



## January 2005 Newsletter

### 2005 Board of Director's Changes:

Effective January 1, 2005 three significant changes were made to the LIBPA Board of Directors. Ken Bush, who has served as our Secretary for the last three years was elected by the membership to serve as president in 2005. Replacing Ken as secretary is Bill Cody. He and his wife Laura, reside in the Dataw community. Bill retired from the steel industry and moved here from western Pennsylvania. He is currently involved in program planning with the Clemson University Extension Senior Leadership Service. Replacing Carrol Crowther as a board member and chairman of the transportation committee is Robert McFee. Rob is the South Carolina Department of Transportation Resident Construction Engineer for Beaufort and Jasper County. He and his family live on Lady's Island. We sincerely appreciate Carrol Crowther's sharing his engineering expertise, especially during the widening of Sams Point Road. As we start another year, a special thank you is appropriate to all of the members of the board who give of their time and talents in our effort to keep Lady's Island a very special place.

### 2005 A Year of Questions for Lady's Island:

In the past, we have attempted to make predictions as to what the coming year holds in store for Lady's Island. Next year is a difficult year to make any predictions based on past trends because of one question. Will any of our local military bases be on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list? There are a great number of projects in varying stages of planning and permitting, scheduled for Lady's Island. However, the final decision regarding implementation of many of these projects will remain on hold until the base closure question is answered.

Following is the schedule of key events regarding the possible closure of bases as a result of BRAC.

**March 15** – The President nominates the members of the BRAC commission to the Senate for confirmation.

**May 16** – The Secretary of Defense forwards the official DOD recommendation of bases to be closed or realigned to the BRAC Commission.

**September 8** – The BRAC Commission forwards to the President their final recommendation of bases to be closed or realigned.

**September 23** – The President must accept or reject the BRAC recommendation in its entirety with no changes. If he accepts the recommendation, he must forward the recommendation to Congress by September 23 for their approval or rejection.

**November 7** – Congress has 45 days after it receives the recommendation from the President to either accept or reject it in its entirety. Congress may do nothing in which case, at the end of the 45th day, it becomes law and binding on the Department of Defense. Thus if everyone involved takes all of the time allowed November 7th is the latest date for a final decision to be made on the bases.

Although we will continue to hear rumors and receive official looking lists of bases via e-mail, the truth is there will not be an official list until the BRAC Commission sends the list to the President in September. If none of the local bases are on that list we can all breath a sigh of relief and start moving on with our economic life. If any of our local bases are on the official list, we could have until November to know the final answer.

Areas which are directly connected to the military presence in our community include future school facility requirements, transportation requirements to include the location of any third bridge to the island, real estate values, construction of new homes and naturally the potentially negative impact on our business community. If Beaufort County is allowed to retain its military bases, Lady's Island will continue to grow in population, attract new businesses and enjoy success by existing businesses. If the unthinkable occurs and we lose a portion of our military community, Lady's Island will survive and continue to attract new residents and businesses. However, it would not be at the same pace we presently enjoy and there would be some bumps in the economic road on the way.

*Editor's Note: LIBPA offers a special thanks to the members of the Military Enhancement Committee and their supporters, who are working very hard to insure our local military bases remain in Beaufort. All data regarding the BRAC is derived from the DOD website: ([www.defenselink.mil/brac/02faqs.htm#07](http://www.defenselink.mil/brac/02faqs.htm#07)).*

### **LIBPA Annual Oyster Roast A Success:**

The weather was perfect, the food superb and attendance by our membership great. The annual LIBPA Oyster Roast recently held at the Sheriff's Camp was deemed a success by the attendees and their guests. LIBPA members were able to enjoy a pleasant evening thanks to Pat Harvey Palmer who planned, coordinated and directed the event. Pat has organized the annual LIBPA Oyster Roast for a good number of years in the past but this was one of the better ones if not the best. Pat says, however, that she could not possibly pull this off without her husband, Jim's help. Charlie Schreiner, for years has been a very important helping hand with this event. Also, contributing to the evening was Bill Rice who brought a vat of his renowned clam chowder, and each and every one of the members who brought a covered dish. Music for the evening and a mechanical Santa was a special treat contributed by LIBPA members Ed and Kris Robertson of Music to Go Mobile DJ Services. In addition Kris did the photography for the event. A special thanks to all who made this an evening to remember.

