



August 2006 Newsletter

LIBPA Survey Results:

The LIBPA July survey asked questions regarding how best to cope with the ever increasing number of students in Beaufort County. The response to the survey was:

- Reassign students from overcrowded schools to schools with unused capacity. 68% opposed this solution.
- Build larger schools and increase the size of existing schools. 80% supported this approach.
- Make all schools year round and multi-track. 74% supported this action.
- Designate a portion of the upcoming 1% sales tax for school construction. 68% were in favor.
- Delay approval of large new developments until the necessary facilities are in place or at a minimum a source of funding determined for construction of the required schools. 100% in favor.

Island Notes:

Harris Teeter On Lady's Island? During a recent briefing by representatives of the company, Aslan, which will develop Whitehall, it was mentioned that discussions were ongoing with representatives of Harris Teeter regarding the possibility of their locating a store in the new Whitehall complex.

Stop Work Order. Previously scheduled to open in the former Winn Dixie Shopping Center was the Oriental Cuisine restaurant which had been the subject of a great deal of renovation and appeared almost ready to open and then stopped, due to a Beaufort County "Stop Work" order. Since it has been closed for a good while, a check was made as to the reason for the order. It turns out there never was a renovation permit requested or authorized for the restaurant renovation. Now their sign has been removed.

Another annexation! The City of Beaufort is in the process of annexing the 2.6 acres on Meridian Road which previously served as the site of Ferrell Gas. Located on the Beaufort River under the City of Beaufort zoning the site can probably support a maximum of 3 or 4 homes. Although there are differences in the county and city zoning regulations the end results are usually identical. Neither allows construction of multifamily homes in neighborhoods such as Meridian Road and usually the number of homes authorized for a property of this size will vary no more than one home.

Sorry! In listing the winners of the 2006 Reader's Choice Awards last month we inadvertently failed to list Lady's Island Feed and Seed which was selected as the best pet supply store. Congratulations to Mr. Stan Ard, owner of the Lady's Island Feed and Seed.

Another subdivision? Winding its way through the Development Review Team permitting process is a proposed subdivision to be located directly opposite the entrance to Marsh Hawk Plantation on Springfield Road. The property under consideration for the development consists of 23 acres on which construction of 40 homes is planned. The developer has agreed to keep almost 9 acres of the project as open space.

New Fabric Store. Welcome to Island Fabrics scheduled to open in August and located in the Oakwood Shopping Complex (next to Little Cricket). Owners are Ron McClam, who also owns the East Coast Upholstry in the same complex and his son and daughter in law Patrick and Lindsay McClam, who will actually operate and manage the store. They intend to offer a wide variety of types and quality of fabrics with emphasis on the high end quality material. We welcome them and wish them great success.

A new home for Lady's Island SCBT! The final decision has been made. The former home of Island Outfitters is going to be the location of a new "state of the art" bank which will allow the present South Carolina Bank and Trust to move from their present site across the street into a new home. To get an idea of what the new bank will look like; stop by the present bank where they have a conceptual drawing of the new building. Ground breaking for the new bank is expected within the next 90 days.

Lady's Island Facts:

Library Impact Fees: For every new home that is built on Lady's Island or St. Helena Island \$457 is paid for library impact fees. Last year (2005) 203 home were built on Lady's Island or a total of \$92,771 of library impact fees. By comparison the Bluffton – Okatie area charges an \$867 library fee per new home, Hilton head and Daufuski charge \$107 per new house., the Sheldon - Lobeco - Yemassee area charge \$500 and Sun City pays a mere \$75 per new home.

On the unincorporated portion of Port Royal Island library impact fees for new homes are \$456 while in the municipalities of the City of Beaufort and Port Royal library impact fees are not charged.

St. Peter's Catholic Church: St. Peter's Catholic Church began in the small chapel in downtown Beaufort in 1846 and is one of the oldest churches in Beaufort, The chapel seats approximately 180 people and is 1700 square feet. The Brick wall which encloses the adjoining graveyard was built in 1857. The present church on Lady's Island was built in 1988 with a capacity of about 450 people. The new church is 23,711 square fee and capable of accommodating 1300 people. The bell tower, which is the tallest structure on Lady's Island at the present time, is 130 feet tall. Also located on the 35 acres which compose the St. Peter's grounds is the St. Peter's Catholic School which offers grades K-4 through 8 and has an enrollment of approximately 215 students.

