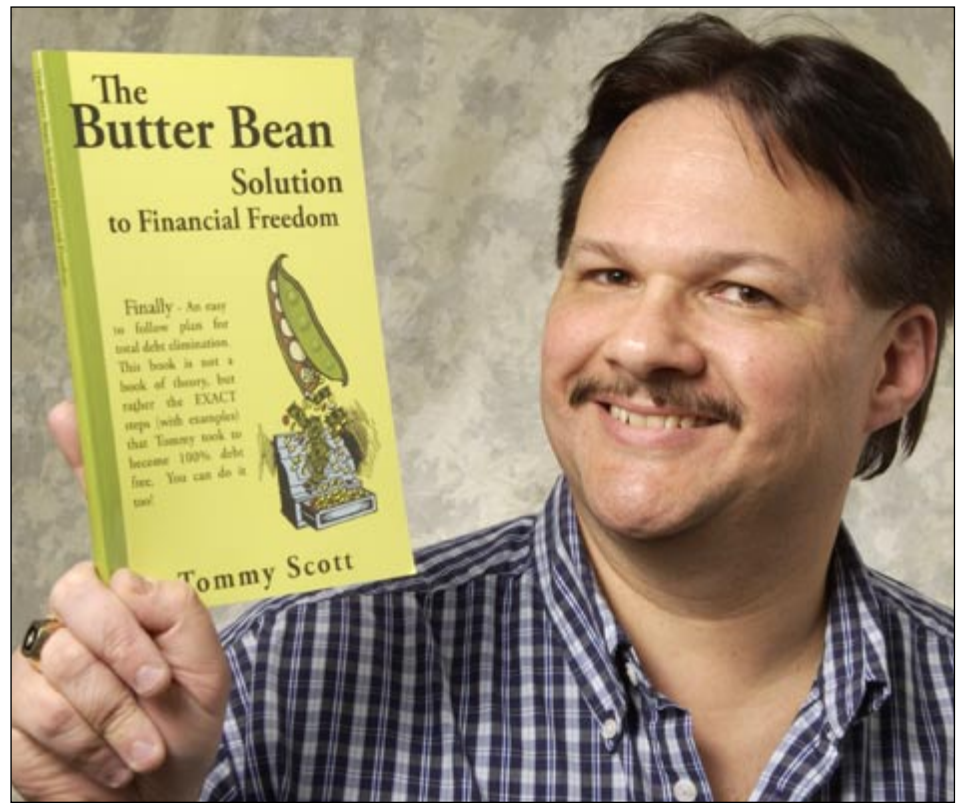
2) Many clients were in such horrible financial bondage that he refused to charge them (because he literally would be taking food money from them).

Since he realized he had a gift for this sort of thing, he felt strongly about sharing this without charging anyone. So, he dissolved the business, and turned it into a free ministry. Today, he offers his services and techniques free of charge, and usually does the seminars through churches. He has also done this at people's homes where they have invited about 20 friends to listen to Scott.

Each time Scott did a free seminar, over 80% of the attendees came to him wanting to buy his book. Evidently, people who offer free information are selling products also. Since he never thought to write a book, he just told them to remember the techniques, because it is not rocket science, but rather common sense.

Each time, people told him this information is not in a book anywhere, and he was encouraged to write his own book.

Scott felt most financial books are boring, and required too much time to read. He didn't want to write a book like



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Tommy Scott of Bridge Design shows off his book 'The Butter Bean Solution to Financial Freedom.' The book is a common sense approach to money management that helps people learn how to become debt-free.

that.

He decided to write a book that tells a story, but also can be read in an hour or less. This book presents complex financial information into an easy to understand format, with real examples - while following a story line.

The book has an unusual name, but you'll have to read the book to know why he picked the name: **The Butter Bean Solution to Financial Freedom.**

He offers his techniques by providing free seminars, and attendees are able to buy a copy of his book. He created a basic web site for information on his book at: www.debtvictory.com.

Scott has sold several books to fellow employees at SCDOT. And a number of them have come back the next day to buy copies for relatives.

If you are interested in learning more about being debt-free, contact Tommy Scott

Dwayne Scott is SCDOT's 'karate kid'



Dwayne Scott and his wife, Jane, run Scott's American Martial Arts, a karate school in Greenwood. Both Dwayne and Jane have taught martial arts for more than 20 years. For more info, contact him at 864-388-9156 or visit his website at: www.ScottsMartialArts.com.

ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Dwayne Scott, Assistant District Traffic Engineer for District 2, really gets a kick out of his hobby. Scott is a fourth degree black belt in karate.

He's been a black belt for over twenty years. In 1990 he was a member of the Intersport U.S.A. Karate Team that toured Russia. His team fought in four major cities and traveled the Russian equivalent from New York to L.A.

"I started taking karate after I graduated high school. It was something that I always wanted to do and since I had a job and was attending college a Piedmont Technical College I decide not to put it off any longer," Scott said.

"So I enrolled into a class and I have loved it ever since. I will be 42 years old in May and I know that karate is the reason that keeps me in shape and feeling young."

Scott explained that karate is good for self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and self-motivation but karate is also a great stress reliever. And in today's fast pace lifestyle, we all need some stress relief.

Marine Sgt. Steven Ammer uses piping skills to raise spirits

Sgt. Steven Ammer, son of Dana Ammer, administrative assistant in Legal Services, is stationed in Iraq. The following article was posted on the U.S. Marine Corps website.

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq (Nov. 06, 2004) -- Amid the thunder of artillery and weapons fire, pipers are heard around Camp Fallujah blaring melodies from their age-old Celtic instruments.

Every day Lt. Col. Paul Sweeney, judge advocate lawyer, and Sgt. Steven Ammer, motor transportation specialist, hone their piping skills, unknowingly raising spirits as their tunes float on the wind to fellow Marines throughout the base.

"For me playing the bagpipes is just relaxing," said Ammer. "Since I'll be out here for seven months I figured I'd get some practice, so I had my wife mail my bagpipes to me. I feel renewed when I head back to work after each session."

While Ammer and Sweeney perform songs like the Marines' Hymn,

service members who pass by stop in their tracks, pausing to listen to the notes that have played for almost 200 years.

"I'm Scottish so when I heard them playing, it made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up," said Staff Sgt. Grant Smillie.

During the middle ages in Scotland and Ireland, the bagpipes were used to rally the troops into battle. The English outlawed the bagpipes in 1366 and declared them an instrument of war. Anyone caught playing the bagpipes was put to death.

"I've been playing close to three years," said Sweeney. "I play with a pipe band back in the rear in Binghamton, New York. I carried mine on the plane all the way from Camp Pendleton."

But Ammer and Sweeney aren't the first Marines to pick up the bagpipes to play in a war zone. Several Marine pipers played during the bloody Battle of Peleliu. A Marine lieutenant was observed piping his amphibian trac-

tor ashore on Iwo Jima. In Korea, Sgt. E.H. "Timmy" Killeen piped for his company of the 7th Marines during the numerous Inchon-Seoul night fire-fights.

"The bagpipes have been used in every major conflict with the Marines," said Ammer.

Known as war or highland pipes, these instruments were also used during funeral ceremonies when burying fallen comrades. In the early days when a police officer or firefighter was killed in the line of duty, the Irish or Scottish forefathers within these departments ensured that their fallen brothers were buried with full honors. Today, that tradition transcends ethnic, racial and religious lines and the bagpipes are played at police, fire and military funerals regardless of race, color or creed.

"It's pretty motivating to be here playing my bagpipes," said Sweeney. "Aside from being with my family and friends, I can't think of a better place to be."



Marine Sgt. Steven Ammer is stationed in Iraq. In his spare time, he plays the bagpipes, a military tradition that dates back hundreds of years.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Airport Access

Greenville-Spartanburg Leaders extol I-85 safety improvements

By Bob Kudelka

Highway improvements along a key segment of I-85 will help the economy of the region and state while improving safety, leaders said at a news conference at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport.

SCDOT Commissioner William "Bud" Turner, of the 4th Congressional District, was a speaker and Commissioner Marion P. Carnell, of the 3rd Congressional District, attended the event held on New Year's Eve morning. Mark Lester, Program Development Engineer for the Upstate, spoke on behalf of Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, who was ill and unable to attend.

Speakers also included South Carolina State Senator J. Verne Smith, on behalf of the Greenville County Legislative Delegation; District 3 DEA Cyril Busbee Jr.; J. Garrett Jackson of the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport; SCDOT Project Manager Ryan Miller; and James Triplett of United Contractors.

"It is exciting to see these visionary people work together, continuing to improve the quality of life of the citizens of South Carolina," Turner said. "It's not just for us today; it's for our grandchildren as well."

The project consists of the addition of a new directional-type interchange just north of Brockman-McClimon Road and modifications to the existing interchange at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, Lester said.

A continuous auxiliary lane will be constructed to connect the two interchanges. The project also includes the widening and relocation of portions of Brockman-McClimon Road (S-12)

north and south of I-85.

"As many know, congestion on SC 101 and at the I-85/SC 101 interchange and back-ups onto I-85 have affected BMW's supplier dependability," Turner said. "The addition of a new interchange will accommodate current and future expansion and will ensure "just-in-time" delivery of parts.

