



PRESS RELEASE

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Lieutenant Governor to Visit Area Aging Facilities

COLUMBIA, S.C. - On Tuesday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 19, 2012, Lieutenant Governor Glenn McConnell will travel through the Lower Savannah Region to visit area nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior centers while on a "Face of Aging" tour of the state. The purpose of the tour is to assess existing Aging services and gather suggestions on improvements from local seniors, adults living with disabilities, families, service providers, caregivers, residents, and community leaders.

Prior to the start of the tour, Lieutenant Governor McConnell will visit Longwood Plantation before speaking to the Orangeburg Lions Club during their 7:00 PM meeting on Monday at First Baptist Church's Family Life Center. An open forum for public input has also been scheduled for the following day.

"Finding ways to make meaningful improvements to current Aging services in South Carolina is my top priority, and I don't understand how substantive change can be made without discussing some of these issues face-to-face," said Lieutenant Governor McConnell. "I want the opportunity to interact with communities across our state, hear ideas and recommendations, and address any questions that concerned citizens may have."

The forum will take place in Orangeburg on Tuesday, September 18, 2012, at the Orangeburg County Council on Aging. The event begins at 1:00 PM and is open to the public. Informative handouts will be available, and those in attendance will be able to voice concerns, if they so desire. Following the forum, Lieutenant Governor McConnell will visit several other facilities in the area.

As the state's chief advocate for our senior population, Lieutenant Governor McConnell hopes to bring the subject of aging to the forefront and involve multiple generations in discussions. "We can no longer afford to keep kicking this can to the next legislative session or beyond the next presidential election," he remarked. "Serious consequences are in store for South Carolina if we fail to act."

While every facility cannot be visited by the year's end, the goal of the Lieutenant Governor and the Office on Aging is to establish a snapshot of existing programs and services in each region so that strategies may be developed and improvements can be implemented in order to proactively prepare for the upcoming increase in South Carolina's senior population, which is projected to more than double in the next 20 years.

For more information regarding the tour, visit www.aging.sc.gov/tour or contact Hank Page at (803) 734-2080.

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