

Rescheduled - Lancaster County Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting - 2/6/2026

The Lancaster County Economic Development Advisory Board regular meeting scheduled for Friday, February 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. has been rescheduled. The next Economic Development Advisory Board regular meeting will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held at the Economic Development Department's office located at 1033 West Meeting Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

A copy of this notice can be found in the lobby of the County Administration building and by using the link below -

<https://lancastercosc.portal.civicclerk.com/event/728/files/agenda/1341>

Multiple Arrests after Search Warrant Execution

Five people were arrested Thursday, January 15, 2026, after the execution of a search warrant at a home on Barberville Road in Indian Land. Earlier, investigators with the Lancaster County Multijurisdictional Narcotics Task Force had bought suspected Methamphetamine from an occupant of the home. Early Thursday morning, Task Force investigators along with Lancaster County Sheriff's Office investigators, members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) agents, and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents returned to the home with a search warrant. Six people were inside the home. One was not involved in any criminal activity and was not charged.

During a search of the home, investigators found 64.9 grams of suspected Methamphetamine, 11 grams of suspected Cocaine, over two dozen pills suspected to be Xanax, 57 grams of suspected Marijuana, and digital scales. They also seized a Remington 12-gauge shotgun and a Ruger .380 caliber pistol. The items were located in different rooms of the home. A 2024 Honda Grom motorcycle which had been reported stolen out of Rock Hill was located in the basement of the home.

Renee Hewitt Schmader, 56, and Robert Eric White, 58, live in the home. Both were arrested. Also present and arrested were Kimberly Shelton Patrick, 53, of Indian Land, Adrian Hunter Pittman, 24, of Fort Mill, and Judith Marie Wright, 31, of Whitmire.

The charges and bond status for each follow, and their photographs are attached. Also attached is a photograph of the items located.

Renee Hewitt Schmader
 Trafficking Methamphetamine 10-28 Grams
 Trafficking Methamphetamine 28-100 Grams
 Trafficking Cocaine 10-28 Grams
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Xanax
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana
 Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Violent Crime (four counts)
 Possession of Stolen Vehicle \$2,000-\$10,000

Schmader was denied bond on the drug and weapons charges, and bond was set at \$5,000 surety on the Possession of Stolen Vehicle charge. She remains in the Lancaster County Detention Center.

Robert Eric White
 Trafficking Methamphetamine 28-100 Grams
 Trafficking Cocaine 10-28 Grams
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Xanax
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana
 Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Violent Crime (four counts)

White was denied bond and remains in the detention center.

Kimberly Shelton Patrick
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana

Patrick was released last Thursday after posting bonds totaling \$12,500.

Adrian Hunter Pittman
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Xanax

Pittman remains in the detention center on bonds totaling \$30,000.

Judith Marie Wright

Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine
 Possession with Intent to Distribute Xanax

Wright remains in the detention center on bonds totaling \$20,000.

"This has been a months-long investigation based on complaints we received and information our investigators developed over time," said Sheriff Barry Faile. "Schmader has folks in and out of this house all the time, and we weren't surprised to find several people and the quantities of different drugs when we went in with the search warrant. It's good to get this



Cody Mitchell Update

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Protecting Children and Strengthening Parental Rights
 Protecting children and strengthening parental rights remained a top priority this week. Lawmakers continued work on two key pieces of legislation: the Parental Rights Act (H.4757), which has been referred to committee, and the South Carolina Student Physical Privacy Act (H.4756), which passed out of the House Judiciary Committee. Both measures focus on safeguarding student privacy in schools while affirming transparency and parental involvement in their children's education and health-care. Together, these measures are aimed at restoring common sense in our classrooms, protecting student privacy, and ensuring parents are kept informed and respected when it comes to decisions affecting their children. Committee hearings drew strong engagement from families, students, and advocates from across the state, and discussions will continue as these bills move through the legislative process.

