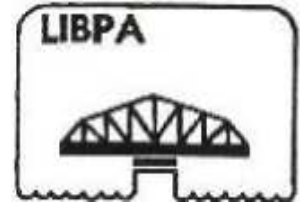


IBPA



LADY'S ISLAND BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

LIBPA Website: www.libpa.org

MARCH 2010

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Day Light Savings
March 14th

GUEST SPEAKER FOR MARCH

Colonel John R. Snider
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina



Colonel Snider assumed command of the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort in July 2008. Prior to his present assignment, his service included participation in combat operations in Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and Iraq. As a pilot he has completed more than 4,400 tactical flight hours while serving in flying assignments in the A6 Intruder, TA-4 Skyhawk and the F/A- 18 Hornet. Other assignments include commanding Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 and duty as Deputy Director/Chief of Staff of the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization.

Colonel Snider is a graduate of Washington State University and holds a Masters of Science degree in national security strategy from the National War College and a second Masters degree in military studies from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Bronze numeral 6, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars and combat distinguishing device.

He has been requested to include the following points of interest in his discussion with our members.

- The role and mission of MCAS as part of the Marine Corps.
- The role of MCAS as part of the Beaufort Community.
- The status of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter programs.
- Impact of the F-35B on MCAS Beaufort.
- Impact of the F-35B on the surrounding community.
- Thoughts on MCAS Beaufort and the next round of base closures.



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 8 AM
Sea Island Conference Center

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Open to the public.

MEET THE NEW LIBPA BOARD MEMBERS

We are privileged to have 3 new members join the Lady's Island Business and Professional Association 2010 Board of Directors:

Wendy Nilsen Pollitzer will replace Kim Harding as the individual in charge of LIBPA publicity. Wendy is the new lead writer for The Island News. She is the author of two books of the Images of America series. Her first book was Isle of Palms which was followed by Port Royal. Prior to assuming the role of lead writer for The Island News she was the interpretive manager at Hunting Island State Park.

Jim Rowan will replace Rich Tritschler as Vice President. Jim is a Civil Engineer and Vice President of Fraser Construction Company. He has over 35 years of experience in program/project/construction management services and is a past president of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA),

Mari-Ann Taylor will replace Cathy Crocker as Secretary. Mari-Ann and her husband Larry own and operate COMPACT 2 Technologies which provides custom web site design.

To Kim Harding, Rich Tritschler and Cathy Crocker a special thank you for your contribution to LIBPA and Lady's Island. To Wendy, Jim and Mari-Ann thank you for being willing to support our organization and our community as a member of the LIBPA Board of Directors.

NEW NAME, SAME CHALLENGES

By Robert McFee, PE

Division Director, Engineering and Infrastructure

The former Public Services and Land Management Department transitioned into the Public Facilities and Infrastructure Department and today is called the Engineering and Infrastructure Division of Beaufort County Government. The changes that went along with the new titles were part of an effort to improve the way in which Beaufort County supports its residents. For the last decade Beaufort County has been the fastest growing county in South Carolina and to manage public services and infrastructure in such a way as to keep up with this growth is no small task. A comedian on television has made the term "Get It Done" popular and that is exactly what we in the Engineering and Infrastructure Division are attempting to do. Following is an overview of how we are organized and a quick look at some of the projects we will be pursuing in 2010.

Traffic Engineering – This department, led by Colin Kinton, is constantly working to determine not only where our traffic problems are today but where they are most likely to occur in the future. Once a roadway is identified as a potential traffic problem the search for possible solutions is initiated. A little known fact is that this department manages and maintains all the traffic signals for Beaufort County. A good example of how this translates into improvement for our local traffic is the current project to network and upgrade the traffic signals along Ribault Road and Boundary Street. Once completed this co-operative effort with the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Beaufort will increase the efficiency of these signals and

reduce the stress on this critical roadway network.

Public Works – Eddie Bellamy leads this department which includes the Storm Water Utility as well as Solid Waste. In regard to solid waste, we are well aware that the decision to recommend elimination of the Lady's Island Convenience Center, while we search for an alternate site closer to the center of the island, was unpopular. We all understand these are tough financial times requiring difficult decisions – the closing of the Lady's Island Convenience Center was one of those decisions. As an internal matter 2010 will see this department initiate a computerized work order system which will aid in scheduling work requests, provide cost tracking, measure productivity and equipment usage. This data will allow us to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of the County work force engaged in all aspects of Public Works and Facilities Maintenance.