Schools: With 2 Montessori preschools, 2 private schools and 4 public schools on Lady's Island education is an important part of the community. Each and every day over 4000 students attend school on Lady's Island. One of the great things about being a resident of the island is that your child can go from preschool through high school and never be required to travel more than 15 minutes from home to school. The high quality of education available in both private and public schools is often the deciding factor in many families' decision to make Lady's Island their home.

Ugly Green Buildings: In 2004 there appeared small green metal sheds on each side of the causeway leading to the Wood's Memorial Bridge. Each of the sheds contains a U. S. Geological Survey storm water monitoring station being used as part of a joint DOT and USGS study. The purpose of the study is to determine the effectiveness of the two types of storm water treatment systems installed along Highway 21 and also Sams Point Road. There is a similar monitoring station at the intersection of Sams Point Road and Factory Creek Road. This station is for the purpose of monitoring the storm water entering Factory Creek.

Membership Report:

The Lady's Island Business and Professional Association always seeks new members and attempts to operate in such a manner that existing members will deem membership worthwhile and renew on an annual basis. However, for the first 6 months of the calendar year retention of existing members is emphasized.

Membership renewal invoices are sent out in January followed by a second reminder in March. For those that fail to renew, either calls or visits to encourage remaining an active member will be conducted. If all of these efforts fail a final notice is mailed and at the end of May the Association membership roster is adjusted to only reflect active members. June 30 of each year is used as the gauge to compare how we as an organization are doing in regard to membership. Following is a review of LIBPA's membership activity over the last few years.

Membership: (All Data As Of June 30 2006)				
	2003	2004	2005	2006
New Members (June to June)	50	47	36	42
Members Not Renewing	15	18	24	22
Total Active Membership	192	219	221	238

As of June 30, 2006 the LIBPA membership consisted of 186 businesses, 52 residential members and 19 complementary members. Complementary membership is often provided to individuals who are deemed to have the ability to significantly affect events on the island and in some cases for public relations purposes.

As can be seen from the statistics we, as an organization, can expect to lose approximately 20 members (10%) each year and to support a reasonable level of growth must attract between 40-50 new members. As an incentive for membership, as of July 1 the initial membership fee (\$45) for all newly joining members will also serve as the dues for both the remainder of 2006 and all of 2007. For each of you who have continued your support of LIBPA and its objectives through your continued membership – thank you. During the remainder of 2006 we will emphasize new membership and ask that you take a close look at your neighbors and business associates to determine if they might benefit from membership in LIBPA. If I or any member of the LIBPA Board of Directors can be of assistance in your efforts to gain new members, just let us know. If you would like to have extra newsletters to share with potential members or have a complementary newsletter mailed to an individual or business just provide us the address and we

will do the rest. Again, thank you for your support of LIBPA and its efforts to keep Lady's Island a special place to live, work and raise our families.

EMBARQ - New Name, New Logo For Sprint Customers:

On May 18, 2006 the local Sprint company, which was a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Sprint Nextel Corporation officially became an independent, public company named Embarq. Its assets and business consists largely of those that previously comprised Sprint Nextel's former local Telecommunications Division and Sprint North Supply operations. The new company will continue to offer a suite of communications services to residents and businesses in the area and will focus on offering its customers practical, innovative products and competitive pricing. With approximately 20,000 employees the new company will operate in 18 states offering local and long distance voice, data, high speed internet, wireless and entertainment services. So the face of the technician that had previously responded to Lady's Island Sprint customer's request for assistance will be the same, he will just drive a truck with a new logo and the name Embarq on the side. The quality and choices of types of service will remain the same as the Sprint customer enjoyed prior to the name change.

The 1% Sales Tax Question Returns:

In 2004, the question of a 1% sales tax was posed (via referendum) to the voters of Beaufort County. The projects scheduled to be funded by the 2004 proposed sales tax were developed by a citizens committee which attempted to blend a list of projects that would offer enough incentive to 51% of the voters to pass the referendum. With 54,000 people voting it failed by 146 votes.

