



June 2005 Newsletter

Island Notes:

Welcome! Jane and Harvey McCormick have relocated their law practice from Boundary Street in Beaufort to 95 Sams Point Road. They are taking one of the older homes in the Expanded Home Business District, renovating it from a residence into a modern business office. This is a win for the community and a win for the McCormicks. Jane points out that fighting traffic has become a thing of the past since their children attend Beaufort Academy, they live on Factory Creek Bluff and now their professional office is located on Sams Point Road – all within 4 miles. We welcome Jane and Harvey and wish them every success in their new location.

True Southern Hospitality! LIBPA member Howard Graham, owner of Barbara Jean's Restaurant, has a sign posted in the reception lounge of the Lady's Island Airport offering visitors free transportation to and from his restaurant. It may be good business but it is also a very welcome service to visitors flying into Lady's Island.

LIBPA Web Site Recognized. SC1way, which is an acronym for the South Carolina Information Highway, is the largest and most comprehensive directory of South Carolina information on the internet. Recently, they recognized the LIBPA web site as one of the "extra special South Carolina websites" under the "Good Ideas" category. All credit for this recognition goes to Steve Thompson, President of PC Web Services who established the web site as a contribution to the community and continues to donate his time and talent to keep it current and updated. Congratulations Steve!

Corner lot sells. The 5 acre lot at the intersection of Highway 21 and Highway 802 across from Publix has been noted in the MLS as being under contract. With an asking price of \$3 million, the odds are in favor of a large corporate type of retail store being located at the site.

Thanks Navy Federal Credit Union. Bill Knepp, Lady's Island resident and manager of the local branch of the Navy Federal Credit Union announced the successful completion of negotiations to put an ATM in the Lady's Island Shopping Center. He indicates it should be in place and available during June.

Congratulations to Bill Lacombe on his promotion to Principal of St. Peter's Catholic School. Bill was serving as the religious education director at the time of his selection as principal. We look forward to working with him and wish him every success in his new position.

Happy 5th anniversary to Lowcountry National Bank and its president, Randy Kohn. During the this time they have added a branch in Port Royal and successfully merged with Capital Bank Holding Corporation, the parent company of the First National Bank of Nassau, Florida.

Final approval was recently granted by the County Development Review Team for construction of 6 homes on 3 acres located on Brickyard Point Road and adjoining the Lady's Island Country Club golf course. The development is named Brickyard Bend.

To The Educators of Lady's Island Children - Thank You: by Ken Bush, President, LIBPA

Recently at the monthly LIBPA meeting the principal of Beaufort High School, Dan Durbin presented a small glimpse of the challenges faced by today's teachers and administrators. He also offered some innovative solutions. None of these solutions will be easy, inexpensive or possible without community support.

We, on Lady's Island, enjoy the privilege of having 5 pre-K private schools (Hobbit Hill Too, Beaufort Academy, E. C. Montessori, Beaufort Montessori and Sea Island Presbyterian), 4 elementary schools (Coosa, Beaufort Academy, Lady's Island and St. Peter's), 3 middle schools (Lady's Island, Beaufort Academy and St. Peter's) and 2 high schools (Beaufort Academy and Beaufort High School). Together, these schools guide the education of 4,000 students each school day.

For a variety of reasons Lady's Island has been able to remain the "home of choice" for an ever increasing number of families. It is true that we, as a community, offer a rural environment, close proximity to water, a great climate, a low

crime rate, a business friendly attitude and GREAT SCHOOLS. A key point, in the final decision as to where to buy a home, is often the availability and quality of schools. Whether the parent's research, in this regard, is via the internet or "word of mouth" the answer is the same. Lady's Island offers first rate schools, both public and private, filled with qualified and dedicated teachers and administrators. If this were not true, homes would not be as desirable, the home construction industry would move elsewhere, home prices would go down instead of up, the real estate business would lose its present momentum, the population would stabilize or decrease, the customer base would be reduced and there would be fewer businesses. Is this an oversimplification – perhaps but not by much.

