

The Palmetto Planner

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IN THIS ISSUE:

American Revolutionary
War Trail1-3

SCAPA updates Bylaws.....3

Legislative Committee
Report..... 4

Planning & Planting
2004 Annual Conference.....4

Congrats AICP Grads.....5

Key Sites For Planners5

Complete Management
Course 6

Sponsorship Opportunity 7

Upcoming Issues7

Orthophotography 8

GIS Certification9

Consultants Corner 10-11

Job Postings11

LCOG Planning Staff Experiences Plan Becoming Reality, and Get Down-and-Dirty to Prove It.



Planning is a lot more meaningful, not to mention fun, when the people who did the proverbial groundwork get to take part in the real ground work. LCOG's planning staff has been in this fortunate position during the past several months.

It all started about four years ago when staff got involved in discussions about how the East Coast Greenway, the walking-

hiking-biking trail that will eventually connect urban and rural areas of the East Coast from Maine to Florida, would cross the Lowcountry. The original participants wanted to make this section unique to the four-county region and also serve as a destination and focal point for economic development. The idea of a trail that would connect sites related to the Revolutionary War gained support among the original committee members.

A few months later, in August of 2001, GIS/planning technician Kari McCallister and planning director Ginnie Kozak were doing research at the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston. It was a "Eureka" moment when they came upon the transcript of a diary of a Loyalist doctor from New Jersey who had accompanied British troops from Savannah to Charleston in 1780. He described skirmishes, sites and people in the Lowcountry; his itinerary which followed present-day highway routes, served as the basis for what is now Phase 1 of the Lowcountry Revolutionary War Trail.

Cont. page 2

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Sharon Richardson
City of Clemson
P.O. Box 1566
Clemson, SC 29633
864-653- 2050 864-653-2057 (f)
sharon@cityofclemson.org

President-Elect:

Tripp Muldrow, AICP
Arnett Muldrow & Assoc, Ltd
1931 Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC 29609
864-915-7102 *Tripp@arnettmuldrow.com*

Immediate Past President:

David Fuller, AICP

Secretary/Treasurer:

Phil Lindler, AICP
Greenwood City/Co. Planning
528 Monument Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
864-942-8638 864-942-8571 (f)
phil@co.greenwood.sc.us

Directors-at-Large:

Harold Lea Mond, Jr., AICP
Berkeley County Planning
223 N. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461-3707
843-719-4102 843-719-4053 (f)
hleamond@co.berkeley.sc.us

Phil Lindler, AICP
see above

Clemson University Representative:

J. Terrence Farris, Ph.D., AICP
Clemson University
133 Lee Hall, Box 340511
Clemson, SC 29634-0511
864-656-3903 864-656-7519 (f)
jfarris@clemson.edu

Student Representative:

Justin Price
121 Lee Hall, Box 340511
Clemson, SC 29634-0511
864-656-3926
jjprice@clemson.edu

Chapter Administrator:

Pat Collins
SCAPA
P.O.Box 683
Clemson, SC 29633
864-221-1433 864-653-2057 (f)
pcollins@cityofclemson.org

“We wanted to make sure we included all four of our counties from the beginning, and Dr. Johnson spent time in all four.” The other objective for this first part of a larger system that will eventually run from the Savannah to the Edisto rivers, included:

- To begin the project from a centralized location in the Region.
- To utilize existing roads to keep the cost down.
- To utilize roadways that existed during the Revolutionary era.
- To accommodate motorized vehicles, pedestrians/hikers and bicyclists.

The emphasis on transportation is appropriate since funding for the trail’s development has come from SCDOT’s Transportation Enhancement program. At this time two grants have been received, for a total of more than \$80,000. The 20 percent matching funds are in the form of “in-kind” contributions from contractors and suppliers in the region.

The plan consists of connecting the sites of four Revolutionary battles or skirmishes (and other related Revolution-era sites) via existing highways (US 17 and 17A) and local roads (McPhersonville Road, Pocotaligo Road, 195 Frontage Road, and Point South Campground Road). Historic maps of the area show that these thoroughfares existed during the Revolutionary era.

