
WEEKLY UPDATE FOR JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2014

PUBLIC MEETINGS

JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2014

FRIDAY, JULY 4

ALL COUNTY OFFICES, EXCEPT PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS, WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.

AGENDAS

NO AGENDAS

NEWS RELEASES

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 32 SPECIAL ELECTION

Conway, South Carolina – The State Election Commission received the Writ of Election from the Senate President calling for a special election in Senate District 32, which covers Berkeley, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties. The following Horry County precincts can vote in this special election and they are Brownway, Inland, Pawley Swamp, and Port Harrelson.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- Noon, Friday, July 4 - Filing Period Opens (*County voter registration and elections offices will not be open on July 4. Candidates can begin filing when offices open on Monday morning.*)
- Noon, Monday, July 14 - Filing Period Closes.

Horry (pronounced O-REE) County is situated in the northeastern corner of South Carolina and is a diverse land of rivers, beaches, forests, and swamps. Founded in 1801, Horry County is sometimes referred to as "The Independent Republic of Horry", a nickname that referred to the politically independent citizens. The County consists of 1,143 square miles, over 300,000 residents and over 1,700 dedicated employees to service their needs. Horry County hosts eight cities/towns that welcome millions of visitors annually who enjoy abundant amenities that include beautiful beaches, shopping, golf and a wide array of entertainment and dining.

- August 2 - Voter Registration Deadline for Primary
- September 2 - Primary (if necessary)
- September 16 - Primary Runoff (if necessary)
- October 4 - Voter Registration Deadline for Special Election
- November 4 - Special Election (will appear on General Election ballot)

Candidate Filing Information:

- County voter registration and elections offices will not be open on July 4. Candidates can begin filing when offices open on Monday morning.
- Candidates file at the county voter registration and election office in their county of residence.
- The filing fee for this office is \$208. The filing fee is paid by Democratic and Republican party candidates only. Filing fees can be made by check or money order. Filing fee checks should be made out to the appropriate State party.

For more information, please contact the Horry County Registration & Elections Office at (843) 915-5440.

FAMILY HOMELESS SHELTER GROUND BREAKING

Conway, South Carolina -Horry County Community Development, the State Housing Trust Fund and Worldview Ministries will break ground on a new 37-bed North Strand Housing Shelter on Highway 9 in Longs, South Carolina, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. The new facility will offer 37-new beds for a total capacity of 53-homeless persons at the site. The new addition targets the needs of homeless families and veterans.

The 5000-square foot building is made possible through three Community Development Block Grant awards, over a three-year period, from Horry County's Community Development and Grants Administration Department and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. In addition, Worldview Ministries secured a grant from the State Housing Trust Fund, and loans from Anderson Bank and Sandhills Bank.

"This new shelter is a much-needed addition to our efforts to address homelessness in our County," says Diana Seydlorsky, Horry County's Director of Community Development. "Often, when we speak of homelessness, we talk about the needs of individuals in our cities. But addressing homeless families and veterans are critical parts of our Countywide efforts. We are excited to be moving forward on this state-of-the-art facility and program."

The new shelter includes a large meeting room, dining, storage, bedrooms and bathrooms. The facility is designed to facilitate on-site case management, and life skills training.

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“Our program provides for sheltering and skill development, so homeless families and individuals transition out of the shelter,” says Worldview Ministries’ Executive Director Dana Black. The program also addresses needs identified in the County’s Ten Year Collaborative Plan to Address Homelessness by expanding emergency and seasonal housing options for working homeless, and by providing for special needs populations. The shelter will accept referrals from other organizations in Horry County.

Worldview Ministries has partnered with Home Alliance Inc. to apply and receive State Housing Trust funds. It will receive ongoing assistance from Home Alliance Inc. in managing and accounting for the construction project. The general contractor is Hanco Inc. and Miller Design Services is the architect.

PROPERTY TAX LEGAL RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

Conway, South Carolina – The Horry County Assessor’s Office would like to remind citizens that a 6% assessment ratio is automatically applied to all property. If the residence will be a primary/legal residence, they may qualify for the lower 4% assessment ratio.

