

Marlett represents S.C. at National 4-H Conference

Laurens County Youth, Morgan Marlett, represented South Carolina at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. the week of April 8. The National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. This is a working conference that brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, its territories, and the Canadian Provinces.

While attending the National 4-H Conference the Morgan was involved in round table discussions to work on issues facing our youth today and professional development workshops that highlighted the Essential Elements of belonging, independence, mastery, and generosity. The round table discussions culminated in a Town Hall Meeting, and the delegates' top recommendations were shared with officials across Washington, D.C. Morgan presented on Agriculture Challenges to the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture.

While in Washington Morgan also had the opportunity to share the benefits of 4-H in



Morgan Marlett

South Carolina to the South Carolina Senators and Representatives. In addition, they received a tour of the U.S. Capital through Senator Scott's office.

Being selected to attend the National 4-H Conference is a tremendous honor, as well as a once in a lifetime opportunity. Morgan was one of four youth selected to represent the State of South Carolina. She was selected on the bases of her 4-H Portfolios and an interview. So

these were four of the best 4-H'ers in South Carolina! Morgan described the week as once in a lifetime trip she will never forget!! In addition to the trip, each of the youth will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The funds for the trip were made possible through the annual 4-H Sporting Clays Tournament fundraiser. This year's tournament it will be held May 31st at the National Wildlife Turkey Federation's Palmetto Shooting Complete in Edgefield.

City of Clinton chosen for second consecutive TD Green Space Grant

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

For the second year, the City of Clinton is among 20 cities in the U.S. and Canada selected to receive a \$20,000 TD Green Space Grant.

Director of Utilities Joey Meadors said he expects the city to work with Clinton Canopy to develop specific plans for the funds.

"We virtually did the same thing with the TD Grant at Pinehaven Park last year, where we worked with Clinton Canopy on that," Meadors said.

The city was one of the winners of the TD Green Space Grant last March, and Clinton Canopy volunteers worked with FFA and Beta Club members from Clinton Middle and Clinton High schools to greatly expand Pinehaven Park on Willard Road.

This year's program theme was "Innovations in Park-Based Green Infrastructure," and some of the funding will be used to take care of drainage issues at Martha Dendy Park, the large open green space beside the old Martha Dendy School, said Clinton City Manager Bill Ed Cannon.

"We will also be planting trees and other greenery," Cannon said. "We are committed to Martha Dendy as much as we're able."

TD Bank is funding the grant, and the Arbor Day Foundation will again administer the program, according to a press release provided by TD Bank. The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation organization with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

The grants provide each municipality with \$20,000 to help support green infrastructure development and community green space expansion. Ten cities across the United States and 10 from Canada were selected for the grants.

This year the City of Clinton shares the honor with one other city in South Carolina, as Rock Hill was also selected.

Other U.S. cities include Hartford, Conn.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Hallandale Beach, Fla.; Morristown, N.J.; Bronx, N.Y.; Watervliet, N.Y.; Easton, Pa.; and Providence, R.I.

Toronto and Niagara Falls, both in Ontario, and Montreal in Quebec are among the 10 cities in Canada selected for the funds.

To be eligible for the annual grants, qualified municipalities must be within TD Bank's footprint in the United States and Canada. Priority is given to projects occurring in underserved communities. The first TD Green Space projects and community engagement events will take place between June and October.

"With more people moving into urban areas, cities are increasingly becoming the heart of where we



live, work and play," said Andrea Barrack, TD Bank's Global Head of Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship. "Green spaces play a critical role in creating more livable cities. Not only do they provide environmental benefits but they also provide social services and economic benefits to cities and the people within them."

The TD Green Space Grants program is part of The Ready Commitment, which aims to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy with a target of CDN \$100b by 2030 through lending, financing, asset management and other programs. The program falls squarely within The Ready Commitment's Vibrant Planet driver, to help communities

grow and enhance green spaces. "A healthier tree canopy in our cities and towns produces clear benefits for community residents – including improved air quality, captured carbon emissions and enhanced quality of life," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

The TD Green Space program replaces TD Green Streets, a similar program that was focused on urban forestry. It was launched in Canada in 2010 in partnership with Tree Canada. In the U.S., the TD Green Streets program ran from 2013-2018, in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation. Over 5,000 trees were planted in the U.S. last year through TD Green Streets.

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Food truck guidelines presented to council

By Judith L. Brown
Staff Writer

At last week's meeting of Laurens City Council, council members heard some of the plans and guidelines for the Food Trucks Plaza, which the city and Main Street Laurens have been working on near the corner of East Laurens Street and North Harper Street just off the Historic Downtown Square.

