

SCDOT responds to management review

By Elizabeth S. Mabry

The Legislative Audit Council (LAC) released a "management review" of SCDOT on November 14. The LAC is an arm of South Carolina state government that conducts reviews and audits. Following a discussion by the SCDOT Commission about having an independent audit of the agency conducted, a small group of legislators formally requested a review of SCDOT by the LAC 14 months ago.

The purpose of the LAC study was to review the operations of SCDOT with an emphasis on contracting and other issues relating to SCDOT's mission of building and maintaining roads and bridges. The LAC also reviewed agency-wide administrative issues. State law requires the LAC to perform a full-scope examination of and an investigation into all matters necessary to make a determination.

This 82-page review included 44 recommendations for improvement. SCDOT agrees with some recommendations, and disagrees with others. Some recommendations involved management changes already under way at the time the LAC released its report.

The entire report can be viewed online at www.lac.sc.gov. This report also includes a formal response from SCDOT. However, the SCDOT response was limited by the LAC to 15 pages. SCDOT has published a more thorough and detailed response, which is posted on the SCDOT web site: www.scdot.org.

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry has written an opening message for the response on the SCDOT web site. Here is Mabry's message:

Fourteen months after the Legislative Audit Council staff began a "management review" of SCDOT, the LAC has issued its report.

LAC had no significant concerns about the work that represents 99% of all SCDOT expenditures. The following statements are made in the LAC report: **"We found that SCDOT complies with federal regulations and generally has appropriate processes in place for planning construction and maintenance projects statewide."**

"During the period FY02-03 through FY04-05, we found that SCDOT took steps to reduce its administrative costs."

"We reviewed SCDOT's management of construction contracts, and did NOT identify any significant problems."

The LAC report does not contain much discussion about the positive findings regarding 99% of the expenditures by SCDOT. The main focus of the report is on the other items that the LAC staff consider to be issues. SCDOT covers these issues in detail in the information that follows this letter; however I would like to address a few of these in a summary fashion.

USE OF CONSTRUCTION RESOURCE MANAGERS

The report states that SCDOT management does not always control costs and begins by citing the Construction Resources Management (CRM) Contracts as an example. The decision to use CRM firms was an openly discussed Commission decision.

The Commission provided oversight and approval of contract negotiations and the final contract. The staff managed the contract as approved. The decision by the Commission was made in open session and was based on substantial research about

various options. The use of CRMs enabled SCDOT to complete a very progressive building program that has become a model across the country. A list of projects by county is included in the detailed response that follows.

Projects were determined by local governments, the State Infrastructure Bank and by SCDOT staff evaluation of safety and traffic data. The goal was to complete these projects in 7 years instead of the 27 years it would have taken under traditional methods.

That goal was accomplished. Projects were under contract prior to the dramatic cost escalation that has affected every state in the nation. If SCDOT had not created and used the CRM approach, the cost of these projects would have increased to the extent that it would have been even longer than 27 years before they were constructed.

Seven years after the Commission approved the contract negotiations, and now that all the work is almost completed, the LAC staff is reporting some aspects of the CRM contracts as examples of management not always controlling costs. They have ignored the big picture – getting the job done at the best terms agreed upon under the circumstances that existed at that time.

Other entities who were heavily involved in getting the job done don't agree with the LAC. Letters from these entities are contained in the following SCDOT web site response.

I appreciate the professionalism and dedication of the CRM firms throughout the accelerated construction program. They were instrumental in its success. I appreciate the extraordinary ability and efforts demonstrated by every SCDOT employee in making sure these projects were timely

and cost effectively completed. **Because of their combined efforts, the taxpayers realized a savings of at least \$3 billion.**

As Executive Director of SCDOT, I am proud of the project acceleration program and the CRM firms that helped make it successful. I firmly believe that the State of South Carolina should also be proud.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The report falsely implies that SCDOT used tactics to intentionally delay the reimbursement of funds, and undermined the reliability and fiscal integrity of its accounting records. The LAC staff repeatedly ignored overwhelming evidence of valid and compelling reasons why invoices were unbilled.

This inexplicable disregard of evidence, and the false statement that the staff "could not find a valid reason" for unbilled invoices is not fair or responsible reporting.

A thorough discussion of this item, including the valid reasons for invoices not being billed, is in the detailed response. This information was also provided to the LAC staff. Please note that: Many of the invoices which make up the \$145 million total (apparently taken from newspaper reports), which the LAC alleges were withheld, could not be billed because they were bonded projects.

During the time period covered in the report, federal funding authority was limited because Congress had not passed the transportation bill. Funding was only being made available to states on an incremental periodic basis rather than the full amount at the beginning of the federal fiscal year.

See RESPONSE on page 13

Training paves the way to better Motorgrader operators

By Bob Kudelka

Motorgrader operator Jerald Drafts of Lexington Maintenance spread the 15-ton pile of asphalt across the hole as the instructor yelled out, "Right side up! Ease your blade up! Doing good, doing good."

On this side street off Garners Ferry Road in Richland County, Drafts and five other employees were learning advanced motorgrader skills while full-depth patching a 44-foot-long hole dug by Richland County maintenance.

Spreading asphalt with a motorgrader in such a small area calls for a deft use of the blade, instructor Al Bozard said. It can be tricky at first because the operator's vision of the blade is limited, but the technique can save a lot of time.

"A lot of guys have a tendency to steer that motorgrader into the work instead of working the blade," Bozard said. "They're finding out that in a confined space like this that the steering wheel is no good to them. They've got to learn to work that blade and get a lot better job and faster."

Drafts, a 24-year SCDOT veteran with five years experience with the motorgrader, agreed the two-week advanced motorgrader skills course has been helpful.

"It's been really good - we've learned something new every day," Drafts said. "Practice makes perfect."

That's the idea behind the courses offered



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Gene Taylor, foreground, of Kershaw Maintenance watches as Jerald Drafts spreads new asphalt during a motorgrader training session. Al Bozard of York Technical College leads a class of six SCDOT employees in a training session of full depth patching.

by the Maintenance Training Task Force Committee, begun about four years ago when State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman was Director of Maintenance, said Phillip Brooks, District 2 DEA and Chairman of the Task Force Committee.

Years ago, maintenance employees learned on the job with no formalized training, Brooks

said. "This is a fairly new thing for us and so far it has been successful," Brooks said. "It has been well-received among employees, and they say they learn things about the equipment they did not know before. I'm very proud of

See MOTORGRADER on page 23

South Carolina Department of Transportation
SCDOT

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DIRECTIONS

By Elizabeth S. Mabry
Executive Director

I'm sure that many of you have noticed that SCDOT has been in the news a lot lately. Some of the coverage is related to our success stories. However, some of the attention the news media has given us has originated from those who seek to tear down SCDOT from behind the scenes. That in itself is very disturbing.

What disturbs me even more are the characterizations of SCDOT as being an out-of-control agency that does whatever it wants to do. One editorial cartoon has depicted SCDOT as a "500-pound gorilla," that does whatever it wants without regard for the public.

This image of SCDOT is not only unfair, but it bothers me more that this cartoon and others are insulting to hundreds of SCDOT employees all around the state. SCDOT is not an unaccountable rogue agency. To the contrary, SCDOT is 4700 dedicated, hard-working public servants, with a mission to build the finest roads and bridges we possibly can, and to create a transportation system that supports the economy of South Carolina.

I will not hesitate to tell anyone who will listen that SCDOT employees work many tireless hours to plan, design, build and maintain a 42,000-mile state-maintained highway system, which is one of the largest state systems in the nation.

SCDOT employees work around the clock through the Incident Responders Program to assist motorists in trouble. Our Maintenance employees routinely work inches from injury and death while doing their daily jobs, but they are also called out

anytime; including nights, weekends and holidays to respond to emergencies on our highways that need immediate attention. Construction employees routinely inspect job sites at night and on weekends when the majority of the work is being done on our highways.

In the event of an approaching tropical storm, or a snow or ice storm, SCDOT employees from all divisions, all offices, all counties, including Headquarters, are all mobilizing to do whatever they can to help our citizens evacuate, return to their homes, or get through a winter storm as safely as possible.

SCDOT is people. We are people who care about the work we do, and making our state the best it can be.

When I met with reporters in early November concerning several issues that

have been in the news, I invited a group of Maintenance employees to sit in on the briefing. I wanted the media to see the real face of SCDOT; the men and women who only want to do their jobs as best they can, without any disruptions from those who have political agendas.

Many times at ceremonies that mark the completion of a new project, I am credited with having made that project possible. Rest assured that I publicly state that I attend these ceremonies to represent the men and women of SCDOT who saw this project through to completion. It's your fine work that makes these new and improved highways possible.

South Carolina is blessed to have employees like you. You are the reason SCDOT is one of the best DOTs in the nation. Please accept my thanks for your talent and your dedication, and my wish that all of you and your families have a blessed and safe holiday season.



Elizabeth S. Mabry



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT employees from Richland Maintenance were invited to a media briefing Nov. 2.

The employees are, from left, Fred Taylor, Buddy Fleming, Lisa Williamson, Larry Jacobs, Henry Cunningham, Brian Motley, Chris Luther, James West, Andy Rowe, Willie Turner and Carlos Jackson.

A letter we liked: Ravenel Bridge wins FHWA 2006 Excellence in Highway Design Award

Charles Dwyer
SCDOT

Congratulations! The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is pleased to inform you that the project you submitted for the 2006 Excellence in Highway Design Awards competition has won an award.

As with past years, award winners will

be individually recognized at a later date to be identified by the state DOT and local FHWA Division Office.

One of the critical challenges facing our industry is providing context sensitive highway solutions that improve safety, mobility, and meet our transportation needs; while at the same time considering their surrounding environment and desires

of local communities. The 2006 award winners showcase outstanding design projects or initiatives providing exemplary examples of innovative initiatives and practices that have embraced this challenge with resounding success.

Thank you for participating and contributing to the success of this very important awards program. We look forward to your

future participation in this program. For additional information with reference to receiving this award, please contact your Division Office.

Dwight A. Horne
Director, Office of Program
Administration
FHWA

The Connector

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

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Elizabeth S. Mabry is
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SCDOT ranks second in nation

By Bob Kudelka

The South Carolina Department of Transportation ranks second in the nation in cost-effectiveness, according to a 2006 independent report released in October by the Reason Foundation, a non-profit "think tank" dedicated to "the values of individual freedom and choice, limited government, and market-friendly policies."

The report was researched and written by Professor of Transportation Studies David T. Hartgen of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. It is based on data gathered and published annually by the Federal Highway Administration. It is his 15th annual report.

In ranking the cost-effectiveness of highway systems, the report compared state highway programs and budgets with system performance state by state.

The top ten states, rated by cost-effectiveness of their state highway systems, are: 1. North Dakota; 2. South Carolina; 3. Kansas; 4. New Mexico; 5. Oregon; 6. Georgia; 7. Kentucky; 8. Idaho; 9. Texas; and 10. Wyoming.

"South Carolina has learned to stretch its dollars through innovation, careful resource management and effective planning," said SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry. "We have used engineering and local partnering to identify and prioritize highway maintenance and construction activities statewide so that clear goals are set and tax dollars are not wasted. The state can be very proud of the work we have accomplished despite having the fewest dollars per mile of any DOT in the nation."

South Carolina's second-place ranking is an improvement over the previous year, when it was

ranked third in the nation, according to Hartgen's report.

South Carolina ranked at the bottom of the 50 states in amount of total highway funds (state + federal) received per-mile of state owned roads. South Carolina has not adjusted its state motor fuel fee since 1987. In 2004, receipts per mile of responsibility averaged \$111,854 nationally, and ranged from a low of \$27,017 per mile for South Carolina to a high of \$1.2 million for New Jersey, according to the report. SCDOT has the third-lowest administrative costs per state controlled mile in the nation, the report said.

Unfortunately, the study ranked South Carolina 46th out of the 50 states for having the most fatalities per vehicle miles. Only four states had a higher number of fatalities per vehicle miles.

The study is available at the Reason Foundation web site, www.reason.org.

Take a bow

Chad Rawls joins USC's String Project

By Rob Thompson

At SCDOT Headquarters, the halls are alive with the sound of music. And it's coming from Chad Rawls' viola.

Rawls, a GIS Analyst in the SCDOT GIS Mapping Office, is participating in the String Project offered by the University of South Carolina School of Music.

Rawls has played a little guitar and became interested in the stringed-instruments lessons offered at USC when his girlfriend's son was taking classes.

"I thought it would be great if they offered beginner classes for adults, and then I read about the program in the Free Times," Rawls said.

Now, Rawls brings his instrument with him to work every Wednesday and heads down the street for lessons after work. It's convenient because USC's School of Music is a few blocks from SCDOT's Headquarters building in Columbia.

The class has about 20 adults learning the basics including reading music, playing scales and playing techniques.

In December, Rawls and his class will play a concert with middle school students who are also taking a beginning string class.

A concert performance will be a new experience for him -- something a lot different than his job at SCDOT.

He usually works alone at a computer creating and maintaining digital line work that is used to keep road data linked in a map software program that SCDOT uses for a wide variety of purposes.

