# Heritage Fair waits for permanent home

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THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Organizers of the South Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair are still waiting to hear from county officials about having a permanent presence at the Golden Corner Commerce Park.

Tim Donald, president of the Heritage Fair's board of directors, said Monday that the group is only sure of being at the Commerce Park this year and next.

"We have a two-year contract," Donald said. "After that, we don't know what they have to offer us."

Seamon Whiteside & Associates, a South Carolina company that specializes in landscape architecture and civil engineering, recently produced two conceptual plans for the Commerce Park on Highway 59 in Fair Play that includes space for the Heritage Fair.

County Administrator Scott Moulder said Monday that the county wants to get public input before deciding on one master-plan model for the Commerce Park.

Moulder said that as far as he's concerned, the Heritage Fair could stay at the Commerce Park until the county starts preparing it for industrial development, which he said could be a few more years.

Once the master plan is decided on, Moulder said the county would have to identify funding for engineering.

In the meantime, Donald said organizers have already scheduled this year's Heritage Fair for Oct. 2 through 6.

"It'll be bigger," Donald predicted. "Our Midway rides will be double the size of last year."

Donald said that the "Steak of Oconee" event featuring a dinner with all locally grown food will sit 300 this year instead of the 230 plates served in 2011.

Last year's third annual Heritage Fair attracted in excess of 11,000 spectators during the four-day event.

Donald said the fair used about 14 acres at the Commerce Park last year. He sees the event growing bigger.

"Before long we'll take up 40 acres," Donald said. "We'd be grateful for anything they give us."

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**Organizers of the S.C. Foothills Heritage Fair expect the event to continue to grow. Fair officials would like a permanent home at the Golden Corner Commerce Park in Fair Play.**