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### **Island Notes:**

**Congratulations** to the Lady's Island Elementary School Chess Team on winning first place in the recent county chess championship. A special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hoffman for their sponsorship of the chess team.

**Congratulations** to Frederick & Frederick Architects for winning two Honor Awards in the Robert Mills Residential Design Award competition. This is the highest award presented by the American Institute of Architects' Carolina Chapter.

**Our sympathy** to Bob and Cindy Stoothoff on the tragic death of Bob's son, Dan as the result of a car accident.

**Project Status.** Thanks to LIBPA member Frank Bailey of Spectrum Graphics, the second of the "Welcome to Lady's Island" signs has been installed adjacent to the Wood's Memorial Bridge. Both of the new signs look great. The project to plant the first three medians is now in the hands of Brad Hill who will coordinate directly with the sponsors and conduct the installation of the landscaping. The maintenance of the grass in the two large medians near the intersection of Brickyard Point Road and Holly Hall Road is contributed by the landscaping company Blades.

**The "Grinch Award"** goes to the party who cut the two large piles of limbs and left them beside the sidewalk in front of the Bluff Farm community.

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### **Thanks Jan !:**

As we welcome Ken Bush as our new President, it is both fitting and appropriate that we pause and reflect on the Lady's Island Business and Professional Association's last 2 years under the leadership of Jan Malinowski. Under his quiet and understated type of leadership, LIBPA has:

- > Significantly increased membership (90 new members).
- > Successfully sponsored over 13 zoning changes.
- > Conducted 3 political candidate forums.
- > Established an active LIBPA community web site.
- > Served as community spokesman for the widening of Sams Point Road.
- > Developed the capability of delivering the monthly newsletter via e-mail.
- > Published a Lady's Island Business Pamphlet
- > Successfully sponsored the establishment of a redevelopment district.
- > Successfully sponsored the development of Crystal Lake as a future park.
- > Purchased 2 "Welcome to Lady's Island" signs.
- > Coordinated a program for the planting and maintenance of the medians on Sams Point Road.
- > Successfully promoted the DOT development of an alternative solution to a stoplight at the intersection of Brickyard Point, Holly Hall Road and Sams Point Road.
- > Successfully sponsored the inclusion of a third bridge and the widening of Lady's Island Drive in the list of projects for the 1% sales tax referendum.

As can be seen LIBPA has been both busy and successful during the two years Jan served as President. Those successes are directly attributable to his leadership and personal involvement. Thanks Jan, for your contribution and for caring for Lady's Island.

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### **Community Preservation Planning Committee Meeting:**

The Lady's Island Community Preservation Planning Committee will meet in the conference room of the Lady's Island Airport on January 10, 2005 for the purpose of considering the following request.

The Tidal Creek Fellowship Church is requesting 20 acres of land be rezoned from rural to community preservation for the purpose of allowing the construction of a church. This property is located on Brickyard Point Road directly across from the Partridge Wood's community.

This meeting is open to the public and will include an opportunity for public comment.

### New Business Follow-up:

When new businesses come to Lady's Island we always try to have a LIBPA representative visit and welcome each one to the island. In addition, we include a short article in our newsletter to let the community know who they are and what they offer. It is said by many, that the first year of a small business is the most challenging. With that in mind, here is a follow up on some of the LIBPA businesses who came to Lady's Island in the last 12 months.