As seen in the media this week! Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope Highlighting Bills Representative David Martin Defending Common Sense in Judiciary Committee

Protecting Life and Public Safety
 House Republicans also continue advancing efforts this week to protect children and families from dangerous and intoxicating substances. The House Judiciary Committee heard testimony raising serious concerns about hemp-derived products and the need to keep them out of the reach of children, underscoring the importance of clear safeguards focused on safety and accountability. In addition, the Judiciary Committee heard extensive testimony on the Abortion-Inducing Drugs Act (H.4760), with discussion centered on clarifying state law, strengthening enforcement, and ensuring existing protections are clearly understood and applied. Lawmakers emphasized the importance of protecting life as the bill continues to move through the committee process.

Putting South Carolina First
 This week, lawmakers advanced legislation requiring the use of U.S. Produced Iron and Steel (H.4709) in state-funded public works projects. The bill passed out of subcommittee and has been referred to the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee for further consideration. This legislation is focused on strengthening domestic manufacturing, protecting critical supply chains, and ensuring taxpayer dollars support American workers and industries. As South Carolina continues to grow, measures like this help reinforce a strong, reliable workforce and keep our state competitive. We're putting America first right here in South Carolina!
 As seen in the media this week! Representative Richie Yow Video

Fighting for Judicial Reform and Conservative Values
 Several additional pieces of leg-

islation advanced this week reflecting our commitment to good governance and public safety. The Judicial Selection Reform bill (H.4755) passed out of subcommittee, moving forward efforts to strengthen accountability and fairness in South Carolina's judicial selection process. Lawmakers also advanced legislation recognizing members of the United States Space Force under South Carolina law (H.4586), ensuring they are fully included in important protections and benefits. Additionally, the School Volunteer Chaplains and Historical Displays bill (H.4762) passed out of subcommittee, allowing schools to establish volunteer chaplain programs and display documents, like the 10 Commandments, that reflect the foundations of our nation's history and law. As seen in the media this week! Representative Robby Robbins Speaking on the historical importance of the School Volunteer Chaplains and Historical Documents Act

Making South Carolina More Affordable
 This week, lawmakers also continued work on the Insurance Rate Reduction and Policy Holder Protection Act (H.4817), a comprehensive proposal aimed at giving South Carolinians more oversight and protection when it comes to insurance. This bill would strengthen anti-fraud efforts and increase transparency in how rates are set, including provisions that restrict certain advertising practices and authorize enhanced fraud investigations. As debates continue, the goal of this legislation is to reduce burdensome insurance costs for families and ensure that the system works fairly for policyholders across our state.
 This Week's Legislative Wins - House Bills Update

This week, lawmakers delivered real progress on legislation that supports small businesses and lowers costs for families. The House-passed Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act (H.3021) advanced in the Senate Judiciary Committee, moving us closer to cutting red tape and reducing burdensome regulations on job creators. In addition, the Boat Tax Relief Act (H.3858), which passed the House last year, advanced through the Senate Finance Committee Thursday, another step forward in providing tax relief and making South Carolina more affordable. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to represent you and to keep you informed about the work being done in Columbia. I welcome your feedback and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or would like more information on these or other issues before the General Assembly. To keep up with my legislative updates: Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/ElectCodyTMitchell> Website codytmitchell.com Email: ctmitchellsc@gmail.com Phone: office:843.332.5050 cell:803.427.6487 fax:843.332.5105 To keep up with the SC House Republican Caucus: SCHouseGOP Facebook SCHouseGOP X / Twitter SCHouseGOP Website

YOU WILL FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that unless the said minors or persons under other legal disability, if any, or someone on their behalf or on behalf of any of them, shall within thirty (30) days after service of notice of this order upon them by publication, exclusive of the day of such service, procure to be appointed for them, or any of them, a Guardian ad Litem to represent them for the purposes of this action, the Condemnor will apply for an order making the appointment of said Guardian ad Litem Nisi absolute.