Therefore, as we near the end of another school year, to each teacher, administrator and employee of our schools; from the members of the Lady's Island Business and Professional Association – thank you for your contribution to our children and our community and best wishes for a great summer.

Lady's Island and Incorporation:

On May 25, 2005, Bill S318 became law without Governor Sanford's signature. This new law establishes minimum service requirements for areas seeking to incorporate as a municipality. It reduces the population threshold necessary to waive the prohibition of incorporation for areas within 5 miles of another municipality from 15,000 to 7,000 residents. It creates a municipal oversight committee which will review requests for municipal incorporation to insure they meet the law's requirements. In this regard Lady's Island had 9,321 residents when the 2000 census was taken and has close to 12,000 residents at the present time. Thus based on the population criteria Lady's Island is eligible to consider incorporation.

There are a number of additional requirements, other than population, in the new law. Following are some of the requirements that must be included with a petition to the Secretary of State for approval to incorporate.

- The proposed corporate limits and the number of inhabitants within the limits.
- A petition requesting incorporation with the signatures of 15% of the qualified electors who reside within the proposed municipality. For Lady's Island that would mean at least 913 signatures on the petition.
- Have at least 300 people per square mile according to the latest official U. S. Census. Lady's Island has an estimated 438 people per square mile.
- A proposal for providing a minimum level of law enforcement services as required by the State Law Enforcement Division. This service may be direct or by contract.
- A proposal to provide as least three of the following services, either direct or by contract, by the first day of the third fiscal year after incorporating.
 - Fire protection as required by the State Fire Marshal
 - Solid Waste collection and disposal
 - Water supply, water distribution or both.
 - Storm water collection and disposal.
 - Enforcement of building, housing, plumbing and electrical codes.
 - Planning and zoning
 - Recreational facilities and programs
 - Street lighting.
- A service feasibility study. For example, is there enough projected revenue to financially support the minimum required services?

If the Secretary of State approves the request he will issue a commission to 3 individuals, in the area concerned, to hold an election within 90 days. This election will allow residents to vote yes or no on incorporation. Other things on the ballot would be the name of the municipality, form of government, method of municipal election, whether it will be partisan or non partisan and the terms of the mayor and council members. Regardless of the type of government desired by the voters in the long term, all new municipal governments must start with a mayor and 4 council members all elected at large in a nonpartisan election for terms of 2 years.

So with the new law, Lady's Island, at first glance, could apply to become a city. As we have all heard from our parents as we were growing up – just because you can do something, does not mean you should do it. It does mean that a dialog should begin regarding the positive and negative aspects of each of the alternatives available to Lady's Island. The residents of Lady's Island now have 3 choices in this regard (a) Incorporate and become a city (b) Request annexation into the City of Beaufort and (c) Do nothing and remain a part of the unincorporated portion of the county. As in similar discussions in the past, LIBPA will strive to assist in providing impartial information with which the residents can make an informed decision on this subject.

To view the new law, visit the Municipal Association of South Carolina web site (www.masc.sc).

IF YOU WANT TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION REGARDING INCORPORATION AND SEE HOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

FEEL ABOUT IT, GO TO THE LIBPA WEB SITE (WWW.LIBPA.ORG) AND PARTICIPATE IN THE LADY'S ISLAND SURVEY ON THE SUBJECT.

LIBPA Web Site Redesigned For Business:

The LIBPA web site (www.libpa.org) has been a work in progress for the last 3 years. Each year we have taken a hard look at which pages of our web site are being used by the community and which are not. This year's analysis indicates the web site is receiving approximately 300 hits per month and the membership page is one of the top 3 pages visited. With the site's increasing popularity the question of allowing member's advertisement on the existing pages has been asked. Since these pages could only support a very limited number of advertisements, there is a fairness question for the remaining members, for which there would not be enough room. With this in mind, the decision was made to offer the following to our members.

