

Council Members

District 1: Stuart Graham
District 2: Charlene McGriff
District 3: Billy Mosteller, Vice Chair
District 4: Jose Luis
District 5: Steve Harper
District 6: Bryant Neal, Secretary
District 7: Brian Carnes, Chair



Interim County Administrator
Steve Willis

County Attorney
Ginny L. Merck-Dupont

Clerk to Council
Sherrie Simpson

**January 14, 2026
4:00 PM**

**LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, 101 NORTH MAIN STREET, LANCASTER, SC 29720**

MINUTES

Council Members Present: Brian Carnes, Steve Harper, Jose Luis, Billy Mosteller, Charlene McGriff, Bryant Neal, Stuart Graham

Staff Members/Others Present: Steve Willis, Interim County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Privuznak, Budget Director; Clay Catoe, Emergency Medical Services Director; the press; various elected officials; various Department Heads; various employees; and citizens.

A quorum of Lancaster County Council was present for the meeting. The following press were notified of the meeting by e-mail in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: *The Lancaster News*, *Kershaw News Era*, *The Rock Hill Herald*, Cable News 2, Channel 9 and the local government channel. The agenda was posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building and also on the County website the required length of time. The PowerPoint presentation utilized during the meeting is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Call to Order Committee of the Whole Meeting - Chairman Brian Carnes

Chairman Brian Carnes called the Lancaster County Committee of the Whole meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Chairman Brian Carnes

Chairman Brian Carnes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Billy Mosteller

Billy Mosteller led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Charlene McGriff moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jose Luis.

Jose Luis moved to amend the agenda and remove the Executive Session item from the agenda. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. The motion to amend the agenda Passed by unanimous vote of 7-0.

The motion to approve the agenda as amended Passed by unanimous vote of 7-0.

Citizens Comments

The following citizens signed up for and spoke during the Citizen Comments: None.

The following citizens submitted electronic, written comments for Citizen Comments: None.

Discussion and Action Items

a. Transparency Update for Financial Data - *Sabrena Harris / Jenna Woods*

Sabrena Harris provided an overview of the draft website page for financial data transparency via the County PowerPoint. Council discussed the need to know the amount of taxes collected in 2025 versus the proposed taxes that will be collected in 2026 and that the information be broken down by departments/groups. Council requested that a video be done for citizens so that they can follow their tax dollars. Council also discussed that citizens need to know how the County supports non-profit agencies. They also discussed adding the Comprehensive Plan to the transparency page, whether citizens could make suggestions for adding additional material to the page, whether library information should be added to the page, and that citizens should be made aware of when the various phases of pages/information would be going live on the website.

Jenna Woods walked Council through the draft website for financial data transparency.

b. Review of Proposed Newsletter - *Jenna Woods*

Jenna Woods reviewed the proposed County newsletter via the County PowerPoint and a handout of the draft newsletter, which is attached to the minutes as Schedule A. Council discussed the need to add contact information for Council members and to add County staff phone numbers so that citizens can easily access all of that information.

c. Update on the Coroner's Office Project - *Coroner Karla Knight Deese / Stephany Snowden*

Stephany Snowden and Karla Deese provided an update on the Coroner's Office project via the County PowerPoint. Ms. Snowden noted that the County would be drawing down the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds first before coming back to Council for a budget amendment for excess funds that may be needed in order to complete the project. She further noted that any excess funds would come out of the General Fund.

d. Discussion regarding Traffic Calming - *Steve Willis*

Steve Willis led a discussion on traffic calming via a handout and that handout is attached to the written minutes as Schedule B. Council discussed property rights on private property.

Additionally, Steve Willis provided a handout regarding a termination letter of a federal award and that handout is attached to the written minutes as Schedule C.

Executive Session

a. One Item:

- 1. *Receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding a potential contractual matter relating to the P-Card Audit.***

This item was removed from the agenda during the Approval of the Agenda.

Items Requiring a Vote Following Executive Session

The Executive Session item was removed from the agenda during the Approval of the Agenda.

Adjournment

Bryant Neal moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on February 9, 2026

Bryant Neal

Bryant Neal, Secretary

Lancaster
County

South Carolina

Schedule A

THE

THREADLINE

UNDERSTANDING THE UDO

*WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE
FUTURE*

THE HEART BEHIND THE BADGE:

