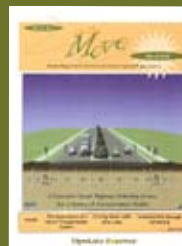
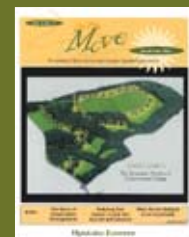
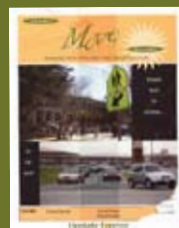
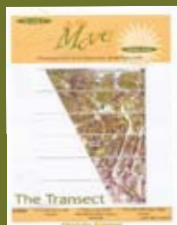
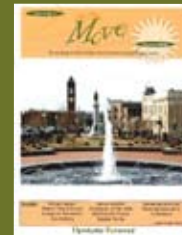
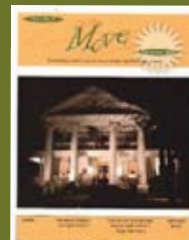
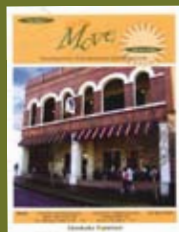
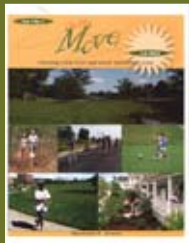


Vol. 5, No. 3

On The Move

September 2008

Promoting A More Active And Greener Spartanburg County



Since 2004, still... *On The Move*

Inside: A Look Back at the Spartanburg Office: Still "On the Move"

Special Thanks to All Our Spartanburg County Members

Green Screen Film Series for Fall 2008

... and more!!

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All photographs by Upstate Forever staff
unless otherwise noted.

Show Me the Money

As you can tell from the front cover, we are dedicating the majority of this issue of our *On The Move* newsletter to a celebration of the work accomplished since opening the Spartanburg office of Upstate Forever in the summer of 2004.

The Mary Black Foundation awarded a grant to Upstate Forever in February, 2004 for the purpose of establishing a Spartanburg office to support and promote active living. During the first two years of our presence here in Spartanburg, all expenses were fully covered through the grant. Then the annual grant award decreased to 75% the third year, 60% the fourth year, and in the last year (2008) only 50% of our annual operating expenses are covered by the Mary Black Foundation grant.

Five basic initiatives were set out within the grant application: 1) To improve active living conditions through general education and advocacy; 2) to conduct an "Active Living Audit" of both the City and County of Spartanburg; 3) to focus on impacts of new and abandoned "Big Box" stores in the County; 4) to advocate for a dedicated and significant source of funding for public parks and open spaces; and 5) to become actively involved in existing efforts in the City to improve active living conditions. Within this newsletter you will find an outline of the successes we have had with these initiatives.

In addition to accomplishing the goals of the grant, there was also a charge given to Upstate Forever to build local support of our organization in the way of membership donations. Much attention has been given to this matter over the past two years with several targeted mailings to the over 2,000 individuals on this mailing list. We have not been successful. The majority of the balance of needed funding for this office comes from residents in Greenville County.

Time and again I receive congratulations on the work we are doing in Spartanburg. At each and every workshop, speaking engagement, special event, presentation, exhibit, and educational forum we have hosted, attended, planned or participated in in some way, we receive accolades for our work in Spartanburg. Each time I meet someone new

and begin to talk about my work with Upstate Forever, again, praise and rave reviews follow. Yet, the money does not follow.

You would think that after 30+ years in the not-for-profit world I would come to accept this sense that seems to pervade communities – the sense that "someone else will pay for it." Well I have not, and that is probably because I have always had the belief that I should pay my own way, pay for the services I receive and certainly support the organizations that are doing the work that aligns with my convictions.

There are approximately 271,000 people in Spartanburg County. If less than 3% of the population joined Upstate Forever at the friend level of \$35 (less than ten cents a day), we would have no worries.

We have fewer than 250 members in Spartanburg and as you can see in this issue they are contributing at different giving levels. Along with detailing the successes we have achieved with our work standards, our Spartanburg members are also part of our success story. Thank you to each and every one on the member list on pages six and seven!!!

Just as in our household budgets we must make cuts when income is lower than expenses, we will also be making cuts in our bare bone budget here. We are scheduled to publish one more issue of *On The Move* this year – in December. So in 2009, in an effort to cut expenses, our newsletter will only be sent to Upstate Forever members.