These sites are being linked together into a trail by means of road signs placed about a mile apart, and large narrative signs at the sites. There is a uniform logo, developed by the National Parks Service, and uniform site amenities (benches, trash barrels, minor landscaping etc.).

The “trailhead” is a gazebo in the rear yard of the Lowcountry Tourism Commission. This decision was made in order to take advantage of existing tourism facilities (such as washroom, parking, information center and picnic grounds) and to be mutually supportive as a joint attraction. The gazebo’s late 18th century design was a donation of Hilton Head’s LandPlan Partnership, one of whose landscape architects has also given generously of her own time to the project.

cont. page 3

Gayle Shelden not only designed the landscaping to reflect the tastes and practices of the Revolutionary era but helped meet a recent deadline in the trenches, so to speak. She, McCallister and LCOG planners Dave Jirousek and Shawn Seymour worked well into the evening on Friday, April 30, planting boxwood and other plants. They wanted to be ready for the next day's commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Coosawhatchie, one of the sites on the trail's first phase. Although the weather didn't cooperate, there was a run/walk (organized by Jirousek who is a marathon runner as well as planner) at 8 a.m. on May 2, followed by a ceremonial flag raising by Revolutionary War re-enactors and local Boy Scouts and then the gazebo was officially inaugurated with a ribbon-cutting. That day the trail's web site was also launched: www.lowcountryrevtrail.org.

Throughout the trail's development to date, the public has become increasingly supportive, mostly because local media, including Savannah television stations, have given the project a lot of commerate. In fact, Phase 2 has been planned and funding has been applied for as a result of the request of the citizens of Yemassee.

The trail's management and further development will be taken over by a recently-formed foundation headed by a businessman and active member of the community whose family has been in the Lowcountry for 11 generations.

SCAPA Updates Bylaws

A special committee of the SCAPA Executive Committee was established to revise and update the SCAPA Bylaws.

A copy of the revised bylaws has been included in this issue of the Planner for your review.

A vote to accept the changes will be called for at the annual meeting in the Fall.

SCAPA MISSION STATEMENT

The South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association is organized to advance the art and science of planning and to foster the activity of planning - physical, environmental, economic and social - in South Carolina. The objective of SCAPA is to encourage planning that will contribute to the public well-being by developing communities and environments that meet the diverse needs of South Carolina.

REMEMBERING DEBBIE

Donations to the Debbie Lieu Scholarship Fund should be made to "SCAPA", with the notation "Debbie Lieu Scholarship" included on all checks. Please send to: SCAPA, P.O. Box 683, Clemson, SC 29633

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Very few bills affecting our planning practice passed this legislative year. The planning-related bills adopted by the General Assembly were:

- 1. H3858 Vested Rights** - revisions of our development regulations will be required to avoid the default provisions. An amendment was added to the end of the bill to delay implementation of the education requirement for PCs, BZAs, ARCs, and Planning Staff for the 16 jurisdictions above 35,000 population, which now have another year to comply, by January 1, 2006
- 2. H4481 Military Preparedness and Protection** - should not affect many jurisdictions.
- 3. S104 "Tatoos** - Check the separation requirement. Aiken County's proposed ordinance will limit it not only to a single (but large) commercial district, but will allow it only on major thoroughfares (Federal Aid Primary and State Primary), and only as a principal use so as to rule out home-occupation parlors.

The best news is that NONE of the really onerous bills passed: home-rule-busters such as hog/chickens and sign-removal compensation; additional elements to the Comprehensive Plan; zoning infrastructure priority areas.

Unfortunately no wetland -protection bill passed.

Overall, we were indeed fortunate, and perhaps we helped ourselves. We understand that the same economic special interests are unswayed by this year's results, and will return reinvigorated next year.

As always if you would be willing to volunteer to serve on the committee or have a bill you would like us to research please contact either of us.