Since that time, Beaufort County roads have experienced increasing traffic, especially in the southern part of the county. The Southern Regional Plan, completed in 2005, pointed out that when you compare the cost of roads needed to the amount of money available to build them, there is a \$185 million shortfall. Northern Beaufort County continues to grow but its roads are not in as bad a shape as those in southern Beaufort County – yet.

County Council is in the process of approving a referendum to be placed before Beaufort County voters as part of the November elections. The referendum will ask you for approval to (1) institute a 1% sales tax for 7 years or until \$152 million is raised and (2) if you approve the sales tax then your approval will also be asked to borrow \$152 million for funding of specific road projects which will be repaid from money coming from the sales tax. The specific projects to be funded by the sales tax were proposed by the Beaufort County Transportation Engineer and based on traffic and growth studies. They are as follows:

- Bluffton Parkway (U. S. 278 Alternate) –Construction from Buckwalter Parkway to Mackay Creek (\$ 50 million)
- US 278 improvements from Sea Pines to SC 170 (\$28 million).
- SC 170 widen from Bluffton Parkway to Tidewatch Drive (\$6 million)
- US 17 widening from U. S. 21 to Colleton County line (\$5 million)
- US 21 (Boundary Street) improvements from Broad River Road to Palmetto Street (\$9.5 million)
- Boundary Street construction of a parallel road from SC 170 to Palmetto Street (\$4.2 million)
- SC 802 (Ribaut Road) improvements from Lenora Drive to Lady's Island Drive (\$600,000)
- US 21 at SC 802 widening from Ribaut Road to Sea Island Parkway (\$35.5 million)

This project would improve the existing intersections, widen Lady's Island Drive and build another 2 lane bridge parallel to the existing McTeer Bridge.

- Planning and engineering for a Northern Bypass from Grays Hill to Lady's Island (\$6 million)
- SC 802 (Savannah Highway widening from SC 170 to Parris Island Gateway (\$7.2 million)

LIBPA supports approval of the referendum because:

- It places the fate of our (the residents of Beaufort County) roads in our hands.
- A majority of the funds raised in this manner will be from visiting tourists.
- Beaufort County Engineering Department instead of the SC Department of Transportation will be directly responsible for construction of the roads.
- There is no money available from the South Carolina Department of Transportation so it is either approve the referendum or accept the consequences. There is no knight in shining armor that will arrive at the last minute and save us by paying for our roads.

LIBPA, as an organization, will work very hard to convince those, who in 2004 voted no to the 1% sales tax, to take a hard look at supporting the referendum. There are not a lot of choices available regarding our transportation infrastructure. Hopefully, this time we can unite in our support of this referendum as a necessary action in the best

interest of our county.

Lady's Island Law Enforcement Statistics:

When a Beaufort County Sheriff's Deputy responds to an incident on Lady's Island a report is required to be submitted as a matter of record. Following is a review of a representative number of types of incident reports, which were submitted for the first 6 months of 2006 as compared to the same period in the previous 5 years.

Lady's Island						
TYPE OF INCIDENT	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Criminal Domestic Violence	26	56	48	35	30	39
Traffic Accidents	33	44	59	74	60	63
Breaking/Entering (Vehicles)	30	25	32	29	71	25
Vehicle Thefts	12	16	16	13	16	16
Petit Larceny	91	108	119	82	87	77
Grand Larceny	12	25	35	34	34	29
Criminal Sexual Conduct	5	8	4	3	9	2
Robbery	9	4	4	5	4	5
Murder	0	1	0	0	0	0
Burglary	71	74	122	63	42	50

During the first 6 months of 2006 a Sheriff's deputy responded on Lady's Island to an average of 6 incidents each day for a total of 1,193 total incident reports. Compared to the same period the previous year the total number of incidents on the island decreased by (3%) following the trend over the past few years of a decreasing number of incidents (1,391-2004, 1,228 – 2005, 1,193- 2006) on the island. Probably indicative of the ever increasing cost of gas is that in all of 2005 there were 3 reported cases, on Lady's Island, of individuals driving away without paying for the gas and in the first 6 months of 2006 there have already been 11 incidents occur. The most frequent type of incident occurring on the island continues to be nonviolent domestic disputes but even those show a decrease. The statistics speak for themselves; we on Lady's Island are privileged to live in a very safe community; thanks to the efforts and professionalism of the officers of Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and the leadership of Sheriff P. J. Tanner.