*LANCASTER COUNTY'S CORONER
AT WORK*

THE INDIAN LAND DEVELOPMENT PAUSE

*WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENT
MORATORIUM?*

ISSUE 1 JAN 2026

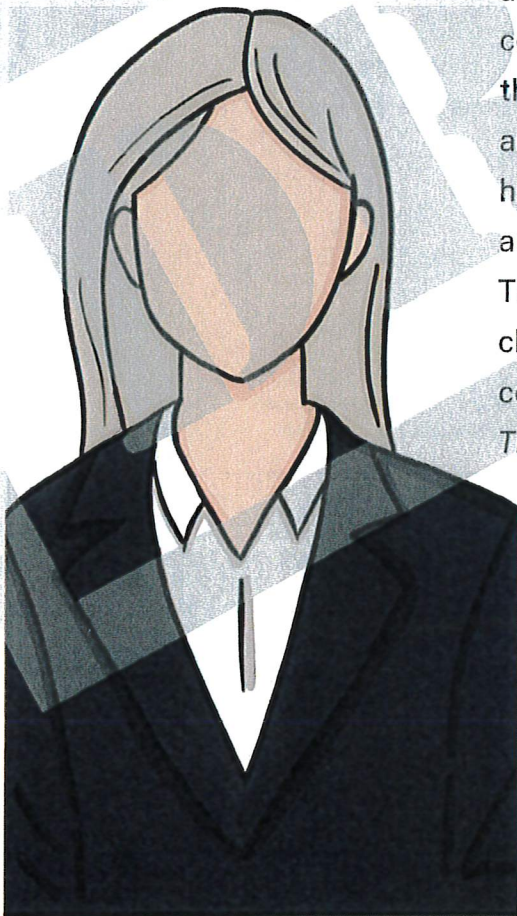
EDITOR NOTES

WELCOME TO THE THREADLINE

Welcome to the first edition of *The THREADLINE*, Lancaster County's new quarterly publication created to strengthen the connection between county government and the community we serve.

Lancaster County is made up of many moving parts, from departments and projects to the people working behind the scenes every day. *The THREADLINE* was developed to help connect those pieces by sharing not just what is happening across the county, but why it matters and how it impacts residents and visitors alike.

Our communications team is deeply passionate about storytelling and about making county government accessible and understandable. We believe informed communities are stronger communities, and that clear, thoughtful communication plays a vital role in building trust and transparency. Through this publication, we aim to highlight the work being done, the progress being made, and the stories that reflect the heart of Lancaster County. Thank you for reading and for taking part in this new chapter of how we share our story. We look forward to continuing the conversation with you in each edition of *The THREADLINE*.



Jenna Woods

Director of
Communications and
Marketing

UNDERSTANDING THE UDO

“IT IS A ONE-STOP SHOP ON INFORMATION ON HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR PROPERTY.”

Inside the Lancaster County Administration building, there are a lot of moving parts that go unseen to the public.

Kind of like a professional football team, a lot goes on during the week that not many people see to make sure things are ready for the game on Sunday. One aspect of the unseen sits in a small office in the administration wing of the building working on the county's future playbook.

Development Services Director Allison Hardin is the lead person working on what Lancaster County could consider their future playbook for the next decade.



Allison Hardin, Development Services Director



Roselyn neighborhood being developed in Lancaster County will have several different parts to it.

Hardin and her staff are putting together the county's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which is what the County Council will refer to in the coming decade when it comes to how Lancaster County grows and how it handles growth.

“It is the newer, bigger brother as what people often know as a zoning ordinance,” Hardin said. “A Unified Development Ordinance is zoning and land development together in one document. It is a one-stop shop on information on how to develop your property.”

Each property has a zoning district that tells what is allowed on a property. It is an old standby and falls under the constitution of public health and safety.

Zoning ordinances are relatively new in Lancaster County with the first one being established in 1994, when the state mandated that in order to control growth, counties needed to have a comprehensive plan and that would tell them what they could do with their zoning.

UNDERSTANDING THE UDO



A section of homes being built in the Roselyn development, located off Highway 521, in different stages of development. The 55 plus development is scheduled to have homes between \$300,000 and \$600,000.

The whole reason we have zoning is for space to breath around buildings and within in buildings, and design of neighborhoods that are safer,” Hardin said.

Usually before UDO’s are finalized, they are based on comprehensive plans, which are broad ideas of a county’s goals and vision for things such as land use, housing, transportation, and public service. Once a comprehensive plan is adopted, it takes about two years to go through the zoning ordinances to adopt the UDO. The UDO is the bones of making that comprehensive plan a reality.

The last comprehensive plan for Lancaster County was written in 2024 and before that in 2014, which led to the 2016 version of the UDO. The 2016 version of the UDO is what the county currently goes by. The county is currently trying to finalize a new UDO to be adopted in 2026, to correspond with the 2024 comprehensive plan.

“We are adopting a new UDO based on those (2024 comp plan) principles,” Hardin said. Hardin said it is rare to have a UDO written in less than two years because of the complexity of the document.

“This (the UDO) was started before the comp plan started,” she said. “We had to do the comp plan, and that took some time away, but this (UDO) process started in 2021. It touches everything in the county, so it is worth doing well. You want to make sure you aren’t accidentally doing the wrong thing when making a change on land-use.”

One thing the UDO will be looking at is more affordable housing in the county. In the 2014 comprehensive plan, Indian Land was pegged as a high growth area, which led to a lot more dense developments turning the small community into what it is today.

“The comp plan in 2024 is a lot more deliberate,” Hardin said. “There is a lot more specific land uses identified in the Panhandle, instead of just one big growth area. There are more areas in the comp plan that allow it to be more rural area. Those areas near Charlotte, that have roads and water and sewer lines, those will allow to be more dense, but not in every place.”



An undeveloped portion of the Roselyn subdivision near Old Hickory Road.

Hardin came to Lancaster County from Horry County, a beach community that includes towns like Myrtle Beach, Aynor, and Conway. She has worked in population areas that have seen exponential growth, but has also dealt with smaller towns like Aynor, which still have a rural feel to them.

“The UDO is trying to accommodate the growth needs to of the community, as well as the people that are here now,” she said. “People have been moving into Lancaster County at great rates. We know people are coming. We have to be able to accommodate them in order to stay healthy in the community, as well as the families in the community that are growing.

“With the UDO, we are looking at allowing density in places that it can be, where it already has utilities, it already has roads. And then maintaining the rural character of the Southern part.”

