



Darlington County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Update

IN THE NEWS



Darlington recovering after Hurricane Florence

by Samantha Lyles, News and Press, September 25, 2018

"DARLINGTON, S.C. - When forecasts indicated that Hurricane Florence would make landfall in the Carolinas, the City of Darlington began preparing to fight an old foe: storm water.

"We put a primary focus on cleaning out storm drains. We had our new vac truck go out and work areas of concern," says Darlington city manager Howard Garland, adding that these efforts focused on streets that usually experience flooding during heavy rain.

These areas included South Main Street near the intersection with East Broad Street, Russell Street, Hampton Street, C and D Avenues.

Garland says that as storm models and local waterway flood warnings continued to change, city workers had to stay on their toes and address problems as they occurred, clearing water where possible and closing streets when necessary. The most severe flooding occurred around the Black Creek area and the Oakdale community, with homes on Shoshone Drive and Hank Haney Lane suffering multiple incursions of floodwater."

[Read more here](#)

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In the News
DCEDP Spotlight Event

PROGRESS MEMBERS

Next Board meeting:
December 6, 2018
at noon at SiMT

Share your news

Do you or your company have any Darlington County news to share? If so, email us [here](#) and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website.

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Contact Us

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Sonoco Flooding

by Samantha Lyles, News and Press, September 25, 2018

HARTSVILLE, S.C.– "Due to unprecedented flooding from Hurricane Florence, our paper mill operations in Hartsville have been shut down temporarily. Certain operations remain flooded and have experienced damage which could require them to be down for several weeks, " said a September 18 news release from the company.

Fortunately, floodwaters receded much faster than normal, and paper mill employees returned to work just a few days later to begin the rebuilding process.

"As I've been here in Hartsville throughout this event, I can't tell you how impressed I've been without team has handled themselves, and by the resilience, commitment and ingenuity of our teammates who have worked tirelessly around the clock to mitigate as much damage as possible from what is looking like an unprecedented event," said Sonoco president and CEO Rob Tiede. "The unsolicited outpouring of support from our teammates around the world, here at home, speaks volumes about the character of this company and the people who choose to call Sonoco home."

[Read more here](#)



DCIT Increases Enrollment

by Samantha Lyles, News and Press, October 2, 2018

"When Robbie Smith became director of the Darlington County Institute of Technology (DCIT) two years ago, there was a prevailing concern among members of the Darlington County Board of Education that the school - a state of the art technical education facility - was not serving enough students. But thanks to a more efficient schedule and improved awareness about their curriculum, DCIT's enrollment numbers are steadily increasing.

Where a typical school day used to offer seven classes that run five days a week from August until June, Darlington County's high schools now operate on a 4 by 4 schedule where classes last longer (about 90 minutes each) and the subjects change mid-year.

"You meet in four classes from August until Christmas, and then in spring you start new classes - like with college schedules - and take

four more classes," Smith explains. "Instead of doing seven classes a year like we have been doing, you can now take eight classes with four in the fall and four in the spring."

This schedule change offers students the chance to take an additional elective class. It also gives Darlington County students more flexibility if they choose to pursue electives at DCIT, where they can earn work-ready credentials in skills ranging from welding to health care."

[Read more here](#)



FEMA

State/FEMA Disaster Recovery Center opens in Darlington County

Posted on the News and Press on October 23, 2018

"The state of South Carolina and FEMA opened a Disaster Recovery Center in Darlington County Oct. 17. Eight additional centers are open in the areas that were affected by Hurricane Florence.

The centers offer in-person support to individuals and businesses in the counties included in the South Carolina major disaster declaration for Hurricane Florence and subsequent floods.

Recovery specialists from the state of South Carolina, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) visit the centers to talk about assistance and help survivors who need help in finding recovery resources.

The Darlington County center is located at the S.C. National Guard Armory, 1764 Harry Byrd Highway. Disaster survivors in Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion and Marlboro counties may visit any center for assistance.

[Read more here](#)

DCEDP SPOTLIGHT EVENT:

Darlington County Progress Annual Meeting October 16, 2018

Darlington County Progress held its annual meeting at the Darlington Country Club on October 16, 2018 with guest speaker, Burnie Maybank of Nexsen Pruet.

Mr. Maybank spoke about the competitiveness of South Carolina's economic development policies and tax rankings. He noted that Area Development magazine ranked South Carolina high for its business-friendly climate, favorable regulatory environment, utility rates and incentive programs. However, he reported that South Carolina has some the highest industrial property taxes in the southeast and the nation. He did note that South Carolina had the lowest participation rate in organized labor nationally in 2017.

Mr. Frank Willis, executive director of the Darlington County Economic Development Partnership, reported that Darlington County had approved

the largest solar farm deal in the state with the announcement of Southern Current's \$340 million-dollar project. He reported that Fiber Industries, LLC, that announced last year, was getting close to starting production at the former Wellman facility. Mr. Willis also explained that, in conjunction with the Pee Dee Council of Governments, they had helped the Darlington County Water and Sewer Authority get grant funding to update their infrastructure survey to allow them to respond faster to project requests for information.

In other business, members elected nine members to the Progress board including returning members Quinetta Buterbaugh, Adam Connolly, Danny Johnson, Will Johnson and John Williams, along with new members Don Clark, Damon Flowers and Amy Graham.



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