**Toddle Town (The Baby Gym):** When Wendy Brooks opened Toddle Town in April she did so with the belief there was a viable market for a preschool children's program which could accelerate the development of each child's individual skills. Each session is 50 minutes in duration and includes an activity, song, free play and a story time. In the first week, 22 children were enrolled in the program. Today, they have 70 members, classes meet everyday for newborns to 5 years of age. In addition to the regular program, they now offer an infant massage class for newborns, birthday party packages and host local preschool's field trips. Wendy, a certified teacher with 13 years experience, is the primary instructor and invites parents to visit, observe a class in session and if they desire, to participate in a class with their child. For further information please call Wendy at 524-0777. Toddle Town is located in the Oakwood Shopping Center on Sams Point Road.

Last December LIBPA member, Barbara and Bob Hess opened the doors on "**Curves for Women**" in the Fairfield Business Center across from New Point. A nationally recognized fitness and weight loss franchise, Curves utilizes programs and equipment specifically designed for women. The Curves program is designed to work for women who are interested in firming and toning, losing weight or simply maintaining a good level of fitness and requires only 3 thirty minute sessions each week. Today, Curves on Lady's Island is the fitness center of choice for over 300 members. It should be noted that Curves has participated in a national food drive, conducted a local book drive that donated over 300

books to the St. Helena Early Child Center, a fund raising event for the St. Jude Hospital, a clothing drive and a Christmas toy drive. A special thanks to Barbara and Bob for being good business neighbors in the Lady's Island community. For additional information regarding Curves please call 522-8099. Windy, Barbara and Bob are great examples of the successful business men and women that have picked Lady's Island as the location for their business. We offer our congratulations to each of them for a successful first year.

### Northern Beaufort County Growth Trends:

The educational planning firm Dejong, Inc has been hired by the Beaufort County School District to determine the number of schools needed in Northern Beaufort County in the next decade. To accomplish this requires population growth projections. To provide accurate data to support these growth projections the Beaufort County Planning Department has compiled the following data based on building permits. These permits include construction of new homes and installation of manufactured homes. It is recognized that the term manufactured homes can mean different things but in this case it refers to house trailers or mobile homes. The following data is based on permits issued during the period January 1, 2000 to November 30, 2004.

	Port Royal Island	City of Beaufort	Town of Port Royal	Lady's Island	St. Helena Island	Sheldon
Manufactured	807	33	25	99	396	159
Construction	376	255	607	886	770	106
Total	1183	288	632	985	1166	265

Note: Port Royal Island refers only to the unincorporated portion of the island and includes Burton, Gray's Hill, Seabrook, Mink Point, Habersham, Polk Village, Salt Creek, Pinewood and the Broad River area. Lady's Island planning area includes Cane, Cat, Coosa and Gibbs Islands. St. Helena planning area includes Dataw, Polawana, Harbor and Fripp Islands. It should be noted that for St. Helena, 395 of the 770 new homes were constructed on Fripp Island.

A review of the above data would indicate that:

-In the last 5 years northern Beaufort County has experienced the addition of 4,519 homes.

-Of the new homes, 34 % have been manufactured homes.

-In the St. Helena area, the majority of residential construction has been in the Dataw, Harbor and Fripp communities.

-Lady's Island continues to experience the highest rate of residential construction in northern Beaufort County.

*Editor's Note: A special thanks to Ms. Teri North of the Beaufort County Planning Department for her great work in the area of compiling and interpreting statistical data. The data contained in this article is derived from information provided to DeJong, Inc. by the Beaufort County Planning Department.*

**Just Say No !!: by Jim Hicks, Lady's Island Representative to the County Planning Commission**

The new development, Cottage Walk, presently under construction on Sams Point Road just below Beaufort Academy, would appear to be an example of significant conflict between the rights of the individual developer, the common good of the community and surrounding property owners. To approve an entrance onto the recently widened Sams Point Road that abuts directly into a median and will require every vehicle desiring to go south (toward the Village Center) to make a u-turn questions logic. Also, the entrance is located extremely close to the adjoining property owner's trailer. The development is scheduled to consist of 16 homes which, in a best case scenario, would produce each day, between 80 to 160 vehicles making u-turns near the vicinity of the heavily used Holly Hall and Brickyard Point intersection. Investigation into the history of the project indicates that approval was required and received from both the County Development Review Team and the South Carolina Department of Transportation. It would appear that when writing the zoning regulations there was nothing included which specifically precluded allowing curb cuts for large residential projects which led directly into medians thus requiring u-turns on one of the most heavily used roads on Lady's Island.