The Beaufort County Stormwater Utility, administered by Dan Ahern, is looking forward to an exciting and challenging year. With the recent passage of an ordinance providing for the on-site use of rain water in new developments, our utility has taken the lead nationally on stormwater. In the next year the stormwater Management Manual will be updated with the latest tools and guidance for engineers to use on development in Beaufort County and we will continue to work on updated stormwater guidelines for developments that have been approved but are not yet

built. In addition, Beaufort County is developing a pilot demonstration project for the County complex to retrofit the centers stormwater system to show how modern stormwater practices can be integrated into existing sites. The simple truth is that none of us has all of the answers as to how to best protect our waters in Beaufort County but please know that no one is trying harder to find those answers.

Engineering – One of the busiest departments in the division, led by Bob Klink, is our Engineering team. In addition to their regular duties 2010 will see this section designing the county's 42nd dirt road paving contract and overseeing the construction of the new Disabilities and Special Needs building at the corner of Castle Rock and Grober Hill Road. This section will continue construction oversight of the SC 802 bridge and roadway projects as well as the design oversight for the remaining 1% sales tax projects, including the Boundary Street improvements.

A good example of the professional manner in which this department operates is the speed with which they oversaw the design and contracting for the new bridge and widening of Lady's Island Drive. Also, the study of the desirability and feasibility of a northern bypass for Lady's Island has already been completed and is moving into the environmental evaluation phase.

Airports - Beaufort County has 2 airports, one general aviation facility on Lady's Island and a commercial airport on Hilton Head both which operate under Airports' Director Paul Andres. Last year over 70,000 take-offs and landings were made at these facilities as well as almost 100 stand-by and medi-vac operations. The tree removal projects are underway at both airports and this year will also see the completion of the FAA required Master Plans for both facilities.

Our Division fully understands that as a result of the downturn in the economy we have a break in the pressure on our infrastructure. We also are aware that this pause is temporary. So during this time we are focusing on what we need to accomplish to be better prepared when the economy turns around. Hopefully, together, as a county, we will be ready for the next round of growth.

Editor's Note: Mr. McFee is a resident of Lady's Island and former member of the LIBPA Board of Directors. Prior to assuming his present position as Director of the Beaufort County Engineering and Infrastructure Division he was the SCDOT Residence Maintenance Engineer for Beaufort County.

2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you are one of the majority of our members who has responded to the January request for submission of annual dues – thank you. If the invoice is still in your "to do" basket please take the time to fill it out and return it long with your \$45 annual dues. If you have lost the invoice just use the new membership application on the back of the monthly newsletter to note any changes desired in your membership. During March, to those we have not heard from, we will send out a second notice. If you are unsure of your status as to payment of 2010 dues please give Judy Smith a call at 522-0066. We try very hard to attract new members but retaining our present membership is the key to a strong organization such as LIBPA.

LADY'S ISLAND BUSINESS PICTURE IN 2009

The annual review of business license issued for Lady's Island shows that although there are about the same number of businesses on the island there has been significant changes in types of businesses and the amount of money they are making. The data indicates that professional, health and business services continue to be attracted to Lady's Island and once established here do well. The demise of the local housing construction industry can be seen by the 30% drop in the number of contractors and the \$10 million decrease in revenue from the previous year. In that same respect, it should come as no surprise there were fewer realtor licenses issued in 2009 and the revenue from real estate saw a \$2 million reduction from the previous year. Following is a statistical review of the last 4 years of business licenses issued on Lady's Island and the amount of gross revenue reported.

