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Subject: I-2- Bridge Replacements, Lottery, and Drones -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- July 7 to July 18, 2016

I-20 Bridge Replacements, Lottery, and Drones -- Update from July 7 to July 18, 2016

Hope you and your family are enjoying the summer. The State Senate concluded the 2016 session on June 15 and will not meet again in statewide session until December after the November elections. One of my goals as your state senator is that you find this legislative update informative, and I appreciate any feedback. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for allowing me to serve our District!

I/20 Bridge Replacement/Expansion : Last Wednesday, South Carolina signed an agreement with Georgia to move forward on a joint project to replace and expand the bridges over the Savannah River on I-20. This is good news for Aiken County! The project will replace the bridges over the Augusta Canal and the Savannah River. The bridges will be three travel lanes in both directions. I-20 will be widened through Exit 1 on the South Carolina side. The project is moving forward with planning and is expected to be submitted for public bids in 2018. To learn more, go [here](#).

State Government News

South Carolina -- Advanced Manufacturing -- Great News! : Late last month, South Carolina was recognized as one of the top 5 states in the nation for leading the way in advanced manufacturing and that health of the state's manufacturing industry. To see the report, go [here](#).

South Carolina -- Certified Work Ready State : Earlier this month, South Carolina became the first fully certified work ready state in the nation!

S.C. Education Lottery: Many people ask me where the lottery money goes. The vast majority of the lottery money goes to provide scholarships for qualifying instate

students at colleges and universities in the state. the most recent chart for where the money goes by fiscal year through the immediate past fiscal year of 2015-2016 can be accessed [here](#).

Sales Tax Holiday Weekend : During the annual sales tax holiday which is August 5-7, shoppers in South Carolina will be exempt from the state sales tax and any applicable local taxes on the purchase of school supplies. Items excluded from sales tax include clothing, shoes, school supplies, book bags, computers, printers, bedspreads and linens. To learn more, go [here](#).

New Tax Credit Program : A change in South Carolina law implemented at the end of this legislative session created the Exceptional SC program. The program helps students with exceptional needs attend credentialed private schools. There is a tax credit cap in the program. To learn more, go [here](#).

Farm Aid Website: State assistance to farmers in declared counties as a result of last October's historic flooding. Applications can be submitted between July 1 and August 15. To learn more, go [here](#).

New! -- Fresh Produce Application for Smart Phones : The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Department of Agriculture and Department of Social Services recently launched the new S.C. Farmers and Roadside Market App - a free, interactive map that makes it easier to find and buy fresh produce locally. The web-based app shows the location, hours of operation and accepted payment types, including WIC, SNAP and senior voucher programs for more than 200 farmers markets and roadside produce stands across the state. To use the S.C. Farmers and Roadside Market App, go [here](#).

Local Farm Produce : The S.C. Department of Agriculture also has a website that will provide information as to where to buy local produce. To see that, go [here](#).

Georgia CWP Reciprocity : Governor Haley signed this bill into law on June 3. With its enactment, there is now concealed weapon permit (CWP) reciprocity between South Carolina and Georgia. Like other states with whom our state has concealed carry reciprocity, Georgia concealed carry permit holders must abide by South Carolina concealed carry laws while in South Carolina and South Carolina permit holders must abide by Georgia's law while in Georgia. To see details on Georgia's CWP carry laws, go [here](#).

DHEC -- Zika Virus : South Carolina DHEC has a Zika virus information page on its website. As of July 15, 2016, there are seventeen confirmed travel cases of Zika virus in South Carolina. To learn more at the DHEC information page, go [here](#). To see the toolkit and outreach materials from DHEC, go [here](#).

Drones at SRS? -- Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council (GNAC): The GNAC met last Thursday and representatives from DOE gave an update on the 2017 fiscal year budget request for SRS. Additionally, DOE officials answered questions as to the recent sightings of drones over portions of SRS. To learn more, go [here](#) and [here](#).