- Revise the format of our member's page to include individual business phone numbers. All members will be listed. We hope to have the new page in place by July.
 - If you have an existing web site, your business can be so identified and a link established to allow the visitor to go directly to your web site. Until January 1, 2006 this is a free service. Beginning January 1 there will be an annual fee of \$20 for this service.
 - If you do not have an existing web site, a web page can be designed and provided. Cost - \$150/annually.
 - If you do not have an existing web site and desire a web site, one can be designed and provided. Cost – The cost for establishing and maintaining a web site varies by type and functions desired for your individual site.
- As indicated there is no cost for the listing of our members. Any of the other 3 available options (link to your existing web site, design and establishment of a web page or design and establishment of a web site) should be arranged directly with the Steve Thompson, the President of PC Web Services who can be contacted at 521.4985 or thewebguy@earthlink.net.
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Community Preservation Committee Report:

The Lady's Island Community Preservation Committee met at the Lady's Island Airport on May 23, 2005 for the purpose of hearing a request to include "boat sales and repairs" in the commercial uses authorized for the Village Center. The applicant desired that present zoning be modified to allow the construction of a commercial facility with an indoor capability of displaying marine products to include boats. In view of the fact that a private marina and a public boat dock are a part of the Village Center, the request to allow an indoor capability for sales of marine products and boats was considered worthy of further consideration. The Beaufort County Planning Department was requested, at a later date, to advise the committee of what zoning changes would be required to support the request with the following provisions:

- Existing design standards would remain in effect.
- No visible exterior storage would be authorized.
- Indoor boat sales and repairs would be limited to the immediate vicinity of the marina and boat dock.

A meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2005 at 1000 AM at the Lady's Island Airport conference room to review the Planning Department's recommendations regarding what action would be required to authorize the requested commercial uses. It is anticipated that an official vote of recommended approval or disapproval will occur and public comment will be solicited at this meeting. The meeting will be open to the public.

Why Mayor Rauch Doesn't Want Your House:

"Will the City of Beaufort annex my home in the future?" is a question frequently asked by home owners on Lady's Island. According to a recent study by the American Farmland Trust, Mayor Rauch probably not only doesn't desire to annex the homes on Lady's Island but will avoid it, if at all possible. Commercial property is an entirely different story.

For the last 15 years, in 22 states and 96 different communities, the American Farmland Trust has conducted "Cost of Community Services" studies. These studies were a type of fiscal impact analysis that looked at the cost of providing services versus the amount of taxes received for 3 categories of property – commercial/industrial, working (farm)/open land and residential. They were conducted to help address 3 claims commonly heard in communities facing the pressure of growth. These claims are:

- Open lands, including productive farms and forest, are an interim land use that should be developed to their "highest and best use".
- Agricultural land gets an unfair tax break when it is assessed at its current use value for farming or ranching instead of at its potential use value for residential or commercial developments.
- Residential development will lower property taxes by increasing the tax base.

The results of the studies were that the median cost of providing public services, compared to each tax dollar received was as follows:

Residential – Services provided cost \$1.16 for every \$1.00 paid in taxes.

Farm/Open Land – Services provided cost \$0.36 for every \$1.00 paid in taxes.
Commercial/Industrial – Services provided cost \$0.27 for every \$1.00 paid in taxes.

To annex and provide services for the 5,086 homes on Lady's Island, based on this data, would cost the City of Beaufort approximately \$1.4 million/annually more than they would receive in property taxes. However, if they could avoid providing services to the residential portion of the island and only annex the commercial property, the city would be able to keep \$0.73 of every tax dollar received from commercial property. Therefore, your home is probably safe from annexation but your business is another story.

To some degree this is one of those cases where the term "figures lie and liars figure" is applicable. The studies conducted by the American Farmland Trust (www.farmlandinfo.org) did not include any in South Carolina, much less Beaufort. So the figures for Lady's Island may be a little higher or lower. However, 2 principals remain the same – property taxes do not pay the full price for residential services and the financial gap between the cost of residential services and taxes paid is filled by commercial property taxes.