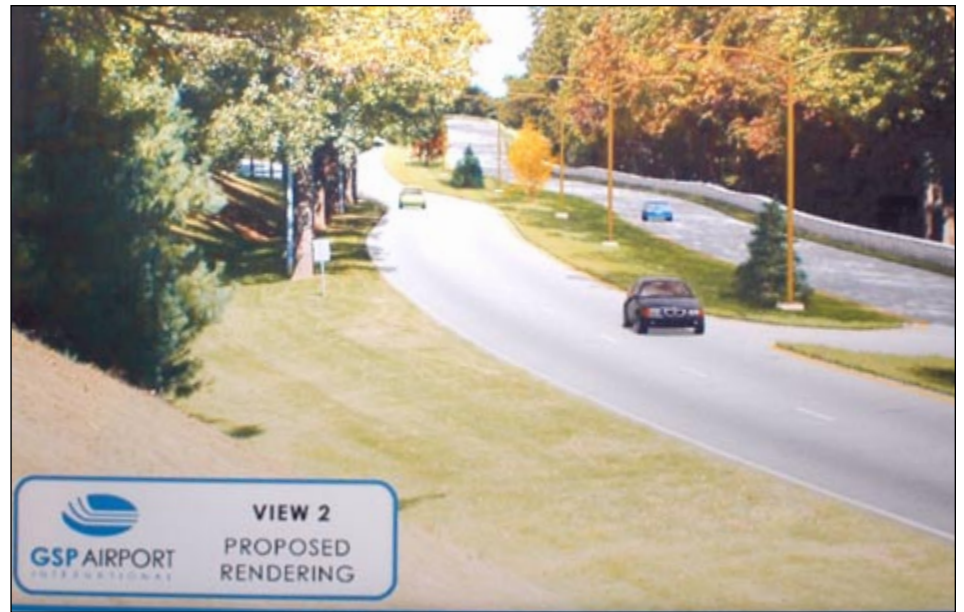
"I am pleased that improved access to the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport is also part of this project," Turner said.

Lester thanked the many people who worked together for these improvements. They include the SCDOT Commission, SCDOT staff, the Federal Highway Administration, the SC General Assembly including the Legislative Delegations of Greenville and Spartanburg counties, US Senator-elect Jim DeMint and Congress, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, the South Carolina Budget and Control Board and BMW.

The I-85 corridor within Greenville and Spartanburg Counties has attracted some of the world's most recognized companies, Lester said. They include BMW, Michelin, and Milliken & Company

"A well-designed, safe and effective transportation system is vital to the economy of South Carolina," Lester said. "This new interchange near BMW, the improvements to the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport interchange and the widening Airport Road will be a dramatic benefit to the economic engine for the state of South Carolina."

Miller said a detour around Exit 57, which will be closed for construction, would last from Jan. 3 through Novem-



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Mark Lester, left, discusses the interchange improvements with SCDOT Commissioner Bud Turner and District 3 Engineering Administrator Cyril Busbee. Above, one of the renderings of the improved access to the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport.

ber of 2005. The entire project will be completed by June 30, 2006.

Originally, work on the airport interchange was to take 24 months, but the contractor came up with a plan to reduce construction time to 10 months by closing the airport interchange, Jackson said. Not only was the quicker time-frame more appealing, but it was a safer both for motorists and highway workers to have the job done while closing the interchange temporarily, he said.

"That was good for all of us," Jackson

said.

United Contractors and US Constructors have assembled a team that includes firms that have worked together on design-build projects such as the Southern Connector, Bobby Jones Expressway and Carolina Bays Parkway Phase II.

"This project will be a success," Triplett said. "We've got a great foundation of capable and competent professionals. We will finish this project ahead of schedule."

WE GOT MAIL

To: SCDOT Web Page

My mom, Reba Parker, left my home in Mt. Pleasant on Dec. 27, 2004, to drive to her home in Lancaster, SC. She is 79 yrs. old.

Crossing Highway 526, she hit something in the road...it was a sheet of metal! She could travel no further and called her incident response number.

Before they arrived, Mr. Wade Fullwood (Geodetic Technician III, District 6) arrived, I assume patrolling the area.

He personally changed her tire and told her where to go to get another tire on Rivers Ave.

She said that he was such a "gentleman," and she felt very safe.

I always worry about her on the road, especially traveling this far of a distance. I, personally, want to thank Wade for his help and kindness, and especially for being such a gentleman to my precious Mom!

It was such a relief to finally hear from her, and know she was in such good hands! We always hear of the bad, scary,...things that happen on our highways, and I wanted to take the time to thank Wade,

from the bottom of my heart, and to let someone know that we do still have "knights in shining armor" on our highways!

Thanks again Wade...You're the best! I just hope you're around if something like that ever happens to me, or someone else I love so much, like my Mother!

Sincerely and many thanks,
Micki Hood
Mt. Pleasant

To: Rickie Green
Resident Const. Eng.

Thank you for your participation in our 1st annual Ninth Grade Academy Career Fair. I appreciate your sacrifice of personal time to visit with and share your professional expertise with our students. Thanks to you and the other participants, this year's Career Day was a huge success. Many students have voiced their interest in new fields and feel empowered to research career fields that they had not previously considered. In my mind, that is the true testament to the success of an event of this nature.

Few of our students are aware of the myriad of opportunities that are available to

them in the Charleston area. As we strive to help our students carve their futures, it is essential that we expose them to a variety of occupational avenues while they are in the ninth grade. I hope that we can count on your continued support as we work to expand our career awareness programs, and of course, as we work to implement our Career Day into an annual event.

Dawn Windham, Director,
9th Grade Academy
R.B. Stall High School
Charleston Heights

To: Thad Brunson
District 1 DEA

As a member of management, I'm sure you appreciate when one of your employees excels in the performance of his duties. The purpose of this letter is to make you familiar with the level of professionalism shown and the extra effort put forth to get the job done by our Aiken Resident Maintenance Engineer. I would like to express the appreciation of all the South Carolina Highway Patrol Troop Seven, Post C supervisors to Mr. Mike Jara of the Aiken Department of Transportation.

I'm sure you are familiar

with the train collision in Graniteville on Jan. 6, 2005. The chlorine release that resulted from that crash required mandatory evacuations. This resulted in necessity of traffic control points to monitor who entered the one mile radius evacuation area. These traffic control points were manned for several days and as the reentry process began, these control points had to be adjusted daily. U.S. 1 was completely shut down from Jan. 6 to Jan. 14, and the section of this major roadway that was closed changed daily. All of this required a great deal of flexibility on everyone's behalf, and a very clear line of communication, to make sure necessary barricades, cones and signs were where they needed to be and when they needed to be there.



Mike Jara

Mr. Jara worked tirelessly and was available around the clock if we needed his assistance. The TCPs were manned by troopers but the volume of traffic encountered required the above mentioned barricades and signs etc. (at one time there were 23 traffic control points) Mr. Jara made sure his equipment was relocated in a timely manner and made himself available to attend meetings to develop the next day's traffic control plan, regardless of the time of day, this was a 24 hour a day operator for 10 days, and Mike never quit on us. He was there for the duration.

This was a difficult assignment, as the sheer number of roads and streets we were required to block along with the length of time involved stretched all our resources. However, a unified effort and a true spirit of cooperation allowed all of us to complete this task with very few complications. Please make sure Mike knows how much we appreciate his efforts.

J.C. Filyaw
First Sergeant SCHP
Troop 7 Post C
Aiken

MOVING UP

HEADQUARTERS

Norman A. Jackson, of Hopkins, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, Planning and Project Development.

Kenny W. Larimore, of West Columbia, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, Traffic Engineering.

Lynsee R. Gibson, of Irmo, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design.

Jacqueline M. McLeod, of Sumter, from engineering/geodetic technician III to communications technician, Traffic Engineering.

Michael D. Brunson, of Sumter, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Research & Materials.

Jason G. Stillwell, of Elgin, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Road Design.

Derrell S. Rice Jr., of Irmo, from state planner IV to Associate Engineer III, Planning and Project Development.

Michael D. Cassidy, of West Columbia, from engineer/associate engineer I to associate engineer II, Road Design.

DISTRICT 1

Clarence H. Blakely Jr., of Columbia, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer II, Lexington Maintenance.

Kevin N. Parham, of Elgin, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, reassigned from Richland Maintenance to District 1 Office.

William R. Speaks III, of Saluda, from engineering/geodetic technician II to geodetic technician III, Lexington Construction.

Fletcher C. Walker, of Prosperity, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Central Sign Shop.

Daniel Thompson Sr., of Hopkins, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Richland Maintenance.

DISTRICT 2

John R. Lindler Jr., of Little Mountain, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Newberry Maintenance.

Charles J. Rosier, of Saluda,

from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Saluda Maintenance.

George R. Smith, of Pomaria, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Newberry Maintenance.

Timothy Langston, of Gray Court, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Laurens Maintenance.

Ann S. Ward, of Chappells, from engineering/geodetic technician III to associate engineer I, reassigned from Greenwood Construction to District 2 Office.

Kelley L. Donkle, of Prosperity, from engineering/associate engineer I to associate engineer II, reassigned from Laurens Maintenance to District 2 Office.

James W. Esuary, of Troy, from trades specialist II to mechanic III, reassigned from Greenwood Maintenance to McCormick Maintenance.

DISTRICT 3

James T. Harvey, of Westminster, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Oconee Maintenance.

DISTRICT 4

Josef W. Spencer, of Gaffney, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Cherokee Construction.

Darrell S. Lawter, of Union, from trades specialist I to trades specialist II, Union Maintenance.

Annette McKanic, of Union, from trades specialist II to trades specialist IV, reassigned from Union Maintenance to York Maintenance.

John A. Evans, of Chester, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Chester Maintenance.

Perez A. Thompson, of Health Springs, from mechanic III to trades specialist V, Lancaster Maintenance.

Mitchell T. Bowers, of Kershaw, from trades specialist III to engineering/geodetic technician III, Lancaster Maintenance.

Edward W. Brooks, of Fort Mill, from mechanic III to trades specialist V, York Maintenance.

DISTRICT 5

Paul T. Collins, of Conway, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Horry 1 Maintenance.

Ronnie D. Zimmerman, of Timmonsville, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Darlington

Maintenance.

Richard H. Lee, of Conway, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Horry 1 Maintenance.

Calvin N. Bodiford, of Cassatt, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Darlington Maintenance.

Matthew E. Cade, of Darlington, from trades specialist II to trades specialist II, Florence Maintenance.

Benjamin L. Durant, of Timmonsville, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Florence Maintenance.

Kenneth Knowlin Sr., of Georgetown, from mechanic I to mechanic III, Georgetown Maintenance.

Gregory L. Poston, of Pamplico, from trades specialist IV to engineering/associate engineer II, Florence Maintenance.

Anthony E. Bradford, of Florence, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Florence Maintenance.

DISTRICT 6

Arleen Simmons, of Hollywood, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Bridge Inspection.

Christopher N. Wood, of Charleston, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Colleton Bridge Construction.

Paula A. Kadlecik, of Hanahan, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Charleston Construction Office B.