What is the latest?: In October 2012, the State of South Carolina learned that a cyber security breach had occurred at the S.C. Department of Revenue (SCDOR). Soon after, the State contracted with Experian to provide the first year of credit-monitoring for those South Carolina taxpayers affected by the SCDOR security breach of October 2012. In 2013, following a competitive procurement process, SCDOR contracted with CSID to provide identity and credit protection services to SC citizens for a one-year credit protection period renewable for 4 additional one-year terms. The General Assembly granted adequate funding to provide this service for the initial year beginning October 2013, and for the following two renewal periods, beginning October 2014 and October 2015 respectively. This year, the General Assembly also granted funding in the FY 17 Appropriations Act which will fund the 4th year of credit protection services under the contract with CSID beginning October 2016. South Carolina taxpayers that are already enrolled in the program will have their services automatically renewed in October, with no action necessary. Those eligible South Carolina taxpayers not currently enrolled may do so at any time by enrolling online [here](#) or by calling CSID's toll free call center at [855-880-2743](tel:855-880-2743).

What Services are Being Provided? : To learn what services CSID will provide, go [here](#).

Are Businesses Eligible for Coverage Too?: Yes, if the business paid taxes in South Carolina during a specific time frame. Go [here](#) to learn more.

What Do I Need to Do?: South Carolina taxpayers that are already enrolled in the program will have their services automatically renewed in October, with no action necessary. Those eligible South Carolina taxpayers not currently enrolled may do so at any time by enrolling online [here](#) or by calling CSID's toll free call center at [855-880-2743](tel:855-880-2743).

Who is CSID?: CSID is a Texas based company which not only offers credit monitoring, but also provides identify monitoring solutions along with full service identity theft restoration services.

What If I Purchase My Own Credit and/or Identity Protection?: If you choose to purchase your own protection service, you may be able to deduct a portion of that cost from your state income taxes in 2016. Go [here](#) for information from the Department of Revenue.

Other Questions?: Let me know by contacting me either through email or by phone at [\(803\) 215-3631](tel:803-215-3631).

Communications with Constituents

Frequency of Email Updates : Because the legislature is out of session, my legislative updates will not be sent as frequently as they have been since January of this year. However, I will strive to provide at least a couple of updates per month over the summer into the fall.

End of Session Town Meetings : I plan to hold end of session town meetings in the

district. Based on constituent requests, I will hold those after the summer vacation season ends. The dates, times, and locations will be provided in the future email updates.

Local District News

Congratulations to the Willcox Inn!: Earlier this month, Travel & Leisure magazine named Aiken's Willcox Inn one of the top hotels in the world. To learn more, go [here](#).

Jackson Boat Landing -- Good News!: Work is moving forward on improvements to stop the erosion of the Jackson Boat Landing on the Savannah River. This landing is the only public boat landing on the Savannah River's South Carolina side between North Augusta and Allendale County. A lot of Aiken County residents use this landing for accessing the river and its recreational activities. Our legislative delegation approved improvements to this landing in November 2014. The permitting and design phase is completed, and the County has authorized the contractor to move forward and work should start later this month.

FTC website: The Federal Trade Commission website has helpful information for consumers on a number of topics. To see it, go [here](#).

Windsor Area Ground Water Concerns : Several constituents in the Windsor area have contacted members of our legislative delegation in the past few weeks about ground water supply concerns in the Windsor area. Members of the delegation have contacted DHEC about these concerns. DHEC has responded that many private wells are drilled into a shallow aquifer at less than 150 feet deep. According to DHEC, public water providers and agricultural users typically drill wells at a much deeper depth. DHEC says that complaints from private well users are typical for this time of the year in areas around the state. DHEC also cites that a ground water study is being done in Aiken County now to be completed in 2018. (See link further down herein for more information on this study.) Senator Setzler, Representative Taylor, and I will meet with DHEC on these issues again this summer to further address constituent concerns.

Groundwater Study -- Aiken County : The USGS is currently performing an extensive groundwater study in Aiken County to develop a groundwater-flow model that can be used by Aiken County water managers to manage current and projected reported and unreported demands on groundwater resource and to ensure the highest quality of groundwater. To learn more, go [here](#).

