

Courting voters 3

Capital projects sales tax commission promotes \$33 million courthouse

Making plans 4

Action Council prepares for action this year



Go bananas 7

'Disney's The Jungle Book Kids' starts Friday



Play ball 13

Legion teams enter playoffs

WHAT'S INSIDE

Business.....	7
Classifieds.....	22
Crime Watch.....	5
Education.....	10
Entertainment.....	18
Government.....	3
Lifechanges.....	17
Opinion.....	19
Religion.....	15
Sports.....	13

OBITUARIES, PAGE 17

Pauline W. Anthony, 76
Bernice C. McIlwain, 65
Fred Robert Mills Sr., 90

HOW TO REACH US

To reach Carolina Gateway's newsroom, call (803) 283-1154 or (800) 844-9344, ext. 225, fax (803) 285-5079 or e-mail cgnews@thelancasternews.com.

To reach the advertising staff, call (803) 283-1140 or (803) 283-1142, fax (803) 289-6503 or e-mail advertising@thelancasternews.com.



See Carolina Gateway Online at The Lancaster News Web site, www.thelancasternews.com. Click on Download Carolina Gateway under Latest Headlines on the left side of the home page.

PR SRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #33
INDIAN LAND, SC 29707



Making progress 8

First buildings go up at Cornerstone

County may give IL library \$200,000

County may tap reserves to buy books

JENNY HARTLEY
jhartley@thelancasternews.com

Lancaster County Library Director Richard Band told County Council on July 7 that he was thankful the

Del Webb Library at Indian Land was being considered for funding in an upcoming bond referendum.



Band

The library, which has been funded mostly by Pulte Homes' Del Webb,

the developer of Sun City Carolina Lakes, the Sun City homeowners and business and individual donations, needs another \$200,000 to have a decent book collection on opening day. The library is slated to open at the end of the year or January 2009.

But the library needs to buy books earlier than November, when the bond

referendum is scheduled.

"If the referendum passes, we'll be in great shape," Band said.

But there's the issue of the referendum not passing, he said.

"If you can find \$100,000 to commit to us, we can make it work," Band said. The library could open with half of the books that library officials originally

hoped to have on the shelves.

A \$200,000 grant from the S.C. Budget and Control Board's Competitive Community Grants program didn't pan out. Local library officials learned June 27 that the Indian Land library didn't make the cut.

See LIBRARY, Page 2



photos by NATALIE HARRIS/summer intern

ABOVE: Indian Land resident Joe Ramsey, left, talks with UHF Development Group's Eddie Coleman about a plan to create a 600-acre "town center" development in Indian Land. BELOW: This map shows the location of the site, which also includes properties owned by Argus Properties and York Development Group. Coleman was to submit an application to rezone the 411-acre site shown, owned by UHF Development, as a planned development district this week.

Coalition plans 'town center'



Four developers working together on 600-acre plan

NATALIE HARRIS
cgreporter@gmail.com

Four developers intend to present Lancaster County Council with a plan for a 600-acre "town center" development in Indian Land offering retail, office space, housing, green space and a new recreation center.

Representatives of the four developers presented tentative plans for the development at last week's Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce's Indian Land Council meeting at

the Blackwell Trimnal law offices.

The development coalition includes UHF Development Group, Argus Properties, York Development Group and Inspiration Ministries.

"It encompasses over 600 acres combined," said UHF partner Eddie Coleman said of the new development. "Over 40 percent will be business/commercial."

Coleman planned to submit an application to

See TOWN CENTER, Page 2

Could drought impact water quality?

Officials frustrated by problem

JENNY HARTLEY
jhartley@thelancasternews.com

Mike Bailes said he's as frustrated as residents in trying to figure out why a particular contaminate keeps showing up in higher than usual numbers in the county's drinking supply.

Bailes, Catawba River water treatment plant director for the Lancaster County Water and Sewer District, said the plant has been testing new chemicals in the treatment process. It could be another week before utility officials know if the process is working.

Trihalomethanes, a by-product of the treatment process, have been higher than allowed by federal standards for the past year in samples taken from the county. Trihalomethanes are created when chlorine mixes with organic material, such as decaying leaves and algae, in the water pulled from the Catawba River, where Lancaster County gets its water supply.

"It's not an immediate threat," Bailes reiterated. "It's not a pollutant. It's Mother Nature."