"Tommy's crews have been working really hard on the food truck area," said Main Street director Jonathan Irick, referring to Special Projects Director Tommy Burns.

The picnic tables will be covered by an 18-foot umbrella and will have wheelchair access, according to ADA guidelines.

Irick said participating food vendors must have a City of Laurens business license, which can be renewed annually, "and they have to pay hospitality taxes just like the other restaurants."

There is water and electric hookups and space for four food truck vendors, and Irick is asking them for advance menu notice so that it will be promoted along with other Main Street businesses.

DHEC approval is required of food truck vendors just as it is required for brick and mortar restaurants, he added, and the guidelines which he has developed are similar to those by other area cities.

"In the past some of our food truck vendors have had issues with consistency," Irick said, "and so we are asking them to actually come during the day on the days they have advertised."

In other news, Mayor Nathan Senn and council members thanked Clay Rykard for his service to the city, as the Department of Zoning director has announced his plans to pursue other work when a replacement can be hired.

In addition, council also heard Senn's comments regarding the

recent city-wide clean up event, which occurred Saturday, April 13.

"The clean-up day, I think, was a resounding success," Senn told council. "That's not to say the job is done, but it shows we care about this place, and the city's efforts to help in economic revitalization."

City council also approved a resolution which proclaimed April as Child Abuse Awareness Month, which was an important measure because of the prevalence of child abuse within Laurens County and South Carolina, according to Laurens Police Chief Chrissie Cofield.

"In 2018 there were 20,198 documented cases of children's maltreatment in South Carolina," Cofield said, "and 250 documented cases in Laurens County in 2018."

Cofield said her department is working with other law enforcement agencies in the county to make sure resources get to parents.

Financial Literacy Month, a perfect time to plan for your future

By Tony Williams

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

April is Financial Literacy Month and there's no better time than right now to begin to save for your future. The earlier you start saving, the more you can accrue in a 401k individual retirement account and other types of IRAs. Social Security helps secure your future, but Social Security is only one part of a more complete retirement plan.

Financial literacy includes having access to not just the correct general information, but also to your personal financial information. You can open your own personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/ and quickly have access to your information from anywhere. There, you can do many things, but the most

important thing is to view your Social Security Statement.

Your Social Security Statement is an easy-to-read personal record of the earnings on which you have paid Social Security taxes and a summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Once you have an account, you can view your Statement at any time. You'll want to verify that your recorded earnings are correct, because your future benefits are based on your recorded earnings.

A Retirement Estimator is offered at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/retirement/estimator.html that provides immediate and personalized benefit estimates based on your earnings record. And, best of all, the Retirement Estimator is an interactive tool

that allows you to compare different retirement scenarios like future earnings and different retirement ages.

One sure way to stay on top of your financial future is to join the more than 38 million people who have opened their own my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/. The sooner you start planning for retirement the better off you will be.

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Diabetes 101

Thursday, May 9 • 10 a.m. • Laurens County Hospital, Women's Life Center

This free class offers practical tips for those with diabetes, including meal ideas, lifestyle changes and products that help manage the condition. No registration required for this hourlong class. Learn more at 864-885-7654.

Dine and Discuss – Diabetes 101: Learn how it can affect you

Tuesday, May 14, 6–7:30 p.m. • Clinton Community Garden

Come learn and have dinner on us! Join Michelle Stancil, BSN, RN, CDE, manager of Prisma Health Diabetes Self-Management, to learn basic information on diabetes and how it may affect you. She will share tips for simple meal and lifestyle changes to help manage diabetes. This event is FREE but registration is required. Contact Jamie Adair@PrismaHealth.org or 864-833-9131.

QuitWell Tobacco Cessation

Fridays, May 17–June 21 • 8 a.m. • Laurens County Hospital

Make 2019 the year you quit using tobacco. Through QuitWell's hourlong sessions each week, we will provide the tools you need to quit smoking. Open to those 18 and older. To enroll or for cost information, call 864-455-WELL (9355).

BattleMud

Saturday, May 18 • 9 a.m. • Laurens YMCA

Challenge yourself with this two-mile race that includes a nature trail, numerous obstacles and a slip-and-slide finale. Two-person teams compete for top honors; at least one member must be 18 or older. \$50 registration includes a free T-shirt while supplies last. Register at the Laurens YMCA or on go-greenevents.com.

Unless noted otherwise, registration is required for each event. To register, learn more or see a schedule of events, visit prismahealth.org/upstateevents.

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