Hardin pointed out that there isn’t much affordable housing in Lancaster County, thus much of the traffic comes from York County into Lancaster County to work, putting a lot of that traffic traveling through Indian Land.

“...BUT IT’S THE FOLKS IN THE MIDDLE THAT ARE TRYING TO BUILD AND GET THAT FIRST HOME TO BUILD A FAMILY.”

If the county can address the affordable housing issue, that could possibly alleviate traffic coming from places like York County, while having people live and work in Lancaster County instead of commuting to another county.

“You have agencies that support low-income folks and you have folks that can buy whatever house they want, but it’s the folks in the middle that are trying to build and get that first home to build a family,” she said. “It is harder and harder to start that now. So, by allowing more opportunities for the middle, we can provide for development opportunities for less than \$300,000. Right now, the walk-in spot is \$400,000 to \$450,000 and that is a lot. That is almost a half a million dollars and right now 78% of the county can’t afford that kind of house.” One of the biggest changes Hardin sees in the upcoming UDO has to do with mixed-use developments. “One of the things we are looking to do is replace the mixed-use zoning with a planned development district,” she said.



Edgewater in Lancaster has been another development in the county that has been in the process of being built for several years.

“It is to have both residential and commercial usage, where the developer has more flexibility as long as the (County) council says so. The council has a lot more say in how the development looks. There has to be a public benefit to do this kind of zoning.”

Hardin is hopeful that the new UDO will allow developers to do more than just give land for fire and EMS stations but also pay for building on a piece of property that will be ready to go without the county having to pay for it. Hardin realizes that writing a UDO won’t make everyone happy but hopefully that it will last at least a decade before it must be rewritten to continue to adjust to the growth that Lancaster County will have in 2036. She is hopeful it would be adopted by June 2026.

“You do the best you can,” she said. “It is always a challenge. You get consultants on the job. We have lawyers on staff with consultants. We have professional planners on staff with consultants. If we can’t make it work on the ground here, then it isn’t useful.”

UNDERSTANDING THE UDO



Along with residential developments, there is also commercial businesses that are making their way into Lancaster and other parts of the county. A QT service station is in the process of being built at the corner of Highway 521 and Craig Manor Road.

Hardin added that development is heading towards the Lancaster city limits but still sees growing pains in places like Indian Land within the next decade. Hardin said as the population grows, so will the different economic opportunities for the county as well.

“If you can get the population, those people will come,” she said. “We have got Costco, we have Target. These big retailers don’t come in without the numbers to back it up. So, the density people hate in Indian Land is what is bringing in these big retail changes. The growth potential in Lancaster County is bringing in more.”

One thing that is helping the UDO to be completed sooner than later is the moratorium established within Indian Land, which runs over a nine-month period and can be extended for three additional months if County Council deems it necessary.

The county has seen a 12% increase in residential building permits in 2025 from 2024. But they have also seen increases in repair permits for people retrofitting buildings, as well as for people upgrading their homes. Commercial construction permits are also up, as well as inspections throughout the county.

Mac Banks/Public Information Specialist

THE INDIAN LAND DEVELOPMENT PAUSE

THE MORATORIUM: WHAT RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW

In October 2025, the Lancaster County Council enacted a nine-month **moratorium** on new residential developments in the rapidly growing Indian Land area, often referred to as the Panhandle. This temporary pause, which is scheduled to last through July 2026 (*with a possible extension*), is a direct response to the community's concerns about the speed of recent growth.

WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENT MORATORIUM?

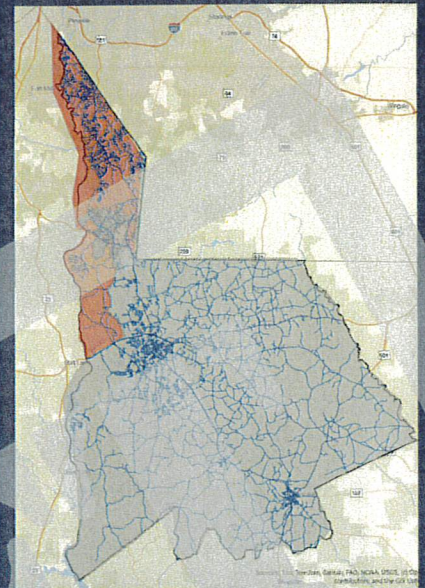
A development moratorium is essentially a temporary “pause” on approving certain new residential projects; such as single-family subdivisions and multi-family developments in designated areas of the county.

WHY THE PAUSE?

Indian Land has experienced dramatic growth, nearly 476% between 2000 and 2020, which has created both opportunity and strain. As development accelerated, roads became more congested, schools in the panhandle area grew overcrowded, and essential services such as water, sewer, EMS, and law enforcement struggled to keep pace.

In response to these concerns, County Council enacted a temporary pause on certain new residential developments. This nine-month period will allow the County to evaluate infrastructure needs, address service capacity issues, and complete a major update to the **Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)**, last significantly revised in 2016.

THE GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT LANCASTER COUNTY'S FUTURE GROWTH IS WELL-PLANNED, SUSTAINABLE, AND SUPPORTIVE OF RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE.



WHAT IS PAUSED?

New housing projects in the Indian Land/Panhandle area. See the above map.

WHAT IS NOT PAUSED?

Approved projects, including existing homes, single-family lots in current subdivisions, and unrelated commercial permits.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

The pause runs October 2025 to July 2026, with a possible three-month extension for completing the UDO update.



NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW

DEPARTMENT

PHONE NUMBER

HOURS

Lancaster County Animal Shelter	803-286-8103	10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed noon to 1 p.m.)
Lancaster County Assessor's Office	803-285-6964	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Lancaster County Main Library	803-285-1502	9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday
Lancaster County Kershaw Library	803-283-1010	11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday (closed 2-3 p.m.), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday (closed noon to 1 p.m.)
Del Webb Library	803-548-9260	(Same as Lancaster County Main Library Hours)
Lancaster County Parks and Recreation Department	803-289-6090	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Lancaster County Public Works	803-283-2101	6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. Friday
Lancaster County Sheriff's Office	803-283-3388	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (office hours)
Lancaster County Voter's Registration	803-285-2969	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FIRE PREVENTION STARTS WITH YOU



WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS



As we welcome the New Year, Lancaster County firefighters want to remind residents that winter remains one of the highest-risk seasons for home fires. With colder temperatures, increased indoor activity, and more heating equipment in use, a few simple precautions can go a long way in keeping your family safe at home.

TOP 5 WINTER FIRE HAZARDS:

1. Heating Equipment

Space heaters and fireplaces are used more frequently in January with colder weather. Keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, plug them directly into the wall, and never leave them on when you're asleep or out of the room.

2. Cooking-Related Fires

Shorter days and colder nights mean more home cooked meals. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking, keep stovetop areas clear, and turn pot handles inward to avoid accidental spills.

3. Electrical Outlet Overload

Heated blankets, appliances, and extra lighting can strain outlets. Avoid overloading power strips, check cords for damage, and replace any equipment that overheats or sparks.

4. Candles or Open Flames

Candles remain a popular part of winter décor. Use flameless options when possible and keep real candles away from curtains, bedding, and furniture.

5. Fireplaces & Wood-Burning Stoves

If you rely on a fireplace or wood stove, make sure chimneys are cleaned annually. Always use a protective screen and store cooled ashes in a metal container, never indoors, trash/recycle bins or near your home exterior.



LANCASTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
WANT TO WORK FOR ONE OF THE BEST AGENCIES IN THE STATE,
CONSIDER THE LANCASTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Barry Faile

STARTING SALARIES

*BASED ON EXPERIENCE OR LATERAL TRANSFER

DEPUTY - (\$59,487 - \$79,123)

CORRECTIONS - (\$56,330 - \$76,335)

*ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE +3%

*BACHELOR'S DEGREE +6%

SRO OPENINGS FOR CERTIFIED OFFICERS

"Use all interactions as opportunities to serve leaving a positive impression"



APPLICATION

THE HEART BEHIND THE BAGE



When someone passes away unexpectedly in Lancaster County that may be the end of their journey, but for Coroner Karla Knight Deese it is the start of hers. Deese has a long history with the deceased that dates back nearly 25 years. Deese's mother passed away in 2001 from myeloid leukemia in a hospital in Columbia. While there she saw what true patient care was, something she has always tried to emulate.

"As we were going through the process of being informed and I thought *this is the way it should be*," she said. "You should be in touch with the family and make sure they are being taken care the entire way. I said *I really wanted to be in a position to pay that forward*."



Lancaster County Coroner Karla Knight Deese stands with the Mounted Response Unit.

**LANCASTER COUNTY
CORONER, KARLA
KNIGHT DEESE**

Soon thereafter, Deese took a job at the then Springs Memorial Hospital (now MUSC Health-Lancaster Medical Center) as a cardiopulmonary tech.

"I loved it," she said. "I learned a lot medically."

She eventually enrolled in respiratory therapy school as a working student but saw in the classifieds a job as a part-time Deputy Coroner position that also sparked her interest.

"I went to college for criminal justice, and I was doing medical, so it was a blend of what I was doing," she said.

Deese took the job in 2005 and in 2007 she became the first full-time Deputy Coroner in Lancaster County. In 2016, she ran for Coroner for the first time and took office in January 2017. Since then, Deese has been building the Coroner's Office into more than just a place for the deceased before they go to a funeral home but has turned the department into something that has gained national and global notoriety on more than one occasion because of their work.

Deese said that going from working with the living to working with the deceased was a shift she had to get used to.

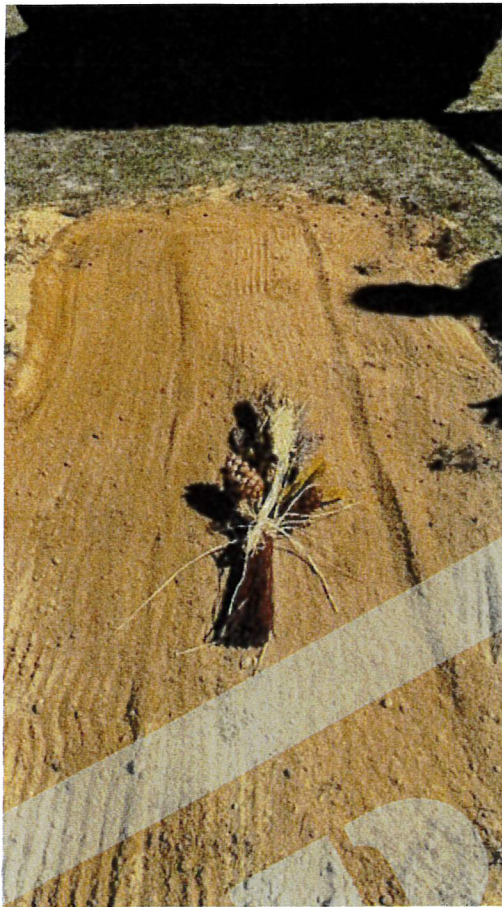
"When I was working with the living, I worked out of the ER," she said. "You would have trauma come in, and to tell you the way it is, you win some and you lose some. I worked third shift and I would think did we do enough? Should we have tried more.