DISTRICT 7

Anthony Robinson, of Allendale, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Allendale Maintenance.

Vincent E. Jordan Sr., of Allendale, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Allendale Maintenance.

Melissa D. Rowell, of Allendale, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Allendale Maintenance.

Deborah S. Berry, of Orangeburg, from administrative assistant to OSHA Officer II, District 7 Office.

George Hanes, of St. Matthews, from trades specialist III to mechanic III, Calhoun Maintenance.

Dorothy R. Erwin, of St. Matthews, from trades specialist II to administrative assistant, reassigned from Calhoun Maintenance to District 7 Office.

Douglas S. Harper, of Lexington, has been promoted to Chief Information Officer in IT Services, succeeding Dan Sherrill, who retired.

Harper joined SCDOT in 1988 as computer programmer III. He was promoted through the ranks to applications manager of finance and administration in 1998, and to applications development manager in 2000.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., he is a 1982 graduate of Irmo High School, and the University of South Carolina in 1987. He is married to the former Julie



Doug Harper

Karen S. Spencer, of Rock Hill, has been promoted to Program Manager in Program Development West, succeeding Wilson Elgin.

She will manage all aspects of road and bridge improvement projects in the RFATS, Catawba COG, SUATS, and York SIB programs and areas.

She joined SCDOT in 1995 as associate engineer I in Road Design. She was promoted to program manager in 1997.

A native of Pearisburg, VA., she graduated in 1991 from Frankfurt International School, and received a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1995.

She is married to Chaplin Spencer of Rock Hill. They have a two-year-old son, Will, and are expecting a baby girl in July.

Spencer is a member of St. John's United Methodist Church and the Junior Welfare League of Rock Hill.



Karen Spencer

Rabih A. "Rob" Hamzy, of Columbia, has been promoted to program manager for Program Development East, succeeding Berry Still.

Hamzy joined SCDOT in 1995 as a civil engineer associate I in Traffic Engineering. He previously served as assistant program manager. He will manage the Road Improvement and Development Effort (RIDE), the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) and Waccamaw Council of Governments programs in Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg counties.

He is a 1991 graduate of the University of Central Florida. He is married to the former Nada Junblat. They have twins, Matthew and Maya, age 4.



Rob Hamzy

RETIREMENTS

George G. Elrod, of Greenwood, trades specialist II at Abbeville Maintenance, retired Nov. 1, after 12 years of service.

Lela A. Downing, of Graniteville, procurement specialist II in Procurement, retired Nov. 16, with 27 years state service.

Leroy Linen, of Georgetown, trades specialist II at Georgetown Maintenance, retired Dec. 1, after 11 years of service.

Earnest Carrie, of Williston, trades specialist II at Aiken Maintenance, retired Dec. 30, after 13 years of service.

David E. Pearson, of Greenville, trades specialist IV at Greenville Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 27 years of service.

David N. Taylor, of Laurens, Information Resource Consultant I in District 3, retired Dec. 31 after 14 years of service.

James L. Rister, of Chapin, trades specialist IV at Newberry

Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 30 years of service.



Walter Davis

Walter T. Davis of Mayesville, trades specialist III at Sumter Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 40 years of service.

Walter R. Verner, of Hemingway, trades specialist IV at Georgetown Maintenance, retired Dec. 31 after 18 years of service.

Willie L. Mayes, of Gaffney, trades specialist IV at Cherokee

Maintenance, retired Jan. 1, after 27 years of service.



Jimmy Owens

Jimmy H. Owens, of Gaffney, engineering/geodetic technician III at Cherokee Construction, retired Jan. 1, after 49 years of service.

James P. Hinton, of Rock Hill, trades specialist III at York Maintenance, retired Jan. 1, after 17 years of service.

Samuel J. Gant, of Waltherboro, trades specialist IV at Colleton Maintenance, retired Jan. 2, after 26 years of service.

Willis F. Soule, of West Columbia, information Resource Consultant I, Rights of Way, retired Jan. 4, after 11 years of service.

Kevin M. Thomas, of Simpsonville, engineer/associate engineer I at Greenville Construction, retired Jan. 4, after five years of service.

Mack A. Shealey, of McConnells, trades specialist III at York Maintenance, retired Jan. 5, after 34 years of service.

Lawrence R. Hutchinson, of Rock Hill, engineer/associate engineer, District 4, retired Jan. 6, after 34 years of service.

William Norris, of Charleston, trades specialist II at Charleston Maintenance, retired Jan. 14, after seven years of service.

Daniel Speaks Jr., of Columbia, trades specialist IV at Richland Maintenance, retired Jan. 14, after 31 years of service.

Woodrow A. Medlin, of Elgin, mechanic III at Richland Maintenance, retired Jan. 15, after 28 years of service.

Richard A. Phalen, of St.

George, right of way agent II at Orangeburg, retired Jan. 18 after six years of service.

William M. Gleich, of Patrick, trades specialist II at Chesterfield Maintenance, retired Jan. 25 after 22 years of service.

Irene H. Patrick, of Conway, administrative assistant at Horry 1 Maintenance, retired Feb. 1, after 33 years of service.



Bill McIlwain

William L. McIlwain, of West Columbia, administrative manager II in Mass Transit, retired Jan. 21, after 42 years of state service.

Crews control litter in Sumter County

By Bob Kudelka

Sumter Maintenance employees are making an extra effort to keep roadsides looking good. All 88 employees, from the administrative staff and crews to RME J.D. Wilcox, participate in a litter pickup day during the third Wednesday of each month. In January, employees collected nearly 6,000 pounds of litter from primary routes including US 76, US 378 and US 521.

The litter pickup day is a new program for Sumter County and part of Sumter Maintenance's emphasis on "preventive maintenance," Wilcox said.

"I ride the roads a great deal of the time, and the litter looks worse and worse," Wilcox said.

"6,000 pounds is nice, but it's just a touch of what's out there. I don't have enough trucks to carry it all."

Sumter Maintenance has teamed up with Palmetto Pride, the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, the City of Sumter, the Sumter County Public Works Department, Clemson Extension, The Sumter Item, S.C. Highway Patrol and Sumter Police Department to coordinate this effort.

"We're trying to get everyone involved, and we're getting a real good response," said Al McElveen, Engineering/Geodetic Technician III. "The more people who get involved, the better off we'll be."

Employees such as Administrative Specialist Jackie Buckner are usually found behind a desk and not along side a ditch. But Buckner said she enjoys helping with the litter duty once a month.

"I don't like seeing litter on the side of the road," she said, "so I don't mind it at all."

Sumter Maintenance



SCDOT Sumter Maintenance employees were out in full force on Feb. 16 picking up litter across the county. Above, from left, are: Al McElveen, Houston Hood, Johnny "J.J." Johnson, Leroy Richardson, Anthony Amerson, Leroy McLeod and Marion Gregg.

has other days set aside for preventive maintenance programs. The second Tuesday of the month, employees inspect and straighten signs. The first Friday of the month is spent inspecting and correcting drainage issues.

"I think you can clean drains that are starting to clog before it rains and then you don't have it backing up onto the roadway and into people's yards," Wilcox said.

The fourth Monday of the month is "High Risk Day," when employees make an additional effort by inspecting high-risk areas along roads that have fire departments, hospitals and schools.

"We monitor these areas to

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



make sure everything is correct to include sidewalks, signage and markings," Wilcox said. "If not, we write a work order and get it fixed."

"The feedback from employees has been very positive," said Wilcox, who joined SCDOT 10 months ago after a career in the private industry and military. "I'm a firm believer in preventive maintenance."



SCDOT wins 2004 Perpetual Pavement Award

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) has announced that the South Carolina Department of Transportation has won a 2004 Perpetual Pavement Award for a section of Interstate 26 in Spartanburg County. The award was presented at a special ceremony March 18, at the National Center for Asphalt Technology at Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.

To qualify for this prestigious award, a pavement must meet strict criteria and demonstrate Hot Mix Asphalt's long-life characteristics, excellence in design, quality in construction, and value to the traveling public. It also must have been constructed at least 35 years ago. Engineers at the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) evaluated the nominations and a panel of industry experts validated the winners.

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry said, "This is a testament to SCDOT's long-standing commitment to provide quality roads for the citizens of South Carolina. We will continue to work effectively and efficiently to give our customers an exceptional transportation system at a value."

The award-winning pavement is a five-mile section of Interstate Route 26 in Spartanburg County between the North Carolina State Line and SC Route 11. The highway was opened to traffic in 1969.

The original construction of the road consisted of 3.8 inches of aggregate subbase, 7 inches of aggregate base course, 6.3 inches of asphalt aggregate base, 2.4 inches of asphalt intermediate course and 1.4 inches of asphalt surface course. The pavement was resurfaced in 1980 with 2.9 inches of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) and .7 inches of Open Graded Friction Course (OGFC). In 1997, contractors milled 1.9 inches from the surface and replaced it with 1.9 inches of HMA and .4 inches of OGFC. There has also been some patching to repair areas gouged by traffic.

Although the road was originally designed to withstand the impact of 1.6 million ESALS (Equivalent Single Axle Loads), transportation officials estimate that the road has actually withstood the effects of 12.5 ESALS over the years.

"In many respects, we feel this pavement is not special, but represents the typical long lasting, low maintenance flexible pavements we have built for many years," comments Tony L. Chapman, PE, Acting State Highway Engineer. "Thanks to careful engineering, good materials and attention to quality, pavements like this have made South Carolina one of the top-ranking states in interstate condition despite having the lowest per mile expenditure of any state transportation department in the country."

"As South Carolina's interstate system continues to age, we expect other sections will exceed the performance of this segment."

"Even though this pavement has been punished by more than 40 years of use, motorists are still using the original pavement structure," said Pete Alex, APA Co-Chairman. "The extraordinary performance of this pavement is worthy of attention."

"Perpetual Pavement is an industry standard which is extremely well represented by this highway," added Luke Stango, APA Co-Chairman. "Long life, durability, and exceptional performance are hallmarks of Hot Mix Asphalt. This pavement is testimony to high-performance asphalt as a marriage of excellent design and quality construction."

Visit www.AsphaltAlliance.com for more information or contact Roger Sandberg, NAPA Vice President - Technology and Market Development, e-mail rsandberg@hotmail.org.

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance is a coalition of the National Asphalt Pavement Association, the Asphalt Institute, and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations. The Asphalt Pavement Alliance's mission is to further the use and quality of Hot Mix Asphalt pavements. The Alliance will accomplish this through research, technology transfer, engineering, education, and innovation.

'Connector' recognized by SC Press Association

The Connector, the quarterly newspaper of the South Carolina Department of Transportation has received a second-place award in the South Carolina Press Association's 2004 competition in the Associate/Individual Division.

The Connector has been recognized by the Press Association three years in a row. The Connector received first place awards in 2002 and 2003.

The SCDOT Procurement Office has been recognized for having all buyers being fully certified by the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council, the National Association of State Procurement Officials and the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. SCDOT is the only South Carolina state agency to be given this award.

Cooper River Bridge wows veteran film crew

By Bob Kudelka

Jimmie Dinkins covered the launch of Apollo 16 and remembers feeling heat on his face from the rockets burning a mile away from his vantage point.

From moon launches to political conventions, the veteran (videographer) cinematographer with SC Educational Television has many memories from his 38-year career. But Dinkins said nothing tops his current project - a documentary about the construction of the new Cooper River Bridge.

"It's been a once in a lifetime experience," Dinkins said. "It's something I can tell my grandkids about."

SCDOT hired SCEIV to document the building of the Department's largest single project, knowing that interest would be great for South Carolinians both during construction and in the future.

So far, two half-hour episodes have aired on ETV. A final hour-long show will air in the fall, recapping the project with an emphasis on the completion.

The three-man crew from SCEIV is made up of producer Bud Skidmore, videographer Joe Sauvion and Dinkins, audio

technician.

Atop the bridge on a sunny day in March, the three took a few moments to talk about the project as nearby workers were in the final stages of construction.

The video crew was not sure what to expect when they were assigned to follow the bridge project from the early days through completion. As it turns out, the project has been enough to amaze these veterans, who together have more than 97 years experience at ETV.

"This project is history," Skidmore said. "To have your hand in this one is to have your hand in something they'll talk about for the next 100 years. It's been the best project of my career, bar none."

The crew talked about the fascination of seeing the project start with temporary trestles, watching the drilled shafts deep into the marl of the river bottom, the rock islands - then seeing the bridge rise out of the Cooper River.

"It's absolutely incredible," Sauvion said. "You see where there was nothing there and they're building this incredible bridge."

The crew has filmed the bridge from 200 feet above it in

a helicopter to 30 feet below water level in a cofferdam.

"Every angle you look at it is fascinating," Skidmore said. "You get a big appreciation for what SCDOT has done."

The crew also got an appreciation for the skill of the workers, both in the amount of work they do and its difficulty.

"Their adherence to specifics really makes this bridge the technical marvel that it is," Sauvion said.

He remembers the early morning when the largest box girder ever placed by SCDOT (434,000 pounds and measuring 168 feet long, 8 feet tall and 9 feet wide) was placed on the I-26 eastbound ramp.

"It slid right in place with about an eighth of an inch clearance on either side," Sauvion said. "I never thought it was going to fit."

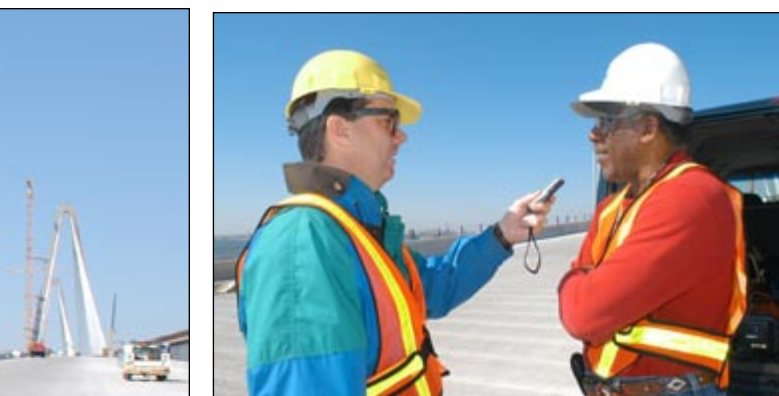
As cameraman, Sauvion's thrilling moment was his first "bucket ride" about 150 feet above the bridge deck. As the diamond towers grew to 572 feet, he eventually rode one 100 feet above that to get footage of works atop the towers.

"It beats Disneyland, let me tell you that," Sauvion said.

With the project coming to an end, Skidmore will have his toughest task yet: choosing an hour's worth of footage out of nearly 100 hours captured on film. "The decisions on what to leave out is what kills you," he said.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR
 ABOVE: From left, Bud Skidmore, Joe Sauvion and Jimmie Dinkins video work on the final stages of the construction of the new Cooper River Bridge.
 TOP RIGHT: Bob Kudelka of Communications interviews audio technician Jimmie Dinkins.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Sauvion videotapes footage as Skidmore plans the next shot of the documentary.



Procurement receives award for excellence in achievement



David Bland of IT Services sent in this photo from his military service in Iraq. He's using a 'non-tactical vehicle' to get around saying "I really would be lost without the bicycle. I ride it daily to work and usually numerous times each day when I have to go to meetings and such."

Bland can be reached at: david.w.bland@us.army.mil

PHOTO BY MAJ. JOHN CERVETTI

2005 STEP-21 Class



Clint Beaver
Tabitha Crawford
Jeffrey Davis
Johnson Dean
Gail Dia
Stacy Eargle
Jamie Fowler

Alton Griggs
Lance Hall
Jeffrey Jordan
Teresa Langston
Ernie Lilienthal
Bonnie Martin

Kimberly Murdaugh
Janice Redd
Michelle Reece
Veronica Roberts
Donald Rogers

Rebecca Rumler
Adrian Smith
Eugene Smith
Elizabeth Tatum
Larry Wise
Bill Woodward

EDP Engineer Development Program 2005



Joey Derby
Road Design

Eddie Elmore
Hydrology

Douglas Giovanetti
Road Design

Troy Green
Road Design



Wei Hong
Research and Materials



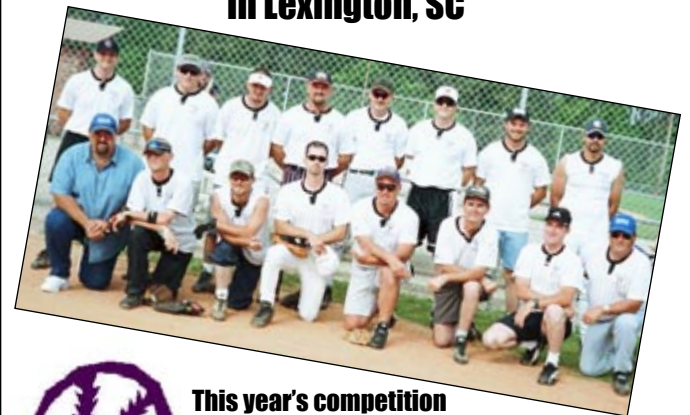
Patrick Koone
Greenwood Construction



Patricia Smalls
District 6 Traffic Engineering

Please join us at the 2005 SCDOT Softball Tournament

April 30
at the Oak Grove Sports Complex
in Lexington, SC



This year's competition will include a "Wiffle Ball Homerun Hitting Contest."



Any questions?
If your office wants to enter as a team, contact Michael Dennis at (803) 737-1445 or email him at DennisMA@SCDOT.org



"Who's that new person I keep seeing in the hallways at headquarters?"

Well, here they are with a few of their favorite recipes. Enjoy ... and introduce yourself to the SCDOT newbies!

No Bake Oatmeal Cookies

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 2 tbsp. cocoa
- 1/2 cup milk

Mix ingredients together. When it starts to boil, let cook for **one** minute exactly. (Don't go over one minute!) Take off of heat.

- Add:
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
 - 1 tsp of vanilla
 - 3 cups of instant oatmeal

Spoon out on wax paper and let air dry. Enjoy!



Brendon Sharpe
Engineering/Geodetic Technician II
Road Design

Clubhouse Chicken Squares

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) of refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 small garlic clove, pressed
- 1 teaspoon Dill Mix (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups chopped cooked chicken or 1 can (10 ounces) chunk white chicken, drained and flaked
- 1/2 small cucumber
- 2 plum tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
- 6 slices bacon, crisply cooked, drained and crumbled

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Unroll one package of crescent rolls across on end of cookie sheet or pan with longest sides of dough across width of pan. Repeat with the remaining package of dough, filling pan. Roll dough to seal perforations and press up sides to form crust. Bake 12 - 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove and cool completely.

Place cream cheese, mayonnaise, garlic, and seasonings, if desired, in a bowl; mix until

smooth. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly over cooled crust. Sprinkle chicken evenly over filling.

Score cucumber lengthwise and remove seeds, if desired. Thinly slice cucumber, cut slices into quarters. Slice tomatoes in half lengthwise; remove seeds, if desired. Dice tomatoes and grate cheddar cheese. Sprinkle cucumber, tomatoes, cheese and bacon over filling.

Enjoy. Yields 12 servings
Calories 290, Total Fat 21 g, Saturated Fat 8g, Cholesterol 45 mg, Carbohydrate 16g, Protein 11 g, Sodium 660 mg, Fiber less than 1 g

** Reduced-fat crescent rolls, reduced-fat cream cheese and light mayonnaise can be substituted for the crescent rolls, cream cheese and mayonnaise, if desired.



Sheila O. Willis, CPPB
Procurement Specialist II
Procurement

Vanilla Wafer Pound Cake

- 1 box of vanilla wafers, broken/crumbled
- 2 sticks of butter ("I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" is good)
- 2 cups of sugar
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 6 eggs

Preheat oven at 325°. Mix butter and sugar until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time. Add cookies, then add milk. Bake in a greased (baker's joy is best, but pam is good) bundt pan for approximately 1 and a half hours. Cake is extremely moist (almost like bread pudding).

Note: if desired, you can add 1 cup of chopped pecans.