LIBPA will sponsor a change to the County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance (ZDSO) that precludes similar cases in the future. However, that will not solve the traffic challenge posed by the Cottage Walk project. We will simply be closing the barn door after the horse has run away. Sometimes, you wish common sense would be allowed to prevail and in cases similar to this, you could "just say no".

*Editor's Note: Articles that provide factual information are normally provided without a byline. However, when the article sets forth opinion a byline will be provided to recognize the author.*

**The Role of Non-Public Schools in Beaufort County:**

As the School District attempts to determine the number of new schools that will be required in the next decade, a close look is required at the role presently being performed by private and Department of Defense Schools in northern Beaufort County. During the 2003/2004 school year 1,107 children of military parents attended the 3 elementary (grades PK-6) Department of Defense Schools at Laurel Bay housing complex, located near the Marine Corps Air Station. In Beaufort County, during the 2003/2004 school year 2,205 children attended private schools. Together, these 2 types of non-public schools reduced the student load on the county public schools by 3,312 students. The following chart provides the 2003/2004 enrollment in the various non-public schools located in northern Beaufort County.

Non-Public School	Location	Grade	Enrollment
Agape Christian Academy	Lobeco	K -12	111
Beaufort Academy	Lady's Island	K -12	320
Beaufort Christian School	Beaufort	K -12	80
Beaufort SDA School	Beaufort	1 - 7	10
Community Bible Christian Academy	Beaufort	K -12	209
Praise Christian Academy	Port Royal	K -12	151
St. Peter's Catholic School	Lady's Island	K -8	172
Galer Elementary School (DOD)	Laurel Bay	PK - 3	498
Elliot Elementary School (DOD)	Laurel Bay	1 - 3	256
Bolden Elementary School (DOD)	Laurel Bay	4 - 6	253
<b>Total for Northern Beaufort County</b>			<b>2,060</b>

To put into perspective the positive effect of private schools on the school district budget consider the following. If we count only the number of children attending private schools in northern Beaufort County (1053) we have the equivalent of the enrollment for 2 elementary schools (525 per school). To build 2 elementary schools of that size today would cost approximately \$24 million and \$1.6 million annually to operate. Obviously, all of the children in Beaufort County private schools are not just in elementary schools. However, the fact remains that our private schools provide a choice to parents and serve to relieve some of the pressure of growth on public schools. We, on Lady's Island, are privileged to have 2 private schools, St. Peters Catholic School and Beaufort Academy. We appreciate the significant contribution they make to our community and our county.

### **Straight Talk On Education: by Edna Crews, Deputy Superintendent of Beaufort County Schools**

In this season of change, there are tremendous opportunities and challenges in our Beaufort County School District. Our job – as a school district and as a community – is to grab the opportunities and meet the challenges to ensure a challenging, engaging and safe school district connecting each child to a successful future.

Very shortly, it will be my job to bring all that together. With Superintendent Herman Gaither retiring in coming months, I wanted to take a few moments to introduce myself beyond what you may have read in the local newspapers.

I am a native of the Lowcountry, having been born in Charleston. My first education job was as a second grade teacher in the Dorchester County School District. It has been a pleasure for me to return “home.”

I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Columbia College, a master's in education from the University of South Carolina, and I have undertaken ongoing study in educational leadership and curriculum development at USC.