Editor's Note: Every 6 months we ask Lt. Jimmy Walton of the Sheriff's office to provide the incident statistics for Lady's Island. The response is always timely and professional. A special thanks to Lt. Walton for his support and courtesy.

Hamilton Village:

The 6.6 undeveloped acres located between the Upper Crust Restaurant commercial complex and the Lady's Landing Apartments on Sunset Boulevard are in the process of being annexed into the City of Beaufort. This is the same property that in the past served as a trailer park, was purchased for speculation purposes and then sold to an individual who desired to build 4 homes and his personal office on the property. To do so required county special use authorization for the homes and this was rejected due to neighborhood public objection regarding certain aspects of the project. The property was then purchased by the present owner/developer who is now taking the property into the City of Beaufort. Based on his concept for development, which accompanied his application for annexation, he intends to name the development Hamilton Village and it will consist of:

- 2 four story buildings near the water with 16 apartments or condominiums in each building. Behind each building will be 16 carports.
- A swimming pool near the river.
- A community dock/marina.
- 1 four story building with 8 apartments set to the rear of the waterfront condominiums. Behind the building will be 8 carports.
- Along the portion of the property adjoining Sea Island Parkway/Highway 21 is planned
- A 3580 square foot commercial building designated for a bank/office.
- 2 separate commercial buildings (6,240 square feet each building).
- Parking for 60 commercial spaces and 47 residential spaces.
- Entrance/exits are indicated by a right in/right out only exit/entrance on Highway 21 and a full service exit/entrance

show as being located on the curve portion of Sunset Boulevard. Specifically noted on the description of the project is the sentence, "The access type, number and locations have been preliminarily approved by the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

This water front property was going to be developed whether under the auspices of the City of Beaufort or Beaufort County. In the past LIBPA, through the Community Preservation Committee, supported the developer who desired to build 4 private homes and his personal office on the property. Although the present developer's plan is much more intense the only specific point of concern is the plan for exiting traffic onto the curve at Sunset Boulevard and the remaining traffic being limited to a right turn only entrance/exit on Highway 21. Finding a solution to allowing development without adding to the traffic problems was a challenge with the previous developer who only had 4 buildings.

Since the City of Beaufort does not require a Traffic Impact Analysis on projects of this nature, LIBPA has recommended the traffic portion of the project receive a close and detailed review. Between the Hamilton Village project, the new Mariana residential units and the 200 + additional units at Whitehall plus the High School traffic it does not take a transportation engineer to say this might result in too many cars on too little road leading to a bridge already at its capacity.

An Idea Whose Time Has Come!:

Congratulations and thanks to the Secession Golf Club for partnering with the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) to install a pipeline to pump "reclaimed" water from the new Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility to their golf course for irrigation. The "reclaimed" water is wastewater which has gone through an extensive treatment system and as a result meets all environmental regulations and exceeds health standards. To provide an idea of the benefit of using such a system, consider the fact that a golf course can use as much as 500,000 gallons of water in one night during dry weather.

BJWSA has been using similar systems on golf courses in southern Beaufort County for a number of years. However, this is the first use of this concept north of the Broad River. A very special thanks to both Secession Golf Club and BJWSA for leading the way with conservation initiatives such as "reclaimed" water.

Schools, Traffic and Safety:

With Lady's Island Elementary, which operates on a year round schedule, already underway for another year and the other 6 public and private schools on the island getting ready to start, the morning and afternoon traffic is about to change. When all of the schools are in secession over 4000 students attend Lady's Island schools each day. Even with the use of school buses the impact on traffic is severe. For those of us who travel Sams Point Road, just a reminder that by state law you do not have to stop when meeting a stopped school bus on a 4 lane road such as Sams Point Road. Naturally, if you are behind the bus, the law does require you to stop. Having said that, with that many children, caution should always be used around school buses.

