

# Unified chamber already benefiting local community

BY STEPHANIE JADRNICEK  
THE JOURNAL

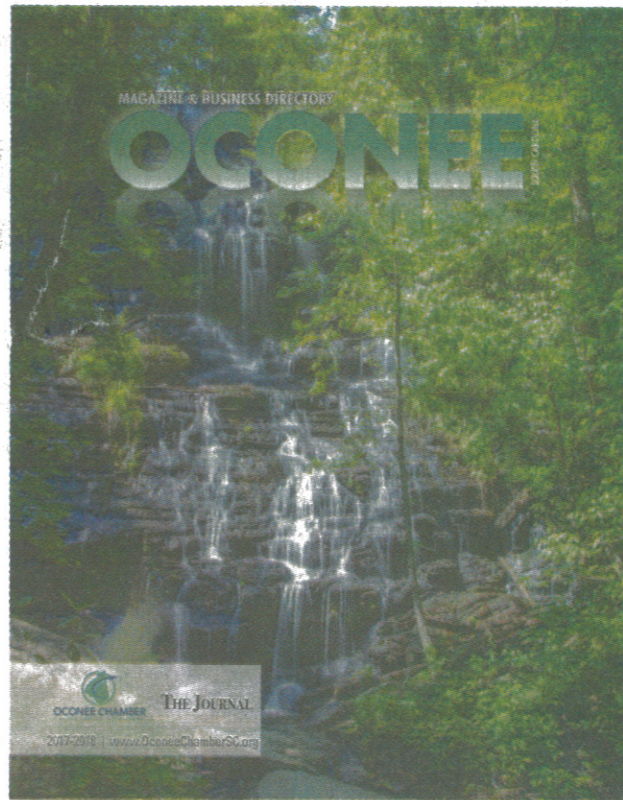
SENECA — The Oconee County Chamber of Commerce is alive and well. In August, the chamber of commerce boards for Oconee County and the cities of Walhalla and Westminster voted to move forward with forming a new countywide chamber.

With the tag line “advocating business, cultivating community,” the mission of the chamber is to promote continued economic growth and social opportunities for Oconee County.

“The creation of a unified Oconee County Chamber of Commerce has served to unite the business community instead of testing its loyalty among competing chambers,” Seneca planning and development director Ed Halbig said. “It is our hope as a board that the stronger chamber can better work to provide greater advocacy for Upstate businesses.”

Chamber of Commerce executive director Vanessa Penton said the chamber provides an

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The Oconee County Chamber of Commerce magazine and business directory is included in this edition of The Journal for subscribers. Non-subscribers may pick up a copy at The Journal office or at the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce.

## 100 YEARS: ‘We’re honored to be a part of the Oconee County community’

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pastors, will be among the speakers at the service in which a large number of former members are expected to attend. During the sanctuary celebration, a baptism for the grandchild of a church member who moved to the area following retirement will be held.

Rev. Morris said planning the anniversary celebration of the sanctuary has been an eye opening experience.

“It’s been fascinating for me to get reacquainted with the history of the church and the many key leaders in Seneca who have been members over the years,” she said. One of the things Seneca

Presbyterian Church has long been known for is its willingness to venture out beyond its sanctuary walls and work within the community. The Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund, which began in 1981 as a cooperative mission of the Presbyterian USA churches in the county, is housed in the chapter house across the street.

Through the years, the 501(c)(3) non-profit has provided medical assistance to people when it comes to their utility bills, rent, food, medical, gasoline and kerosene.

“Our members are involved with Our Daily Rest, Our Daily Bread, Golden Corner Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity

and Ripple of One will be moving their offices here,” Rev. Morris said. “We’re honored to be a part of the Oconee County community and look

forward to continuing to serve the community in the future.”

goliver@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6687  
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