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### Scenic News:

Scenic Comal County [launches new Facebook page...](#)

*Savannah Morning News* op-ed: Do we [want to see](#) more digital billboards?...

Palm Beach Post [digs into how](#) the South Florida Water District got into the billboard business, and Carl Hiassen calls the whole thing a [sign of the sleazy times](#)...but in the end the Water District [drops the plan](#) due to public opposition...

Move afoot [to remove billboards](#) in Manteca, CA...

Gulfport, MS [supports U.S. 90](#) for a Scenic Byway designation...

National Park Services [seeks input](#) on favorite river views...

## Court sets precedent in upholding N.J. township's billboard ban

Mount Laurel Township's years-long effort to preserve community character and improve traffic safety by banning the construction of billboards [has paid off](#) with a recent vindication from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit.

The Court dismissed an appeal by Interstate Outdoor Advertising to reverse a September 2011 decision in U.S. District Court in New Jersey by Judge Robert Kugler, who ruled in Mount Laurel's favor.



The entire 3rd Circuit is impacted by the case, which **set a precedent in the U.S. Court of Appeals.**

"Towns have constitutional authority, under the First Amendment, to prohibit billboards within their borders, if an ordinance is based on traffic safety and aesthetic concerns," said attorney Christopher Norman, who represented Mount Laurel.

"We're very pleased with the decision," Mayor Linda Bobo said. "Mount Laurel is a billboard-free town, and we're happy to stay that way."

## Hilton Head passes halfway mark of 15-year project to underground wires

One of the most inspiring and forward-looking municipal improvement projects in the country is currently underway in the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, where crews are more than halfway through a 15-year project to put overhead power lines underground.

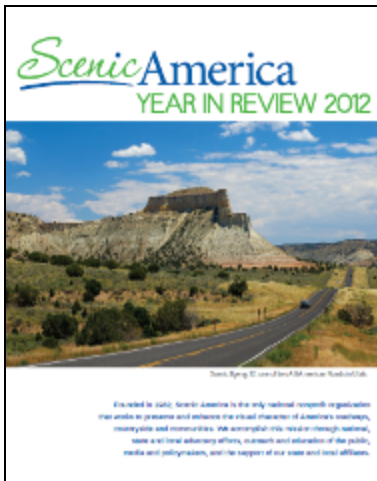


*Your tax-deductible contribution will support our unique and vital mission to protect the scenic qualities of America's roadways, countryside and communities.*

### Sign our petition:

Speak up for Lady Bird and the Highway Beautification Act by [signing our petition](#) to the Obama Administration.

### Download our 2012 Year in Review:



***This Space Available in New York City March 15 (click for details):***

The work began in 2004 after the Town passed an ordinance requiring the conversion of all overhead power lines to underground.



Hilton Head's goal is to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors, increase the reliability of electric service, and boost the local economy by improving the aesthetics of an island that receives more than 2 million visitors annually.

According to spokesman Marc Torin the project is right on time and right on budget. The Town is even giving away the old wooden poles to residents...provided they have the means to come pick them up!

[Click here](#) to learn more and see before/after photos.

### Knox County, Tennessee passes ban on digital billboards

Commissioners in Knox County, Tenn. have [voted to ban](#) new digital billboards within the County's borders.

The vote came after the second and final reading of the resolution and affirmed their earlier vote in favor of the ban, which also prohibits conversions of static boards to digital.



[Scenic Knoxville](#) was a driving force behind the ban and organized support from throughout the county.

"This never would have happened without all those who emailed, called or attended the meetings," said Joyce Feld, president of Scenic Knoxville. "42 community and neighborhood organizations endorsed the ban. Dozens of people turned out to speak at public forums and almost 1000 emails were sent in support of this resolution."

### Clear Channel vows sign removal will cost L.A. taxpayers over \$100 million

Clear Channel Outdoor is fighting a court order to turn off its digital billboards in Los Angeles, [threatening to hand](#) the city's taxpayers a bill of



"substantially" more than \$100 million if the signs go dark.

Clear Channel put up dozens of digital billboards all over Los Angeles after a clandestine settlement with city officials in 2006. A court later declared the settlement invalid and called it "poisonous."

The 2nd District Court of Appeals recently upheld the lower court's decision and ordered that the permits for the digital billboards be revoked. But Sara Lee Keller, Clear Channel's lawyer, warned that if the council makes the company turn off the signs, "it would be exposed to liability to Clear Channel for the signs' fair market value."

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