Business Type	Number Business Licenses Issued				Gross Revenue (Millions)			
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
Professional Services	77	74	84	77	18.2	17.4	20.1	19.7
Business Services	63	66	69	63	8.4	6.6	8.5	13.5
Contractor (All Types)	125	139	141	98	64.0	68.9	51.3	41.5
Eating/Drinking Places	19	21	17	15	7.4	7.5	7.8	7.2
Hardware/Garden Supply	4	3	4	3	6.5	4.2	7.7	7.6
Food/Convenience Store	5	5	6	14	10.4	13.9	12.1	27.1
Health Services	13	27	29	26	7.7	14.4	9.8	14.8
Insurance	3	6	4	3	2.5	2.2	0.5	0.6
Miscellaneous Retail	28	49	46	69	4.9	16.9	28.6	12.1
Real Estate	38	24	43	35	13.3	8.8	7.1	5.1
All Others	89	181	91	133	40.4	34.0	13.1	13.9
Total	473	595	538	536	182.9	176.1	167.4	163.2

At the end of the year the number of businesses on the island did not vary significantly from the previous year. Although there was a significant jump in the number of miscellaneous retail business licenses issued there was a drastic drop in gross revenue reported for the same category. Over all, on Lady's Island, the amount of revenue generated by businesses dropped (\$4 million) in 2009 as compared to the previous year. When you consider that the combined one year decline in the home building and real estate industry was \$12 million and the island only suffer a \$4 million overall reduction – it certainly could be worst. Having said that, when you ride around the island and see the large volume of commercial real estate on the market there is no reason for cheering. There is no question that we are going through a period in which our business community is in the process of reinventing itself and that process is very painful.

Editor's Note: A special thank you is extended to Ms. Edra Stephens, Director of the Beaufort County Business License Department for her courtesy in compiling and sharing the data set forth in the article.

THE WAY IT SHOULD BE DONE!

Once the 1% sales tax referendum was passed the Beaufort County Engineering Department wasted no time in hiring the Dennis Corporation to oversee the design and construction of the designated projects. Some of the first projects to reach the "shovel ready" status were the widening of Lady's Island Drive and construction of another bridge parallel to the McTeer Bridge. The companies contracted to do the actual work on these projects (United Contractors for the bridge and Sanders Brothers for the road widening) have demonstrated the true meaning of professionals. The widening of Lady's Island Drive is expected to be completed (except for a tie-in to the new bridge) by the beginning of this summer and the bridge by the end of 2011.

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION CALENDAR

This year the residents of Lady's Island will have an opportunity to vote for their representatives to the Beaufort County School Board, County Council (District 7), State Representative (District 124), Congressional Representative and Senator. Following is a list of key dates.

March 16 -30	Filing open for party and convention candidates.
April 9	Political parties certify candidates.
May 8	Last day to register to vote in primary election.
June 8	Primary Election Day
June 22	Primary run-off (if required)
July 15	Last day for submission of petitions in support of petition candidates.
August 16	Last day to file for nonpartisan offices.
October 2	Last day to register to vote in General Election.
November 2	General Election Day

The Lady's Island Business and Professional Association will invite candidates to share their opinions regarding the issues through articles in our newsletter and participation in LIBPA sponsored forums.

SCE&G TO UPGRADE TRANSMISSION LINES ON LADY'S ISLAND.

A good number of years ago it became obvious that growth in the Beaufort, Port Royal and Lady's Island area was going to exceed the existing SCE&G electrical infrastructure. To avoid a future crisis, a long range plan was developed to increase the maximum capacity of the existing transmission lines from 46,000 volts to 115,000 volts installed in a loop circling the communities. In the spring SCE&G will start another phase of this project with an upgrade of the transmission lines from the substation off of Ribaut Road in the City of Beaufort to the substation on Sams Point Road. Included in this project is an upgrade of the lines from the vicinity of Colony Gardens up Brickyard Point Road to the substation on Sams Point Road. The upgrade includes replacing the wooden transmission structures with taller galvanized steel structures. When completed (6 to 9 months) the project will provide additional electricity to Port Royal and Lady's Island, increase the reliability of service and provide a backup power source to the existing facilities that serve Lady's Island.

Welcome new member:

Troy Davenport Sr. with Liberty Tax Service

LESS TRAVELED SOUTH CAROLINA SWING BRIDGE REPLACED

By Rick Butler, LIBPA Transportation Representative



One of the more unique bridge replacement projects over the

Intra Coastal Waterway has just been completed in Charleston County. This is the Ben Sawyer Bridge which connects Mt. Pleasant and Sullivan's Island and was made notorious by being lifted off its pedestal and tilted into the ICW by Hurricane Hugo in 1989. This 65 year old bridge, a near twin forerunner of our Lady's Island Swing Bridge, has just been completely replaced –with almost an exact brand new copy of the old bridge, and it was all funded by Federal Highway Administration money –not a penny of local taxpayer money.

