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Article published Aug 23, 2007

Lecture series to start Friday

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Published: Thursday, August 23, 2007

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More than 100 people are scheduled to attend a breakfast lecture Friday that will focus on balancing economic and environmental goals in Spartanburg County.

The lecture is the second

in a six-part series titled "Building Our Future" hosted by Upstate Forever, Partners for Active Living and The Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Angela Viney, director of the Upstate Forever Spartanburg office, said the lecture series has shown how much interest there is in growth and land-use planning.

"We have folks that are coming from everywhere, from the county government to home builders to members from the city planning committee," Viney said.

"We also have interested residents and people coming from Cherokee County and Greer.

This presentation is titled "Preserving Local Character" and will be conducted by Ed McMahon, a senior resident fellow for Sustainable Development at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C., and nationally renowned authority on sustainable development, land conservation and urban design.

McMahon was formerly the vice president and director of land use programs at The Conservation Fund.

"I've heard him speak several times and have always been very impressed, inspired and energized about

building communities that have a sense of place and a true identity," Viney said.

"He is someone that will show us how we can grow, but grow in a way we don't lose the essence of Spartanburg."

Viney said she hoped McMahon would address how big retailers can build their stores to fit in and be more sustainable than what is done typically.

The breakfast begins at

7:30 a.m., and people are asked to RSVP to Upstate Forever at 327-0090.

Jean Crow, assistant director for Partners for Active Living, said she hoped McMahon would present strategies that would help transform Spartanburg into a place where sustainable development is encouraged.

"We are really excited about the opportunity to have such a well-known and well-respected national speaker," Crow said.

"Ed McMahon is very well known in the field of urban planning in general and especially in sustainable development. We expect what he will bring is not just ideas and ideals but some helpful information about strategies Spartanburg can use towards making it the kind of place we want to be."

The rest of the series is as follows: On October 12, Rick Bernhardt, director of planning in Nashville/Davidson County, Tenn., will discuss the Transect Design-Based Planning Models.

On Jan. 18, Fran Mainella, former director of the National Park Service will speak. The March date and speaker is to be announced on May 9, Parris Glendening, former governor of Maryland and president of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, will be the speaker.

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