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Horry County BAR Wins South Carolina 2013 Historic Preservation Service Award!

The Horry County Board of Architectural Review has been chosen to receive the 2013 Historic Preservation Service Award from the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation for the Local Historic Sites and Structures High School Video Contest. The awards were given by Governor Nikki Haley on June 11th, 2013 at the Governor's Office in Columbia, SC.

The High School Video Contest received 10 submissions from five high schools in Horry County. Subject matter of the videos include: Socastee Swing Bridge, the Rivoli, Ocean Forest Hotel, Myrtle Beach Speedway, the Duford Jail, Green Sea Baptist Church, OD Pavillion and the Allsbrook Rankin Mishoe Home. To date, the videos have received more than 1,800 views on YouTube. And most importantly the contest introduced local history to a new audience.



Videos were judged based upon:

- Incorporation of local history
- Creativity, originality, and impact
- Informational content
- Entertainment value/Interest level
- Accuracy of information
- Production quality

The top three videos received cash prizes. Natalie Horstemeyer and Madison Iseman finished first for their video, the Socastee Swing Bridge Rap and received a check for \$250. Second place was awarded to Tyler and Rachel Berkey for their video, The Rivoli Theater: Past and Present who received \$150. Third place was awarded to Phillip Elvis for his video on the demise of the Ocean Forest Hotel and he received a check for \$100. All three top finishers were from Myrtle Beach High School.



All of the videos are viewable at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?eq5DsDrZ2PAM&list=PLOB5gN1Fs1nEPYKpc2iTz9EYKM4MgB5a>



Highways and Byways...

Garden City US 17 Business Streetscape Beautification

Garden City, South Carolina – The Horry County Planning & Zoning Department's Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB) Committee has partnered with Garden City Beach Community Association for the Garden City US 17 Business Streetscape Beautification Project.

Any roadway leading into an area provides a visitor with their first impression. Hwy 17 Business was identified by County Council as one of several roads to receive beautification enhancements to improve the impression visitors have of the area. SCDOT estimates the average Annual Daily Traffic volume on this roadway for 2011 to be 23,800 vehicles.

The location for the project is on HWY 17 Business in Garden City, from just north of Woodland Drive to Azalea Drive. Medians within this area will be planted with the following ornamental plants: Tea Olives, Abelia, Saw Palms, Crape Myrtles, Day Lillies and Muhly Grass.

The Garden City Beach Community Association has agreed to provide monthly maintenance.

The funding for the Garden City US Business Streetscape Project was provided by an \$8,000 Community Pride Grant to Horry County, and an \$8,000 "Keep South Carolina Beautiful" Affiliate grant from Palmetto Pride (the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful). These grants were applied for in furtherance of the KHCB goal of beautifying main gateways throughout Horry County. An additional grant was received in the amount of an \$2,000 Community Pride Grant to Garden City Community Association. The remainder of the expenses for the project are coming from the Tree Mitigation Fund of Horry County. Maintenance is paid for through ATAX.



A portion of the Garden City Streetscape Beautification Project as envisioned after completion and the plants have matured.

What's next for highway beautification? Sections of SC Hwy 501 - another gateway into the area is being prepared for a make over. You may have already noticed the removal of the broken Bradford Pear trees.

Starting at Rhoda Loop and continuing down to Waccamaw Pines Drive, new landscaping will be put in place. Plants include Crape Myrtles, Sabal Palmettos, Abelia, Tea Olives and Muhly Grass.

Funding for the 501 beautification project came from the Tree Mitigation fund and ATAX monies. In addition ATAX money will be used to maintain this section of the road.

Stay tuned for other beautification projects throughout the area.



FIREWISE COMMUNITIES®



Horry County is comprised mainly of forested land and woody wetlands, such as Carolina Bays, all of which rely on fire for ecological purposes, but become a threat when located closely to development. As Horry County continues to grow, preferences to live in suburban areas and closer to nature has pushed populations into the wildland-urban interface (WUI). While living closer to nature offers many benefits, all too often the risk of living near a tinderbox is overlooked. Horry County is very susceptible to wildfires.



