

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Note: this page -blast from past - is a picture, so you will not see the story continued from here elsewhere in this 2026 paper. It is a snapshot of a page 1 from this same week (or close to) but many, many years ago in the News-Era.....you can always go to kershawnews-era.com and go to Archives at the top left for papers in the 2000's. For the 90's and earlier, a trip to the library and microfiche would be your option.

Kershaw THE NEWS-ERA

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Council members eager to get started

By Jim McKeown Jr.
Editor/Publisher

Buoyed by a large voter turnout and wide victory margins, new Kershaw Town Council members Morris Russell and Randy Seegars are ready to get down to work.

Seegars won the District 3 Town Council Seat held by Mark Dorman, defeating Jody Connell by a 70 to 34 margin. Dorman, who served 12 years on council, elected not run.

Four-term council member Harold Williams also decided

not to seek reelection in District 4. Morris Russell defeated former council member Pat Catoe 77-11 in that race.

There are approximately 200 voters in each district, meaning the voter turnout topped 50 percent – an impressive number since there was no town-wide race included on this year's ballot.

Incumbent Eddie Coates, who holds one of two at-large seats on council was unopposed and not included on the



Russell



Seegars

ballot.

"I was kind of shocked by the turnout. It was outstanding," Randy Seegars said. "The voters sent a message that

there are a number of things we need to take care of."

Seegars said he will spend a lot of time studying operations at the town's wastewater treatment plant because he believes that is an area of concern for town officials and residents.

"We need to take care of that," he said.

Seegars said finding a way to repair dangerous sidewalks in the town and preserving and improving the Kershaw Recreation Center are

also high priority items on his agenda.

"We need to get in there and find out how much money we have and where it comes from," he said. "I'm excited. I'm ready to get my feet wet and try to do the best I can for the people who supported me."

Morris Russell said he was humbled and shocked by the number of people in District 4 who voted for him.

"It feels good to know I had

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Members from Kershaw, Heath Springs and Flat Creek Fire Departments responded to a structure fire on Sandhill Road in Kershaw Saturday afternoon. The home was full of smoke when firefighters arrived. Pots were burning on the stove and there was no fire damage. Firefighters used fans to remove the smoke from the home. Photo by Tim Deaton

County to focus on south

Separate plan developed for Kershaw area

By Joseph Garris Jr.
News Editor

Lancaster County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) Director Keith Tunnell said a meeting with Town of Kershaw officials to discuss an economic plan will be happening soon, after the county strategic plan was recently discussed with Lancaster County officials.



Tunnell

The first ever Lancaster County Strategic Plan, developed by InSite Consulting of Greer was presented to members of County Council Mar 9 during a special meeting. The 120-page document has not been released but Tunnell said it is a big deal for the county.

"The plan is the first for the county and we desperately needed one," he said.

This is the first draft of the plan and Tunnell said several additional meetings will be held before the county's strategic plan is finalized. A final copy of the Strategic Plan is expected before May.

The economic direction of Kershaw is a separate focus for the consulting group because

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Hampton St. to benefit from stimulus funds

By Joseph Garris Jr.
News Editor

Thanks to federal stimulus money to the S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Lancaster County has received funds for road resurfacing. One of the projects – Hampton Street between North Matson and South Matson Street.

The problem is Town Council has already approved further streetscape projects that are expected to be happening over the next several years meaning any resurfacing will be destroyed when those projects begin. Still, Kershaw Town Administrator Tony Starnes said it's hard to consider any road improvements a bad thing.

"Anything we get is good," he said.

Starnes said last week he was unsure how the Hampton Street project was selected and said Town Council did not have a hand in that process. Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis expected a local SCDOT official likely recommended the job to state officials who made the

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KALC eyes non-profit role

By Jim McKeown Jr.
Editor/Publisher

Members of the Kershaw Area Leadership Council (KALC) reviewed details of the façade improvement program it hopes to develop to aid local businesses and discussed whether or not to seek 501 C3 status as a non-profit organization during the group's Friday morning meeting.

The façade improvement program would create matching funds for local business owners to make

repairs and improvements to the outside of their buildings. The grants can be important tools for upgrading the appearance of a business district.

"I think this is an important program for the town," Beverly Timmons said.

Nancy Howell said the City of Lancaster dedicates the money it receives in Duke Power franchise fees to the façade program managed by its Main Street program.

"Lancaster's going towards a no-match pro-

gram. It has been great for our downtown," she said. "Some small businesses can't afford a \$1,000 or \$2,000 match to improve their façade."

Timmons reported that Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis and Lancaster County Economic Development Board Executive Director Keith Tunnell have advised KALC members not to seek non-profit status for the organization, suggesting it use the local

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People flocking to LC's Panhandle

By Joseph Garris Jr.
News Editor

Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis said figures released by the US Census Bureau that lists the county as the third fastest growing in South Carolina gives reason to be concerned.

The biggest challenge, Willis says – providing services for all those new residents.

The report says from July 2007 until July 2008, Lancaster County grew by 2,375 people, or an estimated growth rate of 3.2 percent. The County trailed only York County with 4.3 percent and Berkley

with 3.4 percent.

"So much of the growth has occurred recently," Willis said.

According to the figures, Lancaster County grew by about 7,500 people between 1980-2000. From 2000-2008, the population increased by 14,562 people. The population in Lancaster County is 75,913.

"In the last eight years, we've grown twice as much as



Willis

in the previous 20," Willis said.

Based on building permit fees, Willis said the most growth has occurred in the panhandle of Lancaster County. The figures show that area to be a hotspot for both Lancaster County and York County. Willis said the majority of York County's growth has occurred in the Fort Mill area near the panhandle, proving both counties seem to be ben-

efiting from a spillover of growth from the Charlotte area.

One area Willis said the County would need to consider making a change would be in the Solid Waste department. Many of the larger counties in South Carolina have incorporated curbside pickup but Lancaster County has not.

"It would make sense for us to do that but we just aren't set up for it," Willis said.

Neighboring Kershaw County was listed as the 15

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