Why would you recreate a slow swing bridge instead of a faster modern one, or a high fixed span? Well, certainly for one reason, and perhaps for two. The certain reason is that the residents of Sullivan's Island, fought to retain their "quaint" swing bridge, and won. The other "just perhaps" reason was provided by the powerful state Transportation Secretary, H.B. (Buck) Limehouse, who said "This project is of particular interest to me since I worked during my summer vacations while a cadet at the Citadel. One of my jobs was to

serve as a relief bridge operator."

The just completed \$32.5 million Ben Sawyer replacement involved a complete new swing span nearly identical to the old one, rebuilt approaches, new wiring, slightly wider road lanes and a 5-foot wide bike and pedestrian walkway.

Since the Ben Sawyer Bridge was built to the same design as our own swing bridge, but 12 years earlier, it is instructive to consider why it needed urgent replacement after 65 years of service. According to a SCDOT survey two years ago "Inspection uncovered significant deterioration of stringers and floor beams." Can we expect the same verdict on our bridge in 10 years, requiring some kind of replacement in 12 years?

Of perhaps greater local interest is the question of whether we might just replace our swing bridge with a new copy. That question cannot be answered without considering one stark reality. Sullivan's Island has a stable total summer population of merely 2,000

residents, fewer in winter. They also have a new high fixed bridge, the Isle of Palms Connector, just 3 miles distant. We also have a new high fixed bridge about the same distance away, but our bridges must serve over 10 times the population of Sullivan's Island and a growing population at that. When their bridge opens, perhaps a dozen or two cars get backed up...when ours opens, nearly a mile of traffic on both sides gets jammed up.

A final intriguing question revolves around funding. Why do we have to buy our new bridges with our own penny sales tax money, when at the exact same time the residents of Sullivan's Island can get a brand new bridge completely paid for by federal money, not a cent of their own?

One answer is STIP. The State-wide Transportation Improvement Program is a "six year program for all projects or programs receiving federal funding, including bridge replacement..." It is a priority list, and is updated every three years. And no, the Lady's Island Swing Bridge (Woods Memo-

rial Bridge locally) does not appear anywhere on it.

Another answer to the challenge of obtaining a "fair share" of federal funding might be that our Congressional representative, along with our state and local political leaders, needs to learn how to get more effective at this game of divvying up federal highway project money. In just the past 15 years, Charleston County has had FOUR new bridges over the ICW built, and another nearby high bridge over the Stono River, all at the same time the most expensive bridge in state history was being built over their harbor. This is not to imply that our elected representatives are not trying to obtain federal dollars. They are trying and in some cases have been successful. Just not as successful as those in Charleston County.



LADY'S ISLAND –ST. HELENA FIRE DISTRICT 2009 REPORT

By Chief Bruce Kline & Captain Will Vaigneur



During 2009 the fire fighters of Lady's Island-St. Helena Fire District responded to 1,869 calls for service or an average of 5 calls each day. We are happy to report that this represents a decrease of 27 calls from 2008. The average time elapsed from the time the call for service was received until a fire truck arrived at the address in question was **5 minutes and 9 seconds**. The response breakdown for 2009 was 410 fire related responses, 1033 medical emergency, 165 motor vehicle accidents, and 261 miscellaneous responses. Property values involved in fire, total value exposed \$3,444,480 with a loss to fire of \$548,800 and the value saved was \$2,895,680.

2009 was a year of stability for the District in that our staff was stable and there were no changes to our apparatus fleet. A sign of the high morale within our Fire District is the fact that we have not added any new firefighters to our staff since 2005. We are very aware that these are challenging financial times and we continue to work very hard at maintaining the highest level of service to you at a reasonable cost. This current fiscal year the cost of fire protection for a home on Lady's Island, with a value of \$200,000, was \$255.12. This is one of the lowest costs for fire protection in Beaufort County. When you compare the cost of

other types of services, amenities, and utilities - \$255.12 per year for fire protection is a bargain.