Using The Expanded Home Business District :

Since the establishment of the Expanded Home Business District along Sams Point Road in 2000, there have been 13 businesses which have taken advantage of this unique zoning and moved into older residential homes after renovating them into business offices. This zoning concept has been a win for the previous property owners, the new owners and the community.

The Expanded Home Business District was established for the area 500 feet back from the recently widened portion of Sams Point Road from the Little Cricket convenience store to the intersection with Brickyard Point Road and Holly Hall Road. The purpose of the district promotes renovation of the older homes along Sams Point Road, allows the owners to receive a fair price for their homes and provides a location for specific types of small businesses. The basis for the selection of the types of business was those that could exist alongside family residences without having a negative impact on their neighbors. For example, to date, moving into this district has been 2 medical offices, 2 law offices, 2 construction offices and a variety of professional services.

Before you purchase one of these homes for your business you should confirm that your business is eligible for the expanded home business district. This can be accomplished by calling Ms. Carol Tank, the Beaufort County Community Planner (470-2728). Once the home is purchased to change the zoning use of one of the homes, in this area, from residential to business is a relatively simple task. Following are the steps required:

- Schedule a pre-application meeting with Ms. Hillary Austin, Beaufort County Zoning Administrator (470-2781).
- Bring to this meeting a copy of the plat for your property. If for some reason you do not have a plat then you will need a current survey.
- After a review the existing regulations you will be given a Fire Safety Standard Form which should be approved by the Fire Marshall. A copy of the site plan should be presented to the Fire Marshall.
- Corridor Review Board (CRB) issues shall be addressed with Mrs. Judy Timmer.
- Upon approval of the Fire Marshall, and CRB submit the project to the Zoning Administrator for final approval. A fee will be assessed at this time. If everything is in order, a development permit will be issued. All work can begin at this time, in accordance with the permit issued.
- If renovation of the building is needed, the applicant shall submit a copy of the development permit and copies of the building plans to the Building Codes Department.
- Upon completion of all approved work, the applicant shall request a final inspection from the County Engineer and the Corridor Review Board Coordinator. Upon final approval a certificate of compliance will be issued, and the applicable landscape survival bond will be presented to the County. This bond will ensure the landscaping survives for two (2) years. This allows the Building Codes department to issue their final certificate of occupancy for your business.

On an average you should plan on 14 to 21 days from the time of the pre-application meeting until receipt of the certificate of occupancy. Naturally, factors such as an extensive renovation could require additional time.

In the future, a business will utilize this district to build a new office versus renovating the older existing homes. If the lot is of sufficient size, the maximum authorized foot print is 2000 square feet and with 2 stories authorized, a 4000 square foot building is possible.

Medical Practice Relocating:

The month of July will see Lady's Island Medical Associates transition both in location and name. Doctor Dan Ripley is taking the existing practice and moving to 10 Marshellen Drive in the Bellview Business Park located at the foot of the Parris Island Bridge. With a new location will come a new name – Beaufort Family Care. The phone number for the new practice will remain the same as the present number (525-9015). The relocation is expected to be completed by mid-August.

Doctor Julian Mason, presently a partner with Doctor Ripley in the Lady's Island Medical Associates practice, will be assuming a new role as one of the emergency room physicians at Beaufort Memorial Hospital beginning August 1st. Doctor Mason's patients will become Doctor Ripley's patients.

Although we hate to see any business or medical practice leave the island, we wish both Doctors the best of luck in the future and appreciate their support of LIBPA.

New Development On Lady's Island

Billy O'Neal of O'Neal Development Group, which developed the Lady's Island Professional Village, has submitted the first project utilizing the Lady's Island Redevelopment District concept. The concept is designed to encourage residential development and redevelopment in the area surrounding the Village Center. The proposed development, named Trade Wind Plantation, is located on 13 acres adjacent to Dow Road (across the road from Cougar Drive on Highway 21) and when completed would contain approximately 80 to 86 homes. The homes will be in the 1250 to 1400 square foot range, 1 and 2 stories with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, minimum size yards and with or without garages. Billy indicates that his objective is to develop a community that is in a price range and style attractive to retirees and young families. The location allows walking access to the Village Center and surrounding schools.

