

LAB hears updates as litter fight surges



City of Sumter Litter Officer Glenn Button, left, Sumter County Public Works Director Karen Hyatt and Litter Control Officer Mike McCoy, middle, and S.C. Department of Transportation Resident Maintenance Engineer Sandra Riley all gave updates to the Litter Advisory Board on May 15.

Members of the Sumter Litter Advisory Board met on May 15, 2023, to hear updates from the City, County and Department of Transportation.

Although a quorum was not present, the board was able to receive information and updates as Vice Chairman Scott Burkett presided over the meeting.

City of Sumter Litter Officer Glenn Button spoke first about two community cleanups – one on Feb. 18 and another on April 22. The first one yielded 13,775 pounds of litter cleaned up by 231 volunteers and the second cleanup saw 9,025 pounds of trash picked up by 236 volunteers.

The next Community Cleanup Day is June 17, 2023.

Year to date, he's seen 26 total cleanups with over 91 hours put in by volunteers who picked up 406 bags of trash, 25 tires and 7 TVs. Button said there's about 50 groups actively involved in picking up litter.

The March 19 tire buy-back program at the Sumter County Civic Center saw 995 old tires collected with over \$1,990 given out, along with 46 tarps to promote

the need to cover trailered loads of trash, he said.

The next tire buy-back program is slated for Sept. 17, he said. The City also took part in the second Stash the Trash event at the Civic Center, which allowed the City to give out a lot of brochures and information to educate the public about fighting litter. The City also helped Oakland Primary School celebrate Earth Day with interactive games designed to teach the difference between trash and what can be recycled. They gave out books on littering and coloring sheets as well.



Enforcement efforts continue, he said, noting there's cameras placed strategically around the City to catch litterbugs. People that get caught are performing community service, he said.

Sumter County Public Works Director Karen Hyatt said the second Stash the Trash event on March 25 drew nearly 500 attendees and several LAB Board members such as Chairman Rev. Ernest Frierson, Sandra Riley and Erika Williams, who served as the

emcee. There were games for children, the poster contest winners were on display, there was a social media contest and a cheerleading/step contest and all 12 public schools in Quadrant 2 participated. Since then, several schools have had litter pickups, she said, noting that students from Sumter High School have been holding pickups on the first Saturday of every month.

“They really like to get their hands dirty,” she said.

There was a Sumter County employee litter pickup on April 21, she said, that saw about 40 employees picking up trash on Pinewood Road. Also helping out were Rep. Fawn Pedalino, D-64, County Council Chairman Jim McCain, Rev. Frierson and Miss Williams. Sumter County Administrator Gary Mixon noted the S.C. DOT cut the grass in that area after the pickup “and it looks great.”

“What an impact,” he added.

Contract laborers are currently cleaning up major corridors and around the Recycling Centers, Hyatt said, and Litter Control Officer Mike McCoy is talking to businesses, industries and churches to get them involved in the Stash the Trash campaign.

For Quadrant 2, Hyatt said there have been 28 litter pickups with 601 volunteers that were responsible for 135,183 pounds of trash headed to the landfill. That figure encompasses schools, contract laborers, the litter rake and all the furniture and tires picked up as well.

“That’s an example of what a quadrant effort can do,” Mixon said, which is like having “...all hands on deck for one month.”

McCoy said EMS Chemie is on board with Stash the

Trash, and so is Dixie Products.

“I’m excited, encouraged with what’s going on,” he said.

As for the enforcement aspect, 52 tickets have been written, he said. There’s been 33 summons issued and six trials in absentia for a total of 136 community service hours and \$7,418 in fines.

City Councilman Steve Corley lauded recent coverage of the litter situation in The Sumter Item and thanked McCoy for his diligence.

“Your experience in (law) enforcement already ... and knowing the legal system. Those are just bonus, bonus, bonus,” Corley said.

He recalled a meeting from six or seven years ago when he and County Councilman Charles Edens discussed coordination efforts with the S.C. DOT before they conducted the mowing of medians and such.

“We’ve come such a long way,” Corley said, adding that reports from the City and County “energize us.”

“It makes the city a cleaner, safer, better, more prosperous place,” he said.

Mixon commented that results are visible all over the county.

Sandra Riley of the state Department of Transportation said litter contractors have been busy and recently completed 83.74 miles of picking up trash.

The affected areas include U.S. 76 and 378, S.C. 403, S.C. 53, S.C. 341 and S.C. 527. Pocalla and Pinewood roads were also part of the pickup efforts, she said.

All told, 5.95 tons of trash were removed, she said.

“It’s making a big difference in the county,” she added.



