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The Horry Planner

The Quarterly Electronic Newsletter of the
Horry County Planning and Zoning Department

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Horry County Planning and Zoning Department

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Citizen Planning Academy Graduates

On February 4th, Horry County Council recognized the 27 graduates of the inaugural Horry County Citizen Planning Academy. The program was developed to create citizen planners that can help shape the future of unincorporated Horry County. This intense four session program covered a variety of topics, including but not limited to, the history of planning in Horry County, planning authorities granted by the State, the rezoning process, land development, capital improvements planning and funding, and ways to guide quality growth. The program also conveyed how to provide public input and get involved in the planning process. Presentations were provided by members of the Horry County Planning & Zoning, Engineering, RIDE 3, Stormwater, and Finance departments. Because of the sheer demand for this program, the Horry County Planning & Zoning Department will be offering the program again in the fall. We look forward to getting to know more members of the public and teaching them the ins and outs of planning and development. Congratulations to our first class of citizen planners!

Citizen Planning Academy Graduates for 2019-2020. Graduates pictured above from left to right: Councilman Orton Bellamy, Donald Ray Jr., Bob Ziegler, Betsy Fay, Bruce Donegan, Charles Wunder, Danielle Reed Eiler, Geo Robinson, Edna DeWitt, Janet Graham, Stephanie Hribar, Michael Ritchie, and Reverend Jerry Faulk. **Additional graduates include:** Saundra Barnhill, Natalia Birckett, Etta G. Carter, Michael N. Graham, Audrey Hudson, Steven Janes, Stanley Janiak, Jason Jones, John Heter, Thom Mezzapelle, Rich Montgomery, April O'Leary, Julinna Oxley, and Jennifer Walters.

IMAGINE 2040

Your County. Your Voice. Our Future.

Implementation

On December 10, 2019, Horry County Council unanimously adopted the **IMAGINE 2040 Comprehensive Plan**. The plan was developed through the leadership of a steering committee and Planning Commission prior to final approval by County Council.

In South Carolina, communities are required to prepare new Comprehensive Plans every 10 years and must minimally address population, cultural resources, natural resources, housing, community facilities, transportation, economic development, priority investments, and land use. This twelve chapter plan provides the County with a vision for the future that will guide growth, regulations and policies, capital improvements and public services over the next twenty years.

Vision Statement

Horry County will sustain and enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors by fostering healthy and safe communities, preserving our natural assets and rural heritage, encouraging business growth and economic diversification, and providing services and public facilities that will protect and strengthen our future.

The plan was created by studying existing conditions and trends, obtaining public input on future growth alternatives and priorities, and identifying practical implementation strategies to help reach future goals. The plan will minimally be re-evaluated every 5 years to meet state law requirements, but most importantly to ensure that the plan addresses significant changes in population, housing, and economic trends. It will also be updated as major infrastructure improvements are completed and if there are significant changes in capital improvement funding.

A comprehensive plan is not intended to be placed on a shelf after adoption. It will be used to guide policies and regulations, capital improvements, and additional planning initiatives that will help achieve the plan's vision for the future.

What's Next?

A comprehensive plan is not intended to be placed on a shelf after adoption. It will be used to guide policies and regulations, capital improvements, and additional planning initiatives that will help achieve the plan's vision for the future. There are a number of plan implementation efforts currently underway, for example:

Regulatory Amendments:

- Land Development Regulations
- Landscape Ordinance
- Sign Ordinance
- Multi-Residential District
- Commercial Forest Agriculture (CFA) District Revision
- Article XV. Amendments

Plans Underway:

- Historic Preservation Plan
- Parks and Open Space Plan
- Beach Management Plan
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Flood Resiliency Plan

Want to know more about the IMAGINE 2040 Comprehensive Plan? You can download it **HERE**. Proposed regulatory changes can be found on the **department's website**.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2020 @ 6 PM

PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOP
MARCH 26, 2020 @ 3 PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 2, 2020 @ 5:30 PM
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020 @ 6 PM