Members of the Lady's Island – St. Helena Fire District have attempted to make an impact on the local level as well as the state level of the fire service in 2009. For example, we have instructors that have developed programs requested throughout the state. In this past year, Fire Marshal Scott Baldwin, because of his success in the classroom, was requested to teach fire codes in Saudi Arabia. Our department is now making an impact on an international level.

Our primary goal is to make a difference in our community. We make every effort to do this on each and every call to which we respond.

We believe the Lady's Island – St. Helena Fire District has some of the best firefighters in the county, state, or nation protecting your businesses, homes, and families. We hope you agree. Please know that we are committed to providing you the highest level of service possible. If we can help you in any way do not hesitate to give us a call (525-7692).

TOO GOOD TO NOT SHARE!

Editor's Note: The following comments came in the form of an e-mail reply from Mr. Kelley D. Carey, AICP, PE, JD to an individual who had shared with him his frustration regarding a school district situation (overcrowding of facilities and budgetary problems) in one of the western states and the school board's response. Mr. Carey is a well known educational consultant and has performed evaluations of the Beaufort County School District in regard to facilities and capacity. His response read as follows:

"Poor decision making in public education is not a localized problem, and we cannot blame administrators or individual board members for the situation that you use as an example. In about thirty five years of consulting planning with school districts nationally, I see this same lack of wise leadership and involved citizenship in so many places.

What I have concluded is that the problems spring from two main directions: a) schools churn out educators that are trained to try new things more than to figure out why what is being done has not worked. Had they looked a bit closer, the problems may have been sourced in educational experimentation and stop gap survival decision making, instead of requiring consistent, tested and proven programs, and b) the widespread loss of parental involvement in educating their children--beginning at home.

The public wants to purchase education for their kids, like they would buy a TV movie, and put other pursuits higher on their agenda than monitoring kids' homework and supporting school functions that depend upon parents and teachers coming together. If my kid is not doing well he must need a pill (never mind the junk food I feed him to leave me alone that perhaps made him obese and dysfunctional) Too bad we cannot make parents go to the poll to vote out ineffective leaders or make them learn parenting. Kings can abdicate, but parents cannot, or we are lost.

Add to this the steady loss of plain working folks on school boards due

to the unbelievable rise in the time required to attend many pointless meetings to address trivia that ought to be the employees' jobs to handle. I can recall when the local heating and air guy, the local doctor, and other people with plenty to do, set aside time to be on a school board. They had no axe to grind and no political aspirations and no need for a soapbox. They served for their community, all of it.

Now, everywhere I see as school board members more retired teachers with an agenda, people who even need the income, community activists, wannabe politicians, and so forth, rather than hard working plain speaking parents and citizens with no political agenda. Few board members know or honor the difference between policy (their job) and practice (the superintendent's job).

Should we blow the whole system up and escape to charter schools, religious schools, private schools and home schooling? Plenty of people are voting with their feet on that question. It will leave the poor and the idealistic in the public schools, if that is the trend.

We have somehow lost our vision of what is really important in the short lives that we lead. Planners call what we do "disjointed incrementalism" as we break our lives into little parts day by day, have very poor discrimination for prioritizing what is important, expect others to fix things, even feeling some personal entitlements, while doing nothing as a community of citizens. So, why should we expect public education to do more than feed those positions that we hold dear by how we live?

So, complain, complain, complain. But, who is doing anything beyond that? If you are a parent, then get active in

your school and start education at home. It is your job first, not the school's. The legal term "Loco Parentis" is a tragic misallocation of duty for what should be expected from a school. The school educates. The parents parent. If you are retired, then run for the school board or volunteer as a school bus driver. If you are a working person, run for the board and refuse to meet endless hours over amorphous trivia, long range goals and slogan driven education.

The first thing I look for when entering a school district office lobby is their Statement of Purpose. If it is winding, windy, foggy and nonsensical, devoid of clear thinking, I know planning is not likely going to work there. When I visit a school and the principal is locked in her office, not running around from class to class, I can tell you there are likely low test scores there. We have to stop talking the talk--parents and educators and boards.