Harold LeaMond 843-719-4102

or

Phil England 803-642-7588

PLANNING & PLANTING

Integrating Urban & Community Forestry in Planning

Presented by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association

**And the South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council
Crowne Plaza**

**Hilton Head Island Resort
November 10-12, 2004**

One of the goals of SCAPA is to partner with other state organizations to promote planning at the local level. This year's Annual Conference will be a joint venture between SCAPA and the South Carolina Urban & Community Forestry Council. Registration is \$125 and rooms are \$99 per night for registrants.

The conference will begin at lunch on Wednesday with a presentation by Keynote Speaker Dr. Kathleen Wolfe from the University of Washington. Dr. Wolfe consults and works with Urban Foresters, Arborists, Planners, and various governmental agencies across the country regarding the economic impact of urban forests. Thursday will also conclude with joint sessions on quality growth in South Carolina as well as a report from USDA on urban forestry programs.

Two tracks for SCU&CFC and SCAPA members will run concurrently on Thursday and Friday. Topics will be varied, yet specific, and the sessions will be open to members of either organization. Topics at this time include urban design, open space planning, ecological redevelopment, stormwater management, transportation enhancements, economic development, and growth management. Speakers will include representatives from the American Planning Association, Upstate Forever, Clemson University, South Carolina Department of Commerce, South Carolina Department of Transportation, Davey Tree Resources, Sandhill Center for Community and Economic Development, and South Carolina Forestry Commission.

During the luncheon on Thursday, SCAPA and SCU&CFC will hold a Joint Awards Ceremony that you will not want to miss. Our always popular mobile workshops will be conducted during Thursday and Friday as well. Entertaining social activities including the Clemson Student Auction are also set for the evenings of the conference.

You will continue to receive updates about the conference this summer with complete registration information sent in early autumn. If you have any questions, please contact Tripp Muldrow - tripp@arnettmuldrow.com or Phil Lindler - phil@co.greenwood.sc.us. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Jack Team - Jaxteamus@aol.com.

We are looking forward to seeing you in November!

Congratulations to the First Planning Academy Graduates of 2004!

James Burt
Planning Commissioner, Edgefield County

John Groover
Planning Commissioner, Dorchester County

Marcia Lucius
Planning Commissioner, Richland County

Steve Rudd
Planning Commissioner, Dorchester County

Roger Timpson
Planning Commissioner, Edgefield County

KEY SITES FOR CITIZEN PLANNERS AVAILABLE ONLINE

As we all know, there has been an explosion of information available on the Web. For Citizen planners trying to find answers to issues they face, navigating the Web has become a major challenge.

The Planning Commissioners Journal, through its Planners Web site, has just posted an annotated guide to key planning-related Web sites: <http://www.plannersweb.com/links.html>

Unlike other Web site directories, which typically provide reams of listings with little insight into the value of a site, the PlannersWeb "Key Sites for Citizen Planners" provides concise summaries of what you'll find on a carefully selected, but comprehensive, number of sites.

As Wayne Senville, Editor of the Planning Commissioners Journal, explains, "we've tried to identify those key planning-related Web Sites that provide high quality resources and information, and then put each of these sites into context." As Senville notes, "Our objective is to alert planning board members, local officials, and others, to sites that offer good information and perspectives on the range of planning and land use issues communities face."

Sites are grouped into eleven categories:

1. Planning Directories, Organizations, and Bulletin Boards
2. Transportation Planning
3. Housing and Development
4. Smart Growth
5. Environmental & Natural Resources Planning/ Farmland Protection
6. Urban Design, Historic Preservation, & Downtown Revitalization
7. American Planning History
8. An Eclectic Mix
9. Distinctive Voices
10. Books & articles about Planning Topics
11. Research on Land Use Policy

REGIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

PEE DEE

Phil Goff
Pee Dee COG
P.O. Box 5719 (P) 843-669-3138
Florence, SC 29502 (F) 843-669-0511

UPPER SAVANNAH

Rick Green
Upper Savannah COG
P.O. Box 1360 (P) 864-941-8072
Greenwood, SC 29748 (F) 864-941-8090
rgreen@uppersavannah.com

SANTEE-LYNCHES

Pete Hipps
Santee-Lynches COG
P.O. Box 1837 (P) 803-775-7381
Sumter, SC 29751-1837 (F) 803-773-9903

BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER

Haila R. Maze, AICP
Berkeley Charleston Dorchester COG
5290 Rivers Ave, #400 (P) (843) 529-0400
N. Charleston, SC 29406 (F) (843)529-0305
hailam@bcdco.com

CATAWBA

Sarah Duffy
City of Rock Hill Planning & Development
P.O. Box 11706 (P) 803-329-5687
Rock Hill, SC 29731 (F) 803-329-7228
sduffy@ci.rock-hill.sc.us

CENTRAL MIDLANDS

Wayne Shuler
Central Midlands COG
236 Stoneridge Drive (P) 803-376-5390
Columbia, SC 29210 (F) 803-376-5394
wayne@cmcog.state.sc.us

APPALACHIAN

Steve Pelissier
Appalachian COG
P.O. Drawer 6668 (P) 864-241-4643
Greenville, SC 29606 (F) 864-242-6957
stevep@scacog.org

LOWCOUNTRY

Ginnie Kozak
Lowcountry COG
P.O. Box 98 (P) 843-726-5536
Yemassee, SC 29945 (F) 843-726-5165
gkozak@lowcountry.org

WACCAMAW

Janine Peccini
Waccamaw COG
1230 High Market Street (P) 843-546-8502
Georgetown, SC 29440 (F) 843-527-2302
jpeccini@yahoo.com

LOWER SAVANNAH

Jennifer Dole
Lower Savannah COG
P.O. Box 850 (P) 803-649-7981
Aiken, SC 29802 (F) 803-649-2248

For Regional Correspondence, please see www.scapa.org. Please contact your regional SCAPA correspondent to share information about the projects and news in your community.

The Complete Management Course

For Planning Directors

Presented by West Coast Publishers and co-sponsored by the American Institute of Certified Planners and selected APA Chapters, The Complete Management Course for Planning Directors is a comprehensive two-day course designed for planning and community development managers, division heads, supervisors and future managers. The seminar is designed to respond directly to the needs and challenges of today's planning and community development departments. The need for major change in planning and community development departments is essential. We are beyond the days of moving from one management fad to another. What is required today is a fundamental shift based on a changing environment and a new information age focus.

2004

San Francisco, CA..... September 13-14
Charleston, SC..... October 4-5
Boston, MA..... November 1- 2
Memphis, TN..... November 15- 16
Los Angeles, CA..... December 6- 7

2005

Phoenix, AZ.....January 10- 11
Miami Beach, FL.....January 31- February 1
San Antonio, TX.....February 28- March 1
Chicago, IL.....April 11-12
Denver, CO.....May 2-3
Seattle, WA.....May 23-24

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Have you moved recently? Be sure to UPDATE your record by contacting APA by phone: (312)-431-9100, visit <http://www.planning.org>, or email: [membership @planning.org](mailto:membership@planning.org)

INTERESTED IN BEING A SPONSOR OR EXHIBITOR? HERE IS YOUR CHANCE.

On November 10th, the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association and the South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council will host an unprecedented joint conference of our two organizations at Hilton Head Island's Crowne Plaza Resort. We anticipate over 200 participants at this event that will showcase the best of the Urban Forestry and Planning professions in the southeast and the nation.

We have already engaged national figures in both the Urban Forestry and planning community and expect that our agenda will attract visitors from Georgia and North Carolina as well.

We invite you to join us as a conference sponsor or exhibitor. We have organized to provide you a valuable package of exposure for your company and an excellent chance to showcase your services or products. If you have any questions at all, please contact: Mary Leverette at mleverette@sc.rr.com or (803) 781-9817.

A couple of upcoming issues.....

Election of Officers

It is nearing the time to elect new officers for the upcoming term (2005-2006). Nomination forms are available on the SCAPA web site www.SCAPA.org For more information please contact Pat Collins at: pcollins@cityofclemson.org

Call For Nomiminations for 2004 SCAPA Awards

Every two years SCAPA conducts an awards program to recognize outstanding effoerts and achievements that advance the art and science of planning in the Palmetto State. Nomination forms are available on the SCAPA website: www.SCAPA.org. For more information please contact Rick Green, AICP at: rgreen@uppersavannah.com

Got something to share? What ever it is, we'd like to hear from you. Show case a project, express an opinion, or just share issues and information in the planning field.

