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ANNUAL LITTER INDEX THE 7th

On February 28th of this year, eight County vehicles were loaded with 18 volunteers, including Planning and Zoning employees and members of the board for Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB). The mission was to drive around the County on pre-determined routes as they assessed the amount of litter they saw. The locations to assess may have been an intersection, a highway interchange, a section of roadway, a boat landing, or a public park. Any illegal dump sites found were noted on this assessment. This Annual Litter Index is a yearly requirement for KHCB as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. This visual assessment helps the County determine the state of the community's appearance, in regards to both litter and illegal signs. Litter Indexes have been conducted annually since March 2011, when the County was required to conduct the first Litter Assessment prior to becoming a Keep America Beautiful partner.

2017		2016		2011	
Litter	Signs	Litter	Signs	Litter	Signs
2.07	1.48	2.08	1.44	2.14	1.47

From the chart on the left it can be seen that while litter had improved marginally over the baseline year (the lower the number, the better), the illegal signs category has remained steady. In comparison to last year the litter index score was slightly better again this year.

This improvement could be a result of the litter crews who work full time to clean the major roadways; it could be the result of an increase of cleanup events in Carolina Forest; or it could be a result of more emphasis on the issues of litter.

Although the sites assessed vary from year to year, the total number of sites has been on an increase since 2013. Last year, many of the boat landings on the assessment list were flooded and could not be accessed for evaluation. Additional locations have been added to the list as we get complaints about areas, as areas are "adopted" by cleanup groups, or at the request of a County Council Member.

The Litter Assessment also shows success stories against litter. One is Vereen Gardens which was adopted by the Yaupon Garden Club in February 2015, and was assessed this year in the Litter Index. The score for the park was the highest obtainable. It should be noted that the garden club has cleaned this park for years, but the advantages of becoming a partner with KHCB is that gloves, safety vests, grabbers, and bags are provided for the cleanup events by KHCB.

In addition a sign is posted with your groups name on it at the location that is cleaned. Contact Nancy Tindall at

(843)915-7893 or tindalln@horrycounty.org to get involved.



A pristine scene from Vereen Gardens

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Horry County Employee of the Year

Leigh Kane, Community Development Planner with Horry County Planning & Zoning, was recently awarded the 2016 Randy Faulk Employee of the Year Award. This award is in memory of Mr. Randy Faulk who received the very first Employee of the Year award in 2006. Mr. Faulk worked in the Horry County Maintenance Department and was truly a role model for all county employees, demonstrating that every employee can make a difference.

Leigh Kane leads long-range planning efforts within Planning & Zoning, alongside a team of professionals both internal and external to the department. She currently serves as the staff liaison to the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board, which focuses on natural resource preservation and recreational development. In 2015, she worked in collaboration with a number of departments on the development of the East Coast Greenway trailhead at the Bike and Run Park.

In 2015, Leigh also assisted with the reassessment of the County's Community Rating System (CRS), which is federal incentive program to recognize communities that have gone above and beyond minimum regulatory requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. She identified and mapped all of the preserved open space in Horry County, including federal, state, county, and private lands, to determine how much of the floodzone is protected in perpetuity. Through the analysis, Leigh determined that approximately 55,000 acres of land have been preserved, of which nearly 37,500 are preserved land within the County's 168,000 acre floodzone. These lands largely consisted of properties owned by SC Department of Natural Resources and the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge; however, private conservation easements through entities like the US Department of Agriculture, the Nature Conservancy, the Horry County Conservation Foundation, and Pee Dee Land Trust represented a great deal of preserved land as well.

Under the terms of CRS, credit is given for areas in a regulated floodplain that are permanently preserved as open space. Additional credit is given for open space that is deed restricted, low density zoning that protects the floodplain, long range strategies intended to decrease development in the floodplain, and platting requirements of the local jurisdiction. Leigh's efforts produced a report that identified over 45 square miles of protected floodplain in Horry County, resulting in a significant amount of points added to the county CRS rating. Early estimates indicate a 2.5% decrease in flood insurance premiums for county residents and businesses as a result of Leigh's contributions to the CRS analysis. As the Employee of the Year, Leigh received a plaque and a check for \$1,000. Mrs. Kane was one of twelve nominees from its 2,200 employees to be recognized during the County's Quarterly Employee Awards.

Planning & Zoning also recognized Mrs. Lou Conklin as an Employee of the Quarter for her willingness to go above and beyond the requirements of her position to assist with landscaping and park design.



Leigh Kane (center) pictured with County Council Chairman

High School Video Contest

In 2012, the Horry County Board of Architectural Review & Historic Preservation (BAR) debuted a contest open to all high school students in Horry County, including charter schools and homeschooled students. The contest offers \$500.00 in prize money to the winning videos that spotlighted historic sites or structures within Horry County. This contest is known as the Horry County Local Historical Sites & Structures High School Video Contest.



All videos are uploaded to YouTube and shared via Facebook, email, and press release. Previously the checks were mailed to the winners, but last year the decision to hold off until the BAR's Annual Historic Preservation Award Ceremony was made. At this ceremony the winning videos are shown. After the contest winners are picked in February the top three finalist are notified, but do not know their placement until the awards ceremony.

Qualified entries were received from Carolina Forest High School, Academy for the Arts, Science and Technology and a homeschooler. The eleven entries accepted are listed in the chart to the right in no specific order, and can be watched on YouTube. The three finalists for this year are highlighted in orange. The awards ceremony will be on May 16th at 2:30 pm in the McCown Auditorium at the Horry County Museum. The public is welcome.