If you don't press your school board member to act for education and press for better results, you don't deserve a representative. If you don't vote, then don't complain. If you are a politician, are you afraid to speak up and follow through with decisions that will uplift education, or is all this talk a set up for seeking higher office? If you are an activist, be heard at board meetings and hearings--about constructive ideas not just criticism. Citizens need to take education back from career bureaucrats and professors with their experiments. But, they need to honor dedicated educators who could have made more money doing something else and chaff at the political barriers and endless yammering and paper pushing that keep them from doing their best. We can make change happen. We, the people, have to change first."

CONGRATULATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE SHANNON ERICKSON

For her assignment to the legislative Small Business Task Force targets issues that will promote growth of small businesses (50 or less employees), either new or existing



THE REST OF THE STORY

Recently there was an announcement that AT&T had installed a new cell site on Lady's Island to enhance coverage along Highway 21 and SC 802. This is not a new tower only additional equipment on the Lady's Island water tower which serves as a platform for cellular transmission equipment.

JUST A REMINDER!

Therapeutic Solutions located at 1 Oakwood Drive on Sams Point Road operates the Lending Room which is a community service that provides rehabilitation equipment such as walkers, canes, crutches, shower or bathtub stools, bedside commodes and wheelchairs at no charge to those who need it.

This service is possible because of contributions of these items to the program. If you have any of these items and would like to contribute them in support of the program please drop them off at Therapeutic Solutions on Sams Point Road or call 524-2554 to arrange for them to be picked up.

A special thanks to LIBPA member Martha O'Reagan of Therapeutic Solutions for assuming a leadership role and allowing use of her office in support of this very worthwhile program.

SOME GOOD SIGNS IN REAL ESTATE INVENTORY

By Everett Ballenger, Owner/B.I.C Ballenger Realty, 2008 President Beaufort County Association of Realtors

Long has been the mantra in the Beaufort area that there is limited “affordable” housing. If there is a silver lining in the housing downturn, it is that we certainly have seen an increase in the affordability index in Beaufort County. On Feb 15 2008 there were three houses for \$100,000 or less. On Feb 15 2009 there were 59! In the very popular \$100K - \$200K range there were 244 houses for sale. A 44.3% increase! Overall inventory increased some 12.7%.

Changes in active single family homes listing for February 15, 2009 to February 15, 2010

Price Range	Beaufort		Mossy Oaks		Port Royal		Burton		Lady’s Island		Total	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb
\$0 to \$99,000	2	7	0	9	0	6	1	29	0	8	3	59
\$100,000 to \$199,999	15	35	15	31	18	39	63	88	25	51	136	244
\$200,000 to \$299,999	16	19	13	16	26	22	66	45	97	69	218	171
\$300,000 to \$399,999	14	17	8	10	7	15	34	27	42	28	105	97
\$400,000 to \$499,999	19	8	3	10	5	4	20	23	36	40	82	85
\$500,000 to \$599,999	10	3	1	3	4	1	16	24	23	24	54	55
\$600,000 to \$699,999	3	3	2	1	1	1	14	11	21	12	41	28
\$700,000 to \$799,999	1	4	0	1	2	2	8	4	16	10	27	21
\$800,000 to \$899,999	3	1	0	1	1	0	3	3	4	4	11	9
\$900,000 to \$999,999	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	3	2	9	8	13
\$1,000,000 and up	10	10	0	1	2	0	11	7	18	21	41	39
	94	108	41	83	45	90	193	241	284	283	726	831

A number of factors have contributed to the increase in affordability of residential property in Northern Beaufort County. The three plus year market “correction” has steadily brought prices down. The foreclosure issue is in the mix also. One could ask the question, if the real estate market is so slow, why would buyers put their houses on the market today?

Some obviously do not have a choice – military redeployments, changes in employment, foreclosures, short sales are all reasons folks have to put their house on the market. Then again there are always the “normal” reasons people move – downsizing, “upsizing”, moving closer to town, moving away from town, the list goes on and on. One thing sellers should bear in mind, in today’s market they may be getting a lower price than they would a few years ago, but the property they are buying, will also cost less. As seems to be the trend, Lady’s Island is leading the way with a reasonably stable real estate market. Their inventory was virtually flat in 2009. Considering the number of “no choice but to sell” listings, I feel the inventory situation is quite reasonable all things considered.