Deadlines for submittal to the Palmetto Planner are:

Fall Issue 09/15

Winter Issue 12/15

Spring Issue 03/15

You can send, email or call Pat Collins (see page 2)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Don't Forget

to visit us on

the web at

www.SCAPA.org

Advertising in the SCAPA Newsletter

THE PALMETTO PLANNER is a quarterly publication of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The following information will assist you in submitting your advertising, and ensure that your ad appears as intended.

Advertisements are accepted at the discretion of the editor. Only camera-ready (high resolution) art is accepted: laser

output, linotronic output, and halftone reproductions. Payment must accompany ad copy. Send your camera-ready copy, along with payment to SCAPA, P.O. Box 683, Clemson, SC 29633-0683.

For further information, call Pat Collins at 864-221-1433 or email at: pcollins@cityofclemson.org

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\$150 per issue (member)
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\$500 per year (member)
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\$250 per issue (member)
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\$850 per year (member)
\$885 per year (non-member)

Full Page (6 3/4" x 9 3/4")
\$400 per issue (member)
\$435 per issue (non-member)

\$1350 per year (member)

Orthophotography for Allendale, Barnwell, and Bamberg Counties and the Savannah River Site.

The Lower Savannah Council of Governments is providing assistance to a regional partnership that will share the costs of acquiring high quality color aerial photographs for three of its six member counties and the Savannah River Site. Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell counties in the Lower Savannah region have all committed to the project in the interest of regional planning.

The project area is located in southeast South Carolina along the Savannah River and covers an area greater than 1,300 square miles.

Orthophotography is prepared from aerial photographs which are corrected to produce images showing objects in their true geographic position and depicting them as they exist on the ground. In digital form, orthophotography can be used in computers to produce a highly accurate base map which can serve as a reference or backdrop for a wide range of uses, from land use interpretation to the compilation of building roof outlines to parcel mapping. The digital color orthophotos produced from this project will facilitate the development of a geometrically accurate digital base map that will allow for improved land use planning.

"An accurate base map is essential for land use planning," said Jennifer Dole, Director of Planning at the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. "These images, when incorporated into geographic information systems (GIS), can yield superior results at reduced cost in staff time and dollars."

Lower Savannah Council of Governments is overseeing the administration of this unique partnership. To ease the financial burden on the counties, Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (formerly Tri-County Alliance) is providing funding equal to a third of the counties' cost. Additionally, the US Forest Service is participating in the project to obtain the high quality orthophotos for the Savannah River Site area.

The South Carolina Geodetic Survey is playing an instrumental role in project organization and quality control of the final product. Additionally, the Geodetic Survey is committing to the project with both a cash match and in-kind services. The mission of the Geodetic Survey is to establish horizontal and vertical geodetic control throughout the state to allow land and land-related items to be referenced to the national horizontal and vertical coordinate system, to ensure the integrity of new geodetic data, and to maintain geodetic files.

Spectrum North Carolina, LLC, a LIDAR, photogrammetry, and GIS services firm located in Wilmington, North Carolina, has been awarded the contract to produce the digital color orthophotography for Allendale, Barnwell, and Bamberg Counties and the Savannah River Site. The project will require Spectrum to produce a total of 606 high quality digital color orthophotography tiles at either 1" = 200' or 1" = 400' scale resolutions.

For more information on the digital color orthophotography project, contact Jennifer Dole, Director of Planning at (803) 649-7981.