"Performing in front of a crowd will be something totally new," Rawls adds. "But working as part of a team will be similar to the job we all do at SCDOT."

Rawls is a Columbia native and graduate of Airport High School and attended Clemson University.

The viola is the alto cousin of the violin. It is a little larger and has a deeper, richer tone.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Chad Rawls is taking advantage of adult music lessons offered at the University of South Carolina.

The string family also includes the cello and bass which are larger and played in an upright fashion.

"I initially thought about playing the cello or bass, but I didn't feel committed enough to lug around the larger instruments,"

Rawls said.

Next year, the USC string classes will be offered in first-floor classrooms that will be located in the new USC parking garage across the street from

headquarters. If you'd like to learn more about the String Project, visit their web site at: http://www.music.sc.edu/Special_Programs/StringProject/GeneralInfo.html.

Employees learn the ropes through Engineering Development Program

Seven SCDOT engineers are the latest participants in SCDOT's Engineering Development Program.

The program is an in-depth one-year study of all aspects of engineering at SCDOT. They will complete the program in June 2007.

Interested in applying for the program?

The program is designed to orient engineers early in their transportation careers to the major functions of all divisions with the SCDOT with a heavy emphasis on the Engineering Division.

The training program will not affect your current employee status. You will remain assigned to your current position within your division/district, however, you will receive a temporary duty assignment to the EDP. Your duties will become those of completing all training program objectives.

For more information, contact James Cassidy at 803-737-1587 or e-mail him at CassidyJA@SCDOT.org.



LUKE GIBSON



BRAD LATHAM



SHAWN SALLEY



LEMETRIUS BRIGGMAN



MONCIE LI



STEPHEN MCCRAE



QLIN YU

DID YOU KNOW?

SCDOT is rated as the second most cost-effective state transportation department in the nation. This rating is by an independent national study published by the Reason Foundation.

2007 STEP-21 CLASS



JAMES BREEDON



KENNETH BRYANT



KENN BUTLER



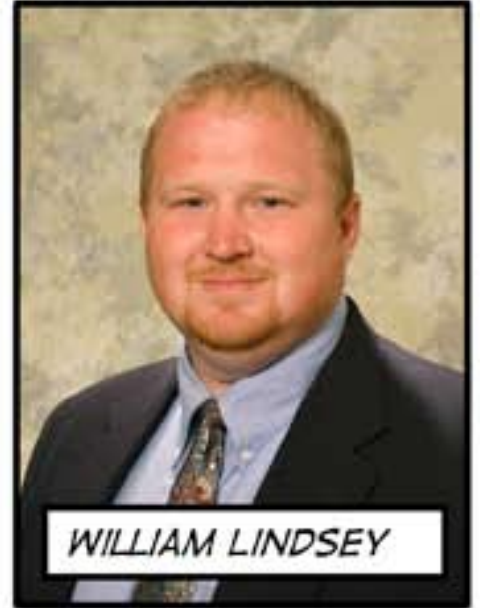
VANETTA JACKSON



SHIRLEY JOHNSON



BESSIE LEONARD



WILLIAM LINDSEY



AWANDA LIVINGSTON



STEPHEN MEETZE



MARGARET OSWALD



EMILY REESE



YOLANDA SIMONS



JENNIFER TAYLOR



ALYSIA WILLIAMS



MARTY WOOTEN

STEP-21 News

STEP-21 Alumni Meeting

The fifth annual STEP-21 Alumni Chapter (SAC) meeting was held Sept. 21 at South Carolina Department of Corrections on Broad River Road in Columbia.

Alumni members, comprised of the eight STEP-21 graduating classes, met to receive training, discuss the past year's

achievements, discuss future goals, and to elect new officers for 2007.

SCDOT Human Resource Development Department trainers Dennis Copeland and Artemus Hill provided team building training for the day.

SAC would like to give special thanks to the 2006 officers. Their initiative and hard

work are greatly appreciated.

SAC members should e-mail Mike Gilchrist or Steven Perry if they are interested in volunteering for the following committees: Special Projects, Publicity Committee, Alumni Directory, or Annual Meeting Committee.

Blood Drive

STEP-21 held a Blood Drive at Headquarters on October 6. Approximately 39 units of blood were donated during the

Blood Drive. The Red Cross has determined that one unit of blood can save up to three lives. Thanks to everyone who donated blood to this worthy cause.

STEP-21 Motto:

Don't stop thinking about tomorrow.

STEP-21 NEWS
continued on next page.

2007 STAR CLASS



BENER AMADO



MIKE BARBEE



DAVID BRANDYBURG



GREG COOK



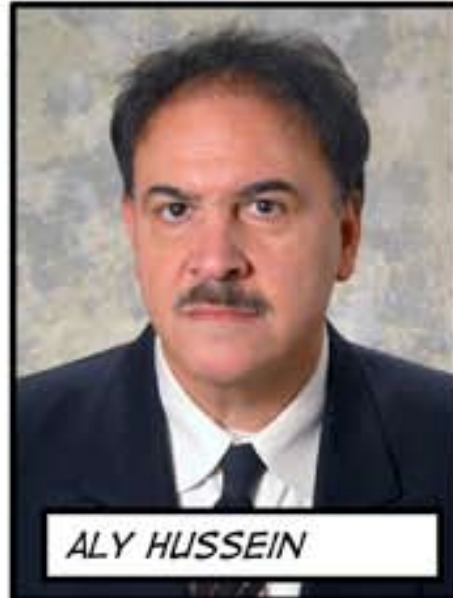
PATTI DALIS



CHARLES DWYER



TINA HEMBREE



ALY HUSSEIN



PHILLIP HUTCHERSON



MIKE JARA



TROY LEWIS



NICK REBOVICH



BRENT REWIS



NATHALIA RODRIGUEZ



The new STEP-21 Alumni Chapter officers elected for 2007 are, from left: Parliamentarian Gwen Goodwin, Assistant Treasurer Cynthia Von Nyvenheim, Treasurer Shirley Jeffcoat, Assistant Secretary Gail Dia, Secretary Veronica Merriman, Vice Chairperson Lavern Glover and Chairperson Steven Perry.

Ceremony recognizes beautification work by employees

By Rob Thompson

The 2006 Colorful Spaces Recognition Ceremony was held Nov. 8 at The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia.

Thad Brunson, Mark DeZurik, Steve Gwinn, Todd Cook, Randy Ponton, Robert Clark and Efrem Dantzer introduced SCDOT employees involved in the Colorful Spaces program in their respective districts.

Deputy State Highway Engineer Clem Watson presented awards to **Districts 2, 3 and 4** for District Participation.

Director of Maintenance Jim Feda presented awards to **District 4, Anderson Maintenance, Lancaster Maintenance and Beaufort Maintenance** for the number of SCDOT volunteers.

Colorful Spaces Program Coordinator Kelly Jo Swygert presented awards to **Beaufort Maintenance, Oconee Maintenance and Anderson Maintenance** for having the best participation from the community.

Swygert also recognized 18 different community groups for their work.

The groups included: **Burton Fire Department, City of Seneca, Seneca Light and Water, Hutch 'n Son, Upstate Utility, Anderson County Planning, Anderson County Transportation, Anderson County Solid Waste, Anderson County Litter Office, Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Anderson, City of Anderson Fire Department, Clemson Extension, Fafard Inc., Hanna-Westside Extension, Hughes Landscaping, Keep America Beautiful and the Master Gardner Association.**

Natalie Moore, Dr. Jim Aitken and Ernest Jones served as judges of the landscaping projects done by SCDOT units.

Moore presented the third place award in the Best Plot category to **Sumter Maintenance.**

Aitken presented second place awards in



PHOTO BY BRANDON WILSON/ANDERSON MAINTENANCE

Anderson Maintenance was named the Overall Colorful Spaces first place winner for their hard work and dedication. The group won awards in each award category.

the Best Plot category to **Kershaw Maintenance, Lexington Maintenance and Anderson Maintenance.**

Jones presented the first place award in the Best Plot category to **Cherokee Maintenance.**

State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman presented the Overall Program winners. Third Place was awarded to **Edgefield Maintenance.** Second Place was awarded to **Beaufort Maintenance.** First Place was awarded to **Anderson Maintenance.**

"Thanks to all of the employees who help make our roads 'beautiful places' in South Carolina."

Elizabeth S. Mabry
SCDOT Executive Director



PHOTO BY DENISE BROWN/ANDERSON MAINTENANCE

Anderson Maintenance received a second place award for this plot on Mall Road in Anderson. The Anderson Maintenance group won awards in each award category.



PHOTO BY LESLIE BROWN/CHEROKEE MAINTENANCE

Cherokee Maintenance was awarded first place in the Best Plot category. This plot is at the intersection of SC 11 and SC 110 in Cherokee County.



Buying a healthy houseplant

By Ernest Jones

The better condition a plant is in when it is purchased, the better its chances of survival. A plant bought at the nursery where it was raised should be in the best possible condition, because it will be younger and healthier than those that have had to go through the stress of being transported.

Plants sold on the roadside or at a yard sale are exposed to drying winds; high or low temperatures, depending on the time of year; and pollution. In a supermarket, unless there is a separate area

dedicated to the plants, watering might be erratic and the lighting poor. In the garden center, they should be well cared for in terms of watering, although the longer they remain unsold, the more they will begin to suffer as their reserve of slow-release fertilizer runs out.

SELECTING A HEALTHY PLANT

Look for a plant with strong, healthy-looking leaves of a good, vibrant color with no blotches or nibbled edges. The stems should be firm, not floppy, and the growth should be compact, not long and weak, which indicates a period



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Ernest Jones, center, demonstrates how to break up the roots of a new houseplant to promote plant growth. Jones was a guest speaker at the Nov. 14 Women's Forum in Columbia. Assisting Jones is Sue Gamble, left, of the Office of Materials and Research and Harriet Felder, right, of Orangeburg Maintenance.

spent in poor light.

Choose a plant with most of the flowers still in bud to give the longest flowering period, and check the leaves and stems for pests such as scale insects or whitefly. Disease will show itself as gray, furry mold around the base of the plant or as pale

blotches on the surfaces of the leaves.

Size is a matter of preference: a small plant will cost less, and although it will soon need repotting, it will adapt quickly to its new surroundings and begin to grow. A larger specimen will have instant impact, although

it will cost more and may take longer to adapt to the conditions in its new home.

Plants that are blooming, such as polyanthus, and spring bulbs, have the added attraction that once they have finished flowering, they can be planted outdoors, and be enjoyed for years to come.



Who do you recognize?
Flash back to the 1960s

District 2 engineers posed for this photo on May 26, 1964.

According to available information the only survivors of this group are L. B. Bryan, who retired as District 2 Engineer and now resides in Greenwood; and W.H. Kay who was transferred into the Columbia Central Office, retired

as Motor Vehicle Administrator, currently resides in West Columbia and presented this picture for publication.

The photograph was taken by Bob Edmunds who was Maintenance Clerk in McCormick County at the time and later retired as RME in McCormick County. He continues to reside in McCormick.

FIRST ROW, left to right: M.L. Murph, District Construction Engineer; R.W. Jones, District Engineer; W.H. Kay, District Mechanical Engineer; L.B. Aull, District Maintenance Engineer.

SECOND ROW, L-R: W.E. Earl, RCE Edgefield; Sam Earle, RCE Laurens; M.O. Boyce, RCE Abbeville; J.E. Bryan, RME Laurens; O.E. O'Shields, RME Abbeville; J.W. Hipp, RME McCormick.

BACK ROW, L-R: K.A. Douglas, RCE Greenwood; W.K. Conner, RCE McCormick; Joe Ramsey, RCE Saluda; E. S. Sutherland, RCE Newberry; W.C. Beckham, RME Edgefield; G.R. Webb, RME Saluda; C.H. Herndon, RME Greenwood; L.B. Bryan, RME Newberry.

SCDOT participates in Walk for Life



Participants in the Walk For Life included, from left: Jan Janicki, James Cassidy, Louise Moore, Sherri Miller, Dianne Janicki, Sherry Barton, Stacy Eargle, Marie Anderson, Pam Amick and Missy Webster.

Other team members not in photo: Barbara Sharpe, Jessica Beck, William Beck, Louise Haggerty, Stephen Meetze, Lynn Shealy, Tom Dodds, Linda Fulmer, Kati Holland, Bud Lorick, Teddie Gillette, Deborah Durden, Wanda Webb, Margaret Oswald, Ann Tindall, Donald McElveen, Angela Hance, Michelle Lincoln, Jeanette Arvay, Teresa Mozingo, Shirley Johnson, Sherrie Bordeaux, Sandy Cary, Jim Devereaux, Katie Shealy, Ellie Hurlburt and Kenny Mozingo.

SCDOT employees were among the estimated 10,000 walkers who participated in the Oct. 7 First Ladies' Walk for Life - Steps Against Breast Cancer walk.

The early-morning walk started in Columbia's Finlay Park and benefits Palmetto Health's South Carolina Comprehensive Breast Center for awareness, education, patient and family support and

research.