The feeling amongst most Realtors I come into contact with seems to be that we will have a better year in 2010. Inventory should be reduced and more balanced throughout most of Northern Beaufort County. For this time of year, there is a “healthy” number of pending contracts homes listed in our MLS. This could bode well for a half decent year. The only caveat to that is the \$8000 first time buyer rebate comes to an end in April – (except for some military personal) this may be having an effect on sales. No one knows for sure, how the market will react once the tax rebates come to an end.

DON’T SHOOT THE MESSENGER!

Recently negative public comments were made regarding representatives of the Codes Enforcement Section of Beaufort County. We all know they are only delivering the unpleasant news that an individual or business is in violation of county ordinances. They don’t write or interpret the ordinances nor do they establish the fine for non compliance. They do enforce the ordinances. LIBPA works hard to ensure the ordinances which affect our island are fair and in the best interest of the community.

Codes Enforcement only ensures everyone plays by the same rules. We appreciate the professional and courteous manner in which they perform a very tough job.

FUTURE GROWTH PREDICTION

There are presently 5,521 homes on the island. Although the intensity of growth in the last 10 years has diminished with the recent downturn of the economy the quality of public and private schools, the low crime rate and general quality of life available on Lady’s Island will continue to attract new residents throughout the next decade.

HAVE WE DONE ALL WE CAN TO RELIEVE SCHOOL OVERCROWDING?

If you are a family considering relocating to northern Beaufort County the quality of schools is a key factor in determining where you purchase (or rent) a home. Lady's Island has a reputation for having very high quality public and private schools. As a result of this excellent reputation two of our public schools presently have more students than facility capacity. Following is a comparison of the student enrollment on day 45 of the 2009/2010 school year in each of the public schools on Lady's Island as compared to their individual facility capacity.

<u>School</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>2008/9</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>Enrollment/Capacity</u>
Coosa Elementary	476	660	535	59 over capacity
Lady's Island Elementary	420	421	361	59 under capacity
Lady's Island Middle	897	577	750	147 under capacity
Beaufort High	1,500	1,661	1,730	230 over capacity
Total	3,293	3,319	3,376	

Coosa Elementary has a superb reputation for quality education. In an effort to reduce overcrowding the 5th grade was moved to Lady's Island Intermediate/Middle in the beginning of school year 2009/2010. Even with moving the 5th grade the school is still forced to utilize mobile classrooms to cope with an overload of students. Land in the vicinity of Springfield Road has been purchased for construction of additional elementary school in the future. However, until the economy and the real estate market really turn around student growth on Lady's Island will not be sufficient to justify construction of another elementary school. It would appear we have two choices in regard to Coosa Elementary School and its student load. Either redistrict the attendance zones to assign some students to Lady's Island Elementary or acknowledge that for the foreseeable future we will attempt to cope with the situation through use of mobile classrooms.

Lady's Island Elementary is a school of choice to which parents can elect to send their children (space permitting) to take advantage of the "arts infused" curriculum offered to LIES students. Over half of its students attend "by choice" of the parents. It has a great reputation and the facility capacity to absorb the excess students presently attending Coosa Elementary.

Lady's Island Intermediate/ Middle School has excess capacity at the present time. It also has a team of teachers and administrators literally instilling excellence in every aspect of the school. As the word gets out, through the parent grapevine, about the quality of education available at Lady's Island Intermediate/Middle School the excess capacity will disappear.

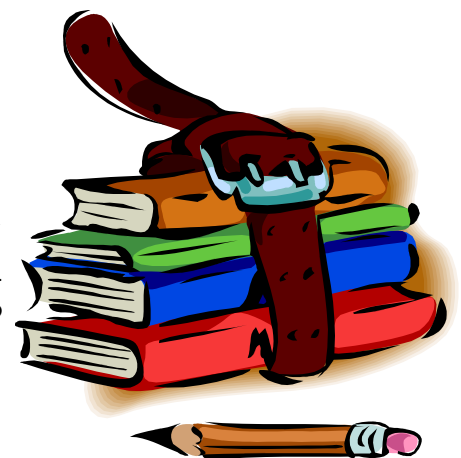
Beaufort High School. The big news is that the School Board has approved a redistricting of the 2010/11 Beaufort High School attendance zones. Next school year those students in the City of Beaufort attendance zone will "in theory" be shifted to Battery Creek High School. However, in the spirit of fairness there are many exceptions to this new attendance zone. Examples of these exceptions include allowing rising ninth graders through those presently attending the high school to be "grandfathered" at their present schools. As a result the full impact of this change will not be realized until 2015. Some reduction in students may result from a closer look being taken by the School District at the program authorizing students to transfer from one high school attendance zone to another school.

