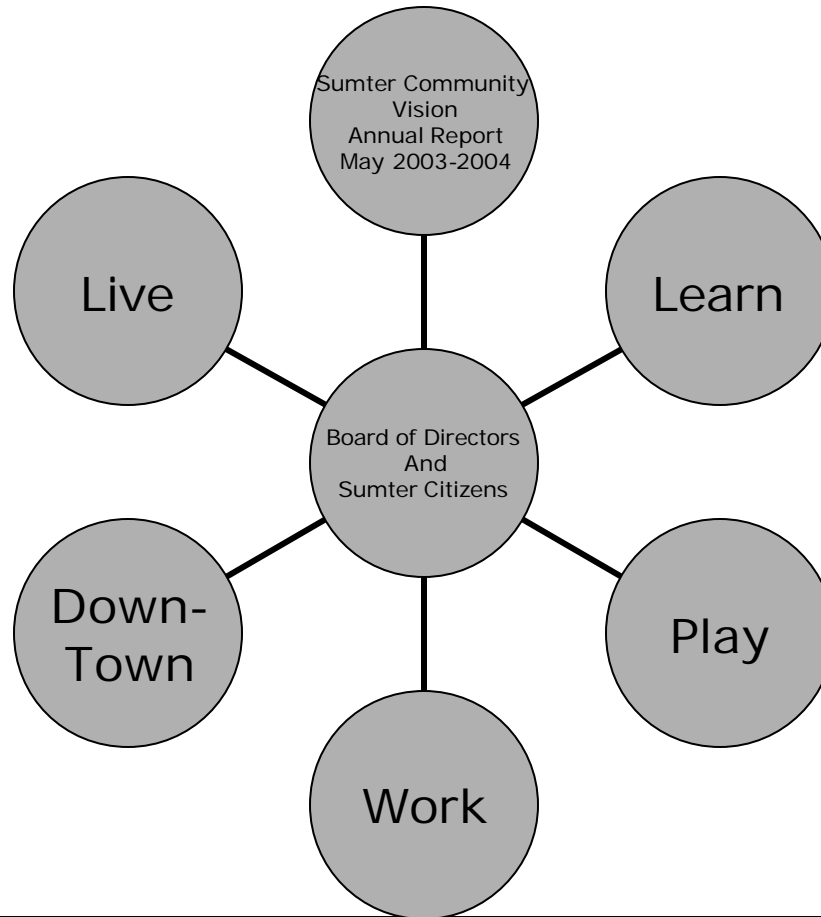


Sumter Community Vision



A message from the Executive Director/coordinator

The Sumter Community Vision, Creating Our Future Together

*As I began putting this report together, I quickly realized Sumter has been a very busy Community over the past 12 months. As you review this report, it's my hope that you will have a deeper appreciation for the Community in which you live. As planned, the Community Vision Plan took great strides to include citizens in both the City/County and Shaw AFB. While a number of initiatives/projects appear to be centralized, they've been planned with each citizen in mind. Just because a project is in the City limits, does not preclude those of us living in the County from enjoying the finished product. Once we remove the line of separation within ourselves, it would be realized, that this community is mostly made up of County! Only a few of us truly live in the City! The operative word is **TOGETHER** So come together and create a new Sumter Community, that will be sustaining for years to come.*

Special thanks to the Community Vision Board of Directors, City, County Officials, Chamber and volunteers for their unwavering support of the Community Vision Plan. Without them, the Vision Plan would be "just another piece of paper on a shelf" instead, it's a working document governing the ways in which the Sumter Community will enrich itself. As we begin working for the next 12 months, we need the rest of you in the Community to get involved. No contribution is too big or small. A contribution of time, skill or resource will gladly be accepted. Let this be your mid-year resolution, " I will become involved in the Sumter Community Vision"