Owners are encouraged to apply for the 4% legal residence assessment ratio by August 1, 2014, to have the lower ratio reflected in their tax bills, which will be mailed in October 2014. The deadline is January 15, 2015.

In order to qualify for the 4% ratio, property owners should download the Horry County Assessor’s application located on Horry County Government’s website at <http://www.horrycounty.org/portals/0/Docs/assessor/LegalResidence.pdf>. Once the application is filled out, owners will need to provide documentation along with the application. Documentation includes

- South Carolina driver’s license or identification cards showing the current address for the owner(s) and spouse
- South Carolina vehicle registration(s) showing the current address for the owner(s) and spouse
- Most recently filed Federal and South Carolina income tax return for the owner(s) and spouse
- South Carolina voter’s registration cards for owner(s) and spouse
- If legally separated or divorced, court issued proof of legal separation or divorce
- For members of the United States Military, copies of current orders and military ID
- Other proof may be required as necessary

The application and supporting documents may be brought in person or mailed to the Horry County Assessor’s Office, 1301 Second Avenue, Conway, SC 29526. Applications cannot be emailed or faxed.

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For more information, contact the Horry County Assessor's Office at 843-915-5040.

COUNTY RECEIVES FINANCIAL AWARD

Conway, South Carolina – The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Horry County by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2013. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the Horry County Finance Department.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. The Horry County CAFR can be read in full, on its website at www.horrycounty.org. This is the 27th consecutive year that Horry County has received this award.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government financial professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

RFP SELECTION FOR VENDING MACHINE CONCESSIONS AND EOC CONCESSION SERVICES

Conway, South Carolina – Recommendations will be made to County Administrator Chris Eldridge by the Evaluation Committee regarding Request for Proposals (RFP) 2013-14-001 for Horry County Vending Machine Services and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Concession Services. The recommendation will be made on Monday, July 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the Administrator's Conference Room at the Horry County Government and Justice Center, 1301 Second Avenue in Conway.

HORRY COUNTY OFFICES TO CLOSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Conway, South Carolina – All Horry County offices, other than public safety operations, will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2014, in observance of Independence Day. Regular courts may be in operation in the Horry County Government & Justice Center and all jurors, witnesses, etc. will be required to be present.

In addition, all branches of the Horry County Memorial Library System will be closed Saturday, July 5, 2014.

USED BOOK SALE TO SUPPORT LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND

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Conway, South Carolina – The Horry County Memorial Library will hold a Used Book Sale July 14-July 16, 2014, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Library Administration Offices located at 1008 5th Avenue in Conway. Materials for sale include hardback books, paperbacks and children's books with nothing costing over fifty cents! Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Horry County Memorial Library Endowment Fund, which provides speakers, training, etc. for the entire library system.

For more information, contact the Horry County Memorial Library Administration Office at 843-248-915-5285.

SUPPORT THE HORRY COUNTY LIBRARY WITH AMAZON

Conway, South Carolina – The Horry County Library has joined with one of the largest retailers in the world, Amazon, to support the Horry County Memorial Library Endowment Fund. The Fund provides an external funding source to help with the expansion and development of library facilities, enlarging collections and paying speakers for all branches.

On the Library's website www.hcml.org patrons will see three buttons to the right of each catalog item: *Text This To Me*, *Place Hold*, and *Buy It Now*. When a patron clicks the *Buy It Now* button, they will be taken to the Amazon website. If the item is purchased from Amazon through the Horry County Memorial Library (HCML) website, the HCML Endowment fund will get a percentage of the price! The program is not just for books, anything purchased on Amazon through the HCML website will benefit the HCML endowment fund.

Horry County Memorial Library Director Clifton Boyer said, "It is my hope that library patrons that shop online will use the Library's *Buy It Now* link to Amazon.com to conduct all of their online purchases. It is a small but meaningful way to help grow the HCML Endowment Fund."

For more information, contact the Horry County Memorial Library Administration Office at 843-248-915-5285.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

To get updates on all SCDOT projects in Horry County, visit SCDOT's website at <http://www.scdot.org> choose Quick Links. From the drop down menu select SC Road Conditions. Just click on Horry County on the map for the current listing.

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