Residents have been calling the plant demanding answers. The Lancaster County Water and Sewer D

See WATER, Page 2



NATALIE HARRIS/summer intern

Workers brick the exterior of the new Del Webb Library at Indian Land. As work on the exterior wraps up, the library is still in need of about \$200,000 to furnish it and fill its shelves with books.

Library...

From Page 1

The S.C. Budget and Control Board's Competitive Community Grants Committee awarded about \$12 million worth of grants to projects around the state, including funding for Kershaw's new town hall.

The library has raised about \$423,000 for the new library itself, through its Legacy of Literacy campaign. Two fall festivals, sponsored by Pulte Homes, the Sun City Carolina Lakes Homeowners Association, Indian Land Rotary Club and Carolina Gateway, have also raised about \$35,000 for the library. Another festival is scheduled for Oct. 4.

Some of the money raised has already been spent on the building itself, which will cost \$1.7 million to build, about \$200,000 more than was originally given to the project, Band said.

Band is also waiting to hear whether the new library will get a \$50,000 grant from the state library to buy computers. The library's requests for funding have been turned down by the Springs Close Foundation and Duke Energy.

Council member Bryan

Vaughn said he would like to see County Council fund the \$200,000.

He credited Councilmen Rudy Carter, Jack Estridge and Fred Thomas for negotiating with Del Webb, which donated 2 acres and \$1.5 million toward construction of the library, now under construction in the commercial district of Sun City.

Band and the Lancaster County Library board have also done well in raising private money for the library, Vaughn said.

But council now needs to make a commitment to the library to make sure it opens on time and is fully stocked, Vaughn said. The county can make that commitment, he said, thanks to the "healthy" reserve fund the county has from donations made by developers who have built homes mostly in the Panhandle over the past several years, he added.

"I agree with Mr. Vaughn 100 percent," Councilman Larry Honeycutt said. "I think council should do whatever's necessary to fund the library."

Council unanimously voted to take action on the library funding at its July 28 meeting.

LIBRARY DONORS

The following groups and individuals have donated money toward the new Del Webb Library at Indian Land:

◆ Del Webb Corp. and Sun City Carolina Lakes homeowners – \$1,500,000 and 2 acres at Carolina Commons

◆ J. Marion Sims Foundation – \$100,000, undesignated

◆ Bretagne Development Group – \$100,000, undesignated

◆ Founders – \$50,000 for the children's area

◆ HSBC – \$25,000 for the reading court

◆ Lindsay and Louise Pettus – \$25,000 for the Catawba display

◆ Lancaster County Natural Gas – \$21,000 for the circulation desk

◆ Comporium – \$20,000 for the conference room

◆ Springs Hospital – \$15,000 for new book display area

◆ Lancaster County Partners for Youth – \$20,000 for two study rooms

Water...

From Page 1

district recently sent out a public notice in customers' water bills about the higher than normal trihalomethane levels.

"Everyone has been talking about it, but there's still no answer," said resident and LCWSD customer Kathryn Plyler. "We need to have an answer."

She has been calling the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Environmental Protection Agency and local officials trying to get an answer.

Plyler stopped buying bottled water several months ago to help the environment by reducing the number of plastic bottles her family throws away. She said she's been told that people have to drink the contaminate for many years for it to have an effect.

"But we have been drinking years of it," she said. "I've been so frustrated. Nobody's doing anything."

The state's view

Richard Welch, DHEC's drinking water compliance

manager in Columbia, said without hesitation that utility officials here are working hard to find the source of the problem to bring the water back into compliance.

That includes changing chemicals used to treat the water and lessening the time that the chlorine and organics mix, creating the trihalomethanes.

But due to higher water temperatures in the summer, trihalomethanes are often at higher levels. That's because warm water aids in the chemical reaction between the chlorine and organic material in the water.

"It's a battle," Welch said. "It happens more in the hot-weather months."

Trihalomethanes are higher as a rule in the Southeast, because there's more vegetation and warmer temperatures, Welch said.

"I would reiterate that it's barely over," the allowed level, Welch said. "Organics by themselves aren't harmful."

The Catawba River treatment plant has newer technology than others in the state, and DHEC has a good

working relationship with the Lancaster County Water and Sewer District, Welch said.

"It's one of the better-run plants in the state, and it's received numerous awards from us for treatment. I would really call them a 'Cadillac' plant," he said.

Welch said DHEC is careful not to discount people's fears when it comes to their water supply.

He said research shows that over time, trihalomethanes can cause problems, such as cancer or bladder infections, but that's over a 70-year time span.