**Remember: "The Future is Not A Place We go..It's Something We Create together",
Pastor Marion H. Newton**

Explanation of the Vision Plan/How to interpret the Annual Report

- ❑ The Actual Community Vision plan was adopted 2002
 - ❑ Projects/initiatives were communicated 2002-2003
There are over 250 projects/initiatives housed in the Community Vision Plan. They are inclusive of communities in the City/County and Shaw AFB
 - ❑ There are five (5) Themes that govern the projects/initiatives: **Learn, Live, Work, Play and Downtown**
 - ❑ Each project/initiative has groups of people from the Sumter communities involved
 - ❑ The Community Vision Plan provides a 10 year window for total realization of all goals
 - ❑ **Annual Report**
Has been designed to communicate some of the projects/initiatives that were designated for completion in 2003-2004. At the end of each narrative, a set of names or entity is mentioned. Two reasons for this. The name in the **BOLD** lettering is **primarily responsible** for ensuring the project/initiatives are completed the others are secondary and serve as resource teams assisting with completion.
-

Committed Leadership

Empowering a Unified Vision

Hire Vision Coordinator

May, 2003 Executive Director
hired to coordinate efforts established
in the Vision Plan. Ms. Patty Wilson can be
reached in the following manner. (803) 436-
2130 Office, (803) 491-4910 Cell,
pwilson@sumter-sc.com or visit 24 North
Main Street (Sumter Community Vision
Center) **City/County/Chamber**

Establish Website (Vision)

Community Vision Website was Completed
April, 2004. Site can be accessed by going to
the City of Sumter web site, [www.sumter-
sc.com](http://www.sumter-sc.com) click the link for "new comers
information" click **Sumter Community
Vision**
City/Susan Wild /Community Vision

Begin Publishing Quarterly Vision Insert in News Paper

The first Sumter Community Vision Publication
was completed February 2004 in the Chamber
"Connector". The Connector is circulated by the Sumter
Daily Item. Since the first publication, articles about
the Community Vision has been in each Bi-monthly
publication of the Connector. **Chamber/Rick
Farmer/Nancy lee/Community Vision**

Appoint Taskforce to Study Possibility of nonpartisan elections for Sumter County

While this imitative may be the first time a
request of this caliber has ever been made by a
group of citizens, it did come from the **Live
Theme Group**. And; in keeping with the goals of
the Vision, the responsibility fell to the Chamber
to pursue the request. November 2003, Earl
Wilson, then Chairman of the Chamber wrote a
letter to Chairman of County Council asking that a
study be conducted. To-date there is no response
to publish. The Chamber has taken this imitative
as one of their strategies for 2004-2005.

Chamber/Community Vision

Committed Leadership (con't)

Develop Vision role for Leadership Sumter program

September 2003, twenty eight (28) members from the corporate community became participants in the nine months Leadership Sumter program sponsored by the Chamber. A three hour (3) introduction to the Sumter Community Vision Plan prepared them for their assignment. They were given three (3) initiatives to study and make recommendations to the Community Vision Board of Directors. The Class graduated June 2004. Recommendations went before the Community Vision Board June 2004.

- Unified Logos for the Sumter Community
- Review the usage of Signs
- Gateway unification

For further explanation or review, call the Executive Director, Community Vision.
Thanks Leadership Sumter Class XVI

Chamber/Keith Britton/Vonda Turner/Community Vision

Churches: Sponsor interdenominational/interracial unity rally leading to "no room for Racism" Program

Pastor Black, Chairperson Sumter Ministerial Association and Pastor Ragin, Chairperson Black Concerned Clergy along with Council of Churches coordinated and held a "unity rally/service" at the Sumter Exhibition Center in February 2004. Hundreds of members from the Sumter Community were in attendance and witnessed/heard a dynamic message from Mr. Bobbie Richardson about the greatness of communities that recognizes and breaks down barriers in the Sumter Community. Plans are on-going to make this an annual event. **Council of Churches/Community Vision**

Sumter Grows Smart

Strengthening our Sense Of Place

Corridor Studies

- Ongoing initiatives are taking place within the Sumter community to evaluate and make recommendations pursuant to traffic flow as well as beautification. To-date studies and recommendations are being made for Broad Street, Liberty Street, Bultman Drive and Alice Drive.

City/Theme Group Chair/Volunteers

Develop Growth Guidelines around Shaw Air Force Base.

The City/County Officials in conjunction with Shaw AFB have worked diligently to complete this project. The proposal was presented to City/County Councils and was passed early Spring. Before the plan was passed, houses could be built in the flight path of the planes flying into Shaw. The new plan provides stricter guidelines as to what type of dwelling and where they're to be built.