No Kidding?:

According to an article in the July 7th edition of the Charleston Post and Courier, State Representative Wallace Scarborough, R- Charleston recently indicated that he and Senate President Pro Tem Glean McConnell, R-Charleston are discussing potential legislation aimed at allowing property owners/residents of James Island, which had been annexed into the City of Charleston to leave the city and join the recently incorporated City of James Island. Representative Scarborough and Senator McConnell were instrumental in crafting the new law which allowed successful incorporation of James Island. Mayor Riley continues to indicate the City of Charleston will once again challenge the legality of James Island's incorporation.

U. S. Group Low Bidder On Highway 21 Project:

It is with a certain amount of pleasure that we received word that the construction company U. S. Group has been determined to be the low bidder for the project to widen Highway 21 on St. Helena. Naturally, they still have to be awarded the contract but as the low bidder on the project the odds are very high that they will receive the contract. This is the same company that widened Sams Point Road a few years ago. LIBPA worked very closely with U. S. Group and representatives of the Department of Transportation to smooth the bumps out of the project and reduce the trauma on the members of the community. Some of our members may remember the monthly articles in the LIBPA newsletter by Greg Cook, the U. S. Group Regional Manager, which provided the community with advance notice of the project schedule and highlighted anticipated problems. They also established a special web site for the project. For the 18 months of the Sams Point Road project, U. S. Group was a good neighbor and in recognition of their contribution to the community received the 2004 LIBPA Spirit Award. The widening of the St. Helena portion of Highway 21 will be a challenge and we appreciate having a construction company with a proven record on the job.

Lady's Island After School Program:

The United Methodist Church is in the process of transforming their recently purchased 10 acre property on Sams Point Road (1/2 mile on the left, past the Brickyard Point intersection) from a residence to a church. Although recently arrived on the island, they have taken the initiative to partner with the local YMCA to establish in their facilities an after school program for children who attend school on Lady's Island. There is a real need on the island for such a program.

The members have adopted the name Waters Edge United Methodist Fellowship for their church and presently meet in 4 small bible/study fellowships. They hope to begin regular services in September. We, in LIBPA, welcome them to Lady's Island and express our appreciation for their efforts to provide a needed service for the island's children with the establishment of an after school program. A special thanks to Reverend A. Melton Arant, minister for the Church for providing the information contained in this article. For additional information regarding the Fellowship you are invited to visit their web site at www.liumc.org.

Changing Real Estate Market:

by Jerry Marlow, President, Success Plus School Of Real Estate & Broker with Coldwell Banker Keyserling Real Estate

Following are statistical comparisons of 2005/2006 residential real estate sales in northern Beaufort County for the period January 1 to June 30. It should be noted that this data does not include real estate activity on Fripp and Harbor Island.

RESIDENTIAL SALES 2005 VS 2006 (FIRST ½ OF YEAR)					INVENTORY
Beaufort	Sales Volume	Units	Average Price	Median Price	as of 7/1/06
2005	\$12,274,750	56	\$219,192	\$166,000	21
2006	\$16,299,974	52	\$313,461	\$210,000	53
Inc/Dec	32.79%	-7.14%	43.01%	26.51%	152.38%
Mossy Oaks	Sales Volume	Units	Average Price	Median Price	as of 7/1/06
2005	\$9,398,681	41	\$185,427	\$155,000	19
2006	\$13,421,750	53	\$253,241	\$164,000	29
Inc/Dec	76.54%	29.27%	36.57%	5.81%	52.63%
Port Royal	Sales Volume	Units	Average Price	Median Price	as of 7/1/06
2005	\$7,602,500	63	\$149,185	\$120,000	85
2006	\$14,211,555	58	\$245,027	\$205,000	37
Inc/Dec	51.21%	-7.94%	64.24%	70.83%	48.00%
Burton	Sales Volume	Units	Average Price	Median Price	as of 7/1/06
2005	\$30,571,826	138	\$221,535	\$165,000	105
2006	\$37,206,218	143	\$260,183	\$202,000	139
Inc/Dec	21.70%	3.62%	17.45%	22.42%	32.38%
Lady's Island	Sales Volume	Units	Average Price	Median Price	as of 7/1/06
2005	\$63,531,176	231	\$275,027	\$210,000	126
2006	\$61,295,698	191	\$320,920	\$249,000	202
Inc/Dec	-3.52%	-17.32%	16.69%	18.57%	60.32%
Totals	Sales Volume	Units	Average Price	Median Price	as of 7/1/06
2005	\$123,378,933	529	\$233,230	\$186,700	296

