

The Connector

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VOLUME XX NO. I

SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WINTER 2006

Tony Chapman named State Highway Engineer

By Bob Kudelka

When Tony Chapman joined SCDOT in 1976, his goal was to one day become a resident engineer.

The problem was it only took him two years to become one.

Recently named State Highway Engineer, Chapman can only shake his head at how his career blossomed from his early days as a summer employee to a series of promotions that has led him to the top engineering post at SCDOT.

"I never ever imagined that I could do what I'm doing," Chapman said. "It never crossed my mind. The lesson is to never set your sights too low. Always set your sights high and work everyday like you are interviewing for your next job."

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry named Chapman as State Highway Engineer, succeeding Don Freeman, who retired last year after holding the position since 1997.

"Tony Chapman is an extremely innovative, proactive and goal oriented leader," Mabry said. "He has been a valuable member of my advisory team for the past few years and it is difficult to imagine this agency without him. I have tremendous faith in Tony's ability as an engineer and as a leader. With Tony in the key position of State Highway Engineer, I am confident that SCDOT and all our employees can look forward to a successful future."

As State Highway Engineer, Chapman supervises all engineering divisions including Planning and Design, Construction, Maintenance, and Traffic Engineering, as well as the seven Engineering Districts. He also works on a daily basis with the Federal Highway Administration, the agency that has oversight of federal aid project development and construction.

"I've worked closely with Tony for the past several years and consider FHWA very fortunate to have such a high-caliber



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Tony Chapman has been named SCDOT's State Highway Engineer and is in charge of all engineering divisions as well as the seven Engineering Districts across the state.

leader and partner as the State Highway Engineer," said FHWA Division Administrator Bob Lee. "He is truly gifted in his ability to find creative ways to resolve issues before they become problems."

In an interview last month, Chapman discussed his outlook for the future at SCDOT, his goals and the path that brought him to where he is today.

Chapman, who turned 53 on Feb. 13, was born in Newberry County and grew up in a rural area 7 miles south of Prosperity.

Growing up on a family farm, he de-

veloped a strong work ethic evident in the long hours he logs today.

"You wake up in the morning and milk cows before catching the bus to go to school," he said. "In the afternoons, you come home and take care of the livestock before you come in. That was just part of the routine."

When he was 12 years old, Chapman began working at a grocery store, stocking shelves.

At 14, he got a job at a filling station.

"I was told to fib about my age if any-

one asked because I wasn't supposed to be working," Chapman said.

At 17, he worked along side his father at a sawmill. The work was hard and conditions, especially in the summer heat, were tough.

At Mid-Carolina High School, Chapman was versatile enough to be a lineman on the football team and the lead runner on the mile relay team that finished first in the state his senior year.

See CHAPMAN on page 14

SCDOT

Crews respond to upstate winter storm

By Bob Kudelka

SCDOT Maintenance crews from across the state have pitched in to help the Upstate recover from a severe ice storm in December.

The storm knocked out power for thousands of people and toppled tree limbs onto roads in areas of Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, and Anderson counties two weeks before Christmas. District 3's office building had to operate on generator power for four days.

The ice storm impacted an area approximately 80 miles long, sending maintenance forces to first open up major arteries and then work their way to secondary roads.

"It's just a mess," said Fred Muchow, geodetic technician at District 3. "It takes a long time just to clean up one road."

Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 sent crews for weeklong shifts. Employees from the faraway counties such as Barnwell and Horry were put up in motels while others from closer areas made day trips.

"We get up early and we drive up and drive back," said Calvin Berry, of Saluda Maintenance, whose four-person crew left their shop at 6:30 a.m. each day. "It's just in a day's work."

His co-worker, Antonio Posey, said: "We don't mind helping clean up. SCDOT is all about teamwork."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Maintenance crews feed fallen limbs and debris into a wood chipper after the big storm.

On a windy, cold morning in January, Berry, Posey, Charles Long and Franklin Highley cleared limbs on West Georgia Road, a two-lane road west of Simpsonville in Greenville County. The men knocked down hanging limbs with a front-end loader and fed the debris to a chipper.

"You come up here and you see a job and you've got to do it," Highley said. "I don't look at it like hard work, I just do it. We're always willing to help out. I'll always help when I can."

See STORM on page 12

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DIRECTIONS

By Elizabeth S. Mabry
Executive Director

On June 29, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. The Act provided the means for funding and construction of what was called "The System of Interstate and Defense Highways."

Fifty years later, Americans enjoy the use of over 40,000 miles of interstate highway. In South Carolina, we have five interstates, totaling 844 miles.

In 2006, along with the rest of the country, SCDOT is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System. SCDOT will be hosting special events in the spring and summer. More information about these events will be coming to you as plans are finalized.

In the meantime, we should take a mo-

ment to reflect on how important our interstates are to South Carolina. Tourism is the largest industry in our state. The 30 million visitors who use our interstates to vacation here spend \$7.3 billion each year.

South Carolina is a small state, but interstate highways are accessible in 28 of our 46 counties. That's why the SC Department of Commerce and the SC State Chamber of Commerce acknowledge that the interstate highways are a prime reason as to why businesses and industries locate in South Carolina.

South Carolina has very good and well-maintained interstates, but it costs money to maintain the quality of our highways. In a three-year period (2005-2007), SCDOT is budgeted to spend over \$100 million on interstate maintenance. Remember, that's just for maintenance, not construction.

Here is something else to consider:

imagine if there were no interstate highways in South Carolina, and SCDOT had to begin construction of all 844 miles of interstates today. The cost would be in the billions of dollars. The entire tourism industry in our state generates \$15 billion per year, but it wouldn't be possible without our interstates. So you can see how valuable our highways are to the state's economy.

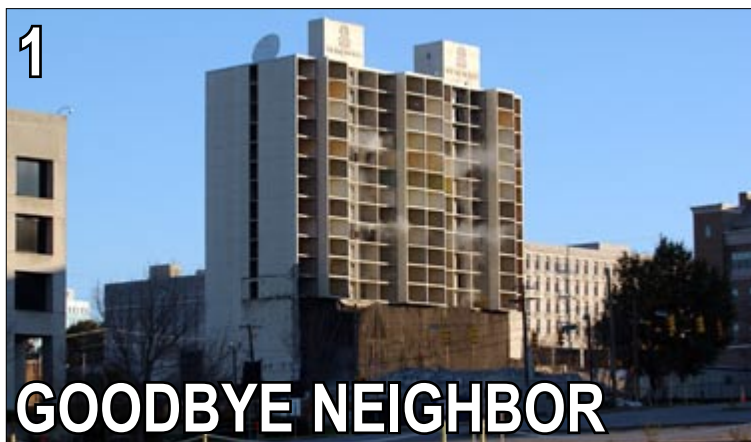
One more point to think about that doesn't have anything to do with money. Think about getting around South Carolina with the interstates. Think about how often you drive on an interstate for work or personal business. Take a look at the highway map, and find a different route from one town to another, where you would normally use the interstate to get to your destination. Finding a direct route could be challenging.

Life without our interstates could be difficult, and our quality of life in South Carolina would not be the same. We at SCDOT know how important our inter-



Elizabeth S. Mabry

states are to this state. Later this year, we'll tell that story to the public as we celebrate the interstate system.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON

1 The University of South Carolina imploded the old Carolina Plaza Hotel at 8 am on Sunday, Feb. 5. One thousand sticks of dynamite carefully placed throughout the 14-story building brought the 33-year old structure down on top of itself in less than 15 seconds.

The building was at the corner of Assembly and Pendleton streets across the street from SCDOT headquarters.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Bridge project wins environmental award

FHWA Director Mary Peters, left, and American Road and Transportation Builders Association Chairman John Wegman, right, present Shannon Renz with a first place award for environmental excellence in the construction of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge over the Cooper River. Renz accepted the award on behalf of SCDOT.



EQUIPMENT ROADEO

RIGHT: The 2005 Regional Equipment Rodeo was held in Myrtle Beach with participants from Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina. Equipment operators competed in 5-yard, Tandem, Lo-Boy, Tractor, Motorgrader and Backhoe events. The team from Arkansas came in First Place, Mississippi came in Second Place and South Carolina came in third. Shown at right with SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry and State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman is the team from South Carolina including Kenneth Eaddy, Allen Moore, Robert Perkins, Jeffery Marshall, Richard Stroble, Chad Robertson, Charles Whiten, James Catoe, Charles Reynolds, Jimmie Black and Michael Murphy.

The Connector

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



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BACKHOE RODEO

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, left, and Director of Maintenance Jim Feda, right, congratulate the winners at the Backhoe Rodeo at the State Fair in Columbia. The winners are, from second left: Issac Mathis of Kershaw Maintenance (District 1), Ronnie Washington of Abbeville Maintenance (District 2), Allen Moore of Oconee Maintenance (District 3), Lewis Brazell of York Maintenance (District 4), Raymond Ward of Williamsburg Maintenance (District 5), Winfred Stobhart of Jasper Maintenance (District 6 and State Champion) and Marion Bowman of Orangeburg Maintenance (District 7).

Charles Porter: *Unofficial Supervisor of the Bridge*

SCDOT arranged a special tour of the Arthur Ravenel Bridge for a hospice patient

From the Fall 2005 Hospice of Charleston newsletter



Charles Porter

Now that the Arthur Ravenel Bridge has been open for over a month, and the excitement and festivities are beginning to fade, it's getting harder to imagine Charleston's skyline as it was before the massive white towers. The thrill of crossing the bridge is becoming commonplace; a connector to work, a connector home, a connector to every day life. But for Sue Porter, driving the new double diamond bridge is bittersweet.

Charles Porter was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2003. After 13 months of treatments, doctor's appointments, and hospital stays, Charles and his wife Sue were told they could expect 6-9 months. Sue, who had diligently tracked the progression of her husband's disease, knew that she would be lucky if he lived six weeks. As he quickly became weaker and the aggressiveness of the cancer created unbearable pain, Sue was advised by her next door neighbor to seek the help of Hospice of Charleston (HOC). Reluctant to call, Sue and Charles were pleasantly surprised when their Nurse Case Manager, Deborah Lotts immediately addressed their main concern: his

pain. From the first visit on, Sue and Charles felt the benefits of Hospice of Charleston services, but it was one nurse in particular who made Charles' end of life not only a memorable experience but in his own words, "a miracle."

Rachel Harvin, an HOC nurse found a special bond with Charles, making an instant connection with the whole Porter family. When the end was near and Charles was still so full of life, "His personality just wouldn't stop," Harvin became aware that he was holding on for something. When Charles asked "how long do I have?" Harvin knew it was time to ask her own question. "Charles, is there any one thing that you had hoped you could do before you passed?" His response: "I really wanted to hang on until the bridge opening." The day was Monday morning, March 7th and the bridge wasn't opening until middle of July; his one small hope seemed heartbreakingly

impossible. Not only was the bridge still under construction but Charles was drifting in and out of consciousness and getting weaker by the minute. But when Charles' son, Kip heard of his father's request, he immediately made plans to take his father onto the new, unopened bridge.

Once a prominent lawyer in Columbia and across the state, Charles had spent many summers in Charleston and decided to live on Isle of Palms permanently when his health began to decline. For the past four years, Charles was passionate about the building of the new bridge. He kept a close eye on the construction, taking the family by boat up and down the Cooper River just to catch a glimpse of the building process. Charles' fascination with the new bridge earned him the nickname "unofficial bridge supervisor." Watching the building of the new bridge became a happy distraction amidst dismal trips to the doctor's office. Every treatment day, Sue would gladly drive over the old bridge so Charles could see the new bridge grow taller. Fridays were a bright spot in Charles' week when he could expect a regular visit from his son Kip who drove from Columbia to visit his father and take him on a drive back and forth across the old bridge. Friday, February 25, 2005, was the last Friday Kip and his father made their weekly check up with the bridge. Ten days later, Harvin asked her question and the next morning, Tuesday, March 8, Sue received a phone call from

Kip announcing that he had made arrangements and was on his way to Charleston in a van with a wheelchair and to "get Dad ready, he's going on the new bridge today." Sue didn't have the heart to tell her son that his father was unconscious and that it would be a miracle if Charles was even still alive by the time Kip arrived in Charleston much less able to get out of bed and ride to the top of the new, unopened bridge.

However, Kip was determined to fulfill his father's wish and went straight to Charles' bed, put his arms around his shoulders and said, "Come on, Dad get up. We've got an appointment with the bridge." Charles responded, "what bridge?" "Your bridge, Dad," and up he went out of bed, into the wheelchair, into the van, and onto the construction site where Charles and his family met engineers, donned construction hats, and were escorted to the top of the new bridge. That windy, Tuesday afternoon atop the new bridge, Charles was awake, alert and able to ask all the questions he ever wanted to know about the bridge and the building process. The engineers were "so gracious and kind to him," he was so happy up there; you could see his eyes sparkling.

Charles died in his home with his family five days after the appointment on "his bridge." Hospice nurse Harvin remarks, "going on the bridge meant the entire world to him. It was such a small request for such a powerful man, but people hold on for different

things. That's what he needed; he was so full of life up to the very end. It was closure for him, it was just perfect." Charles even got to take a look at the many pictures of him on the bridge to confirm that he really had gone to the top and it wasn't just a dream.

The summer of 2005 will be remembered by many Charlestonians as the summer of the bridge. But for Sue and the rest of the Porter family the official bridge opening wasn't nearly as momentous as their own private opening March 8. Sue credits Rachel Harvin for the priceless memory of that joyful Tuesday afternoon when Charles' last wish came true.

"She (Rachel) was really here for him, she was his advocate. Had she not asked that question, Kip wouldn't have been able to grant his father's last wish which became a miracle."

Harvin says, "with the opening of the new bridge, I think about Sue and Charlie everyday. They were a remarkable family." For those who knew Charles and those who know his story, the bridge is a reminder of his relentless determinations and vibrancy for life. For Sue, the bridge will never be just a connector of everyday life but a connection a bit closer to Charlie.

The Porter family wants to express their sincere appreciation and thanks to SCDOT Executive Director and the engineering staff at the Community Bridge Office for making Charles Porter's wish come true.

Christene's 'Wright' on target at disc golf

By Rob Thompson

Christene Wright knows how to throw a frisbee. Believe me, I know. While taking photos of her for this article, she beamed me every time. (Ouch!)

It could be because she's the state champion in disc golf, a sport similar to golf, but you play the course throwing discs into hanging baskets around a course.

She has played and competed in the sport since 2001 for fun, exercise and for the love of the outdoors.

She, her husband, John, and their daughter, Christi, have played at disc golf courses at many of the city parks throughout the state of South Carolina, Georgia, North

Carolina and across the country.

Both Christene and John are currently the 2005 State Champions in their divisions for the South Carolina Championship Series. She came in second place in the Master Women's Division competing in the 2003 World's Disc Golf Championship in Kansas City, MO.

At SCDOT, Wright is an administrative specialist II in the Environmental Management Office.

She has been employed with SCDOT for almost 13 years. She began her career at SCDOT in the Supply and Equipment Office.

She is originally from Kansas and now lives in Chapin with her husband John.

She enjoys living on Lake Murray, boating, waterskiing, flower gardening, baking, making crafts and taking lots of pictures of her surroundings of people, places and things with her camera and spending time with family and friends.

If you would like to know more about disc golf, ask Christene about Columbia's Disc Golf Club or visit www.pdga.com.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Christene Wright takes aim and throws a disc with the accuracy of a champ. At right is this year's state 'trophy' disc featuring an illustration of the new Arthur Ravenel Jr. bridge in Charleston. Being an SCDOT employee, Wright said, 'I had to win that trophy.'

Road Dedications



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Senator Dick Elliott, second from left, listens as his daughter, left, reads a resolution naming a portion of SC 9 in North Myrtle Beach as the Senator Dick Elliott Freeway. His family is shown with him during the Oct. 19 ceremony in North Myrtle Beach. From left, Angela Elliott (daughter), Senator Dick Elliott, Anne Elliott (wife), Rick Elliott (son) and David Elliott (son).



Lisa Holland, left, and Betty Holland pose by a sign designating the 'Senator Donald H. (Don) Holland Memorial Bridge' in Camden. Community leaders, family and friends attended a ceremony Dec. 8 to honor the late senator for his many years of service to the community.

2005 Winter Conferences

SCDOT merges Partnering, Bicycle/Pedestrian conferences

By Bob Kudelka

The 2005 Winter Conferences in December were an opportunity for partnerships on many levels, as the annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Conference for the first time was merged with the annual Partnering Conference.

Joining Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry as featured speakers at the conferences, sponsored by SCDOT and FHWA, were State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman, FHWA Administrator Bob Lee, former Congressman John Napier, former Democratic National Committee Chair Don Fowler, Division Administrator Yvette Taylor of the Federal Transit Administration, Dan Hutley of the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester COG, Bob Thomas of FHWA, and Tina Hadden, on behalf of Col. Edward Fleming of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

A highlight of the Partnering Meeting was interaction among representatives of many different interests during the workshop, "Linking Planning and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)."