So, once again I implore you to show your appreciation for nearly five years of conservation work in Spartanburg with a tax deductible donation - to assure that Upstate Forever will continue to have a presence in Spartanburg County. Don't do it for me though – do it for your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all future generations to assure they will have natural areas to hike, fish, and explore. Do it because you care about the way we grow, the air we breathe and the water we drink. Do it because the work of Upstate Forever aligns with your convictions and beliefs.

--Angela Viney

Director, Sustainable Communities
and the Spartanburg Office



Angela Viney, Director
Sustainable Communities

A Look Back

As Upstate Forever celebrates its ten year anniversary, it's also time to look back on our nearly five years in Spartanburg.

The Mary Black Foundation provided the funding to open the office in June 2004 with a generous five-year grant. Stephanie Monroe was the office director, and Emily Neely served as the program manager. "Our goals at first were to get involved with the community, and get a good lay of the land. We had lots and lots of meetings with people in Spartanburg--business leaders, developers and builders, people involved with the community in one way or another," said Neely.

Looking back, Neely sees the difference Upstate Forever has made. "There's just a general change in attitude, and that's not due just to us, but also to other groups like Partners for Active Living, the Hub City Farmers' Market, Hub-Bub, SPACE [Spartanburg Area Conservancy] and others. But we tapped into something that others weren't tapping into. [In 2005] we had 200 people show up to hear Vince Graham [developer of the I'on community in Charleston County] at the library. I think a lot of the business community and just interested citizens were looking for a new way of economic development, and higher quality of life standards."

Active Living

Upstate Forever's efforts at improving active living conditions in Spartanburg County have taken several forms. In 2005, we contracted the Lawrence Group Architects and Town Planners

out of Charlotte to conduct an Active Living Assessment to identify "provisions that impede the development of active living neighborhoods and communities," the "walking and talking" neighborhoods that promote health and community. The assessment included more than 70

"Upstate Forever has provided thoughtful leadership on issues related to the environment and quality of life. This region is only beginning to cope with resource capacity questions. How we come together collectively to address these issues will ultimately determine whether the growth we enjoy is good growth or not. I appreciate that Upstate Forever considers itself a partner in that effort, always striving to educate and guide community leaders. This is community building at its best."

--Mark Scott, Spartanburg City Manager

recommendations for encouraging such developments, from reducing setback requirements for houses to developing county-wide programs that get folks up and moving.

The document continues to be useful and relevant to conditions in Spartanburg County. LandDesign, the firm hired in 2008 to assess and recommend changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan, cited our Active Living Assessment several times in their initial audit of the land use conditions here.

We've also seen a number of changes in the City and County that relate to active living. Organizations such as Partners for Active

Living, the Mary Black Foundation, the Spartanburg Area Transportation Study, Palmetto Conservation Foundation and the Westside Neighborhood Association have all played crucial roles in these developments. The establishment of the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail, the addition of bicycling lanes on Willis Road and elsewhere around town, and the plans to develop a county-wide greenways system have all occurred in the past few years.

The County Council, with guidance from Upstate Forever, adopted a Complete Streets resolution, another important measure of the improved active living conditions. A Complete Street takes into account facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as making accommodations for public transit in any road improvement plan. The addition of bike lanes on Reidville Road is an example of the Complete Streets concept in action.

Parks and Recreation Areas

Upstate Forever played an important role in the passing of the county-wide hospitality tax, the proceeds of which are dedicated to the purchase and development of park space.

In March 2006, Upstate Forever and The Conservation Fund published a Rapid Parks Assessment to identify locations for parks and greenways in the County. Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park in Boiling Springs serves as a prime example of the type of facilities the County needs to improve the health of the community.

Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park boasts an eighteen-hole professionally designed disc golf course, six baseball fields, additional general purpose fields, a play park and walking trail. The 113-acre facility serves the expanding Boiling Springs community, and county officials hope to attract regional and national tournaments to the facility.



Field Trips

In an effort to see some of the special places we seek to protect, Upstate Forever has led a number of field trips to such areas as Peters' Creek Preserve, and the Pacolet Heritage Preserve. These informal hikes, led by UF staff and featuring area naturalists, allow participants an in-depth understanding of the preserved properties, and provide that all-important evidence for the purpose of land protection.

Land Use Planning

Upstate Forever has been involved in land use planning in Spartanburg County in a variety of ways. In addition to advocating for more flexible regulations regarding the types of subdivisions developers can undertake, such as traditional (continued on next page)

Walking the Walk

Upstate Forever tries to set a good example in Active Living matters both as individuals and an organization. We are centrally located in downtown Spartanburg, and actively promote local businesses as a member of the Spartanburg Downtown Association and the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Because of our location, we frequently have visitors from out-of-town stop in to ask about the area. Folks interested in moving to Spartanburg, or area residents in search of information about bike trails or parks come into the office each day. The Partners for Active



Living bicycle and the “Free Bikes” sign in our display window attract all sorts of interest.