2006	\$142,435,195	497	\$286,590	\$220,000	460
Inc/Dec	15.45%	-6.05%	22.88%	17.84%	55.41%

As can be seen by comparing the residential market for the 1st half of 2006 to the first half of 2005 there are some interesting and somewhat disturbing things happening. Looking at the above chart the 5 areas north of the Broad River (Beaufort, Mossy Oaks, Port Royal, Burton, and Lady's Island) showed an overall decrease of 6% in the number of units sold and closed for 2006, yet the sales volume increased by 15.5%. This, of course, is reflective of the fact that the average price increased by 22.9% and the median price increased by 17.8%.

Somewhat surprising is Lady's Island which was the only area of the 5 that showed a decrease in both units (17.3%) and volume (3.5%). This may be as a result of the fact that the homes sold on Lady's Island had the highest average (\$320,920) or median (\$249,000) price of any of the areas. This thought is supported by the fact that the only area which showed an increase in the number of homes sold was Mossy Oaks which also had the lowest median priced homes. Even with the decrease in the number of homes sold, Lady's Island accounted for 38% of all the homes sold for the area.

Another interesting and somewhat disturbing fact is that the current inventory has increased by 55.4% over the same period last year (460 units this year, 296 units last year).

What is causing this change? There are a number of factors that have to be considered; increasing interest rates, gas prices (fewer people traveling to the Beaufort area) and continually increasing prices of homes. In 2004 homes under \$200,000 accounted for 33% of the inventory and 63.3% of the sales, in 2006 homes under \$200,000 account for 17.6% of the inventory and 43.1% of the sales. And even though we are showing a 55.4% increase in inventory, the inventory of homes under \$200,000 only increased by 3.9%.

What will we see in the next 6 months? While none of us have a crystal ball, looking at the trend, it would appear we can expect the same for the fall period. Stay tuned, we will keep a close watch.

PS: A friend of mine in Charleston said the Mt. Pleasant area is showing the same trend, decrease in unit sales and increase in inventory. They also have been experiencing large price increases.

Whitehall Development To Become A Reality:

In November 1981 the Lady's Island Business and Professional Association was formed by a group of business men and women and residents at a meeting in the Wilkop's Whitehall Inn which today is named the Bateaux Restaurant. Since that day (and probably much before) there have been rumors about the development of the property at the intersection of Sea Island Parkway and Meridian Road. Approximately 18 acres in size, with beautiful oaks and property facing the Beaufort River the site has been the subject of many development plans and rumors of plans.

In 1997 when the Lady's Island Community Preservation Committee, as part of establishing a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District, was attempting to determine which development Village Center projects could reasonably be anticipated in the near future, a developer shared his plans for a massive box type hotel on the Whitehall property. Shortly after this meeting, Mr. Dick Stewart and his company, 303 Associates, purchased the property and announced general plans for its development. In September 2005, Mr. Stewart requested the City of Beaufort annex the Whitehall property into the city. Naturally, the City of Beaufort agreed to the annexation. Almost simultaneous with the annexation Kean and Company of Charleston announced they had purchased the property and intended to "design a public park on the Beaufort River, commercial and office spaces in buildings on U. S. 21 and a mix of residences similar to homes in the Point, with cottages built next to mansions." To accomplish this Mr. Kean, President of Kean and Company and former Director of Planning for the City of Charleston requested the City of Beaufort approve a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the Whitehall property. Once the PUD was approved, Mr. Kean placed the property on the market. Aslan, a comprehensive real estate development firm, specializing in residential and destination properties across the southeastern United States purchased the property and is presently in the initial phase of developing the property.

Aslan's plans for the property include beginning infrastructure construction in November of 2006 with reservations for purchase of the planned 200 + private residences being accepted in October. Condominiums at Whitehall will start in the mid \$300,000's and home sites will range from the low \$100,000 to \$1 million for deep water access lots. In addition to the private residences will be offices, shops and restaurants and a boutique Inn. To provide sufficient parking space a multistory parking garage will be included in the project. To learn more in regard to the purchase of properties in the Whitehall community prospective buyers can call Doug Miller at 1-866-337-1108 or visit www.whitehallsc.com.