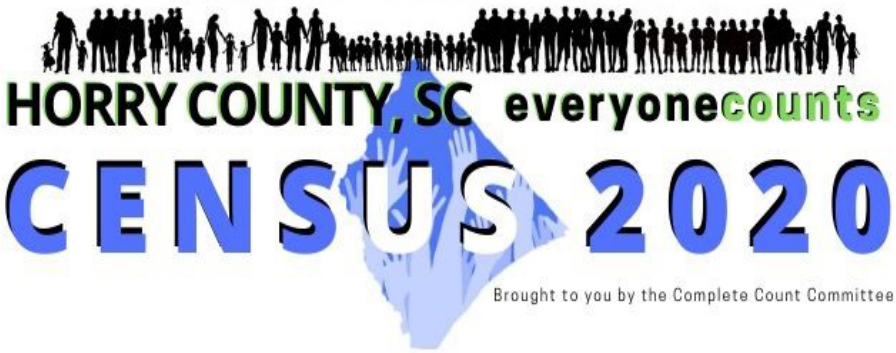
Comments and questions may be directed to David Schwerd, Planning Director at 843-915-5340 or schwerdd@horrycounty.org

IMPACT FEE STUDY UPDATE

Evaluating Infrastructure Funding Options

Over the course of the last year, Horry County staff have been working with TischlerBise, a private consultant, to evaluate the potential fee structure for a possible impact fee on new construction in unincorporated Horry County. The public has adamantly indicated that infrastructure needs to keep up with the County's rapid growth in order to maintain the quality of life for our existing and future residents. During the 2018 General Election, a non-binding, advisory question was asked of the voters regarding their desire for County Council to evaluate the feasibility of establishing impact fees for new construction to pay for infrastructure to support new growth. **72% of voters responded in favor of impact fees.** On November 18, 2018, Horry County Council passed Resolution 129-18 directing the Planning Commission to conduct an impact fee study. Horry County hired TischlerBise to conduct the study, which is evaluating fees for roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parks and recreation, public safety, solid waste convenience centers, and stormwater. Its findings will be presented to the Planning Commission and County Council in March, and formal public hearings will be held in April. While this study is being conducted, it will require a formal resolution of support from Planning Commission and for County Council to approve an ordinance establishing the fee prior to it going into effect. If approved by Council, the impact fees could be initiated as early as July 1, 2020 with the beginning of the County's new budget year.

Why the Census Matters



On November 25th 2019, the Horry County Complete Count Committee held its first official meeting. The Media Specialist for South Carolina and Horry County Coordinator, Linda Studds, shared statistics and information with the Committee that will prove vital to getting an accurate and complete count in Horry County. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, **over $675 billion/year is distributed to state and local governments using census numbers!** Census data guide decision making on all levels of government and will determine the need for future government services over the next decade. For the 2020 Census, new initiatives have been designed to increase accurate self response; allowing people to respond anytime, anywhere, via phone or internet. Tests have shown that internet self-response is the most cost effective and accurate way to increase the likelihood of getting a complete count.

What is dependent on *ACCURATE* Census data?

- Electoral District Boundaries
- Job Creation and Commercial Growth
- Growth in Medical Offices, Hospitals, and Services
- Funding for Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Funding for Roads, Transit, and Schools
- Funding for Infrastructure and Housing Assistance in Low-to-Moderate Income Areas

KEEP IT CLEAN

Volunteers Needed for Annual Litter Index

You're driving along, and there it is! On the side of the road, is a full bag of trash…or a tire…or a mattress! **On February 25**, a group of dedicated volunteers, Keep Horry County Beautiful Board members, and County employees will conduct the 9th Annual Litter Index. Teams of volunteers, accompanied by staff and board members, will evaluate the amount of litter and illegal signage along our roadways and at our parks and boat landings. The Annual Litter Index is a yearly requirement for Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB), as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful (KAB), to evaluate trends in littering over time. This visual assessment helps the County determine the state of the community's appearance, in regards to both litter and illegal signs. It also helps them target cleanup needs and pair adoption and cleanup groups to the areas with the most need.

Want to volunteer for the Litter Index? Keep Horry County Beautiful is looking for interested citizens willing to participate in a full-day or a half-day of litter assessments. It's a great way to meet new people and see parts of our vast and beautiful County that you may not always frequent.

Community Cleanup Program

Keep Horry County Beautiful is seeking volunteers interested in adopting a roadway or park. KHCB will provide gloves, safety vests, grabbers, and bags. An adoption normally lasts for two (2) years, and we ask that you clean your adopted roadway 3 times each year. It isn't a hard job! If "Adoption" doesn't work for you, gather your neighbors together and let's schedule a morning to cleanup your community.

Community Survey: Plastics and Alternatives to Disposable Products

Keep Horry County Beautiful and their partners picked-up over 122,000 lbs of litter in 2018! In an effort to shape the future of a litter-free Horry County, Keep Horry County Beautiful and their partners, including Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Grand Strand Surfrider Foundation, CCU's Sustain Coastal, and the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium, have launched a survey on recycling and single-use plastics.. The survey is intended to gather citizen input to help understand local preferences and to guide future public education and outreach activities.