Each year, more than 3,200 South Carolinians (men and women) are diagnosed with breast cancer.

Participants raise money through entry fees and collecting donations in honor or in memory of family, friends and loved ones who have been affected by this disease.

The \$20 entry fee included

an SCDOT T-shirt with the team logo, bandanas for cancer survivors, water during the walk and snacks after the walk.

If you would like to participate in next year's walk, please contact Louise Moore in the Office of Planning and Environmental at 803-737-1438 or Angela Hance in Road Data Services - Traffic Engineering at 803-737-1466.

FHWA has new Safety, Traffic Operations Engineer

Jim Garling has joined the Federal Highway Administration's South Carolina Division Office as the Safety and Traffic Operations Engineer.

Garling joined the FHWA in July 2001. Prior to his move to South Carolina, Garling was a transportation engineer in the FHWA Pennsylvania Division Office.

His job involves working with SCDOT and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety to reduce the number of fatalities on South Carolina roads.

The position was formerly held by David Morris who moved to the Texas Division of the FHWA.

Garling, a native of Harrisburg, Penn., graduated from Cedar Cliff High School and Pennsylvania State University. He received transportation office basic course training with the U.S. Army.

Garling is married to the former Christina Razga of Carlisle, Penn. They have three children, Charles (12), Sydney (9) and Autumn (7).



Jim Garling

Garling is a member of the U.S. Army Reserves at Fort Jackson and a member of Corpus Christie Catholic Church in Lexington.

In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, computer gadgets, digital photography and restoring old lawn and garden tractors.

DID YOU KNOW?

SCDOT's "27-in-7" Accelerated Construction Program has saved taxpayers between \$3 billion and \$10 billion. Because of it, South Carolinians are driving on roads today that would not have been completed until 2026.

Crews move 75-ton historic dam gates

By Bob Kudelka

Gene Ardis admits he had a few restless nights thinking about the task ahead of him.

Moving a pair of 75-ton stone monuments built in 1930 at Lake Murray had plenty of unknowns, mainly how fragile the stone blocks would be once Ardis' crew hooked them to a crane and moved them from the path of the SC 6 widening project.

"I've moved things a lot bigger and heavier but not as possibly fragile," said Ardis, steel and rigging project manager with Cripple Creek Corp., Inc., and a 34-year construction veteran. "I've never done anything like this."

When it came time for the move in late September, Ardis tried to ignore the taped numbers on each stone block – painstakingly put there in case the monuments needed to be re-constructed if things did not go well.

The stone entrance gates at both ends of the Lake Murray Dam on SC 6 in Lexington County were erected circa 1930 by the Highway Commission to honor the naming of Lake Murray (for William Spencer Murray, Chief Engineer) by a Special Act of the General Assembly, said SCDOT's Bonnie Frick, who researched the historical information.

"The gates are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of their association with the Lake Murray Dam and their unique architecture," Frick said.

Due to their historical significance and potential adverse effects that the SC 6 widening project would have on the gates, Frick said SCDOT coordinated with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and historical groups.

The result of this coordination was the decision to relocate two of the four stone gates to preserve the "gateway appearance" at both ends of the dam.

"Each one of the entrance gates is constructed of broken coursed blue granite stone and has a curved footprint," Frick said. "On each set of gates there are two bronze plaques that com-

"I think the Lake Murray community will be real pleased that we retained these monuments of the lake that were actually here when the lake was built."

-- Thad Brunson
District 1 DEA

memorate the completion of the dam."

The move came Sept. 25-26 with C. Ray Miles, the prime contractor, Cripple Creek Corp., Inc., and SCDOT working together.

Workers first dug out around each foundation and slid a steel platform made out of I beams. With a gap left between the steel beam and the footer, they used grout to pack the spacing, making it virtually as strong as steel.

Then they erected vertical bars to keep the monuments from shifting during the move. As an added precaution, the contractor rented four 25-ton air activated hoists tied to the rigging of the crane to keep the monuments level.

Once they lifted the monuments and set them in place at their new locations 65 feet away, workers poured new concrete foundations.

"All the mortar joints on the walls virtually have some kind of stress to them," said Fred Barnes, area manager for CRM East. "You just didn't know what was going to take place. The biggest challenge has been all the unknowns."

With a small crowd gathered, both moves went off without a problem and the historic gates settled in to their new locations.

"It's been a delicate but somewhat calculated move that's taken a lot of teamwork and effort to maintain the integrity of the structure," Barnes said.

"I think the Lake Murray community will be real pleased that we retained these monuments of the lake that were actually here when the lake was built," said District 1 DEA Thad Brunson after watching the 300-ton crane gently lower the second gate. "It was a good cooperative effort



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT moves one of the 150,000 pound gates at the Lake Murray Dam to make room for two additional lanes as part of the SC 6 widening project over Lake Murray dam. The historic gates were moved approximately 50 feet.

with us, our planning and the contractor. I think they're going to be well pleased."

Among the interested spectators was Betty Strait, whose father built the monuments 76 years ago. Her father was Lexington funeral home owner Charles E. Taylor, who also had a contract with the power company to move graves at sites where the lake would be

coming.

Taylor also had a memorial service and built tombstones using blue granite from his quarries in Chapin and other areas. Strait said Taylor built the stone gates at Lake Murray for free, not surprising for a man who held funerals without charge for families who could not afford to pay.

For Strait, the last survivor among Taylor's four children, the stone gates are a reminder of her father, who died in 1955.

"I really can't explain how I do

feel - I look at them with admiration and I think about what a wonderful person he was," said Strait, her voice choked with emotion. "He was a special fella."

Ardis cracked a smile as he looked back at the gates, now safely moved. Among the remaining tasks: pull the numbers tagged on each block – they now would not be needed.

"It went off as I had hoped it would," Ardis said. "I can't say enough good things about the people who built this thing. They did a super job."



Workers unhook and remove heavy chains and hooks after one of the stone gates was moved.



Each piece of the stone structure was numbered and labeled with duct tape. If the structure cracked or fell apart, the numbered labels would help put it back together.



Bronze plaques on the gates describe the Lake Murray dam by the numbers. When built in 1930, it was the largest earthen dam in the United States.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Outdoor Advertising wins three national awards

By Bob Kudelka

If someone had to put up a billboard to describe this year's outdoor advertising national conference, it would read, "SCDOT Wins Big!"

SCDOT swept the 2006 National Alliance of Highway Beautification Agencies (NAHBA) Conference Awards in Cleveland, Ohio. Representatives from 32 states and the Federal Highway Administration attended.

"We had a clean sweep," said

Keith Melvin, Director of Outdoor Advertising. "It makes me feel very proud. The Outdoor Advertising office has made great strides in terms of improving customer service and in terms of showing uniformity. The conference gave other states the opportunity to see how South Carolina administers its program and conducts its business."

SCDOT's Outdoor Advertising Office was elected as the winner in the categories of Innovations in Outdoor Advertising and

Streamlining and Integration in Outdoor Advertising.

The Innovations award was based on the Outdoor Advertising Office's web site, which has many handy features both for SCDOT employees and sign owners, Melvin said.

"Our web site gives immediate access to a sign owner so he can view what we have already permitted or see the status of an application," Melvin said. "It's been great in terms of improving customer service."

With a click of a mouse, users can view permit information. Outdoor Advertising staff can view digital photographs of each billboard. The photos are taken by coordinators in each district.

The second award to Melvin's office was given for streamlining the permitting process by using a

new software program. The program cuts down the time for permit approval to as little as three days, Melvin said.

"It's made the entire process much quicker," he said.

FHWA's Melvyn Cooper, Division Realty Officer, provided guidance to the Outdoor Advertising Office in seeking federal transportation enhancement funds for the permitting system.

An additional award, called the Chairman's Award, was given to SCDOT's Barbara Wessinger of the Legal Office for strong leadership skills as Chairperson of the national organization.

Wessinger is the attorney for the Outdoor Advertising office.

"She is a great asset to the Outdoor Advertising program," Melvin said.

SCDOT also won a contest for a new design logo created by Lawton Player. NAHBA held a contest for a new logo that was computer-friendly and represented its organization.

Melvin said his office is not resting on the laurels of the successful national conference.

He and his staff are working on a pilot program that, if ap-

proved, would allow sign owners to take down two signs in the SCDOT inventory in exchange for being allowed to upgrade one non-conforming sign on two popular highways for tourists, I-26 and I-95.

Melvin said the pilot program has the potential to change how non-conforming signs are addressed in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 23, Part 750.

"We think if our project is approved many states will probably try and follow suit," Melvin said. "South Carolina is on the cutting edge of Outdoor Advertising in the United States."

The Outdoor Advertising Office manages more than 6,400 active billboard permits and over 1,400 vegetation maintenance permits.

The office includes Melvin, Christine Brewster, Administrative Assistant, and Carolyn Lindsay, Administrative Specialist II.

District Coordinators are Teresa Harley, District 1; Karl Hoffman, District 2; Joyce Gardner, District 3; Leroy Davidson, District 4; Randy Ponton, District 5; Sheila Crouse, District 6; and Dorothy Ervin, District 7.



Lawton Player of SCDOT designed the winning logo for the National Alliance of Highway Beautification Agencies. The logo above was selected by members attending the 2006 Conference in Louisiana.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The SCDOT Commission honored the SCDOT Outdoor Advertising office after SCDOT won all three awards at the 2006 National Alliance of Highway Beautification Agencies Conference Awards in Cleveland, Ohio. Shown standing, from left, are: Lawton Player, Keith Melvin, Shirley Jeffcoat, Joyce Gardener, Teresa Harley, Christine Brewster, Carolyn Lindsay, Shelia Crouse, Leroy Davidson, Karl Hoffman, Randy Ponton and FHWA representative Mel Cooper.

Crews remove tons of trash during fall cleanup

SCDOT maintenance crews removed 268,784 pounds of trash from South Carolina highways during the Department's annual fall cleanup.

The event is held to help ensure travelers can enjoy the beauty of South Carolina without the unsightliness of litter.

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry said, 1,601 SCDOT employees took part in the fall cleanup, held in September.

"The cleanup efforts of our maintenance employees are an outstanding demonstration of the agency's commitment to a cleaner South Carolina," Mabry said.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Overpass named in memory of Trooper Jonathan Wade Parker

Family members unveil a sign on Oct. 11 near the US 378 bridge over I-95 in Clarendon County in memory of Trooper Jonathan Wade Parker. Parker died on May 16, 2005, while assisting other law enforcement officers in pursuit of a suspect in the robbery of a convenience store. The fugitive ran off the roadway and intentionally struck Parker's patrol car, killing Parker instantly. The ceremony was held on what would have been Parker's 31st birthday.

3 projects open in District 3

Greenville, Spartanburg projects open ahead of schedule

By Bob Kudelka

Red ribbons were a common sight in District 3 in early fall and late summer, as opening ceremonies were held for three projects in Spartanburg and Greenville counties.

Dignitaries gathered to cut the ribbons and formally open three projects: the SC 296 widening project in Spartanburg County; the Harrison Bridge Interchange Improvements in Greenville County; and the Interstate 585 Highway Infrastructure Project in Spartanburg County.

While each project was different, they had something in common: they were all opened ahead of schedule.

SC 296 widening

The ceremony for the SC 296 widening project, which was completed on budget and ahead of schedule, was held on Aug. 14.

The project completed the second phase of widening SC 296 from SC 290 to SC 295 and included widening the highway to seven lanes and a new interchange at Interstate 26.

Speakers included Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, Commissioner F. Hugh Atkins, of the 4th Congressional District; South Carolina State Representative W. Douglas "Doug" Smith, District 32; and Kevin Reed of Sloan Construction Company, Inc. Kristen Lominack, Director of State Governmental Affairs, presided.

"We would like to do more of these type projects all across the state of South Carolina," Mabry said. "This is a wonderful project. It is relieving congestion. The route to the airport is going to be improved."

Atkins said the project had been on the books for 20 years, but was put off the table in the 1990s because of a lack of funding.

"With Betty Mabry's vision and pulling the partners together, we have been able to complete the project and I'm very proud of it," Atkins said.

In addition to being a main artery, the project is a key link to the Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport.

"The airport is No. 5 among 55 general aviation airports in the state and produces about \$5.9 million for the local economy," Atkins said. "Transportation projects have a tremendous impact on our state's economic development."

Safety is also an issue, as Atkins recalled being in a collision atop the bridge in 1995 when he was "turned around and almost spun upside down."

"I think this highway is far safer than it's ever been before," Atkins said.

Atkins thanked Steve Gwinn,

District 3 DEA, and Eric Dillon for their efforts.

Mabry recognized many partners including the SPATS Policy Committee for its contribution; Mayor William Barnet and the Spartanburg City staff for the enhancement items added to the corridor; The South Carolina State Infrastructure Bank and the GRID Steering committee; and the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation.

Representative Smith called it a "great day for all of Spartanburg."

"These are economic development projects," Smith said. "These are not just about asphalt or roadways. People need to understand that these are as big an investment when they're being done as any."

"There are many of us who are working to try to find ways to fund road projects all over this state."

Reed said 24 subcontractors worked on the project, which he called "a fine example of how true partnering can work."