The Redevelopment District concept is unique to Lady's Island. We offer a special thanks to Mr. O'Neal for his willingness to use the redevelopment concept as a way to provide quality housing in a price range affordable for working families.

The Red Marks On Brickyard Point Road?

A recent surveying crew placed red property line markers on portions of Brickyard Point Road resulting in rumors of a possible road widening project.

A check with the crew revealed they were employees of SCE&G doing the preliminary work for a 2006 project. They were surveying the existing 46,000 volt transmission cable that runs from Pigeon Point under the Beaufort River then surfaces on Lady's Island at the Marsh Harbor Apartments. That cable is scheduled to be replaced in 2006 with a new 115,000 volt submarine cable. The capacity is being increased in an effort to cope with the rapidly increasing electrical demand on Lady's Island.

The amount of electricity required for the island has increased by over 10% for each of the last 5 years. When Sams Point Road was widened the capacity of the power lines beside the road were increased 250% from 46,000 volts to 115,000 volts.

A special thank you to SCE&G for being proactive instead of reactive in preparing to meet the future electrical demands of the fastest growing area in Northern Beaufort County – Lady's Island.

Comparison of Medians:

The medians at the intersection of Ribault and Boundary Street are exceptionally well landscaped and present a positive image to all Beaufort visitors. Some of our LIBPA members have asked (quietly) why the medians on Sams Point aren't in the same category as those of Beaufort. As in so many things, the answer is somewhat complicated.

Part of the answer is found in the three basic factors of gardening - soil, water and types of plants. When a highway median is constructed it is normally filled with a low quality of soil which can grow grass, but not much else. As to water, Beaufort County and the Department of Transportation unite in their opposition to irrigation of medians, based on safety reasons. Finally, Beaufort County and the Department of Transportation joined in preparing an ordinance which identified each and every type of plant authorized to be placed in a median. Palm trees are not included in this list.

For their medians the City of Beaufort obtained waivers in regard to irrigation and types of plants (palm trees). The key factor in their being granted such a waiver was the fact that each median was at a stop light and the traffic speed was slow. In addition, the city replaced the fill dirt in each of the medians with high quality top soil. Landscape architect, Brad Hill of BPG, who designed the medians on Sams Point Road, was faced with the challenge of finding plants within

the authorized list that could survive without irrigation and live in low quality fill dirt. The two planted medians are his recommended landscaping. Two of the unplanted median sponsors Doctors Trisden and Angela Greenwalt of Lady's Island Dental and Wade Martin of Martin's Landscaping have indicated an intention to search for a more colorful landscape design.

The Sams Point Road medians, for a variety of reasons, to include public versus private funding, cannot compete with the City of Beaufort's medians (reported cost for the two medians -\$25,000) nor should they. We, on Lady's Island, appreciate each of the sponsors of the Sams Point Road medians contribution to making our island a little more attractive. As to the City of Beaufort's medians - congratulations on a really great job.

Unexpected Consequences of Good Intentions: by Jim Hicks, Lady's Island Planning Commission Representative

Recently LIBPA member Stan Ard, owner of Lady's Island Seed and Feed requested that the zoning regulations be changed to allow him to increase the size of his pet care (grooming and boarding services) business. The only limitation to his present pet care business, which is authorized as part of a larger business, is that it is limited to using no more than 25% of the building. On the face of it, this is a very reasonable request.

However, to approve the specific requested zoning change would require that pet services, to include boarding kennels, be authorized as a "stand alone" business in the entire rural area. On Lady's Island the areas zoned as rural include the northern part of the island, property in the vicinity of the Ashdale community and the property opposite Partridge Woods on Brickyard Point Road.