City/Shaw AFB/Gen Olsen/County

Improving Sumter Area by Area

Form Neighborhood Associations: There are a number of neighborhoods already formed and are doing great work within the community. The focus this past year has been working in the county. The Town of Rembert has already formed as a coalition and plans are being made by the coalition to improve the quality of life in that area.

The town of Mayesville/Goodwill communities have the signed support of 900 Plus residents to become a Community Coalition Group. Their mission is to create a unified community that is user-friendly for all of it's citizens by providing services that will bridge the gap between Youth, Adult and Seniors

Note: Encouraging the county communities to focus on gateway signs introduction to their community. On-going

City/County/Community/Community Vision

Linking a Rich Heritage with a Vibrant Future

Establish "Points of Pride" Program

A number of recommendations coming from Leadership Sumter Class XVI will be incorporated as parts of this initiative. As builders, developers, new and existing business continue their relationship with the Sumter Community and plans are adopted, it will become their responsibility to work within the new guidelines. Look around Sumter, changes are already being made to enhance this community. Downtown Sumter (Main Street and downtown Liberty new building X-Dos, Bo Graham Fountain and another park scheduled on Liberty) South Sumter (Manning Avenue), Highway 521 North, Alice Drive, Churches, Mayesville Community (Downtown), Pinewood Community (Downtown) Rembert Coalition are beginning to make changes to reflect their rich heritage.

City/County/Community Citizens/State and Local Legislative Representatives/Development Board/Community Vision

The City, County and Local Officials worked collective as a "unified group to bring about changes that have/will improve the "quality of Life" for all citizens of Sumter as well as those yet to come to this community.

Hope Centers –Varied services

-Cross Well Park – Tracks and varied activities

Palmetto Park Renovated-Tracks varied activities

-State of the Art Tennis Courses

-Enhanced Lighting (Community Wide)

-WRJA Broadcasting from Sumter Opera House

-Streets re-pavements/resurfacing

-New Park Highway 15 South (in progress)

-Additional activities offered at the Opera House

-Free Family movies out side – Little Theater

-Swan Lakes-Festival of Lights new

restaurant on the grounds

-First Fridays each month– Downtown

restaurants extend their hours offering new menu selections, sprits, entertainment and socialization

-USC, Sumter – Four Year Status

-Sumter @ Six continue

providing wonderful entertainment, food, fun and best of all..it's free!

The list of improvements are endless, just look around

Fostering Health, Wellness and Safety

Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles

□ **Develop Unified marketing strategy to grow and support community health care services**

With Shaw AFB eliminating the vast majority of its health care providers and; Sumter's increasing medical needs; the Vision Plan identified the Medical Providers with Tuomey as the front runner to work out some of the health care issues. Before the request was made, Tuomey had already begun making some changes to meet the needs of the Community. Since the request was made,

Tuomey Health Care System has:

- Recruited additional doctors (varied)
- Built a new state of the art Out Patient Surgical Center
- Revamped Nursing Units to absorb additional health care needs
- New Television Advertisements marketing changes

Other Health Care Providers recognized a need to make health care more affordable and accessible. They are continuing to enhance/expand their existing services as well as proving new services.

Sumter Family Health Center

The Sumter Family Health Center has built a new home, expanding existing services and bringing new ones to the Sumter Community. New location corner of North Main & Lafayette Streets

The Sumter Urology Group has built and is providing surgical services from their new Outpatient Surgical Center located at Westmark Blv.

The Sumter Health Care providers continue working together. New initiatives forthcoming.

Tuomey Health Care System/Community Vision/City/County

A Symbolic Center – Bringing People Downtown

- Sumter @ six expanded to include bringing new performers local and aboard
- Opera House events has expanded ranging from plays, writing Giles, blue grass music with Booth Chilcut's guidance
- Publications for downtown events are currently being done on a quarterly and semi-annual basis in the item.
- Brochures and walking guides noting the different facets of downtown Sumter has been developed and distributed in and outside the Sumter Community.

A pedestrian Center

-A number of the downtown businesses are getting face lifts to give the consistent appearance throughout the downtown area. Many businesses have taken advantage of the funding available for these improvements.

Most of the Downtown Sumter initiatives have been or nearing completion. Over the next few years, downtown Mayesville, Pinewood and Rembert will be incorporating some of these initiatives to continue making improvements in their downtown areas.