Harrison Bridge Interchange

The ribbon-cutting ceremony



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Dignitaries cut the ribbon at the Reidville Road (SC 296) intersection on Aug. 14.

for the Harrison Bridge Interchange Improvements at I-385 in Greenville County was held atop the northbound I-385 ramp on Oct. 16. The project was completed two months ahead of schedule.

Speakers included SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry; South Carolina State Senator David Thomas; South Carolina State Senator Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin III; South Carolina State Representative Garry R. Smith; and Jim Ewart of US Constructors, Inc.

The two bridges, the Frontage Roads, and the Southbound and Northbound on and off ramps have been constructed and open to the traveling public two months earlier than intended in the interim completion date.

Prior to this construction there

was no access to Northbound I-385 from Harrison Bridge Road. Now, there will be full access to I-385 from Harrison Bridge Road northbound and southbound.

The prime contractor was US Constructors, Inc. and the bridge contractor was United Contractors, Inc.

Interstate 585

The dedication ceremony for the Interstate 585 Highway Infrastructure Project was held in Spartanburg County on Oct. 25 at the front lawn of the Administration Building, University of South Carolina Upstate campus.

The project was opened a month ahead of schedule.

Speakers included SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry; SCDOT Commissioner F.

Hugh Atkins, 4th Congressional District; South Carolina State Representative Doug Smith, Chairman of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation; Reginald S. Avery, Acting Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, USC Upstate; Lee Blair, Executive Vice President of the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce; Jeffrey A. Horton, Chairman of the Spartanburg County Council; and Kevin Reed, Regional Manager, Sloan Construction-Upstate Division.

Commissioners in attendance in addition to Atkins were Marion P. Carnell, 3rd Congressional District; and John N. Hardee, 2nd Congressional District.

"This I-585 project has not only dramatically improved access to this university, it has transformed one of the main gateways into our community," said Jeffrey A. Horton, Chairman of the Spartanburg County Council. "It will provide access to the adjacent undeveloped acreage which we believe will soon be home to innovation and jobs for our community."

"This is a grand example of a long-term vision becoming a reality, a success on multiple fronts."

Mabry gave an overview of the project, which had a total length of 7.1 miles and included the construction of six bridges beginning just south of Business I-85 and ending just south of I-85. It included widening and overlaying a portion of Business I-85 from just west of I-585 to just east of I-585.

"We're very proud of the work that went into this project to make it come in ahead of time and on budget," Mabry said. "This is a great project, I've been proud of it for a long time."

Mabry said the project was part of the Upstate GRID program. (Growth, Reduce Congestion, Improve Safety, Design for the Future) The GRID proposal consisted of three elements: upgraded interstates, a new parkway, and upgraded or new connectors. The GRID program is an initiative that combined funding from the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank with a multitude of other sources to address a regional problem. Upstate leaders recognized that upstate motorists do not stop at county lines where they work, live, shop and entertain.

The contractor on the I-585 project was Sloan Construction.



Contractors, elected officials, construction workers, media and the public were on hand for the Oct. 16 ribbon cutting of the Harrison Bridge Interchange and I-385.



The I-585 project has made getting to the University of South Carolina Upstate a little easier. Above, dignitaries from SCDOT, the legislature and USC Upstate cut the ribbon on Oct. 25.

Moving Up

Joe W. Alewine, Engr./Geodetic Technician II at Greenwood Construction, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

Albert E. Alford, Trades Specialist III at Dillon Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Herman Alford, Trades Specialist II at Florence Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Brooke N. Andrews, Clerical Assistant (Spec) District 2 Office, to Administrative Specialist I.

John R. Barrett, Supply Specialist III, Anderson Maintenance, to Trades Specialist V.

Laura B. Beaver, Supply Specialist II, Marion Maintenance, to Administrative Specialist II.

Isaac S. Bentley, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, in Director of Maintenance office, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

William K. Berry, Engineer/Associate Engineer III, District 5 Office, to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV.

Curtis Blanchard, Trades Specialist III, Holly Hill Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Michael Boatwright, Trades Specialist II, Marion Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Samuel E. Brewer, Trades Specialist III, McCormick Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Diane W. Brown, Trades Specialist II, Newberry Maintenance, to Engr./Geodetic Technician II.

James Brown Jr., Trades Maintenance Helper (Spec), Building Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Jacqueline W. Buckner, Administrative Specialist I, District 1 Office, to Administrative Specialist II.

Charles E. Byrd, Trades Specialist V, Colleton Maintenance, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Janet H. Byrd, Trades Specialist II, Darlington Maintenance, to Engr./Geodetic Technician II.

James E. Cammon, Trades Specialist II, Fairfield Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Vernon S. Carroll, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, Surveys-Greenville, to Engineer/Associate Engineer I.

Westley J. Chandler, Trades Specialist II, Aiken Maintenance, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

Jim H. Christopher, Trades Specialist II, Orangeburg Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Harold Coleman Jr., Maintenance Helper (Spec), Marion Maintenance, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Allen J. Colson, Trades Specialist II, Dorchester Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Bryant H. Cooper, Mechanic I, Florence Maintenance to Mechanic III.

Jocelyn A. Covington, Administrative Specialist II, Assets Management, to Program Assistant.

Silas C. Craven, Mechanic III, Colleton Maintenance to Trades Specialist V.

Glynis P. Davis, Auditor IV, Contract Program Resource Service, to Senior Consultant.

John W. Deierlein, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, Bridge Design, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Brent Dillon, Engineer/Associate Engineer III, Traffic Engineering, to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV.

Leroy Durant, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, Surveys-Florence, to Engineer/Associate Engineer I.

Jeffrey O. Elliott, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, Director of Construction office, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Robert E. Galbreath, Trades Specialist III, Pickens Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Rodgers M. Gaskin, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, D-5 Bridge Inspection, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Natascha C. Gathers, Trades Specialist II, Lower Sign Shop, to Supply Specialist III.

Herbert Gilliard, Trades Specialist III, Berkeley Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

David Gillyard, Trades Specialist III, Florence Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Derrick A. Goodman, Trades Specialist II, Richland Construction, to Engr./Geodetic Technician II.

Peter J. Gosnell, Trades Specialist III, Hampton Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Randy C. Graham, Maintenance Helper (Spec), Horry 1 Maintenance, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Anthony J. Green, Trades Specialist II, Lexington Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Christopher W. Green, Trades Specialist IV, District 6 Office, to Incident Responder II.

Kenneth R. Gromest, Engr./Geodetic Technician II, Greenville Construction, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

Chuckley D. Gurley, Trades Specialist II, Florence Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Steven W. Gwinn, Engineer/Associate Engineer IV (District Engineering Administrator), District 3, to Director Of Engineering.

Beverly G. Hamlin, Administrative Specialist I, Darlington Maintenance, to Supply Specialist III.

Helen J. Hand, Administrative Specialist II, Rights of Way - Orangeburg, to Right Of Way Agent I.

Michael T. Hannah, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, Abbeville Construction, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Martin P. Hans, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, Marlboro Maintenance, to Trades Specialist V.

Teresa L. Harley, Administrative Specialist II, District 1 Office, to Administrative Assistant.

Rodney E. Hartley, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, Research & Materials, to Engineer/Associate Engineer I.

Ronnel L. Haynes, Trades Specialist II, Colleton Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Robert I. Herndon, Trades Specialist IV, Orangeburg Maintenance, to Trades Specialist V.

James R. Herron, Trades Specialist III, Bamberg Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Amy J. Hightower, Trades Specialist II, Orangeburg Maintenance, to Administrative Specialist II.

Johnny M. Hilton, Trades Specialist II, Clarendon Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Billy S. Hinson, Trades Specialist II, Kershaw Maintenance, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

Tammy C. Hodge, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Sumter Maintenance, to Program Manager I.

Coleman K. Holladay, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Clarendon Maintenance, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Walter S. Hubbard, Maintenance Helper (Spec), Berkeley Maintenance, to Trades Specialist II.

Eargle named Asst. Deputy State Highway Engineer

Kenny Eargle, of Blythewood, has been named Assistant Deputy State Highway Engineer, succeeding Tony Sheppard.

Eargle will assist the Deputy State Highway Engineer of Operations in providing guidance and direction to ten engineering divisions, including preparation of correspondence, review and implementation of Special Projects.

Eargle joined SCDOT in 1982 as Engineer Associate II in Georgetown Construction. He was promoted to assistant resident maintenance engineer at

Richland Maintenance in 1998, and to resident maintenance engineer in 2000. He became State Maintenance Quality Engineer in the Director of Maintenance office in 2002.

He is a graduate of Spring Valley High School and the University of South Carolina. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in South Carolina.

He is married to the former Cynthia Stevens. They have a son, Bryan and a daughter, Melyssa. Eargle is a member of the Board of Trustees at Trinity United Methodist Church in Blythewood.



Kenny Eargle

Mark Pleasant named Statewide Planning Chief

Mark D. Pleasant, of Columbia, has been named Statewide Planning Chief in the Planning Office. He will be responsible for administering statewide, regional and urban intermodal transportation planning services.

A native of Miami, Fla., Pleasant is a 1985 graduate of Palmetto Senior High, a 1989 graduate of Newberry College

and holds a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning from Clemson University. He joined SCDOT in 1998 as Urban Planning Manager.

He is married to the former Geraldine Sherwood of Charleston. They have a daughter, Megan, age 6. They are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



Mark Pleasant

Isaac L. James, Trades Specialist II, Bamberg Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Ronnie P. James, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Darlington Maintenance, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

David L. Johnson, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Dillon Construction, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Cecil C. Jones, Trades Specialist II, Florence Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Eric A. Jones, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, D-6 Bridge Inspection, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Bobby Jordan, Trades Specialist II, Chesterfield Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Stanley Joyner, Trades Specialist II, D-6 Bridge Inspection, to Trades Specialist IV.

John K. Kinloch, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, Richland Construction, to Engineer/Associate Engineer I.

Benjamin J. Lee, Engineering Assistant (Spec), District 5 Office, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

Steven C. Lever, Trades Specialist II, Newberry Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

James A. Lewis, Trades Specialist II, Chesterfield Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Thomas R. Lewis, of Berkeley Maintenance, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

George C. Long, Trades Specialist III, Saluda Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Daniel J. Machado, Clerical Assistant (Spec), Information Technology Services, to Information Resource Consult. I.

Timothy E. McAlister, Trades Specialist II, Oconee Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Billy R. McCall, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Pickens Maintenance, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Stephen R. McCrae, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, Bridge Design, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Annette L. McCrorey, Right Of Way Agent II, Rights of Way, to Program Coordinator II.

Lynda A. McLaine, Engr./Geodetic Technician II, Colleton Maintenance, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

April C. Meetze, Trades Specialist II, Edgefield Maintenance, to Engr./Geodetic Technician II.

William D. Meetze, Engineer/Associate Engineer III, Bridge Design, to Engineer/Associate Engineer IV.

O'dell M. Middleton, Trades Specialist II, Holly Hill Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Joey R. Mills, Trades Specialist II, Spartanburg Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Jonathan E. Mishoe, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, Horry Construction, to Engineer/Associate Engineer I.

John W. Mitchum, Trades Specialist IV, D-6 Bridge Inspection, to Trades Specialist V.

Paulette C. Morphy, Administrative Specialist I, Bridge Design, to Administrative Assistant.

Lynn E. Myers, Administrative Specialist II, Director of Rights of Way - Charleston, to Right Of Way Agent I.

Dusty G. Nelson, Trades Specialist II, Greenwood Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

John A. Nix, Maintenance Helper (Spec), Abbeville Maintenance, to Trades Specialist II.

Alisa J. O'Neill, Administrative Specialist II, Assets Management, to Administrative Assistant.

Douglas M. Parker, Trades Specialist II, McCormick Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Gwendeline J. Peagler, Supply Specialist III, Lower Sign Shop, to Trades Specialist IV.

William Pearson, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, Surveys-Florence, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Robert E. Perry, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Bridge Design, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

George O. Pickering, Trades Specialist III, Orangeburg Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

James W. Powers, Trades Specialist III, Lancaster Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Carla H. Prather, Information Resource Coord., District 6 Office, to Information Resource Consult. I.

Larry D. Prescott, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Surveys-Florence, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Janice Redd, Administrative Specialist II, Director of Construction office, to Administrative Assistant.

Matthew D. Reed, Trades Specialist II, Florence Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Johanna R. Reid, Supply Specialist II, Berkeley Maintenance, to Supply Specialist III.

Ronnie M. Reynolds, Engr./Geodetic Technician II, Beaufort Maintenance, to Environmental/Health Manager I.

Betty G. Richardson, Clerical Assistant (Spec), Executive Director and Staff office, to Administrative Specialist II.

Clayton W. Richter, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, Anderson Construction, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Anthony Robinson, Trades Specialist III, Allendale Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Hiawatha Robinson, Trades Specialist III, Lancaster Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Matthew D. Sanford, Engr./Geodetic Technician II, Charleston Maintenance, to Trades Specialist IV.

Teresa H. Sharpe, Administrative Specialist II, Traffic Engineering, to Administrative Assistant.