Anyone interested in taking the survey is invited to participate. At this time, the survey is anticipated to be available through April and possibly longer to ensure the greatest representation of the County. Additional responses are especially being sought from Western Horry to ensure rural areas of the County have responded. Please share this survey in your community, so Keep Horry County Beautiful can develop outreach and education programs that meet the needs of all.

Click Here to Take the Survey

For more information on Keep Horry County Beautiful activities and to get involved, please contact Katie Moore, Senior Planner, at 843-915-8731 or email keephorrycountybeautiful@horrycounty.org.

HUGER PARK

Conceptual Master Planning Workshop

On February 12th, Horry County Planning and Zoning and Parks and Recreation staff held a Conceptual Master Planning Workshop to obtain input on the design of Huger Park, which is located in **The Parks** subdivision in Carolina Forest. The late Joe Garrell dedicated the land to the County for the development of a park that would recognize Revolutionary War General Isaac Huger, who originally owned the land as part of a 1,000 acre land grant given to him by the King of England in the late 1700s. In addition to telling the region's Revolutionary War history, Mr. Garrell also wanted to protect the cluster of ten historic oak trees. In an area surrounded by pine forests, these 200 year old oaks are quite unique.

View of the historic Live Oak trees at the heart of the park

Participants working to create a Conceptual Plan

Now that the surrounding subdivision is under development and the park land is accessible to the public, the County is ready to move forward with the park design. On February 12th, a number of organizations came together to share ideas about how to develop the park, including representation from the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board, Horry County Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation, Horry County Museum, Horry County Historical Society, CCU's Horry County Archives Center, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Beautify Carolina Forest, and the Carolina Forest Civic Association. After a field trip to the future park site, the participants worked cooperatively to develop a handful of unique conceptual plans that will be used to inform the eventual Master Plan for the park. Updates will be given through the organizations that participated in the workshop and through Horry County's Public Information Office.

Want to see more pictures from this event? Head over to the Facebook page!

Example Conceptual Plans developed at the workshop

South Strand Recreation Center

Master Plan

The South Strand Recreation Center Master Plan was created with the input of members of the Parks and Open Space Board, Horry County Parks and Recreation staff, Planning and Zoning staff, members of the Greater Burgess Community Association, South Strand residents, and even input from over 55 Summer Camp Children ages 5-7 years! Separate workshops for youth and for adults were held on July 9th, 2019 to gather input and create unique conceptual master plans which were later combined to create the proposed South Strand Recreation Center's Master Plan.

What are your DREAM Additions? July 9th Workshop Session with South Strand Recreation Center Summer Camp Children

The proposed Master Plan was designed to enhance the existing Recreation Center while meeting the needs of children in summer camp and afterschool programs, seniors who attend programs and events, and other members of the public that attend sporting events or access the site from the surrounding community. The Plan features building expansion, an additional double auxiliary gym, batting cages, playground additions, a children's bicycle skills park, tennis courts, a bark park, an outdoor basketball court, additional picnic shelters, and multipurpose and concrete connection trails.

Conceptual Master Planning Workshop - July 9th Parks and Open Space Board Workshop

The proposed Master Plan seeks to address the growing recreational needs of the South Strand community by utilizing existing County-owned Recreational land and facilities.

Recreational Trails Program Grant Application

In an effort to fund improvements at South Strand Recreation Center, the Parks and Recreation Department, with the assistance from Planning, Engineering, Public Works, and Community Development staff, applied for the 2020 SCPRT Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant on January 31st, 2020.

If awarded, the RTP Grant will provide roughly $82,000 towards the Perimeter Multi-Purpose Trail, the Connection Trail, the Horry County Discovery Trail, the Blue Bird Trail, and the History Trail that were identified in the proposed Master Plan. Grant award notification will be received in April.

Horry County Discovery Trail - October 18, 2019 United Way Day of Caring, Butterfly Garden Trailhead installation

A formal presentation of the proposed South Strand Recreation Center 2020 Master Plan will be made to the Parks and Open Space Board on March 10th, 2020 at 12:00pm in Multipurpose Room B of the Government and Justice Center in Conway.
Comments and questions may be directed to
Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner at 843-915-7894 or cowen.ashley@horrycounty.org

South Strand Recreation Center

Proposed Master Plan

HISTORIC REGISTER

What Qualifies for the Register?

The Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation recently revised the County's Preservation Plan. The plan includes recommendations to expand the number of properties on the County's Historic Property Register. While the plan is undergoing the adoption process, the Board continues to proactively preserve the character of our rapidly growing County. In order to be eligible for consideration for placement on the Horry County Historic Property Register, a structure should be fifty years or older and fall under one or more of the following criteria:

- Has significant inherent character, interest, history, or value as part of the community, state, or nation;
- Is the site of an event significant in history;
- Is associated with a person or persons who contributed significantly to the culture and development of the community, state or nation;
- Individually, or as a collection of resources, embodies distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, period, or specimen in architecture or engineering;
- Is the work of a designer whose work has influenced significantly the development of the community, state, or nation;
- Contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represents a significant innovation;
- Is part of or related to a square or other distinctive element of community planning;
- Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood or community; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in pre-history or history.

Once a property is placed on the Horry County Historic Property Register, it is eligible for a preliminary special property tax assessment when restoring, rehabilitating or renovating the historic structure. In addition, the BAR also reviews any demolition, alterations, additions, or construction to a historic property, as well as approving any new construction within a historic district. Reviews do not stop the re-purposing of a structure. The purpose of the review is to make sure the character of the structure remains. The review uses the U.S. Department of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties to assure that the correct methods are applied to historic structures. The standards provide the guidelines to preserve America's special places.

BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION OF THE MILL SWAMP SCHOOL, WHICH IS NOW A RESIDENCE

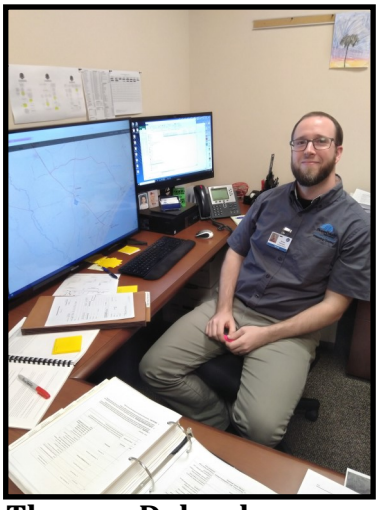
For more information or to assess your property for inclusion on the Historic Register, contact— Lou Conklin at conklinl@horrycounty.org or 843-915-7892

Benefits of Historic Preservation

There are many benefits to historic preservation, with some that reach beyond the structures themselves:

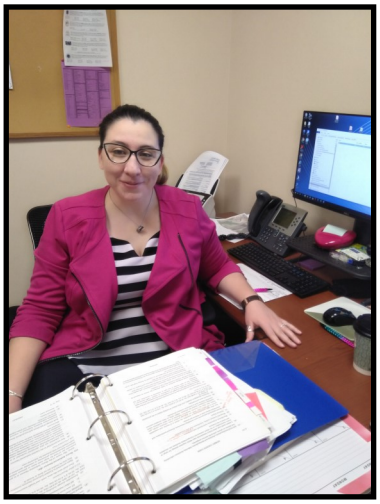
- Possible tax advantages when rehabilitating, restoring, and renovating.
- Greater protection in the planning process.
- Reduction in the amount of construction and debris waste in the landfill by preserving existing structures.
- Preserves the past and allows it to continue into the future.
- Creates a sense of place.
- Allows the property to have a historic value.

Promotions and New Faces



Thomas Dobrydney
Recently Promoted to
Principal Planner

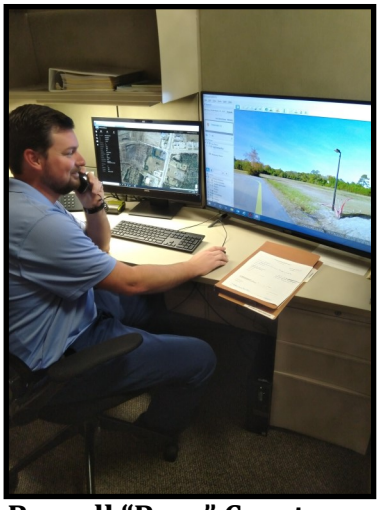
Jonathan Charles Suggs
Recently Promoted to
Principal Planner