Streetscape improvements are very noticeable:

- New awnings on businesses
- Sidewalks with brick designs
- New street lights
- Buildings being refurbished
- Vacant lots closed off to give the appearance of fully operated business
- Utilities buried on parts of Liberty Street
- Focused crossing middle of Main Street emphasizing Middle of town (Opera House)
- Bo Graham Fountain Completed
- Stricter /new ordinances being enforced for downtown Sumter
- Redevelopment of existing business has created the first new building being built in downtown Sumter in over 30 years. X-Dos pioneered this venture and created a trend. Two additional businesses will soon build and call downtown Sumter their new homes.
- Parking lots behind business have all been resurfaced with additional parking spaces added

City/Downtown Development Board

Downtown Mgr. (Ray Reich)

Infrastructure for Growth

□ **Preparing the Way for New Investment**

-Sewer Trunk line completed to Black River Airport

City

-Plans underway to widen Alice Drive from Westmark to Highway 521 (4 lanes)

Sumter Urban Transportation Committee/City

-Acquisition of property for downtown transportation center completed. Will be located on South Harvin Street

Regional Transportation Authority/City

-Sidewalk improvement – on-going

City/County

Creating an Environment that Attracts Investment

-Create unified graphic identity for Sumter (consistent look for logos, marketing material and signage). The Study was completed June 2004. Preparing Plan of Action. **Chamber/City/County/Dev. Board**

Plan and design gateways at selected entries and build a pro-type gateway-The study was completed June 2004. Preparing Plan of Action. **County/City/Dev. Board**

-Sumter/Shaw joint land use study for Poinsett Range completed Spring 2004.

-Sumter's Downtown Manager has been designated to head up project to "market Sumter" for recruiting retirees to relocate in Sumter began May 2004. New brochure already developed and distribution has already begun.

Development Board/County/City/Community Vision

Partnering with Private Sector – Sumter Education Commission (SEC)

The SEC is comprised of fourteen (14) local business men and women. They were commissioned by the Board of Directors of the Sumter Community Vision and were sanctioned by the City, County and school districts 2 & 17 Board of Directors. Each member agreed to review information from both School Districts. The commission began working October 2003.

The SEC **is not an oversight** committee. It will **serve as a conduit** between Schools, Parents, Students, Teachers, Business and Industries, Elected Officials and the Sumter Community.

To-date the committee has reviewed several issues.

Career Center	work keys
Grades	Redirection of Curriculum
Workforce Development	
Drop out rates	

As the committee unfolds new information, their role will be to convey their concerns/suggestions or requests to those individuals in positions to assist in assuring the community every student will be fully prepared for the work-force, community colleges or higher learning, upon graduation.

School Districts 2 & 17/First Steps & Success by Six/County/Chamber/Merchants Association/USC-Sumter/Morris College/Legislative Delegation/Central Carolina Technical College/Workforce Development Investment Board/Career Center/Adult Education/Chamber and Sumter Community

A Green Community, A Center of Recreation, Vital Public Places and; A Festive Tradition

These initiatives focuses sorely on the lifestyle amenities that can highlight the Community's distinctive Personality. Parks and recreational facilities, festivals etc. How can the Sumter Community market itself to encourage the citizens to stay and convince others to come? That was the question. The City/County/Recreational have really been busy supporting these projects/initiatives. Significant changes have occurred to enhance the quality of life for Sumter.

- Palmetto Park has been renovated with ADA standards-2003/2004
- New bike trails to include painted bike riding paths along major roads
- New tennis facilities off Alice Drive- 2004
- New Aquatic Recreation Center – 2003 Next to South Hope Center
- Added more Commercial Street and parking lot lighting – City and County
- New track/auditorium for public use- At all three (3) Hope Centers. Also; Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church offers it's Life Center to the public.
- Outdoor Family Movies offered – 2004
- Oprah House has performances almost every week, certainly enough variety to enjoy.
- Patriot Hall has added new performances
- Mary McLeod Park renovations/festival
- Roads/lighting in the County improving

For more information on any events city/or County call the Sumter Community Vision @436-2130 or 491-4910

Be proud of this Community, We've got a lot going on...A lot more to come.