Matthew J. Shealy, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Newberry Construction, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Stephney Jr. Simmons, Trades Specialist II, Beaufort Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Darryl T. Smith, Trades Specialist II, Spartanburg Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

See MOVING UP
on page 23

Women's Forum 2006



Columbia



Charleston



Greenville



District 5

Cross Island Parkway

Hilton Head toll facility thanks loyal customers



Cross Island Parkway staff held a special Customer Appreciation Day on Aug. 18 for motorists using the toll road in Hilton Head. At right, staff grilled hotdogs for customers stopping by to pay on their Palmetto Pass accounts. Shown, from left, are: Marge Dorey, Jeff O'Neill, Junene Simmons, Mike Young, Anna Salvagin and Anthony DePodesta.



Tamasha Frazier collects a toll from a motorist and hands them a piece of candy as part of the Customer Appreciation Day. Frazier is from Point South in Jasper County and has worked on the CIP for 4 months.



Customer service representatives greet customers as they stop by to buy Palmetto Passes at the Cross Island Parkway office. From left are: Junene Simmons, Logan Haynes, Monieke Robinson and Jessica Bryan.



The 2006 Backhoe Rodeo was held at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia, SC on October 17, 2006. The winners were: First Place - Lewis Brazell of York Maintenance, Second Place - Dennis Moore of Chester Maintenance and Third Place - Raymond Schmuck of Anderson Maintenance. Shown from left are: SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, Director of Maintenance Jim Feda, Brazell, Moore, Schmuck and State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman.

Pottery artist wins big at fair



Dana Ammer of the Legal Division displays some her pottery face jugs that won her a handful of ribbons at this year's State Fair. Ammer and her husband, Greg, have been creating pottery art for a few years and make a variety of different items. Each face jug is one of a kind and Ammer has made more than 200 of the 'ugly little devils.'

RESPONSE from page 1

During the time that SCDOT did not submit all invoices for reimbursement, there was insufficient federal authority to reimburse all the invoices. As soon as federal funds were made available, SCDOT billed larger amounts of invoices.

It is important to note that the LAC staff failed to discuss this issue with the FHWA, which is the appropriate entity to determine whether or not SCDOT has met FHWA requirements.

FHWA, which has oversight over federal transportation funding, and a true understanding of financial rules and complexities, has stated that SCDOT is in compliance with systems and procedures to assure the fiscal integrity of highway program costs. FHWA has also stated that

SCDOT has not failed to timely bill.

COMPARATIVE DATA

The report claims that SCDOT uses comparative data that is not valid. The data referenced is from official FHWA publications, which is the best data available for information on Departments of Transportation. It is the data used for apportionment of transportation funding and is the basis for the independent study that rates SCDOT as the second most cost effective DOT in the nation.

Even though the South Carolina LAC staff does not consider the official FHWA Highway Statistics as reliable data, other states, independent research groups and federal agencies do consider it valid and use it on a regular basis. SCDOT is proud to be recognized as the second most cost effective DOT in the nation.

Of course this agency is not perfect. There

are areas where improvement can be made and SCDOT will continue to review processes and practices to ensure that adjustments or changes are made where needed.

The detailed response includes the issues where SCDOT will be conducting these reviews.

I am extremely disappointed that the LAC staff chose to focus on issues that had been fed to them by sources (who they have not disclosed to SCDOT), who may not have sufficient knowledge to understand processes, or who may have a personal or political agenda for trying to discredit SCDOT.

I am even more disappointed that the LAC staff did not seek information directly from me, or the State Highway Engineer or the Director of Finance or the Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, or the CRM firms. I am disappointed that, in several instances, when SCDOT presented facts that demonstrated

good stewardship of tax dollars, the LAC staff chose to ignore or discredit the information.

The bottom line however is that after fourteen months of intensive investigation, the LAC did not find significant issues with 99% of SCDOT's total expenditures.

I encourage you to read the following detailed information. SCDOT's response to the LAC Report was limited to only a few pages. However, there is more to the SCDOT story than what you will find in the LAC Report and that you read in the newspapers.

The employees and I believe that once you read our response to the LAC Report, you will understand how and why SCDOT has been rated among the top DOTs in the nation during the past decade.

In addition to this response, Mabry has a message for all SCDOT Employees in her column entitled "Directions" on page 2.

Saving lives

Median cable barrier hits top 10,000

By Bob Kudelka

Sallie C. Till was driving on Interstate 20 on a rainy summer morning when her Dodge Durango hydroplaned.

Her vehicle slid into the median, striking the cable barriers and spinning into reverse along the cables until coming to a stop.

"I was shaken, to say the least, but truly thankful for the interstate cable median barriers that I believe saved my life that day," Till said.

Mark Hoffman was driving on I-26 during Thanksgiving 2002 weekend traffic when the cables prevented his vehicle, which was carrying his wife and two children, from entering oncoming traffic, he said.

"If I was in the opposite direction I could only thank God that those cables were there," Hoffman said.

Till and Hoffman were among the speakers at an Oct. 18 news conference held by SCDOT and its partners, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS), near Interstate 77 in Lexington County.

The news conference was held to mark a milestone in the cable barrier program: The cable guardrails have recorded more than 10,000 hits, or "saves," since the program began in 2001.

Speakers included SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, FHWA South Carolina



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Sallie C. Till of St. Matthews tells how the cable barrier saved her life when she lost control of her SUV on a rainy morning in Florence. In the background is a poster showing her SUV after it was stopped by the cable system.



Division Administrator Bob Lee and SCDPS Director Jim Schweitzer.

Attendees included Marion P. Carnell, 3rd Congressional District, and former Commissioners B. Bayles Back and S. Lyman Whitehead. Whitehead is also a former member of the State Infrastructure Bank, which approved funding for the cable barrier program.

SCDOT in 2001 began a program to install cable barriers in median highways. To date, 470 miles of cable barriers have been installed on our interstate

LEFT: Mark Hoffman and his wife, Kitty, pose with their family by a model of the cable guard rail that prevented a deadly crossover crash for them in November 2002. From left, Pate (4), Pearce (2), Mark, Lana (9 weeks old) and Kitty.

medians. Between January 2001, and August 2006, these barriers have experienced 10,451 hits, or "saves."

"There are many successes at DOT but this is a special success, one that we can certainly say without a doubt has made a tremendous difference in the lives of South Carolinians and tourists to our state," Mabry said.

In the year 2000, the last full year before cable median barriers were installed, there were 27 crossover fatalities on South Carolina interstate highways.

Since the cable barriers have been installed, there have been significant improvements in crossover crash statistics:

- In 2005, there was 1 interstate crossover fatalities in South Carolina.
- Between January 1, 2006 and August 31, 2006, there was 1 crossover fatality on our interstates.

"We at the Federal Highway

Administration are committed to our partnership with SCDOT, and we are proud of our contribution to securing these life-saving barriers for our interstates," Lee said.

"The cable barriers have saved lives and will continue to do so in the future," said SC Department of Public Safety Director Jim Schweitzer. "And we, the entire SCDPS family, are proud to have a part in this highly successful program."

SCDOT joined with FHWA, the South Carolina State Legislature, the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) and SCDPS to address the problem of crossover crashes. As a result, SCDOT secured funding from the SIB and SCDPS and, in January 2001, SCDOT began installing cable median barriers. Mabry thanked the members of the SCDOT Commission, both from 2000 and current members, and members of the SIB involved in providing the funding for the cable barriers.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The SCDOT Procurement Division is: Front row, from left, Janet Jones, Sandra Suber, Mike Burk, Rudy Cabot, Kenneth Wiggins, Lane Crooks, Cheryl Patrick. Back row, from left, Paul Flondarina, Gwen Gibson, Marie Sharpe, Sateria West, Shelia Willis, Sandra Wright and Norma Hall.

SCDOT Procurement earns two awards for excellence

The South Carolina Department of Transportation's Procurement Division has received two national awards for the excellent job it does in public procurement.

Achievement of Excellence in Procurement

The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award was presented by the National Purchasing Institute to SCDOT's Procurement Division for its organizational excellence.

The award is earned by public or non-profit organizations that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on 18 standardized criteria and numerous sub categories.

The criteria are designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement and leadership attributes of the procurement organization.

The award is sponsored by National Purchasing Institute, Institute for Supply Management, California Association of Public Purchasing Officers, National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, National Association of State Procurement Officials and the National Association of Educational Procurement.

Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement Award

SCDOT's Procurement Division has also received the Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement Award (OA4) by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing Inc. (NIGP).

The award is given only to leaders in the public procurement profession based on a comprehensive review of purchasing practices and professionalism. The award not only recognizes the Procurement Division's competency the public purchasing profession, but also that the agency makes sound decisions that reflect maximum value for the taxpayer's dollars.

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc. (NIGP) is a national, membership-based non-profit organization providing support to professionals in the public sector purchasing profession by providing education, professional networking, research, and technical assistance. NIGP has over 2100 agency members representing federal, state, provincial and local government entities across the United States and Canada.

When the weather outside is frightful, salt on hand is delightful

By Bob Kudelka

In District 3, Halloween has another meaning in addition to ghosts and goblins.

It's also the deadline for winter storm preparation throughout the District's counties of Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg.

"We always try to target Oct. 31 as the date that we're ready, because after that you never know about the weather," said District 3 DEA Steve Gwinn.

While winter storm preparation goes on throughout SCDOT, it takes on added emphasis in District 3, where the chances are greatest of a storm event.

"You can never prepare enough," Gwinn said. "That's why we spend the fall getting ready. You never know when we're going to have one of those 16- or 18-inch storms like we did in '88."

Gwinn said all equipment is checked in October. Employees check their routes and make contact with partners in local governments and the private sector.

"We spend a lot of time coordinating with different municipalities and contacting who will help if we have a big snow event," Gwinn said. "The City of Spartanburg, for instance, helps participate in snow removal. Also, our construction engineers coordinate with contractors, getting agreements back with snow removal."



The "Mega Salt Dome" on Shop Road stores 10,000 tons of salt for use in inclement weather. The facility has concrete walls along the base with a domed PVC roof.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

During a storm, SCDOT's top priorities are keeping interstate highways open, followed by US highways, primary routes and access roads to hospitals.

Gwinn said Incident Responders play a key role in assisting

motorists during storms.

At Headquarters, the Director of Maintenance Office provides support to the Districts, said Director Jim Feda.

In addition to monitoring forecasts from the National Weather

Service, the Director of Maintenance Office monitors weather stations across the state for the latest information on the temperature of pavement and bridge surfaces, as well as humidity and precipitation.

A good forecast is critical in decisions such as when to apply anti-icing solutions to the highway.

"By knowing the temperature of our pavements, we know when to time our treatments," Feda said. "We try to do anti-icing rather than de-icing. From a cost standpoint it's more economical and from a safety standpoint it's better to prevent icing."

The salt brine prevents ice from bonding to the pavement, he said.

In the past, there have been major winter storms impacting the East Coast that have caused

"When it snows, we pour."

Steve Lindler
Supply and Equipment

limited salt supplies. When that happens, it can be difficult for agencies to acquire salt, and prices can be high.

SCDOT built a dome to hold 10,000 tons of salt at the Supply and Equipment Depot off Shop Road late last winter. With the salt dome, Feda said SCDOT was able to buy salt at a low price and now has a stockpile in case of emergency.

SCDOT has a fleet of 199 snowplows, 126 motor graders, 114 sand spreaders and 311 spreader/plows.



Here are some goodies that will make your taste buds dance for joy!

MAPLE WALNUT FUDGE

2 tablespoons butter or margarine
2/3 cup evaporated milk
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 cups miniature marshmallows
1 - (12-oz.) package vanilla chips
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1 1/2 teaspoons maple flavoring
50 walnut halves or pieces

Combine butter, evaporated milk, sugar and salt in medium, heavy-duty saucepan.

Bring to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly, over medium heat, for 4 1/2 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Stir in marshmallows, vanilla chips, chopped walnuts and maple flavoring. Stir vigorously for 1 minute or until marshmallows are melted. Pour into 13 x 9-inch baking pan lined with foil. On top of the fudge, place nut halves in rows spacing about 1/2 inch apart. Press each into fudge; refrigerate until firm. Cut into squares with one nut half per square.

CHOCOLATE CHERRY BISCOTTI

1/2 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup white sugar
3 eggs
3 teaspoons almond extract
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup chopped candied cherries
1/2 cup mini semi-sweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup chopped white chocolate

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a large cookie sheet. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in the almond extract. Combine the flour and baking powder; stir into the creamed mixture until just blended. Mix in the candied cherries and mini chocolate chips.

With lightly floured hands, shape dough into two 10-inch long loaves. Place rolls 5 inches apart on the prepared cookie sheet;

flatten each to 3-inch width.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until set and light golden brown. Cool 10 minutes. Using a serrated knife, cut loaves diagonally into 1/2 inch slices. Arrange slices cut down on ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until bottoms begin to brown. Turn, and bake an additional 5 minutes, or until browned and crisp. Cool completely. Melt white chocolate in the microwave, stirring every 20 to 30 seconds until smooth. Drizzle cookies with melted white chocolate. Store in tightly covered container.

