

# COGNIZANCE

July

The official newsletter of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments

2020

Working together to advance our region.

Aiken | Allendale | Bamberg | Barnwell | Calhoun | Orangeburg

## Update from the Executive Director

Dear Communities, Partners and Clients,

As you know, the number of COVID cases continues to rise in South Carolina and the Lower Savannah region. That said the Lower Savannah COG continues to work with our federal, state and local partners and clients to supply the same high level, quality services in all our programs. The LSCOG continues to follow health expert (CDC/DHEC/Accelerate SC) guidelines and we are balancing staff working in the office and from home. At this time, the office continues to be closed to visitors. We will remain in Phase I of reopening until the course of the pandemic cases significantly changes, preferably for the better, within the state and the region.

We wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer. Remember, we are all in this together!

Best wishes,

Bill Molnar

## LSCOG New Board of Director's Chairman

Andrew Siders was recently elected as chairman of the board of directors for the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, or LSCOG, for a one-year term. He succeeds Dorothy Riley, mayor of the town of Fairfax in Allendale County. Siders previously was the LSCOG board's vice chairman.

Siders is the vice chairman of Aiken County Council, and as a member of the panel, he represents District 7, which includes the city of Aiken.



## LSCOG Board Member sworn in as Barnwell County Magistrate Judge



Thomas Williams, pictured beside his wife Katha, as he is administered the oath of office by the Barnwell County Clerk of Court

Thomas Williams was sworn in on May 5 as a new magistrate judge to fill the vacancy being left by the retirement of Lawson "Sport" Holland. Williams will start off by serving in a part-time capacity on the weekends.

Mr. Williams has served on the Barnwell County Transportation Committee as well as eight years on Barnwell County Council, including as chairman. He is a current member of the Board of Directors of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and served as chairman in 2009/2010.

Click Link for full article:

<https://www.augustachronicle.com/news/20200520/thomas-williams-sworn-in-as-county-magistrate-judge>


## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day- June 15, 2020

On June 15, 2020, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, LOCOG's Long Term Care Ombudsman staff distributed over 2,000 postcards to senior citizens in the six counties of the region. This was accomplished with help from aging program contractors, who distributed cards to seniors that participate in the daily meal programs. Postcards were also provided to seniors served meals during weekly food distribution events as part of COVID 19 Senior food assurance programs in the region.


### Lifting Up Voices

When faced with a difficult situation, it can be hard to know who to call. If you suspect abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable adult in the community, you can call Adult Protective Services (APS). If you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation in a long term care facility, you can call your Long Term Care Ombudsman. Remember, if you feel that you or another person is in immediate danger call 911. If you have other questions or concerns call the Lower Savannah Council of Governments - Area Agency on Aging.

APS Intake Number	Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Number
Aiken (803) 642-3614	(803) 508-7033
Allendale (803) 584-7061	Toll Free - 1 (866) 845-1550
Bamberg (803) 245-4361	For Information and Assistance Press Option 2
Barnwell (803) 541-1200	For Ombudsman Press Option 4
Calhoun (803) 874-3384	Serving Aiken - Allendale - Bamberg - Barnwell - Calhoun - Orangeburg
Orangeburg (803) 531-3101	



**WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**  
Building Strong Support for Elders



**LOWER SAVANNAH**  
Council of Governments

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15, 2020 - Lifting Up Voices

These postcards provided seniors with information to help them identify abuse, neglect and exploitation as well as phone numbers to call to get help.

To further efforts to educate family members and friends about the problem of Elder Abuse, LSCOG used Facebook to make daily posts during the week of June 15-19, 2020 with a spotlight on the issue, what to look for, and how to help protect your senior friends and family. Elder abuse is a problem that takes a community to fix. We have to stay vigilant to help the seniors around us.

For more information, please call 803-508-7033, Option 4, to speak with someone in the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

## Planning, Community and Economic Development (PCED)



New America is one of the Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium's (LSRHC) Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) partners. With funding through the HOME program from HUD, our Consortium assists with providing financial assistance to construct affordable housing in our communities. New America is a nonprofit located in Orangeburg, South Carolina and



Adolphus Johnson is the President and CEO. New America is currently working on the Northview Townhomes project, which consist of two and three bedroom and two bath townhomes. The project is located on Northview Drive in Orangeburg. LSRHC and New America have been working closely during the pandemic to complete this project. Northview will provide affordable housing for working families and improve the appearance and vitality of an existing neighborhood. The project is to be completed in the next several months. Once completed it will provide another great affordable housing choice for the residents in the Orangeburg area.