Walter Edgar's Journal: If you are interested in the history, culture, and arts of South Carolina, consider listening to Walter Edgar's Journal which airs at noon on Fridays and Sundays at 4 pm on South Carolina public radio. To learn more, go [here](#).

SRS Heritage Foundation : To see the latest newsletter for the SRS Heritage Foundation, go [here](#). Many residents in Senate District 24 are current or former employees of companies located at SRS.

SRS Public Tours: Public tours of SRS are available. They are from 12:30 to 4:30 and are first come, first served basis with up to 50 people per tour. Participants must be at least 18 years old and U.S. citizens. To register for a tour, visit www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm or call 803-952-9472. More information can be obtained about SRS and the tour program at www.srs.gov.

Habitat for Humanity : To learn more about Aiken County Habitat for Humanity and their latest news, go [here](#).

Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer : Major Dwight Bradham is the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He can be reached at [642-1545](tel:642-1545) by phone and at dbradham@aikencountysc.gov by email. If you have any veteran-related issue, please call the office for assistance. You can follow that office on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/AikenVA and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/VA_Aiken.

Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary : This 3,250 acre property is located 5 miles Northwest of Jackson in Aiken County along the Savannah River. The property includes numerous Carolina bays, walking trails, and a wide variety of wildlife including 217 bird species such as Bald Eagles, Wood Storks, Cooper's Hawks, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. In addition, a 120 acre area is on the National Register of Historic Sites as the location of George Galphin's Trading post operated from 1750 until the end of the Revolutionary War. To learn more and how to visit, go [here](#).

Cardiac Arrest : Recently, a friend sent me a link to this [website](#) with a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation. Please take a few minutes to review it.

Grass Cutting in the SCDOT Right of Way : Grass is growing in right of ways around our district. In Aiken County, DOT contractors have started cutting the grass on the interstates and on secondary roads. If you are aware of an area where high grass is obstructing vision for drivers as they enter or exit certain roads in our County, please call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or let me know and I will pass on the information.

Congressman Wilson's Local Office -- Veteran Assistance : Congressman Wilson can also assist veterans. The local number to the Aiken County office is [\(803\) 642-6416](tel:803642-6416).

Elections - Poll Managers Needed for November General Election : Aiken County Voter Registration and Elections needs additional poll managers for the November elections. Basic requirements include being able to work a 14 hour day on election day; experience in using a Windows operating system on a personal computer; internet access for training and communications with County Elections office; and reliable transportation. If you are interested or need more information, call [642-2030](tel:642-2030) to let the Elections office know of your interest or to answer questions.

Volunteer in Local Schools: If you would like to help with educating our children, consider volunteering in our local schools. To learn more, go [here](#). Thank you to the Aiken Downtown Rotary Club for putting together this list of opportunities.

SC Help – Primary Residence Foreclosure Avoidance Assistance : Several Aiken County residents have received assistance under a federal program instituted in 2011 in several states including South Carolina providing one time assistance to homeowners who risk foreclosure. The program loans up to \$36,000 in one time aid to homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments for a variety of reasons. Acceptable causes include: unemployment, underemployment, a sharp reduction in self-employment income, a divorce, death of a spouse, unexpected medical bills from a catastrophic illness or injury, or damages stemming from the October 2015 floods. The home involved must be the applicant's primary residence and there is a cap on the size of the original mortgage loan amount. The money is collected back from the homeowner after the homeowner is back on his or her feet. To learn more or to apply, go online [here](#) or call [1-855-435-7472](tel:1-855-435-7472).

Foster Parent Recruitment : In March, Governor Haley, DSS officials, and foster parents launched a new statewide effort to find more families willing to foster parents for children in need. To learn more, go [here](#).

Aiken County Legislative Delegation Office : The local legislative delegation office is staffed by the delegation secretary Jeannie Cadden in the Aiken County Government Building on University Parkway. Ms. Cadden works on both Aiken County and Edgefield County legislative and constituent matters. One of the services provided by our local delegation office is the processing of paperwork associated with becoming a notary public. If you need help with this or other matters, let me know by responding to this email or call Jeannie in the delegation office at [642-1694](tel:642-1694).