Robin Newton
Procurement

Spinach or Broccoli Casserole

- 1 8oz. Package of frozen chopped spinach or broccoli, thawed and drained

- Saute' 8 oz of fresh sliced mushrooms in margarine
- 1/2 small onion finely chopped
- 4 large eggs
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 8 oz chunk cheddar cheese
- 4 oz mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9x9 pan with margarine & flour or spray with Pam. Mix all ingredients together. Pour in the greased pan. Spread mozzarella over top of mixture. Bake 30 minutes until spongy.



Robin Newton
Procurement

Cool Whip Pie

- 1 small can limeade
- 1 can condensed milk
- 1 12oz. Cool Whip

Mix all together and pour into two graham cracker pie crust. Add a few drops food coloring (red, green) and will make really pretty for spring and summer.



Cheryl R. Coleman
Toll Operations

Chicken Cutlets

- 1 package boneless, skinless chicken breasts (3-4 per package)
- 1/4 c. Italian/seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/4 c. grated parmesan cheese
- 1/4 c. chopped almonds
- olive oil
- butter

Mix bread crumbs, parmesan cheese & almonds together in pie pan, cake pan, large plate or something like that. Place wax paper or cling wrap on a cutting board. Place a chicken breast on the cutting board, cover the chicken with a piece of cling wrap and pound chicken with the flat side of a meat mallet or a rolling pin until chicken is about 1/4" thick (Don't hit it too hard, though, or it will come apart.). Cover chicken with bread crumb mixture--both sides--by laying in the mixture then turning over on the other side

Once your first piece of chicken is ready to be cooked, heat 1 tbsp of butter and 1 tbsp of olive oil in a large skillet (medium heat so that the butter doesn't burn). Once the pan is hot, place chicken in the skillet and brown to a medium brown on each side. Place cooked pieces in a 250 degree oven while you cook the others.

For each piece, heat an additional teaspoon each of butter and oil in the pan before cooking. Once all pieces are cooked, you can leave them in the 250 degree oven to continue cooking while you prepare the rest

of your dinner.

My family loves this dish with Fettuccini Alfredo & a tossed salad.

Enjoy!

Allyssa Cokley
Training Coordinator
Human Resources

Easy Chicken Parmesean

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1/2 jar of prepared spaghetti sauce (marinara or garden veggie work best)
- 3/4 cup grated or shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese

What to do:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Spray a 2 or 3 quart casserole dish with non-stick cooking spray
- Place chicken breasts in dish
- Top with spaghetti sauce
- Mix parmesan and mozzarella cheeses together
- Spread cheeses on top of spaghetti sauce
- Bake, covered, in preheated oven for approx. 1 hour
- Remove cover and bake an additional 15 minutes...be careful not to burn the cheese...it should just be a nice shade of light brown.

Note: I like this dish really cheesy, so I generally make mine with about twice as much cheese as called for in this recipe. Alter it to your tastes & enjoy!!



Allyssa Cokley
Training Coordinator
Human Resources

Habanero Hellfire Chili

Note: Whole Anaheim peppers are not widely available; this ingredient is optional, and you can use hot pepper sauce instead.

- Prep Time: approx. 30 Minutes.
- Cook Time: approx. 1 Hour 30 Minutes.
- Ready in: approx. 2 Hours.
- Makes 8 servings.

- 1/2 pound bacon
- 1 pound ground round
- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 6 jalapeno peppers, seeded and chopped
- 6 habanero peppers, seeded and chopped
- 8 Anaheim peppers, seeded and diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons beef bouillon granules
- 1 (28 ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 2 (16 ounce) cans whole peeled tomatoes, drained
- 2 (16 ounce) cans chili beans, drained
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can beer
- 3 ounces tomato paste
- 1 ounce chile paste
- 2 cups water

Place bacon in a large soup pot. Cook over medium high

heat until evenly brown. Drain excess grease, leaving enough to coat bottom of pot. Remove bacon, drain on paper towels and chop.

Brown beef and pork in pot over medium high heat. When meat is browned, stir in the bell pepper, onion, jalapeno peppers, habanero peppers, Anaheim peppers, garlic, cumin, red pepper flakes, chili powder, bouillon, crushed tomatoes, whole tomatoes, beer, tomato paste, chile paste and water.

Reduce heat to low and simmer for 45 to 60 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add beans and bacon and continue simmering for another 30 minutes.



Christopher M. Humphrey
Engineering/Geodetic Technician
Engineering Support
Road Design

Southwestern Chicken Soup

- 2 cans corn, drained
- 2 cans pinto beans, drained
- 1 (16 oz.) jar of salsa (hot, medium, or mild)
- 1 can chicken (tuna sized can)
- 1 cup water
- 1 can chicken broth

Mix everything together in a soup pot and simmer for 2 hours.

Add salt, pepper, and more water if desired. Stir often to prevent scorching of soup onto pan. Eat!



Kristine A. O'Connor
Hydrology

Bubble Bread

- 1 pkg frozen dinner rolls (do not defrost)
- 1 small pkg cook & serve vanilla pudding
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 stick of butter (1/2 cup)
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Put pecans in the bottom of a bundt pan. Add frozen rolls on top of nuts. Mix dry ingredients completely and pour on top of frozen rolls covering evenly. Melt butter and pour over top of the dry ingredients. Let stand for 8 hours or until rolls defrost and rise. (I usually put them in a cold oven overnight. Make sure you remove them before you preheat the oven.) Preheat oven to 350 and bake rolls for approximately 45 minutes or until they are golden brown. Turn them out on a platter before they cool so they won't stick to your pan. ENJOY!



Meredith Duke
Accounting

DISTRICT 1 NEWS

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

Acting 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

SCDOT forces help evacuate Graniteville

On Jan. 6, 2005 at 2:40 AM, two trains collided at the Avondale Plants in downtown Graniteville. One train carrying 25 loaded cars, which included chlorine gas, sodium hydroxide and cresol collided with a parked train on a sidetrack. Fourteen cars derailed including those loaded with lethal chlorine gas. A chlorine gas leak from one car resulted. Authorities told Graniteville residents to stay inside their houses and not operate any ventilation systems. At approximately 4 PM, a mandatory one-mile radius evacuation was initiated.

Aiken Maintenance was called in starting at 4AM, January 6, 2005. SCDOT employees working along side Highway Patrol closed the numerous entries into Graniteville as ordered by DHEC's command post.

Road closures included portions of US-1, SC-421, and US-78. Other closures included Ascauga Lake, Trolley Line Road, Bettis Academy and Vauluse Road because of their direct entry into Graniteville.

Aiken Maintenance crews were on standby in Aiken and Beech Island in case other closures were required.

Because of the size of the

affected area, equipment from other maintenance units was



2,000 cones, 300 barrels, and 200 barricades were ready in case they were needed.

required. Thanks to Richland, Lexington, Lee, Sumter, Barnwell and Kershaw counties for their rapid response to provide needed assets. Over

Thanks to all the SCDOT employees from Aiken, Beech Island, and Wagener for their hard work in this time of need from the public. Thanks for a job well done!

Crossroads, Executive Director come to Sumter

Sumter County Maintenance and Construction Offices were honored to be the first county chosen to host the filming of the February Crossroads video. This was the first "Road Show" filming of a Crossroads video series.

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry videoed this session with a backdrop of SCDOT equipment and Sumter County personnel from both construction and maintenance. As part of the video, District One Engineering Administrator Thad Brunson gave an overview of District 1 followed by Sumter County Resident Maintenance Engineer J.D. Wilcox and Sumter County Resident Construction Engineer Yates Jackson speaking on behalf of their respective organizations. Mabry then interviewed several employees to get their thoughts and ideas concerning SCDOT. During these interviews, Mabry emphasized the importance of all employees at SCDOT, regardless of their length of service, and highlighted the importance of teamwork in accomplishing SCDOT's mission.

After filming the Crossroads video, Mabry held a county meeting with all the employees of Sumter County. Mabry assured everyone of their importance to the mission of the SCDOT. She encouraged questions from employees and took the time to ensure all questions were answered. Tesa Griffin and Vivian Patterson also shared their thoughts and visions of SCDOT with Sumter's employees.

On behalf of Sumter County, RME J.D. Wilcox presented Mabry with a "Sumter" bracelet and a Sumter poster signed by all employees to express Sumter's appreciation for her dedication and hard work.



RIGHT: Left to Right, Front Row: Deborah Howard, Elizabeth S. Mabry, Joan Davis Middle Row: Jody Williams, Tammy Plowden, Stephanie Boykin, Robert Reeves Back Row: Jeff Kelling, Johnny Johnson



Sumter Maintenance and Construction Employees



BELOW: Front Row: Alphonso Chestnut, Elizabeth Mabry, Lynn Weaver, Johnnie Johnson Background: Nate Peterson, Eric Pate

MEET JEFFREY TAYLOR

Name: Jeffrey Taylor
Title: Engineering Tech III
Unit: Aiken Construction
Start Date: Feb. 17, 1999

Jeffery Taylor has been a member of the SCDOT - Aiken Construction family for the last six years. He is 25 years old and a graduate of South Aiken High School. He and his wife Kelley have a two-year-old son named Camden. Taylor does an excellent and thorough job for the Department and was voted Aiken

Construction's Employee of the Year for 2003. Jeffery is also very active in the Congregational Holiness Church where he serves as an ordained minister. His favorite pastime is watching baseball or playing softball in the church league. Finally, Taylor is, by any measure, a serious Gamecock fan and can't wait to see what Steve Spurrier can accomplish with the program.



Jeffrey Taylor

DISTRICT 2 NEWS

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

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

F3 tornado hits Laurens County

An F3 Tornado touched down in Laurens County on Jan. 13 and caused severe damage. The National Weather Service categorized the tornado as an F3, which indicates that the wind speed was between 158-206 mph.

Homes were destroyed and trees and debris completely blocked several roads in the county. Roads had to be blocked and barricaded due

to the extensive damage done by the tornado.

Due to the hard work and dedication of all the maintenance workers the roads were quickly opened to traffic. SC 14 was blocked approximately four hours. US 76 was blocked approximately

two hours and Secondary 496 and 497 was blocked approximately eight hours.