"We haven't found a smoking gun sort of thing," Welch said. "It's not something that could hurt them tomorrow."

Could drought be to blame?

Samples of drinking water taken at the city of Lancaster's water treatment plant, which gets its water from the county's Catawba River plant, have been in compliance, said director Mack McDonald.

Like Bailes, McDonald is scratching his head as to why the tests of the same water supply are showing

different results.

"It's the same exact water," McDonald said. "We haven't had any problems."

The Catawba River is at its lowest flow level in the 26 years that Bailes has been working with it.

With low flow, fewer organic materials are swept out of the water, meaning there are more organic materials in the water when it comes into the plant for treatment. The trihalomethanes are created when those organic materials mix with the chlorine during treatment.

The plant has been operating since 1993, and this is its first violation. The plant has changed equipment due to the problem, and that hasn't helped.

"It's got to be the drought," Bailes said. "We're into it over a year now."

Bailes said now is the best time to reiterate the importance of water conservation to improve water levels in the Catawba River.

"We need to conserve water from now on," he said. "The Catawba River is not an everlasting supply."

Town center...

From Page 1

the Lancaster County Planning Commission to have UHF's 411 acres rezoned as a planned development district on Tuesday, July 15.

Much of the plan is tentative, as it is dependent on the zoning change and acquiring a few key parcels, such as the county-owned recreation center, EMS station and 10-acre Roy Hardin Park. The developers now own about 560 acres, if the existing 110-acre City of Light campus is included.

Bryan Tuttle with Coldwell Banker Commercial, who represented Inspiration Ministries at the meeting, said INSP plans to develop a for-profit corporate business park, senior housing and multi-family housing on 143 acres beside its City of Light. It plans to buy the 143 acres from UHF once the land is rezoned for a PDD.

The new development will stretch along U.S. 521 from Shelley Mullis Road north past Collins and Doby's Bridge roads. It is directly across from the Indian Land Professional Building, Indian Land Middle School and the Gate station.

The commercial development is one of many popping up in Indian Land, along with Cornerstone, Carolina Commons and Carolina Gateway Commons, which are all under construction now.

The developers say they want the project to be a "town center" for Indian Land. They say it should be as nice and large as Blak-



Baumgardner



Cluderay



Coleman



Tuttle

eny in South Charlotte, which covers 270 acres. It will probably include business, retail, housing and greenways.

There may be a new recreational facility, EMS station and park, too. York Development Group and Argus Properties are proposing to recreate the county recreation center, EMS station and Roy Hardin Park at a new site along Shelley Mullis Road.

Once the new, upgraded facilities are ready for operations, the developers hope to trade the new facilities for the old properties.

Coleman says if all goes according to plan, those facilities wouldn't even have a break in operations. The workers will simply switch buildings one day, he said. There will also be a greenway area along Six Mile Creek's stream buffers.

Coleman also said the development would pursue a post office.

"While we have no commitments from the U.S. Postal Service, we believe a post office will be needed in Indian Land," Coleman said in an e-mail. "We will make accommodations for the placement of one on the property."

Thomas Cluderay with Argus Properties, Doug Baumgardner with York

Development Group, Coleman and Tuttle fielded questions on the new development from the audience regarding curb cuts, traffic lights and recreation facilities.

According to maps shown at the meeting, the development will have four entrances from U.S. 521 – an existing entrance into the City of Light and others at Doby's Bridge, Collins and Shelley Mullis roads.

The developers hope to add roads within the development so residents don't have to get back out on the highway to access different parts of the development.

Collins Road, which would be a main thoroughfare through the development, would have to be improved, several attendees pointed out. Who will pay for that is not yet clear.

"This has not been determined, but it is expected that UHF and INSP will share the road improvement cost," Coleman said.

State House Rep. Mick Mulvaney said the project could actually lower property taxes because the more sales tax the state gets, the less property tax it requires. He said if South Carolinians shop here rather than in North Carolina, property taxes here could drop.

To Advertise Your Business in

CAROLINA Gateway

Call 1-800-844-9344 for more information.

Christmas In July
All Christmas China
 (In Stock) **40% Off**
All Christmas Home Decor
ON SALE
 Santas, Snowmen, Angels
Now Taking Orders!
Dale Roach
Handcrafted Santa
personalized with
your family's names

Visit our website www.silverandspice.com
Silver & Spice Gifts
 New Summer Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 10am - 5pm • Saturday 10am - 4pm
 408 N. White St. • Lancaster • 286-4438