CCU	https://youtu.be/9ft7MxY28io
FAT HAROLDS	https://youtu.be/TQV7t-sWuLg
FUN PLAZA	https://youtu.be/IIJkdz2vc50
HORRY'S SEAFOOD	https://youtu.be/jilQfvDpCPI
KINGSTON PRESBYTERIAN	https://youtu.be/sHbAixY-RMM
MYRTLE BEACH STATE PARK	https://youtu.be/hiIseMowkI8
PEACHES CORNER	https://youtu.be/jtE24kxM2wk
PEANUT WAREHOUSE	https://youtu.be/z3F4RPBh_K0
PINE LAKES	https://youtu.be/WNbH9GnAKKk
TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE	https://youtu.be/25Z_2EkN01g
UPPER MILL PLANTATION	https://youtu.be/804Q05vh8LOg



The subject of the video is required to be at least 50 years old, within Horry County, no longer than 3 minutes in length, original, and sensitive to the history of the site. Video entries are judged on the following criteria:

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

This years finalist in no specific order are:

"Hidden Gem of Hwy 9—Horry Seafood Restaurant" by Colin Agnew, Campbell Sims, and Kyle Dionne

"Time Waits for No One" by Azure Allen

"Upper Mill Plantation" by Danielle Demrest, Taylor James, and Chris Ranta

Acceptance of the entry also includes not only the application, but also copyright forms showing permission to use music and videos or any copyrighted material, and photographic release forms from everyone shown in the video. Failure to provide these three items will result in the video being disqualified from the contest.



The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board is scheduled to have a meeting on April 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. They will consider a draft of the Parks and Open Space Plan. Staff is currently working in conjunction with Parks and Recreation to upgrade the Parks and Recreation Department's webpage. The intent is to better inform the public of the facilities and natural lands available in the County.

SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS!!! The Board is currently seeking new members including appointments for the County Council Districts 1, 3, and 10. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on this board, please contact your County Councilman or Leigh Kane for more information at 843-915-7034 or kaneL@HorryCounty.org. You can learn more about the board by visiting; <http://www.horrycounty.org/boards/>



Keep Horry County Beautiful recently took over the Adopt-A-Beach program, in addition to the other "adoption" spots in Horry County. The KHCB Committee and volunteers conducted the Annual Litter Index. In the first three (3) months of 2017, more than ten (10) cleanups have been held. April is Keep America Beautiful Month and Earth Day is April 22. KHCB will participate in several festivals during April, including Baby Animal Day @ Playcard, Earth Day at the Bay, and festivals at CCU. In the next newsletter, we will bring you more information about how to "Secure your Load," which is our focus for 2017.

The Keep Horry County Beautiful Committee meets the 4th Tuesday of most months at 11:30 a.m. in the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. The next scheduled meeting is April 25th and the public is invited to attend. KHCB is always seeking community cleanup partners. If you would like to adopt a road or park in your community, or for more information, please contact Nancy Tindall at (843)915-7893 or tindalln@horrycounty.org.



The Horry County Board of Architectural Review

The Horry County Board of Architectural Review (BAR) will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, April 18th.


The annual Horry County Historic Preservation Award Ceremony is scheduled for May 16th at 2:30 p.m. at the McCown Auditorium at the Horry County Museum in Conway (public welcome). The awards ceremony will showcase historic preservation efforts throughout Horry County during the last year. A presentation will be given on the SC Century Farm program. All properties that were designated as historic between May 2016 and April 2017 will receive a certificate acknowledging the honor. Also being recognized: Video Contest winners, Legacy Businesses that have been recognized in the past year, and approved Agritourism permit requests.

The Board recently received three new appointments; Jamie Thompson, David Stoudenmire, and Becky Billingsley.

Staff and Board Members will be attending the Annual SC Historic Preservation Conference at the SC Archives & History Center in Columbia on April 21st.

For more information about these projects or to contribute to them please contact Mary Catherine Hyman at 843-915-7891 or email at hymanm@horrycounty.org.

2017 Meeting Calendar

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
4 County Council; 6:00 PM 6 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM 10 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM 14 Good Friday—Offices Closed 18 County Council; 6:00 PM 18 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM 25 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 11:30 AM 25 Parks & Open Space Board; 12:30 PM 27 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM 	2 County Council; 6:00 PM 4 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM 8 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM 16 County Council; 6:00 PM 16 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM 23 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 11:30 AM 25 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM  29 Memorial Day –Offices Closed	1 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM 6 County Council; 6:00 PM 12 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM 20 County Council; 6:00 PM 20 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM 27 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 11:30 AM 29 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM 

One last note:

Adopt a Beach Access

Beach season is upon us and Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB) is seeking litter adoptions for County-maintained beach accesses in Garden City and Arcadian Shores. While the County has a dedicated litter team that regularly rakes the beach during the summer months, we are still in need of year-round volunteers to help keep our beaches and access parking lots clean and inviting. All size adoption groups are welcome, from individuals to entire businesses. Your efforts will help reduce wildlife consumption of plastics and entanglement in fishing line and other debris. By adopting a site, KHCB will provide you with clean up supplies and a sign with your group’s name at your adoption site. Adoptions only require six litter clean ups over a two-year time frame, but we always welcome more assistance. Thank you for Keeping It Clean Horry County! For more information on available adoption sites, please contact Nancy Tindall at 843-915-7893 or tindalln@horrycounty.org.