Thanks again to all the crews and workers that accomplished a lot of work in a short amount of time to open these roads in such a timely manner.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUDY KEETER/GREENWOOD MAINTENANCE
Laurens Maintenance employees clear debris from a roadway after a tornado hit Laurens County. Above, one of the homes that was totally destroyed by the tornado.

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

Read more about Dwayne Scott's hobby on Page 9 of this issue

S-72 Widening Project



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!



RUDY KEETER/GREENWOOD MAINTENANCE
SCDOT maintenance crews were on the job to scrape, clear and sand accumulations of snow and ice on bridges and roads. Above, a Laurens County bridge is cleared during the winter storm.

District Maintenance and Mechanical meeting



From left: Sarah McKinney, Karen Long and Dusty Turner

STEP-21

Congratulations to:

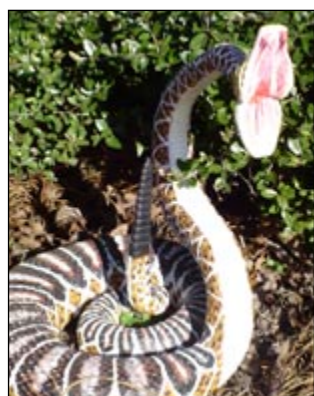
Jeff Davis,
Greenwood
Maintenance

Jeffrey Jordan,
Saluda
Maintenance

Dondi Rogers,
Saluda
Construction

Larry Wise,
District Two Office

For being selected to participate in 2005 STEP-21 Program.



SNAAAAAKE!!!
Relax...It's only a wooden Rattle Snake handcarved and painted by Sydney "Rutt" Russell.

MEET SYDNEY RUSSELL

Name: Sydney Russell
Nickname: Rutt
Title: Assistant Resident Construction Engineer
Unit: Abbeville Construction
Started with SCDOT: April 1960

Sydney "Rutt" Russell started his career with the DOT in McCormick Construction. Later he became the Resident Construction Engineer for McCormick County. After two years of being the RCE of McCormick County, in 1980 the McCormick office combined

with Abbeville office and he was named as the Assistant Resident Construction Engineer for Abbeville.

In April Russell will have faithfully served the SCDOT for 45 years. He is currently on the TERRI program and plans on finishing the SC 72 widening project in Abbeville before retiring. His hobbies include wood-carving and pencil sketching. Russell is married to Sara, and they have enjoyed 35 years together. He has no kids but does have five cats and one dog.



Sydney Russell

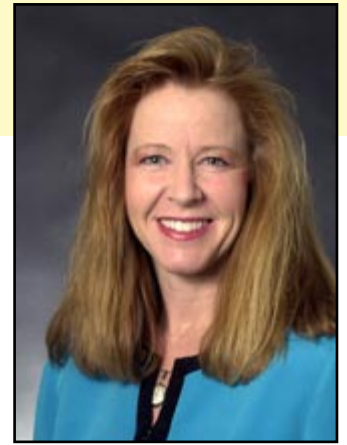
Secret Santa

The Secret Santa Program made Christmas a lot brighter for several families in District 2. The program raised \$1,300.00 cash, \$50.00 gift cards for Food Lion, three bicycles, other toys and loads and loads of food. A special thank you for everyone who participated in the Secret Santa program and to show the true spirit of Christmas.

DISTRICT 3 NEWS

Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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



Joyce Gardner

Got news?

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

Upstate crews handle wintry weather

Pickens Maintenance



Crew member gas up vehicles before the storm hits.



Crew members place scrapers on the dumptrucks.



Trucks were line up and waiting on the day before.



An overpass overlooking US 123 shows some of the wintry mix.

Anderson Maintenance



Crews spread a salt and sand mixture along I-85 in Anderson County.



A spreader truck is loaded before dawn. Crews started work worked early and stayed late to have the roadways ready.

A letter we liked

"A Real Hero"

While at a local gas station on January 10, 2005, I stepped out of the car and hit the lock button. After shutting the door, I realized my 2-year-old daughter and the keys were still in the car. Of course I was terrified, so I ran in the store and called "Pop-A-Lock." They told me it would take at least 30 minutes to arrive. Apparently, an SCDOT employee who was working in the area noticed that I was upset and asked if I needed something. I told him what happened and he said that was "No trouble at all." This wonderful man was able to unlock the doors within minutes. Please know that Mr. Chuck Reynolds of Spartanburg Maintenance is my child's "Guardian Angel"! His kindness and help during my crisis go beyond the call of duty.



Chuck Reynolds

Thank you,
 Walter Jackson



Just 24 hours before a winter weather threat hit the upstate, this crew was working hard to repair a road. On Jan. 28, James Charping, Brad Merritt, Trey Schmuck, Billy Frankmun, Earl Thompson, and Douglas Montgomery were waiting for a crane to arrive on McDuffie Street (S-04-149). A 12'5" wall holding a 50 foot, 108" aluminum pipe was set to be placed by the end of the day. After this, they were preparing for the snow and ice forecast to hit Anderson, SC.

A NEW BABY!

Congratulations go to Russell and Dana Lowery on the birth of their first baby. Olivia Catherine was born on November 18th, 2004 in Greenville, SC. Dana works for Traffic Engineering at the District 3, District Office.

MEET EARL LAVENDER



Earl Lavender

Name: Earl Lavender
 Assigned to: Spartanburg Maintenance
 Position: Trades Specialist III - duties include safety, building maintenance and environmental
 Began SCDOT career: 1993

Lavender loves coming to work each day. He stated that SCDOT is the best place to work, and he could not imagine working anywhere else.

During his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, especially his six grandchildren. When they are not keeping him busy, he and his son enjoy working on cars and watching car racing.

Pearson Retires

David Pearson retired Dec. 31, 2004 after 28 years of service at Greenville Maintenance.



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

Scenes from D4



Annis Williams of York Construction prepares Work Zone Traffic Control Reports.



Floyd Long of Chester Construction inspects concrete beam placement on bridge project over Fishing Creek in Chester County.

Perry Crocker named York Resident Maintenance Engineer

Perry Crocker, of Union, has been promoted to Resident Maintenance Engineer of York County. Crocker will supervise 95 employees and oversee 1400 miles of roads and 265 bridges in York county. He formally held the position of District 4 Utility Coordinator.

Crocker, 40, began his career at the department in 1986 working as summer help at Union Construction. He held the position of utilities coordinator in Fairfield and York Counties.

A native of Union, he is a graduate of Lockhart High School and a 1987 graduate of The University of South Carolina.



Perry Crocker

He and his wife Kimberly have two daughters, Chelsea, age and Alyssa 6. They attend Tabernacle Baptist Church in Union.



Eddie Mitchell, left, and Jason Wyatt inspect concrete deck pour on bridge replacement project on S.C. 49 in York County.



From left, Phil Wright, Will Lindsey and Toby Childers inspect roadway widening project in Chester County.

The spirit of the season

York County shares food, toys to bring Christmas joy to community

Most of us already know that Christmas seems to get busier and busier each passing year. More things seem to draw us away from the true nature of the season.

Most times we think BIG BIG BIG for the Holiday season, outdoing what we did last year with something more grand. We often take for granted the small things we enjoy every day and forget that those are the true gifts that we can share with others.

Here in York County this year our giving started as a small group of employees combining efforts to collect some food for our own needy families. This effort blossomed into a full county-wide effort and did not stop with just the collection of food items.

It was learned that children of some employees would probably go without anything under the tree on Christmas morning. Several toys were packaged nicely and donated so that they would be surprised Christmas morning to see packages under the tree.

It is these kinds of things that make us joyful, these things that make us proud to be a part of the SCDOT family.

Best Wishes,
Tony Boatwright
York Maintenance

MEET JEREMIAH W. BRADLEY

Name: Jeremiah W. Bradley
Age: 51
Unit: Chester Construction
Title: Resident Construction Engineer
Education: Graduated in 1982 from S.C. State with a degree in Civil Engineering.
Military Experience: Served 4 years in the U.S. Air Force.
Employment History: Started as CEA I in Chester Co. on June 8 1983. Promoted to Assistant Resident Construction Engineer of Chester Construction in 1988. Served as Resident

Maintenance Engineer in York Co. from 1995-1997. Resident Construction Engineer at Chester Construction from 1997 to present.
Hobbies: Fishing, Hunting, Traveling and attending S.C. State football games.
Church: Attends Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Chester where he serves as Trustee and Assistant Youth Director.
Quote: "I enjoy working with coworkers and contractors to ensure a quality job for the traveling public."



Jeremiah W. Bradley

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

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

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

Meet the employees

Special crews are special in D5

Got news?

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



Kay Williams



Williamsburg Bridge Crew

Standing, left to right (L-R): Roger Barr, Sammie Brown, William Owens, John Johnson and Eugene Dukes. Kneeling (L-R): Brian Houston, Timmy Strickland and Leroy McElveen.



District 5 Electricians

(L-R): Daniel Norris, Mike Scott, Wayne Matthews, Curtis Canady, Sammond Cusaac, Marvin Grate, Glenn Collins, James Huggins and Benny Inman.



District 5 Florence Incident Responders (L-R): Ray White, Wilma Johnson and Preston Rogers.



District 5 Bridge Crew

(L-R) Donnie McDowell, Michael Armfield, Colon Dudley, Alexander Bethea, John Quick and Edmond Garner.



District 5 Horry Incident Responders

(L-R): David Ward, Robin Threat, Carlos Hall, Norman Joyce, Sabian Suggs and Jimmy Norris.



District 5 Florence Incident Responders (L-R): Willie Mack, Steve Berry and Robbie Ard.



District 5 Bridge Inspection

(L-R): Spencer Cox, Mac Gaskin, Harry Singletary, Taylor Stone and Jim Brown.



District 5 Horry Incident Responders

(L-R): Johnny Bodine, Frankie Harrelson, Ricky Jordan and Joe Graham.



District 5 Carpenters

(L-R): B.K. Meggs, Gene Elliott and George Alford.



District 5 Paint Crew

(L-R): Donald Samuel, Legrande Durant, Steve Honeycutt, Corey Chestnut and Douglas Gerald.



District 5 Paving Crew

(L-R): Carl Brown, Cecil Jones, Henry Adams, Chris McClary, Kevin Poston and Henry Williams.