Although anything is possible the odds are that Aslan, which has a solid reputation for successfully developing the properties it purchases (versus flipping them for profit) will develop Whitehall into a first rate community. The representatives of Aslan have been extremely open with LIBPA as to their intentions and plans for development of the property. Certainly, as with all projects of this complexity, the devil is in the details. LIBPA has very real concerns regarding the impact of the project on traffic and the Meridian Road community. The representatives of Aslan and the City of Beaufort are aware of these concerns and have indicated a willingness to work together to insure Whitehall continues to be an asset to the City of Beaufort, the Village Center and the Lady's Island community.

Another Place Available To Chase The Little White Ball:

In November 2004, we did an article for the LIBPA newsletter describing each of the great golf courses and clubs available to Lady's Island residents. Included in the article were the Country Club of Beaufort in the Pleasant Point Community, Lady's Island Country Club, Secession Golf Club and South Carolina National Golf Club. At that time we noted the excellent golf courses at both Fripp and Dataw as being within easy traveling distance but located within gated communities and as such, not open to the general public. Some of our Dataw members have noted that the statement regarding their golf club was not entirely accurate.

It is true that the Dataw Island Club, which recently again has been rated as one of the top clubs in South Carolina, is not open to the general public. However, membership in the club is not limited to only Dataw Island residents. There are membership categories which allow local community residents to become members of the Dataw Island Club. Following is a brief description of the amenities available at Dataw Island Club:

- Two 18-hole Championship golf courses--the Cotton Dike and the Morgan River. The par 72 Cotton Dike course was designed by the artful hand of Tom Fazio. Nearly half of the 18 holes lie along the pristine marsh or waters of Jenkins Creek. The Morgan River course is a striking example of the great talent of Arthur Hills and winds through massive oaks and frames water views of the Morgan River. There is also a practice range, putting green and sand trap/chipping area along with lessons available from any of the three golf professionals. The Dataw Island golf courses serve as the home courses for the Beaufort High School golf team.
- Eight Har-Tru tennis courts, tennis pro and a newly constructed pro shop.
- Recently renovated outdoor pool complex including an adult pool, a children's pool and a large sundeck overlooking Jenkins Creek.
- Two Regulation Croquet Courts
- Three dining facilities including the Cotton Dike Deli, a light fare eatery that serves the outdoor pool, tennis courts and golf courses; the Pub, offering full service casual dining for both lunch and dinner; and the Grille Room, providing fine dining under the direction of the Club's award winning chef.
- Meeting/conference rooms at the Clubhouse and Community Center that can accommodate everything from business luncheons to small parties. The Carolina Ballroom can accommodate up to 300 people and is a popular venue for wedding receptions and larger meetings.
- A new 17,000 square foot community center with a fitness room equipped with state-of-the-art exercise equipment, including tread mills and elliptical trainers; a Junior Olympic-size swimming pool with Jacuzzi/Spa; a dance/aerobic studio; a multi-purpose room; and arts & crafts room. The facility is managed by Carolina Sportscafe and Physical Therapy and is staffed with certified athletic trainers, massage therapists, certified personal trainers, and other specialized fitness personnel.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional information on the various membership categories for non-residents should call Dataw's Membership Director, Silvia Lalinde, at 838-8261 or email her at mship@islc.net. Editors Note: A special thanks Ms. Silvia Lalinde, the Director of Marketing & Membership at the Dataw Island Club, for her contributions to this article.

Together We Stand, Divided We Fall:

by Reverend Dr. Elijah Washington, Candidate For District 7 School Board Representative

As a candidate for the District 7 representative on the Beaufort County School Board, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have resided on Lady's Island for more than twenty years. I am a family man with two children still in the public school system. I recently retired from a practice of medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology after thirty plus years. I served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Beaufort Memorial hospital for twelve years. I am also a former public school teacher and a former Naval officer. I hold a Doctor of Medicine Degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee and Doctor of ministry Degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Alabama. At present, I serve as Pastor of First African Baptist Church of St. Helena Island.