Map Out Your Career

Enroll in UNC Charlotte's Fall 2004 GIS Certificate Program

Offered August 27, through October 30, 2004 in five Friday/Saturday blocks

The GIS Certificate Program is offered in collaboration with the Geography and Earth Sciences Department at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The program is designed to go beyond formal education and on-the-job training. This 70-hour experience is focused on an introduction to GIS application, hands-on overview, in-depth discussions on data management and quality assurance, map conversion and data standards, spatial analysis, map projections, and cartographic design. Sessions meet five weekends, full days on Friday and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. After completing the program participants will have experienced:

Comprehensive instruction on key aspects of GIS technology

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Managing a GIS project and implementing GIS within an organization

Complete details and registration information available at :
www.continuinged.uncc.edu/certificate/GIS/gis_fy04.htm
or by calling 704-687-2424

SCAPA Associate Membership

Join SCAPA as an Associate Member and take advantage of the following opportunities:

- Quarterly Chapter Newsletter.
- Training Workshops for Planning Commissioners and Board Members.
- Membership Conferences on State planning related legislation, growth management initiatives, preservation of natural and historic resources, beautification, and topics related to Planning.
- Participation on SCAPA Committees.

Annual Dues: \$35.00

For more information contact: pcollins@cityofclemson.org

SCAPA COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACTS

Programs:

Tripp Muldrow 864-915-7101
Tripp@arnetmuldrow.com

Legislation:

Harold Lea Mond, Jr. 843-719-4102
hleamond@co.berkeley.sc.us

Membership/Bylaws:

Phil Lindler 864-9428636
phil@co.greenwood.sc.us

Awards and Public Relations:

Open

Information Resources:

Cheryl H. Matheny 803-356-9475
cmatheny@sc.rr.com

State Mapping Advisory:

Michael P. Criss 803-576-2145
michaelcriss@richlandonline.com

Stewardship Development:

Rick Green 864-941-8072
rgreen@uppersavannah.com

Newsletter and Web Site Chair and Palmetto Planner Editor:

Terry Farris, Ph.D., AICP
tfarris@clemsun.edu
864-656-3903
133 Lee Hall, Box 340511
Clemson, SC 29634-0511

THE PALMETTO PLANNER

Managing Editor:

Pat Collins

THE PALMETTO PLANNER is the official newsletter of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Newsletter contributions are encouraged from SCAPA members and others. Material selected for publication may be edited to conform to space or other requirements.

Please email contributions to the Newsletter to: Pat Collins:

pcollins@cityofclemson.org

Articles to be published in the Palmetto Planner should be no more than 750 words. Use spell check and write in the active voice. Please include your name, organization, and contact information.

Articles may be edited.

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Urban Designer (Planner II Level)

City of Rock Hill, SC (Pop. 50,000) is seeking to fill Urban Designer position (Planner II level) in the Department of Planning and Development. Salary range: \$42,652-\$59,717 Per Year. Major responsibilities include coordinating rezoning process and planned development and large project review/approval; serving as department's urban design professional, reviewing development plans; presenting reports/staff recommendations to decision-makers. Requires Bachelor's degree in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design or planning; Master's degree preferred; 4 to 5 years progressively responsible planning and urban design experience, preferably in a local government setting. The City offers excellent health, dental, disability, and retirement benefits. Apply in person, send a resume to, or request an application from the Human Resources Dept., 155 Johnston Street, Rock Hill, SC 29731, (803) 329-5570. EOE - H

Planner II (Community Development/Housing)

City of Rock Hill, SC (Pop. 50,000) is seeking to fill a Planner II position in the Department of Planning and Development. Salary Range: \$42,652-\$59,717/Year. Administers all aspects of the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; coordinates RHJVAHC program activities; develops housing programs and initiatives and provides grant administration; manages the City's historic preservation programs; serves as project manager for neighborhood initiatives and special programs; prepares community development studies/plans; develops innovative programs to address neighborhood concerns/issues; prepares grant applications. Requires Bachelors degree supplemented by master's degree in planning, public administration, business or related field, and 3 to 5 years of progressively responsible experience in community development, housing, and grants management. Customer service skills are required. The City offers excellent health, dental, disability, and retirement benefits. Apply in person, send a resume to, or request an application from the Human Resources Dept., 155 Johnston Street, Rock Hill, SC 29731, (803) 329-5570. EOE - H

The Lawrence Group, a National Town

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