My career includes:

- Classroom teacher beginning in 1970
- From 1979 to 1988, I was a teacher and then became Director of Curriculum and Staff Development for Hampton County School District One
- After that, I served with the S.C. Department of Education as a school leadership program specialist and Director of the Office of Education Design
- From 1996 until 2001, I served as Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools in North Carolina
- I joined the Beaufort County School District in late summer of 2001 as deputy superintendent, and this past summer was named by the Beaufort County Board of Education to succeed Mr. Gaither upon his retirement.

On a personal note, my mother is in Beaufort in an assisted living facility; I enjoy traveling and helping at my church, St. Helena Episcopal and I have always been a big fan of mystery writers and collecting works of local artists.

My educational philosophy is that every child can learn – not necessarily the same things at the same time or at the same pace, but each child deserves the opportunity to become successful in school and in life. I also understand that a good education system is key to economic development in a community.

My career has been devoted to that cause, and I believe it is a worthy cause. I am passionate about education because I care about children – that's both the kindergarten teacher and the superintendent in me coming out. I will work hard to improve student achievement here, but I will be asking for lots of help from lots of sources, including valued community and business organizations such as LIBPA.

Topics I look forward to addressing in future articles here – assuming this one is met with acceptance – include how we are dealing with rapid growth in enrollment and our long-range planning efforts; plans to boost student achievement and continue to narrow the so-called achievement gap; our ideas on “choice” programs at the middle and high schools; and specific strengths and needs of the Lady's Island schools.

I welcome comments and responses to this article. I can be reached by email at [ehc5332@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:ehc5332@beaufort.k12.sc.us) -- I promise to read your email and will do my best to reply! Best wishes to all the LIBPA members and readers for a happy and healthy 2005.

*Editor's Note: A very special thanks to Ms. Crews for accepting LIPA's invitation to use our newsletter as one method of communicating with the Lady's Island community.*

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### **Partnerships Are A Chamber Cornerstone: By Libby Barnes, President/CEO Beaufort Chamber of Commerce**

For several years the Greater Beaufort Chamber of Commerce and LIBPA have been building a partnership around common goals and community priorities. Both organizations have realized that working together leverages our ability to address an issue or get done what needs to be done. Our partnership is more solid today than ever, and we will create additional opportunities to work together to strengthen the business community and continue to enhance our quality of life.

The Chamber's role is to be a catalyst for actions that improve the climate for businesses of every type and size to be successful. We are an organization that convenes business, civic, government and community leaders to address key issues by getting factual information, engaging them in discussion, and identifying appropriate actions that support businesses fairly and consistently.

We do this by focusing on a limited number of strategic objectives and working with partner organizations. A few current examples include:

- Creating a joint tourism marketing partnership with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton and Beaufort County Black Chambers to market everything a visitor can experience in Beaufort County to every visitor – giving them good reason to come here, stay longer, spend more money, and tell others about their positive experiences. That means more business for more businesses here; it means more jobs, more disposable income for residents, and more accommodations taxes and hospitality fees collected (which help keep property taxes from increasing).
- Creating a workforce development initiative to support our growing healthcare sector, a large part of our region's economy that is only going to grow as our population continues to grow (along with the increase in average age). This initiative, a pre-healthcare/health sciences curriculum in middle and high schools, will improve student performance in

math and science, improve test scores, increase high school graduation rates, and prepare students for entry into any postsecondary programs they choose. This initiative has tremendous possibilities to be an anchor for the four-county economic development alliance now forming. This initiative has more than 25 partner organizations, businesses and agencies, anchored by Project Lead The Way in Clifton Park, NY.