The proposed change would allow anyone who owned or could lease a minimum of three acres in the rural area to establish a pet grooming and boarding business. Approval would be automatic. There is no provision for public hearings or special mediation requirements if the business is located near a residence or residential area. In addition, there would be no requirement for the owner to live on the property. In view of the absence of protection for adjoining property owners, the Planning Department recommended that the proposed zoning change not be approved; the planning commission also recommended it not be approved. County Council has approved the requested zoning change for the first of three required readings and votes. There will be a public hearing on the subject at 6 PM at County Council Chambers on Monday, June 27, 2005 prior to the final vote.

The question is not, should the Lady's Island Feed and Seed be allowed to expand its pet services business. Stan and his business provide a necessary and desired service to the residents of Lady's Island. Rather, it is should pet services be authorized in the entire rural area without any protection for adjoining residents? As with so many questions in zoning, the answer that is fair to all parties is more than a simple yes or no.

The Lowcountry Landscape? South Carolina's Palmetto Heritage: by Michael Murphy, President, Preservation Tree Care

In 1939 legislation was enacted here in South Carolina designating the Sabal Palmetto as the State Tree. It was at that time we became The Palmetto State. Prior to this we were known as The Iodine State. Iodine was thought to be a cure for idiocy at the time and South Carolina was a major producer; of iodine that is, not idiots. The Palmetto tree is the predominant part of our State flag, which is the second most recognizable one in the Nation behind the Texas Lone Star. How could a tree that is native to only a small portion of the state and can only thrive in less than half of the state become the state tree? The Sabal Palmetto is likely more historically connected to South Carolina than any other state tree in the United States.

The story begins in 1776 and South Carolina was knee deep in a war it is less famous for, the War for Independence. The British command planned a spring offensive into the Carolina Colonies hoping to push the Continental Forces to a breaking point. On May 12 warships carrying the army of Lord Cornwallis moved southward to strike Charleston. The British forces believed Charleston, a thriving and important seaport of the era, to be poorly defended largely because of the seemingly ramshackle construction of Fort Sullivan. The fort, located on an outcropping of land that guarded the entrance to the harbor, was constructed mainly from sandbags and Palmetto logs that were growing in great abundance in the area and readily available. It was still under construction when the British forces arrived and its local Militiamen, the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, was under the command of William Moultrie, a local surveyor.

In early June, General Charles Lee was sent to Charleston to take overall American command of the area. He was extremely critical of the integrity of Fort Sullivan and was certain that it would not withstand a British bombardment. He recommended that Moultrie be removed. Local officials overruled his recommendation and Moultrie stayed with the fort.

On June 28, the British opened up a ten-hour bombardment into the fort coupled with a ground assault. Their ignorance of the tides and sand bar configurations floundered the land forces that had been sent ashore and the bombardment

was a total failure much to the dismay of the British command. They could not understand why their artillery shells, which were making direct hits to the fort, were doing no damage. The Palmetto logs, with both their elastic and shock absorbing qualities, were deflecting virtually each and every salvo and at the end of the day the fort stood tall! This victory turned out to be a major turning point in the War for Independence and gave encouragement to the other Continental forces.

One of the heroes of the day who displayed great courage and loyalty was Sgt William Jasper. During the battle the staff holding the colors of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, dark blue with a crescent, was sheared off and the colors lay on an outside wall of the fort. Jasper rose from a protected position, called for a rammer (the pole used to compress a ball into the cannon), and planted it on the wall in full view of the British fleet while the fort was still under fire.

As a tribute to the Battle of Sullivan's Island, now more commonly referred to as the Battle of Fort Moultrie, the South Carolina State flag bears the colors and crescent of the 2nd SC Regiment, which are joined by the now famous Palmetto which saved the day and turned the tide of the war.

On June 28 celebrate Carolina Day, formally known as Palmetto Day, by proudly flying the South Carolina State Flag and maybe planting a tree; any tree will do but a Palmetto would be a special tribute to both the Lowcountry landscape and the great historical protector of Charleston.