"Everybody in this room has the exact same mission," Mabry said during closing remarks at the Partnering Conference. "We're serving the public. We're talking about how we can better perform our common mission. That's what these partnering meetings do. We recognize the other point of view."

Lee and Thomas provided information on the new highway authorization, SAFETEA-LU. Lee stressed the importance of increasing safety, noting that South Carolina in early December was on pace for its highest number of highway fatalities since 1972.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Conference, now in its fourth year, continues to see a varied mix of attendees.

In the past, it might have been unusual to see members of a bicycle advocacy group spending time with highway engineers. But that seems to be changing.

About 20 members of Palmetto Cycling Coalition attended the conference. That's up from three people attending the conference's first year, said Executive Director Natalie Cappuccio-Britt.

"It's a very educational conference," she said. "It gives me an opportunity to learn more about how the SCDOT operates and learn more about their struggles, and for DOT employees to hear my side of the story."

Cappuccio-Britt said members of her group believe "this is one of the best opportunities of the year for advocates. They're learning about funding, how the government works when it comes to fund-



ing transportation alternatives."

Including a bicycle/pedestrian lane on the new Cooper River Bridge is "a shining example of what advocates and engineers can do together," Cappuccio-Britt said. "You build it and they will come, as cliché as it sounds. It's probably the best bridge facility in the nation."

Breakout sessions were led by state-wide and national experts on topics such as safety; state and federal funding; basic and advanced bicycle and pedestrian design; transit and planning workshops; cycling and walking legislative issues; public health and non-motorized transportation; air quality; and the statewide corridor plan.

The conference also featured tours of bicycle and pedestrian paths on Hilton Head. Also, for the first time, a four-part



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Keynote speaker Mark Fenton, a host of PBS's 'America Walking,' leads one of the breakout sessions on how neighborhood design can promote physical fitness.

their parents.

"We're in a 100-year war and we're losing," Fenton said.

Rising health care costs are a burden to small businesses and large corporations, such as General Motors, Fenton said. He noted recent news articles that said health care costs have led to rising car prices for GM, and hurt sales.

Building bicycle trails cost money, he said, but "you can make an argument that it costs money not to." Just 30 minutes a day of exercise can lead to better health, he said.

Safety was a big issue of the conference, as Mabry pointed out that the number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities in South Carolina is higher than fatalities on interstate highways.

Mabry stressed that communications is a key to success among partnerships, even when resources are limited.

"I think that's what it's about; bringing the right people together," said State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman. "It was a good conference, and the people who put it together did a great job."

The Winter Conferences took a lot of hard work in planning and delivering a successful week.

Conference Coordinators were Tesa Griffin and Kristen Moore.

They thanked the following employees for assisting:

Marie Bracanovich, Christene Wright, Mark Pleasant, Ron Patton, Tom Dodds, Amber Jeffcoat, Cathy Rice, Holly Comalander, Monique Valentine, Dewayne Scott, Wendy Hollingsworth, Collette Murray Swann, Amelia Glisson, Chris Brown, Mark Hooper, Stephen Meetze, Derrell Rice, Julie Barker, Lavern Glover, Bonnie Cramer, Susan Johnson, Bonnie Frick, Patti Dalis, Bob Kudelka, Pete Poore, Rob Thompson and Peter Tarpley. FHWA employees assisting were Patrick Tyndall, Shane Belcher and Dan Hinton.

breakout session was devoted to Safe Routes to School.

Keynote speaker was Mark Fenton, a leading authority on walking. Fenton is host of the PBS show, "America's Walking." An enthusiastic advocate for fitness and promoter of neighborhoods designed to accommodate walking and cycling, Fenton also participated in several breakout sessions.

Fenton reported that obesity has a \$40 billion price tag borne by US taxpayers and that our generation is the first in 100 years whose children will lead shorter lives than

The bicycle and pedestrian lane on the new Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge has been very popular with the public in Charleston. It is an excellent example of what can be accomplished with the community and bridge designers working together.

WANTED

SCDOT Employees or Contractor's Employees involved in the construction of the Interstates in SC

SCDOT is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway Act, signed into law by President Eisenhower in June of 1956.

To prepare for celebrations later this year, the SCDOT Interstate 50th Anniversary Committee would like to speak with SCDOT employees, retirees, contractors and their employees or retirees who worked on the construction of the interstates in South Carolina.

Your memories and recollections could be used in The Connector and in a special video that will take an historical look at the SC interstates.

Please respond to the SCDOT Communications Office at 803.737.1270 or email: poorej@scdot.org.

Briefly



Mass Transit Employees Recognized

Commissioners Marion Carnell, Bobby T. Jones and John N. Hardee congratulate Mass Transit employees who earned certification as a transit program administrator. Shown from left are: Johnny Mmanuikie, Carnell, Carolyn Gratic-Burton, Jones, Michelle Rayford, Hardee, Turner, David Burgess, Kenny Skenes and Glennith Johnson. Not pictured: Lavern Glover.



Red Ribbon Campaign

Michelle Walker, left, of the Director of Maintenance Office and Thomas Jennings of Richland Maintenance load an SCDOT vehicle with hundreds of red ribbons. The ribbons were placed on overpasses across the state as part of the Red Ribbon Campaign against drinking and driving.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR



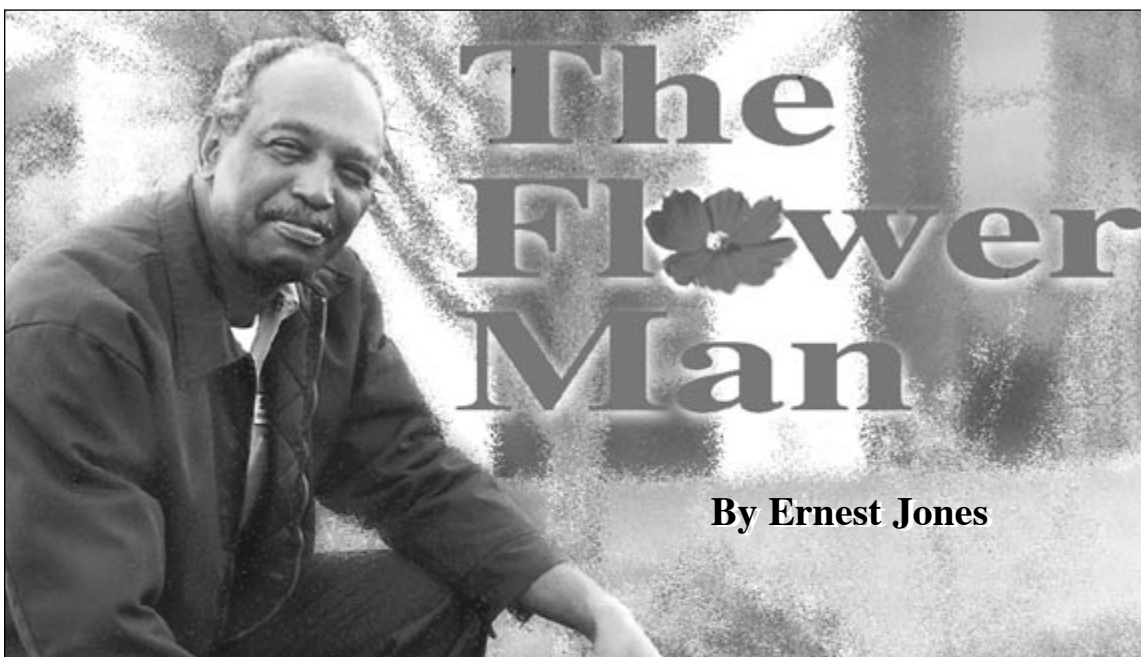
Office of Materials and Research

The Office of Materials and Research held its annual meeting in Columbia on Jan. 27. These employees, pictured above, test materials and provide technical guidance in construction activities across the state.



James P. Stevens Dedication

Family members of the late Senator James P. Stevens unveil a sign in his honor at a dedication ceremony Oct. 19, 2005, at the Loris Town Hall. A portion of Highway 9 in Horry County was named after Stevens who served 21 years in the South Carolina State Senate.



By Ernest Jones

Don't let winter kill your houseplants

By Ernest Jones

Winter is a time when dry, heated air and low light levels can make life difficult for many indoor plants.

With this in mind, you can help your plants look their best by giving them a little extra care.

Winter flowering house plants such as cyclamen, azalea, camellia and primula often lose their flowers more rapidly in warm temperatures. These plants need a cool place if you want them to stay in bloom longer.

The best place for these and other flowering plants is a moderately heated room of any kind, but as far away as possible from the heat source. After flowering, the plants may be moved to a cooler

location.

Other house plants also benefit from a little extra winter attention. Poor growth and yellow or dry leaves can be the result of low air humidity caused by increased heating - so in most homes, winter is the time to take steps to improve the humidity around your plants.

Plants grown together in groups can create a more humid atmosphere for each other, so grouping your plants may prove effective.

Plants placed on trays of moist pebbles also will receive extra humidity, as well plants that are occasionally misted by hand.

Except for fuzzy-leaved plants such as African violets, most house plants benefit enormously from regular showers during the

winter.

The resulting increase in air humidity may only last a few hours, but the shower also will wash away any dust blocking the pores in their leaves. So give them a good shower as often as possible using a fine showerhead or watering can.

The short days of winter make it important to guard against overwatering. So when washing down your plants in winter, you should make sure that the soil in the pots does not get too wet too often.

When you shower your plants, you may wish to cover the soil with plastic, thus avoiding the risk of soggy soil and root rot, which is difficult to cure.

Many plants need a period of rest in the winter, so you should observe this with a break from

fertilizing. Cut back on watering also, depending on the temperature in which the plant is kept.

The soil can become just as dry, if not drier, in a heated room in winter. As at other times of the year, plants kept in cooler rooms should only be watered when the soil has become fairly dry.

Most cacti have a rest period during the winter, and should hardly be watered at all. Leafy cacti such as Christmas cactus, which come from moist tropical regions, are exceptions to the rule, and should always be kept slightly moist.

A big problem facing house plants during the winter is getting enough light. The limited amount of sunlight in the winter causes many plants to turn toward the light. Many plants become straggly and pale.

Plants with variegated leaves gradually lose their color and more leaves are shed than at other times.

Give your plants as much light as possible. No light-loving plant should be more than 10 feet away from a window, and the rule for all others is simply, "the brighter the better."

Especially in winter, many plant lovers give extra light to their plants with artificial lights. Every evening, they can enjoy the sight of luxuriant foliage bathed in light. Regular light bulbs won't do, however. Use florescent lighting or special plant lights for supplemental lighting.

Four hours of supplemental light a day is beneficial in the fall and winter. Be careful, though. The minimum distance must be at least three feet to the nearest leaf to avoid "sunburn."



SCDOT Softball Tournament

WHAT?
Great fun and a little friendly competition with fellow employees from across the state.

WHEN?
Saturday
April 29

WHERE?
Oak Grove
Softball Complex in
Lexington County

WHO?
You! Teams participate from across the state and employees also come to cheer on their team.

CONTACT:
Michael Dennis at
(803) 737-1445 to sign up your team or if you have any questions.



Grace and Pearman Bridges

Crews begin deconstruction of historic landmarks



Going . . .



going . . .



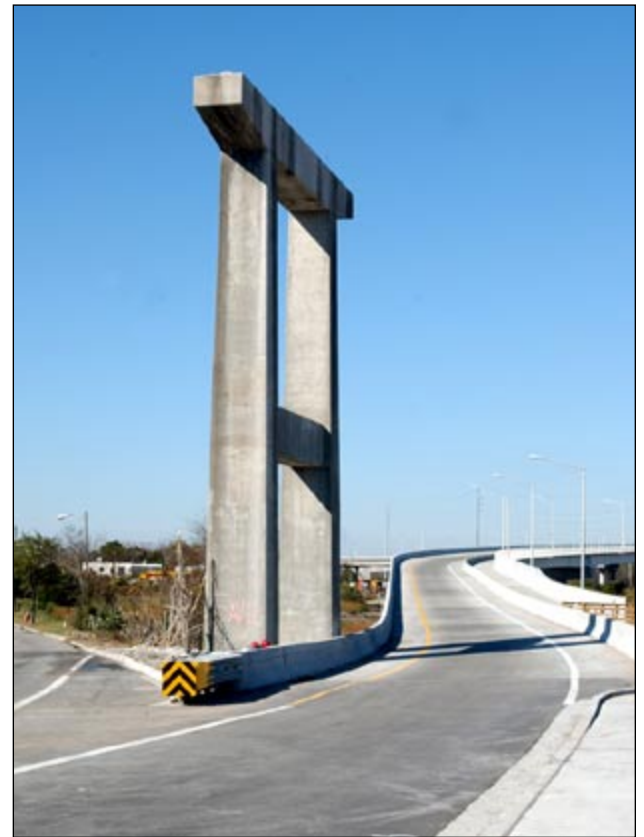
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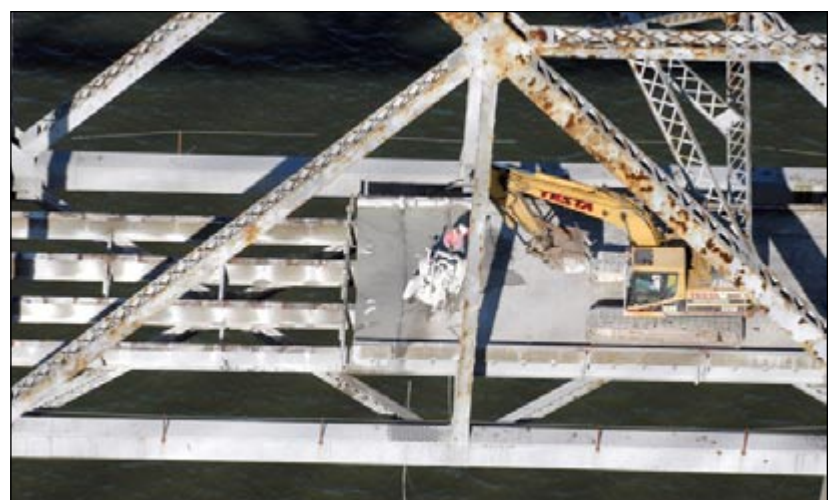
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

By Charles Dwyer
Community Bridge Office

Removal of the old Grace and Pearman bridges over the Cooper River in Charleston has begun. The sequence of photos (above) show the explosive demolition method used for the Town Creek spans. Over the Cooper River, crews have already removed the bridge deck (bottom right). Because the Cooper River channel must reopen to shipping in 24 hours, those spans will be mechanically lowered.

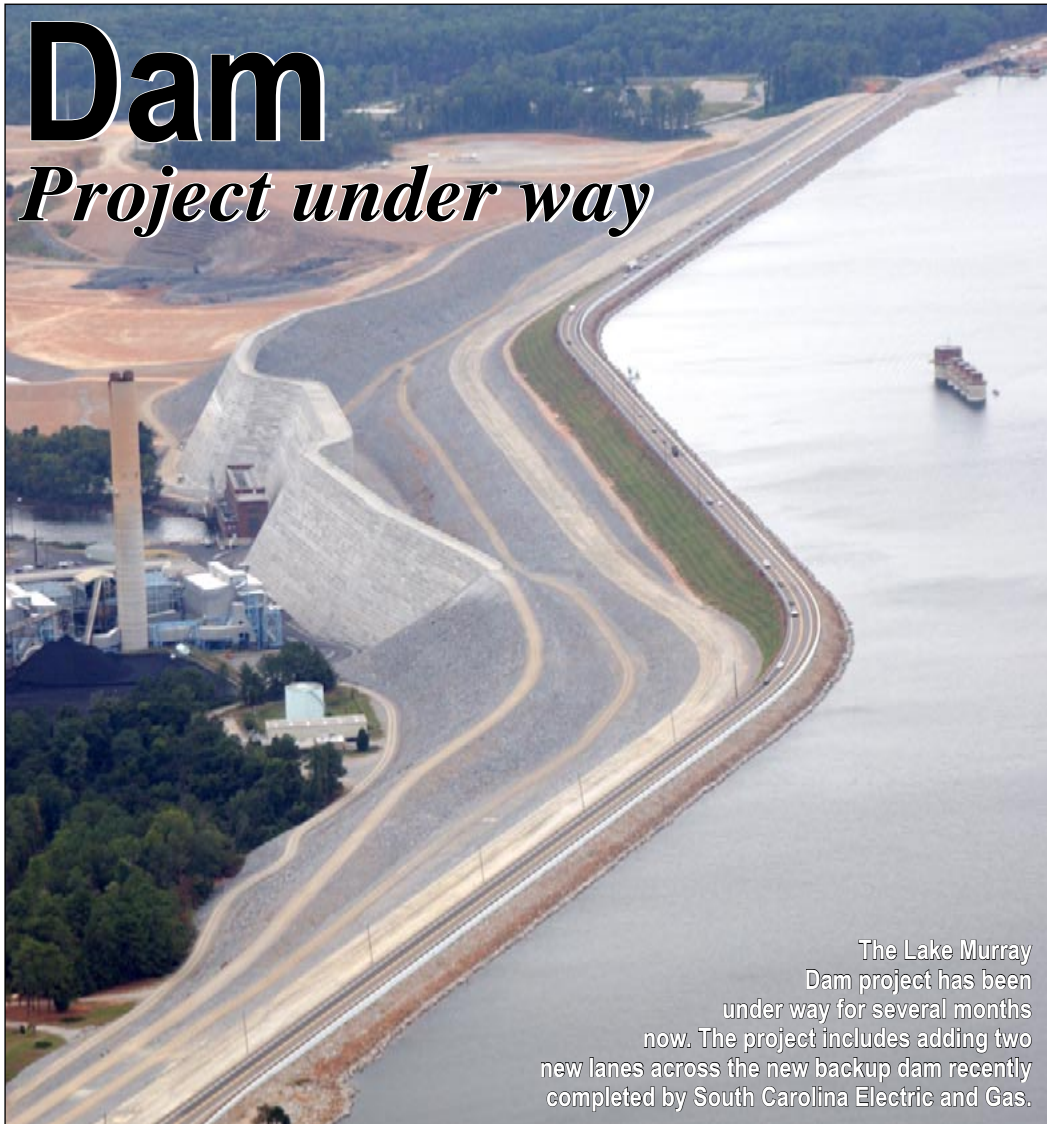


Above: Plans include turning this portion of bridge footing into a monument with historic information about the old Grace and Pearman bridges.