- Supporting key policy issues at the local, state and federal levels that make sense for the Beaufort region. The Chamber, LIBPA and about 15 other organizations worked closely on the recent capital project sales tax referendum (thank you, Lady's Island residents for your support votes), and continue to work together on other projects such as the greenways plan.
- We join with partners such as the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters of Northern Beaufort County to hold Candidate Forums just ahead of election times so voters have the opportunity to listen to candidates' views on issues, helping them be informed going to the polls.
- We have partnered with Main Street Beaufort on efforts to stimulate growth of small business and on downtown economic development, and partnered with Historic Beaufort Foundation on the Verdier House visitor center.
- We are working together with each of our local jurisdictions planning departments to streamline and improve the permitting process – an important effort that will be more cost effective and efficient for both government and business owners.

These are but a few examples, and we continually look for new ways to work with other organizations to make this place the best place to do business, as well as live.

As we close this calendar year and set our strategic priorities for 2005, we look forward to welcoming Bob Stoothoff, a LIBPA and community leader, to the Chamber's Board of Directors. Bob will also serve as chair of the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee in 2005, another excellent way for LIBPA and the Chamber to continue to build a strong partnership.

Our thanks to everyone in LIBPA for making this a positive, lasting association, and best wishes for a prosperous New Year.

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#### **Development Review Team Report:**

During December the county Development Review Team (DRT) considered the following Lady's Island Projects.

**Nickle's Place.** This development consist of 20 acres located on Reeds Road off of Holly Hall Road. The developer, Mr. Steve Mitchell, is requesting to build 40 houses on the property. This project is in the preliminary review phase.

**Greenheath.** This is a previously approved (1997) planned unit development which the owner, Mr. Fred Trask, is requesting to modify in regard to design. Greenheath is presently approved to allow 314 residential units on the 98 acres directly behind Coosa Elementary School. The requested modification does not change the number of residential units. Mr. Trask indicated that he intends to limit the changes to those of a minor nature and thus not require a full revaluation of the planned unit development.

**Grace AME Church.** This was the initial presentation of the concept for this project which is to be located near the intersection of Holly Hall Road and Sams Point Road. A follow up review will be conducted in the future.

*Editor's Note: A special thanks to LIBPA member Roger Talmage for representing us at December's DRT meetings.*

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#### **Membership: by Jane Hinch**

We begin the new year with our membership consisting of 156 businesses and 66 residents for a total of 222 members. In 2004 we were privileged to join 40 new members, thanks to the support of each of you. This month we will send out the invoices for the 2005 membership dues. The retention of our existing members is just as important as gaining new members. If you have any thoughts on how we can improve our organization please let us know. Again, thank you for your support of our membership efforts and please continue to tell your friends and business associates about the benefits of being a member of LIBPA.

### **Odds and Ends:**

**Parks.** With the recent purchase of the Butler Marine property (4.36 acres), and the adjoining 4 acres combined with the generous contribution by the family of Dick Stewart of Crystal Lake's 8 acres, the future park at that site will offer 16 acres of potential recreation to the residents of Lady's Island. The lake and surrounding property provide a wide variety of potential recreational opportunities combined with the possibility of incorporating the lake into an area storm water project. Since a part of the Butler Marine property purchase agreement was that the business could stay on the property for up to 3 years, we have some time to insure that comprehensive planning is accomplished. For projects of this type, 3 years is not a long time to accomplish all that needs to be done to insure we get not just a park but a great park for the community.

**2005 Lady's Island Impact Fee Projects.** During 2005, using money borrowed against future impact fees, the county will hire a consultant to determine the best route for the bypass from Lady's Island Drive (Hwy 802) to Sea Island Parkway (Hwy 21) and design the road. This is a good investment which, once the route and design of the road is established, will allow growth in the area without the unknown factors of the bypass route. It also will allow the contract for the building of the bypass to be put out for bids in an expeditious manner. Also using impact fees another study will be conducted in 2005 regarding the feasibility/desirability of a northern bypass to include a bridge from the vicinity of the air station to Brickyard Point Road on Lady's Island. This study will be directed toward establishing the origin and destination of the travelers presently using our key roads. Hopefully, this study will answer the question of the wisdom of a northern bypass once and for all.