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UPSTATE UPDATE NUMBER 28

November 29, 2001

1. Author of Conservation Bank Act Will Visit The Upstate.

We are pleased to announce that Representative Chip Campsen of Charleston, the author of the South Carolina Conservation Bank Act, will be visiting the Upstate from December 3-5 to explain, promote and build public support for this critically important legislation. He will be making the three following presentations:

Monday, December 3, 11 a.m.
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts
15 University Street
Greenville

Tuesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.
Strom Thurmond Institute
Clemson University

Wednesday, December 5, 8:30 a.m.
The Bridge at Glendale Shoals, Spartanburg
Hosted by The Honorable Doug Smith, Speaker Pro Tempore

These presentations are sponsored by *Upstate Forever*, the South Carolina Land Legacy Initiative, the Foothills Resource Conservation & Development Council, the American Institute of Architects (Greenville Section), the Greenville County Farm Bureau, the Strom Thurmond Institute, and the Spartanburg Area Conservation Endowment. If you have any questions or need directions, call us at 864-250-0500.

Please try to attend at least one of these presentations and show your support for this critically important legislation. For more information about the bill, see the article in our last newsletter (www.upstateforever.org/newsletters).

2. Upstate Forever Receives Grant To Conduct Special Places Inventory For Greenville County.

Upstate Forever is pleased to announce that it has received a \$22,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Greenville to conduct a ***Special Places Inventory for Greenville County***. The inventory will list and describe important historical sites, ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife habitats, prime farm lands, scenic vistas, and other special places in the county.

Greenville County is experiencing rapid growth and change. The purpose of the study is to identify the county's special places so that steps can be taken now to acquire or protect many of them before it is too late.

Upstate Forever will be teaming up with the Greenville County Historical Preservation Commission to perform the work. The Commission already has considerable information about many of the historical buildings and sites in the county, and its expertise will be invaluable to the study.

The success of the project will depend on active participation by the public. Thus, early next year, a brochure will be published, a web site established, and public meetings held throughout the county to receive nominations about Greenville County's special places. Stay tuned to ***Upstate Update*** and we will keep you posted on the progress of this important project.

3. Last Round Of Reedy River Meetings Will Be Next Week.

You are invited to the last round of public meetings for Clemson University's Reedy River Project. The Clemson staff will present a pathways plan, sketches of trail cross-sections, and illustrative designs for several major sites along the river. They will also discuss implementation strategies to be recommended to Greenville City and County Councils. The meetings will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. as follows:

Northern Sector, Travelers Rest City Council Chambers, December 3
Southern Sector, Conestee Victory Baptist Church, December 4
Central Sector, Greenville County Council Chambers, December 6

Please try to attend at least one of these meetings. If you have any questions or need directions, call Dr. Barry Nocks at 864-650-0236.

4. New Study Shows Link Between Land Use And Health.

A new report by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) establishes a clear link between land use and public health. The report, entitled Creating A Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health, compiled data from multiple sources and disciplines into a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the broad physical and social environment on public health.

Some of the findings in this report include:

A. Increases in vehicle miles traveled have resulted in an increase in air pollution and in the incidence of respiratory diseases.

- Results of a study by the CDC during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, at which time vehicular traffic was kept at artificially low levels by city authorities, showed that the peak daily ozone concentrations decreased 27.9 percent and peak weekday morning traffic counts decreased 22.5 percent; at the same time the number of asthma emergency medical events declined by 41.6 percent.

- From 1960 through 1990, the percentage of workers with jobs outside their counties of residence increased by 200 percent. This trend contributed to an increase in the number of vehicle miles traveled in passenger cars of more than 250 percent (915 billion miles) from 1960 through 1997.
- In the summer of 1997, smog pollution was responsible for more than 6 million asthma attacks, 159,000 visits to emergency rooms for treatment of asthma attacks, and 53,000 asthma-related hospitalizations.

B. Sedentary living habits contribute to poor health outcomes because they are a significant factor in the number of overweight and obese persons.

- From 1976 to 1994, the number of adults in the United States who were overweight or obese rose from 47 to 56 percent, and by 1999 had risen to 61 percent.
- Researchers have estimated that as many as 300,000 premature chronic disease deaths occur each year because of obesity.
- In 1995, the direct health care costs of obesity were estimated at \$70 billion.

The study conservatively estimates that obesity and low levels of physical activity result in more than \$100 billion in health care costs in the country each year.

C. Lack of pedestrian friendly features in a community becomes a factor leading to illness and even death.

- One of the main reasons given by the public for not exercising is the lack of accessible facilities such as sidewalks and parks.
- In 1977, children aged 5 to 15 years walked or biked for 15.8 percent of all their trips; by 1995, children made only 9.9 percent of their trips by foot or bicycle—a 37 percent decline.

- In 1997 and 1998, 13 percent of all traffic fatalities – 10,696 people—were pedestrians.

D. Residential development can pose unique health and quality of life hazards.

- Development next to farm land creates spillover effects from agriculture, such as noise, blowing dust, and pesticide over-spray that can have negative health effects on homeowners and their families.
- The volume of storm water that washes off a one-acre parking lot is about 16 times greater than that of a comparable size meadow.

This study shows that the way we are developing land and building communities has profound consequences for public health. It is critically important that we develop a method of integrating public health with planning, design and development decisions.

5. Upstate Forever Executive Director Receives Southern Environmental Leadership Award.

Upstate Forever Executive Director Brad Wyche has been selected by the Southern Environmental Law Center to receive the 8th annual James S. Dockery, Jr. Southern Environmental Leadership Award. The award is named for Jim Dockery, SELC’s co-founder and board chairman until his death in 1994, to honor individuals who play a leadership role in preserving the South’s environment. “Brad is one of the most effective leaders in the South, period. We’re fortunate his chosen cause is environmental protection,” said SELC Executive Director Rick Middleton in announcing the award.

6. Upstate Forever To Be Featured On WSPA On December 8!

The Greenville Magazine selected *Upstate Forever* as one of its Community Showcase non-profit organization honorees this year. All of the honorees will be featured on WSPA on December 8 at 7 p.m. Please tune in!

7. *Quote of the Week.*

“There’s all this asphalt in front of the Ingles where nobody ever parks. They could have pushed the Ingles closer to Highway 176, and our property values would have remained higher.”

Charles Michael
Spartanburg Herald-Journal
November 15, 2001