"When I came to this side, I had no questions. The death has occurred. I can't fix this. From there it is only a chance to go up hill. That family is at the most vulnerable time in their life, and I have every opportunity to equip them with the knowledge and tools to begin their healing process and begin their new normal. As weird as it is, in death, it is a win-win for me, because I don't have to question it. It has happened. I can't do anything about it, but I can help that family and the main thing is giving them accurate answers."

Since the first time she started working as a part-time coroner, Deese said a lot has changed in the aspect of death and the things surround the process. As her office has grown, so has technology with it.



Deese proceeds over a burial at Kershaw Cemetery of unclaimed individuals during a ceremony in 2025.



Flowers lay on the grave of the unclaimed during a ceremony in 2025.

"From death, we learn a lot about living," she said. "There is a lot of information to learn from death. For me, the way it has changed is kind of old school. When you didn't have that many tools available, you kind of took a guess.

"Science and medicine have advanced so much, and with that is the education that is available to us. You have to get engaged with your education and technology. If you stay educated, you stay on the front end of that. We don't have cases that are easily slipped by because we have so much knowledge and we pair that with the other agencies we work with. So, my investigation starts with that 911 call. It is important for all that to piece it together."

Deese said one thing she had to get used to when it came to being a coroner was having to testify in court cases. Taking on defense attorneys during cross examinations took some getting used to, especially, when they tried to trip her up on the stand.

"I had to learn this is my case, they may have a degree in law, but I have a master's in common sense," she said. "It's my case and I know what I know and I know what my passion is. The only thing you can attack then is my character. If you want to do that, help yourself. But my case is solid and I stand on what I find. Once I learned that balance, it became easier."

Deese said in her field she realizes perfection isn't attainable. That sometimes the answers aren't there for whatever reason, but she said she is a "finish line" person.

"I am going to make it to the finish line in the race, no matter what place I am in," she said. "If we have something that looks like it is going to go unsolved, because it happens, I have to make sure I have incorporated every skill, tool, resource, and outside asset I have.

Once I have done that, and the conclusions are still inconclusive, I am not happy with it, but I am satisfied until something new comes along.

"It always sits there in queue waiting for new technology or a new expert, that I can bring back around. It keeps me thinking. Cases that are undetermined are always at the forefront of my mind. I may be going down a rabbit hole, but I am going to search for every answer."

Being the Lancaster County Coroner in a place that is growing as fast as the county is, there are no off days for Deese. She works seven days a week, holidays included. Deese said she looks after her employees because they have families with children, to make sure they try to have a balanced life. So, if someone must come in on a holiday or weekend, it is usually her.

"I like it, actually," she said. "Sometimes it can be a lot. We work seven days a week. The state mandates certain paperwork to move bodies out of state. For instant, a lot of our Indian Land population isn't from here. So, if they die on a Thursday, and they want to be shipped back to New York, New Jersey or wherever, Friday night, Saturday or Sunday, paperwork has to be done, and someone has to come in here and do it.



Deese passes out keep sakes after the groundbreaking on the county's new Coroner's Office.

"You try to balance it because it will take away from a lot of life events you want to go to, but at the end of the day, you just have to realize that these people are in the worse part of their lives and you are about to make a portion of it a little better. It might inconvenience you, but it is going to help them get closure. It is where I have to hang my hat."

Deese said the hardest part of the job is educating people on what the coroner does from beginning to end.

"They don't understand what we do," she said. "They aren't here at 4 a.m. in the trenches. Every other department has multiple levels of personnel. We all hold two to three roles. I don't have an evidence tech. I don't have a morgue tech. Someone else just has that job assigned to them. That is the difficult part."

As the county grows and people are educated about what goes into the job, more people need to be hired for the Coroner's Office. As big as the county is, there are still some aspects of the job that the office doesn't have like being able to computerize files.

"We don't have enough people to do it," she said. "We have to do our job first. We don't have a person dedicated to just data entry. The job comes first."

Deese compassion for the work and the people it influences shows. It is something she said is just engrained in her.

"I have always been a right fighter," she said. "I cheer the underdog on. Even in my younger days, I was always friends with the person that got picked on."



The Lancaster County Coroner's Office at the groundbreaking of their new site.

One aspect of her job that she has done recently was to lay the unclaimed to rest at a local cemetery.

"When people are unclaimed and there are various circumstances, I understand," she said.

"Some of them are not nice circumstances. And while you may not want to bury someone who was a bad person, they didn't come into this world as a bad person. We need to send them out properly and everybody deserves that. My passion there is to do what is right."

She also has a box in her office for when she has a stillborn baby to care for, that the child can be clothed and prepared for burial.