As to our educational system, I offer it supports the backbone of our society. Our children are the backbone of our society. Break the educational system and you break our society. We cannot escape the fact that our children are our future. Whether the future is good or not so good depends upon how well our children are prepared to meet the continuously changing demands of society.

We must make every effort possible to make available, to all of our children, the best possible education. We cannot afford to do anything less. The Beaufort County public school system has served me well. I would like nothing better than to see it continue to serve all future generations likewise. The good news is that it can.

I have a keen interest in the public school system because I still have two children presently enrolled. My concern is that all children be given the opportunity to establish a good educational foundation.

What we have is improving based upon information provided regarding better overall achievement scores and the percentage of teachers certified in their particular areas of instruction. However, the question to be answered is "is there a correlation between what it is costing the people and the results being obtained". Some people feel that there is a better way. My desire is to help find a better way. I believe that my community involvement, past experience and education would be an asset. I believe that in order to assure an effective public school system that there should be a clearly defined plan of action. There should be a clearly defined way to monitor the plan to determine whether the plan is obtaining the desired results. There should be someone specifically designated to be responsible for the plan. That person should be held accountable for the financial as well as programmatic goals and objectives to the plan. There should be a mechanism in place to not only evaluate but penalize financially where goals and objectives are not met. This mechanism should be designed to assure the desire to succeed.

If we are to have a public school system that we can all be proud of, we must all work together. I truly believe that this end is not beyond our reach. However, I truly believe that "together we stand and divided we fall".

Editor's Note: Both of the candidates (Mr. Jim Bequette and Dr. E. Washington) for District 7 School Board Representative have been invited to utilize the LIBPA monthly newsletter (August through October) to communicate with the community. In addition, LIBPA will sponsor a candidate's forum at the October 10th meeting.

A Tough Decision - Running For School Board:

by Jim Bequette, Candidate For District 7 School Board Representative

For the past eighteen months I have been active with a small countywide group named "Citizens About Better Schools" (CABS). The objective of this group was to recruit well qualified candidates to run for the school board this November. We had been successful in locating several candidates and were feeling pretty good about individuals who would be running in most districts.

Then in late June our District 7 representative on the board, Richard Tritschler, decided not to run for re-election. After careful consideration I now join the recruited candidates in an effort to bring reform to the Beaufort County Board of Education in order to improve the education of our children.

If you elect me this November, I can hit the road running on your behalf. For approximately 12 or 13 years I have been analyzing school budgets and spending. Frequently I have appeared before the Board to make recommendations on needed changes. These almost always fell on deaf ears.

The first major task that needs to be accomplished is that of setting proper policies for the school operations and then holding the administration responsible for adhering to those policies and goals. The board majority, as presently constituted, is short on establishing sound policy and even shorter on demanding accountability. A prime example of this is the evaluation of the prior superintendent that found him failing to meet established expectations; they deferred any action on the matter. Then they never did get back to dealing with the corrections necessary. Example after example could be cited.

In 2002 I compared our costs for all support costs above the classroom with that of Horry County (Myrtle Beach area) and adjusted the results so that the comparison was made on an equal number of students. Beaufort County was spending approximately \$7 million more of your tax dollars to do the same job as Horry; however, Horry is the best performing school system in South Carolina. Beaufort is well below the state average in test scores. Some say that Horry is a more affluent area. This is incorrect as they provide a higher percentage of students qualifying for free lunches than we do in Beaufort County.

Using 2005 actual costs from each county's annual reports I again made this comparison. The difference had increased to \$11.0 million dollars for all support costs excluding the classroom. The most significant item shows we are spending \$6.1 million more for operation and maintenance of the school facilities. Most of this is in labor. I then obtained the square footage of each district's facilities. On a square foot comparison we are spending \$6.8 million more.

When elected one of my objectives will be to dig deep enough to determine why we are spending so much more than Horry County as shown by these comparisons. Then I would ask the entire Board to program currently wasted money to better care for classroom instruction and to allow the taxpayers to benefit with smaller tax increases with some of the savings.

In the next issue of the LIBPA newsletter I plan to outline some of my thoughts for improving the performance in the classroom to provide our children with better educational preparation for making their contribution to society. In the October issue I will deal with many of the ideas brought to me by citizens, parents, and teachers as I go through this campaign.

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