Beaufort High School Recognized For Excellence:

Newsweek magazine recently recognized Beaufort High School as one of the 5 best high schools in South Carolina and one of the top 1000 high schools in the nation. This impressive recognition was achieved in spite of the fact that the school was over crowded (1600 students in a facility build for 1500 students). In addition, 50% of the students presently attending the school are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. The Newsweek list indicated that in regard to the number of students eligible for free or reduced price lunches, "this figure is an indicator of socio-economic status. A number of 40% generally signifies a high concentration of children in poverty." This is in the county that is deemed the wealthiest in the state based on property values.

To Beaufort High School Principal Dan Durbin and all of the teachers, staff and support personnel our congratulations and thank you for your efforts toward academic excellence. We are all proud of you and happy for you.

A School With A Reputation - Lady's Island Elementary: by Terry BennetT, Principal, Lady's Island Elementary School

Lady's Island Elementary School is a very unique school in Beaufort County. There are three major reasons and two minor reasons for this distinctiveness: 1) LIES is an Arts-Integrated elementary school. We were the first school of this type in Beaufort County. This means that our students take the "traditional" classes as well as dance, drama, Strings, and visual arts. 2) LIES is a school of choice school. We currently receive over 40% of our students through this exceptional status. This status means that we are similar to a magnet school, but we also have an attendance zone. This is a benefit to the entire county (Northern and Southern) because it means that anyone who would like to attend LIES, can, no matter where they live. 3) LIES is on the year round schedule. This is not unique to Beaufort County, but we are the only school on Lady's Island or St. Helena Island with this schedule. This offers an advantage to the working parent(s) who often has trouble finding childcare for three consecutive months.

There are two minor factors that play a key role in Lady's Island Elementary School's uniqueness. These both involve our status with the state government and federal government. A factor that most people may not be aware of is that LIES is a School Wide Title One Project School. LIES is the only school on Lady's Island with this federal status. Because of the number of our students eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program (currently at about 60%), LIES receives additional Title One Funds to support the education of our students. Finally, LIES has a deregulatory status from the state of South Carolina. We are the only school in Northern Beaufort County with this status. Basically, we don't have to play by all of the rules—we can adjust them to best meet our unique population's needs. However, we have to answer and remain accountable to everyone: parents, community, state, federal, local school board, etc. The status does allow us some flexibility with regulations, but we do not suspend or ignore any rules.

Currently over 170 students attend Lady's Island Elementary School through the school of choice status. The majority of these students come from St. Helena Elementary and Coosa Elementary School. However, we also receive students from almost every other elementary school in northern Beaufort County, and we even have a couple of students from southern Beaufort County. This means that parents travel back and forth up to 30 miles daily to attend our school. In 1999, when I became principal of LIES, the expected membership was less than 200 students. In six quick years, we have grown to almost 400 students. We are expecting even more in-zone and out-of-zone students this coming school year! It is important to note that our impressive reputation has attracted students from both the public as well as the

private sector. In the past six years, we have had many students leave the county's private schools such as Beaufort Academy, Praise Assembly, and St. Peter's Catholic School. Parents are realizing that they do not have to pay to offer their children a quality education.

Lady's Island Elementary School has a very rich and long history. The building was constructed in 1963. Though it has been through numerous renovations and expansions, the most recent renovations have been to bring the building into the 21st century and have not added any additional class space. As you can imagine, popularity has its advantages, but one large disadvantage: we are quickly running out of classroom space. In 1963 the building designers had not heard of full day kindergarten, pre-kindergarten, main streaming of students, reading recovery programs, computer labs, etc. The building codes have changed significantly during the past 40 plus years. Keeping in compliance with them is costly. Budget dollars are being spent to meet regulations instead of on new construction. Of courses, we need these new fire codes, safety rules, and hurricane regulations; it just takes money and time to keep on older building up to par. In 2002, plans were drawn to add an additional wing to Lady's Island Elementary School. This would add the necessary classroom space to allow for more growth or free up classroom space currently being used for specialty programs or office space.