BROWN SUGAR MEATLOAF

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup ketchup
1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef
3/4 cup milk
2 eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 small onion, chopped
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
3/4 cup finely crushed saltine cracker crumbs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 5x9-inch loaf pan. Press the brown sugar in the bottom of the pan and spread ketchup over the sugar.

In a mixing bowl, mix thoroughly all

remaining ingredients and shape into a loaf. Place on top of the ketchup. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour or until juices are clear.

BANANA CRUMB MUFFINS

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 bananas, mashed
3/4 cup white sugar
1 egg, lightly beaten
1/3 cup butter, melted
1/3 cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon butter

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly grease 10 muffin cups, or line with muffin papers. In a large bowl, mix together 1 1/2 cups flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, beat together bananas, sugar, egg and melted butter. Stir banana mixture into flour mixture just until moistened. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups.

In small bowl, mix together brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour and cinnamon. Cut in 1 tablespoon butter until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Sprinkle topping over muffins. Bake in preheated oven for 18 to 20 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of a muffin comes out clean.

District 1 News



Teresa Harley

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

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

Got news?

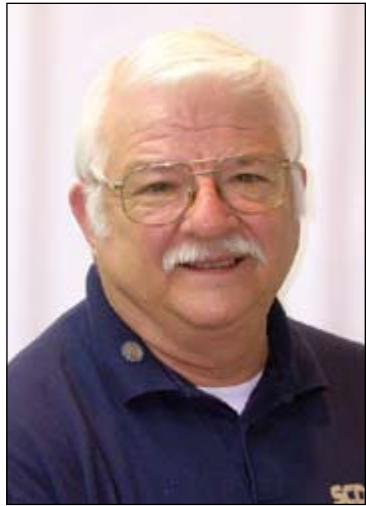
Contact Teresa Harley at:
803-737-6715 or email
her at HarleyTL@scdot.org

Meet our Safety Officers

Mike Gilchrist District 1

Mike Gilchrist, "Gil," has been with the Department since 1998 and has an AAS in Industrial Technology and a BS in Business Administration (Management). He is a U.S. Navy Veteran. He retired from DuPont in 1996.

Gilchrist enjoys hunting, fishing and his children. He resides in Elgin with his wife, Linda. He is a 2003 graduate of STEP-21, chaired the 2004 STEP-21 Alumni Chapter (SAC) annual meeting and is the 2006 SAC President. He was also a member of the "David's Rule" committee. He has 30 years of experience in the safety and health field.



Michael Gilchrist
District 1

Greg Holden Kershaw County

Greg Holden has been with the Department for 16 years.

He was one of the first county safety officers and has been in his present job for six years.

He has two sons, Gregory Jr., and Joshua. He is a member of the Mason's and the Genealogy Club.

His hobbies include collecting antique cars, playing board war games, traveling, and reading history.



Greg Holden
Kershaw County

Garnet McKalsen Lee County

Garnet McKalsen worked for the SC wildlife Department until September 1994 when he came to SCDOT.

He started out as an Encroachment Permit Technician and evolved into an OSHA/Safety Officer. He still handles Encroachment Permits.

When he is not working, some of his favorite activities are reading, running, kayaking, hiking, and working out.



Garnet McKalsen
Lee County

David Summer Lexington County

David Summer started with the Department in 2001 after completing several tours with the military.

He served with the Navy as an Avionics Technician for four years, and the rest of his career was with the Army as a Combat Engineer and Medic.

He is an active Captain with the Lexington County Fire Service.

He resides in Batesburg-Leesville with his wife, Tabitha, daughters Adrienne (12), Ashleigh (7), and son Davaron (4).



David Summer
Lexington County

Aaron Williams Richland County

Aaron Williams has been with the Department since January 2001. He transferred to Richland Maintenance in May 2001.

He lives between Lugoff and Ridgeway on 100 acres with his wife, Anna. They have two horses and five dogs.

One of his greatest achievements since transferring to Richland is assisting Richland Maintenance in getting the Safety Award for maintenance units in District One.



Aaron Williams
Richland County

Allen Griffin Sumter County

Allen W. Griffin Jr., has been employed by SCDOT as an OSHA Officer I for 2 1/2 years. He has 20 years work experience in the health care profession prior joining SCDOT.

He is a veteran of the US Army with 6-years active duty. Although Griffin is certified as a Patient Care, Emergency Medical, and Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician, he is working towards a BS in Business Management and Organizational

Operation with a planned graduation date in 2008. He resides in Sumter with his wife, Kimberly. He enjoys camping, horseback riding, traveling and cruises.



Allen Griffin
Sumter County

A letter we liked

Dear Sir or Madam:

We as stranded motorists want to thank you for providing these services. It was over 90 degrees and when Mr. William Moore drove up and offered his assistance it was a prayer answered. He was so nice, helpful, and

polite. Mr. Moore followed us to a facility that could fix our van in case our van quit again. We want to thank you and Mr. Moore again and tell you your service is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Junior and Faye Ward

**Great job to all our
Incident Responders!**

Meet Curtis Alewine

Name: Curtis Alewine
Unit: District 1 Bridge Inspection
Started with SCDOT: 1983

Curtis Alewine started with the Department in 1983 at Newberry Maintenance in District 2. In 1987, he transferred to Richland Maintenance in District 1, and in 1993, he joined the District 1 Bridge Inspection team. He enjoys bridge inspection and working with the guys on the team.

Alewine was born and raised in Chapin. He is married to Renee Alewine and has three boys, Matthew (16), Alan (15), and Mike (12). He enjoys spending time with his family.

He spends most of his weekends playing guitar in a band. When he's not playing music Alewine and his boys are hunting and fishing.



Curtis Alewine

District 2 News

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

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

Got news?

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



Dwayne Scott



Abbeville Maintenance recognized for having the best safety record in District 2

On Tuesday Aug. 8, the Occupational Safety and Health Office of the South Carolina Department of Transportation commended the Abbeville Maintenance unit for having the best safety record of all Maintenance units in District 2 in 2005.

The district is comprised of Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, and Saluda counties. This is the first year that Abbeville Maintenance has had the lowest injury rate in District 2.

The awards program is designed to enhance safety awareness and provide for friendly competition among the Maintenance units.

During a brief ceremony, Director of Occupational Safety and Health John Gaither presented a plaque recognizing the unit's safety accomplishment to Resident Maintenance Engineer Randy Day.

District 2 Engineering Administrator Phillip Brooks joined District Safety Coordinator Karen Long, and SCDOT Industrial Safety Coordinator Robert

Wiggs in celebrating Abbeville's accomplishment and expressing their congratulations to Day and the Abbeville Maintenance crew.

Day supervises 48 employees at the Abbeville Maintenance unit, which is responsible for maintaining 700 miles of state roads and 140 bridges in the county. Additionally, one of the Abbeville Maintenance crew performs District-wide bridge repairs.

Congratulations Abbeville Maintenance. Keep up the good work!

Head out on the highway, looking for adventure



On Friday, September 15, 2006 several employees of District Two gathered together to enjoy the open road. They met at the District Office and rode to Augusta, Georgia to enjoy to fine dining at Sconyers BBQ.

Meet Sandra McNair

Name: Sandra McNair
Job Title: Administrative Specialist II
Unit: Laurens Construction
Started at SCDOT: 1994

Sandra McNair was born in Greenwood and grew up in Florida. She returned to Laurens in 1981 and married Frank in 1984. She has two children and two grandchildren.

They live on 88 acres in Laurens County...better known as Dragonfly Farm. Eight years ago they bought a 200 year old home listed in the Laurens County Historical Registry. The house had to be moved in two sections and reassembled on their property.

McNair has a strong love for animals and spends much of her time with her three horses -- Dakota, an 8½-year-old Foundation Quarter Horse; Bubba, a 15-year-old Appendix Quarter Horse; and her newest addition, Kade, a 3-month-old half Arabian horse. She also has two cats, five



dogs and several chickens.

The "birth" of Dragonfly Farm began after McNair was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2000. After undergoing a double mastectomy, chemo and reconstructive surgeries, her skin and body had undergone much change.

After many sleepless nights, she found herself doing research on healing herbs and discovered there were herbs that would combat the skin problem she had experienced as a result of the chemo. She started making homemade salves, oils, soaps, bath salts and lip balm.

All of Sandra's products are made with healing herbs. She now has her own line of skin products that can be purchased by contacting her at dragonfly@backroads.net.



STEP-21 Alumni Participants from District 2



Several District 2 STEP-21 alumni participated in the annual meeting held in Columbia on Thursday, Sept. 21. From left to right: Jeff Davis, Paul Driggers, Jackie Dorn, Clifton White, Geenie Crowder, Dwayne Scott, Karen Long, and Sarah McKinney.

District 3 News

Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

'Tree Patrol' keeps roadways clear



In Spartanburg County, Chad Smith, Matthew Human, Mike Nodine and Alvis Lawson refer to themselves as the 'Tree Patrol.' Not only does this group take on the task of removing trees, but "illegal signs" for Outdoor Advertising when needed. Recently, one was removed along US 221.

Women's Forum comes to Greenville



On Oct. 5, Greenville County hosted the Women's Forum at the Phoenix Inn. It began with a standing ovation for SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry. She shared her passion of gardening with all of the ladies by choosing Doris 'Trigger' Moore of the Upper State Sign Shop and Loretta Brown of Right of Way to make a floral arrangement with her. Denise Curry, third from left, of Oconee Maintenance won the potted arrangement that Mabry made. Of course the ladies of District 2, 3 and 4 were honored and excited about Mabry's "this is me" heart to heart talk. They gave her another standing ovation at the end of the day.



Mabry asked all of the attendees to pull up a chair to sit down and talk with her during the Women's Forum. She shared her life lessons with District 3 and asked them to share their life with her. To end the day, one lucky lady, Cynthia Clark of Oconee Maintenance was picked to travel to Columbia and spend the day with Mabry.

Got news?

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



Joyce Gardner

Groves: 50 years at SCDOT



On Sept. 12, Anderson Maintenance held a celebration of achievement for Albert Groves. This year marked the 50th anniversary of his employment with the Department. He was joined by family, friends and co-workers throughout his career.

Meet Bonita Davenport



Bonita Davenport

Name: Bonita Davenport.
Assigned to: Greenville Maintenance
Position: Administrative Assistant
Began working at SCDOT: July 1985

man at Hillcrest High School. Davenport is an active member of Dominion World Ministries located in Greenville.

Bonita Davenport joined SCDOT in July 1985 after receiving her Secretarial Science Degree

In her spare time, Bonita loves working with interior design, creating bookmarks, writing, listening to jazz, reading and traveling. Most of her pleasure comes from helping others achieve their goals in life.

She has dedicated her time and effort to being a single mom to two young men, Quinton (18) a freshman at ITT and Aaron (15) a fresh-

man at Hillcrest High School. Davenport is an active member of Dominion World Ministries located in Greenville.

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

York Maintenance shows off new facilities



The new facility is located at the intersection of Odgen Road and Robertson Road West.



The complex includes a new salt shed which will be ready for this season's winter storms.

The state-of-the-art facility is a model for the rest of the state.



The office space includes work areas for both maintenance and construction employees in York County.



Bobby Ellison

Retires after 33 years of service

Fairfield County Shop Foreman Bobby Ellison retired on Nov. 1 after 33 years of dedicated service to the Department. Fairfield Maintenance honored Ellison with a luncheon and gift certificate on Oct. 31. Ellison came to work with SCDOT on Oct. 8, 1977. He plans on cattle farming in his retirement. Above, District 4 Engineering Administrator Stan Bland, right, presents Ellison with certificates and awards honoring his years of service.



Way to go!

Danny Jones of Chester Maintenance has recently found two wallets while working on I-77. Foreman Dickie Evans and Jones were able to track down the owners of both wallets, one in Oklahoma and one in Georgia. The wallets, cash and credit cards were all safely returned to their rightful owners.

District 4 takes 1st, 2nd Place in Backhoe Rodeo



District Four personnel pose at the Backhoe Rodeo. From left, Freddie Jackson, Lewis Brazell, Dennis Moore, Stan Bland, Todd Cook and Mike Rector.

Lewis Brazell and Dennis Moore took first and second place in the State Backhoe Rodeo finals held Oct. 17 at the State Fair in Columbia.

Lewis is a 10-year veteran from York Maintenance and four-time state Backhoe finalist. This was Brazell's first overall win at the state competition.

Lewis said the key to his victory was to "keep my nerves under control" and have a clean run with no errors or time penalties.

Chester's Dennis Moore took second place on his first try at the State Backhoe Finals.

Congratulations to both Lewis and Dennis on their victories and their fine representation of District 4.

Meet Kathy Partain



Kathy Partain

Name: Kathy Partain
Title: Administrative Assistant
Unit: York County Maintenance
Years Worked at SCDOT: 8 years
Family: Husband Mike, Daughters Jennifer 28, Ashleigh 27, Amanda 27, Kayla 20 and one granddaughter Bailey 4.
Church: Attends Heath Memorial Methodist Church in Lando
Hobbies: Enjoys reading, baking and attending car shows. Kathy recently won 1st place safety award at Myrtle Beach show.