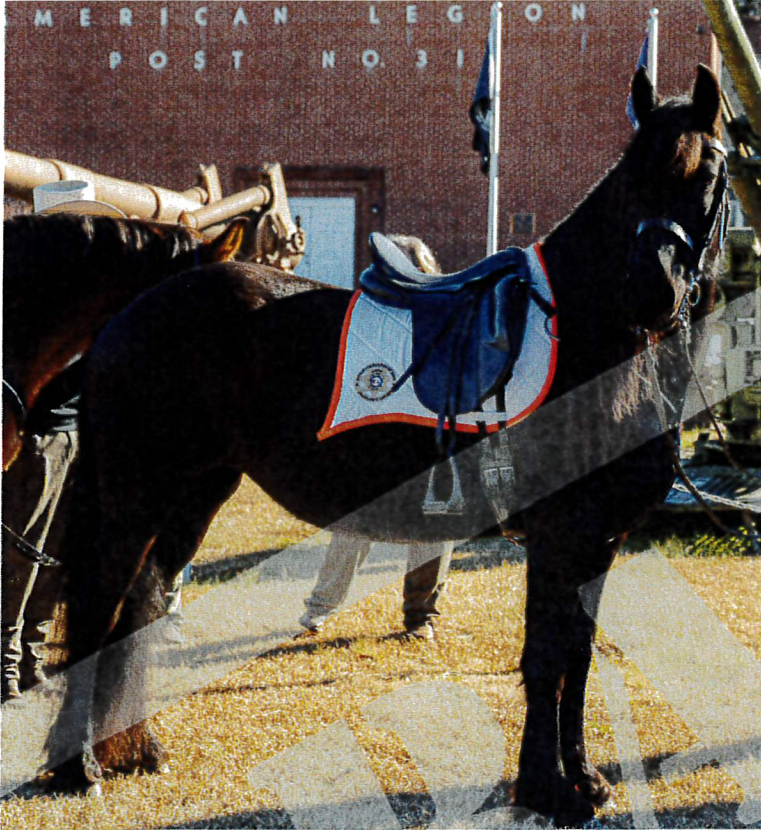
"A lot of time we have a stillborn until the family decides on a funeral home," she said. "We may have them for a day or two and they aren't sent here in any clothing. So, I have some ladies who made some clothing for them and some receiving blankets. My drive is making sure it is done right."

Deese said she would like to eventually have a forensic pathologist for her office. There are less than 400 in the country because of the detailed work that it involves. If Deese needs one, she must take a body to Charleston, S.C. to get the work done.

With the building of a new Coroner's Office scheduled to open later this year, part of the plans is to have an autopsy suite. Deese said she would like to have a forensic pathologist stationed in Lancaster, which offsets the multiple trips to Charleston that cost the county.

Two things that stand out to Deese that she is most proud of are her work on the Takata airbag case and most recently the creation of the Mounted Response Unit. The Takata air bag case goes back to ruptured airbags that involved several deaths of people, including two Lancaster County men. Deese proved it was the shrapnel from the airbags exploding that killed the men.

"We made the difference," she said. "Nine other cases, 11 in the world couldn't prove it and we proved it. We proved it and shut them down and potentially saving thousands of lives."

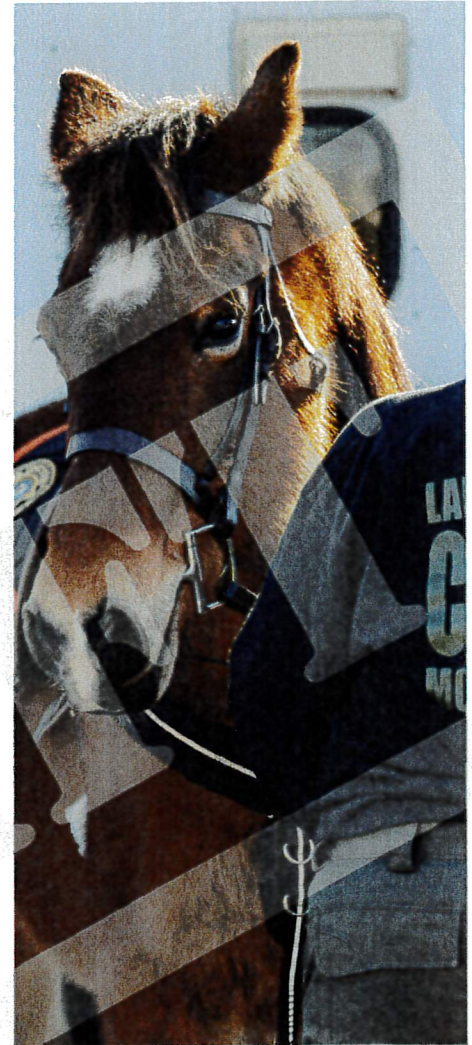


The Mounted Response Unit was the first of its kind in the country, as Lancaster County has horses it uses to not only recover bodies in rough terrain, but also to search for missing people in rural and wooded areas of the county that can't be accessed by vehicles.

"The mounted unit was born out of tragedy and that is a proud moment," Deese said. "When we started it, I didn't know there wasn't another one in the United States. I am proud of that. They do a phenomenal job."

But more than just the estimated 5,000 cases she has been a part of or the headline making cases, Deese said she is proud of the work her office does.

"I am proud of putting out good work," she said. "I am proud of serving folks and doing it with honor and pride and integrity."



The Mounted Response Unit was the first in the country for such a service provided by a Coroner's Office.