Dam

Project under way



The Lake Murray Dam project has been under way for several months now. The project includes adding two new lanes across the new backup dam recently completed by South Carolina Electric and Gas.

Lake Murray Dam project

Lake Murray was constructed between 1927 and 1930 by the formation of an earthen dam. The 50,000-acre lake is in the heart of South Carolina and only a short drive from downtown Columbia. The lake covers an area of 78 square miles with 649 miles of shoreline.

The waters of the Saluda River that feed Lake Murray supply energy to the Saluda Hydroelectric Plant and McMeekin Steam Generating Plant, which are both owned by South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G). When completed, Lake Murray was the largest power reservoir and Saluda Dam the largest earthen dam in the world. SCE&G also owns the lake and is responsible for all lake management policies.

The Backup Dam

Due to changes in earthquake safety criteria directed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Lake Murray Dam needed a new backup dam to withstand the strongest predicted earthquake that could be expected to strike the region.

The design of the backup dam was a combination of rock/roller-compacted concrete and placement of a rock berm behind the existing dam. During the early stages of the construction, water levels were lowered for safety reasons.

The new construction stretches 1.5 miles and consists mostly of rock excavated from SCE&G property downstream of the dam, with a roller-compacted concrete dam in the midsection, behind the Saluda Hydro plant. Approximately seven million tons of rock and concrete were used at an estimated cost of approximately \$250 million.

New Roadway

As part of the project, the new structure provides room for SCDOT to add two new lanes to Highway 6, currently a two-lane road that runs on top of the existing dam. The two new lanes will be between the existing dam and the new backup dam.

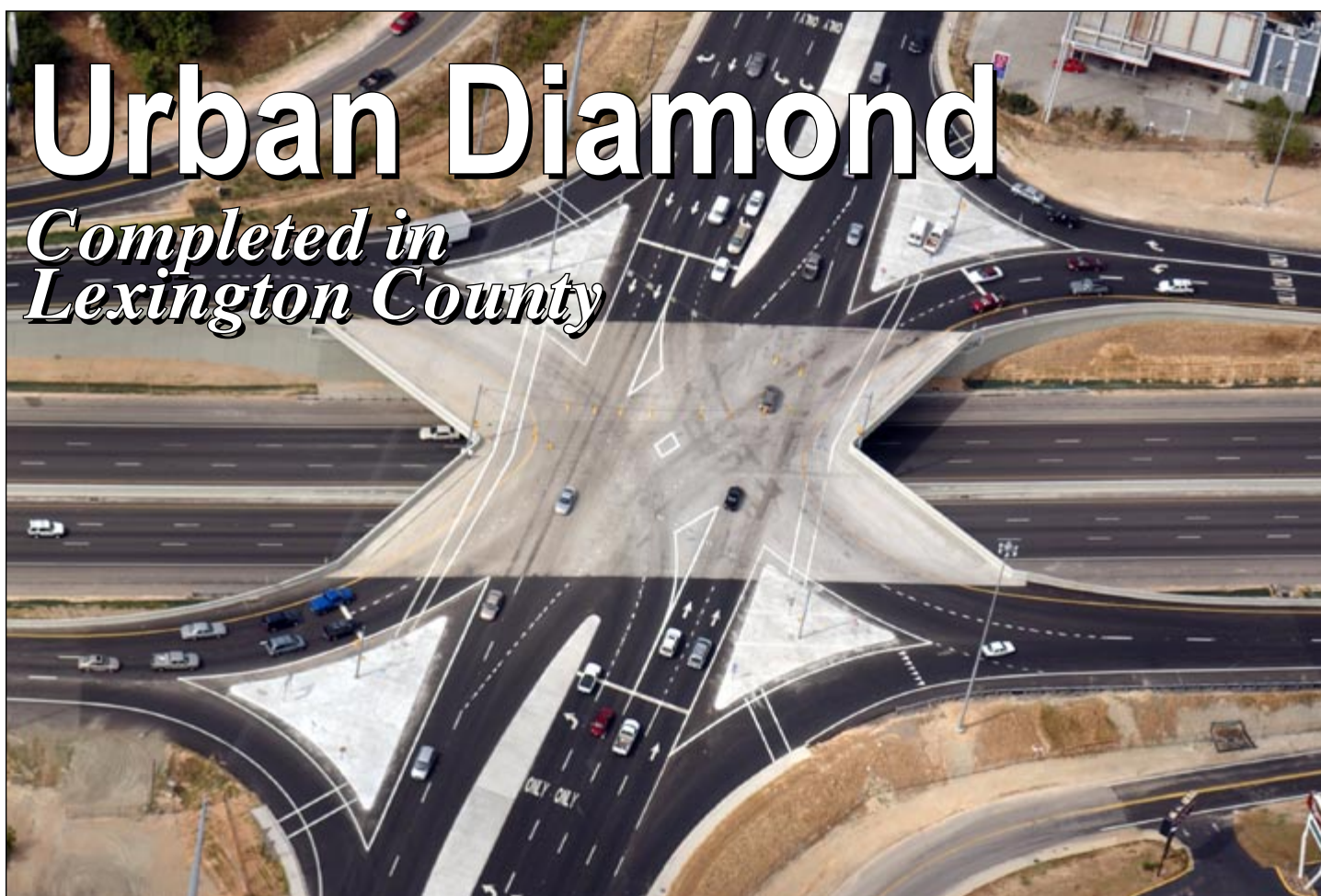
In addition to the new lanes behind the dam, the existing lanes on top of the Dam will be widened to accommodate cyclist and an 8 foot wide pedestrian walkway is also included. The walkway is to be separated from the traffic by a concrete barrier wall. This path would connect the public access areas that are located on each side of the dam.

The project also includes a new bridge which is being constructed over the lake adjacent to the emergency spillway. The project is expected to be complete late in 2007.

Brian Keys contributed to this story.

Urban Diamond

Completed in Lexington County



'Urban Diamond' Single Point Urban Interchange I-26 and US-378

The recently completed interchange modifications at I-26 and US-378 in Lexington County created the first Single Point Urban Interchange or SPUI in the Columbia metropolitan area. The SPUI was recommended by Traffic Design Engineer Dipak Patel in order to provide significant operational improvements within the very restricted right of way constraints. Lexington Hospital is located immediately adjacent to the interchange area.

SPUIs improve traffic flow by regulating it at a single signalized point rather than at several closely spaced intersections. Delay times are substantially reduced and traffic flow improved with a much smaller area than larger interchange designs. South Carolina now has three SPUI interchanges with the other two locations being I-85 at SC-14 in Spartanburg County area as well as US-501 at Forest Brook in Myrtle Beach. The success of these SPUIs means the design will be considered as a solution in more locations throughout the state.

Dipak Patel contributed to this story.

STEP-21 Alumni Chapter

Officers elected

The fourth annual STEP-21 Alumni Chapter (SAC) meeting was held at Pine Island on September 27.

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth Mabry spoke to the group and cited the accomplishments at the agency and said having STEP-21 as proactive helps in raising the Department's standards.

A training segment was led by Martin "Marty" K. Phalen, VP of Gas Operations for SCE&G.

During the business meeting, new officers were voted in for the 2005-06 year.

The officers are:
President: Bobby Crider
Vice-President: Mike Gilchrist
Secretary: Mary Bradford

Asst. Secretary: Judy Litz
Treasurer: Shirley Jeffcoat
Asst. Treasurer: Mike Masi

The group also recognized various special projects that SAC has continued participation:

- The 2005 Midlands Heart Walk, where approximately \$1,000 was raised and donated by SAC on behalf of the DOT.

- The Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign.

- DOT Statewide Blood Drive, which has become an annual event. This effort garnered 443 units of blood.

The meeting provided a refreshed renewal of the spirit that personifies the concept of STEP-21. Alumni who were not present are encouraged to become involved in the efforts of your fellow alumni.

Ring the bell



ROBIN COLEMAN/LEGAL DIVISION

During the month of December, members of the STEP-21 Alumni Chapter participated in the 'Ring the Bell' project for the Salvation Army. Above, Mike Gilchrist and Donna Price brave the cold to raise money for the charity. The Salvation Army has served over 29,000 people in the Midlands and distributed more than 61,000 toys from donations to the Red Kettle Project.

Roll up your sleeves



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

Red Cross specialist Willie Maldonado prepares to take a pint of blood from Richard Spangler of Traffic Engineering during the STEP-21's statewide blood drive. Approximately 443 units of blood were collected, and STEP-21 plans to make this an annual event.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Midlands Heart Walk will be held March 25 at the Colonial Center.

Registration is at 8 a.m. All are encouraged to participate.
 Sign up at: http://heartwalk.kitera.org/midlandssc/step_21alumni

Why did the traffic engineer cross the road?



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Blindfolded traffic engineers are helped across Park Street in Columbia as part of an exercise to make them more aware of the difficulty blind citizens have crossing our streets.

By Rob Thompson

Why did the traffic engineer cross the road? To find out first-hand what it is like to cross a city street when you're visually impaired.

Traffic Engineers from across the state participated in a Jan. 11 training in Columbia to enable them to understand and meet the needs of pedestrians that are blind or visually impaired.

Lukas Franck, of The Seeing Eye

from Morristown, NJ, and David Noyce, PhD, from the University of Wisconsin were the course instructors.

The one-day class discussed Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) and to learn about new technologies that allow visually impaired pedestrians to understand and use traffic signals more effectively.

The participants included SCDOT employees Rob Bedenbaugh, Michael Bethea, Dan Campbell, Danny Carnes, Brent Dillon, Eric Dillon, Tom Dodds, Melissa Edmonds, Vic-

tor Edwards, Keith Faulk, JuLeigh Fleming, Eric Hall, Ashley Johnson, Carol Jones, Dana Lowery, Will McConnell, Craig Nelson, Binh Nguyen, Dipak Patel, Charlie Prewitt, Nick Rad, Terry Rawls, Cindy Ridgeway, Mark Sheetz, Joey Skipper and Kurt Walters.

Vincent Anderson, from the Town of Mount Pleasant; David Brewer, from the City of Columbia; and Michael Mathis, of Traffic and Transportation in Charleston; also participated in the exercise.



ABOVE: Brent Dillon, right, tries his hand at using a cane to feel his way along the sidewalk.

LEFT: Keith Faulk, left, helps a blindfolded Rob Bedenbaugh find the button to change the traffic signal for him to cross.

FAR LEFT: Lukas Franck, right, explains how difficult and dangerous it is for blind pedestrians. Listening, from left, are Tom Dodds, Dana Lowery and Craig Nelson.



SCDOT holds second research workshop

The South Carolina Department of Transportation held its second Research Workshop on Sept. 27, 2005, at the Columbia Conference Center. The Transportation Technology Transfer Service (T3S) at Clemson University, the Department's LTAP Center, provided logistical and administrative support for the event.

The workshop was intended to market the research program and to serve as the primary research topic solicitation for the Department's Research and Development Executive Committee's (RDEC) consideration for funding as studies in the State Planning and Research (SPR) Program.

To promote the workshop and to identify participants, members of the Research Unit met with the Department's upper management including various division heads and unit supervisors. As a result, participation in the workshop was outstanding. Over 120 people, including representatives from the SCDOT, FHWA, USGS, academia, and industry attended the workshop.

An overview of the research program was provided



SANDI PRIDDY/T3 SERVICE

Participants listen during the Sept. 27 Research Workshop.

to the group and the purpose and format of the workshop explained. Workshop participants were pre-assigned to one of seven breakout groups, each on a different subject area. A moderator from the SCDOT's Office of Materials

and Research was assigned to each breakout group. The seven breakout groups included: Construction/Materials, Maintenance/Bridge Maintenance, Traffic/Safety, Design (Road and Bridge), Hydrology, Project Development/Planning, and Business Operations (Administration and Mass Transit).

The first breakout session was held before lunch for each group to identify research topics. A second breakout session was held after lunch to prioritize topics identified in the morning session. A closing session with all participants was held and moderators presented the top four or five topics from their respective group.

The workshop was considered a success, with approximately 150 potential research topics identified, 62 of which were identified as higher priority topics. A contact person from the DOT was identified for each of the higher priority topics and problem statements prepared. The RDEC will ballot the research topics and develop a final prioritized list for funding.

SCDOT receives \$4 million for new Horry County evacuation route

Commission approves \$1 million in state matching funds

By Bob Kudelka

The Horry County Council, South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), and the Grand Strand Legislative Delegation, announced Jan. 20, 2006, that the SCDOT Commission voted on Jan. 19, 2006, to proceed with \$4 million in federal transportation funds and will provide the \$1 million state match required to access the funds.

The funding comes in the form of a Congressional earmark and will be used to begin the environmental process for a new highway project that will provide an evacuation route for the Grand Strand area.

"The Grand Strand area, and particularly the rapidly developing southern part of Horry County, is in critical need of an evacuation route in the event of hurricane or other disasters," said SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry. "The project would also improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and enhance safety on east-west roadways such as SC 544 and US 501."

"The southern portion of Grand Strand is anticipated to double in population over the next 20 years, and current evacuation routes are not adequate to move several thousands of residents and visitors safely and efficiently," said SCDOT Commissioner Bob Harrell Sr., of the 1st Congressional District.

"This project will also provide much improved access for many motorists including tourists, Georgetown and Horry County residents who work at the beach areas, and for those traveling to Coastal



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT announces that the SCDOT Commission voted to proceed with \$4 million in federal transportation funds and will provide the \$1 million state match required to access the funds to begin the environmental process for a new highway project in Horry County. The project will provide an evacuation route for the Grand Strand area. At the podium is SCDOT Commissioner Bob Harrell. Also pictured, from left, is SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, Project Engineer Mike Barbee, Project Engineer Rob Hamzy, SCDOT State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman and South Carolina Federal Highway Administrator Bob Lee.

Carolina University and Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Elected officials from Horry and Georgetown counties have created a Task Force of local officials and citizens from both counties, called SELL, short for Southern Evacuation LifeLine. SELL will take the lead role in developing the Envi-

ronmental Impact Statement with the technical support of SCDOT. As a first step, SELL will be hosting public information meetings this Spring to seek public input to begin the environmental process.

The Executive Director of SCDOT is Elizabeth S. Mabry. The SCDOT Commission includes Chairman Tee Hooper of

Greenville; Bob Harrell Sr., 1st Congressional District; John N. Hardee, 2nd Congressional District; Marion P. Carnell, 3rd Congressional District; William C. "Bud" Turner, 4th Congressional District; Bobby T. Jones, 5th Congressional District; and John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th Congressional District.

Sumter Maintenance honored for litter pickup program

By Bob Kudelka

During the January Commission meeting, South Carolina Senator Phil Leventis and Senator Thomas Alexander honored Sumter RME J.D. Wilcox, Sumter Anti-Litter Coordinator Al McElveen and the staff at Sumter Maintenance for their program to pickup litter along roadsides.

