

STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS

McCormick County Planning and Zoning Revisions

On behalf of McCormick County, I hope you will accept our invitation to join stakeholder meetings that will provide input on the update to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.

These documents are an adopted set of laws that relate to zoning (where different types of residences and businesses may be built in the County), subdivision of land and design standards (landscaping, signs, parking and more). The purpose of this project is to update the ordinances as part of a continued effort to enhance the livability and appeal of McCormick County for its residents, businesses, and visitors.

You have been selected as an important part of this process. By participating in a one-time stakeholder meeting, you will provide essential background and insights about McCormick County. We need your help understanding the challenges and opportunities McCormick County will face in the coming years. We look forward to these discussions and, as the project progresses, hope that you will help us spread the word about public events and input opportunities related to the update and about this important process in general.

The interview process will feature a question and answer period and discussions about the county's current regulations and development review processes. Our consultant, Kendig Keast Collaborative (KCC) of Greenville, South Carolina will explain the purpose for the discussion and lead these talks. You do not need to be a technical expert on zoning or need to prepare for these meetings in any way. Just be ready to share your knowledge of the county! The results of this process will eventually go to the Planning Commission and then to the County Council for consideration and adoption as the new development ordinances for the county.

If you have questions about this effort, please call Thessa Smith at 864-377-0400 for further information. We appreciate your interest in the future of McCormick County and hope you will choose to participate.

**-Kelli W. McCormick, AICP
Senior Associate-In-Charge
Kendig Keast Collaborative**

Listed below are community stakeholder meetings scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 12. Please visit the county website or email tsmith@mccormickcountysc.org for a link to the session you would like to join. Call Thessa Smith at 864-377-0400 or 864-852-0427 for additional information. These meetings are open to all community members.

Schedule Tuesday, January 12

Group 6 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Group 7 • 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Joint Meeting with County Council/Planning Commissioners for Feedback from Stakeholders - Thursday, Jan. 14 at, 5:30 p.m.



The McCormick Garden Club sends Happy New Year greetings to all and especially wants to thank the people of the town of McCormick and the county for the support they have given to the club's Dorn House Christmas Tour for the third year! The ladies of the club delight in the decorating and sharing their talents so that all might enjoy this historic treasure at its loveliest.

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Call Steven White at 864-602-0283
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Stockton's View

McCormick's best path forward: assist arts/education, recreation and real estate

By Bob Stockton

Several months ago, the designation of John de la Howe (JDLH) as a Governor's School, then a major gift to the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah (MACK) initiated our sharing observations about the changing McCormick economy.

JDLH and the MACK represent dramatic growth in the arts/education organizations in McCormick, while our Georgia Pacific and Milliken facilities ceased operating and are abandoned.

We followed up those initial stories with two stories about the growth of Willington on the Way (WW) and its transition of leadership, then stories about the Plum Branch Yacht Club (PBYC) and others on Fishing Village Road and Savannah Lakes Village (SLV).

None of these five, JDLH, MACK, WW, PBYC and SLV (and let's add two more, McCormick Public Schools, MPS, and Hickory Knob State Resort Park, HKSRP), generate traditional industrial jobs. They do, however, represent the major impact of arts and education, recreation and real estate in our county ... and they're thriving in the face of a virus pandemic.

McCormick County offers these ventures an extraordinary, probably unique, package of assets: 1,300 acres of forest and farmland for JDLH; truly historic buildings for

the MACK and WW; a near-perfect peninsula in one of the country's best lakes for PBYC and its neighbors; the best state park in SC for HKSRP and attractive golfing and homesite properties for SLV.

In return, these seven organizations employ hundreds of people and attract thousands of students, customers and residents. Many of their customers and employees patronize McCormick's smaller businesses, and as SLV's Kirk Smith said, "most of our payroll for 121 employees and much of the discretionary spending by over 1,300 households stays right here in our county, and that's huge."

Georgia Pacific does not want a new competitive operator in its facility. Finding occupants for our empty spec building (28,000 square feet for sale or lease) on Hwy. 28 in Plum Branch and the vacant Milliken plant are proving to be tough.

If the original prospect could not sustain the spec building and Milliken could not make a go of its plant, there's little reason to be optimistic for attracting new occupants to keep them going. Perhaps any effort spent toward that would be better directed toward assisting and compounding the economic return of our existing successes.

As we head into this third decade of the 21st century, the county's best path for economic growth is to polish the gems we already have.

View, continued ...

Savannah Lakes' Smith responds to McCormick's best path forward

By Bob Stockton

Prior to publication of the above "Stockton's View" about the importance of the county's major seven arts, education, recreation and real estate entities, I shared my thoughts with Savannah Lakes Village Chief Operating Officer Kirk Smith, and he expanded on them.

"When one of the seven enti-

ties improves, grows and expands services, it not only adds more economic value back to McCormick County and its citizens, it also adds additional compounding value to the other entities," Smith said.

"For instance, the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah: it's investment and growth adds direct value and opportunity to McCormick Public Schools, Hickory Knob State Resort Park, John de la Howe, Willington on the Way, Plum Branch Yacht Club and the Village.

"Village growth equates to greater support of these entities financially, and in some cases, through volunteer services. The growth of these core entities creates economic opportunity for various support sectors."

Village growth supports builders, contractors, health care and real estate offices, shopping, restaurants and more.

"I believe it's a common equation for each of these groups," said Smith. "There are no 'silos' here. This compounding value equation results in a 'tide that keeps rising,' providing benefits far beyond the scope of the operations of each individual entity.

"Polishing one of these gems, polishes the other six while uncovering existing and new support sectors to mine. This is a true model of compounding economic growth opportunity with far reaching benefits to the county and its citizens," Smith said.



Free COVID-19 Testing

McCormick County residents are invited to our drive-through testing site for a free COVID-19 test.*

Date: Friday, January 22

Time: 9 a.m.— 1 p.m.

Location: Mims Recreation Center
 516 Mims Drive, McCormick, SC 29835

***Call (864) 725-8200 to register.**

Tests are first come, first served as long as testing materials last.
 Insurance will be billed, but there is no out-of-pocket cost for testing.



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 (Specials Posted Weekly, Dine-In or Carry-out)



Dr. Warren Walsh Jr., DMD

Education
 Undergraduate - College of Charleston
 D.M.D. - Medical University of South Carolina

Licensure
 South Carolina State Board of Dentistry

Affiliations
 ADA - American Dental Association
 SCDA - South Carolina Dental Association

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