*26 buildings and over 100 residential units were burned during the Windsor Green fire in March.
Photo: The Sun News, Janet Lackmon Morgan)*

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES®, involve the homeowner in taking the responsibility to minimize the risk of wild fires to their homes.

Minimizing wildfire risk is a complicated effort because there are many players involved in protecting the safety of the residents and preserving the natural areas of the County. Horry County Fire & Rescue and their Wildfire Team, Emergency Management, and SC Forestry Commission are naturally involved in responding to fires, but they are also involved in educating homeowners and HOAs about wildfire prevention. Homeowners associations and property managers play a critical role in wildfire prevention. They have the authority to regulate landscaping and property maintenance, along

with establishing fireworks prohibited zones through the County's Department of Public Safety. Developers and planners also play a role in the early stages of development. Neighborhood design ensures appropriate defensible space with ample access points for neighborhood evacuations and fire & rescue efforts. In addition, building code standards and maintenance of underbrush are also important. Pursuing an integrated approach is critical in preventing wildfire disasters to our communities.

Since 2009, six neighborhoods in cooperation with SC Forestry have become established as FIREWISE COMMUNITIES®. They are The Farm at Carolina Forest, Briarcliffe Acres, Walker Woods, Avalon, Long Bay Club, and most recently Heather Lakes in Little River. These communities joined this national program to identify actions that both homeowners and their associations can take to reduce the community's risk to wildfires. This program requires a wildfire risk assessment and the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan with annual community-led wildfire education and prevention efforts.

Since the Windsor Green fire in Carolina Forest in March, numerous communities in Horry County have inquired about becoming a FIREWISE COMMUNITY® through the SC Forestry Commission. Leigh Wood with Horry County Planning & Zoning has been working in collaboration with SC Forestry and Horry County Fire & Rescue, to help with these designations. Ms. Wood continues to work with the Carolina Forest Civic Association to identify ways to improve defensible space in existing and future communities.

To find out more about how your neighborhood can become FIREWISE, visit www.firewise.org or contact Steve Moore, FIREWISE Coordinator with SC Forestry.