**MAC BANKS,
PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST**

LANCASTER LIGHTS & HOLIDAY SIGHTS SHINES BRIGHT IN IT'S FIRST YEAR

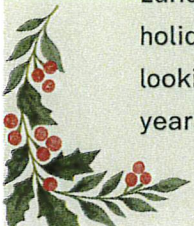


Lancaster lit up brighter than ever this season as the community celebrated the first-ever Lancaster Lights & Holiday Sights, a brand-new holiday series hosted by the City of Lancaster and Lancaster County Parks and Recreation. Over three festive weekends, families came together for markets, music, Santa sightings, and magical winter fun.

A New Tradition Begins

Lancaster Lights & Holiday Sights brought joy, community spirit, and plenty of holiday magic to Lancaster in its inaugural year. Organizers are already looking forward to making this new tradition even bigger and brighter in the years to come.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LANCASTER
COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS &
MARKETING





A FESTIVE START!

**LANCASTER IS
OFFICIALLY SPARKLING
BRIGHTER THAN EVER
— SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

The celebration kicked off with a bustling Christmas Market at the Springdale Recreation Center, where visitors enjoyed craft vendors, food trucks, and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The evening concluded with the community gathered downtown Lancaster for the Annual Tree Lighting. The 40-foot Christmas tree wowed the crowd as Santa made his grand entrance, accompanied by hot cocoa, snow and special performances by the Genesis Choir with solos by Julian Saverance.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LANCASTER
COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS &
MARKETING



A HOLY JOLY FINALE!

The final weekend hosted at Springdale Recreation Center brought two days of unforgettable holiday fun.

On Friday evening, families gathered for a cozy night of lights, complete with s'mores, hot cocoa, cheerful carolers, inflatable and rides, and photos with Santa followed by watching the Polar Express.

Saturday's festivities included local vendors, Santa photos, a lively kid zone, food trucks, sparkling seasonal displays, and a full ice-skating rink (that was available all three weekends). Even a hint of "snowy" magic made the weekend feel like a winter wonderland.

**SYDNEY FIELDS,
PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST**





Lancaster
County
South Carolina
Parks & Recreation

ONE CRACKIN' EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 12TH, 2025

10:00AM - 1:00 PM

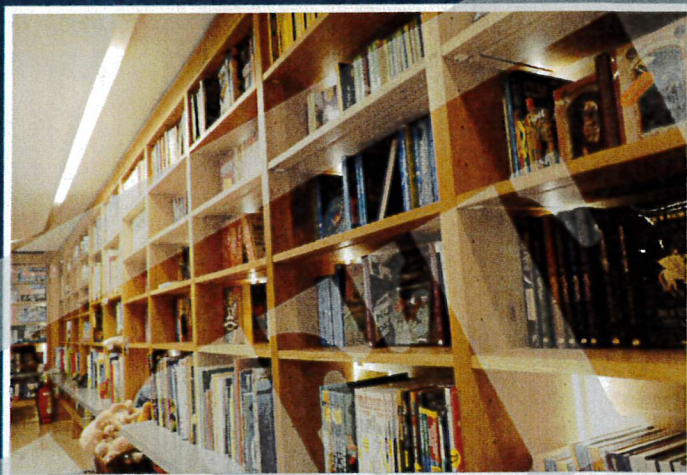
10521 Walnut Creek Pwky Lancaster, SC 29720





2026

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN



READING CHALLENGE:

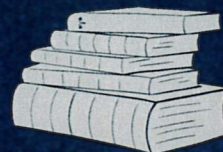
Reading helps build social and emotional skills, sparks creativity and imagination, promotes bonding, and helps kids do well overall in school. Take the motivation, open one book, and get started. Remember, 1,000 is just a number. The goal is to work reading aloud into your regular routine, and let the magic of stories do the rest.



Lancaster County Library
Discover. Connect. Inspire.

LIBRARY SERVICES:

- Public Access Computers with free Wi-Fi
- Wireless Printing
- Notary
- Homebound Services
- Digital Services



PUBLIC WORKS ROUND UP



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**For more information about Lancaster County
Public Works department, visit our website at
www.lancastercountysc.gov**



SOLID WASTE/CONVENIENCE SITE HOURS OF OPERATION BEGINNING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020

All of the below hours are subject to change due to capacity, landfill closure or weather.
All sites are CLOSED on Sundays

SITE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
INDIAN LAND	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
TRADESVILLE	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	1 PM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
ERWIN FARM	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 2 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
KERSHAW	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 2 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
FORT	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	1 PM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED
LYNWOOD	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 2 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
RACETRACK	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	1 PM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
HEATH SPRINGS	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
McGILL	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	6 AM - 6 PM
OWEN	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	1 PM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
DOWN	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	1 PM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
RISE HILL	9 AM - 6 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 2 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 6 PM	9 AM - 6 PM
* PUBLIC WORKS	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 1 PM

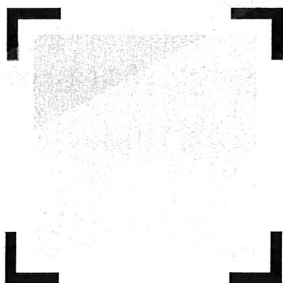
* THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY ONLY ACCEPTS ELECTRONICS, RESIDENTIAL YARD DEBRIS/ LIMBS UNDER 6 INCHES IN DIAMETER, AND TIRES - LIMIT ONE LOAD PER DAY

