

UPSTATE UPDATE NUMBER 24

July 13, 2001

1. ***Greenville County School Board Approves An Additional \$2 Million To Incorporate “Green Thinking” in School Construction Project.***

As we have reported in previous *Upstate Updates*, the Greenville County School District has approved one of the largest school construction projects in the United States—the building and renovation of over 60 schools at a cost of almost \$800 million. These facilities will be the places where millions of students in Greenville County will learn for decades to come. It is truly an historic opportunity to do this project in a way that not only will provide long-lasting benefits to Greenville County students but also will serve as a model for school construction projects throughout the country.

On March 26 of this year, *Upstate Forever* presented its “Green Schools for Greenville” proposal to Institutional Resources (the firm retained to supervise the project) and the School Board, urging the Board to require that the green development principles be applied to the project and that LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification be mandatory for each building. LEED is a rating and certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a broad-based, non-profit organization whose members include the American Institute of Architects, the Bank of America, Target Stores, the National Audubon Society and hundreds of other businesses and groups. The LEED system provides specific criteria on what constitutes a “green building.” For more information, see www.usgbc.org.

In addition, *Upstate Forever* arranged for several representatives of the School District and Institutional Resources to visit three green schools in Raleigh, North Carolina. Mike Nicklas, the principal architect for the schools and one of the nation’s leading authorities on green development,

was our guide for the day. Then, on May 29, we brought Mike to Greenville where gave a lecture on the subject at the Governor's School.

The School Board has not made a final decision on our recommendation for LEED certification, but *it has approved spending an additional \$2 million to "include green thinking" in the project.* Right now we are not exactly sure how these funds will be used, but it is a certainly a positive step in the right direction. We will continue to urge the School Board to require LEED certification for all work on the project or at least to use some of the increased funding to prepare and adopt their own, but equally stringent, set of green standards. Stay tuned to *Upstate Update* and we will keep you posted on developments.

2. Duke Solar Opens New Green Building In Charleston.

And speaking of green development, we are pleased to report that the new corporate headquarters for Cambar Software, Inc. in Charleston, designed by Duke Solar, is one of South Carolina's premier energy efficient and sustainable office buildings. The building features 560 solar tubes on the roof which will power 12 kilowatts of electricity during the warmer months and will be used for space heating in the winter. A 16,000-gallon rainwater collection system provides water for toilet flushing and site irrigation. The "Power Roof" offers over 50-foot candles of natural light, reducing the peak cooling load by 20 per cent, and automatically controls an indirect lighting system when there is not sufficient sunlight. The bottom line: The building is expected to save approximately 30 to 40 per cent in energy bills and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 86 tons per year.

Gordon Timmons, president of Carolina Solar Associates, explained the importance of the project: "Rising energy costs combined with the cost savings of solar energy make the decision to build green structures like this a no-brainer. These facilities are clearly the office buildings of the future." Press Release, "Duke Solar Provides Preview of State of the Art Energy Efficient Building," June 20, 2001 (contact Laura Battle at laura.battle@edelman.com for a copy of the press release or for more information).

3. *Keith Marrero and Leon Patterson Join Upstate Forever Board of Directors.*

We are delighted to announce that Keith Marrero of Greenville and Leon Patterson of Laurens have joined the *Upstate Forever* Board of Directors.

Keith is the President of AMI Architects, LLC in Greenville where he has been actively involved in promoting green design and development principles in the Upstate. His projects include the Training and Development Center for BMW, the Reedy River Baptist Church, and the renovation of the Berea Middle School. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Greenville First Bank, the St. Francis Hospital Foundation Board, and the South Carolina Children's Theatre. Keith received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Notre Dame.

Leon is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Palmetto Bank in Laurens. He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Banking Association and as President of the South Carolina Banking Association. Leon has been actively involved in his community, serving as President of the Greater Laurens Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Upper Savannah Council of Governments, and a founding member of the Leadership Laurens Board of Directors. He received his bachelor's degree from Wofford College and his MBA degree from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business.

Welcome, Keith and Leon. We are honored to have you on our Board!

4. *Katie Chamberlain and Dana Leavitt Join Upstate Forever Staff.*

We are pleased to announce that Katie Chamberlain has joined *Upstate Forever* as our new Director of Natural Resource Protection. Katie graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with a degree in landscape architecture. At Georgia, she was a Presidential Scholar and received the American Society of Landscape Architecture Honors Award. During the summer of 1999, she worked on urban design projects for the City of Cortona, Italy. She was most recently employed as a Landscape Planner with Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc. in Charleston.

A native of Greenville, Katie is passionately committed to our mission of promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate. Katie will be, among other things, assisting us on our Land Trust program, compiling data and information about the region, and promoting green development principles.

We are also delighted to announce that Dana Leavitt has joined *Upstate Forever* as our Land Trust Coordinator. Dana, a Greenville resident, will be working with us about 20 hours a week in promoting and expanding our Land Trust Program.

Dana practices what he preaches, having granted a conservation easement on his own land in Anderson County. He has been actively involved in conservation initiatives for over 25 years, having served as Chairman of the Greenville chapter of Ducks Unlimited, a founding Board member of Friends of Reedy River, and co-founder of Water Watch. He currently serves as president of the Conestee Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to the restoration of Lake Conestee.

5. *Friends Of Reedy River Benefit Next Week.*

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, July 18 from 7 to 11 p.m. Calvert & Company, a Greenville-based jazz and blues band, and special guest Chris Vadala, a world-renowned saxophone, clarinet and flute player, will be presenting a dinner concert at the Commerce Club in Greenville, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Reedy River. Please call Jean Calvert at 864-268-9106 to reserve your place.

6. *Quote of the Week.*

“Here’s what I think is about to happen. The two oil-producing regions that saved America’s hind end after OPEC disruptions of the 1970s are the Alaska North Slope and the North Sea fields belonging to Norway and England. These oil fields are now past peak production. From now on, most of the oil in the world will be controlled by people who hate us.”

James Howard Kunstler, “Wake for a Fading Suburbia,”
Elm Street Writers Group, March 21, 2001,
www.mlui.org/projects/growthmanagement/elmstreet/kunstler.html