

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Administrator

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SCDCA RETURNS TO LAURENS ON DECEMBER 18, 2008

**Columbia, SC...** ...The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) will visit the Laurens community on Thursday, December 18, 2008, to handle consumer complaints and questions. Regional SCDCA outreach coordinator Patty Guthrie will pay a visit to the general conference room at the Laurens County Public Library located at 1017 West Main Street, Laurens, SC 29360. 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.

Outreach Coordinator Patty Guthrie will have additional materials available on holiday scams. During this busy shopping season, the Department has received many reports of gift card scams, secret shopper scams, and other fraudulent activity. "With all the shopping going on this time of year, scammers are particularly active in trying to gain bank account information or steal a few thousand dollars. Consumers should be especially cautious this time of year, especially given the current economy," said Ms. Guthrie.

The Department will continue to visit the Laurens 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 Laurens community may be addressed to Patty Guthrie. Appointments are available upon request. Ms. Guthrie may be reached at 864.490.3267.

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#### About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

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 [www.sconsumer.gov](http://www.sconsumer.gov).

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This month's visit has been made possible through a collaborative effort with the Laurens County Public Library and Laurens County Administrator Ernest Segars.

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