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COUNTY
THREADLINE



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WWW.LANCASTERCOUNTYSC.GOV



Holiday Observances for the Year 2026

Holiday	Date Observed
New Year's Day 2026	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 19, 2026
Easter Monday	Monday, April 6, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25, 2026
Independence Day	Monday, September 7, 2026
Veterans Day	Wednesday November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving Day Day After Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26, 2026 Friday November 27, 2026
Christmas Holiday	Thursday, December 24, 2026-Monday December 28, 2026
New Year's Day 2027	Friday January 1, 2027



THE

THREADLINE

ISSUE 1 *JAN 2026*

Schedule B

Traffic Calming devices that could cause damage to emergency apparatus are currently not allowed to be installed in Lancaster County (UDO Section 6.18.G), unless they have been approved by our Pilot Traffic Calming Program set up by Ordinance Number 2021-1727. The Fire Marshal's Office and Fire Commission supports this program as many traffic calming devices have been shown to cause damage to emergency vehicles, slow response times to emergencies and have been shown by studies to not improve safety of pedestrians. The South Carolina Fire Code also addresses traffic calming devices, prohibiting them unless they are approved by the fire code official (SCFC 503.4.1). Recently, a church with a school on property made a Facebook post stating that they had the intentions of installing speed bumps that would not meet our current ordinances and could cause damage to responding apparatus. After seeing the post, the fire marshal's office reached out to the church by phone and email to inform them of the ordinances and fire codes that affect traffic calming devices.

While the fire marshal's office opposes the use of traffic calming devices in most cases there are exceptions. The safety of our citizens is our first priority, and we would like to work with commercial and residential properties to ensure that, if needed, traffic calming devices are installed that do not cause damage to emergency apparatus, and do not hamper the response time to emergencies. The fire marshal's office can offer suggestions and help come up with solutions that will improve pedestrian safety, ensure emergency vehicles are not damaged, and ensure that response times to emergencies are not lengthened. Suggestions that we can make would be the use of clear signage, improved visibility, separation of pedestrians and cars, improvement of crosswalk placement and maintenance, and the use of security personnel or school resource officers during busy times of the parking lot. One of the last solutions that we would suggest would be the installation of speed cushions that are properly spaced to allow large vehicles to pass with minimal jarring (see photo).



The fire marshal's office has the safety of all citizens as its top priority, and is appreciative of the support that Council has given us in the past and in the future. We look forward to working with Council, neighborhood, and commercial properties to ensure the safety of pedestrians, drivers, and responders on the roads and parking lots of our county.



Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

5600 Fishers Lane • Rockville, MD 20857

www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)

Schedule C



NOTIFICATION LETTER TO RECIPIENT FOR TERMINATION OF FEDERAL AWARD FOR NON-ALIGNMENT WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) PRIORITIES

Funding for the referenced award is hereby terminated pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4). This letter constitutes a notice of termination, effective January 13, 2026.

Pursuant to the terms of the award and 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4), SAMHSA may terminate a federal award, "to the extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities."

SAMHSA's current priorities, <https://www.samhsa.gov/about/strategic-priorities>, include focusing agency resources on promoting innovative programs and interventions that address the rising rates of mental illness and substance abuse conditions, overdose, and suicide and their connections to chronic diseases, homelessness, and other challenges our Nation's communities face. A key component of this effort is innovations in grant making – developing grants tailored to states and communities that provide services and supports to effect immediate and positive health changes in the people and communities we serve; and to measure our success. As a result, SAMHSA is adjusting its discretionary award portfolio, which includes terminating some of its awards, in order to better prioritize agency resources towards the above-mentioned priorities.

Although in its discretion SAMHSA may suspend (rather than immediately terminate) an award to allow the recipient an opportunity to take appropriate corrective action before SAMHSA makes a termination decision, after review and consideration, no corrective action is possible here since no corrective action could align the award with current agency priorities.

Costs resulting from financial obligations incurred after termination are not allowable other than in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.472 or as may be provided in further instruction from the agency. Nothing in this notice excuses either SAMHSA or you from complying with the closeout obligations imposed by 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.344-200.345. Consistent with 2 C.F.R. 200.344, you will have 120 days from the effective date of termination to liquidate all financial obligations incurred prior to termination of this award.

Christopher D. Carroll
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

LANCASTER COUNTY GRANT #	GRANT NAME	DEPARTMENT	START DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	DATE	AMOUNT REIMBURSED TO AMOUNT REMAINING	UNOBLIGATED AMOUNT/ AMOUNT REMAINING	WHAT DOES THE GRANT FUND?
85	Adult Drug Court Treatment Project	Solicitor	9/30/2024	9/29/2029	\$1,999,420.00		108,376.79		3 Full Time Positions (1 Full Time Solicitor Position and 2 Positions that are currently vacant), Fringe, Travel, Supplies, Other (Recovery Housing, Inpatient Detox, Wrap-around Support, Registration Fees) 1,891,043.21
179	Lancaster County 1st Responders Project	Sheriff	9/30/2025	9/29/2027	495,564		26,197.03		3 Full Time Positions (Project Director, Sheriff's Office Field Support, City PD Field Support), Fringe, Travel, Supplies, Contractual Services, Annual Conference Registration Fees 469,366.97
398	EMS Training	EMS	9/30/2025	9/29/2026	198,600		0		80% Project Coordinator Salary + Fringe, 20% EMS Director Salary + Fringe, Equipment, Supplies, Travel 198,600 2,559,010.18