



5 menu items to start Fall for Greenville

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As the City of Spartanburg continues to see economic development, leaders are planning to update the city's zoning regulations. KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Bakker, Tammy Faye built a Carolina empire

Joyce Orlando and Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Jim Bakker, who built a multi-million-dollar evangelical broadcasting empire out of the Carolinas, has died at age 86.

Bakker was a longtime televangelist who built a broadcasting empire out of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a Christian theme park in South Carolina before falling from grace amid sex and financial scandals. His death was announced by his wife, Lori Bakker, via Instagram on Monday, Oct. 5.

Before his fall, Jim Bakker rose to national prominence as a pioneer of Christian television alongside his then-wife Tammy Faye. The couple, who met at North Central Bible College in Minneapolis and married in 1961, built a television empire known as “The PTL (Praise the Lord) Club” just south of Charlotte at their complex during the 1980s and 1990s and also ran a theme park and hotel just over the state line in South Carolina.

Lori Bakker did not disclose where or how Jim Bakker died in her social media post about his death.

Jim Bakker founded the PTL organization, also known as “Praise The Lord” or “People That Love,” in 1974. Through PTL and its television programs, the couple became household names and among the most recognizable figures in evangelical media.

The now-defunct Christian-based Heritage USA theme park and hotel used to draw visitors from along the East Coast and across the nation to Fort Mill, South Carolina, during Jim Bakker and Tammy Faye’s height of popularity in the 1980s.

Originally opened in 1978, the park sat on the edge of South Carolina, not far from the North Carolina border and the Bakkers’ sprawling compound south of Charlotte. According to a 1986 Washington Post article, it was a “place somewhere between the Land of Oz and a strait-laced Club Med.”

And it was popular too. At the height of its popularity, Heritage USA had around 4.9 million people visit annually, making it the country’s third-largest theme park behind

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‘We want to be transparent’

Spartanburg weighs zoning changes, more development options

Baker Maultsby
Spartanburg Herald-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

City of Spartanburg residents could see more mixed-use developments along commercial corridors and additional housing options in neighborhoods as a result of an overhaul of current zoning regulations.

Spartanburg’s zoning ordinance is several decades old, and “certain things need to be refreshed as times have changed,” said Mayor Jerome Rice.

To that end, the city will be hosting two sessions this week to gather input from the community.

An additional session will take place on Oct. 8, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center.

“We want to be transparent, and we want citizens to be able to share their opinion about what we’re doing,” Rice said.

Updating the zoning ordinance is an extension of the city’s adoption of a new comprehensive plan in 2023, said communications manager Christopher

George.

He explained that in recent years the city has worked to promote the growth of mixed-use spaces – moving away from rules that enforce the rigid separation of types of properties and allowing for residential units, restaurants, retail shops and offices to exist in the same neighborhood or development.

Traditional zoning determines where commercial or industrial development can be located and where residential properties are situated. For the most part, there’s little blurring of the lines: a shopping center can go *here*, but not over *there* where people live.

And within residential neighborhoods, zoning regulations may prohibit the development of, duplexes near single-family dwellings.

Increasingly, cities have found that many people like things to be more mixed.

The City of Spartanburg has allowed for some flexibility on a case-by-case basis by using a tool called the Planned Development District, George said.

According to George, the city used the Planned Development District strategy to permit the construction of townhomes on Florida Avenue, in a residential neighborhood near the Spartanburg Medical Center.

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Extra money set to hit some SC Medicare accounts

Joyce Orlando
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

President Donald Trump announced that millions of seniors in South Carolina and the United States will receive “nearly \$100” if they are on a certain Medicare plan.

In the president’s latest efforts to give some sort of cash to Americans, after more than a year of talking about possible refund checks, he has offered nearly \$100 to about 20 million seniors enrolled in certain Medicare plans. Before this, Trump issued a \$500 refund to people with health plans through the Affordable Care Act as a “refund” after claiming that people were overcharged under former President Joe Biden’s administration.

The money is being diverted from a \$2 billion Medicare Improvement Fund. Congress created it in 2008 to improve Medicare services.

“My Administration will, immediately, begin sending ‘Checks’ of nearly \$100 to over 20 MILLION wonderful Seniors to help pay for their Medicare Part B premiums,” Trump wrote in a late-night announcement on his social media website Truth Social. “This money will come from the Medicare Improvement Fund, a pointless ‘Slush Fund’ that has only been used by Democrats in Congress to pay for the Waste, Fraud, and Abuse.”

Here’s which South Carolinians will receive a check and how to get it.

Who is eligible for the Trump Medicare checks?

Most South Carolina seniors enrolled

in Medicare Part B will receive the checks, according to a White House breakdown of the payments reviewed by USA TODAY.

Seniors are expected to receive around \$90. Medicare B recipients will either receive the money via direct deposit or, if they don’t have direct deposit, via check when they receive their benefits.

According to the breakdown, 499,000 people in South Carolina are set to receive the check.

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