District 5 News

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

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

The women of District 5

In recognition of the Women's Forum over the past few months, here's our salute to the women who work in District 5!

Darlington



Back row, left to right: Beverly Hamlin, Rosena Fling, Mary Chapman, Sherry Mack, Donnie Cross, Angela Hicks, Omega Atkinson, Becky Bryant. Front row, left to right: Mary Mitchell, Jan Byrd, Gloria Carter, Marlene Cain, Heather Ford, Leola Moses. Not pictured: Catherine Hickson.

Dillon



Back row, left to right: Amy Cardwell, Vivian Gaddy, Yvonne Hargrove, Anna DeParolis. Front row, left to right: Evelyn Cook, Betsy Jones, Joannette Page, Mirian Spivey. Not pictured: Carolyn Webster, Helen Williamson.

District 5 Office



Back row, left to right: Janet Floyd, Wilma Johnson, Kay Williams. Front row: Amy Thompson.

Florence



Back row, left to right: Gloria Paul, Mary Alexander, Diannie Boatwright, Christiana Juaira, Dolores Matthews. Middle row, left to right: Eleese Rouse, Betty Cato, Jacqueline McAllister, Tammy McKnight, Darlene Poston, Julie Douglas. Front row, left to right: Doris Reynolds, Teresa Timmons, Rebecca McHenry, Bessie Davis, Shirley Collins, Abridean Prince, Pamela Johnson.

Florence Right of Way



Back row, left to right: Amoretta Smith, Janie Washington, Toni Elliott, Holly Moody. Front row, left to right: Donna Allen, Teresa Gaskin, Sharon Graham, Tammy Quick, Deborah Rice.

Georgetown



Marian Green, Annette Pino, Sandy Harrelson, Orine Wilson, Ernestine Williams. Not pictured: Judy Jones, Zonni Holmes, Ann Tindall.

Horry



Tammy Lurcock, Dixie Anderson, Amy Collins, Neci Johnson, Tina Ellison, Doris Gerald. Not pictured: Janice Williams.

Marlboro



Back row, left to right: Cynthia Locklear, Brenda Wooten. Front row, left to right: Patricia McRae, Bobbie Sue Davis. Not pictured: Ethel McRae, Edna Thomas, Marie Freeman.

Got news?

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



Kay Williams

Marion



Left to right: Betty Hemingway, Betty Brice, Wanda Harrelson, Elaine Owens, Laura Beaver. Not pictured: Nancy Fipps.

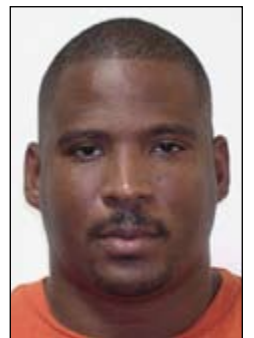
Williamsburg



Back row, left to right: Phyllis Wilson, Brenda Green, Rachele Wilder. Front row, left to right: Jackie Cole, Jackie Graham, Irene Disher.

Meet Kenny and Tommy

Kenneth Bethea, also known as "Kenny" or "Woof," is an Engineering/Geodetic Technician III with the Dillon Construction Unit. He began working for the DOT in 1993 after graduating from Lake View High School. He played football for Lake View and is now a coach for the recreation football program there. He is still an avid fan of the Lake View Wild Gators and works the chains at all home games. He is also on the school board and an asset to the community. He is married with three children and one grandson.



Bethea serves in the Army National Guard and is now on active duty. He is training in Mississippi and will be deployed to Afghanistan in January 2007. A yellow ribbon marks his desk until he returns.

Tommy Edsel Hayes Jr. has been employed with SCDOT Dillon Maintenance for 17 and a half years. He is a Mechanic III.

Hayes is a Sergeant in the SC National Guard Armory. He is currently mobilized with Operation Enduring Freedom in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This is his third Federal activation. He is stationed now in Mississippi and will be deployed to Afghanistan in January 2007, to assist in the training of Afghan troops. Our prayers are with Tommy and all the other brave soldiers who are proudly serving our country.



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

W o m e n ' s F o r u m



District 6 participants in the Women's Forum got a little workout done during the session on exercise.

There were 110 employees in attendance at the Women's Forum held in Charleston on October 12, 2006. Among the topics discussed were nutrition, exercise, planning for retirement, health issues facing women and the effects of gossip in the workplace.

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth Mabry shared with the group her strategy for relieving stress . . . gardening. Two employees from the audience were selected to create a container garden of their own under Mabry's guidance. Special door prize winners were Georgia Infinger from Charleston Maintenance (spend a day with Mrs. Mabry) and Tina Luke from the Community Bridge Office (spend a day with Mary Gail Monts Chamblee).



New equipment helps District 6 keep roads clear



Road Rake

District Six is presently operating three Road Rakes. They are mainly used on the Interstate system and long span bridges, such as the Arthur Ravenel Bridge.

The Road Rake litter collector removes debris such as retreads,

mufflers, hubcaps, cardboard, wood, paper, cans and other debris from roadsides, along curbs and barricades. It is the safest, fastest, and most efficient means of removing large debris from the road surface without the operator leaving the safety of the vehicle.

Mini Excavator

Charleston County in District Six is the first to receive a new mini excavator to aid in the production of cleaning ditches. This Bobcat 442, shown at left, offers a 360-degree rotation of the cab and boom, and travels on rubber tracks. This machine weighs about the same as a large backhoe and can easily be transported from one work site to the next.



Hydraulic Thumb

This hydraulic thumb, shown at right, gives you the ability to remove trees or stone from across a ditch or to place pipe in the ditch without taking the whole machine in.



Meet Vernon Butterworth

Vernon Butterworth began his career with SCDOT on April 5, 1993, as a Trades Supervisor with Jasper Maintenance. He later transferred to Dorchester Maintenance and assumed the duties of Shop Foreman. He has

a good outlook about his job and will do whatever he can to help his fellow employee.

In his spare time, Vernon enjoys woodworking and spending time with his family. . . especially his grandchildren.



Letters we liked

To: SCDOT
 Re: Incident Response

What a great service to motorists! I was unaware of this service until last Thursday. I must admit that I had seen the signs about SCDOT patrolling certain sections of the state highways but really paid no attention to them.

Last Thursday, March 2, as my wife and I were returning from an overnight in Charleston

we experienced a blowout on our right rear tire. I called the South Carolina AAA service which said a service truck would be with us in less than an hour.

The hour was long past when one of your trucks driven by "Tony" arrived and offered to change the tire for us, and he explained the Incident Response. He had the spare tire on our vehicle in a very short time.

I offered a tip to Tony for his

help to a stranded motorist and he cheerfully refused and said, "It's your tax dollars working for you."

Let's hear it for Tony! Let's hear it for the SCDOT!

Sincerely,

George MacPherson

To: SCDOT

This past Saturday, October 28, 2006, I had an unfortunate

event occur in which one of the tires on my car was cut by debris on I-26 West, resulting in a flat tire. Due to the extreme heavy traffic, I contacted the Highway Patrol, who in turn dispatched the South Carolina DOT roadside assistance vehicle.

Mr. E.M. Campbell was the gentleman who came to our assistance. I just wanted to take a moment to let you know what a wonderful job he did in helping

us. Mr. Campbell was very courteous and helpful. He was not in a hurry to get going and stayed with us until we were back on the road.

In today's world, where we are all moving so fast, we don't often take time to recognize all the good people that are out there helping us everyday. Mr. Campbell is to be commended.

Best Regards,

Don Dimmitt

District 7 News

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

District Engineer: Jo Ann Woodrum (803) 531-6850
 FAX (803) 531-6854



Got news?

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

Deborah Berry

Transportation Week

Barnwell employees entertain local school children



Steven Ford and Brian Bridgemon demonstrate equipment to Barnwell Elementary.



Brian Bridgemon answers questions from the first and second graders.



The race is on -- ready, set, go! The children raced through the traffic cones during a demonstration and explanation of work zones.

District 7 cannot go without recognizing Barnwell Maintenance's hard work and participation in the Transportation Celebration Week!

Brian Bridgemon, Joey King, Steven Ford, Henry Mixon and Stan Holladay gave demonstrations, played games, and provided refreshments for over 200 first and second graders from Barnwell Elementary School during Transportation Week.

The children walked approximately a quarter of a mile to visit

Barnwell Maintenance.

"You could see the children walking single file around the corner toward the unit" said Kay Hearn.

"The children were so happy and the superintendent of the Primary School, Loretta Atkinson, came by," said Sally Weeks.

Barnwell Maintenance received thank you notes from some of the children and a letter of thanks from the Principle. Without a doubt, this was time well spent to positively influence the lives of these children!

Allendale Maintenance receives honor



Resident Maintenance Engineer Loraine Williams was recently presented with the Quality Maintenance Excellence Award by Director of Maintenance Jim Feda at a ceremony held in the Commissioners' Office on Oct. 18. 'This award is the result of hard work and dedication of all Allendale Maintenance employees who continuously ensure that quality is a part of everything they do,' Williams said.

Meet Redell Franklin

Name: Redell Franklin
Title: Trade Specialist II
Location: Bamberg Maintenance

Redell Franklin has 16 years with SCDOT. She is the daughter of Elliot Manigault, a 30 year retiree of SCDOT.

Since 1990, she has worked with Bamberg Maintenance on the driveway and shoulder crew.

She is married to Timothy Franklin and has three children and two grandchildren.

She is a member of Mt. Carmel Methodist Church in Bamberg. Her interests include flea marketing/yard sales and spending time with her children and grandchildren.



Redell Franklin

MOTORGRADER from page 1

of the way it has progressed and developed."

Supervisors select employees based on needs of their unit and equipment, Brooks said.

SCDOT hired York Technical College to provide the instructors and training materials. Training courses customized to SCDOT's needs are being offered for the backhoe, motorgrader, crane and roller.

Hours vary depending on the course. Motorgrader training is two weeks; cranes, five weeks; backhoe, four days; and roller operator, three days.

York Tech provides a certificate for each employee who passes.

For an employee to be considered a fully certified operator, they must reach a certain amount of seat time after passing the course, Brooks said.

For instance, an employee who received advanced motorgrader training would need 200 hours of seat time to receive a certificate from SCDOT.

Courses are a combination of classroom work and hands-on training, Brooks said. Classes are small, usually six employees at a time, which allows for individualized training.

"The biggest impact hopefully will be safety, and our people will get good clear knowledge of how to safely operate this equipment," Brooks said.

Even seasoned veterans can learn something through the training.

"It's been very good and I've really enjoyed it," said Albert Ruben, a 10-year veteran with Sumter Maintenance.

In addition to Brooks, the Maintenance Training Task Force Committee includes Kenny Eargle, Bryan Jones, Jason Allison, Stan Bland, Philip Smith, Cal Murray, Efreem Dantzler, Polly McCutcheon and Michael Phillips.



On Sept. 20, six SCDOT employees participated in the full depth patching training session. Shown above are, from left: Gene Taylor of Kershaw Maintenance, Instructor Al Bozard from York Technical College, Benji Catoe of Kershaw Maintenance, Glenn Hutto of Lexington Maintenance, Jerald Drafts of Lexington Maintenance, Houston Hood of Sumter Maintenance and Albert Ruben of Sumter Maintenance.

ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

MOVING UP from page 11

Gregory Smith, Trades Specialist II, Berkeley Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Richard T. Spangler, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Traffic Engineering, to Engineer/Associate Engineer III.

Mecal R. Stewart, Trades Specialist II, Anderson Construction, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

Jimmie L. Thompson, Trades Specialist II, Richland Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Michael W. Todd, Engr./Geodetic Technician III, Surveys-Flourance, to Engineer/Associate Engineer I.

Brandon L. Trout, Engineering Assistant (Spec), Chester Construction, to Engr./Geodetic Technician II.

Jackie L. Turner, Trades Specialist IV, Dillon Maintenance, to Trades Specialist V.

Cynthia Von Nyvenheim, Engineer/Associate Engineer I, Research & Materials, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Corey M. Washington, Trades Specialist II, D6-Bridge Inspection, to Trades Specialist III.

Emerson T. Washington, Trades Specialist II, Greenwood Maintenance, to Trades Specialist III.

Delicia G. Wingard, Clerical Assistant (Spec), DBE & Special Programs, to Program Coordinator I.

Lorenzo R. Worthy, Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II, Hydrology, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

James S. Yarborough, Engr./Geodetic Technician II, Surveys-York, to Engr./Geodetic Technician III.

Saiying Zhou, Engineering Assistant (Spec), Bridge Design, to Engineer/Assoc. Engineer II.

Deaths

Chester Anderson, of Hopkins, trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance, died Oct. 8, with 32 years of service.

Nathaniel Baltzgar, of Neeses, trades specialist II at Lexington Maintenance, died July 10. He had 15 years of service.

Michael E. Browning, of Piedmont, electronics technician II in D3 Traffic Signals,

died June 28, with 22 years of service.

Raymond B. Dorman, of Lexington, mechanic III at Lexington Maintenance, died Nov. 19. He had 19 years of service.