Order (Appointing Gal Nisi) Affidavit

Upon reading and filing the Petition of the Condemnor for the appointment of Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for the Unknown Condemnee(s) who are minors and Unknown Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, and it appearing that the names and addresses of such minors, or other persons under legal disability, if any, whether residents or non-residents of the State of South Carolina, are unknown to the Condemnor and cannot with reasonable diligence be ascertained, and that the said Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, is a suitable and competent person to understand and protect the rights and interest of said Minor Landowner(s) and Others under legal disability, if any, and has no interest therein adverse to the interest of said minors or Landowner(s) under legal disability, if any, and is not connected in business with the Condemnor in this action or with its counsel.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the said Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, be, and (s)he is hereby, designated and appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for said Unknown Minor Condemnee(s) and those Other Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, and (s)he is hereby authorized to appear and defend said action on behalf of said Condemnee(s), unless said Minor Landowner(s), Other Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, or either of them shall within thirty days after the service of a copy of this Order upon them, exclusive of the day of service, as herein provided, procure to be appointed a Guardian ad Litem for said Minor Landowner(s) or other Landowner(s) under legal disability, if any, for the purposes of this action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be served upon said Unknown Minor Condemnee(s) and Other Unknown Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, by publication of such notice of this Order in **The News-Era**, for a period of not less than one week for three successive weeks.

WILLCOX, BUYCK & WILLIAMS, P.A.
 BY: *Mark W. Buyck, Jr.*
 Attorney for Condemnor (SCDOT)
 MARK W. BUYCK, JR.
 PO BOX 1909
 FLORENCE, SC 29503-1909
 Telephone: 843-662-3258

January 7, 2025

KNE3: 011426, 012126, 012826

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 COUNTY OF KERSHAW
 Road/Route Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement
 Project ID No. P038251
 Tract 62
 South Carolina Department of Transportation
 Condemnor,
 VS. PUBLICATION TO THE NEWS-ERA
 Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991,
 and
 Landowner(s),
 Bland Byrne a/k/a Granville Bland Byrne, III, as personal representative of the Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., and Unknown Trustee of the Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, as interest may appear,
 and
 Other Condemnee(s),
 and
 John Doe and Mary Roe, representing all unknown persons, having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in or to, or lien on the lands described herein, including all unknown heirs of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased,
 and
 Unknown Claimant(s).

Summons Notice of Filing Condemnation

TO: THE LANDOWNER(S), OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, advised and notified, that pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., the within Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, has been filed with the Clerk of Court for Kershaw County. The purpose of this lawsuit is to enable the Condemnor, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, to acquire certain real property for its public purposes, as is more fully stated in the attached Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment. Responsive pleadings to the Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment are not necessary.

Notice & Tender of Payment

TO: THE LANDOWNER(S), OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS ABOVE NAMED:

Pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, you are hereby notified as follows:

1. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is the Condemnor herein and seeks to acquire the real property described herein for public purposes.
 2. The Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, is named as Landowner(s) in this action by virtue of their claim(s) of title (or other interests) as shown by that certain deed from Donald R. Wheeler and Aurora A. Wheeler, dated March 17, 2017, and recorded March 24, 2017, in the Office of Register of Deeds for Kershaw County in Deed Book 3668, Page 187.

3. The Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991 is named as Landowner(s) in this action by virtue of their claim(s) of title (or other interests) as beneficiary of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., who died testate on August 15, 2024, as shown by that certain Will dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.

4. Bland Byrne a/k/a Granville Bland Byrne, III, as personal representative of the Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr. is made a party in this action as "Other Condemnee(s)" by virtue of its claim(s) of interest in that certain Last Will and Testament of Clifford Leonard, Jr., dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.

5. Unknown Trustee of the Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, is made a party in this action as "Other Condemnee(s)" by virtue of its claim(s) of interest in that certain Last Will and Testament of Clifford Leonard, Jr., dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696, as interest may appear. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.

6. All persons collectively designated John Doe and Mary Roe are made parties to this action as "Unknown Claimant(s)", representing unknown heirs and devisees and all other persons claiming born or unborn by, through or under the Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and all other persons having an interest in or claim upon the property herein condemned.

7. The following is a description of the real property subject to this action and a description of the interest sought to be acquired in and to the property by the Condemnor: All that parcel or strip of land, in fee simple, with improvements thereon, if any, owned by Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, containing 0.143 ac (6,216 square feet) more or less, and being described as follows: Within 45 feet of the centerline at S-12 (Black River Road), on the right, between approximate survey stations 13+30 and 21+73.
 Tax Map Number 299-13-00-012

8. The SCDOT is vested with the power of eminent domain pursuant to Section 57-5-320 and Section 28-2-60, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

9. The property sought herein is to be acquired for public purposes, more particularly for the construction of Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement.

