

Volunteers clean roads and creek

FOR EARTH DAY



AUDRA GRANT PHOTOS, MORNING NEWS

Volunteers participate in an earth day cleanup event Monday on West Palmetto Street in Florence.

AUDRA GRANT
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 journalist

FLORENCE, S.C. — Community volunteers showed up Monday morning, Earth Day, ready to kick litter to the curb. About 20 volunteers made of up local business owners, employees, and neighbors met at Naturally Outdoors on West Palmetto Street where they were armed with gloves, vests, bags, grabber tools and a game plan.

The group removed more than 150 pounds of trash from a section of West Palmetto Street, under its bridge, and out of Jeffries Creek. The cleanup day was organized by The City of Florence Resilience & Sustainability Advisory Committee in partnership with Keep Florence Beautiful.

Mindy Taylor, Duke Energy community relations manager and chair of the Florence Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee, a committee that advises city council on programs and initiatives, was there supported by fellow Duke Energy employees who came prepared with waders to keep them dry while they debris from the waters of Jeffries Creek.

“Earth Day is a great opportunity to celebrate natural places of beauty like Jeffries Creek in our great



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city and work alongside our citizens to ensure they can be enjoyed for generations to come,” said Taylor.

Many enjoy the green space that sits beside Naturally Outdoors on West Palmetto Street and serves as an entrance to the Florence Rail Trail and Jeffries Creek. Hunter Morgan, owner of Naturally Outdoors, said trash is an ongoing chore.

“It’s so much fun to see families hang out here. Unfortunately there’s trash from just how trash gets out — people driving by,

being in a hurry and not thinking about it. We constantly pick up the trash from around here but it just gets flooded from everywhere,” said Morgan, who also serves on the city resilience and sustainability committee.

Laura McFadden was there to help and knew about the clean up from the Florence Outside group. “I just wanted to help out with Earth Day. I paddle a lot with the Florence Outside group, and just wanted to help,” said McFadden.

McFadden said she had removed everything from socks, drive-thru boxes, Styrofoam, a candle to a razor on the side of the road.

Florence Outside is a community organization that aims to improve quality of life in Florence by increasing opportunities for outdoor active living. The group has planned a Jeffries Creek Cleanup Paddle for May 17.



Joie Reynolds removes trash from Jeffries Creek Monday during a cleanup day in Florence.



Duke Energy employee Kerry Harrington retrieves debris out of Jeffries Creek Monday during a cleanup event in Florence.

In addition to Earth Day, the month of April is also Keep America Beautiful month, inspired by the KAB Foundation. The organization’s mission is to reduce waste, prevent litter and beautify communities.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD & PUBLIC HEARING PEE DEE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PRESERVATION AND REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (PRICE) COMPETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a draft of the Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Notice of Funding (NOFO) for the Santee Lynch Regional Council of Governments on behalf of Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments will be available for a 15-day public review period. Notice is also given that there will be a public hearing to review and discuss the NOFO.

HUD is issuing the Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) competition NOFO to preserve long-term housing affordability for residents of manufactured housing or an MHC, to redevelop MHCs, and to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. This NOFO is authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328, approved December 29, 2022). Congress appropriated \$225 million for competitive grants to preserve and revitalize manufactured housing and eligible manufactured housing communities and directed HUD to undertake a competition under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Citizens are invited to review and make comments on the PRICE NOFO. The PRICE NOFO will be available for (15) fifteen days beginning May 1, 2024, to May 15, 2024, and comments concerning the PRICE NOFO must be received by May 15, 2024. The PRICE NOFO will be available for review at the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments’ office at 2314 Pisgah Road, Florence, SC 29501. The report will also be available on Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments’ website at www.peedeecog.org. Comments may be returned by mail to Lindsay Privette, Economic Development Director, Planning and Economic Development Department, Pee Dee COG, 2314 Pisgah Road, Florence, SC 29501.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held on April 30, 2024, at 6:00PM to review and discuss the PRICE NOFO. The hearing will be held at Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments’ office at the address above. For more information on how to participate at the public hearing please call (843) 702-3134.

The Sumter County Regional HOME Consortium and its member local governments do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of disabled persons upon 24-hour advance request. Please contact Sylvia Frierson, Operations Manager, Government Services Department, (803) 774-1988 if assistance is needed.



PUBLIC HEARING

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) of Kingstree, South Carolina will hold its Monthly Meeting and Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the Kingstree Town Hall, 401 North Longstreet Street, Kingstree, South Carolina 29556.

Case Number ARB 2024-04-001A
Beaufort Design Build, and Vital Aging of Williamsburg County, Inc. [the applicant], has requested a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for new construction. The application is being submitted in accordance with the Kingstree Zoning Ordinance Section 153.248: *Certificate of Appropriateness(A)-Required*. If approved, the COA would allow the construction of a 15,646 square feet Senior Recreational facility including exterior amenities, a free-standing Green House, raised beds, etc. on the southeastern boundary of the property located at 110 West Mill Street and represented by Williamsburg County Tax Max ID 11-025-132 and inside the Core Commercial (CC) Zoning District.

Case Number ARB 2024-05-001A
Maggie Harper and River Winn, LLC. [the applicant], has requested a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for exterior and signage designs. The application is being submitted in accordance with the Kingstree Zoning Ordinance Section 153.248: *Certificate of Appropriateness(A)-Required*. If approved, the COA would allow the new design of the exterior (front) wall and Wall sign to be placed above the front entrance of the building. The property is located at 115 East Mill Street and represented by Williamsburg County Tax Max ID 11-025-199 and inside the Core Commercial (CC) Zoning District.

If the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness, as stated above, is thought by you to be objectionable, you will have an opportunity to fully express your opinion. If it is inconvenient for you to appear at the hearing, or if special accommodation is needed, please call (843) 355-8156.

Documents pertaining to the proposed request are available and are on file to be inspected and studied by interested citizens in the Planning and Zoning Department at the Kingstree Town Hall, Frank H. McGill Municipal Complex, 401 North Longstreet Street, Kingstree, South Carolina. Telephone: (843) 355-8156.