Community Planning Area 3

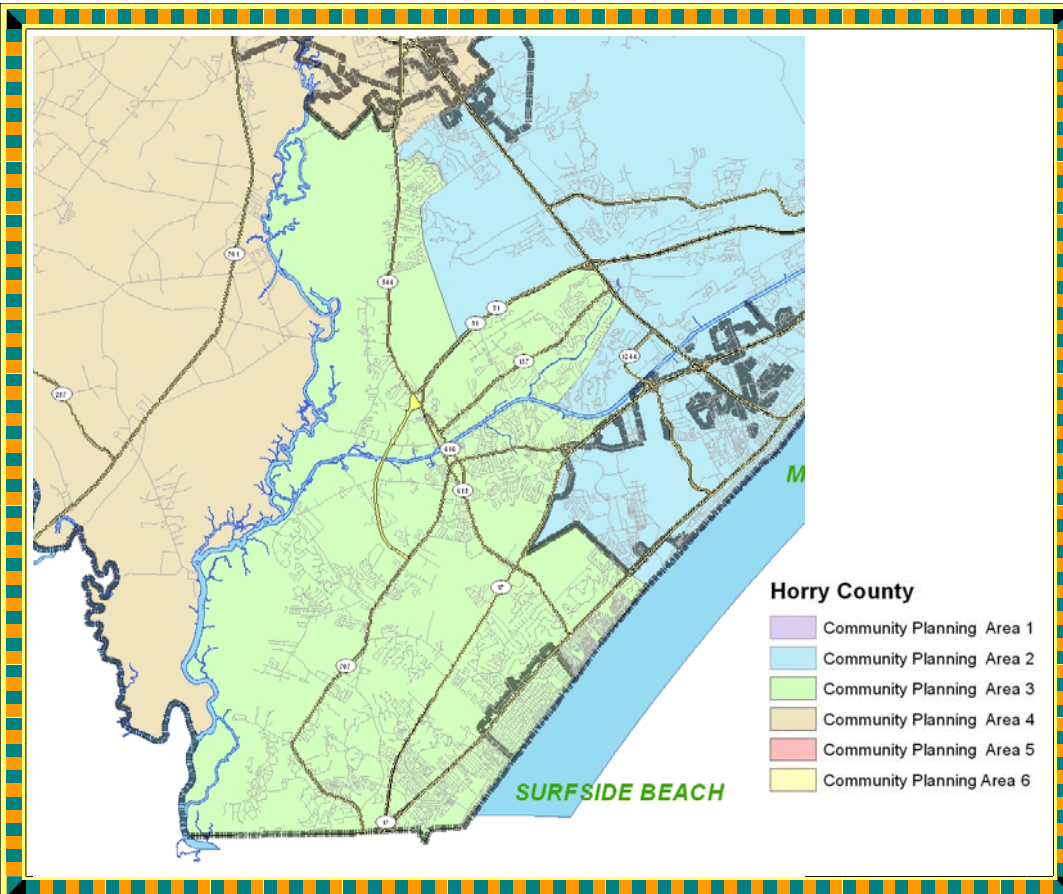


Community Planning Area 3 includes the communities of Surfside Beach, Garden City, Burgess, Deerfield, Enterprise, Jet Port, Glen’s Bay, Sea Winds, Lake Park, Forestbrook, Jackson Bluff, Marlowe, and Socastee. Along with parts of Red Hill #2 and Palmetto Bays. It encompasses an area of 84.71 square miles, and based on the 2010 Census, is home to 78,360 people. The following Horry County Councilmen represent Community Planning Area one: Gary Loftus (District 4), Paul D. Price, Jr. (District 5), Bob Grabowski (District 6), and Carl Schwartzkopf (District 8).

Two new Overlay Zones have been added to this district; 17 Business South, and the South Kings Highway Zone. In addition, two existing Overlays, Hwy 707 and Holmestown Road, which have been in existence for years, have received substantial rewrites. The Greater Burgess Community Association spearheaded the effort to update these two overlays. All four Overlay Zones change the way in which development can take place with regards to accessibility, appearance and safety. Information concerning these Overlay Zones and others can be found at

<http://www.horrycounty.org/depts/econdev/PlanningZoning/OverlayZones.asp>

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The **Horry County Parks and Open Space Board** will have its next meeting on July 9th at 1 pm at the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. This meeting will include staff updates on FIREWISE designations through SC Forestry, the development of a watershed-based plan for Murrells Inlet, land conservation coordination with area non-profits, and appointments to the Keep Horry County Beautiful Committee. For more information on this board, visit <http://www.horrycounty.org/boards/openspace/Board.asp>



Horry County as a partner of Keep America Beautiful participates in the Great American Cleanup (GAC) that runs from March 1st through May 31st. The GAC is an annual event across the nation which engages volunteers who take action to improve their communities through a variety of events and clean up efforts. Volunteers are always welcomed. This year during the GAC, 137 volunteers worked 435 hours and picked up 11,000 pounds or 5.5 tons of trash. Year-to-date, nearly 16,000 lbs of trash have been cleaned up by nearly 400 volunteers! To learn more about this committee, visit the [Keep Horry County Beautiful Facebook](#) page.



The Horry County Board of Architectural Review

The Horry County Board of Architectural Review (BAR) holds Annual Awards Ceremony

The Horry County BAR recently recognized the Distinguished Men of Bucksport for their outstanding commitment to historic preservation in Horry County for restoring the Bucksport Community Cemetery. This Cemetery ranked as the worst cemetery by condition. "I didn't know if this cemetery could ever be saved. I certainly didn't know where to begin to do so," said Adam Emrick, Senior Planner. "What the Distinguished Men of Bucksport have done is really nothing short of a miracle for that community."