10. This action is brought pursuant to Section 28-2-240, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

11. The SCDOT has complied with the requirements set forth in Section 28-2-70(a), Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, by having the subject property appraised and making the appraisal available to the Landowner(s) where required by law, and certifies to the Court that a negotiated resolution has been attempted prior to the commencement of this action, or pursuant to Section 12-28-2940, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, an appraisal of this property was not required.

12. Project plans may be inspected at the office of South Carolina Department of Transportation Kershaw County Maintenance Office, 512 Fair Street, Camden, South Carolina 29020, under Project ID P038251, Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement, Tract 62.

13. THE CONDEMNOR HAS DETERMINED JUST COMPENSATION FOR THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS TO BE ACQUIRED HEREUNDER, INCLUDING ALL DAMAGES (IF ANY), TO BE THE SUM OF THIRTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$30,872.00) AND HEREBY TENDERS PAYMENT THEREOF TO THE LANDOWNER(S).

14. Payment of this amount will be made to the Landowner(s) if within thirty (30) days of service of this Condemnation Notice, the Landowner(s) in writing requests payment, and agrees to execute any instruments necessary to convey to the Condemnor the property interests and rights described hereinabove. The Agreement and Request for Payment must be sent by first class certified mail with return receipt requested or delivered in person to Director, Rights of Way, South Carolina Department of Transportation, 955 Park Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29202. If no Agreement and Request for Payment is received by the Condemnor within the thirty (30) day period, the tender is considered rejected.

15. If the tender is rejected, the Condemnor has the right to file this Condemnation Notice with the Clerk of Court of the County where the property is situated and deposit the tender amount with the Clerk. The Condemnor shall give the Landowner(s) and Other Condemnee(s) notice that it has done so and may then proceed to take possession of the property interests and exercise the rights described in this Condemnation Notice.

16. AN ACTION CHALLENGING THE CONDEMNOR'S RIGHT TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS DESCRIBED HEREIN MUST BE COMMENCED IN A SEPARATE PROCEEDING IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THIS CONDEMNATION NOTICE, OR THE LANDOWNER(S) WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE WAIVED THE CHALLENGE.

17. THE CONDEMNOR HAS ELECTED NOT TO UTILIZE THE APPRAISAL PANEL PROCEDURE. Therefore, if the tender herein is rejected, the Condemnor shall notify the Clerk of Court and shall demand a trial to determine the amount of just compensation to be paid. A copy of that notice must be served on the Landowner(s). That notice shall state whether the Condemnor demands a trial by jury or by the Court without a jury. The Landowner(s) has the right to demand a trial by jury. The case may not be called for trial before sixty (60) days after the service of that notice, but it may thereafter be given priority for trial over other civil cases. The Clerk of Court shall give the Landowner(s) written notice by mail of the call of the case for trial.

18. THEREFORE, IF THE TENDER HEREIN IS REJECTED, THE LANDOWNER(S) IS ADVISED TO OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL AT ONCE, IF NOT ALREADY OBTAINED.

19. In the event the Landowner(s) accepts the amount tendered in this Notice, the attached Agreement and Request for Payment form should be signed and returned to the Condemnor within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this Notice.

Lis Pendens

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Condemnor above named pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, has brought an action against the Condemnee(s) above named to acquire the real property described herein for public purposes, to-wit:

All that parcel or strip of land, in fee simple, with improvements thereon, if any, owned by Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, containing 0.143 ac (6,216 square feet) more or less, and being described as follows: Within 45 feet of the centerline at S-12 (Black River Road), on the right, between approximate survey stations 13+30 and 21+73.
 Tax Map Number 299-13-00-012

The property sought herein is to be acquired for public purposes, more particularly for the construction of a section of Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement.

Notice of Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem Nisi

TO: THE CONDEMNEE(S) OR CLAIMANT(S) HEREIN, NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, INCLUDING ANY THEREOF WHO MAY BE MINORS OR UNDER OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY, IF ANY, WHETHER RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO THE NATURAL, GENERAL, TESTAMENTARY GUARDIAN OR COMMITTEE, OR OTHERWISE AND TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY MAY RESIDE, IF ANY THERE BE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the order appointing Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi, for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, Condemnee(s) herein, names and addresses unknown, including any thereof who may be minors or under other legal disability, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina, has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for KERSHAW County.