Our central location also allows us to walk or bike to meetings at City Hall, or the County Administrative offices, the post office or other locales around town. Our current Spartanburg staff all live within a mile-and-a-half of our office, and walk and ride to work regularly.

ing developer Vince Graham. The strong reception of the event led to partnering with the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Partners for Active Living to produce a six-part series with such speakers as former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, former Director of the National Parks Service Fran Mainella, and Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute.

Upstate Forever has also hosted an EarthCraft House building class; a hands-on workshop with conservation-design expert Randall Arendt; and a workshop detailing the installation, use and maintenance of rain barrels; among other events aimed at builders; developers; business leaders; various governmental elected, appointed and hired officials; homeowners; residents; and concerned citizens. These efforts to educate the Spartanburg community about the importance of active living, land use planning and energy efficiency continue. (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page) neighborhood designs and mixed-use villages, Upstate Forever has been instrumental in helping individual developers improve their products.

Easton Market, the mixed-use development slated to begin construction in the fall of 2008, is one of Upstate Forever’s centerpiece projects. Upstate Forever hired the Lawrence Group to do a revised plan for the project, which included walking and biking trails to connect the residential development with the commercial development, much of which the Easton developers will implement in the final project. The development also boasts a sophisticated stormwater management system. Easton Market can serve as a test product for other such developments.

Upstate Forever has also been an important player in the current reevaluation of the existing land use regulations in the County. In addition to submitting comments, providing important documents such as the Active Living Assessment, the land use poll we commissioned in 2006, and the recently released Upstate region growth study conducted by the Strom Thurmond Institute, Upstate Forever has participated in a number of presentations by LandDesign, the firm contracted by the County to develop new regulations.

Big Box

Upstate Forever undertook an inventory of big box facilities in the county, which we have updated twice. The results are astonishing. Nearly a million square feet of vacant big box space blights the County and City. There have been some changes in tenants in certain of the retail areas, but we have not yet seen the type of redevelopment into mixed-use villages that vacant malls and other spaces around the country have seen.

Workshops, Speakers

Upstate Forever has hosted a number of events aimed at educating Spartanburg County residents about sustainable methods of building and developing. From the three-day “Your Town” charrette to the six-part Building Our Future Speaker Series, we have worked to bring different perspectives on land use planning, real-world implementation strategies, and hands-on building classes to the County and the region.

In 2006, Upstate Forever received one of four nationwide grants from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund the workshop “Your Town: The Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design.” The three-day event, which included speakers, panel discussions and hands-on exercises concerning the role of design in community efforts to develop economically sustainable futures, was attended by County Council members, City and County planning commissioners, commercial developers and realtors as well as lenders, representation from Westgate Mall, and community activists.

The Building Our Future Speaker Series started in 2005 as a “breakfast briefing” featur-

“Upstate Forever has done a terrific job of bringing information, speakers, and other valuable resources to our community that have significantly improved our collective understanding of the options available to us as we plan for growth. I have been impressed with their cooperative approach to issues and their creative efforts to find win-win solutions. They have provided an enlightening perspective on quality of life issues in the County which will be increasingly important in the years to come.”

--Glenn Breed, Spartanburg County Administrator

Events Calendar

October 4, 2008 National Hunting and Fishing Day, 9am- 3 pm. World of Energy, Seneca. For more information, contact aviney@upstateforever.org.

October 9, 2008 Fall for Hatcher 10th Anniversary Celebration for Hatcher Garden, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. For more information, contact Hatcher Garden at 864-574-7724.

October 9, 2008 Green Screen Film Series presents *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*. 7:30 pm at Hub-Bub. Free of charge. For more information, call 864-327-0090, or visit www.upstateforever.org.

October 16, 2008 Green Screen Film Series, *Everything's Cool*. 7:30 pm at Hub-Bub. Free of charge. For more information, call Upstate Forever at 864-327-0090, or visit www.upstateforever.org.

October 20, 2008 Spartanburg County Candidate Forum. 6 pm-8 pm, Barrett Room, Spartanburg County Public Library. For more information, call Upstate Forever at 864-327-0090, or email srobins@upstateforever.org.

October 23, 2008 Green Screen Film Series presents *King Corn*. 7:30 pm at Hub-Bub. Free of charge. For more information, call Upstate Forever at 864-327-0090, or visit www.upstateforever.org.