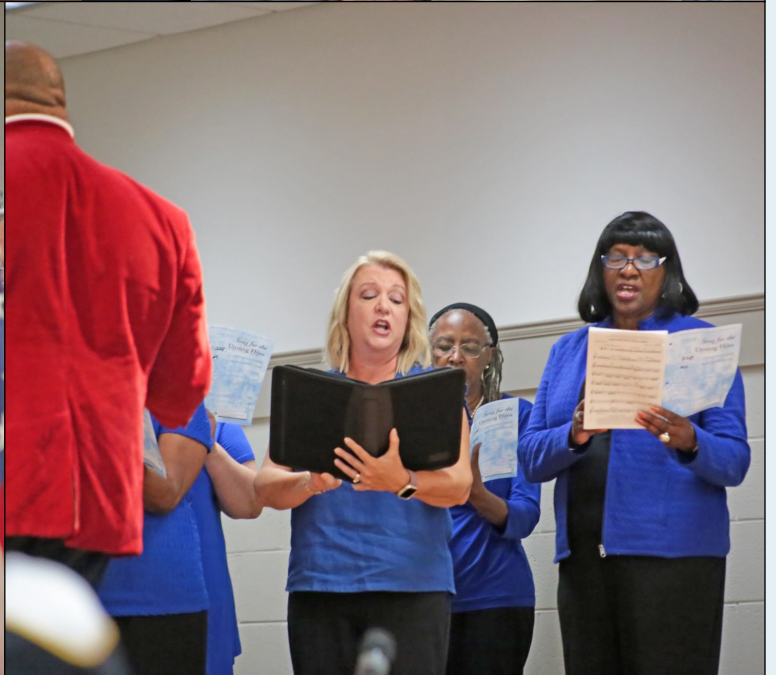
Sumter's Memorial Day Ceremony



Sumter's Memorial Day Ceremony was held on May 29, 2023, at the American Legion Post 15.

Col. (Ret.) Bush Hanson served as Master of Ceremony and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Albert Davis offered an opening prayer. After the Lakewood High School AFJROTC presented the colors and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Tech Sgt. (Ret.) Gwen Cofield sang the National Anthem. Col. Bill Oden, the Deputy Chief of Staff of Cybersecurity in the South Carolina State Guard, gave the keynote address. Representatives from the Marine Corps League and the American Legion Post 202 then presented the Memorial Wreath, followed by the Shaw Honor Guard performing a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps." The Sumter Civic Chorale then performed to close out the ceremony.





County Council proclaims June as Vitiligo Awareness Month



Council Chairman Jim McCain, left, Tiffany Williams, middle and Councilman Eugene Baten at the May 23, 2023, council meeting.

Sumter County Council on May 23, 2023, approved a Proclamation declaring June as Vitiligo Awareness Month. Vitiligo is a chronic autoimmune disorder that causes patches of skin to lose pigment or color.

Tiffany Williams, the Stormwater Department Office Manager, thanked members of Council for helping bring awareness to Vitiligo. She was diagnosed as having Vitiligo several years ago and started the first ever Vitiligo Support Group in Sumter in 2012. In January 2023, Williams and several members of the group donated six Vitiligo-focused children's books to the Sumter County Library.



Knight's 'Twisted Eden' at SCGOA

Chun's 'Glass Houses' also on display until June 16



An Artist's Talk with Emma Knight was held on May 11, 2023, at the Sumter County Gallery of Art as she discussed her work, her life, her influences and more. Knight's "Twisted Eden" is on display until June 16, 2023, along with In Kyoung Chun's "Glass Houses."

The Sumter County Gallery of Art is open Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 200 Hasel Street.



County competes for SCAC award, announces contest to name mascot



Left to right, Asst. Public Works Director Johnny McLeod, Litter Control Officer Mike McCoy, County Council Chairman Jim McCain, the new, unnamed mascot, Public Works Director Karen Hyatt, Asst. Administrator Lorraine Dennis and Administrator Gary Mixon

Sumter County Government on May 24, 2023, gave a presentation in Columbia before a panel of judges at ETV as part of a competition for a prestigious award

Each year, the South Carolina Association of Counties bestows the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award to recognize a county that has addressed a community challenge, implemented operational improvements and enhanced their citizens' quality of life in a unique way.

Public Works Director Karen Hyatt and Asst. Public Works Director Johnny McLeod presented the 'Stash the Trash Litter Pickup Initiative' with a video and Power Point presentation before answering a few questions for the judges.

"I'm proud of our ongoing efforts to fight litter in Sumter County," said Mixon. "This has truly been a Team Sumter effort and we're noticing visible differences throughout our community."

Hyatt noted Sumter County's initiative is sustainable due to Council approving a millage increase in Fiscal Year 2022 to fund the Litter Division. Mixon said the support of the Sumter School District has been key, as education is a key component in fighting litter.

"This is about reaching the next generation and instilling respect for the environment," said Hyatt. "People can look for an announcement and video on the County's social media channels about naming our mascot." The winner will get a \$100 gift card.

Join us June 17, 2023, for a Community Cleanup Day



To sign up and get gloves,
vests, litter grabbers and bags:
Public Works (803) 436-2241
khyatt@sumtercountysc.gov

JOIN US AT OUR

IN OBSERVANCE OF
HOME OWNERSHIP
MONTH

ANNUAL HOUSING - JOB FAIR



DRAWING CONTEST
FUN FOR KIDS

June 24, 2023
10AM-2PM

REFRESHMENTS!
DOOR PRIZES!

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337 MANNING AVENUE
SUMTER, SC 29150

LEGAL, MEDICAL
& OTHER
RESOURCES

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FIND OUT IF YOU
QUALIFY FOR A
HOME!

Fireworks in the Park
9:30 p.m. on July 1

Dillon Park

**Brought to you by
Sumter County
Government and
The City of Sumter**