MEET LEROY MCELVEEN

Leroy McElveen Jr. has been employed with SCDOT since Aug. 4, 1987 and is the Bridge Crew Foreman. He supervises a crew of 7 employees. He and his crew work in different counties to build and repair the structure to a bridge.

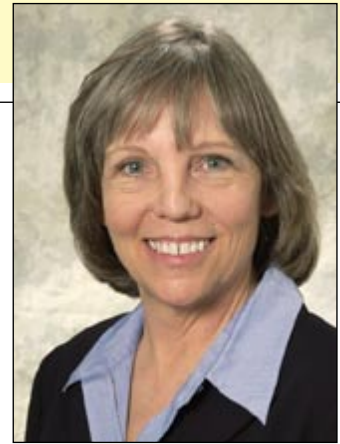
McElveen enjoys entering the backhoe rodeo for Williamsburg County and has won several times. McElveen is an outstanding person and always has a smile on his face. He doesn't mind pitching in and lending a hand. He will go out of his way to get the job done.



DISTRICT 6 NEWS

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

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



Janet Hendrix

Got news?

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



Pickle Marchant and Linda Shaw from Dorchester Construction with food baskets for needy families. The employees of Dorchester Construction donated one dollar every month during 2004. Just before Christmas they had raised enough money to purchase Christmas dinner baskets for five needy families in their community of St. George.



Districts across the state try out the new technology with a Video Conference on the budget preparation. Pictured above are District Six RMEs and RCEs along with district staff taking part in the first conference of this kind. This technology will reduce the number of trips employees have to go to Columbia for meetings, thus creating a more efficient use of time and resources.



ROB THOMPSON/2001 SCDOT PHOTO

28th Annual Cooper River Bridge Run April 2, 2005 - Charleston, SC

Come be a part of history! This year's event will be the last run/walk over the old Cooper River Bridge. For more information and registration, go to www.bridgerun.com



The District Six Cross Training Plan has been developed to better prepare our district engineering staff for future management positions. The plan provides its participants an opportunity to gain experience in engineering disciplines that they may not otherwise gain through normal career advancement. The plan takes two years to complete and rotates eight months in each maintenance, construction and traffic. The first group to complete the program consists of Richard Turner, David Kinard and Terance Brooks. The next group will have a staggered start with Michele Reece and Nick Rebovich beginning in February. Russ Touchberry and Justin Davis, both presently assigned to the Cooper River Bridge Project, will begin the program in July. Above, from left: Richard Turner, Russ Touchberry, David Kinard, Justin Davis, Michele Reece, Nick Rebovich and Terance Brooks.

INTRODUCING JENNIFER GRUBER



Jennifer Gruber is the Vegetation Program Manager for District Six. She works through the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) program coordinating activities such as colorful spaces, herbicide operations, wildflower plantings and landscaping. Jennifer also administers vegetation management contracts and provides horticultural consultation to the district's RME's. Jennifer is a graduate of Clemson with a BS in Horticultural.

MEET DANNY DRAIN

Name: Danny Drain
 Title: Trade Specialist III
 Unit: District Six Specialized Bridge Division

Joined SCDOT: November 2001

Danny Drain's work at SCDOT involves maintaining and making repairs to area bridges in the Low Country. He also has a unique hobby and side interest. He is the curator of the Slave Relics Historical Museum in Walterboro. His interest began as an antique collector where he gathered many artifacts from the days of slavery. As his collection grew, he wanted to share this rich heritage with others, so he and his family opened the museum. Some of the items at the museum are: Plantation artifacts, slave furniture, rare slave documents, actual underground railroad items, and slave-made quilts dating from the 1830's to the 1860's. Items in his collection have been shown in National Geographic, The Post & Courier, Newsweek Magazine, and the Wall Street Journal. It also aired on ABC's Good Morning America in June of 1999. For more information, visit his website at www.slaverelic.org



Danny Drain

DISTRICT 7 NEWS

Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton and Orangeburg counties

District Engineer: *Dean Campbell* (803) 531-6850
 FAX (803) 531-6854

Elves in District 7 Adopt families for Christmas



ABOVE: Lettie Fralick, Santa Claus and Cecelia Jennings hold a few of the presents elves in District 7 collected for local families at Christmas.

RIGHT: Don't tell anyone, but Darryl Kennerly stood in for the real Santa! And the 'elves' were actually generous employees who contributed to the adoption of two families over the holidays.

Yes! Santa and his Elves arrived in District Seven for Christmas! Employees in District Seven provided Christmas for two families, and the families received their gifts with overwhelming gratitude. Lettie Fralick of the Orangeburg District Office coordinated the adoption of these two families, and the District Seven employees responded with gracious generosity. A heartfelt thank you is extended to those who participated in giving, shopping, wrapping, and delivering the gifts to headquarters to be distributed to the families in time for the Christmas holiday. Your generosity was felt throughout District Seven, and most of all by these families who experienced what Christmas is all about, and that is love and giving from the heart!



Got news?

Contact Deborah Berry at: 803-531-6850 or by emailing her at BerryDS@scdot.org

Deborah Berry

In Memoriam

Alan Scott Snider

Alan Scott Snider passed away Thursday, Jan. 20, 2005. Snider began work as a Trade Specialist with SCDOT - Calhoun Maintenance in Nov. of 2004. He was born Aug. 24, 1953, a son of the late David and Fannie Ruth Dash Snider. He was a mem-

ber of Brown Chapel AME Church where he served on the usher board, in the choir, was a member of the Sunday School and officiated with the Sons of Allen. Snider is survived by his wife, Ida S. Pondexter Snider of the home, two children, and six stepchildren.

Welcome to the District Office

Cecelia B. Jennings has moved from the Bamberg Construction office to the Orangeburg District Office. She has been employed with SCDOT since 1995 where she started working for the Bamberg Maintenance unit. Cecelia and her husband Travis are the proud parents of one spoiled Jack Russell named Molly.



Service Awards



District Engineering Administrator Campbell (right) presents H. G. Cooner his 45-year service award. Gene is the Resident Maintenance Engineer for Bamberg Maintenance.



District Engineering Administrator Campbell (right) presents Emsley P. Baskin, Jr. his 20-year service award. Ems is the District 7 Traffic Engineer.

MEET JACQUELINE BRUNSON

Name: Jacqueline H. Brunson
 Title: Administrative Specialist
 Location: Clarendon Maintenance

Jacqueline "Jackie" Brunson has 12 years with SCDOT. Since 1992, she has worked with Clarendon Construction and then transferred to Clarendon Maintenance in 2000. She is the widow of the late Jimmie L. Brunson and has two children. Her hobbies include spending time with her family and surfing the web. Her future plans are to pursue a bachelor's degree.



Jacqueline Brunson

HUMAN RESOURCES

Attention: MSA EZ REIMBURSE® card holders

Remember to provide your documentation.

If you signed up for the Medical Spending Account (MSA) EZ REIMBURSE® Card, pay close attention to your monthly statements.

While eligible prescription drug transactions and transactions for certain copayments do not require follow-up documentation, other transactions DO.

Your monthly statement will indicate, in blue ink, when you need to submit supporting documentation for the claim. The IRS requires documentation for card transactions, just as it does for manual/paper reimbursements (Revenue Ruling 2003-43, released May 2003).

Fax a copy of your receipt/documentation (including date of service, type of service, service provider and amount), using the EZ REIMBURSE® Card Receipt Transmittal Cover Sheet, not the Reimbursement Request form.

This cover sheet is available on the EIP Web site at www.eip.sc.gov. Choose your category (Active Subscribers) and select "Forms." You may also call FBMC at 800-342-8017 for a copy or visit the FBMC Web site at www.fbmc-benefits.com.

If you do not forward the required documentation to FBMC within 30 days of the card transaction, the next time you submit a manual (paper) claim, rather than paying the full claim, FBMC will withhold enough money in your account to make up for the card transaction that you have not yet documented.

You will be reimbursed for the difference between the new claim and the undocumented claim. This is called automatic substitution.

For example, if the new claim was \$10 and the undocumented card transaction was for \$7, you will be reimbursed \$3.

If you later send in the documentation for the disputed claim, a check for reimbursement will be issued.

If the documentation is not received by the time you receive a second monthly statement and no automatic substitution has occurred to satisfy the amount in question, your EZ REIMBURSE® Card will be suspended until:

- FBMC receives your documentation
- Automatic substitution occurs
- You pay back your account by check.

FBMC will reinstate your card automatically once the transaction in question is

cleared by one of these methods.

Any amounts not cleared by March 31 after the plan year ends are in violation of IRS guidelines and are taxable as income and your EZ REIMBURSE® Card will be permanently disabled.

Remember these Money-Plu\$ contacts/resources:

- If you have questions about your Medical Spending or Dependent Care Account, call FBMC at 800-342-8017. Don't forget! FBMC offers you online access to your account to view your benefits account balances, claims, forms and more. Visit: www.fbmc-benefits.com.

- To locate a participating pharmacy that accepts the Medical Spending Account EZ REIMBURSE® card, visit the EIP Web site at www.eip.sc.gov and select "links" from the top menu bar. You can also access this list when you log in on FBMC's Web site at www.fbmc-benefits.com.

- If you have questions about your Health Savings Account (HSA), your HSA debit card or to order checks for your HSA account, call NBSC at 877-367-4HSA (4472). You can also access your account online by registering online at: www.nationalbanksc.com.

Arm position affects readings

Blood pressure

By Nurse Dale Thomas

Stress isn't the only thing that can change your blood pressure reading or make your blood pressure rise.

A study in a January article in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* suggests that blood pressure readings can be up to 10 percent higher just based on the positioning of a person's arm.

According to this study, blood pressure readings taken on arms parallel, or extended in the same direction as the body, are higher than readings taken when the elbow is at a right angle to the body with elbow flexed at heart level.

The study's investigators from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine and the Medical College of Wisconsin noted that blood pressure values determine treatment options, so a designated and consistent arm

position should be adhered to when measuring blood pressure.

Adequate blood pressure cuff size, cuff position and arm position are factors in obtaining a good blood pressure reading/value.