J. Travers Hiller, of Columbia, retired office engineer, died Nov 13.

Frank Shealy Jr., of Chapin, retired location party chief, died Nov 13.

Retirements

HEADQUARTERS

Myra B. Crawford, of Sumter, administrative coordinator in Contract Program Resource Services, retired Aug. 2, after 33 years of service.

Theresa J. Stokes, of Chapin, administrative assistant in Budget, retired Aug. 17, after 21 years of service.

Brenda M. Heywood, of Leesville, information resource, retired June 29, coordinator in IT Services, after 29 years of service.

John H. Wessinger, of Lexington, associate engineer, Road Design, retired June 17, after 35 years of service.

William C. Fanning Jr., of Pomaria, associate engineer in Road Design, retired June 17, after 33 years of service.

DISTRICT 1

Walter L. King, of Pelion, trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance, retired July 31, after 29 years of service.

William L. Simons, of Blythewood, mechanic I at Richland Maintenance, retired Aug. 8, after 11 years of service.

Edward L. Johnson, of Dalzell, mechanic I at Kershaw Maintenance, retired Aug. 31, after 19 years of service.

Eric B. Boozer, of Prosperity, geodetic technician at Lexington Construction, retired Sept. 18, after 19 years of service.

Michael Anderson, of Gaston, trades specialist IV at District 1 office, retired Sept. 27, after 17

years of service.

Gilbert S. Wall, of Trenton, trades specialist III at Aiken Maintenance, retired Oct. 9, after 33 years of service.

Belton C. Sullivan, of Lexington, administrative assistant in District 1 office, retired June 29, after 38 years of service.

Joel R. Caughman, of West Columbia, geodetic technician at Richland Construction, retired June 30, after 29 years of service.

DISTRICT 2

Dwight T. Bledsoe, of Johnston, trades specialist III at Edgefield Maintenance, retired Aug. 30, after 13 years of service.

Josh E. Clark, of Edgefield, trades specialist II at Edgefield Maintenance, retired Sept. 30, after 19 years of service.

Michael S. Meetze, of Newberry, Engineer/Associate Engineer in Program Development West, retired June 28, after 26 years of service.

Donnie A. Humphries, of Newberry, trades specialist II at Newberry Maintenance, retired June 29, after 34 years of service.

Clyde Bennett Jr., of Waterloo, trades specialist II at Laurens Maintenance, retired June 30, after 21 years of service.

Gene A. Culbertson, of Greenwood, trades specialist III at Abbeville Maintenance, retired July 14, after 11 years of service.

DISTRICT 3

Charles B. Porter Sr., of Central, trades specialist II at Pickens Maintenance, retired Aug. 26,

after 5 years of service.

Jerry S. Gillespie, of Liberty, trades specialist II at Pickens Maintenance, retired Sept. 18, after 26 years of service.

Charles F. Parcels, of Easley, trades specialist II at Upper Sign Shop, retired Oct. 1, after 10 years of service.

George R. Donnels, of Woodruff, trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance, retired Oct. 19, after 18 years of service.

Tony W. Sanders, of Anderson, geodetic technician in Anderson Construction, retired June 23, after 8 years of service.

DISTRICT 4

Charles W. Rodgers, of Ruby, trades specialist II at Chesterfield Maintenance, retired Sept. 29, after 10 years of service.

Samuel M. Crosby, of Union, trades specialist II at Union Maintenance, retired Oct. 16, after 11 years of service.

Charles L. Johnson, of Chester, associate engineer in York Surveys, retired June 29, after 38 years of service.

DISTRICT 5

Kenneth J. Johnson, of Latta, trades specialist III at Marion Maintenance, retired July 26, after 28 years of service.

John F. Charles, of Dillon, trades specialist III at Dillon Maintenance, retired Aug. 17, after 21 years of service.

David N. Legette, of Marion, trades specialist II at Marion Maintenance, retired Sept. 7, after 28 years of service.

Joseph M. Smalls, of Georgetown, associate engineer at Georgetown Construction, retired Sept. 12, after 28 years of ser-

vice.

Andrew D. Stewart, of Bennettsville, associate engineer at Marlboro Maintenance, retired Sept. 16, after 34 years of service.

Johnny R. Dowdy, of Bennettsville, trades specialist V at Marlboro Maintenance, retired June 17, after 36 years of service.

Elester Legette, of Latta, trades specialist IV at Marion Maintenance, retired June 17, after 32 years of service.

Norton H. Cribb III, of Hemingway, geodetic technician at Georgetown Construction, retired June 29, after 18 years of service.

Charles G. Snowden, of Conway, associate engineer at Florence Surveys, retired June 29, after 33 years of service.

Robert N. Garner, of Bennettsville, mechanic III at Marlboro Maintenance, retired June 30, after 53 years of service.

Marvin Davis, of Marion, trades specialist II at Marion Maintenance, retired July 7, after 16 years of service.

Marion G. Carter, of Dillon, trades specialist III at Dillon Maintenance, retired July 13, after 16 years of service.

DISTRICT 6

Ronald T. Jefferson, of Pineville, trades specialist II at Berkeley Maintenance, retired Aug. 2, after 10 years of service.

Herman L. Stoney, of Beaufort, trades specialist IV at Beaufort Maintenance, retired Aug. 7, after 28 years of service.

Walter Greene Jr., of Ridgeland, trades specialist II at Jasper Maintenance, retired Aug.

23 after one year of service.

Eugene K. German, of Mt. Pleasant, trades specialist V at D6-Traffic Signals, retired Sept. 1, after 24 years of service.

Jackie L. Hankerson, of St. George, trades specialist III at Dorchester Maintenance, retired Sept. 7, after 28 years of service.

John H. Boyd, of St. George, trades specialist II at Dorchester Maintenance, retired Sept. 29, after 10 years of service.

Mary W. Pulaski, of St. George, administrative assistant at Dorchester Maintenance, retired Sept. 29, after 35 years of service.

Franklin Orage, of Beaufort, trades specialist III at Beaufort Maintenance, retired Oct. 16, after 11 years of service.

Roger C. Bowers, of Goose Creek, associate engineer at Berkeley Maintenance, retired June 30, after 36 years of service.

Roger W. Utsey, of St. George, trades specialist II at Dorchester Maintenance, retired June 30, after five years of service.

DISTRICT 7

Jerry Sanders Jr., of Allendale, trades specialist III at Allendale Maintenance, retired Aug. 2, after 32 years of service.

Dierdre P. Williams, of Garnet, trades specialist II at Hampton Maintenance, retired Sept. 1, after 8 years of service.

Melvin R. Boltin, of Orangeburg, geodetic technician at Lexington Construction, retired June 30, after 7 years of service.

Grover L. Stillinger, of Denmark, associate engineer at Bamberg Construction, retired June 30, after 40 years of service.

Assets Management

Building Management System Work Order System on-line

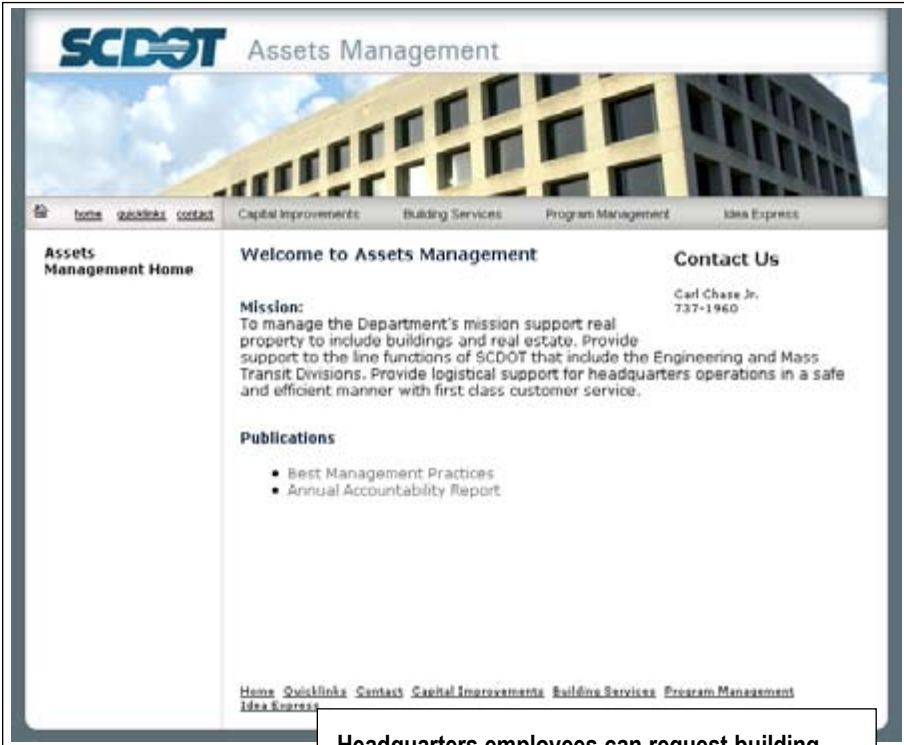
By Carl Chase Jr., Assets Manager

Because of the excellent work by Donna Mose, Michelle Hawkins, John Kennedy and Daniel Machado of IT Services and Pamela Bell of Building Services an on-line work order request site is accessible on the SCDOT Intranet. Occupants of the headquarters building can click on Applications and go to the Building.

Maintenance Portal and place a work-order. Once the work order is complete the customer will be linked to an on-line customer service survey.

Another feature of this site is that management can determine the cost of time, labor and materials expended for the building.

For those not having access to a computer they can continue to call Building Services at 737-4443 or 737-1031.



Headquarters employees can request building maintenance work through the SCDOT intranet.

Progress of construction around us



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

The Hilton Hotel and parking garage Hilton Hotel construction north of the SCDOT Headquarters are progressing well. Both should be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2007.

The project in the College Street lot is also progressing and at a scheduled completion date of early 2008.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Traffic Management Center

We continue to make progress with the Central Traffic Management Center. The architect has submitted preliminary plans to SCDOT for review and we continue to fine-tune the plans. The TMC will be a state of the art facility. Dan Campbell is the Project Manager for this endeavor.

Headquarters Parking Garage

The Headquarters Parking Garage is cleaned on a periodic basis with the costs borne by USC.

In the near future we will place new directional arrows to replace the faded markings.

Human Resources

'Braking' bad habits

By Dale Thomas, RN, BSN
Medical Services

The cost of bad habits can wear on your budget and your health. Habits such as snacking, drinking, and smoking can cause you to speed forward through your money putting a dent in your wallet. Consider what you might spend over a 12-month time span.

- Soft drinks at 75 cents each for five days each week can cause a dent of almost \$200 per year (not to include tax).

- Chips, candy bars and/or pastries eaten once a day for five days a week at 70 cents each can cause a dent of \$182 per year.

- Eating out for lunch everyday for five days a week at \$6 per day, places a big dent in your wallet that equals \$1,560 a year.

- Cigarettes at \$3 per pack daily can make a dent of \$1,095 per year.

- One six pack of beer a week at \$7.50 can make a dent of \$390 a year.

Try to brake some or all of these unhealthy habits. Replace unhealthy habits with healthy ones. Try healthier snacks such as fruits, carrots, celery sticks or other vegetables and berries. Try driving your focus on other hobbies such as exercise, walking, swimming and biking.

Unhealthy snacks and habits can add that unwanted spare tire to your waist. Don't wreck your health or budget. Fuel your engine with healthy foods. By braking bad habits you might find extra money in your trunk. Reward yourself for starting a healthier trip down the well maintained road of life.

Remember to stop and do not yield to unhealthy habits.



An exercise partner makes exercise more enjoyable. Working out with a friend or spouse increases your chances of sticking with your exercise program by 65%.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Exercising can be enjoyable and beneficial to your health.

Adult Education classes available

Do you need to improve your basic reading or math skills? Get your GED or high school diploma? Learn or improve on your English skills? If you answered yes to one of these questions, the Adult Education program at SCDOT may be able to help.

SCDOT can provide financial assistance for classes in the following areas:

- Basic Academic Skills
- High School Diploma
- GED Preparation and Testing
- English as a Second Language

To be eligible for this benefit, you must be a regular, full-time equivalent (FTE) or full-time temporary grant employee and have at least 30 days of service with

SCDOT.

Classes in pre-GED, GED, High School Diploma and English as a Second Language (ESL) are offered in most South Carolina school districts. It is very likely that you will find the class you need near your home.

If you think you're too old or that you missed your chance to get an education, think again. Across our state, people are learning new skills, completing their degrees and enhancing their careers. Let SCDOT assist you in putting the "finishing touches" on your education.

For more information, please contact Enid Conner at 803-737-6037 in the Human Resource Development office.

Observe the speed limit to save gas

While each vehicle reaches its optimal fuel economy at a different speed (or range of speeds), gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph.

As a rule of thumb, you can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.20 per gallon for gas.

Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid

acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

Sensible driving is also safer for you and others, so you may save more than gas money.

For more fuel-saving information, visit the United States Department of Energy site: www.fueleconomy.gov.