Wilcox accepted the "Blue Granite Recognition," a platform begun by Leventis to showcase extraordinary performance by South Carolina state employees. Named after the state stone, the recognition highlights "the bedrock of our state infrastructure, state employees," Leventis said.

At Sumter Maintenance, each employee, from the administrative staff and crews to Wilcox himself, participate in a litter pickup day each month. It's part of Sumter Maintenance's emphasis on "preventive maintenance."

Leventis, who has participated alongside Sumter crews in picking up litter, said the work saves Sumter County and South Carolina hundreds of dollars routinely spent on maintaining and/or repairing highways and roads. Not only is litter an eyesore, but it also can clog drainage and present hazards to pedestrians and bicyclists.

"This program has improved the quality of life for all those who live in Sumter as well as those who visit," said Leventis, who represents Sumter and Lee Counties.

Alexander, whose district includes Oconee and Pickens



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

SCDOT's Sumter Resident Maintenance Engineer J.D. Wilcox, second from right, accepts the Blue Granite Recognition from Senator Phil Leventis, right. Also pictured is Senator Thomas Alexander, left, and Sumter Anti-Litter Coordinator Al McElveen, second from left. The recognition was given during the Jan. 19 SCDOT Commission meeting in Columbia to the employees of the SCDOT Sumter Maintenance office for the outstanding work they do in picking up litter along roadsides. At SCDOT's Sumter Maintenance, each employee, from the administrative staff to the Resident Maintenance Engineer, participates in a litter pickup day each month. Local officials, including Sen. Leventis, have also joined SCDOT crews for litter pickup day.

counties, said he appreciated the work of DOT employees, saying, "State employees are very special to all of us."

Immediately after the recognition, State Administrator for Engineering Operations Tony Sheppard announced that Wilcox has accepted a new role as "DOT Champion for Cleaner Highways."

Under this role, Wilcox will

visit other maintenance offices to help develop best practices for combating the litter problem that can be shared statewide.

Wilcox joined SCDOT in 2004 after a career in the private industry and military.

"He came in here with great ideas, fresh ideas, and I appreciate that," said State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman.

After the Commission asked

staff to look into the issue last year, Chapman and Sheppard explored low-cost ways to battle the litter problem.

All employees were advised to leave work areas cleaner than when they arrived, Sheppard said.

Counties came up with their own unique methods including one-day pickup blitzes; asking local detention centers to increase

"This program has improved the quality of life for all of those who live in Sumter as well as those who visit."

-- Senator
Phil Leventis

numbers of inmates picking up litter; recruiting local magistrates to include litter pickup as a community service requirement; and signing up additional Adopt-A-Highway recruits.

In the past six months, SCDOT has increased its litter pickup efforts by nearly 10,000 hours, Sheppard said.

"It has really made an impact on the local communities," Sheppard said. "It's an ongoing battle, so we can't lost momentum."

Commissioners commended employees for their work.

"I really applaud the DOT for their efforts," said Commissioner Bob Harrell Sr., of the 1st Congressional District.

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry and SCDOT received the Blue Granite Recognition in 2003 for using insight and creativity to help South Carolina's transportation system move forward at a time when it very easily could have stalled. Despite a funding crisis, Mabry found a way to move forward through an ambitious and innovative, accelerated construction program known as "27 in 7."

Thanksgiving Food Drive

STTARs pack, ship off food for Mississippi DOT

Mississippi DOT contacted SCDOT in reference to assisting their employees who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina. With the full participation and cooperation of our employees, SCDOT responded with a "big heart" in the spirit of Carolina and Thanksgiving. Because of the generosity of Headquarters, the districts and their respective counties, the 2006 STTAR class boxed more than 5,000 pounds of goods and contributed nearly \$400 in monetary donations. SCDOT deserves a round of applause for remembering others in their time of need. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the MDOT/SCDOT Thanksgiving food drive.



Williams R. "Bill" Minor
Northern District Commissioner
Dick Hall
Central District Commissioner
Wayne H. Brown
Southern District Commissioner



Larry L. "Butch" Brown
Executive Director
Harry Lee James
Deputy Executive Director,
Chief Engineer
Brenda Znachko
Deputy Executive Director,
Administration

P. O. Box 1850 / Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1850 / Telephone (601) 359-7001 / FAX (601) 359-7110 / www.msMDOT.com

November 29, 2005

South Carolina DOT
Charlene L. Cornwell
955 Park Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Charlene L. Cornwell,

I would like to take a moment to personally thank you for your kind contribution of 5000 lbs of Food and Supplies on behalf of the many MDOT employees affected by Hurricane Katrina. As a result of your kindness, our employees are now better able to continue to improve the transportation systems of southern Mississippi without the undue burden of their personal losses from this catastrophic storm.

Your friendship to the MDOT family means a great deal to our employees and to me personally. On behalf of the MDOT employees and their families, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Larry L. "Butch" Brown
Executive Director



EDIP Workshop

Minority businesses attend DBE conference



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

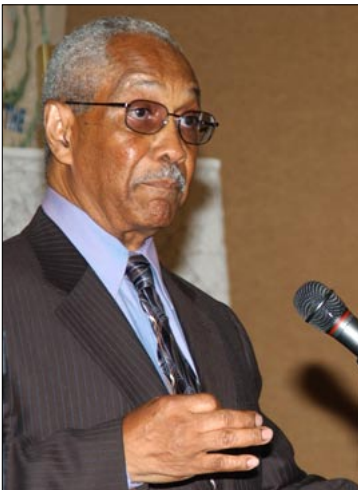
SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth Mabry, FHWA SC Assistant Division Administrator Bob Thomas, Commissioner Bobby T. Jones and DBE Deputy Director Arlene Prince spoke to the group.

The Federal Highway Administration and South Carolina Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Office held a workshop for minority-owned business Sept. 27-30 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia.

The Entrepreneurial Development Institute Program provides professional development and business skills to SCDOT certified business firms that seek opportunities in the transportation industry.



Nathaniel Spells speaks to the group.



John Goodwin leads a discussion during the conference.



Dr. Arlene Prince is SCDOT's Deputy Director of DBE.



New Cooper River Bridge wins structural engineering award

The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations awarded Parsons Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas Inc. with the 2005 Outstanding Project award in recognition of the exceptional engineering merit for the Cooper River Bridge in Charleston.



Money for your child's higher education!

2006 STTAR SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship will be awarded to the college/university in the name of the contest winner for the 2006 fall semester.

Applications have been distributed to all SCDOT employees that have access to a computer. They are also available on SCDOT's website at <http://www.dot.state.sc.us>

If you do not have access to a computer, and are interested in having your child enroll in the contest, contact your supervisor or personnel office.

To be eligible, the student must:

- ✓ Be attending or committed to attend a two (2) or four (4) year institution of higher learning as a full time student.
- ✓ Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (certified transcript required).
- ✓ Be a son, daughter or ward of a current or retired, full-time employee of SCDOT.

Essays will be graded on:

- Quality/merit of ideas
- Details/Descriptions
- Innovative
- Practicality
- Essay neatness/grammar

The essay should describe what actions SCDOT can take to have a positive impact on the public (functionally, aesthetically, safety, etc.). The essay should not exceed two (2) typewritten pages.

Please send the application, essay, and transcripts to:

Mr. George Kinard, 2006 STTAR Scholarship Chairperson
SCDOT - ITS Office
955 Park Street, Room G-3
Columbia, SC 29202

Applications must be postmarked no later than May 19, 2006 to be eligible for review.

Retirements

Richard W. Harris, of Conway, engineering/geodetic technician III at Horry Construction, retired Oct. 2, after 38 years of service.

Eddist T. Rhett, of Columbia, fiscal technician I, in Accounting, retired Oct. 10, after 22 years of service.

Butler W. Vaughn, of Belton, engineer/associate engineer I at Greenville Surveys, retired Oct. 13, after 27 years of service.

Dan Johnson, of Belton, engineer/associate engineer I at Horry Construction, retired Oct. 16, after 34 years of service.

Paul D. Hughes, of Union, trades specialist III at Union Maintenance, retired Oct. 20, after 21 years of service.

Robert N. Hanford, of Camden, trades specialist II at Kershaw Maintenance, retired Oct. 27, after five years of service.

Ike J. Watson, of Clemson, trades specialist II at Pickens Maintenance, retired Oct. 27, after 15 years of service.

Tom E. Gillispie, of Bennettsville, trades specialist II at Marlboro Maintenance, retired Oct. 27, after 21 years of service.

Floyd C. Long, of Chester, engineering/geodetic technician III at Chester Construction, retired Oct. 31, after 13 years of service.

Henry Stanley, of Darlington, trades specialist II at Florence Maintenance, retired Nov. 17, after 10 years of service.

Melvin D. Austin, of Laurens, trades specialist III at Laurens Maintenance, retired Nov. 21, after 28 years of service.

Thomas W. Rothell, of Anderson, trades specialist V at Anderson Maintenance, retired Nov. 21, after six years of service.

Robert P. Williams, of Anderson, trades specialist II at Anderson Maintenance, retired Nov. 30, after 28 years of service.

Randolph Sanders, of Ruffin, trades specialist II at Colleton Maintenance, retired Nov. 30, after 40 years of service.

Harris B. Farmer, of Cottageville, trades specialist III at Colleton Maintenance, retired Nov. 30, after 28 years of service.

Howard O. Ingle, of Hopkins, engineering/geodetic technician III, Bridge Design, retired Dec. 1, after 32 years of service.

John P. Jones, of Easley, trades specialist II at Pickens Maintenance, retired Dec. 2, after 28 years of service.

Randall M. Culbertson, of Ninety Six, information resource consultant I at District 2, retired Dec. 5, after 18 years of service.

Charlton S. Padgett, of Walterboro, engineering/geodetic technician III at Dorchester Surveys, retired Dec. 15, after 12 years of service.

Thomas Higgins, of Kinards, trades specialist II at Laurens Maintenance, retired Dec. 30, after 13 years of service.

Sammie L. Ruple, of Branchville, trades specialist V, at Orangeburg Maintenance, retired Dec. 30, after 30 years of service.

John C. Boltin Sr., of Cordova, trades specialist II, at Orangeburg Maintenance, retired Dec. 30, after 10 years of service.

Kenneth Watson, of Sumter, engineer/associate engineer I, at Sumter Construction, retired Dec. 31, after 39 years of service.

Peggy P. L'Hoir, of Gaston, administrative assistant, Traffic Engineering, retired Dec. 31, after 39 years of service.

Daniel B. Ballentine, of Blythewood, engineer/associate engineer, Research and Materials, retired Dec. 31, after 40 years of service.

Terry L. Stewart, of Lexington, administrative assistant, Rights of Way, retired Dec. 31, after 39 years of service.

Larry B. Leaphart, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer, Research & Materials, retired Dec. 31, after 39 years of service.

Curtis O. Corbett Jr., of Rembert, trades specialist V, Kershaw Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 42 years of service.

Pernell Meares, of Marion, trades specialist III, at Marion Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 35 years of service.

Harry E. Burns Jr., of Lexington, engineer/associate engineer I, Contracts Administration, retired Dec. 31, after 34 years of service.

Laurie Williams, of Santee, trades specialist IV, at Holly Hill Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 33 years of service.

Tommie L. Williams, Jr., of Vance, trades specialist III at Holly Hill Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 38 years of service.

Fred E. Walker, of Greenwood, trades specialist V, at Greenwood Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 43 years of service.

Ervin Freeman, of Greenwood, trades specialist III, at Greenwood Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 38 years of service.

S. Dean Campbell, District 7 Engineering Administrator, retired Dec. 31, after 47 years of service.

B. K. Meggs Jr., of Effingham, trades specialist IV, at Florence Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 38 years of service.

Benjamin S. Coyle, of Great Falls, trades specialist III at Lancaster Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 34 years of service.

Melvin S. Merck, of Easley, engineer/associate engineer, District 3, retired Dec. 31, after 32 years of service.

George L. Driggers, of St. Matthews, trades specialist IV, at Calhoun Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 33 years of service.

Larry I. Harrell, of West Columbia, audits manager I, Agency Audits, retired Dec. 31 after 33 years of service.

Richard A. Cromer, of Newberry, engineering/geodetic technician III, Newberry Construction, retired Dec. 31, after 34 years of service.

Eddie D. Bigham, of Cayce, State Planner III, Road Data Services, retired Dec. 31, after 38 years of service.

Elizabeth D. Hadwin, of Brunson, administrative assistant, Hampton Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 37 years of service.

Roy D. Littlejohn, of Chester, trades specialist IV at Chester Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 37 years of service.

Tommy W. Smoak, of Cordova, Right of Way Agent III, Rights of Way- Orangeburg, retired Dec. 31, after 29 years of service.



Frazier Harmon
52 Years of Service



S. Dean Campbell
47 Years of Service



Gene Cooner
46 Years of Service



Fred Scott
46 Years of Service



Jim Posey
45 Years of Service



Carol Player
41 Years of Service

Robert E. Tanner, of Dillon, trades specialist V at Dillon Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 37 years of service.

Harold G. Cooner, of Bamberg, engineer/associate engineer I, Bamberg Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 46 years of service.

Arthur F. Lathan, of Winnsboro, engineer/associate engineer I at Richland Construction retired Dec. 31, with 32 years of service.

Fred Scott, of Little Rock, trades specialist IV at Dillon Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, with 46 years of service.

Glen B. Ward, of West Columbia, engineer/associate engineer, in Program Development East, retired Dec. 31, with 37 years of service.

James C. Bland, of McCormick, trades specialist V at McCormick Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, with 39 years of service.

Lendale Norris, of Conway, engineer/associate engineer at Horry Construction, retired Dec. 31, with 37 years of service.

Mark E. Dansby, of Greenwood, trades specialist II, at Greenwood Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 34 years of service.

Isaac Middleton Jr., of Mt. Carmel, trades specialist III at McCormick Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 37 years of service.

William E. Thomas, of Bamberg, right of way agent II, Rights of Way-Orangeburg, retired Dec. 31, after 33 years of service.

Calvin G. Rush, of Elloree, trades specialist IV at Calhoun Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 37 years of service.

James M. Brooks Jr., of Irmo, administrative manager II, Supply & Equipment, retired Dec. 31, after 34 years of service.

Lettie C. Fralick, of Neeses, human resources manager I in District 7, retired Dec. 31, after 37 years of service.

Woodrow T. Pitts Jr., of Heath Springs, trades specialist V at Lancaster Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 34 years of

service.
Harold Coleman Jr., of Marion, engineer/associate engineer I in Research & Materials, retired Dec. 31, after 33 years of service.

Kenneth W. Boland, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer I, Research & Materials, retired Dec. 31, after 33 years of service.

Walter F. Brown, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer, Contracts Administration, retired Dec. 31, after 36 years of service;

Randy C. Graham, of Conway, engineer/associate engineer I in Horry I Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 32 years of service.

Carol E. Player, of Columbia, fiscal technician II in Accounting, retired Dec. 31, after 41 years of service.

Harvey A. Carnes, of Lancaster, trades specialist IV, at Lancaster Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 28 years of service.

Robert D. Wallace Jr., of Mullins, engineering/geodetic technician III, at Marion Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 36 years of service.

Tommy W. Brown of Sumter, trades specialist V, at Sumter Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 36 years of service.

Edward L. Sanders, of Rembert, engineer/associate engineer I in District 1, retired Dec. 31, after 36 years of service.

Robert E. Wicker, of Swansea, engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design retired Dec. 31, after 39 years of service.

Frazier R. Harmon, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer, Lexington Construction, retired Dec. 31, after 52 years of service.

Julian H. Burgess Jr., of New Zion, engineer/associate engineer I in Research & Materials, retired Dec. 31, after 37 years of service.

C. Ray Amick, of Prosperity, engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design, retired Dec. 31, after 40 years of service.

Walter T. Clarke, of Lexington, engineering/geodetic technician III at Lexington Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 26 years of service.

Ruby M. Peavy, of Columbia, procurement specialist II, Contracts Administrator, retired Dec. 31, after 29 years of service.

Charles W. Johnson, of Rains, trades specialist II, Marion Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 19 years of service.

James B. Powers, of Lancaster, trades specialist IV, at Lancaster Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 35 years of service.

Arthur Harris, of Laurens, trades specialist III, at Laurens Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 15 years of service.

Henry Williams Jr., of Coward, trades specialist III at Florence Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 35 years of service.

James D. Posey, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer I, C Project Development, retired Dec. 31, after 45 years of service.

Wanda G. Collins, of Marion, administrative assistant, Marion Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 30 years of service.

Arthur Brown, of Charleston, engineer/associate engineer, Charleston Maintenance, retired Dec. 31, after 12 years of service.

Ralph G. Rubeiz, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer I in Bridge Design, retired Dec. 31, after 35 years of service.

Charles E. Raymond Jr., of Pelion, information resource consultant I, Traffic Engineering, retired Dec. 31, after 34 years of service.