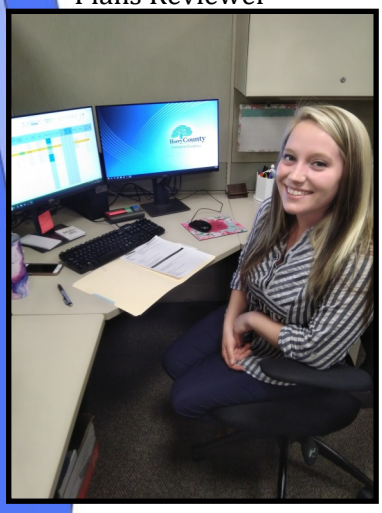
Desiree Jackson
Recently Promoted to
Senior Planner

Denice Levi
Recently Promoted to
Plans Reviewer

Crystal Thompson
New to Planning & Zoning from
Code Enforcement!
Plans Reviewer



Russell "Russ" Courtney
New Employee!
Plans Reviewer



Darra Hucks
Recently Promoted to
Expediter

congratulations!

and

Welcome!

Justin Tyler
New Employee!
Zoning Inspector

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Like us on Facebook	**The Horry County Planning Commission** generally holds one Workshop and one regular Meeting each month. Workshops are held at 3:00 pm and regular Meetings are held at 5:30 pm. All Planning Commission Workshops and Meetings are held in the Multi-purpose Rooms of the Government and Justice Center in Conway. All interested citizens are invited to attend. Public hearings and opportunities for Public Input are held during Planning Commission Meetings. For more information, please call the Planning Department at (843) 915-5340 or visit https://www.horrycounty.org/Video/Planning-Zoning
	The Horry County Zoning Board of Appeals holds all meetings at 5:30 pm in Multi-purpose Room B of the Government and Justice Center in Conway. All interested citizens are invited to attend. For more information, please call the Planning Department at (843) 915-5340 or visit https://www.horrycounty.org/Video/Planning-Zoning
	The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board's next meeting will be on March 10th, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. The Board currently has an appointment opening in District 5. The Board has begun the process of updating the Parks and Open Space Plan. For more information, please contact Ashley Cowen at (843) 915-7894 or Cowen.Ashley@HorryCounty.org or by visiting http://www.horrycounty.org/Boards/ParksandOpenSpace.aspx
Like us on Facebook	**Keep Horry County Beautiful** meets the 4th Tuesday of most months at 11:30 a.m. in the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. There is no February meeting due to the Annual Litter Index on February 25th. The next meeting is a Litter Coordinators Meeting on March 24th, 2020. 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 Katie Moore at (843) 915-8731 or Moore.Kathleen@HorryCounty.org.
The Horry County Board of Architectural Review Like us on Facebook	**The Horry County Board of Architectural Review & Historic Preservation (BAR)** The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. at the Horry County Government and Justice Center in Conway. The BAR is currently working to update the BAR Zoning Ordinance XVII and the Boards By-Laws. They are also working to schedule a Legacy Business Recognition with Palmetto Farms. For more information on any of the BAR's projects or if you have a property that you think may be eligible for the Horry County Historic Register, contact Lou Conklin at (843) 915-7892 or email at conklinl@horrycounty.org .

MEETING CALENDAR

February	March	April
4 County Council; 6:00PM	5 Planning Commission Meeting; 5:30PM	2 Planning Commission Meeting; 5:30PM
6 Planning Commission Meeting; 5:30PM	9 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30PM	7 County Council; 6:00PM
10 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30PM	10 County Council; 6:00PM	13 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30PM
18 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30PM	10 Parks and Open Space Meeting; 12:00PM	21 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30PM
18 County Council; 6:00PM	17 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30PM	21 County Council; 6:00PM
25 Keep Horry County Beautiful Litter Index; 8:30AM	24 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 11:30AM	28 I &R Committee Meeting; 9:00 AM
25 I&R Committee Meeting; 9:00AM	24 County Council; 6:00PM	28 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 11:30AM
27 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:30PM	26 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00PM	30 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00PM
	31 I&R Committee Meeting; 9:00AM	

Best Ways to Stay Informed

Sign up to stay in touch!

Get updates, upcoming events, meeting notices, and agendas delivered to your inbox.

Sign up for email updates HERE
Or, go to the Horry County Government main page and scroll to the bottom to sign up!
https://www.horrycounty.org/

View Calendar of Meetings!

You can now view agendas and packets for upcoming meetings on the County's Calendar of Meetings page!
https://www.horrycounty.org/Calendar

Download the HCConnect App!

See rezoning requests, employment opportunities, crime reports, permits issues in your area, parks and recreation opportunities, and MORE!
Download the app HERE
Or by visiting https://www.horrycounty.org/hcconnect
Or by going to the Google Play store or App Store on your phone!