Also recognized by the BAR were each of the properties that were added to the Horry County Historic Property Register, which now stands at 201 listed properties.

In addition, each of the students were honored, who submitted videos as part of the first Local Historic Sites and Structures High School Video Contest.



Horry County Affordable and Workforce Housing Commission




The **Horry County Affordable and Workforce Housing Commission** has drafted a letter of support for the Grand Strand Housing Authority. The Authority has applied for a HUD grant to fund Fair Housing and Financial Literacy education for the citizens of Horry County.

The Housing Commission is seeking a partnership with the Low Country Housing Trust (LHT) to provide more affordable housing in Horry County. The LHT is a Regional Housing Trust, offering financing for development of affordable housing. Through this partnership, LHT would expand its service market to include Horry County and provide financial opportunities and services to developers building affordable housing in the area. In return, Horry County would provide LHT with both program and operating funds as well as local staff support through the Community Development Department.

As a housing trust fund and US Treasury designated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), LHT can provide its expertise as well as financing and the ability to leverage public and private funds that are otherwise inaccessible to the County. Through a partnership agreement with the County, LHT can provide these services at a minimal cost.

The goal of the partnership is to create an opportunity for industry collaboration; to offer an effective and efficient delivery of housing programs; to maximize, leverage and increase limited resources; and to utilize an established, successful approach to increase affordable housing opportunities for the citizens within Horry County.

2013 Meeting Calendar

July	August	September
<p>4 Independence Day (Office Closed)</p> <p>8 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30PM</p> <p>9 Parks and Open Space Board; 1:00PM</p> <p>16 County Council; 6:00PM</p> <p>17 Affordable Workforce Housing Commission; 1:00PM</p> <p>23 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 2:30PM</p> <p>25 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00PM</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<p>1 Planning Commission; 5:30PM</p> <p>12 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30PM</p> <p>13 County Council; 6:00PM</p> <p>20 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30PM</p> <p>21 Affordable Workforce Housing Commission; 1:00PM</p> <p>27 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 2:30PM</p> <p>29 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00PM</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<p>2 Labor Day (Office Closed)</p> <p>3 County Council; 6:00PM</p> <p>5 Planning Commission; 5:30PM</p> <p>9 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30PM</p> <p>17 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30PM</p> <p>17 County Council; 6:00PM</p> <p>18 Affordable Workforce Housing Commission; 1:00PM</p> <p>24 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 2:30PM</p> <p>26 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00PM</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>

One last note:

Horry County Planning and Zoning Hires Two New Planners

Leigh Wood has joined our team as a Senior Planner! Leigh grew up in Mount Pleasant, SC and received her BA in Urban Studies from College of Charleston. She later attended Clemson University where she earned a Masters in City and Regional Planning, concentrating in environmental planning. Leigh has a strong interest in coastal planning and floodplain management, which lead her to serve as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Management Fellow with the New Jersey Coastal Management Office. There, she worked with coastal communities to identify planning and disaster response opportunities that would effectively improve their resilience to shallow coastal flooding, hurricanes, and sea level rise. After serving in New Jersey, Leigh returned to the South Carolina and served as the Coastal Training Program Coordinator with the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve located at Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown, SC. Through that position, she provided environmental education for local decision-makers in Horry and Georgetown counties. In her current position, Leigh is looking forward to applying her knowledge to further sustainable development practices in Horry County.

Lou Conklin has also come on board as a Senior Planner. Lou grew up in the Mid-West and received a BA in Liberal Studies from Purdue University and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Ball State University. Her summer internship was spent in Austin, Texas at the Center for Maximum Building Potential for hands on experience with sustainable development. She has also earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation and has taken the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Training. The environment and horticulture are her main areas of interest. She moved to Horry County seven years ago and has worked for two local engineering companies prior to working for the County.