Willard Faulkenberry, of Ruby, mechanic III, Chesterfield Maintenance, retired Jan. 1, after 34 years of service.

Mack D. Suggs, of Loris, trades specialist V at Horry I Maintenance, retired Jan. 1, after 35 years of service.

Marion H. Vincent Jr., of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer I, Contracts Administration, retired Jan. 1, after 38 years of service.

STORM
Continued from page 1

Director of Maintenance Jim Fedra said the assistance from other areas was critical for upstate maintenance forces.

"Without outside help, they would be clearing debris for a long time and they would fall behind on their other maintenance operations," Fedra said.

Even with the extra help, it may be mid-February, two months after the storm, before the job is done in hard hit areas of Greenville and Spartanburg counties, Fedra said.

Maintenance employees, who have a long tradition of helping out in emergencies, were quick to volunteer to assist in the Upstate, Fedra said. Even District 4, which had its own area affected by the storm, sent help to worse off counties, he said.

In addition to manpower, the Districts sent equipment such as chippers to grind the limbs and debris.

"I think it's going well," Fedra said. "They're getting a lot accomplished."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

From left, Clark Aiken, Wardell Owens, Randy Taylor, Michael Jones and Joseph Mason are part of the Simpsonville Section Shed. They were one of the many crews assigned to clearing roadways in Greenville County after the storm.



ROBERT RYGGIS/DISTRICT 3

Jason Allison of District 3 uses a chainsaw to cut up and remove a fallen tree in Greenville County.



A group of employees from Saluda Maintenance was sent to Greenville County to help with clearing the roads after the Dec. 15 ice storm. They are, from left, Charles Long, Calvin Berry, Antonio Posey and Franklin Highley from Saluda Maintenance.



Del McCollum, left, and Brian Clack load supplies before heading out to repair traffic signals in Florida.

By Bob Kudelka

A group of SCDOT employees spent 10 days in Florida this past fall, but it was no vacation. The employees volunteered to help the storm-ravaged state recover from Hurricane Wilma Nov. 13-23.

Making the trip were District 5 employees Daniel Norris, Glenn Collins and Sa'mmon Cusaac; Larry Nicodin, of District 6; and Robert D. "Del" McCollum and Brian Clack of District 4.

Philip Smith, District 5 Assistant Mechanical

Signal crews get green light to help Florida

District 4, 5, 6 employees sent to Broward County after Hurricane Wilma

Engineer, said an email asking for volunteers came from the Director of Maintenance's office. He was not surprised to see the employees step up and volunteer.

"I'm proud of them; they did a good job," Smith said. "They said they worked hard and I didn't expect less. That's normally the way they work - when they're called, they go do it."

The employees helped Florida DOT by repairing traffic signals in Broward County.

"We'd go to a signal and whatever was wrong, we'd fix it," said Norris, a 15-year veteran. "Whether it was running wire, installing signal heads, whatever needed to be done."

Norris said his crew installed 46 signal heads, rewired two intersections, installed one overhead sign for school flashers and installed one generator.

"We got a lot accomplished, but it was a lot of hard work," Norris said. "We usually started at 6:30 or 7 each morning; worked until dark, 12-14 hours every day. One day, everyone in Broward County knocked off early but we were out on the road and didn't know it and worked until 8 or 9 p.m."

Cusaac called the trip a "learning experience."

"I never went somewhere with that much damage," Cusaac said. "We had good guys with us and everybody was helping out. We all pulled together and got everything back working."

The employees saw DOT employees from New York, Virginia, Tennessee, Arizona and Utah helping out.

"A lot of times you try and get in the road and work and people aren't too appreciative of the fact that you're stopping traffic, but (in Florida) they didn't seem to mind that much," Norris said. "The general public appreciated us being there and people we talked with seemed to appreciate the fact that we were down there. They'd come running out of their houses when we pulled up, thinking we were from the power company and they were getting their power back to their house."



SCDOT employees joined other state DOT employees in an effort to repair damage as quickly as possible. Shown, from left are: Larry Nicodin, Daniel Norris, Sa'mmon Cusaac and Glenn Collins.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Quick thinking and teamwork were the right combination for this maintenance crew who were nearby when a motorist's car caught fire in Berkeley County. From left are Abraham Mitchum, Lee Evans, Richard Gillyard, Lance Hatchell, Andrewon Cobbs and Stephanie Scherrer.

Employees extinguish fire off I-26

Berkeley, Dorchester crews rush to put out car fire

By Bob Kudelka

As a flagman directing traffic on SC Route 27 in Berkeley County on a September afternoon, Lee Evans noticed a car that had exited I-26 and pulled over to the side of the road.

At first, Evans thought the smoke coming from the engine was just the car overheating. He soon realized the car was on fire. The driver began frantically trying to put it out by throwing rags and even dirt on it. The fire was only getting worse.

Evans immediately called for help. "I called on my hand radio to find the closest person with a fire extinguisher," said Evans, a trades specialist and a three-year veteran with SCDOT.

He first called machine operator Richard Gilliard, who had set up a bush cutting operation nearby along the two-lane road. Gilliard advised Evans to contact co-workers Stephanie Scherrer and Abraham Mitchum, whose truck was equipped with a fire extinguisher. They quickly headed to the scene of the fire.

Evans, meanwhile, waved down Dorchester Maintenance employees Lance Hatchell and Andrewon Cobbs, who happened to be driving by. He used their fire extinguisher to start putting out the fire. When Scherrer arrived, she joined the effort to extinguish the blaze.

"I sprayed underneath and Stephanie sprayed over top," said Evans, who acknowledged that it crossed his mind that there was a chance the car could

explode. "If it had blown up, it would have been a bigger problem."

Scherrer said, "We got to it before it got too bad."

Evans and Scherrer put out the fire, and there were no injuries.

"I was glad to help," Scherrer said. "It was the first time I used a fire extinguisher."

For their actions, the group of Berkeley and Dorchester employees received On-the-Dot awards presented by Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Michael Black on behalf of District 6 DEA Robert Clark.

"I couldn't be more proud of this group of employees," said Roger Bowers, RME at Berkeley County. "They did an outstanding job. They responded very well and very quickly to assist the motorist in putting out the fire and preventing further damage to the vehicle and possible injury to the occupant."

The incident was relayed at Berkeley County Maintenance's safety meeting in October -- Fire Safety Month. The session included a demonstration and hands-on training from the fire marshal from Moncks Corner, Bowers said.

"We definitely try to encourage all of our employees to help motorists, whether it be situations such as flat tires, running out of gas or emergencies such as this," Bowers said. "We definitely encourage doing everything we can to project a positive image for the motoring public. Not only are we out there maintaining the roads and rights of way, but we're there to assist motorists whenever possible."

Commissioner John M. Truluck inducted into Hall of Fame

By Bob Kudelka

Sixth Congressional District Commissioner John M. "Moot" Truluck was inducted into Florence County School District Three's Alumni Hall of Fame in November, an honor that Truluck said he never imagined during his days at Lake City schools.

The induction ceremony was held as part of the Lake City Chamber of Commerce's "Lake City on Parade" on Nov. 17.

The honor caught Truluck by surprise.

"It is a wonderful honor and something I never even imagined would transpire in my life," Truluck said. "The real honor I guess is that people in your hometown would think enough of you to honor you such as this. The hardest people to fool are the people who have known you forever."

For people who work with Truluck at SCDOT, it was no surprise that he would receive such an honor.

"SCDOT is very proud of Commissioner Truluck for receiving this well-deserved honor in his hometown of Lake City," said Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry. "Commissioner Truluck has continued his commitment to public service by working tirelessly to improve the transportation system in his Congressional District as well as across the state of South Carolina."

Inductees are selected based on being recognized as a leader in his or her community, having had a significant impact through involvement or activities in Florence School District Three or having distinguished himself or herself through achievements while a student in Florence School District Three.

The selection committee is comprised of one Board of Trustees member, two teachers, one school principal, two members of the community and one member of the superintendent's executive or senior staff.

"We are excited to have Mr. Truluck join the 44 other outstanding graduates in the Florence County School District Three Alumni Hall of Fame," said Beth M. Wright, district superintendent. "He has distinguished himself professionally and as a civic leader through his service to the community. He embodies all the traits we expect from a member of our Hall of Fame."

Wright said, "Commissioner Truluck has contributed greatly to the commu-



nity by providing assistance for a number of projects, including sidewalks and improved roads that make traveling to and from school safer for our children. It is an honor to claim him as one of our own."

Truluck has fond memories attending school in Lake City in the 1950s and 1960s. He liked the small town atmosphere where people looked after each other, came together to watch football on Friday nights and where the worst trouble a teen-ager got into was for smoking a cigarette.

"I'm proud of where I came from and proud of my school," Truluck said.

After graduating from Lake City High School in 1963, Truluck earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing from the University of South Carolina.

He was a teacher, coach and school administrator at Lake City Junior High School from 1968 to 1975.

In 1975, he became a partner in Bowen Tobacco Sales and Big Brick Warehouse Co., Inc., serving as vice president of both companies. From 1995-2003, Truluck was a partner in Planters, Growers and Golden Leaf Warehouse. He also served as president and secretary/treasurer of the South Carolina Tobacco Warehouse Association. He served as president of Bright Belt Warehouse Association, a trade organization for auction houses in the five states that produce flue-cured tobacco, in 1998 and as chairman of the board from 1999-2002.

Truluck served as a member of the City Council of Lake City from 1978-82, and was mayor pro-tem from 1980-82.

Truluck is director of the tobacco division of the Farm Service Agency, a Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also in his 12th year as a highway commissioner, having served since 1998 and a prior term in the late 1980s.

He is married to the former Carol Ann Matthews of Lake City. They have two grown children, John IV and Anna Truluck Milliken.

Engineers flock to ACECSC meeting

American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina

By Bob Kudelka

The SCDOT-American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina annual meeting drew a near record crowd in October, as SCDOT employees and consultants gathered to share success stories and strengthen partnerships to benefit the public.

"I'm real pleased with the turnout," said Robert Pratt, SCDOT Director of Preconstruction and SCDOT-ACEC-SC Co-Chairman. "It seems like it gets better every year."

There were 97 SCDOT employees and 133 members from the consulting community at the SCDOT-ACEC meeting in Columbia, said Joe S. Jones, ACEC-SC Executive Director.

"This figure tied the highest number in our eight-year history," Jones said. "We have steadily grown. From my research for my remarks, I noted the increase since our first meeting."

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman and FHWA Division Administrator Bob Lee spoke after each other, came together to watch football on Friday nights and where the worst trouble a teen-ager got into was for smoking a cigarette.

Mabry said the annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to thank the consulting community for "getting projects in on time and on budget, things that are becoming more critical."

"Just knowing you're part of a team can make you stronger," Mabry said. "We try to practice that at SCDOT with our employees. And we try to practice that with our industry partners, the consultants, the contractors and the MPOs."

Mabry spoke about the importance of public service and its role in ensuring projects are successful.

"Our customers 'expect good work and they expect a pleasant attitude from the people who are out there,'" Mabry said. "This is an attitude we reinforce with our employees at SCDOT, and they are wonderful... We count on the private industry to adopt that same attitude that we have."

Mabry said, "Improving infrastructure and mass transit is not an expense, it is an investment in South Carolina. We make a difference in the economy; we make a difference in the quality of life."

Lee gave an executive summary of the new federal authorization bill, SAFETEA-LU.

Chapman provided an update on the amount of construction lettings, which increased from 2004 to 2005, with contracts totaling \$768 million in the past year, not including design build.

A good way for consultants to look at the Department's future needs is to read the Strategic Plan, Chapman said. It is available online at: www.scdot.org.

The agenda included presentations on safety by Terecia Wilson and Dick Jenkins; environmental permitting, Berry Still; bridge replacements using design build, Rocque Kneece, Jim Porth and Cliff Moore; the demolition of the old Cooper River Bridges, Charles Dwyer and Kenny Pietz; future priorities and projects, John Walsh; and an update on Interstate 73, Mitchell Metts, I.B. "Skip" Johnson and Michael McGuire. Keynote speaker was Edward Mulcahy, National ACEC Chairman.

Pratt said work began in February on planning the meeting. The committee, which developed the list of topics and speakers, included Doug McClure, Bener Amado, Michelle James, Merritt King, Mike McGuire, Tim Sharpe and Charlie Smoak. Assisting with the computer setup and presentations were Mike Austin and Lynsee Gibson.

"Each year, I am totally amazed at our past year's accomplishments," Pratt said. "Without our consulting partners, we would not have achieved the successes that we have enjoyed today."

Pratt said the annual meeting is a benefit to SCDOT, the consulting community and the public.

"I think it's good for all the consultants to see what we are doing that's sort of different - getting out of the box," Pratt said. "For instance, on the I-73 project, we are tracking the environmental process along with the permitting process, which will save approximately three years of time. I don't think all the consulting firms realize that's a possibility."

Engineer Development Program: New groups start training program

Group 40				Group 41		
Brian Dix Office of Materials and Research	Chad Elledge Road Design	Richard Pleasant Greenville Construction	Clayton Richter Anderson Construction	Lyle Davis Orangeburg Construction	Jeff Elliott Office of State Highway Engineer	Thomas Tisdale Anderson Construction Lexington Maintenance

CHAPMAN from page 1

He balanced academics and sports so well that he won a countywide award from the Newberry Observer newspaper for being the student with the highest grade point average while participating in at least two sports.

After graduating from high school in 1971, Chapman attended the University of South Carolina and became the first member of his immediate family to attend college. Chapman worked his way through college, juggling jobs at a work-study program on campus and at the saw-mill during the summer.

While at USC, Chapman chose to major in engineering based on his excellent grades in math during high school. He began studying electrical engineering, but soon was attracted to civil engineering.

At the end of his junior year at USC, one of Chapman's childhood friends, former SCDOT bridge design engineer Randy Cannon, helped land him a summer job with the highway department at Edgefield.

He graduated from USC in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering and joined the West Columbia Construction office under John Corley.

"John spent a lot of time with me and took me under his wing and showed me a lot of things in construction," Chapman said.

Two years later, he was resurfacing Old Cherokee Highway one day in Lexington County when co-worker Sammy Jackson told him the DEA wanted to talk with him. "Of course, my fear was I'm getting ready to get fired," he said.

The DEA, Milledge Smith, instead told him he wanted him to become RME at Lee County. It was the first of several promotions for Chapman.

"It was obvious he was a go-getter," said Wanda Prince, assistant Human Resources Director. Prince remembers the day Chapman interviewed for his first job and she later worked closely with him at District 1.

"I have always thought Tony Chapman was a fair supervisor," Prince said. "Whether we agreed or disagreed, I thought he was fair in his assessments. He's always allowed me to say what I felt."

Bill Taylor, who was survey crew chief in West Columbia when Chapman was first hired, is not surprised at how Chapman has risen through the ranks.

"I think he's a very genuine person and he's a very honest person," said Taylor, a 39-year veteran. "When it comes to his job and his commitment to DOT, he's very focused. He comes across with that hard rock image, but there's a compassionate side."

In 1980, Chapman was promoted to RME in Sumter County, where he spent the next five years. In 1985 he was recognized as top Resident Maintenance Engineer of the state.

He switched from maintenance to construction in 1985 when he became District Construction Engineer for Dis-

trict 1 in Columbia. In 1992, he was given what he describes as a valuable opportunity to be interim DEA for District 3. He commuted from Columbia for six months, staying in an apartment during the week in Greenville.

In 1993, Chapman was promoted to DEA at District 1, replacing Smith who had held the position for nearly 20 years.

It was Smith who had been a key mentor for Chapman.

"He gave opportunities to a young engineer most people would not have given," Chapman said. "He coached me and spent time with me when he felt like it was necessary."

Smith remembers Chapman as "a hard worker, very smart."

"I asked him to transfer all those times, and he did," said Smith, who retired in 1993 and now lives at Lake Hartwell. "He took advantage of opportunities to expand his experience. I think he'll do very well as State Highway Engineer. He's very fair to employees and very fair to the Department."

In 1999, Chapman received the Executive Director's Award for Excellence.

Chapman served as District 1 DEA until 2000, when then State Highway Engineer Don Freeman asked him to become Director of Maintenance. A year later, he became Deputy State Highway Engineer and last year succeeded Freeman.

"I had an opportunity to work with Ms. Mabry and Don Freeman for five years. Both have been great supervisors and allowed me to make changes when I believed it would improve DOT or a particular area. They trusted my judgment; they coached me. They allowed me to learn, and they gave me an opportunity. Ms. Mabry has now given me the opportunity of a lifetime to serve as State Highway Engineer.

"My whole career I was given opportunities not only to advance but to go into different areas and experience the many different aspects of the Department of Transportation. My job has always been interesting and I've always looked forward to the work."