Campaign Information

Donate to Tom Young for Senate : If you have not done so and would like to donate to my Senate campaign fund, please go [here](#). Donations can be accepted in any amount up to \$1,000.00 per donor per election cycle. Thank you!

Facebook : If you are on Facebook, I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. During the week, I post information from the Senate or elsewhere around the District, State, and County. If you are interested, please "like" the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Other Topics of Interest

Faith Magazine article : A *Faith Magazine* article about my public service and faith can be seen [here](#).

SRS Retiree Association – Retiree Resource Center Help : The SRS Retiree Association has established a SRS Retiree Resource Center in Aiken. To learn more about what services this office can provide, go [here](#).

SRS Deer Hunts : To apply to participate in the annual SRS Deer Hunt program at the Savannah River Site, go [here](#).

Research Charities in South Carolina : Charitable donors may research organizations registered in South Carolina by visiting the Secretary of State's

website [here](#). You may learn a charity's total revenue, program expenses, total expenses, net assets, and fundraiser costs. You can also call the Division of Public Charities at [1-888-CHARITI \(242-7484\)](tel:1-888-CHARITI) for more information.

Unclaimed Property -- Money for You? : The State Treasurer's Office maintains a link for residents to search for unclaimed property. Examples of unclaimed property include dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks (including paychecks), unclaimed insurance proceeds, forgotten utility deposits, uncashed dividend checks and unexchanged shares of stock. Some local residents have recently found unclaimed money belonging to them on this website. To learn more, go [here](#).

Medication Assistance Program : The LSCOG (Lower Savannah Council of Governments) partnering with local physicians and the United Way, has an ongoing free program to assist lower income Aiken County residents with obtaining medications. Participation is generally limited to those families with no prescription insurance and total household income of less than 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. To learn more, call [1-866-845-1550](tel:1-866-845-1550), ext. 6 or go [here](#) and scroll down to Medication Assistance Program.

Nonprofits and Raffles : Since last April, nonprofits may legally conduct raffles in South Carolina to raise funds for their charitable purposes. For the new law, the Secretary of State created a frequently asked questions list which can be seen [here](#). If you have more questions, please call the Charities Division of the Secretary of State at [\(803\) 734-1790](tel:803-734-1790).

Cardiac Arrest : For a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation, go to www.heartrescuenow.com.

Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers : The South Carolina Bar developed a handbook for parents of special needs children. An online version of the handbook is available [here](#).

Teens and Texting : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law went into effect on December 7, 2014. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): bill@billhixon.com
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): bill@taylorscheuse.com
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): dwells29801@gmail.com

Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information : Congressman Wilson represents

all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [642-6416](tel:642-6416).

Speaking with Groups Around the District : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

State Government Resources : Several online resources are available to you for learning more about our State Government. These resources include the following websites which can be accessed as follows: General Assembly's website -- go [here](#); Executive Budget Office -- go [here](#); State Library -- go [here](#); Legislative Audit Council -- go [here](#); Governor's Office -- go [here](#); and State Fiscal Transparency information, go [here](#).

Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

Tom Young's Website : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go [here](#).

Donate Life : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or [here](#).

Child Passenger Safety : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go [here](#). The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Request a Flag : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com. Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

State House Tours : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling [\(803\) 734-2430](tel:803-734-2430) or by going [here](#). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you. The State House is open on Saturdays for guided and unguided tours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

South Carolina Tourism : To learn more about tourist attractions and tourism opportunities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, go [here](#).

SC BBQ Trail: According to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, our state is the birthplace of barbecue in the United States and is the only state that offers all four official barbecue sauces. To see the official map with more than 200 restaurant listings, go [here](#). Another helpful site can be seen [here](#).

Aiken County Tourism : To learn more about tourism options in Aiken County, go [here](#).

Email Updates : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

Road Issues : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. You may also report the repair request online [here](#). If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young
649-0000 (o)
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate
