

## One County. One Future.

### Unified Workshop On November 11 Will Focus On Future Growth

Consider this single fact: By 2030, Greenville County is projected to have 39,600 new housing units and an additional 44 million square feet of non-residential development. Even though this is still 20 years away, the question that must be asked and answered today is, “Where does this growth go?”

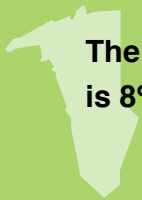
That’s the question that will be discussed in depth on Tuesday, November 11 when the County Planning Department convenes its “One County. One Future.” workshop. Two sessions will be held—from 11-1 and 5-7—at The Carolina First Center, and all citizens are invited to attend and participate. Also expected to take part are mayors and representatives from area municipalities, and members of county government.

“This is an event with historic implications in that it marks the first time representatives from all parts of the county have come together to consider growth issues,” says Mellone Long, Greenville County’s director of planning.

*Continued, page 2*



### DID YOU KNOW?



**The cost of living in Greenville County is 8% lower than the national average.**

### IN THIS ISSUE

ONE COUNTY. ONE FUTURE.....	1
FOOTBALL FANS SPEAK OUT .....	3
UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE.....	4

## Survey Efforts Continue To Generate Responses

Results are now being collected from two household survey efforts conducted in the past month as part of the “Imagine Greenville County” process that will result in an update to the county’s comprehensive plan. These efforts thus far have yielded an impressive number of responses, and more arrive each day as county residents continue to express their opinions on the future of Greenville County.

The progress has been very encouraging, according to Brooke Ferguson, the project

coordinator for the survey program. “The hope is to receive a 25 percent response rate from the mailed surveys,” she says. “Such a number is typical for this sort of survey and will provide a strong statistically valid base for analysis. We already are very close to achieving that goal.”

To help accomplish this goal, each recipient of the mailed survey is given an opportunity to win a \$100 gas card, compliments of Greenville County. The first phase of the survey mailing has already produced a winner.

Tricia Brown completed and returned the survey, and was selected randomly as the winner of a gas card. A second winner will be announced November 3 on the website, [www.imaginegreenville.com](http://www.imaginegreenville.com).

In the meantime, those who would like to take part in this effort but did not receive a copy of the survey in the mail, can take the same survey online at the website above or visit the planning department office in County Square for a copy.

## One County. One Future.

*Continued from page 1*

“Our intent is to gather input and ideas on where and how future growth should occur, and begin to lay the groundwork.”

The planning staff is particularly hoping to have a large turnout of citizens representing various areas of the county in order to generate a range of ideas and feedback. To achieve tangible input, participants will take part in a planning exercise in which groups will gather at tables and, using a county map, consider where the projected growth should occur. Much like a board game, the groups will place blocks at specific locations on the map after considering the issues and infrastructure that will affect development. The only rule to this game is that all the units must be utilized on the map.

The resulting ideas will be reviewed upon completion and later analyzed by planning staff to provide input to the pending update to the county’s comprehensive plan. According to Long, there is one very fundamental objective to this process: “This is a means to find common ground for change within the



*Participants in the “One County. One Future” workshop on November 11 will use maps and blocks to plot the future growth of Greenville County.*

county, which is critical as we seek the best strategies to accommodate the projected growth. If we fail to find consensus now, it will hamper our efforts to plan for growth,

and implement approaches that will avoid issues and problems in the future.”

Details at [www.imaginegreenville.com](http://www.imaginegreenville.com).

## Fans Speak Up on Growth During Friday Night Football

The “Imagine Greenville County” team has been on the road at various high school football games since September 19 to take the vision to citizens and solicit input. As part of the effort to further involve the public, each visit has given people a chance to fill out a survey, talk about issues with staff and register for a free \$100 gas card given at each event.

Thus far, these games have provided nearly 400 people an opportunity to have their voice heard through the survey. It also has rewarded five lucky winners whose names were announced at half-time. After the remaining two games, the staff will tally the results and report them online for residents to view. These survey results also will be utilized in the overall analysis that will be undertaken when the survey period ends in November.

In the meantime, citizens are reminded to look for the large tent with the “Free Gas!” and “Imagine Greenville” signs at the two remaining games.

“We hope that everyone will to take a minute to fill out the brief survey and enter the drawing,” says Norm Wright of the planning staff. “Every resident can help make Imagine Greenville an effective plan for a better future, and we are truly enjoying the opportunity to talk with area citizens face to face.”

### Remaining Friday Night Football Games

**October 31** Carolina at Southside  
**November 7** Hillcrest at Mauldin



**growth redefined**  
www.imaginegreenville.com



www.imaginegreenville.com

## **One County. One Future.**

### **Public Workshop**

With all the hard work that has gone into the development of our goals and objectives, it is clear that we must do everything possible to form a vision that works beyond the words on a page. That is what the “One County. One Future.” event is created to do. On November 11th, in two separate sessions, residents of cities and the county will come together under one roof and put their ideas into action— creating an actual vision of the future that will redefine the shape of the county for generations to come.



**The Carolina First Center**  
**November 11, 2008**

Two Separate Sessions

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Refreshments will be provided.

*Part of the Imagine Greenville County Comprehensive Plan*

## Public Service Providers Gather To Discuss Issues And Alternatives

The comprehensive plan for Greenville County ultimately is a single document, but it must reflect the interests and objectives of numerous stakeholders in order to be successful. One of the primary goals of the development process for the plan's forthcoming update is to make certain all citizens and stakeholders have an opportunity to express opinions, offer input and provide guidance.

The series of public meetings previously held and the formation of citizen committees, combined with a broad-based survey strategy, already have yielded a wealth of valuable information and opinion. The planning staff now is undertaking another key phase through direct meetings with a variety of key stakeholders that provide public services within the county. This group includes chief administrators from each municipality and representatives of the organizations that control such key services as water, sewer, public schools, cultural resources and utilities.

Meetings will be arranged to include providers in small groups that represent similar functions. For example, one group will include those involved in providing water and

sewer services throughout the county. There will be two sessions for each group, with the first introducing the current comprehensive plan along with a detailed review of the goals and objectives presented recently by the citizen committees. The follow-up meeting will offer a forum for discussions on issues, strategies and alternatives that will, hopefully, result in agreements on the best ways to implement suitable actions within the comprehensive plan. Members of the planning staff will serve as facilitators.

"The most important function of these meetings is to secure basic agreements between service providers and our citizens that serve as the foundation for future action," points out Tom Meeks, the county's manager of advanced planning. "If there are issues that providers find difficult to resolve, we hope they will offer alternative solutions that the citizen committees can study."

Through considerations of common interest, the intent is to let these groups arrive individually and collectively at basic agreements on service-related issues, and the best means to serve the citizens of Greenville County now and in the future.

### GREENVILLE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

301 University Ridge, Suite 400  
Greenville, SC 29601  
(864) 467-7270  
M-F 8am - 5pm

[www.greenvilleplanning.com](http://www.greenvilleplanning.com)  
[www.imaginegreenville.com](http://www.imaginegreenville.com)

#### COMMITTEES & FACILITATORS

##### Housing

Tom Meeks

##### Population & Economy

Brooke Ferguson

##### Community Facilities

Eric Vinson

##### Cultural Resources

Dan Powell

##### Natural Resources

Kevin Robinson

##### Land Use/Transportation

Norman Wright

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### "One County. One Vision."

A one-day, participatory regional visioning exercise  
Tuesday, Nov. 11 (Two sessions)  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



[WWW.IMAGINEGREENVILLE.COM](http://WWW.IMAGINEGREENVILLE.COM)