This April will mark 30 years at the Department, but Chapman likes his job too much to even think about retiring. A self-described workaholic, Chapman was eager to return to work after the recent holidays.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Chapman enjoys fishing in his spare time. Above, he takes his 19-foot bass boat out on Lake Murray to relax and catch some fish.

"I enjoy coming to work each day," he said. "DOT always offers a challenge every day, whether it's in maintenance or construction or in pre-construction, the whole engineering arena. Every day is a different challenge. I enjoy multi-tasking, jumping from one project to another, trying to balance all that we have to do."

"Our world at DOT is constantly changing," Chapman said. "Part of my goals are to work to make sure our employees are trained and prepared to accept the challenges or the changes that we face."

Chapman said he believes one of his strengths is the ability to find and prepare employees to take on new roles of responsibility.

"I'm always constantly looking for the person who wants to step up and take that responsibility, and then try to find an opportunity for them to do that," he said.

With the first group of TERI employees leaving, Chapman said he would be looking for employees to take on new leadership positions.

"The people retiring from DOT after their good and faithful service open up the door for other employees who have patiently waited and have been trained for a position and can say, 'It's my turn,'" he said. "I'm looking for this as the year of opportunities."

Chapman said despite the constant funding challenges faced by SCDOT, he is optimistic about the future.

"At the DOT we always have the challenge to take the money the taxpayers entrust to us and do the very best we can with that money to maintain and build a transportation system for South Carolina. That's an ever-changing system, a constantly changing arena we work in."



CHAPMAN FISHING QUIZ:

There are three things wrong in this photograph. Can you figure them out? The answer is on page 24.



Chapman looks at an 8-pound bass he caught at one of his favorite fishing holes. But don't ask him where that is. There are some things a fisherman won't tell you.

TONY L. CHAPMAN STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER

Family: Married to the former Pamela Hancock of Irmo. The couple has three children, Shannon Anthony "Tony" Chapman, 24; Joseph William Chapman, 21, and John Andrew Chapman; 13. He has one brother, Carey "Casey" Chapman, and one sister, Belva Beck. His father, Mr. J. Cloyd Chapman still resides in Newberry.

Hobby: When he is not working or spending time with family, Chapman's passion is bass fishing. He takes his 19-foot bass boat to Lake Murray, Hartwell, Thurmond, Russell, Wateree, Greenwood and the Santee Cooper lake system and enjoys competing against other anglers.

Church: He is a member of Union United Methodist Church, the Chapel Sunday School Class, enjoys ushering and greeting worshippers and has served as the Chairman of the Communication Committee.

Education and Career:

- Graduated Mid-Carolina High School
- Graduated University of South Carolina in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Registered Professional Engineer - South Carolina
- Began work with South Carolina Highway Department in 1975 as a Summer Employee
- Progressed through the ranks within the Department as follows:

1975-1976

Summer Employee - Edgefield County

1976-1978

Project Engineer - Lexington County

1978-1980

Resident Maintenance Engineer

Lee County-District 1

1980-1985

Resident Maintenance Engineer

Sumter County - District 1

1985-1993

District Construction Engineer

Columbia - District 1

1993-2000

District Engineering Administrator

District 1

2000-2001

Director of Maintenance - Columbia

2001-2005

Deputy State Highway Engineer

2005 - present

State Highway Engineer

Sharing and Caring

We are pleased to report that the SCDOT family once again exceeded all expectations and reached out to our co-workers here in South Carolina, as well as at the Mississippi DOT, to ensure that their holidays were cheerful.

During the Thanksgiving Food Drive, we collected over 5,000 pounds of food items for Mississippi DOT families devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The outpouring of goods from counties across the state was more than we ever imagined! The Mississippi DOT family was touched by our efforts and is truly grateful for our care and concern dur-

ing their time of hardship.

But you didn't stop there. Sixteen families were adopted during the Christmas Adopt-a-SCDOT-Family drive. Your donations of food, clothing, gifts and money ensured that fellow employees and their families had a merry holiday.

Thank you for all your efforts! We are proud to be a part of such a giving SCDOT family.

2006 STTAR Class
2006 Step-21 Class
SCDOT Holiday Committee



Give those tastebuds a treat! Feed them some new dishes from list below.

Wedding or Christmas Cookies

- 1 lb soft unsalted butter
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tblspns vanilla
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 cups finely chopped nuts; pecans, walnuts, almonds, whatever
- 5 cps sifted pastry flour
- Powdered or confection sugar for dusting
- Cookie sheets, either buttered or lined with parchment paper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix butter and powdered sugar low speed until, smooth, light, and fluffy. (10-15 minutes.) Add vanilla, salt and nuts. Remove from mixer and stir in pastry flour by hand or spatula. Careful not to over-mix.

Flour your hands, and form into football shapes, crescents, or balls about the size of small walnuts (about 1 tablespoon.) You ought to keep your hands floured as you shape more.

Stop, this is important! You could go ahead and cook your batches, but it is generally a good idea to bake 2 or 3 individual cookies first, as a dry run. This allows you to check flavor, sweetness, texture, and cooking length. You can then alter the batter slightly before making an entire batch that is partly unsatisfying. After that, cook the batch or try a second test baking.

Place on buttered or lined cookie sheet and bake 10-12 minutes, toss or sprinkle sugar occasionally while cooking. Remove when they beginning to show the first bit of color and set on wire racks to cool. When cool enough to touch but still warm, place in a bowl of powdered or confectioners' sugar, toss gently to coat the cookie.

When cold, store cookies in airtight container and cover until ready to serve. You may choose to use the powdered sugar in the container. This helps to cushion and ensures coating.

Now, a caveat. These little cookies are brittle, and will crumble easily, and even burst sugar everywhere when you bite them even when careful.



Robert Hammond
Postal Services

Onion Vinaigrette Salad

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup Chopped onion
- 1 1/2 Teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon ground mustard
- dash pepper
- lettuce
- cherry tomatoes
- sliced cucumber
- grated carrots
- cauliflower
- a vegetable of your choice

Combine first eight ingredients and put in a jar with a tight fitting lid; shake well. Best if refrigerated overnight. (Makes 1 1/2 cups dressing.) Combine lettuce and vegetables. Drizzle with dressing and toss to coat. Store left over dressing in the refrigerator.



Alice Davis
Executive Director's Office

Heavenly Hash Fruit Salad

- 2 large cans fruit cocktail
- 2 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1 large can pineapple chunks
- 1 large container Cool Whip
- 3 bananas, cut in chunks
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 1/2 cup diced apples
- Sugar to taste
- 1 med. or large jar red cherries

Drain fruit cocktail, pineapples, and cherries well. Let chill. Add bananas, apples, pecans, and marshmallows. Mix well. Add approximately 2 tablespoons of sugar. Add Cool Whip. Mix well. Let chill and serve.

Enjoy, Enjoy, Enjoy.



Mae Alice Johnson-Young
Executive Director's Office

Coffee Cake

- 1 cup margarine softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup fat free sour cream
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 21- oz. can Comstock Pie filling (your choice pie filling or topping)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

In a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer, beat margarine, sugar, eggs, sour cream and vanilla for 2 minutes. Add flour, baking powder and salt; mix just until combined. Spread half the batter in the bottom of a greased 13x9 inch pan. Top with pie filling and remaining batter. In a small bowl combine sugar brown sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over the top of cake. Bake in a preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes. Cool. Makes about 20 servings.

Corn Casserole

- 1 can whole kernel corn drained
- 1 can cream of corn
- 8 oz of sour cream
- 1 stick butter melted
- 1 box jiffy corn bread mix
- 10 oz of shredded cheddar (use half in the casserole and reserve half for topping)

Mix together and bake in a 350 degree oven for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Take out and top with remaining cheese and return to oven until cheese melts.

Angela Hoyle
Safety Office

A close call

Seat belt saves SCDOT employee in rollover crash

By Bob Kudelka

When Lawton Player's SUV flipped over the first time, he remembers how strange it was that everything went quiet.

Then the vehicle crashed onto its roof, and Player, his wife and 13-year-old son hung upside down in their seat belts, waiting for their Honda CRV to stop.

"We hung upside down and watched the asphalt slide below the windshield and we watched the window crack," Player said. "It came to a stop and we were hanging upside down, all three of us, in our seat belts."

Rescue workers at the scene of the wreckage were amazed as Player and his wife had only minor injuries and their son was unharmed.

Player, an 18-year veteran of SCDOT who works at Headquarters, is convinced seat belts were the difference between life and death in the Aug. 30 traffic crash when his vehicle was broad sided at an intersection in West Columbia.

"Had we not been buckled in, our faces would have been in the windshield and on the concrete," Player said. "I don't know that we would have survived."

Player's story is just one of many involving people whose lives may have been saved by seat belts, said Terecia Wilson, Director of Safety at SCDOT.

On Dec. 9, the state's new seat belt law went into effect, requiring that every driver and occupants of a motor vehicle wear a fastened safety belt.

"SCDOT's primary goal is improving safety," Wilson said. "Increasing seat belt usage rates is one of the key ways to immediately impact safety. A properly fastened safety belt can reduce your risk of death or injury in a crash by as much as 50%, and when combined with an airbag, to 55%."

The crash involving the Player family occurred on a Sunday evening as he, his wife and son were driving back home from Columbia College, where he had dropped off his daughter to begin her freshman year.

A vehicle heading in his direction attempted a left turn at an intersection, striking his car and causing it to roll over.

Rescue workers tried to use the Jaws of Life to peel back the wreckage and allow the Player family to get out, but it could not open a door. Player, his wife and son crawled out the rear window of the totaled SUV.

"You should have seen the look at the EMS guy's face when we got out," Player said. "There was a look of 'Wow, you're OK.'"

While his son, Joel, was unharmed, Player suffered cuts and bruises and glass remained embedded in his finger for two months. His wife, Ami, needed stitches on her right hand and also suffered abrasions.



LAWTON PLAYER/SCDOT



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

After the accident, SCDOT employee Lawton Player decided to get a larger vehicle for his family.

At the wreck scene, two ambulances arrived and took the Players to the hospital. His wife and son rode together in one ambulance; Player was in the other. It was then, when he was apart from his family, that he realized how close he came to losing everything, how lucky he was to still have his family and to still be alive, and he began to weep.

"We all have the thought process that we're in control," Player said. "I can honestly say I thought I was in control before this. Now every time I get behind the wheel I know I'm not in control. Because other people can be distracted, irresponsible, just generally not paying attention, and you're not in control of the other thousands of people you're riding with. You can't always prevent an accident. You're never in control - it's a false sense of security. If you don't wear a seat belt, you're crazy."

The crash has made Player had his family more vigilant about using seat belts. In the past, Player sometimes would not put on his seat belt until he reached an intersection down the road from his house.

"Now, I get in the garage and put on my seat belt before I crank up the car," Player said. "I don't ever forget now. We'll always wear seat belts, and I know my son will always wear his seat belt."

"My son says, 'Dad, did you put on your seat belt yet?' And I'm not sitting down in the car yet. Yeah, let me get in."

Bobby Clair retires

Finishes SCDOT career after managing CRB construction



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

A large crowd of friends and family joined Bobby Clair on Oct. 7 at his retirement dinner at the Omar Shrine Temple in Mount Pleasant. During the celebration, Clair was surprised when he was given the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor given by the Governor of South Carolina. Above, Clair and his wife, Dena, take a moment to look at the award.



Bobby Clair (he's the one on the left) greets a special guest at the party which included a good-natured roast of the guest of honor. After hearing that Don Freeman had received a 'mule' all-terrain-vehicle for his retirement, Clair's friends presented him with a live mule. He was later presented with a Honda ATV.

District 1 News

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

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

Got news?

District 1 has a new Connector Coordinator. Teresa Harley is interested in your story ideas. Contact her at: 803-737-6650 or email her at HarleyTL@scdot.org



Teresa Harley

Meet the District One Resident Construction Engineers

They are young, enthusiastic and extremely hard working. They won't tell you that they're great but their projects will!

With over 166 active construction projects in District One totaling over \$456 million, you had better believe these Resident Construction Engineers are hard workers. Four of the six residents have obtained their Professional Engineering Registration and the other two are actively working towards this goal.



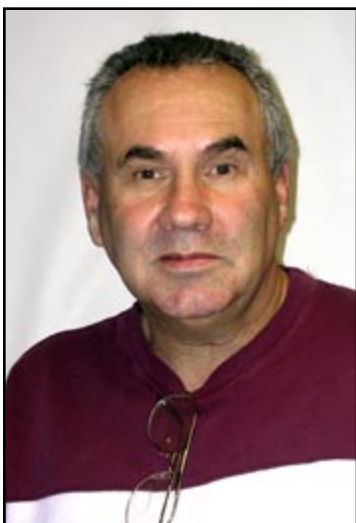
Robbie Isgett

With just over five years at the helm, Robbie Isgett is the most senior RCE. He is a 1996 Civil Engineering Graduate from North Carolina State University. He is also a member of the current STTAR Class as well as an avid NASCAR fan.



Allen Thompson

The most junior RCE, Allen Thompson, joined the Department only a few months ago. He is a 1994 Civil Engineering Graduate from Clemson University. He enjoys camping in the northwest area of South Carolina.



Michael A. Wilson

District One Suffers a Great Loss

Michael Wilson, 53, Resident Engineer at Lexington Maintenance, died Feb. 16 after his vehicle was struck from behind by a car being chased by police. Mike joined SCDOT in 1978. He had been Resident at Lexington since 1988. He is survived by his mother, father, two brothers, two sisters and a son, Jamie. Mike lost his other son, Shawn, just last year. Mike will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Sherri Wahdan

When Sherri Wahdan is not spending time with her two young children, she is quite the gardener. She is a 1997 Civil Engineering Graduate from University of South Carolina.



Yates Jackson

Yates Jackson found heaven when his daughter came into the world not too long ago. However, she does not interfere with his weight lifting activities. She is a 1994 Civil Engineering Graduate from University of South Carolina.

What a diverse group these engineers are; but, they all pull together as a team to make District One a wonderful place to work in the field of construction as they all characterize the values and principles of the SCDOT.

With three major interstate routes and two interstate spurs intersecting and traversing through District One totaling 208 miles, the six RCE's along with the District's CRM construction office stay extremely busy.

They manage all the interstate rehabilitation work including ramp widening work, lengthening of acceleration and deceleration lanes, resurfacing, remarking, the placement of Open Graded Friction Course and concrete patching, along with Vibro-Stone Ground Modification seem almost common place. Just the routine, if that is possible, construction projects such as resurfacing, shoulder paving, shoulder widening, full depth patching, sidewalk installation, enhancement, landscaping, guardrail and cable barrier, intersection improvements, bridge replacement and chip seal are not enough for these construction offices. There is no such thing as down time or slow time for these engineers.

In addition to these routine projects each office is inundated with high profile projects. Columbia's first Urban Diamond Bridge Interchange project just reached substantial completion. Work continues on the SC-6/I-20 interchange, the SC-302 widening project, the famous Clemson Road new alignment to I-77, US-521 widening in Sumter, the Lake Murray Dam and SC-60 project, etc., etc., etc.

Two big projects will be uncorked later this year – The John Hardee Expressway Phase II in Columbia and The Palmetto Parkway (I-520) from US-1 to I-20 in Aiken County.

None of the RCE's could accomplish the oversight of this work without the hard work and dedication of each man and woman in the SCDOT's construction offices. These engineers, inspectors, and office assistants make the job of being the RCE in District One substantially less work. Each RCE will tell you without them we would be lost. The District One Construction Engineer, Robert Dickinson, is at the helm of this massive construction ship and is helped tremendously by his first mate, Herb Cooper, ADCE. Sometimes we travel through rough waters; but we always make it to port.



David Rogers

David Rogers, a fisherman extraordinaire, loves to spend time with his daughter who just had her first birthday. He is a 1998 Civil Engineering Graduate from Clemson University.



Jeff Terry

Jeff Terry loves to coach youth football and baseball when he is not partnering with the contractors in Aiken County. He is a 1995 Civil Engineering Graduate from Clemson University.



Wendy Mora

Meet Wendy Mora

Name: Wendy Mora
Title: Engineering/Geodetic III
Unit: Aiken Maintenance

activities in Aiken County.

Wendy Mora has been employed with the Department of Transportation for 10 years and is an Engineering/Geodetic Technician III with Aiken Maintenance. Currently she serves as an inspector for projects let to contract in performing maintenance

Wendy is bilingual and speaks Spanish. This skill benefits both Aiken maintenance and the subcontractors by keeping communication clear and concise.

When not at work, Wendy enjoys gardening, traveling and spending time with her new granddaughter, Jamie Lee Bearden, born December 20, 2005.

Congratulations. Wendy!

District 2 News

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

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

Bridge Inspections

Darrin Clem and Daniel Shaw of the District 2 Bridge Inspection Crew inspect the Highway 221 bridge over Lake Greenwood in Greenwood County.