Adequate arm position is with slightly flexed elbow and held at heart level as defined by the American Heart Association. Children and adults with smaller or larger than average-sized arms may need special-sized cuffs.

For further information, go to www.nih.gov or to the American Heart Association.



Human Resources undergoes office relocation, staffing changes

By Dianne Coleman
Interim Director
of Human Resources



Dianne Coleman

You may be aware that the Human Resources Office has recently moved and is now located on the first floor in the Headquarters Building. The move has been quite exciting for us and with the relocation we feel that we can far better serve our customers. You are our first priority!

In an effort to become more efficient and effective, we have implemented several changes within Human Resources, as well as reviewed our security access due to the highly confidential nature of the business that we conduct on a daily basis. We are asking for your assistance as we strive to better serve you. If an employee is conducting business that pertains to any Human Resources area other than the Benefits Office, Room 116, or the Employment Office, Room 103, we are asking that you come to the Human Resources Office Reception area, Room 115. The person you wish to see will be contacted to assist you. We believe that this will help alleviate unmonitored traffic in areas of high sensitivity. We realize that this change will take getting accustomed to, however, we feel that we can better serve you and ensure that you are getting the assistance that you seek.

I am also very happy to announce that Wanda Prince, previously the Human Resources Coordinator for District 1, has joined the Human Resources Team. Prince will function as the Headquarters Human Resources Coordinator as well as a special assistant to me working on a variety of agency projects. She has been with the Department for more than thirty years and brings with her invaluable Human Resources experience from a field perspective. We feel that her district expertise will be an asset to our office.

In addition, we have made some inter-office organizational changes in an effort to better meet the needs of the agency. Paula Hollis has been functioning in the capacity as the Assistant Human Resources Director. Hollis continues to be an asset to the agency and I have officially appointed her in this capacity. She will also have the task of ensuring that the "operations" in Human Resources are maintained and will be reviewing HR processes with HR team

members to ensure more efficient and effective processes. Both Hollis and Prince will be directly assisting me in accomplishing the goals and objectives set forth for Human Resources.

As we move forward in our Classification and Compensation Reform efforts, we have determined

that both Workforce Development and Classification and Compensation need undivided attention. For that reason, Rose Marie Simones' efforts will be refocused on managing the department's Workforce Development Program, and Louis Bates will be responsible for managing the Classification and Compensation unit.

Finally, we have some new faces in the HR office. We take pleasure in introducing to you three new employees. First, Dea Attaway, who actually has interned for us for the last ten (10) months, has been hired into a HR Specialist position. Attaway graduated from USC in December with a Masters in Human Resources. She will be working as a generalist in all areas of the HR office. She has been an asset to HR and we are happy that she wanted to become part of the team.

Allyssa Cokely, Training Coordinator II, joined the Employee Development Unit on February 1, 2005. Cokely brings with her approximately fifteen (15) years of training experience, is a Certified Public Manager and is also certified to administer the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI).

Dennis Copeland joined the team on February 17, 2005. Copeland was hired as a Training Coordinator II and has been in the training field approximately six (6) years. He is a Certified Air National Guard Diversity/Human Relations Training Facilitator and has a Masters in Public Administration. We feel that each of these individuals will be an asset in HR as we strive to accomplish our goals.

In closing, I would like to say, please be assured that the employees of the Human Resources Office are dedicated, extremely committed and look forward to better serving you, our customers, and we believe these changes will allow us to move forward in that effort. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Employee Development Unit looks to in-house staff for employee training

As you know from previous memoranda, the Employee Development Unit has recently added two new staff members.

We are currently in the process of assessing the training that is being delivered to SCDOT employees in an effort to determine what training we may now be able to deliver through our new in-house staff rather than through outside consultants.

As of this writing, we have a New Employee Orientation for Headquarters employees scheduled for the second week of April. Notification of the date and place will be sent shortly to all employees in need of this course.

The Districts will now be conducting New Employee Orientation for their new employees at the District level.

Additionally, we are preparing to offer training for Headquarters employees beginning at the end of March on dealing with Sexual Harassment and we are in the process of completing the work on a Time Management course that should be ready for delivery by early to mid-April of this year.

The 2005 Administrative Professionals Conference will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2005, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Seawell's Banquet and Reception Center on Rosewood Drive in Columbia. All approved 608s should be submitted to Chris Zeigler, Human Resources Employee Development, Room 111, to coordinate all registrations for the Conference.

The Leadership Development for Supervisors training program will be held on May 11-12 & 17 & 18,

2005, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the SCDOT Annex, 1412 Shop Road, Columbia. Please email Chris Zeigler to register.

Needless to say, we have been very busy in a short period of time. We are excited about the possibilities before us and meeting the training needs of our customers...you, SCDOT employees.

Let us add, too, that completion of the Training Needs Assessment is a very valuable and necessary tool in determining what training we will focus our attention on and in what order. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete your assessment so that we can be more effective in meeting your needs.

Thank you for your support!

ASSETS MANAGEMENT



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

With the move of DMV offices to Blythewood, space in the SCDOT Headquarters building is being reallocated among SCDOT departments.

Moves begin in HQ

by Carl Chase Jr., Assets Manager

Moves are under way in the Headquarters Building. The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles completed their move to Blythewood in late December vacating approximately 70,000 square feet. Our plan is in affect with the space vacated by DMV being occupied first.

The process to prepare the space includes cleaning and establishing the computer network.

Human Resources has moved to the first floor and can be accessed through Room 115. Contracts Retention, Central Files and Toll Operations has moved into Rooms 107, 108, and 119. The State Infrastructure Bank has moved into Room 102 and has an adjacent Conference Room also used for a Video Conferencing Facility.

Finance Administration including the Controller, Cashier, Budget and Cash Management Office has moved to Room 205. Mass Transit and Safety are moving in early Spring to the second floor. All Mass Transit functions will be housed together. Coincidental with the move of the Safety Office from the Ground Floor will be the establishment of a classroom on the first floor to replace the present classroom used by Safety in Room G-19.

Community Relations has moved to room 332B and 339.

Outdoor Advertising has moved to the first floor into Room 125.

The Construction Contracts Office and people in the Final Plans Office formerly located on the 5th floor has moved to Room 332.

There have been Conference Rooms established on the 1st and 2nd floors.

The moves will continue through 2005 and 2006.

On the drawing board is the establishment of a Traffic Management Center on the Ground Floor.

The Capital Improvements Office requests that employees not enter areas under renovation or not occupied at this time.



ABOVE: Greg Szymanski of IT Services reroutes network cables as part of the office moves at SCDOT Headquarters.

BELOW: Chris Huepenbecker of Building Maintenance applies a fresh coat of paint to a first floor office wall prior to Human Resources moving into the recently vacated space.



POINTS OF CONTACT

Each office has a Point of Contact who will participate in the plan for the design of new office area and who will communicate the plan to the employees in his or her office.

The Point of Contact will meet as required with the team to work out office designs and movement plans.

The POC will provide the team the exact floor plan depicting where each employee will be located. This is important so network services can make the correct installation the first time.

For the most part the present telephone number will be retained to reduce confusion to our customers and contractors.

Director,
Pre-Construction **Robert Pratt**

Program Control Unit..... **Clem Watson**

Public Outreach **Clem Watson**

C-Programs.....
Rocque Kneece, Randy Williamson

Program Management
Mark Lester, Rocque Kneece

Planning and
Environmental **Ron Patton**

Road Design **Ed Eargle**

Bridge Design **Doug McClure**

R/W **Oscar Rucker**

Federal Programs **Roy Tolson**

DBE and Deputy Director, DBE
Barbara Beagles

SIB..... **Debra Rountree**

Traffic Engineering **Andy Leaphart**

Mass Transit..... **Laverne Glover**

Human Resources **Dianne Coleman**

Director of Maintenance including
Safety & Outdoor Adv. **Mark Hunter**

Director of Construction **Mary Stepro**

Contract Administration/Tolls/Contracts
Audits/Central Files... **Doug MacFarlane**

Procurement **Norma Hall**

Finance..... **Robin Wilkes**

Communications and
Adopt a Highway..... **Vivian Patterson**

IT Services **Doug Harper**

Claims..... **Tony Sheppard**

Government
Affairs..... **Michael Covington**

District Facilities Update

York County Maintenance Complex Construction

Contract documents are now in the final code review stage for a new 22-acre, three building maintenance complex for York County. This facility will replace the 41 year old two-acre site in the City of Rock Hill. The new complex will have an administration area housing maintenance and construction engineering staff attached to a Storage Building, a Vehicle Repair Shop/Fuel Facility, and a Salt Storage Building. Attachment of the administration area to the storage building is a cost savings measure as well as affords maximum utilization of the inclement weather/meeting/training area.

Spartanburg County Maintenance Complex Construction - Phase II

Construction of the new Salt Storage Building and combination Storage Building/Vehicle Repair Shop/ Fuel Facility is underway. The new Storage Building/Vehicle Repair Shop/ Fuel Facility will be one "U" shaped building thus condensing the land area needed for this complex. Phase II will take another seven months hence completing the re-construction of the entire Spartanburg County Maintenance Complex on the existing nine acre interstate fronted site



Budget and Control Board Actions

Central Salt Shed

Approval was granted to SCDOT to construct a Central Salt Shed to be located in Columbia on property already owned by the Department. The purpose of this shed is to supplement and distribute salt to other locations in the state and typically for second winter weather events. This facility does not replace the salt sheds located in our county operations areas.

Fleet survey

The State Budget and Control Board has engaged the services of Mercury Fleet Services to study the state vehicle fleet. This study involves all state agencies. Beginning in early December Mercury began gathering information about the SCDOT Fleet and the related support activities such as the Equipment Depot and County Maintenance Shops.

Mercury has requested an abundance of information about the characteristics of the fleet. The cooperation of all offices who provided information for this study is appreciated.

John White, Assistant Director of Supply and Equipment has been gathering information for the consultants. Their initial focus has been on vehicles with low usage levels.

David Cook and John White have placed a lot of effort in an Equipment Utilization Program which has resulted in a cost savings for the department.

SCDOT expects to be informed of the Consultant's recommendations in May 2005.