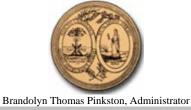


South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



July 2, 2008 Release #08-054 SCDCA Media Contact: Hugh Crofoot, 803.543.8044 1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC) Email: scdca@dca.state.sc.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA RETURNS TO SUMMERVILLE ON JULY 10, 2008

Columbia, SC... ... The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) will visit the Summerville community on Thursday, July 10, 2008, to handle consumer complaints and questions. SCDCA staff will pay a visit to Dorchester County Council Chambers located at 500 North Main Street in Summerville, SC 29306. Consumers may come with questions or complaints regarding a business between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Individuals are encouraged to bring documentation with them.

Mr. Crofoot will also have additional materials available explaining the limitations of debt collectors and how to avoid deceptive practices. With consumer debt being at an all time high, debt collectors are targeting more and more consumers across the country. South Carolina is no exception. "Month after month, year after year, debt collection ranks in the top three types of complaints that the Department receives," said Donna DeMichael, SCDCA Director of Consumer Services.

The Department will continue to visit the Summerville community on a regular basis. Locations will be announced monthly. The Department services the entire state via telephone and online help. Specific questions and concerns from the Summerville community may be addressed to the Consumer Services Division Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. by calling 803.734.4200 or toll-free at 1.800.922.1594.

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education. For more information, visit <u>www.scconsumer.qov</u>. This month's visit has been made possible through a collaborative effort with the Dorchester County Council and Colin Martin, County Administrator.

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About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

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