Got news?

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



Dwayne Scott

Gift of Life



Senior Highway Maintenance Foreman Johnny Lindler of Newberry Maintenance was on dialysis for three months before he received a second kidney transplant on September 14, 2005. His wife, Stephanie, donated her kidney after being cleared from long intense testing. Johnny said Stephanie gave him a wonderful gift of life. Johnny's first transplant was 16 years ago, with a donated kidney from his mother.

Auto Flagger Demonstration



Abbeville Maintenance tested an Auto Flagging unit on S-1-194 in Abbeville County. The benefits of the Auto Flagger are that it reduces the number of employees necessary for the operation for a safe work zone and allows employees to control traffic from a remote location.

Retirement drop-in celebrates 115 years of service



Greenwood Maintenance had a retirement drop-in on Friday, Dec. 16 for Ted Walker, Ervin "Skeeter" Freeman and Mark Dansby. The total number of years working with the DOT for all three of them together would be more than 115!

Walker started at SCDOT in September 1962 and retired with 43 years of service.

Freeman retired with 38 years of service. He began working at SCDOT in March 1967.

Dansby came to SCDOT in March 1971 and worked for 34 years before retiring.

Meet Dondi Rogers

Name: Dondi Rogers
Title: Saluda Construction
Years at SCDOT: 16
Married: 24 years
Children: A daughter, 16, and a son, 15.

Dondi has been doing taxidermy for 14 years. He also coaches baseball and football at W. Wyman King Academy. He also coaches an 18 and under girls travel ball softball team. Rogers is a 2005 Step-21 graduate.



Dondi Rogers



Two examples of Rogers taxidermy work are shown here. Rogers not only does the fish, but constructs the bases and stands that display the fish.

District 3 News

Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties

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

Got news?

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



Joyce Gardner

ICE STORM



ROBERT RYGG/S/DISTRICT 3

Kevin Paxton, Kenny Henderson and Jason Allison cut and remove a tree during the ice storm Dec. 15 in Greenville.



District 3 says goodbye to someone special

On February 12, 1973, Melvin Merck began his career with The Department of Highways and Public Transportation. Melvin led an eventful career with the Department gaining experience in both maintenance and construction.

However, on December 31, 2005, Melvin became the first District Three employee to retire under the TERI program. Of course it could not be just any normal retirement celebration for someone as special as Melvin.

The day before his send off party, December 15, 2005, the upstate was hit with the worst ice storm in years. Around 10 am, the power was lost in the District Office Building. The SCDOT was only one of the 500,000 customers in the upstate without power.

Melvin was set to say goodbye on Friday afternoon from 2 pm until 4:00pm. The party was scheduled for the assembly room on the fourth floor, but it had to be relocated to an office on the third floor where friends and family gathered to bid a farewell. The third floor was running on an emergency generator and a busy staff who kept things going.

Melvin was hosted with a warm goodbye message from DEA Busbee. In addition to the numerous friends and co-workers from the district, several others ventured from Columbia to bid him farewell.

Melvin brought his wife, two sons, two daughters and three grandchildren to say his goodbyes. He will be greatly missed by those with the Department and even the one's he worked with on the outside.



Melvin Merck poses with two of his grandchildren during his retirement party Dec. 15.

Of course, shortly after Melvin left the building, the power was restored. Melvin was smiling on the way out the door, as he was remembering his many years working all night in this type of weather. The district wide clean-up continued, minus a great leader.

Sign shop raises money for Katrina relief

The Upper State Sign Shop did more than just give 1 for 1 in the Katrina Relief Effort project. They elected to empty the "Christmas Party Pig" for those in need. Nine employees, raised \$128.00 for their celebration. Helping others was their ultimate goal for 2005.



Group from left to right: Brenda Goodall, "Tub" Brown, Charlie Parcels, Denise Henderson, Ray Shook. David Turner and Liz Tatum. Not in picture is Ted Adams and Trigger Moore.

Meet Elizabeth Campbell Tatum

Name: Elizabeth Campbell Tatum, Trades Specialist V
Position: Supervisor, Upper Sign Shop, Greenville
Started SCDOT: 1984 - 22 years of service. Began as a Maintenance I Worker.

Family: Two sons, Ricky Campbell and Nathan Tatum; and two daughters, Elizabeth Graves and Rebecca Sullivan; and 10 grandchildren.

Memberships/Honors: 2005 STEP 21 Graduate Artist Member of Upstate Visual Arts, Attending Greenville Technical College to obtain an AA in Fine/Graphic Art, On National Deans List for 2003-2005, Featured in Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges 2005-2006, Member of Laurens Saddle Club, Member of S.C.A.R.E. Equine rescue organization, Member of Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 9273

Hobbies: Oil Painting, trail riding, camping, reading. Raises and trains horses on her farm in Fountain Inn Has four horses: Blazing Genius, Likely Lady, Sugar, and Betsy

Has two dogs: Jack Russell mix; Gateway and Doodle Bug

Has one tiger Manx cat: Betty Boop
 Loves the arts, the outdoors, grandchildren, and animals

Famous relatives: Governor Carroll A. Campbell-brother Vardry McBee, Greenville Founder - Great, great, great, grandfather



Elizabeth Tatum

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

D4 crews assist upstate with storm cleanup

Crews lend a helping hand, aid upstate after winter storm

Crews from Chester, Fairfield and Union Counties answered the call when they volunteered to help clean up debris from a devastating ice storm that hit the upstate in mid-December.

Crews worked 10-12 hour shifts from December 9 through December 27. The Chester crew worked in the Campobello area under the guideline of section foremen Tommy Johnson and Chris Trivete.



UNION CREW

Front row: Lawrence Booker and Charles Wicks. Back row: Robert Wilkins, Tony Archuleta and Wilson Bates.



CHESTER CREW

Left to right: Leon Boulware, J.W. Austin, Cody McAbee, Dean Johnson, Richard Hunter, Ronnie Byers, Buddy Bell and A. J. Roof. Not pictured: James Lucas.



FAIRFIELD CREW

Front row: King Chappelle and Tommy Martin. Back row: Ray Pearson and Jack Melvin.

Employees respond to Hurricane Wilma

District 4 employees Brian Clack and Robert "Dude" McCollum were recognized by District 4 Engineering Administrator Stan Bland for their volunteer actions during Hurricane Wilma.

Clark and McCollum spent eight days in Broward County near Fort Lauderdale repairing over 40 intersection traffic signals. Robert said he and Brian were teamed up with crews from the Tampa area and worked 12-14 hours each day.



Brian Clack, left, and Robert 'Dude' McCollum, center, are thanked by District 4 Engineering Administrator Stan Bland for their help in repairing traffic signals in Broward County, Florida, after Hurricane Wilma.

Meet Keith Mobley

Name: Keith "OSHAMAN" Mobley
Job: OSHA Officer 1
Work Location: Chester Maintenance
Date Started: January 4, 2005
Family: Married for 28 years to his wife, Shirley. They have a son, Brian, 27, and a daughter, Brooke, 24.
Hobbies: He is a Member of the Chester Hilltop Cruisers Car Club. In his spare time, he attends car shows and shows off his 1972 Nova. He also enjoys doing yard work at home.



Keith Mobley

132 years of service!



Four long-time employees in Lancaster celebrate during a retirement dinner Dec. 15. From left, Trades Specialist V Resident Maintenance Foreman Tommy Pitts, Trades Specialist IV Foreman James Powers, Trades Specialist IV Foreman Harvey Carnes and Trades Specialist III Foreman Carroll Coyle.

Lancaster Maintenance celebrated the retirement of four of its long time employees with a retirement dinner on Dec. 15.

The employees had combined for over 132 years of service to

the department. The retirees all looked forward to retirement and planned on pursuing interests such as motorcycles, woodworking, hunting dogs and cattle farming in retirement.

York gets new facility



York Maintenance will have a new facility to call home soon. The Complex is located on Ogden Road in Rock Hill on a 22-acre tract. Construction on the \$5 million dollar facility began in August 2005 and should be completed by July 2006.

District 5 News

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

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

Myrtle Beach crews share facility

Horry Section Shed, Signal Crew, Incident Responders

The Myrtle Beach Section Shed complex is shared by the Myrtle Beach Maintenance Crew (Jeff Gasque, foreman), District 5 Signal Crew, Myrtle Beach Unit (Daniel Norris, Foreman) and the Myrtle Beach Incident Responders (Jim Bennett, Manager). The building is located at 3829 Business Street, Myrtle Beach near the intersection of SC 31 and US 501. These SCDOT employees have shared the building and grounds for approximately three years. Each crew has ample parking and storage space for vehicles, supplies and equipment. They eagerly assist each other when needed with various tasks.

The District 5 Signal Crew, Myrtle Beach Unit, which consist of 3 SCDOT employees. These employees maintain signals in Horry and Georgetown Counties. Of the districts 485 traffic lights 239 are located in Horry and Georgetown Counties. They keep supplies and materials on hand for normal use and in the event of a hurricane or an emergency situation. These employees are kept busy maintaining the traffic signals to help ensure the public safety.

Myrtle Beach Maintenance Crew consist of five SCDOT employees at this time. They maintain the state roadways in Myrtle Beach from Lake Arrowhead Road southward to the Georgetown County line and westward to Carolina Forest Blvd. Supplies and equipment are kept on hand for everyday use and emergency situations. They stay busy cleaning ditches, mowing, patching potholes, cutting backs along with many other duties year round.

Myrtle Beach Incident Responders unit consist of 10 responders. The responders patrol US 501, US 17, SC 31 and SC 22 in Horry County. They provide assistance to motorist experiencing vehicle mechanical problems and provide support and assistance to emergency response teams during incidents.



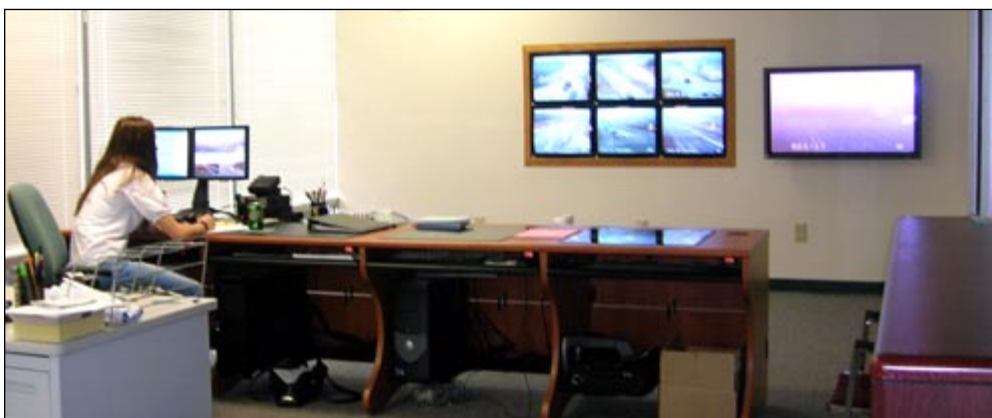
The facility provides storage for traffic signals and supplies used by crews in the Myrtle Beach area.



The hours of operations are 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday, 9 am to 7 pm Saturday and 9 am to 5 pm Sunday. The Florence unit consisting of five employees, also under the same management. This unit patrols 30 miles of interstate on I-95 and I-20 in Florence County.

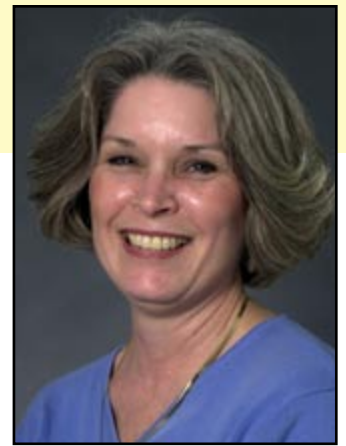


Shown above is the facility's conference room. Shown below is the Traffic Management Center where Myrtle Beach traffic is monitored.

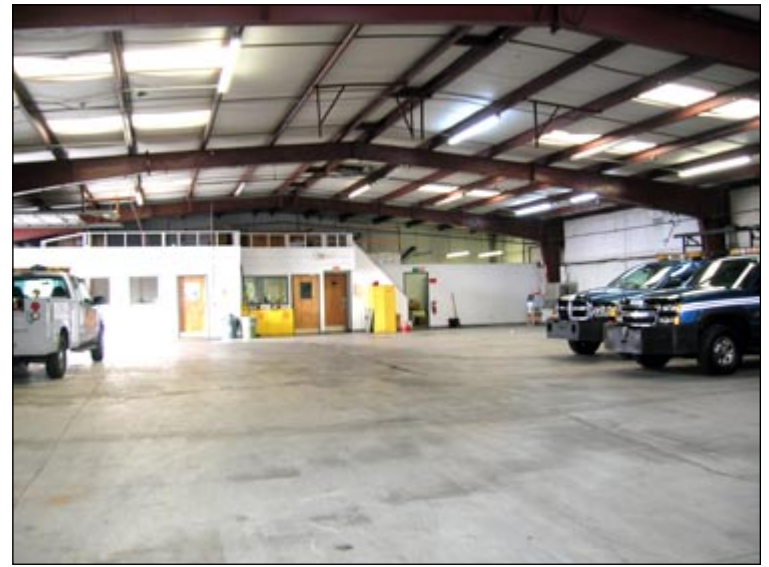


Got news?

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



Kay Williams



The Traffic Management Center is scheduled to open in early 2006 with two employees. The TMC will be gathering real time information from 17 cameras in Horry County and 7 in Florence County. The TMC Operators will be monitoring the flow of traffic and relaying valu-

able information to emergency personnel and responders. They can also relay valuable information to the public concerning incidents with the use of overhead and portable variable message signs. The TMC hours of operation and management will be the same as the responders.

Meet Johnny Bodine



Name: Johnny Bodine
Title: Trades Specialist IV
Unit: Myrtle Beach Incident Response

Bodine has been an Incident Responder for the last four years. Prior to joining the Incident Response Program Bodine worked 18 years for Horry Maintenance in the Conway Shop.

Bodine is responsible for patrol-

ling assigned routes in the Myrtle Beach area, assisting motorist with mechanical problems and assisting emergency personnel during accidents.

He and his wife, Cherri, live in the Horry Community near Conway. They have four children and five grandchildren. Bodine enjoys fishing in the creeks in Murrells Inlet and deep sea fishing.

District 6 News

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

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

Trident United Way Day of Caring September 13, 2005



Elizabeth Gaskins, Marie Starks and Kristi Johnson volunteer at the Military Magnet Academy in North Charleston as part of the 'Day of Caring.'

Day of Caring is an annual, community-based event rallying thousands of people in the Tri-county area to help complete hands-on projects. Employees from District 6 volunteered their time in an effort to help improve the functioning of the library at the Military Magnet Academy in North Charleston. They assisted the Librarian in removing multiple copies of books from shelves and processing them out of the system, organizing and shelving books so that the students, faculty and staff could get the most out of this resource.



Got news?

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

Janet Hendrix

Special Thanks!



Connie Lee

A special note of thanks to **Connie Lee** for all the help she gives me in getting this page ready. She truly is my co-editor for the District Six page. Thank you Connie, I appreciate all you do!

Randolph Sanders retires after 40 years of service at SCDOT



RME Walter Holladay presents Randolph Sanders with his 40-year service award certificate.

Randolph Sanders began his career with the SCDOT on November 1, 1965, at Colleton Maintenance. His duties as a laborer included operating heavy equipment (backhoe), installing, repairing and paving driveways in Colleton County. During his 40 years of service with the Department, he was never involved in a vehicular accident. He retired in November 2005 as Trades Specialist II. Resident Maintenance Engineer Walter Holladay presented Randolph Sanders with his 40-year service award certificate. The employees at Colleton Maintenance wish Mr. Randy the best of life ahead as he enjoys his retirement.

Christmas in District 6



Colleton Bridge along with the District Office staff participated in the SCDOT Adopt-A-Family program at Christmas.

Sung to the tune of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."

Department of Transportation
 Also known as DOT
 We keep the roads and bridges
 Shiny as a Christmas tree.

All of our fine employees
 Work and strive the whole year through
 They're never sick or lazy
 You would say they are "True Blue"

Maintenance repairs the roads
 Construction builds and plans
 Traffic keeps the flow so nice, so
 We drive safely through the night.

All of the other units
 Help to reach Ms. Mabry's goals
 We keep the public moving
 Along South Carolina's roads.

Ann Davis, who works in the District 6 Human Resources Office, shared her musical talent with the district staff by writing the following parody and sharing it during the staff's annual holiday luncheon.

Meet Tony Ragos

Tony Ragos began his career with SCDOT in 1991. He is the Resident Engineer for Colleton Bridge Construction and is responsible for bridge construction projects in Beaufort, Colleton and Jasper Counties. He was named District Six's employee of the year in 1996.