October 30, 2008 Green Screen Film Series presents *Renewal*. 7:30 pm at Hub-Bub. Free of charge. For more information, call Upstate Forever at 864-327-0090, or visit www.upstateforever.org.

November 6, 2008 Green Screen Film Series presents *Gimme Green* and *The Story of Stuff*. 7:30 pm at Hub-Bub. Free of charge. For more information, call Upstate Forever at 864-327-0090, or visit www.upstateforever.org.

November 13, 2008 Green Screen Film Series presents *A Crude Awakening*. 7:30 pm at Hub-Bub. Free of charge. For more information, call Upstate Forever at 864-327-0090, or visit www.upstateforever.org.

November 20, 2008 Green Screen Film Series presents *Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home*. 7:30 pm at Hub-Bub. Free of charge. For more information, call Upstate Forever at 864-327-0090, or visit www.upstateforever.org.

(continued from previous page) Into the Future

We continue to develop important programs and events in our effort to make Spartanburg greener and healthier. We are hard at work on various fronts, designing paddling trips, more building classes, more speaker presentations, film series, candidate forums and other events. We continue to advocate for sensible land use planning regulations aimed at creating the type of future Spartanburg County residents want and would be proud of, for parks and recreation areas, and for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. We continue to participate in public hearings, continue to comment on regulatory changes, and continue to lobby for statewide legislation intended to make South Carolina and the Upstate and Spartanburg County more livable, more economically viable and more physically active.

2008 Green Screen Film Series Gets Underway in October

Upstate Forever, Partners for Active Living, the Hub City Farmers' Market and Hub-Bub present the Green Screen Film Series for fall 2008.



Eight films on a variety of topics will be shown on Thursdays at 7:30 pm starting October 9 through November 20. Panel discussions will

follow each of the films in the series. For more information about the films, visit www.upstateforever.org.

October 9 *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*

October 16 *Everything's Cool*

October 23 *King Corn*

October 30 *Renewal*

November 6 *Gimme Green* and *The Story of Stuff*

November 13 *A Crude Awakening*

November 20 *Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home*

The Best of the Kudzu Telegraph

Upstate Forever Advisory Board Member **John Lane** has released a collection of the columns he has written for the Spartanburg Journal. Published by the Hub City Writers

Project, *The Best of the Kudzu Telegraph* contains 48 short columns on topics from land use planning and coyotes to his favorite pick-up truck. For more information, or to order the book, visit www.hubcity.org.

A poster for National Hunting and Fishing Day. The top half features a photograph of a young girl with red hair, wearing a light blue dress, smiling as she holds a fishing rod. The bottom half contains text and logos. The text includes the event title, date, time, location, and contact information. Logos for Duke Energy and various local organizations are at the bottom.

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY
An Outdoor Family Adventure

Step outside, get active and experience the outdoors.

Short hikes with FBS Expeditions host Pat McMillan, kayaking, fishing, archery and air rifle practice, tree stand climbing and much more. Free Admission. Bring a picnic or purchase food.

October 4, 2008 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at Duke Energy's - World of Energy
7812 Rochester Hwy, Seneca, SC, 29672
1-800-777-1004

Duke Energy

Weatherby, Small Towns, Life's Better Outdoors, Upstate Forever, Harry Hampton, Trout Unlimited, and other local organizations.

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The following donors to the Stumphouse Mountain project were given a complimentary one-year membership.

Thank you for your support!
(Donors who were already Upstate Forever members are not listed.)
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While every effort is made to be accurate in our membership list, we regret that errors and omissions sometimes inadvertently occur. Please contact Ned Barrett, Program Manager, with your corrections. Thank you!

Another Way To Give

In 2005 Upstate Forever partnered with the Spartanburg County Foundation in setting up an agency endowment fund. The Upstate Forever Spartanburg County General Fund was set up to meet both current and future needs for our work in Spartanburg County. Currently the fund's balance is less than \$ 3,000.

The Foundation handles all of the investment and administrative responsibilities associated with our agency endowment fund. You may contribute by sending a check to: Spartanburg County Foundation, 424 E. Kennedy Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302 and indicating that it is for Upstate Forever. Thank you.

Upstate Forever

100 E. Main Street, R-4 ■ Spartanburg, SC 29306 ■ phone: 864-327-0090 ■ fax: 864-327-0101

email: spartanburg@upstateforever.org

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I would like to volunteer my time to help **Upstate Forever**. Please get in touch with me.

Upstate Forever • 100 East Main Street, Suite R-4 • Spartanburg, SC 29306

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