**The Medication Assistance Program (MAP)** is operating by phone two days per week with concentration on the current client's refills for medications. They can be reached at 803-508-7066.

**Medication Assistance  
Program**



**The Savannah River Site Retiree Association (SRSRA)** will be operating remotely for volunteers to assist retirees by phone. They can be reached at 803-508-7065

## SC Works 1<sup>st</sup> Drive Thru Job Fair

Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Aiken SC Works and our partnering agencies would like to invite your company to take part in our 1<sup>st</sup> Drive-Thru Job Fair. Due to COVID-19 the traditional job fair or hiring event is not possible because of the restrictions of social distancing guidelines. Due to the limitations of SC Works services, we are developing new ways to assist our employers.



The job fair will take place in the back parking lot of Aiken SC Works center on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 starting at 9:00 a.m. Job seekers will drive through to pick up the packet of information containing employment opportunities without ever leaving the confines of their car.



We ask the information you would like to include in the packets to be one sheet of paper, including your open position(s), job descriptions, qualifications, and how to apply. We prefer your business to provide 150 copies and we will gladly come and pick them up. If it is not feasible for you to make the copies you can email the information to the email address

below. Please have the information to us no later than July 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you are hiring and would like to participate please email me at [smckerley@lscog.org](mailto:smckerley@lscog.org) or if you have any questions please call me at 803-522-6434.

We hope that you join us as we work to bring employers and job seekers together.



Carlos Keitt is the son of Bernard and Sheera Keitt. Carlos Keitt participated in the 2019 Summer Jumpstart Program through the WIOA Program with Lower Savannah Council of Governments. Carlos was a rising senior attending Bethune-Bowman High School in Orangeburg County. He started his Work Experience (WEX) on June 19, 2019, doing Maintenance Work at Bethune-Bowman High School. He completed his WEX with satisfactory or better and received a Measureable Skills Gain, which includes a \$100.00 incentive bonus. He graduated on 06/16/2020 with his high school diploma and received a Credential Attainment with a plan to pursue a degree in law. His goal is to become a criminal justice lawyer because he wants to be able to help those in his community. He has excelled in all areas of his academic career, but especially in mathematics. While attending Bethune-Bowman, he acknowledges that he has gained attributes such as determination, leadership, confidence and fortitude through his experience as a student. His ultimate goal in life is to make his community and his country a better place for everyone.

## Upcoming Committee Events

Visit [www.lscog.org/events](http://www.lscog.org/events) for details.

- Aug. 4** | Workforce Development Board Meeting
- Aug. 11** | Tourism Advisory Committee meeting
- Aug. 13** | LSCOG Full Board Meeting – TBD
- Aug. 2** | Aging Advisory Committee
- Sept 10** | LSCOG Executive Committee –TBD
- Dec. 12** | LSCOG Annual Meeting   Clemson REC

Please remind your communities to go online and complete their Census Form

[www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)



## SC Restaurants Palmetto Priority Pledge

Palmetto Priority is a formal commitment made by South Carolina restaurateurs to provide a clean and safe environment for their staff and customers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This voluntary program *requires* participants to complete a checklist of operational assurances and works with DHEC to ensure the safety of each customer. Learn about the commitment and how to apply at <https://palmettopriority.com/>.



## Carolinas' Best Equestrian Attraction for 2020



The Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum was named the Carolinas' Best Equestrian Attraction for 2020 by Official Best of America. Official Best of America is a travel award presenter and producer of television shows and videos. The Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum, located within Hopelands Gardens, celebrates the tradition of racing from 1942 through present. This is a must-see for your next visit to the Thoroughbred Country region.

[https://www.aikenstandard.com/news/racing-hall-of-fame-and-museum-recognized-as-carolinas-best-equestrian-attraction/article\\_2e09a5d8-aa86-11ea-9bb4-af8a9a0e11da.html](https://www.aikenstandard.com/news/racing-hall-of-fame-and-museum-recognized-as-carolinas-best-equestrian-attraction/article_2e09a5d8-aa86-11ea-9bb4-af8a9a0e11da.html)



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