He is a native of the Philippines and received his BS in Civil Engineering in 1968 and a BS in Sanitary Engineering in 1970 from Mapua Institute of Technology (Philippines).

In his spare time he enjoys beachcombing, gardening, sports, and playing with his dogs. Tony and his wife, Belen Pura, have four sons.

He is a devout Catholic and a member of Bicol Association of Charleston.



Tony Ragos

District 7 News

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

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



Deborah Berry

Got news?

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

**District
 7
 Retirees**
 June
 through
 December 2005



Leon Benbow
 Clarendon Maintenance
 34 Years



John Boltin Sr.
 Orangeburg Maintenance
 10 years



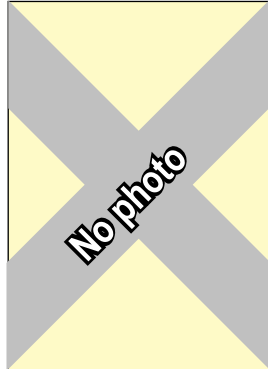
Wanda Boltin
 Orangeburg Maintenance
 31 Years



Gene Cooner
 Bamberg Maintenance
 46 Years



George L. Driggers
 Calhoun Maintenance
 34 Years



Woodrow Harrison
 Bamberg Maintenance
 20 Years



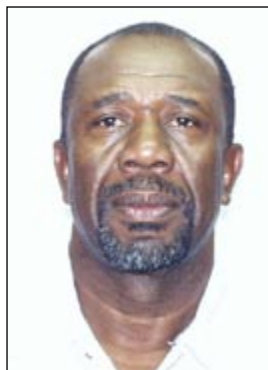
Sammie L. Ruple
 Orangeburg Maintenance
 31 Years



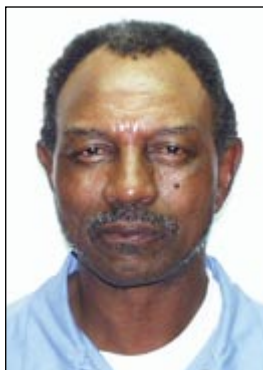
C. Gil Rush
 Calhoun Maintenance
 37 Years



W. J. Smalls
 Bamberg Maintenance
 32 Years



Laurie Williams
 Holly Hill Maintenance
 34 Years



Tommy L. Williams, Jr.
 Holly Hill Maintenance
 34 Years

District 7 employees volunteer, help Katrina victims

District Seven employees extended a helping hand to the Gulf Coast victims due to the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

Volunteers transported donated goods and money to the disaster areas and prepared meals. Calhoun Maintenance had a carwash and Orangeburg Maintenance prepared several

breakfasts for hurricane relief.

District Seven employees shared Thanksgiving with the Mississippi DOT hurricane victims by participating in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. To encourage 100% participation, employees were challenged to donate at least one can good each. There was an overwhelming response to the food drive.

Meet Joseph Gainey

Name: Joseph Gainey
Title: Mechanic III
Unit: Barnwell Maintenance



Gainey designed and built attachments for the hurricane trailers for the SC 21 lane reversal.



Joseph Gainey

Joseph Gainey has worked at SCDOT for 11 years. He has worked with Barnwell Maintenance since 1994. He is the husband of Janice Gainey. His hobbies include woodwork and fishing.

Inspection team 'snoops' around bridges



VAN D. WALTERS/DISTRICT 7 BRIDGE INSPECTION

Gerald Bonnette inspects the I-95 Bridge with the Snooper over Lake Marion near Santee on Oct. 31.

The District Seven Bridge Inspection Team is comprised of two employees: Van Walters and Gerald Bonnette. They have served as the bridge inspection team since 1989.

Walters and Bonette are responsible for inspecting approximately 875 bridges and culverts in the seven counties of the district. Their job duties include a comprehensive program of performing field inspections, documenting bridge inspection reports, and notifying the resident maintenance engineers of any necessary maintenance in their area.



2005 United Way

District Seven employees came through with unwavering support to the 2005 United Way campaign.

Employees sold sweatshirts and backpacks. They also participated in various events, which included an auction, cookout, and breakfasts.

Moving Up

HEADQUARTERS

Mary W. Alexander, from engineering assistant (spec) to engineering/geodetic technician II, Research & Materials, District 5.

Lynn B. Fulmer, from administrative specialist II to supply manager I, Supply Depot.

Lindsay Bolton, from trades specialist III to mechanic III, Equipment Service Depot.

William K. Boatwright, from mechanic III to trades specialist V, Equipment Service Depot.

Douglas J. Timmons, from right of way agent II to right of way agent III, Rights of Way.

Richard J. Hood, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design.

Richard A. Frierson, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Road Design.

William K. Riddle, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Road Design.

Renee S. Gardner, from engineering assistant (spec) to engineer/associate engineer I, Bridge Design.

William T. Lever, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Lexington Surveys.

Bruce K. DeHaven, from state appraiser I to state appraiser II, Rights of Way Agents- Greenville.

Yolanda D. Simons, from administrative assistant to program coordinator I, Beautification Programs.

Gregory F. Williams, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, District 4.

Amy E. Thompson, from administrative specialist II to administrative assistant, District 5.

DISTRICT 1

Donna W. Moreno, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Aiken Maintenance.

Frank M. Heath, from trades specialist II to trades specialist IV, Aiken Maintenance.

Joseph Odom, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Aiken Maintenance.

Kevin J. Schwartz, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Richland Maintenance.

Allen R. Oxendine Jr., from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Aiken Construction.

Ramona A. Eckrote, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Richland Construction Office B.

Kenneth M. Taylor, from clerical assis-

tant (spec) to engineering/geodetic technician III, Richland Construction Office B.

Ashleigh G. Sandel, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Lexington Construction Office A.

DISTRICT 2

Christopher D. Fellows, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Greenwood Maintenance.

Susan W. Faulkner, from supply specialist II to supply specialist III, McCormick Maintenance.

Boyd D. Shaw, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, D2-Bridge Inspection.

Brent J. Yates, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Laurens Construction.

Matthew J. Shealy, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Newberry Construction.

DISTRICT 3

Albert Groves Jr., from maintenance helper (spec) to trades specialist II, Anderson Maintenance.

Mark E. Weldon, from mechanic I to mechanic III, Anderson Maintenance.

Tiffany L. Sims, from trades specialist I to engineering/geodetic technician II, Oconee Maintenance.

Barry R. Underwood, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Oconee Maintenance.

Jeremy B. Messer, from trades specialist II to electronics technician II, D3-Traffic Signals.

Doris B. Moore, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Upper Sign Shop.

Robert T. Burris, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Spartanburg Construction Office A.

DISTRICT 4

A.J. Roof III, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Chester Maintenance.

Donald P. Grogan, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Chester Maintenance.

Jeffrey Marshall, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Chesterfield Maintenance.

Ronnie Armstrong, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Fairfield Maintenance.

Randy L. McIlwain, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Lancaster Maintenance.

Tammy S. McIlwain, from building/grounds specialist I to trades specialist II, Lancaster Maintenance.

Richard B. Gore, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, York Maintenance.

Denise A. Biggers, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, York Maintenance.

Mary Gail Monts named SCDOT HR Director

Mary Gail Monts, of Columbia, has been named Director of Human Resources, having formerly served as human resources consultant with the SC Budget and Control Board.

A native of Columbia, she is a 1979 graduate of Dreher High School. She received a B.A. in Humanities and Social Sciences from the University of South Carolina in 1983.

She has previously served as compensation manager at the SC Department of Public Safety; assistant director of HR, at the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; and human resources assistant at the USC office of Human Resources.

She is a member of Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church, and of the SC International Personnel Manager's Association.



Mary Gail Monts

Thompson is RCE at Richland Construction B

Allen Thompson, of Columbia, has been named Resident Construction Engineer in Richland Construction B.

He joined SCDOT in 2005 after serving as a construction/program manager in private industry. A native of Columbia, he is a 1989 graduate of Greenville High School. He received his BS degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University in 1994 and his MBA from Georgia State University in 2000.

He enjoys camping, fishing and hunting.



Allen Thompson

DISTRICT 6

Lorena M. Claxton, from administrative specialist II to communications specialist III, Charleston Maintenance.

Marion A. Shecut, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Charleston Maintenance.

Julius B. Washington, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Charleston Maintenance.

Kenneth O. Moore, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Charleston Maintenance.

Kenneth Fryar, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Colleton Maintenance.

Charles E. Fralix Jr., from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Colleton Maintenance.

Emelito D. Peneda, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Charleston Construction-Bridge Construction.

Audrey K. Durham, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, Charleston Construction Office B.

DISTRICT 7

James C. Hodge, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Clarendon Maintenance.

Brushstrokes of genius Employees show their creative talents



LEFT: Linda Snead of Human Resources entered two items at this year's State Fair. She won second place in with her 'Rag Doll.' She also entered her first ever sculpture, 'Rendition of Jesus.'



RIGHT: Mark Pleasant of Planning received an Amateur Division Merit Award at the State Fair for his pastel painting titled 'Boats by the Wharf.'

ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR



ABOVE: Jan Feaster shows two photographs of Marie Bracanovich's parents and drawing she did putting them into one portrait.

Jan Feaster: Graphite Artist

Jan Feaster has been drawing portraits ever since she was a teenager. Her first drawings were of her grandparents, which she still has long since their passing away. Her parents recognized her talent and encouraged her by sending her

to drawing and painting classes. At USC, she majored in printmaking and graphic arts.

When she first joined SCDOT, she used some of her artistic ability in the Planning office, in the Long Range Transportation study Reports for the MPOs, and now, uses a little in working on the Intranet web site for our office, and various report covers, brochures, etc.

Most of her artwork is outside of the DOT, and she just recently started working on graphite pencil portraits.

She started with a portrait of the daughter of one of my co-workers, Derrell Rice, and someone else wanted one, then another, and the whole thing "snowballed" from there!

Feaster has drawn more than 10 portraits since the end of October. She doesn't use a drafting table for her work -- she uses her kitchen table with the TV on, her nine-year-old, Ethan, coming in and out, and two cats and a dachshund running through the house. But she says it's a nice way to relax and tune out all that's hectic in her life, and make some extra money in the process.

Assets Management

By Carl Chase Jr.,
Assets Manager

Parking

The anticipated construction of the USC Parking Garage and Research Facility on the College Street parking lot is scheduled to begin in mid-April 2006. The Department has been working with the University of South Carolina to afford parking for the employees now using space in the College Street lots.



Spartanburg County Engineering Complex

After many years of planning, demolition and construction the Spartanburg Engineering Complex is complete. This is state of the art facility that was rebuilt on the present site of Interstate 85. We were able to continue operations during demolition and construction because of the cooperation of the District Engineering and Spartanburg Engineering staff. We had a superb architectural and construction team with the project being managed by Bob Kishline of the Capital Improvements Office.

York County Engineering Complex

Replacement of the existing complex presently located on a 2 acre sight in downtown Rock Hill is well underway at the Southway Industrial Park. The new complex includes an administration area with

an attached storage structure, a vehicle repair shop, salt storage building and fuel facility. The anticipated date of completion is July 2006. The project is being managed by Ernest Williams.

Kershaw Rest Area on I-20

Construction of the full replacement of the rest areas, picnic shelters, vending building, associated parking and roadways began in August. The project is scheduled for completion in May 2007. Bob Kishline is the Project Manager.

Central Salt Warehouse

The Central Salt Storage and distribution facility located on Shop Road in the Supply and Equipment complex has been completed. This facility is designed to store 10,000 tons of salt.



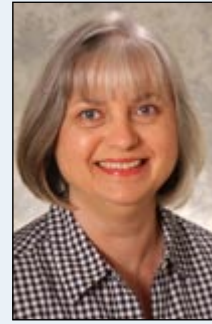
MICHAEL GILCHRIST/DISTRICT 1

Central Salt Storage

Stay Informed!

By Nurse Dale Thomas
Medical Services

SCDOT employees can now access the Medical Services Calendar through the SCDOT



Intranet. Employees can view scheduled dates for health screenings and immunizations via the Human Resources Home Page, selecting the Medical Services Tab and then the Medical Calendar Tab. Also, this calendar can be viewed through the Quick Links and Full List of Calendars. Check the Calendar and stay updated with health screenings across the districts.

If you're connected to the SCDOT intranet, go to:
http://www.dot.state.sc.us/humanresources/medical_services.htm

Medical Services Mission Statement

Medical Services seeks to enhance the health and well-being of the South Carolina Department of Transportation employees through the provision of diagnostic, educational, preventive treatment and referral services with the goal of lowering medical costs, reducing injuries, increasing productivity and job satisfaction, decreasing absenteeism and employee turnover.

Alternative fuels can be used in some of SCDOT's fleet



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

Director of Supply and Equipment Jim Brooks shows the symbol located inside the fuel tank door that denotes the vehicle can use an alternative fuel.

By Bob Kudelka

Natural gas, ethanol and LP gas are some of the alternative fuels capable of powering a portion of SCDOT's fleet of cars and trucks.

Since federal laws went into effect in the mid-1990s, the Department has met the requirements by choosing a percentage of alternative fuel capable vehicles when buying new ones, said Jim Brooks, Director of Supply and Equipment.

"I think we're doing well," Brooks said. "If you're a state agency receiving federal funds like we are, then these rules apply to us."

Brooks said the state Budget and Control Board's State Fleet Management oversees the state's compliance with federal requirements aimed at encouraging the use of alternative fuel vehicles.

SCDOT has a fleet of approximately 3,000 trucks and cars. Of these, more than 250 are alternative fuel capable, Brooks said.

● 9 can be run by compressed natural gas (CNG).

● 63 can run off a combination of liquefied petroleum (LP) gas and unleaded gas. These pickup trucks have tanks for each

type of gas.

● 189 are Flex fuel Vehicles (FFV) and can be powered by unleaded gasoline or a mixture of up to 85 percent ethanol (85 percent alcohol) and 15 percent gasoline.

The advantage to using alternative fuels is the impact on the environment, Brooks said. These fuels burn a lot cleaner than standard unleaded gasoline.

There are challenges, however. Some types of fuels, such as CNG, are difficult to find. There is only one CNG station in Columbia, on Assembly Street.

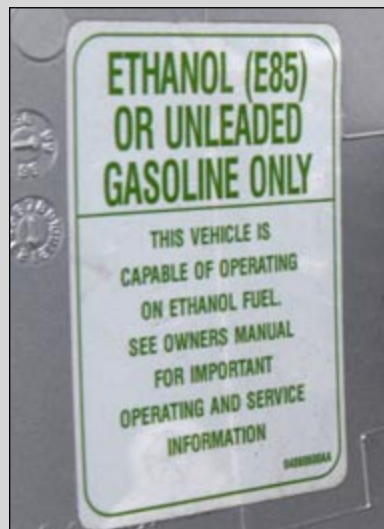
Perhaps the most practical type of alternative fuel is the ethanol mixture, Brooks said.

"It's available in the marketplace and there's little, if any, additional cost on a new vehicle," Brooks said. "The alcohol made from grain is the most feasible, cost-effective way to deal with alternative fuel requirements. It's a win-win. The grain farmers are going to benefit plus there's an environmental benefit and it decreases our dependence on foreign oil."

As for the future, Brooks said he anticipates the cost of hybrid vehicles may one day be low enough for the state to purchase some.

Can I use an alternative fuel in my vehicle?

Check inside the fuel door or on the outside of your vehicle for symbols or wording like these examples. You can also check the owners manual for fuel types that can be used in your engine.



Deaths



Billy Bookhart

William Burden "Billy" Bookhart Jr., former member and chairman of the SC Transportation Commission, died Nov. 21.

Boyd Robert Graham, 86, of North Charleston, retired SCDOT employee, died Dec. 11.

Francis O'Neal "Frank" Watkins, 65, of Gaston, SCDOT retiree, died Oct. 8.

Gordon F. Smith, 67, of Ridgeville, who was an SCDOT bridge tender, died Nov 19.

Carl Dennis Barnell, 80, of Piedmont, SCDOT retiree, died Dec. 4.

Ethel T. Kunkel, 84, of West Columbia, SCDOT retiree, died Jan. 2.

Charles Thomas "Pete" Robertson, 96, of North, retired SCDOT mechanic, died Sept. 25.

Julian B. "John" Crapps, 84, of Gilbert, SCDOT retiree, died Jan. 8.

Barbara Robeson, 73, of West Columbia, SCDOT retiree, died Sept. 22.

ANSWERS TO CHAPMAN FISHING QUIZ:

Here are the things wrong with the photograph on page 14.

- 1) The fish is fake. You can't catch a salmon in Lake Murray.
- 2) If you catch a fish that large, your fishing rod would be bent.
- 3) When Tony Chapman fishes, he always wears a hat!