The steps taken to date will help but overcrowding will probably still be a problem at Beaufort High School in school year 2010/2011. Remember, if nothing had been done regarding high school attendance zones there was projected (see following chart) to be 1,695 students in Beaufort High School next year.

<u>Attendance Area</u>	<u>Potential 2010 Number of High School Students</u>
City of Beaufort	178 (most will continue to attend BHS)
Town of Port Royal	124
Mossy Oaks	290
Islands	1,103
Total	1,695 (w/o City of Beaufort students – 1,517)

As can be seen from the chart even without any of the City of Beaufort students there would still be a Beaufort High School student population of around 1500 students in the 2010/2011 school year. Due to "grandfathering" most of the City of Beaufort students will continue to attend Beaufort High School so next year it will be at or near capacity – just not as bad as this year.

The question of how to best cope with the overcrowding of our schools on Lady's Island is complicated and has no easy answers. Dr. Valerie Truesdale, since taking over as Superintendent of Beaufort County School District has, with the support of the school board, led our school system through some difficult times. She has tackled the tough questions of raising money for new schools, establishing a standard school year, student uniforms, academic standards for participating in extra-curricular activities, and now redistricting attendance zones throughout the county to better utilize existing facilities. These are problem areas which have been looked at, talked about and avoided for years. We are lucky to have a leader such as Dr. Truesdale. She deserves our (and the school board's) support and patience as she leads our school district toward real improvement.



LIBPA MEMBERSHIP

As part of the annual membership drive the Lady’s Island Business and Professional Association extends a special invitation for membership to residents and businesses on Lady’s Island. You are eligible to be a member if you live on Lady’s Island, work on Lady’s Island or simply care about the future of Lady’s Island. You should consider membership if you desire to stay informed about what is happening or going to happen on our island and want to have a voice in the direction our community is going.

WHAT DOES LIBPA DO? LIBPA serves as the voice of Lady’s Island. As such, it maintains an active community information web site (www.libpa.org), publishes a monthly newsletter, conducts a monthly meeting with guest speakers of community interest and represents Lady’s Island on numerous committees and at various governmental meetings. In the past, LIBPA developed and sponsored the present zoning for Lady’s Island and currently monitors all requests for major new development.

WHAT ARE LIBPA’S PRESENT PROJECTS? To serve as community liaison for the construction of a new bridge, widening of Lady’s Island Drive and the study of a Northern Bypass. Promote development of a community park at Crystal Lake and Springfield Road. Provide assistance to existing businesses and new businesses desiring to establish a presence on Lady’s Island.

YOU CAN JOIN BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURNING IT WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE (\$45) OR JOIN THROUGH OUR WEB SITE AND WE WILL BILL YOU.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name/Company: _____

Attn: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Web Site _____

Newsletter preference: U. S. Mail E-Mail E-mail Address: _____

Type of membership: Business Residential Civic Org.

Please mail along with your membership fee of \$45 to:

LIBPA
182-D Sea Island Parkway
Lady’s Island, S. C. 29907

The Lady’s Island Business and Professional Association, organized in 1981, is a state chartered, nonprofit organization with the objective of promoting the planned, orderly development and growth of Lady’s Island. It also will sponsor such projects and events that contribute to the general welfare of the island, its residents, its businesses and its professional offices. Membership eligibility embraces businesses, professional practices, island residents and other such individuals having an interest in the welfare of Lady’s Island. Annual dues are \$45. All correspondence should be forwarded to LIBPA, 182-D Sea Island Pkwy, Lady’s Island, SC.29907. You can now join through our web site at www.LIBPA.org. Comments regarding the content of this newsletter should be forwarded to Jim Hicks at jbhicks@hargray.com.



LADY’S ISLAND BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
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