The current reality on Lady's Island is that Coosa Elementary School is over capacity. If we sent back the 40 plus students from Coosa's zone that currently attend LIES on the school of choice status, it would be even more crowded. Lady's Island Elementary School is quickly approaching its building capacity. Without a doubt, there are many short term solutions to the overcrowding problems on Lady's Island. However, we must look to the future. An additional school on northern Lady's Island will allow for a current student population, solution but also be a long term solution as new homes and developments pop up daily on Lady's Island. We must keep in mind that Lady's Island is growing at an alarming rate. Recent Beaufort Gazette headlines recently stated that Lady's Island is closer to becoming its own town. Many of the new families coming to the island have school-aged children.

In closing, as stated before there are many possible short term solutions. I would even think that changing the status of Lady's Island Elementary school to a magnet school needs to be looked at as one solution. However, if we seriously look at the planned projects and the number of building permits already issued for Lady's Island, the solution has to be an additional elementary school building. The sooner the better. The longer we wait, the larger the problem becomes and the fewer children we can serve. Lady's Island Elementary has proven itself worthy of its notorious reputation. Our continued progress is only limited by community support, adequate funding, and room to grow.

Don't Blink... You Just Might Miss Tomorrow: by Dan Durbin, Principal, Beaufort High School

A few years ago, I was trying to help my sister-in-law with her math homework. It didn't take long for frustration to raise its ugly head... my frustration, not hers. In short, it wasn't the math I had learned in school. It was almost like an alien language to me. The result was a great deal of frustration on my part and an injunction to my sister-in-law to pay better attention in class.

As the "older generation," we sometimes have no idea what the world of education looks like for our kids. How many of us (heading toward 50 years old) were taught "Statistical Process Control," "Normal Distribution Data," or "Hero's Formula"? For our generation, the answer is most likely – none. Today's generation tackles such concepts in beginning math courses.

Of course, the world has changed dramatically, since we were in high school. There wasn't much need for "binary notation" in 1962. "Biotechnology" wasn't exactly a household term in 1972. Just how many of us did our research on the "information highway" in 1982? The point is that today's young people are learning about things that didn't exist during our teenage years.

Just how fast is our world changing? In 1995, the following statement was made at an education think tank, "We have learned more about our physical world in the last 15 years than we had discovered in the previous 5000 years. What we now know will double in the next 10 years." Here we are in 2005, and there is little doubt the statement is holding true. Just imagine what will be discovered over the next 10 years. The question is "how will our education system keep up with the pace?"

Certainly, the world of the future will require an evolved education system. The "industrial model" high school (developed during the 1940s) can no longer meet the needs of our ever-changing society. Sure, the "industrial model" school is nostalgic. After all, it represents a great time in our country's history. That's the issue . . . it's history.

The future requires far more from education. We can no longer afford to treat our high schools as babysitting services, holding tanks, or purgatories for 14-18 year-olds. If we are to engage young people in learning, our schools must be academically focused, student centered, relevant, and purposeful. Such schools provide a strong foundation for life-long

learning. They help young people understand the present, while preparing them for the future. Most importantly, they provide equal access to a quality education to every student.

Beaufort High School's plan to transform into a "Small Schools" model is in direct response to these principles. The majority of our staff understands that the small schools model will not only provide academic focus and choice to students and parents, but also create a more student centered learning environment. We are committed to promoting stronger interpersonal relationships; higher academic standards; authentic curriculum, instruction and assessment; collaborative planning and professional development; and family and community partnerships.

The next 16 months will be filled with planning, training, and communicating. It will be fast, furious, and focused. Make no mistake, however, such a transformation must be a community effort.

Our school, in close and vital cooperation with our parents and community, must assume the responsibility of educating today's young people for tomorrow's world. Working together, we can help prepare them with the knowledge, the skills, and the courage they will need to become productive members of society. Working together, we can give our young people the future – and it has the potential to be bright indeed.