



Darlington County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Update

IN THE NEWS



Darlington County Council approves Sonoco agreement

by Matthew Christian, Hartsville Messenger, July 20, 2020 updated July 30, 2020

"DARLINGTON, S.C. - The Darlington County Council took a step Monday to help a global company founded in Hartsville.

The county council voted unanimously approve the second reading of an ordinance authorizing an agreement for the county to provide special-source revenue credits to Sonoco Products Company and to include property owned by the county in a joint-county industrial park operated by Darlington and Marlboro counties.

The agreement between Sonoco and the county calls for a special-source revenue credit to reduce the amount of county property taxes, including both county and school district taxes, to a level equivalent to an assessment ratio of 6% and a millage rate of 302.3 mills for a period of 10 years.

The agreement does not affect the millage rate assessed by or infrastructure credit agreement given by the city of Hartsville to the company.

Sonoco was founded in Hartsville in 1899. It grew from a 12-person warehouse to a company with more than 300 plants and 21,000 employees in a total of 33 countries.

The company was originally called the Southern Novelty Company. It changed to its current name in 1923 by taking the first two letters of each of the words in its name "Sonoco."

It is not related to Sunoco, an oil and gas company that shortened its name from Sun Oil Company.

The ordinance will be up for third and final reading at the August meeting of the county council. That meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Aug.

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PROGRESS MEMBERS

September Board Meeting &
Annual Meeting:
Postponed until further notice due
to Covid-19

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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[Read more here](#)



Hartsville business owners are ready for Coker students to return

by Carlos Flores, WPDE, August 10, 2020

"HARTSVILLE, S.C. - Coker University is set to start classes on August 18th. However, not only are students counting down the days to their return but so are business owners in Hartsville.

"We just really so excited to have them back here. it makes a big difference in our small town with a big heart," said Lauren Baker, Director of Tourism and Communications for the City of Hartsville.

The University announced they will allow students to chose between in-person, hybrid, or online classes this semester. For those students who plan on taking in-person classes, university officials have made adjustments to classrooms to ensure social distancing.

As for the relationship between the university and the city, Coker has been a part of the Hartsville community for over 100 years.

Vice President of Student Affairs and Contract Services, Brianna Douglas, commented on the university's connection with the city in a statement in-part saying:"We are fortunate to have a strong partnership with the City of Hartsville and local businesses. We think there are great opportunities for our students that lie within our downtown businesses, whether it be an internship opportunity, a mentorship, or social happenings."

[Read more here](#)



FDTC to offer four different learning options for fall semester

from WMBF News Staff, August 12, 2020

"FLORENCE, S.C. (WMBF) - Florence-Darlington Technical College is offering students four different modes of instruction for the fall semester, which is set to begin on Aug. 24.

These learning options include:

- Virtual classes, completed 100% online
- Synchronous online
- Face-to-face
- Hybrid courses

"Many courses in the fall will be 100% Online. If a course is 100% Online, students will log into an electronic device twice a week on their own time so they will not miss any assignments. Attendance will be based on completion of assignments, so logging in weekly will be very important. Students will not be required to come to campus for a 100%

Online course," a press release from FDTC stated.
[Read more here](#)



As Census deadline advances, county still lags behind

by Samantha Lyles, Darlington News & Press, August 12, 2020

"The clock is winding down on the 2020 Census, and officials continue to stress that Darlington County's chance to secure a bigger slice of federal funding depends on how many residents complete their surveys.

As of the first week in August, Darlington County's report rate has finally broken the halfway mark, with 50.2 percent of households accounted for. Though this shows some progress, we trail both the state average of 57 percent and the national average of 63 percent by a significant margin.

While Hartsville (57 percent) and Darlington (55 percent) have picked up the pace, some areas of the county continue to lag behind - namely Society Hill and Lamar, with reporting rates just over 40 percent.

If our Census 2020 reporting does not accurately reflect our area's population, demographics, and needs, the negative impact will be felt for the next decade through a variety of missed opportunities and lessened influence in Washington.

"Most people don't realize that the primary reason we conduct a Census is for apportionment, to determine the number of seats that each state will have of the 435 in Congress," Marilyn Stephens, assistant regional Census manager, tells the News & Press. "The more seats a state has, the bigger that state's voice."

When it comes to the Census, every response matters. Each time a person files a census survey, it translates to about \$3,000 for South Carolina in federal funding.

Stephens says that Census numbers help guide disbursement of over \$675 billion in annual resources allocated by the federal government based on population. Over a decade, that adds up to more than \$7 trillion for highway construction, Medicare and Medicaid, community health centers and rural hospitals, emergency preparedness and disaster response, free and reduced school lunch programs, early childhood education, and over 50 other federal programs.

Stephens says that in addition to being important and easy, the Census is uniquely confidential and all data collected is protected against misuse, even by those at the highest levels of government.

"That's the No. 1 question we get: Is anything I put on those forms going to be used against me? And the answer is no," says Stephens. "Census data cannot be subpoenaed by the courts, cannot be gotten by the president, cannot be gotten by me."

...There is still time to respond to the 2020 Census online at <https://my2020census.gov>, complete via phone at 1-844-330-2020, or fill

out and return the forms mailed to your home.

[Read more here](#)



Darlington Raceway to host limited amount of fans for Southern 500

by Chris Sparks, WBTW News, August 10, 2020

"DARLINGTON, S.C. (WBTW) - As NASCAR returns to Darlington Raceway (Darlington) for two days of racing action on Sept. 5-6, the Southern 500® NASCAR Cup Series Playoff race will host limited fans on Sunday, Sept. 6. The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR includes the Southern 500®, Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 NASCAR Xfinity Series race on Saturday, Sept. 5, and the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series on Sunday, Sept. 6.

"The Southern 500 is a time-honored tradition in motorsports, so we look forward to creating new NASCAR Cup Series Playoff memories with fans returning to Darlington Raceway," said Darlington President Kerry Tharp. "After successfully hosting the sport's return to competition in May, the track Too Tough To Tame will be ready to welcome fans back for a safe race experience."

A limited, reduced number of fans will be in attendance for the Southern 500® in accordance with public health officials and local, state and federal authorities as well as related safety protocols and procedures. To ensure social distancing between groups, fans who have already purchased tickets to the Southern 500® will be reseated in new locations, as comparable as possible to original seats, with new, lower ticket pricing applied

[Read more here](#)

DCEDP Resources for Businesses:

The DCEDP office is available if you have any questions or need help finding resources to help your business. Even though we aren't able to visit in person as we used to, you can still call or email us your concerns, and we will get right back to you.

- Frank Willis

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[SC Covid-19 Emergency Supply Collaborative](#)

[NESA Region Resources Hub](#)

[SC Chamber of Commerce Resources Hub](#)

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

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DEPENDS ON IT...**



WEAR IT.

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